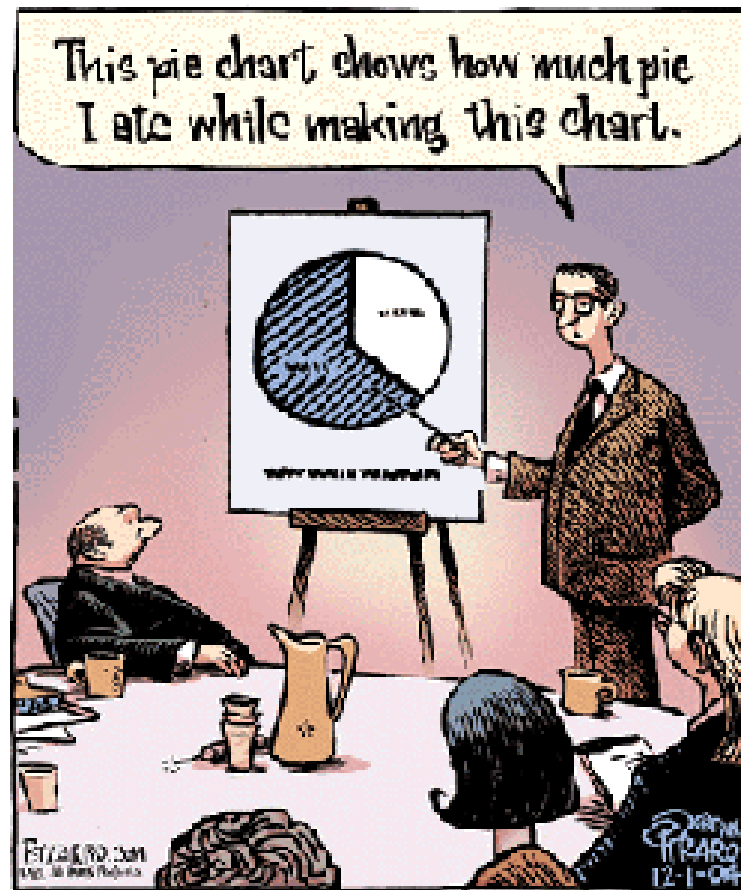


Organizing a ~30-minute prelim/final talk



The Oral Presentation for the Prelim or Thesis



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How Do You Start Drafting Your Presentation?

**First, draft an outline for
your presentation!!**

Example organization of ~30-minute prelim talk

Background and Introduction (7–9 minutes)

⇒ 5–6 slides

- ~1 Title slide - Your name, advisor's name, research title
- ~1 Outline slide – Organization of talk
- ~1 Overview slide – Why is this research important?
- ~2-3 Background slides – Provides essential background for non-experts

Methods and Preliminary Results (7–9 minutes)

⇒ 5–6 slides

- ~2-3 Methods slides – Theoretical/experimental methods used
- ~0-3 Preliminary results slides – Proof-of-principle results

Example organization of ~30-minute prelim talk

Proposed Research (10–12 minutes)

⇒ 5–6 slides

~1-2 slides per proposed project

Summary and Acknowledgments (1-2 minutes)

⇒ 2 slides

1 Summary slide - Review the main points

1 Acknowledgment slide – Acknowledge collaborators, funding agencies, helpful colleagues/staff, etc.

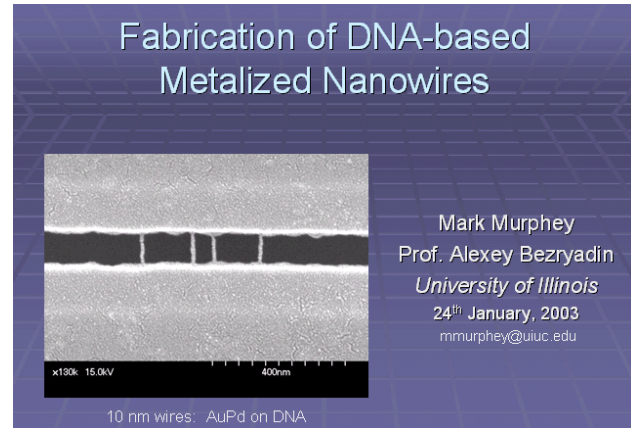
Questions

⇒ 3–N back-up slides – Anticipate questions that might arise

The title slide and outline prepares the audience to listen and shows organization of talk

Title slide

- Your name and affiliation
- Your advisor
- Venue and date
- Attention-getting graphic



Outline or overview of presentation

- Prepares the audience to listen
- Provides a logical structure for your talk
- Provides motivation and context
- Summarizes key points (limit to two or three for a ~30-minute talk)



The “body” of your presentation is the intellectual content of your talk

Problem statement, motivation

Previous work, essential background info

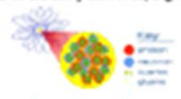
Methods

Results and Discussion

Proposed work (prelim)

What's this all about?

- **Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP)**
 - hypothesized state of deconfined quarks and gluons
 - expected in the early universe, big-bang stage



– this represents a phase change

pp vs A-A collisions

hard-scattered
quark from pp collision

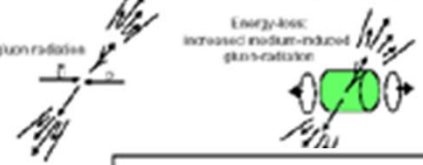
cone of hadrons

gluon radiation

hard-scattered
quark from A-A collision


hadronization: softer, broader?

Energy-loss:
increased nuclear-induced gluon-radiation



High p_T

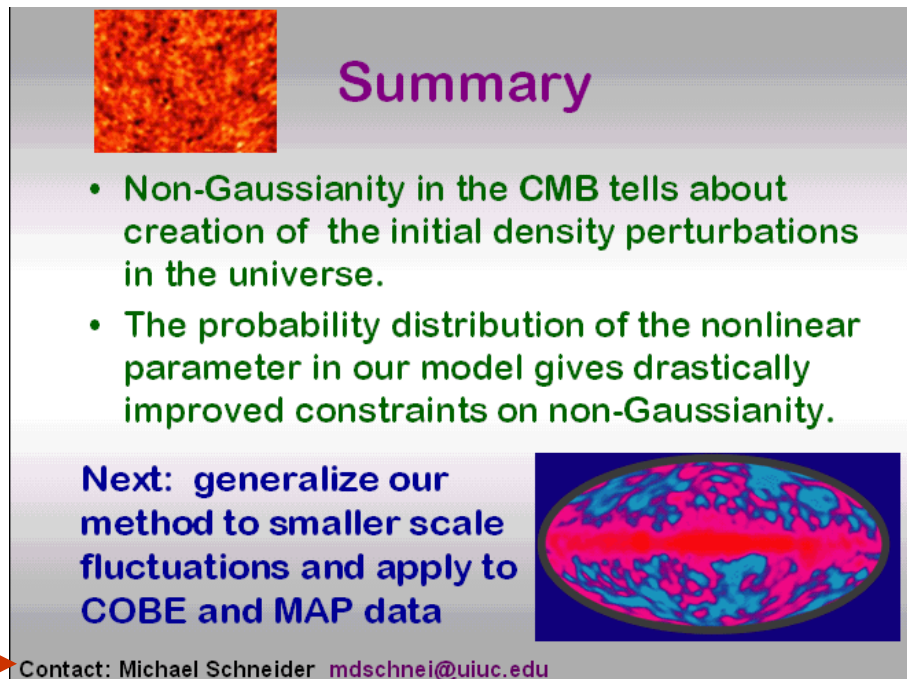
- Hard-scattering occurs at earliest times during a high-energy nuclear collision
 - well before QGP is expected to form (equilibrated)
- These “fast” scatterers will experience the strongly interacting medium created in the collision.
- They will lose energy in the hot, dense medium (by **gluon bremsstrahlung**) and their outgoing energy distribution will be modified downward
- Net effect, depletion in yield of high p_T particles compared to p-p case
- The game is then to make the comparison case



Provide a “summary” slide

Recap key preliminary results

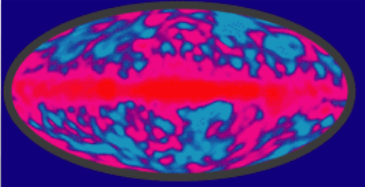
Reiterate proposed projects



Summary

- Non-Gaussianity in the CMB tells about creation of the initial density perturbations in the universe.
- The probability distribution of the nonlinear parameter in our model gives drastically improved constraints on non-Gaussianity.

Next: generalize our method to smaller scale fluctuations and apply to COBE and MAP data



Contact: Michael Schneider mdschnei@uiuc.edu

An orange arrow points to the contact information at the bottom left of the slide.

This slide will probably stay on the screen during the question period and will thus get the longest audience exposure—make it count!



Tips for preparing your talk

Adjust the presentation to your audience! Your committee are not all experts...make sure you have sufficient background to orient all members

You don't have to tell the committee everything about your research: Identify the 2-3 main points you can reasonably convey in a 30-minute talk

Create an outline of your talk, i.e., have a logical organization: You can use the same outline as used for your prelim paper



Tips for preparing your talk (cont.)

Have only 1 idea per slide

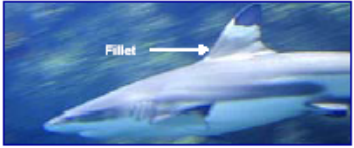
Use the header to state the main idea of the slide, and use the body of the slide to support that idea

Use well-labeled graphs and figures to illustrate your key points...this makes the slide more real and interesting to the audience

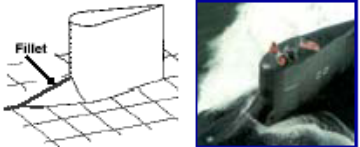
Avoid too much text....

Fillets reduce leading edge vortices in nature and in engineering


Fillet on dorsal fin of shark



Fillet on Seawolf submarine



[Devenport et al., 1991]



Literature Review

- Hefner developed a dynamic model of the thermal behavior of a power MOSFET using a temperature-dependent IGBT electrical model. The model is expressed in terms of the instantaneous power dissipation and the thermal capacitance and thermal resistance of the silicon chip and the heat sink. The model was used to simulate the thermal behavior of the SABER circuit simulator.
- Adam et al. developed a model of the thermal behavior of a power MOSFET. The model takes into account the interactions between the heat sources, the heat sink, and the ambient environment. The model is used to determine the thermal behavior of the MOSFET by the thermal conductance of the walls and the thermal capacitance of the heat sink. The model is used to determine which physical effects and level of detail are needed to accurately model the thermal behavior of discretely heated enclosures.
- Chen, Wu and others are modeling of thermal and electrical behavior using several commercial softwares (I-DEAS, Maxwell, Flotherm and Saber) and 3-D, transient approaches.

Too many words

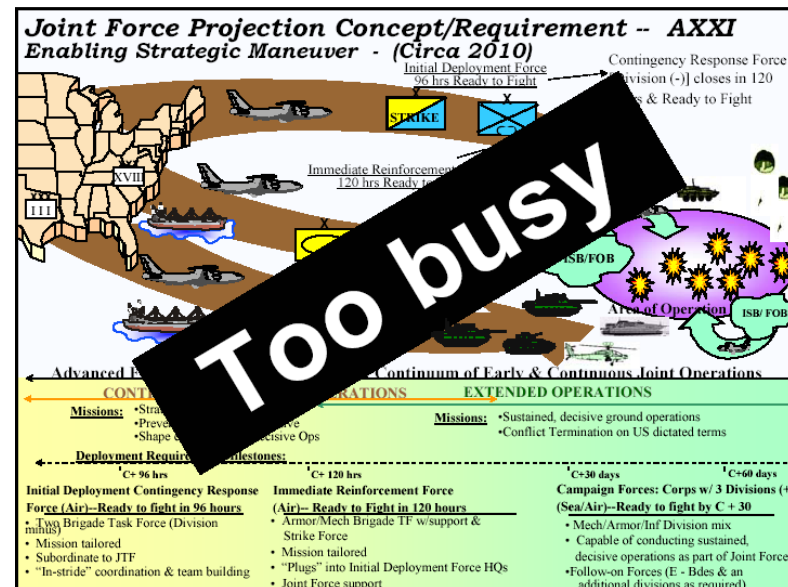
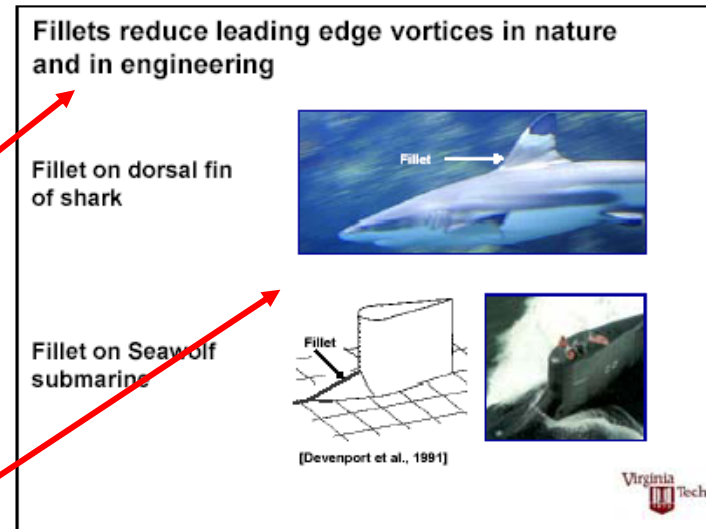
Tips for preparing your talk (cont.)

Have only 1 idea per slide

Use the header to state the main idea of the slide, and use the body of the slide to support that idea

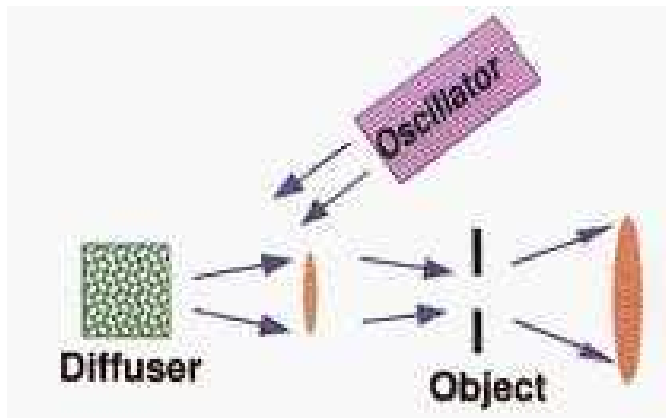
Use well-labeled graphs and figures to illustrate your key points...this makes the slide more real and interesting to the audience

....or too many distracting images

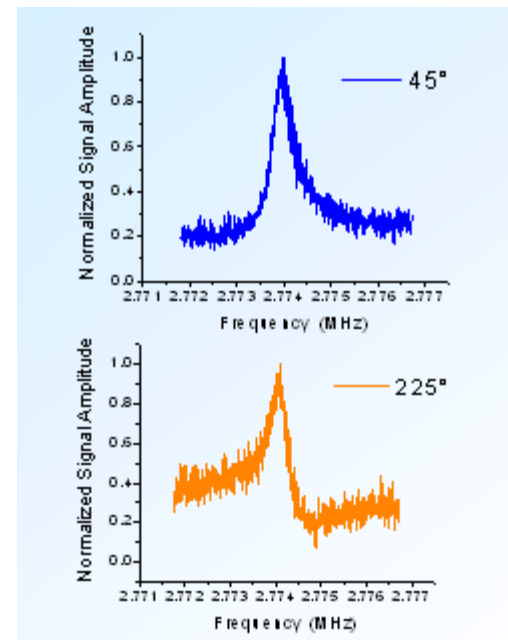


Label all elements in a figure

- Point out important features
- Label both axes of graphs and show units
- Provide a brief caption
- Give credit to source



The Nike laser system uses discharge pre-amplifiers.
(Courtesy US Navy)

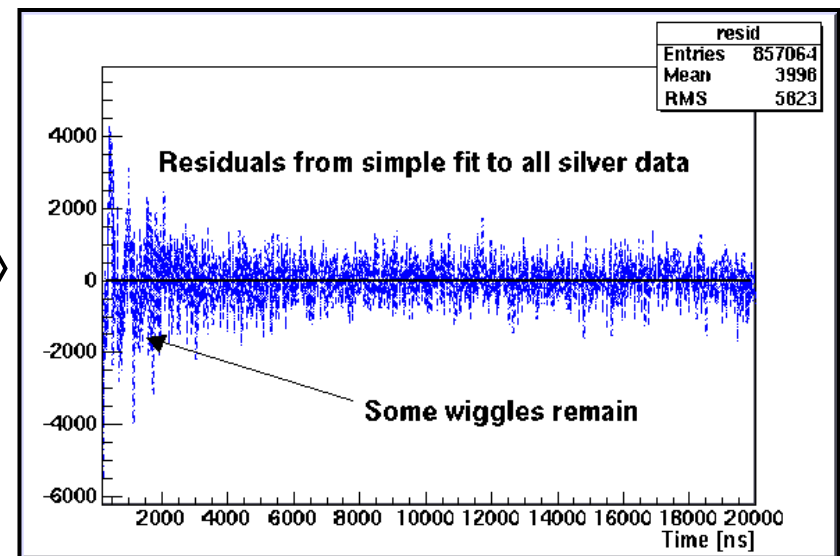
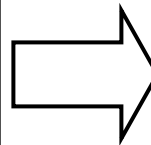
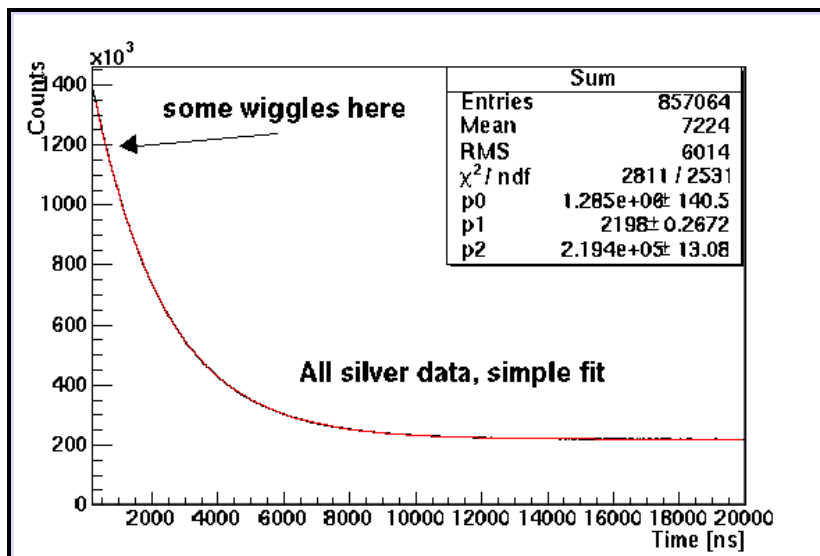


Sample normalized signals from the two-beam optical drive.
(Courtesy C. Michael)



Presenting data is your most important and challenging task

- Avoid copying a graph from a formal article – they have a different style, **e.g., labels are too small**
- Use color and make lines thick, labels legible
- Label axes and annotate important points with arrows and add words
- Use tables sparingly – if used highlight important parts



Use equations sparingly

Use equations only when necessary

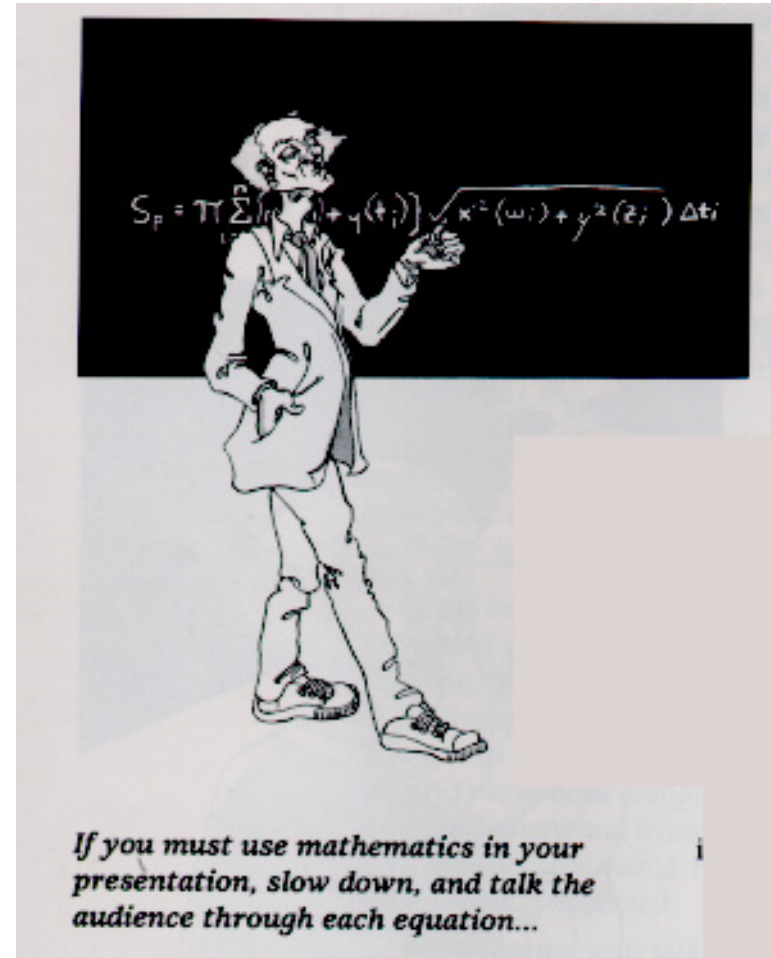
If you use equations

Slow down

Talk through step by step

Explain relevance

Combine with a picture that illustrates the physical principle involved



Remember, your goal is to convey your ideas, so avoid distracting text and effects!

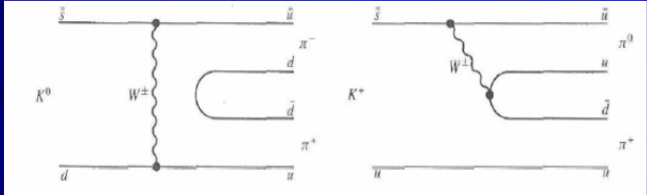
Don't overuse PowerPoint animations and sounds!

Make sure there is good contrast between text and background

Use simple (or no) backgrounds on slides

CP

- Parity invariance fails, combine it with charge conjugation to create a new invariant
- Converts the right-handed anti-neutrino into a left-handed neutrino- exactly what we observe in nature
- Neutral kaon experiment



The image shows two Feynman diagrams illustrating the decay of neutral kaons. The left diagram shows a K^0 meson (quark-antiquark pair $d\bar{u}$) decaying into a W^\pm boson, which then decays into a π^- meson ($d\bar{u}$) and a π^+ meson ($u\bar{d}$). The right diagram shows a K^+ meson (quark-antiquark pair $u\bar{s}$) decaying into a W^\pm boson, which then decays into a π^0 meson ($u\bar{u}$) and a π^+ meson ($u\bar{d}$).



Use “normal” colors

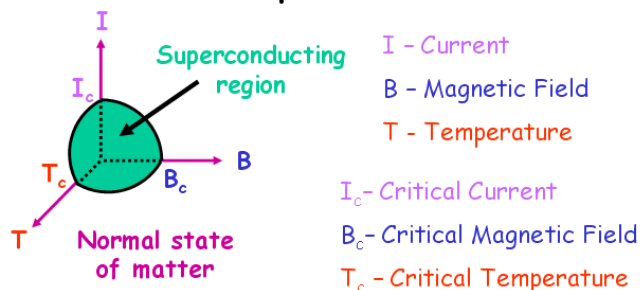
DON'T use red/green or red/blue as contrasting colors

Make sure colors looks the way you expect using an LCD projector!

Avoid neon colors and pastels

Don't use many random colors; people expect color to *mean* something

Superconductivity is an electronic state of matter that exists below certain currents, magnetic fields, and temperatures.



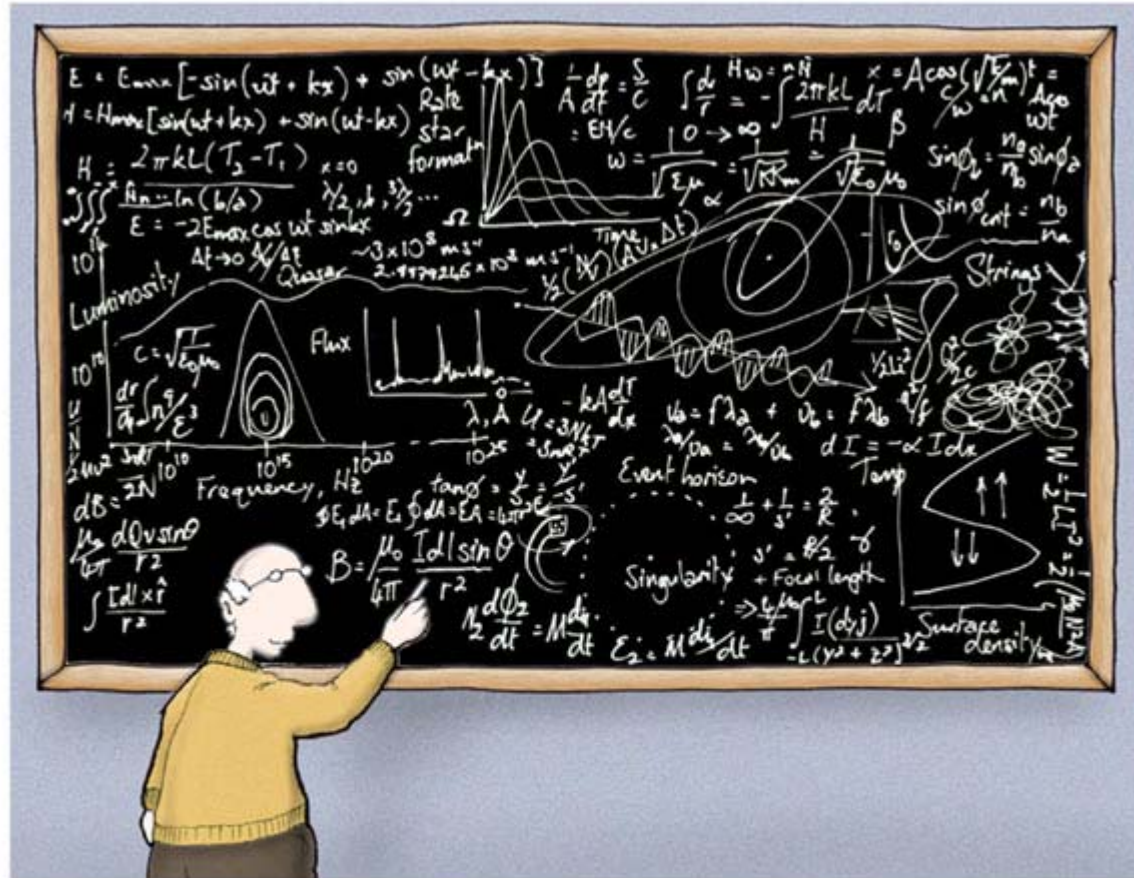
Strive for easy reading

Strive for easy reading

Strive for easy reading



Tips for presenting you prelim/final talk



Astrophysics made simple



Pointers for giving the best possible talk:

Maintain eye contact with audience

Don't stare at screen or monitor

Do not read your talk!

Avoid nervous mannerisms

Pacing, bobbing, waving arms, jingling coins

Use laser pointer or stick directed at screen

Don't point directly at overhead or projector

Don't block the screen

Train yourself to speak slowly and distinctly— practice!

Avoid “fillers”: “uh”, “like”, “um”, “okay”

Be enthusiastic!

If you don't act excited by your results,
don't expect the audience to be!



Pointers for giving the best possible talk:

Don't show any material on slides (e.g., figures, equations, text, etc.) you can't explain!! This will invite questions you don't want!!

Rehearse how you'll end your talk

Don't end with "Well, I guess that's it..."

Don't just stop and let the committee guess that you're done

Thank the audience!



The best way to prepare for a talk is to Know Your Material

Practice, practice, practice

**Focus on communicating,
not performing**

Humor is good, but don't overdo it

Keep explanations simple

Prepare key phrases and words

It's okay to write out material first

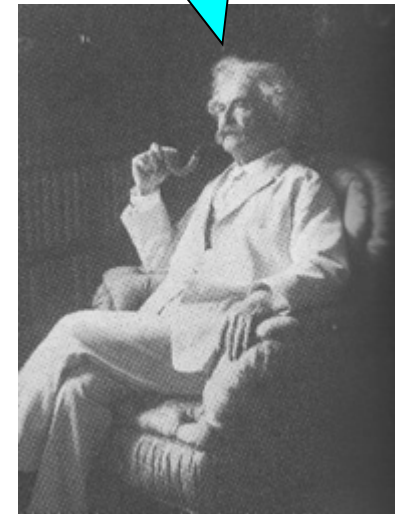
Write the key point to make for each slide

If the slide doesn't have a point, eliminate it!!!

Stay on track

Small (planned) digressions fine if motivated,
but get back on track (shows you are
paying attention to audience)

*It takes three
weeks to prepare
a good ad-lib
speech*



Check *everything* just before your talk

Check the projector

- Make sure you know how to turn it on
- See that it is plugged in
- Check which way to position your slides
- Adjust the focus

Check microphones, pointer, other tools

Arrange your slides, notes, and other materials

- Be able to reach everything without moving
- Be able to go through your slides without fumbling

Have a “clock” handy to check the time

