Presenting Your Research

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Types of Presentations

■ “Elevator talk”

■ 2-3 minute presentation, no visual aides

■ The goal is to get the audience interested in your work
Types of Presentations

- Short presentation – 15-20 minutes
  - No outline
  - Covers single topic
  - The presentation must contain the following:
    - Motivation
    - Setting up the problem
    - Some results
    - Lots of pictures
  - 10-12 slides
Types of Presentations

- 30 – minute talk
  - Optional outline
  - Covers single topic
  - The presentation must contain the following:
    - Motivation
    - Setting up the problem
    - Some intermediate steps
    - Results
  - 20-25 slides
Types of Presentations

- One-hour talk
  - Has to have outline
  - May cover multiple topics
  - Contains everything mentioned before
  - You should guide the audience through the presentation
  - Lots of pictures will minimize number of people that fall asleep
Designing the Slides

- Slides must have Titles
- Use high-contrast color schemes in Powerpoint
- Use bullets
- Use large fonts
- Number the slides
- One slide per minute max
- Your audience will read your slides
One topic per slide

- Each slide must talk about a single topic
- You can use multiple slides per large topic
- Avoid “busy” slides
Example “busy” slide

- **Types of talks:**
  - “Elevator talk”
    - 2-3 minute presentation, no visual aides
    - The goal is to get the audience interested in your work
  - Short presentation – 15-20 minutes
    - No outline
    - Covers single topic
    - The presentation must contain the following:
      - Motivation
      - Setting up the problem
      - Some results
      - Lots of pictures
Graphs and images

- Use large fonts for labels

- One graph per slide (unless you have to compare two graphs)

- Use arrows to point out the important parts
Graphs and images

Gap size estimated correctly
Conclusion

- Restate and summarize your results
- Acknowledge your colleagues and collaborators
Practice

Practice in front of live audience

- All talks must be tested on live audiences
- Ask your test audience to speak up when they do not understand what is being said
- In the end ask “what is wrong with my talk”?

If you give a practice talk that is judged a failure, don't worry about it; just fix it. It is the final talk that counts.
Your Main Point

- Ask yourself what you want your audience to remember six months after the talk.

- Aim at explaining one central idea or achievement

- Tell the main point to the audience early in the talk
Apologies?

- Do not apologize in your talk for anything

- Give an appearance of mastery

- If you forgot, just say "Now is a good time to tell you ...". 
Speaking

- Speak uniformly loudly.
- Make frequent eye contact with the audience.
- See if you can interact with the audience.
Giving credit

- Make sure the audience knows what YOU have done and have not done.

- Don't be shy about claiming credit.

- Give credit to the people who did the background work by name at least.