

Regular Lecture 12

Slides and Posters

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Slides

Why Give Talks?

Some people process information better when **listening** or **watching** than when reading.

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- ▶ In academia: thesis defenses, conference talks, lectures, etc.
- ▶ In industry: project pitches, annual reports, etc.
- ▶ In both: job interviews.

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- ▶ In both: job interviews.

Purposes of an academic talk:

- ▶ **Advertise** your paper or thesis.
- ▶ **Teach** something interesting.

Organization

Remember to **motivate** your work at the beginning and to **summarize** it at the end. You can close with directions for **future work**. Think carefully about the last slide, since it usually remains shown during the questions.

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Use a sensible **slide budget**. In particular, keep the introduction and background short. An **outline** can be helpful for longer talks.

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Mention the **key ideas** throughout, and summarize them at the end.

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In view of this:

- ▶ Most slides should be light in detail and accessible to **nonexperts**.
- ▶ The core slides should contain sufficient detail for **experts**.

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- ▶ Most slides should be light in detail and accessible to **nonexperts**.
- ▶ The core slides should contain sufficient detail for **experts**.

Elaborate as **time permits**.

Be aware that slides make it easy to go **too fast** for the audience.

Two Schools of Slide Design

Minimalist



- ▶ The goal is to underscore key points while letting the audience focus on what you are saying.
- ▶ This style can be impactful.
- ▶ This style is appropriate for less technical material.

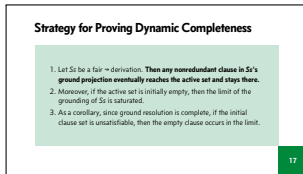
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Maximalist



- ▶ The slides alone are sufficient to get the gist of the talk.
- ▶ The slides can serve as a self-contained handout.
- ▶ This style is appropriate for more technical material.

Avoid Clutter

Slides are not a paper. These are far too **cluttered** even for maximalists:

$\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$

$\frac{\text{S-REFL}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_1 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{S-SLICE}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{S-SHAREDREF}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p_1 \text{ shared } r_1 \leq \&p_2 \text{ shared } r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$	$\frac{\text{S-TRANS}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{S-TUPLE}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash (r_1 \dots r_n) \leq (r'_1 \dots r'_n) \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{S-UNIQUEREF}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p_1 \text{ unique } r_1 \leq \&p_2 \text{ unique } r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$	$\frac{\text{S-ARRAY}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{S-UNIT}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash r_1^* \leq r_2^* \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$
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$\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p_1 \triangleright p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$

$\frac{\text{OL-REFL}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p \triangleright p \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{OL-LOCALPROVENANCES}}{\Delta; \text{PREV} \in \Delta}$ $\frac{\text{OL-LOCALPROVANSPLIT}}{\Delta; \text{PREV} \in \Delta}$	$\frac{\text{OL-ABSTRACTPROVENANCES}}{\Delta; \text{PREV} \in \Delta}$ $\frac{\text{OL-ANDPROVLOCALPROV}}{\Delta; \text{PREV} \in \Delta}$	$\frac{\text{OL-TRANS}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p_1 \triangleright p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$ $\frac{\text{OL-TRANS}}{\Delta; \Gamma \vdash p_1 \triangleright p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*}$
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How to make a Good First Impression

Making a first good impression can be vital when looking for a new job. Whether we like it or not, people do judge a book by their cover. The first few seconds with someone can be critical to your career.

- Be on time. The person you are just meeting is probably not interested in your excuses, even if it is the first time you are late in your whole life. All they are going to know is that you are not keeping up with a previous agreement. The image you are leaving behind is of someone that is not reliable. Make an extra effort and make sure to arrive on time. Too early is always better than too late.
- Be prepared. Before going to your interview you should have done your research about the company, the position you're applying for, and so on. Think about what kind of questions you could be asked, and how you would answer them. In one word, practice!
- Take care of your clothes and your overall grooming. It has been said that 55% can be determined by the person's appearance. So be careful when choosing how to present yourself in an interview. Dress to impress, maintaining in mind the job you are applying to, and when in doubt, choose the most conservative choice.
- Take into consideration non-verbal communication. You might be feeling nervous, but studies have shown that people who present themselves in a more friendly, confident manner usually have better results. Something as simple as a smile can make a difference.

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The slide contains several sections of mathematical notation, including:

- S-BEL**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-TRANS**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma^* \vdash r_2 \leq r_3 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_3 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-ARRAY**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash [r_1, r_2] \leq [r_2, r_1] \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-SIZE**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash [r_1] \leq [r_2] \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-TUPLE**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash (r_1, \dots, r_n) \leq (r'_1, \dots, r'_n) \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash (r_1, \dots, r_n) \leq (r'_1, \dots, r'_n) \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-UNION**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1^* \leq r_2^* \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1^* \leq r_2^* \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-SHAREDREF**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \Rightarrow p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1 \leq r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \text{ shared } r_1 \leq p_2 \text{ shared } r_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
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- OL-REFL**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash p \Rightarrow p \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- OL-ABSTRACTPROVANCES**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \Rightarrow p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \Rightarrow p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \Rightarrow p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^* \quad \Delta, \Gamma \vdash p_1 \Rightarrow p_2 \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
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The slide contains several sections of text, each with a title and a list of items. The text is small and dense, making it difficult to read. The sections include:

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- S-TUPLE**: $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \Delta, \Gamma_{n+1} \vdash r_i \leq r_i^* \Rightarrow \Gamma_i^*$, $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash (r_1, \dots, r_n) \leq (r_1^*, \dots, r_n^*) \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- S-UNION**: $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1^* \leq r_2^* \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$, $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash r_1^* \leq r_2^* \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
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- OL-ABSTRACTLOCALPROV**: $g : \text{PROV} \in \Delta$, $r \in \text{dom}(\Gamma)$, $\Delta, \Gamma \vdash g \supseteq r \Rightarrow \Gamma^*$
- OL-LOCALPROVANDPROV**: $\Gamma_1(r) = \{ \text{PROV} \} \neq \emptyset$, $\forall n, p \neq \emptyset$, $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \Delta, \Gamma_i \vdash \text{PROV} \supseteq p \Rightarrow \Gamma_i^*$, $g : \text{PROV} \in \Delta$, $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \forall j \in \{1, \dots, m_i\}, \Delta, \Gamma_{i,j} \vdash p_{i,j} \supseteq g \Rightarrow \Gamma_{i,j}^*$, $\Delta, \Gamma_{i,j} \vdash r \supseteq g \Rightarrow \Gamma_{i,j}^*$

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They are not for reading out word for word.

You do not need to repeat your name, your organization, the title of your talk, and the date on every slide.

Writing

Much **writing advice** also applies to slides:

- ▶ Omit needless words.
- ▶ Use short sentences.
- ▶ Prefer the active voice over the passive.
- ▶ Prefer verbs over zombie nouns.
- ▶ Use abbreviations sparingly.

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Moreover, use **consistent punctuation**, especially periods.

Formatting

Some **formatting** advice:

- ▶ Be consistent.
- ▶ Use large enough fonts.
- ▶ Use emphasis sparingly.
- ▶ Leave space between elements.
- ▶ Use a pleasing color palette.

Background Color

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It depends on the **projector** or **screen** and the **font**.

With some projectors, a light background can be very bright and tiring.

But text on a dark background can be difficult to read if the font is too thin.

Examples and Visuals

Use examples where possible—e.g.:

Consider the DFA



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Highlighting can help draw the audience's attention to key points.

Animations

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Using too many animations can come across as patronizing.

Live Demonstrations

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You need to be very well **prepared** and have good nerves.

Presenter Notes

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Beware that if you stick too closely to the notes, your talk might become **stilted** and **unnatural**.

Presentation Software

Some presentation software:

- ▶ **Microsoft PowerPoint** and **Apple Keynote** offer a “what you see is what you get” interface.
- ▶ **Google Slides** is a basic alternative that supports collaborative slide writing.
- ▶ **L^AT_EX**'s beamer class is ideal for highly mathematical content. It is very flexible but difficult to master. Customization is necessary to make your slides look attractive.

Examples of Slide Decks

Let us look at a minimalist slide deck for a PhD defense and a maximalist slide deck for a scientific conference talk (first draft and final version):

- ▶ Roy Overbeek, “**A Unifying Theory for Graph Transformation**,” 2024.
- ▶ Lydia Kondylidou, “**Augmenting Model-Based Instantiation with Fast Enumeration: Extending SMT Solving**,” 2025 (first draft).
- ▶ Lydia Kondylidou, “**Augmenting Model-Based Instantiation with Fast Enumeration in SMT**,” 2025 (final version).

Posters

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Purposes of an academic poster:

- ▶ **Advertise** your paper or thesis.
- ▶ **Teach** something interesting.

Organization and Content

A typical poster consist of about 9 to 12 sections or text boxes, each of which is **similar to a slide**.

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Appealing **visuals** are crucial to attract attention.

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Maximalist

- ▶ The poster makes sense on its own, so it can be viewed without explanation.
- ▶ This style is appropriate for more technical material—or if you will not stand next to the poster.

Poster Software

Some poster software:

- ▶ **Microsoft PowerPoint** and **Apple Keynote** can be tweaked to produce a poster as one large slide. Then there is no need to learn a new tool.
- ▶ **Adobe Illustrator** supports sophisticated graphic design and image processing.
- ▶ **L^AT_EX** is ideal for highly mathematical content. It is very flexible but difficult to master. Customization is necessary to make your poster look attractive.

Examples of Posters

Let us look at two posters:

- ▶ Maximilian Schöffeler, “**Verified Solution Methods for Markov Decision Processes,**” 2024.
- ▶ Sara Taheri, “**ML Certification Against Data Poisoning by Barrier Function,**” 2025.