Scientific Presentations for the Advanced Laboratory

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Advance Laboratory Lecture 11/5/2012
Outline

- Why
- Schedule
- A few pointers for a good scientific presentation
- Two examples
- An example talk for the Advanced Laboratory
All students in the advanced laboratory are required to give a talk.
Presentations will be given next Tuesday and Wednesday.
There will be two parallel sessions each day.
You will give an 8 minute talk (no interruptions), followed by a two minute question period.
You will be required to attend your entire session and evaluate the other speakers in your session.
Speak on one of the two labs that you have completed.
The talk should be in PowerPoint or some equivalent form. Either bring your own laptop or a flash drive with the talk. A PC will be available with PowerPoint, along with a projector.
Show up at least 10 minutes early to your session to test presentation.
Schedule

- 1:00 to 4:30 pm Tuesday Nov. 13 and Wednesday Nov. 14
- Rooms will be posted tomorrow
- Sign up on the sheet that is being passed around
What makes a good scientific presentation

- Planning
- Organization
- Effective Slides
- Important Elements
- Practice Makes Perfect
  - Speak clearly, practice with one of your colleagues, look at your audience
- Handling Questions
  - Repeat the question
  - If you don’t know the answer say so
  - Avoid prolonged discussions – say I will meet with you privately
Planning

• Be clear about the message you are trying to convey
• Identify the topics you plan to address
  - Arrange these topics in a logical sequence
  - Proceed from the most to the least important
  - Formulate transition elements to guide the audience from one issue to the next
• Know your audience
  Make it interesting – give them a reason to listen

• NEVER EXCEED THE TIME LIMIT. 1 slide per minute max!
Organization

- Orient your audience early
  
  *Tell ‘em what you’re going to tell ‘em*

- Body
  
  *Tell ‘em*

- Summary
  
  *Tell ‘em what you just told ‘em*
Recommended Structure

Maximum number of slides: 8 (never more than 1/minute)

1. Title slide (experiment name, your name, some nice picture, etc.)
2. Motivation, background, etc (1 - 2 slides)
3. Experimental Apparatus (1 - 2 slides)
4. Experimental Results (1 - 2 slides)
5. Analysis (1 – 2 slides)
6. Comparison to previous results (maybe 1 slide?)
7. Conclusions/Acknowledgements (1 slide)

Feel free to change this but should have a good reason to do it. Choose the most important part(s) of the experiment to talk about, not necessarily all of it