1. What is your area of research?

2. What is the tradition of author order in your research area? For example, in *Theoretical Computer Science* the author order is almost always in alphabetical order (by last name). So being the “first author” carries no special significance in this research area.

3. Does your research lab or group have any specific traditions and policies regarding authorship and authorship order? For example, if you collaborated with \( X \neq \text{“your research advisor”} \) on a research project, can you write and submit a paper with just you and \( X \) and coauthors? In some labs, especially in Europe, it is traditional for the advisor to be the last author on all papers produced by lab members. This is just an example, there are many authorship issues unrelated to this example.

4. Research is a collaborative effort and you may find yourself writing papers with co-authors locally and from far-flung places. While these papers will show up on your CV, how will you and your advisor determine what research belongs in your dissertation?