Research Talks

How to Write Them
and
How to Give Them

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Less is More

- one slide per 2-6 minutes
- at most one slide of Greek/squiggles
- do not use pathfinder slides
- conclusions are for turkeys
- stay under six bullets and fifty words
- have extra slides available to answer expected technical questions
Slides are Poetry

- maintain consistent tone
- use as few words as possible
- make positive statements of fact
- avoid passive voice
- eliminate redundancy
- use beautiful but not flowery language
Make Beautiful Slides

- bullet items are not sentences
- ensure consistent style and typography
- use large, consistent, familiar fonts
  - they are easier to read
  - you will not be tempted to write too much
- do not overly mix images and text
- custom slides are memorable
Consider Your Audience

- do not treat the audience like children
- be prepared to just-in-time update given the proceeding talks in the session
- give the audience just enough context to follow, but not predict, the talk
Tell a Story

- use classic storytelling techniques
- build an arc
- introduce characters and scenes
- lead your audience to their own conclusions
- each bullet is a way-point
- help your audience feel brilliant
do not overwhelm the audience with ideas

it is better to make one great idea well than to make many great ideas poorly
Illustrations can help tell a story

- use them to show the results of research involving rendering or visualisation
- depict temporal or causal scenarios

Illustrations must be large, clear, properly labeled, fully defined, and useful
Show Enthusiasm

- have a good attitude and smile
- let your personality show
- your audience is more likely to remember your personal style than your content
- an enthusiastic speaker can make an average talk good, and a good talk great
Speaking Habits

- watch and listen to other speakers
- what drives you nuts?
- look at and connect with your audience
- feel free to move, but do not roam
- get feedback from your friends
  - ones who are sensitive and honest
Be Considerate

- do not abuse the speaker behind you
- stay on time
- do not overly-criticise their work
- be sure to thank
  - the organisers for inviting you
  - the audience for listening
  - every person that asks a good question
Finish On Time

- everyone hates a speaker that is late
- it distracts your audience
- it is unfair to other speakers
- save time for questions
- an active audience will need more time
- judge the audience while giving the talk