Presentations

You should plan your presentation to last for 30 to 40 minutes, with roughly equal amounts of time spent by each partner. That will leave about 10 minutes for any possible questions from the audience.

It’s easy to present mathematics to an audience, provided you not only know what you are talking about, but are interested in it as well. Then presenting it comes naturally, like telling a story. Luckily, understanding and interest tend to go hand in hand: the better you understand something, the more you get interested in it.

I will grade each person’s contribution to the presentation out of a possible 20 points, split up as follows:

1. Typically the presentation will involve solving problem(s) or proving theorem(s). Solutions or proofs will be graded on whether they are correct, and whether your presentation convinces the audience that they are correct. Any work that you present that is not your own should be given proper credit, usually by giving a bibliographic reference. These aspects of the presentation count for 10 points.

2. Obviously, when giving a presentation you should:

   • Make eye contact with the audience, at least once in a while. Using notes to keep track of what you’re doing is okay, but don’t spend most of the presentation copying from your notes onto the blackboard.
   • Speak clearly, and loudly enough for everyone to hear. Also try to keep the pace of the presentation right: not too fast or too slow.
   • Write legibly on the blackboard.

These aspects of the presentation count for 10 points. Although it’s obvious to you as an audience member when a speaker is forgetting to do these things, it’s not so easy to remember them when you’re the one doing the speaking. In fact, as you have already noticed, I frequently forget to do them myself; so it’s only fair that I grade you leniently here. Still, unless you’re experienced at classroom presentations you will want to rehearse yours a couple of times beforehand.

Current schedule of presentations

Monday, Oct. 17: Lucy Matulich and Stephen Pitts
Wednesday, Oct. 19: Toby McCord and Edmon Perkins
Friday, Oct. 21: John Paul Cook and Chris Schaefer
Monday, Oct. 24: Sean Bauer and Bailey Rollins
Monday, Oct. 31: James Dizikes and Tuan Nguyen
Wednesday, Nov. 2: Clint Givens and Nam Tran
Friday, Nov. 4: Claire Beebe and Rita Stevens
Monday, Nov. 7: Courtney Miller and Khiem Nguyen
Wednesday, Nov. 9: Lee Lerner and Sylene Pearce
Friday, Nov. 11: Stew Harwood and Zachary Schwartz
Monday, Nov. 14: Jeffrey Monroe and Chris Nguyen
Wednesday, Nov. 16: Brian Zell and Charles Brawner
Friday, Nov. 18: Chase Harwell and DeKovan Lewis
Monday, Nov. 21: (still open)