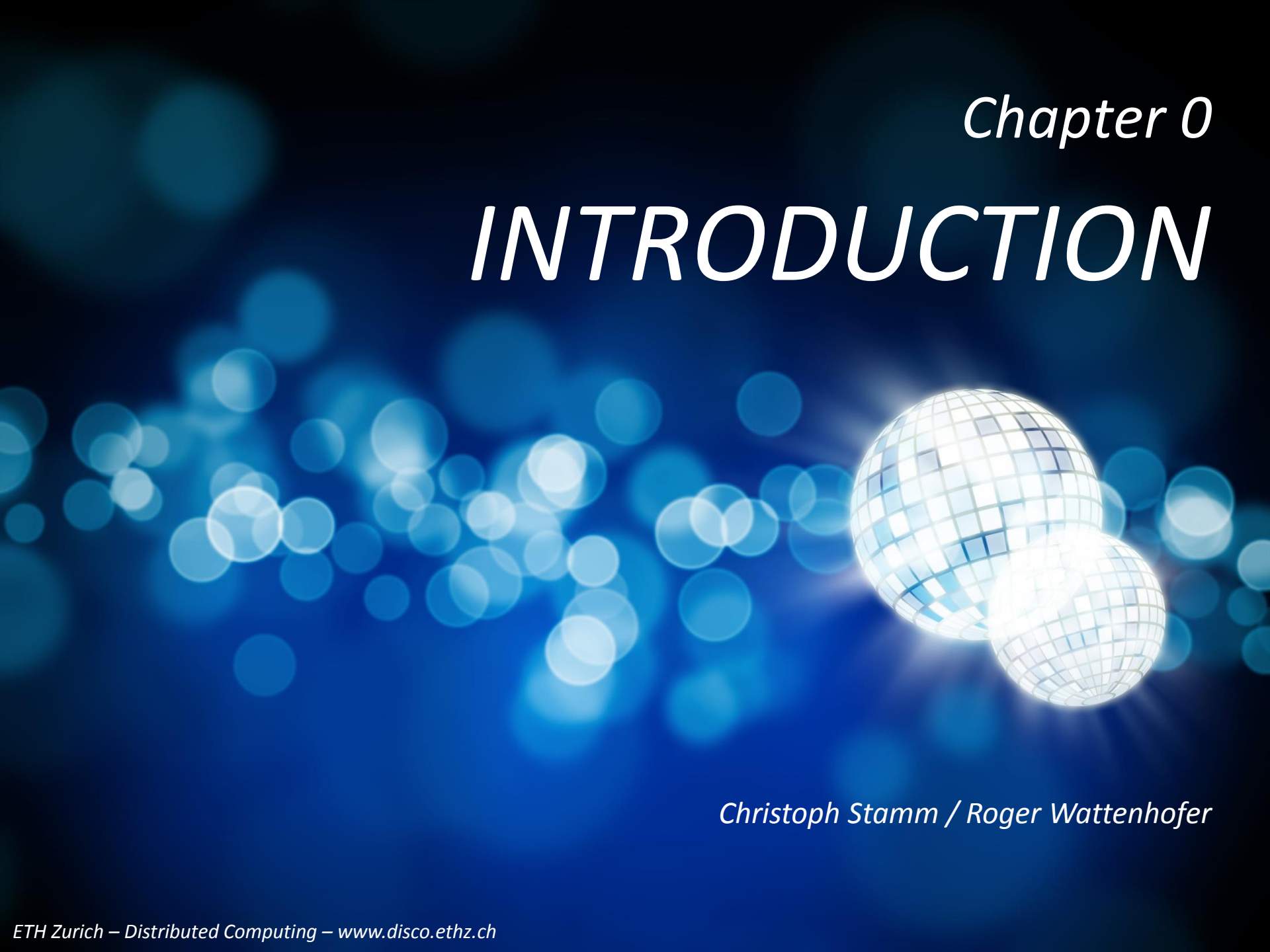
DISCRETE EVENT SYSTEMS

Christoph Stamm / Roger Wattenhofer



Chapter 0

INTRODUCTION

Christoph Stamm / Roger Wattenhofer

Organization Matters

- Lecture
  - Thu, 1-3, ETZ E9
  - Christoph Stamm
- Exercises
  - Thu, 3-5, ETZ E9
  - Tobias Langner, Jochen Seidel, Klaus-Tycho Förster
- Course Material
  - Check www.disco.ethz.ch → courses 

Some Comments

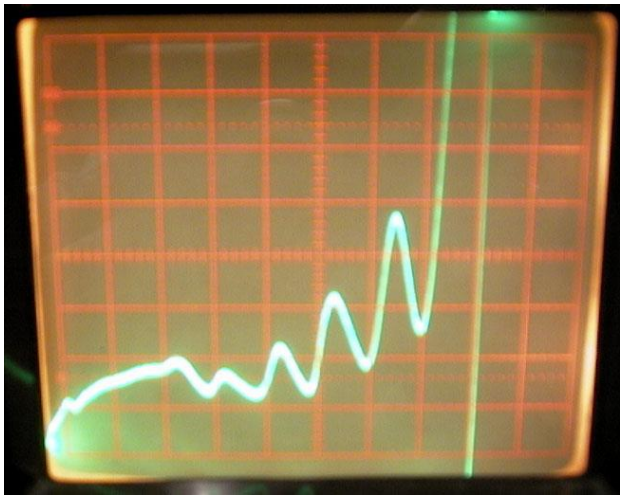
- English vs. German language
- Course material pretty stable
  - Slides/material on web site before lecture…
- Differences to last year's course
  - A few new things… a few things dropped…
- ITET vs. other types of students…

Course Overview

- Part 1: Theory of Coke Vending Machines
  - Automata and Languages
  - Discrete Event Systems (DES) Models
- Part 2: Theory of Standing in a Line
  - Stochastic Processes
  - Markov Chains, Queuing Theory
  - Average-Case Analysis of DES
- Part 3: Theory of Renting Skis
  - Online Algorithms
  - Worst-Case Analysis of DES
- Plus a few smaller parts

Motivation: Physics

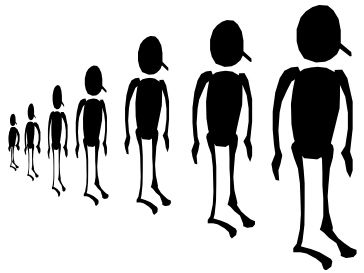
- Science is often based on natural phenomena
- Laws of physics: mechanics, gravitation, electrodynamics
- Continuous variables for mass, velocity, power, etc.
- Can be solved by differential equations



Motivation: Discrete Events

- Some complex systems are not [primarily/only] continuous
  - Computer systems
  - Communication networks
  - Business processes (“workflow”)
  - Transportation systems
  - Software

- Instead systems are determined by discrete events
  - Telephone calls
  - Customers arrivals

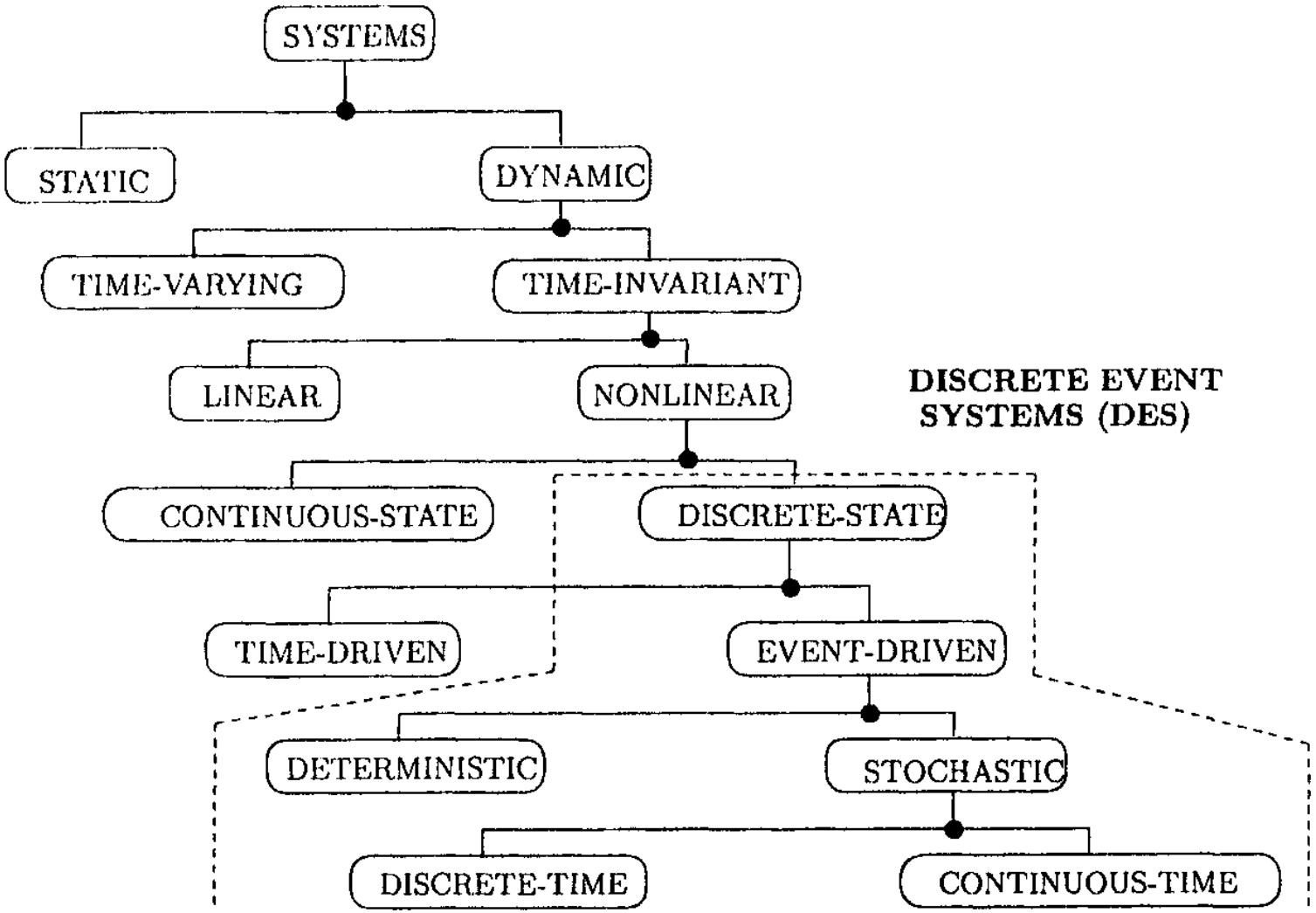


- Many variables we are interested in are discrete
  - „How many ...?“

Motivation: Discrete Event Systems

- System models
  - Find the right level of detail to model a real system
  - “Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler”
- Correctness verification
  - Formal specification
  - Testing
  - Simulation
- Analysis and Optimization

Motivation: System Classification



Literature

- Christos G. Cassandras, Stephane Lafortune. Introduction to Discrete Event Systems. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.
- Part 1
  - Michael Sipser. Introduction to the Theory of Computation. PWS Publishing, 1997. (Chapters 1 and 2)
- Part 2
  - Thomas Schickinger, Angelika Steger: Diskrete Strukturen, Band 2. Springer, 2001. (Chapters 1, 2, and 4)
  - Dimitri Bertsekas, Robert Gallager. Data Networks. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1992. (Chapter 3)
- Part 3
  - Allan Borodin, Ran El-Yaniv. Online Computation and Competitive Analysis. Cambridge University Press, 1998. (Selected Chapters)
- Plus research papers…