

EPFL PHYS-466

Spring semester

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Overview

You will prepare a 15-minute presentation on an article of your choice. This should be an original research article, not a review article. For your presentation, you will give a 15-minute overview of the study followed by a 5-minute question and answer session. Please prepare a series of slides on Powerpoint (*.pptx), Keynote (*.key), or Adobe Acrobat pdf (*.pdf). Using a *.pdf is discouraged if there are Supplementary Videos which are important for understanding the paper. **These slides (without movies) must be submitted on the date of the presentation.**

Each person will give an independent presentation. The intended audience is your peers who have taken this course. You may present in-person, or provide a video to be viewed in class followed by an in-person Q&A in class.

Organization

The slides should include at least all of the following points:

15 minutes of paper overview:

- 1) Title (1 slide) -
 - a) Title of the paper, authors, journal, and year.
 - b) Include your name and the course name.
- 2) Background (1 slide) -
 - a) Put the paper into context using topics covered in the course. This should be broader than the introduction of the paper itself.
 - b) What is the open question that the study addresses?
 - c) Include references at the bottom of each slide as needed.
- 3) Results from the paper (most of the slides) -
 - a) Use the figures (not necessarily in the order the figures were presented) to tell a coherent story about what the authors did to address the question.
- 4) Summary (1 slide) -
 - a) What are at least 2 “take-home” messages from the paper?
 - b) Discuss this work considering our course definition of scientific breakthrough.
 - c) Put this work in the context of others in the course.
- 5) Critique (1 slide) -
 - a) What are at least 2 conceptual or methodological weaknesses of the study?
Do these weaknesses affect the authors’ conclusions?
 - b) What future work would you suggest as follow up?

5 minutes of questions:

You will have 5 minutes to answer questions.

Grading criteria

The presentation should be:

- 1) Deep - Know the study. You should have a strong command of the paper including its methods section. You will need to know enough to answer questions from your peers.
- 2) Clear - You should provide the most critical information in a sequence that presents a story. You should use words that clearly convey what you want to say.
- 3) Concise - Stay on time. You have 15 minutes to present your paper and 5 minutes for questions. Have a clear idea of what you want to say beforehand.