RPC Presentation Guidelines

Spring 2015

Slides created by Michelle Sander
Presentation Content

We expect: a well-organized, scientific presentation that

- Introduces the paper/necessary background/explains assumptions made
- Emphasizes the significance of the research
- Explains the key results
- Presents conclusions
- Discussion of results
- Open problems – what should be addressed in future research
Format

- 30 minute presentation
- Explain each slide carefully
- Rough guideline:
  - if you spend 1-2 minutes on each slide, prepare between 15-25 slides
- Use a large-enough font size to be easily readable (e.g. Font 26).
  - Use a large-enough font size to be easily readable (Font 20).
  - Use a large-enough font size to be easily readable (Font 16).
  - Use a large-enough font size to be easily readable (Font 12).
Presenting Slides

- Explain everything on the slides in the order you arranged it
- Know what each concept/model etc. that you list means
  - You might be asked to explain in detail later
  - If something is not exactly clear to you, do your research beforehand
- Summarize the most important content in bullet points: no need to use full sentences
- Don’t overcrowd the slides with too much information
Figures

- Include diagrams or figures to illustrate results
- Start by explaining what is shown on the plot
- You can use figures from the paper or other sources but you need to reference them properly to adhere with copyright:

  Figure

  “Figure taken from Author, Journal, Year”
Equations

- Good rule of thumb: one equation per slide
- Explain all the variables
- Why is it important?
- Reference equations by their name where relevant (e.g. Ohm’s Law)
- For complex derivations: acknowledge their original source
  e.g. “following calculations by Author, Journal, Year”
Presentation Style

- Speak loudly, slowly and clearly
- Use laser pointer to draw the attention to important details on the slide/figures
- Face the committee
- If needed, bring additional notes for the points you want to make on each slide
Additional Preparation

- Practice your presentation and time yourself
- If you run out of time during the RPC, skip some slides – don’t try rushing through all of them
- You can prepare some “backup” slides on important content (e.g. additional background, assumptions etc.), which you anticipate more detailed questions on.