

Presentations

Overview

- Today we will learn how to create a great research presentation including the importance of knowing your venue and **audience** and knowing your **presentation goals**.
- We will also discuss presentation **format**, **content**, **delivery** and **style**

Kinds of Research Presentations

- *“A research **talk**, or presentation, is typically a brief lecture about a particular piece of research, intended for an audience of other scientists.” [3]*
- *“Another common form of presentation is a **poster**, where work is presented as a poster that is pinned to a wall or noticeboard and explained to interested passers-by.” [3]*

[3] Justin Zobel, Writing for Computer Science, 3rd Edition, 2014.

Audience

- The audience are a group of your **peers**
- The audience could be **experts** in your field, general **computer scientists**, **general scientists** or a combination
- The **background** and **knowledge** of the audience is important in deciding the level of detail needed to explain your research
- How do you know your audience's background?
 - The **venue** can help...departmental seminar, conference presentation, etc.

Audience

Do's and Don'ts

- ✘ Use acronyms or terminology that the audience doesn't know
- ✔ Answer questions to the best of your ability
- ✔ Ask for clarification if you don't understand a question

Format & Content

- A research presentation is usually given with presentations **slides** and is of **fixed length**
 - 20 minutes, 50 minutes...
 - You should always ask if the length includes time for questions
 - You should never go over your time (or go significantly under) – practice will help get the timing right
- The content of a research presentation typically includes **background**, research **problem**, general **approach** and **key contributions**

Conference Presentation Content

- Unlike seminars presented work at a conference or workshop also has a corresponding research paper

Presentation content \neq **Paper content**

- The presentation does not need to convey all of the paper detail!
 - It should convey the **main ideas** and **key research contributions**. If an audience member is interested in knowing more they can read your paper.

Format & Content

Do's and Don'ts

- ✓ Number your presentation slides for easy reference
- ✓ Clearly explain the background and problem you are addressing
- ✗ Give too much detail about your research
- ✗ Put too much detail on each slide
- ✓ Clearly explain your contributions and conclusions
- ✗ Keep presenting when time has run out

Delivery & Style

- Whether you are presenting to 10 people or 200 people you can still get nervous
- Best way to avoid nerves? Practice, practice, practice
 - When I started I often practiced in front of a mirror to force myself to make eye contact and look up from my notes

Delivery & Style

Do's and Don'ts

- ✓ Speak clearly and project to the back of the room
- ✓ Make eye contact with audience
- ✓ Bring a backup in case of technology failure
- ✗ Read from slides
- ✗ Turn and face your slides
- ✓ Use a pointer if you need to refer to a slide
- ✗ Talk too fast
- ✓ Dress professionally

Presentations

Summary

- Today we learned how to create a great research presentation including the importance of:
 - Knowing your venue and **audience**
 - Understanding the **format** and **content** of your presentation
 - Developing a **delivery style**

Things to consider...

- What are the best practices for presenting in my research area?