








Diary of a research




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Modern version control systems (VCS), like Subversion [1] or Git [2], present unprecedented means to semi-automatically track progress of a research on a day-to-day basis. Not only VCS do provide each project with “infinite undo” or a source of documentation to start from, but also they give a possibility to measure (although very roughly) the involvement of the contributors.

The image, presented here, displays the summary of the author’s VCS logs, collected from main research projects and research-related activities in the course of five years (from January 2010 in top left to December 2014 bottom right). Each box represents a day. Pale pink colour () represents a day without an entry in a log of any activity under the consideration, whereas coloured boxes (     ) represent main research project(s) being worked on during that day (at least one log entry created). See below for the explanation of research-related activities, represented in other three colours:

-  Preparation of proposals, theses, reports and papers
-  Preparation for exams and lectures
-  Various paperwork

Observable here is the trend of growing complexity in project relations as well as the time sharing between different projects, as their number increase. Also, occasional breaks for the dissemination of research results (writing of BSc and MSc theses in the spring of 2011 and 2013, accordingly) are obvious.

[1] Apache Subversion. <http://subversion.apache.org>

[2] Git. <http://git-scm.com>

