CS6963 Lecture #21
Robert Ricci
April 14, 2015

• Progress on final project
  – Making profiles (give me links)
  – Getting software compiled?
  – Anyone run numbers to compare with yet?

• For today:
  – Giving talks—specifically, conference type talks
    – What are some bad things you’ve seen in any type of talk?

• Hold the audience’s interest
  – Tell a story—they can’t skip around like they might in a paper
    * The structure of your talk is very important
    * Tell them what you are going to say
    * Tell them why they should listen
    * Say what you are going to say
    * Remind them of what you said
    * Make sure to let them know where you are in the talk
  – Put in the effort: multiply the audience size by the length of your talk to think of how much attention you are consuming
  – Important decision to make—are you trying to tell them everything (short paper) or entice the audience to read the full thing?
    * Don’t be afraid to point to the paper for more details, discussion of related work, etc.
    * Beware of “minimum explainable unit”—some times you have to leave things out because they require too much background before they are understandable
    * Saying it clearly is more important than packing everything in
  – Stick to one claim, and pick only the most important evidence

• Slides
  – Your slides are not your notes
    * They are visual aids to punctuate what you’re saying
  – If you and the slides say the same thing, one is not necessary
  – You are competing with your slides for audience attention
    * Don’t put up complicated stuff all at once—progressive reveal
    * Use bullet lists as little as possible
- Learn the tools
- Slides are not paper, you don’t have to do black on white
- Use color to convey information, but remember
  * Conference projectors have the worst color accuracy in the universe
  * Colorblindness, esp. red/green colorblindness (8% of European-descended men)
- If you’re not comfortable with humor, just put the joke on the slide
- Animations should only reduce confusion or convey information
  * NOT to “look cool”

• Preparation
  - Do practice talks—and consider the audience
  - Listen to feedback, don’t argue with it
  - Do two practices after the final change you make to your slides
  - It’s important to be comfortable (physically as well as mentally)
  - Practice the key words that you might have trouble pronouncing

• Presentation
  - Never look at your slides
  - Never look at your slides
  - Don’t us a laser pointer—use animated objects on the slides
  - Talk to people, not the room
  - Use your presentation software’s presenter mode
  - Scripting is not so bad, but don’t read from the script during your talk, just the practice

• Some example slides
  - Weibin slide 2–4
    * Literally structuring the argument
    * Gives him a good chance to show evidence then go back to the structure
  - Yathi slide 6
    * Progressive reveal of the figure
  - My NSDI slides:
    * Slide 4, give them questions to think about
    * Slide 8—use of color, high level and detail, conclusions on the slide
    * Slide 14—earlier version had an equation
    * Slide 20—leave some to the paper

• For next time
  - Two papers to read, evals to do
  - Talks on the 23rd: Jithu, Jonathon, Anil, Anil
  - 3rd weekly report due Friday
  - Next time we’ll do a review of the class content