

# **Giving good talks**

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# 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**

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# 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

# Content

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# Motivation

- “What’s in it for me?”, “So what?”

# Main body

- You know more than the audience
- Keep it simple