Presenting Your Research Work

How to Present Your Research Work! By Jeffrey Finkelstein & Behzad Golshan

Be a good presenter

- Communicate your ideas
- Be interesting and fun for your audience

How to efficiently communiate your information

- Communicate key ideas
- Use a top-down structure
- Repetition, repetition, repetition
- 20% motivation, 80% key idea
- Deep and narrow, not broad and shallow
- Examples

How NOT to efficiently communicate your information

Lots of technical details

Introduction

- Define problem
- Motivate audience
- Introduce terminology
- Earlier work
- Emphasize your contributions
- If necessary to provide outline, do it AFTER motivating

Expressing results

- Show major results
- Explain significance
- Sketch proof
- Brief reminders of standard results

How NOT to express results

- Don't show all details
- Don't show code

In-depth technicalities section

- Ensure this section is appropriate
- Present key technical lemma
- Be careful but succinct

Conclusion

- Make observations which only make sense after results
- Open problems
- Indicate end

Audience

- Tailor talk
- Watch for questions

Public speaking suggestions

- Eye contact
- Speak clearly, loudly, succinctly
- Controlled body motion
- Dress
- Prepare to prevent anxiety
- Drink water (during hesitations, too)
- Be enthusiastic

How NOT to speak in public

- Don't overrun your time
- Don't apologize

Using slides

- Images, pictures, tables
 - Labelled
- Print copies as handouts
- Number slides
- Descriptive titles
- Sans-serif (?)

How NOT to use slides

- Don't have flashy, useless slides
- Don't read word for word
- "Thank you"/"questions" slides (?)
- Don't point at laptop
- Don't overload each slide
- Don't use too many slides
 - One per 1-2 minutes
- Don't use too much text per slide
 - Like this one!
 - 24pt or 32pt slide

Questions

- Be prepared
- Respond politely and briefly to malicious ones
- Say "I don't know"
- Repeat question before answering
- Cut short if out of time

Practicing your talk

- Write or review slides night before
- Talk through slides
- Attend other talks
- Mix of people in audience
- Get helpful people to listen
- Small audience
- Record yourself
- Get native speaker to listen