CS 891
Introduction to Emerging Technologies
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Lecture 6: Presenting Academic Research

Lecture Topics

- Why do we present research?
- What aspects of presenting should you focus on?

Why?

- Communication is a universal skill
- Coding along has a ceiling
- Researchers must present their work
- If you can't tell anyone about your work, why should they care?

How?

- Tell 'em what you're gunna tell 'em
- Tell 'em
- Tell 'em what you told 'em

The preparation...

- Have a defined message
  - I had a neat approach to using Ajax in my chat tool
- Know your audience
  - These are my peers
  - Master's-level computer scientists
- Understand:
  - Material
  - Talk roadmap
  - Implications of your work

The Structure...

- Introduction
  - Stories help! Captures attention.
  - Problem statements here, preferably with examples
- Approach
  - How did you go about solving the thing?
- Results
  - Figures, diagrams, stats, etc.
- Analysis, conclusions, next steps

The Questions...

- No questions == no one cares
- Be prepared to answer questions
- It's acceptable to not know, but explain why!
- Questions aren't traps
  - Flattering – I liked your talk so much that I thought about it and decided to continue this conversation

Extracurriculars

- Be fun, engaging, etc.
- Use slide numbers
- Use common punctuation
- Reading slides == terrible presentation
- Minimize text
- Slides are presentation *tools* to aid the presenter's *soundtrack*

Focus areas for research

- Motivation for the research
  - Includes any bio, background, and related works
  - Goal is to make audience agree that this is important stuff!
- Methodology
  - How did they do it?
  - Was that the right way?
  - Is there a way to improve it?
- Findings and recommendations
  - Pictures and graphs are **essential**
  - What did the authors tell us we should learn?
- Conclusions
  - What can we take away?
  - What should future researchers use this paper to do?

For this course...

- 1-2 slides -- Introductory bio
- 2-4 slides -- Introduce the topic area (includes common myths and associated truths)
- 1-2 slides -- Introduce the paper (including motivation)
- 1-2 slides -- Background and related works
- 4-5 slides -- Research methodology (include experimental design, metrics, data sets, etc.)
- 1-2 slides -- Findings & conclusions (include relevant graphs)
- 1-2 slides -- Issues and recommendations with the paper
- 1-2 slides -- Recommendations for research in the topic area
- **Presentations should range from 15-20 slides and last for 30-45 minutes with 15-30 minutes for Q&A and discussion**