PRISM
Lecture 5 - Giving Talks and Presenting Posters

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If your paper is accepted to a conference, you’ll hopefully have two opportunities to advertise it:

- Giving a research talk (anywhere from 1 to 20 minutes)
- Presenting a poster

The goals are to convey the main idea and to persuade people to read the paper

- It’s impossible to convey the technical details in the time allotted
Giving Talks

Image: MilaQuebec
Talks: Organization

- Typically one slide per 1–2 minutes (more is overkill)
- Challenge of presenting to multiple audiences
  - If it helps, aim different sections of the talk to different audiences (increasing levels of expertise)
  - Nobody will blame you for explaining things they already know
- Think carefully about the order in which to present ideas
  - May be different from the paper
  - Try explaining the ideas to your friends and see what ordering works the best
- In practice, people will be happy if they take away one interesting idea
Talks: Slide Design

- Not too much text
  - Reading competes with listening for our language processing
  - Text is an outline, not supposed to be comprehensive (details are in the paper)
- Avoid putting demands on the audience’s memory
  - Make each slide self-explanatory without having to remember notation
- Develop compelling figures and animations
(talk example)
Poster Sessions

Come see our poster (#108) on adversarial examples that fool both computer vision and time-limited humans. Room 517a&amp;b
Posters

Don’t do this:

- PRISM (UofT)
- PRISM-Lec5
Posters: Content

- Want to get across:
  - Why the topic is interesting and important
  - The key ideas behind your approach
  - The main pieces of experimental evidence
- Not meant to be comprehensive (details are in the paper)
- Many forms of organization are possible
  - Vanilla choice: columns for Motivation, Methods, Experiments
  - Could organize around a processing pipeline
  - Could put the most important figure front and center
- One strategy: come up with your elevator pitch, and design your poster to support it
  - Meant to be pointed to, not read linearly
Posters: Design

- Should be visually attractive to draw people’s attention
  - You’re competing with many other posters in a crowded room
- Tools
  - Beamerposter (very convenient once you’ve learned \LaTeX)
  - PowerPoint, Inkscape, Illustrator, etc. if you want fine-grained control
- Minimize text
  - Replace with figures wherever possible
  - Keep the text concise (phrases, not sentences)
- Use color for emphasis (but not decoration)
(poster example)