

This is how most mathematical proofs are written.

Giving a mathematics talk Part II: communicating mathematics

Franco Vivaldi

November 16, 2018

Purpose of a talk

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This very seldom happens.

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- 60' 24 slides (2.5 minutes/slide)

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With increased experience, the number of slides will normally decrease, as one learns how to talk around limited information.

Standard slides

first: Title, name of speaker, collaborator(s)/supervisor.
second: Outline of the talk [optional].

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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• A bibliography slide is appropriate for complex presentations, which survey several works.

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Develop your talk by following this idea.

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 - the answer to an easier/related question.

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 - unenlightening for those who don't know it.

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How can we achieve this?

You will have to assume knowledge of certain words, and explain the meaning of others.

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Mini-explanations could also be written on the board.

Expository devices

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- Exploit layout
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- Skip details
- Proofs: give only sketches/ideas.

Even if the audience understands every word...

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This slide is awful

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Do not read from slides!

Not awful, but still bad

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REGULAR MOTIONS ON A FINITE SPACE

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• What does "regular motions" mean?

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On a finite space: ?

- What does "regular motions" mean?
- Does the answer depend on the choice of topology?

On a **manifold:**

"regular motions" \iff zero metric entropy

On a finite space: ?

- What does "regular motions" mean?
- Does the answer depend on the choice of topology?
- All orbits are periodic; what are their periods?

Paper versus talk

$$\mathcal{T}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \min_{t>0} \{t : f^t(x) = y\} & \text{if such a } t \text{ exists,} \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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This exposition is good for a paper, but **bad for a talk**.

TRANSIT TIME & PERIOD FUNCTION

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$$f:\Omega\to\Omega$$

TRANSIT TIME & PERIOD FUNCTION $f: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ Ω <u>finite</u>

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\$\mathcal{T}(x, x)\$ is the period of the orbit through x.

Period function: $\mathcal{T}(x) \stackrel{\nabla}{=} \mathcal{T}(x, x)$.

Using images

Golden rule: don't put too many figures on a single slide!

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The limit function



The limit function



Define axes first

The limit function



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Explain the features of the plot

Embedded graphics: the Tikz package

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The first command draws lines (and many other things), the second draws solid geometrical objects, the third places LATEX input on the plot.
Using Tikz

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[scale=0.5]
\draw[red, ultra thick] (-2,-2) -- (4,4);
\draw[gray, thick, ->] (-2,1) -- (2,-1) -
- (4.5,1) -- (-1.5,3);
\filldraw[black] (0,0) circle (5pt);
\node at (0,1) {$p$};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

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To display material on two (or more) column, use the columns environment.

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```
\begin{columns}
\column{0.7\textwidth}
Let us consider again the action ...
\column{0.3\textwidth}
\begin{tikzpicture}[scale=0.15]
```

```
...
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{columns}
```

Practice makes perfect

• Practice thoroughly the first two-three slides.

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[Run a spell-checker on your BEAMER document.]

On the day

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- Force yourself to go through the first couple of slides **slowly**:

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You will end up going at the right speed.









• Do not fold your arms



- Do not fold your arms
- Step forward; walk across stage



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- Step forward; walk across stage
- Show interest in the audience; make eye contact



Tikz: https://www.sharelatex.com/learn/TikZ_package

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How to give a bad talk:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Abo7uqaltOU