

T-79.4001 Seminar on Theoretical Computer Science

Ilkka Niemelä

Apr 8, 2009

Goals of the Course

- Learning key methods and approaches to constraint programming
- Improving skills to read and exploit research results from scientific literature
- Learning how to structure and prepare of a longer technical talk with slides
- Practising how to give a convincing presentation of technical results
- Identifying key features of effective presentations

Feedback from the Presentations

Strengths

- Good overall structure of the presentation
- Clear slides with appropriate amount of material per slide
- Pleasant, nicely paced, natural style of presentation
- Good command of English

Suggestions for Improvement

- Prepare an effective opening: introduce yourself, motivate the subject, give necessary background
- Maintain the “big picture” throughout the presentation: identify the key issues, top-down approach, remind the audience where the presentation is now and what will happen next
- Prepare a summary, get your take home message across
- Be precise and understand yourself what you have on the slides
- Illustrate key concepts: examples, diagrams, pictures (do not complain about lacking examples in the material; develop examples yourself!)
- Be in contact with the audience: eye contact, reactions
- Be prepared for questions, invite them
- Timing: rehearse, rehearse, rehearse, ...

Grading

- The initial course grade is determined by the grade of the seminar talk (85%) and the grades of the three feedback reports (5% each).
- You can increase your initial grade (if between 1-4) by one by writing a solid 2 page essay on

“What makes a good technical presentation”

based on your own experience as a speaker and a reviewer and on the material in the course home pages.

- The deadline for the essay is Wed April 22, 2009 (23:59) and it can be returned by email in PDF to Ilkka.Niemela@tkk.fi.
- Please remember to provide **course feedback** as soon as possible. The feedback pages of the course is now open (until May 25).