Giving good talks
Today’s structure

- (Short) talk about giving talks
- Lecture on them
Why learn to present?

• Giving talks is an essential skill
  • An argument is not just evidence
  • Misunderstood genius is just misunderstood
• Principles are easy enough to learn
• You’re in charge in seminars
The skill of giving talks

• Talk = argument
• Argument contains appropriate evidence, or “substance”
• Talk has substance & form
School versus real world

• (My) school
  • Teachers know more!
  • Goal: show how much you know

• Rest of the world
  • Again, you’re the expert
How can matter more than what

• Unlike you’re used to
• Even in science
• More outside of science
How matters more than what #2

In scientific venue
• Smart and inquisitive audience
• Must convince them
• They can look elsewhere for details
Misunderstood

• “He must be smart” vs “He is smart and taught me something”
You’re in charge!

• You teach this course
  • With my guidance
• You’re the expert, not I
  • Not a bug, but a feature
• Learn how to present! Or:
  • Bore people
  • Don’t get message across
Easy enough to improve a lot

- Presenting is seldom taught
- We’ll present the basic advice later today
- Most bad presentations make the same basic mistakes
But practice!

• Applying the advice is not rocket science
• Just practice!
• But lots of practice!
Wrap-up

- Presenting well will make you more successful
- The basics
Paper versus presentation

• In both:
  • motivation
  • clarity
  • structure

• In presentation:
  • Less time
  • Fixed time
  • Your presence matters
Easy enough to improve a lot
What matters

• Content
  • Make sure everybody gets as much as possible
  • Help to remember
  • Have a message
  • Few points in support
  • Evidence
  • Hook
  • Wrap-up

• Delivery style
  • Connect with the audience
What matters

- Content
  - Limit detail
Motivation

• “What’s in it for me?”, “So what?”
Main body

• You know more than the audience
• Keep it simple