Examples of Oral Presentations
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Discussion Questions

1. Give some examples of oral presentations
2. Differences and similarities among them?
Examples of Oral Presentations

▶ Seminar talks
  ▶ Length: 30 minutes to 1 hour
  ▶ Audience: 10-30; graduate students, researchers in the field
  ▶ Goal: Share new research work (in some detail)

▶ Conference talks
  ▶ Length: 10 to 30 minutes
  ▶ Audience: ??; graduate students, researchers, nonexperts
  ▶ Goal: Share new research work, ...

▶ Teaching
  ▶ Length: 50 to 110 minutes
  ▶ Audience: 5-hundreds; undergraduates, graduate students, ...
  ▶ Goal: Help students learn

▶ Elevator talks
  ▶ Length: < 5 minutes
  ▶ Audience: ??
  ▶ Goal: Effectively communicate key ideas in a short amount of time
Key Advice

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- Be mindful of the goals of the presentation
  Adapt to the format, time/length, and other restrictions
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To do this,

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- Be mindful of the goals of the presentation
  Adapt to the format, time/length, and other restrictions

- **Less is more**
  Choose a small number of key ideas to emphasize, mention them early and reiterate them.
Today: Ingredients of a Good Oral Presentation
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Sample Talk
Dennis Wildfogel, *How big is infinity?*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPA3bwVVzGI
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Discussion Questions
1. Who are the intended audience for this talk?
2. What were done well?
3. What could be done differently or improved?
4. Overall, is this a good talk? Why or why not?
Basic Ingredients of a Good Oral Presentation

- Care

- Motivation & context
  - A small number of key ideas
  - Content that is communicated effectively

- Summary/Take-home ideas
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  Be excited; engage with the audience

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Basic Ingredients of a Good Oral Presentation

- **Care**
  - Be excited; engage with the audience

- **Motivation & context**
  - Why should the audience care about your work/talk?
  - Why are your results interesting/important?

- A small number of key ideas

- Content that is communicated effectively

- Summary/Take-home ideas
Example 2

A graduate student is to present 10-minute contributed talk at the Joint Math Meetings, in a session with loose theme. They are interviewing at JMM for teaching jobs.

Audience?

Goals?

Length/Format?
Example 3

William Dwyer, *Introduction to operads*
http://www.msri.org/workshops/685/schedules/17876

Audience?

Goals?

Length/Format?
Exercise: Elevator Talks

Prepare a 3-minute elevator talk for one of the scenarios below.

1. Topic: Your current research project

2. Topic: What is [your favorite mathematical field/topic] ?
   (For example: What is “Linear Algebra” ?)

Audience:
(a) An expert in your field
(b) A researcher whose expertise is not in your field
(c) A first-year graduate student in your dept.
(d) An undergraduate student in a Calculus 1 class
(e) Your neighbor