

Short presentations

The purpose of the short presentations is to practice distilling a paper down to its essence. You will often be asked to summarize your own work. This is a chance to practice this skill without all the nervousness of talking about your own papers. A secondary benefit is that we are all exposed to more papers (and ideas).

Format

The presentation is short. It is harder to give a short talk than a long talk. (Twain said it [best](#).) Read the paper carefully and then break the paper down.

- The presentation lasts, at most, 20 minutes
- The presentation should be no more than 6 slides (not including the title slide)

Six slides may not seem like enough. If you spend three minutes per slide, that is already 18 minutes. If you are spending less than three minutes on a slide, you might want to reconsider the value of the slide.

Structure

Your talk should follow a structure similar to

1. Question: What do we want to know? Why do we want to know it? [The second question is often harder to answer than the first.] Papers may ask several questions. Focus on the most important.
2. Methodology: How are they answering this question? With data? With a model? An experiment? Sketch the key parts of the methodology.
3. Mechanism/Intuition: Discuss the economics behind the paper. What is the key tradeoff?
4. Result(s): Answer the questions raised in part one. Discuss other relevant results or questions that remain.

Feel free to modify the structure, but make sure the question and answer come through! These are the most important parts of any paper.