



# 09: Presentations

March 30, 2012



# Announcements

- Poll (1.45pm)
  - $A = 8$
  - $B = 7$  (why?)
- Shall we split?

What schedule do you prefer for the end of the semester?

## ◆ [Option](#)

Plan A (this is the current syllabus)

- Fri Mar/30 class about presentations
- Fri Apr/6 class about research admin/commercialization
- Fri Apr/13 your presentations done!

Plan B

- Fri Mar/30 class about presentations
- Fri Apr/6 class about presentations (continued), and discussion of proposal reviews
- Fri Apr/13 class about research admin/commercialization
- Th/F Apr 19/20 (time tbd) your presentations [note this is during the exam period]

**Total**

Back

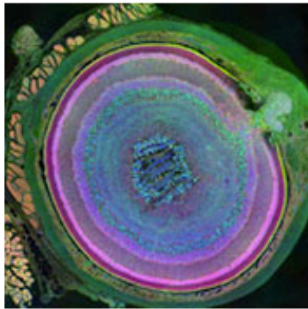
# NSF Science+Engineering visualization challenge



[http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/scivis/winners\\_2011.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/winners_2011.jsp)

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### First Place



#### Metabolomic Eye

*Credit: Bryan William Jones, Moran Eye Center*

This beautiful set of concentric rings and structures in the eye of a mouse. In all, 70 different cell types are visible, each colored a unique shade. Muscle cells, for example, are pink, whereas scleral tissue, surrounding the eye, is green.

### Honorable Mention



#### Microscopic Image of Trichomes on the Surface of a Plant Stem

*Credit: Robert Rock Belliveau*

For this close-up, vibrant shot of a young plant stem, the light as it passes through small objects protruding from the surface, called trichomes. They look like the mouths of predators and their bulbous bases are called pedicels.

### People's Choice



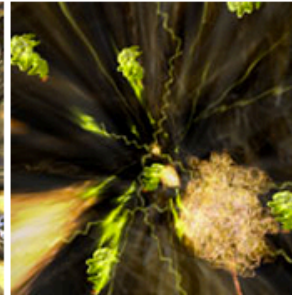
#### The Cliff of the Two-Dimensional World

*Credit: Babak Anasori, Michael Naguib, Yuhang*

This landscape, which looks like a red-rock cliff, is a nanostructured material made from a layered structure of atoms under an electron microscope. These exfoliated layers are called MXenes, and they are produced at the University of Philadelphia. Each strip is only five atomic layers thick. MXenes could be used in energy storage devices, according to the researchers. And they could give the majesty of our world a new meaning.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

### Honorable Mention

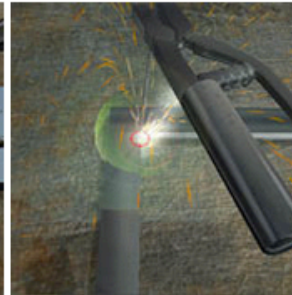
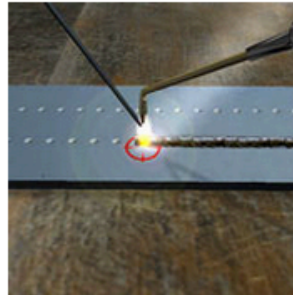


#### Powers of Minus Ten

*Credit: Laura Lynn Gonzalez,*

In Powers of Minus Ten, developers take the human hand and into individual cells based on the famous 1968 short film from outer space, then deep into the past the skin on the hand and chromosomes and proteins but can tap on these cellular structures. The game is constantly evolving: From the mitochondria and even zoom down to the atomic level, Gonzalez says. Play Powers of Minus Ten.

### People's Choice



#### Velu the Welder

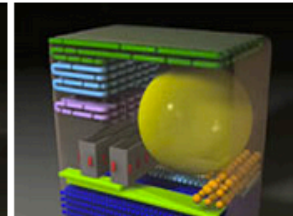
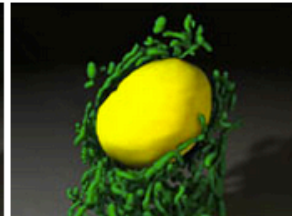
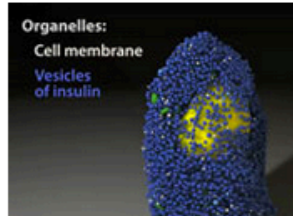
*Credit: Muralitharan Vengadasalam, Palanimuthu, Fabian Herrera, Services*

Learning to weld takes patience and skill. In this challenge, the brainchild of developers in Chennai, India, players step into the shoes of Velu, a welder in training. They follow in the footsteps of Velu, completing basic welding moves and then graduate to arc welding, a more advanced technique.

The aim is to provide marketable skills to school dropouts in India.

## VIDEOS (SCREEN SHOTS)

### First Place and People's Choice







Science 30 March 2012:  
Vol. 335 no. 6076 pp. 1628-1634  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1215280


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 [Read Full Text to Comment \(0\)](#)

REPORT

## The Geometric Structure of the Brain Fiber Pathways

Van J. Wedeen<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Douglas L. Rosene<sup>2</sup>, Ruopeng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Guangping Dai<sup>1</sup>, Farzad Mortazavi<sup>2</sup>, Patric Hagmann<sup>3</sup>,  
Jon H. Kaas<sup>4</sup>, Wen-Yih I. Tseng<sup>5</sup>

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# Communication is key

“...to be effective communicators, scientists have to learn to stand back from their own work and see it as strangers might do. It is not a difficult trick: even journalists have learned it.

...  
What is the most significant thing about your research?

...  
Which is more likely to have people attend?

...  
Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday were stars of the lecture halls. Many distinguished scientists — Richard Feynman, J. B. S. Haldane and Peter Medawar among them — knew how to hold a popular audience, and they weren't afraid to address their peers with the same vividness and economy. In fact, **their fame became inseparable from their gift for words.**”

Radford, *Nature* 469:445, 2011

## WORLD VIEW A personal take on events



### Of course scientists can communicate

Tim Radford takes aim at the popular myth that researchers are hopeless at explaining their work to a general audience.

There are several canards about scientists, but one is more pernicious simply because so many scientists themselves repeat it: scientists are not good communicators. Once again, the allegation is to be the subject of discussions, this time at next month's annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington DC. It can be found on Nature's website, heard in research councils, it is even occasionally propagated by the public-engagement community, and sometimes endorsed by journalists. In response, I can only say both, Baldrick and Brownlow, and follow with other interpretations such as Haldane, Hawking and Huxley, Edgington and E. O. Wilson, not to mention, as if in a state of terminal exasperation, Dawkins!

Between 1980 and 2005, I commissioned working scientists to write for *The Guardian* newspaper — from astronomers royal to impoverished doctoral students — and almost all of them delivered high-standard, well-focused newspaper prose and many of them went on to be by the pen. I also encountered distinguished scientists who had already become literary stars.

One was the astronomer Carl Sagan, who told me that his literary hero was Thomas Henry Huxley. Another was the industrial chemist, poet and writer Primo Levi, who when I tried to ask him about the Two Cultures debate — the apparent divide between the humanities and sciences — greatly reminded me that Dante Alighieri (himself the subject of at least one paper in *Nature*), was a member of the Florentine guild of physicians and apothecaries. And a third was the Czech poet and dissident Miroslav Holub, who wrote his occasional *Guardian* columns in English, and asked that at the end of each I describe him as the author of *Insensibility of Nade Alice* (1989). All three were better written than most writers two will still be famous as writers a century from now.

They were, of course, exceptions. We all inherit the gift of words; the gift for words, however, is unevenly distributed. Even so, there are reasons why scientists, in particular, should be and often are good communicators. One is that most scientists start with the engaging quality of enthusiasm — to get through a degree course, the PhD and all the research-council hoops, you would need it — and enthusiasm is derived from a Greek term that means deeply interested. Enthusiasm is infectious, but to command an audience of readers, scientists should exploit their other natural gifts. One of these is training in clarity. Another is training in observation. And a third is knowledge.

Those who can think clearly can usually write clearly; thoughts have value only when expressed.

and the more clearly they are expressed, the greater their potential value. Those whose business it is to observe are aware of subtle differences that must be described, or the observations would be meaningless. And those who write must have something new or useful to say; if not, why say anything? A novelist who does not publish is not a novelist. A scientist who does not publish remains a scientist — at least for the duration of the research-council grant — but the science performed is of no apparent value until somebody else hears about it.

The problems for the scientist as a public communicator start with academic publishing: the language, forms and conventions of the published scientific paper could almost have been devised to conceal information. Even in conversation, scientists start with a communication problem — words that are perfectly ordinary within science are simply never heard on a football terrace or in a tavern or bar queue. So to ineffective communication, scientists have to learn to stand back from their own work and see it as strangers might do.

It is not a difficult trick; even journalists have learned it. What is the most significant thing about your research? Is it that, at cosmological distances, type Ia supernovae in high redshift galaxies seem insufficiently luminous? Or is it that you have just found that you cannot account for 71% of the Universe's make that 96% if you throw in dark matter alongside this newly discovered dark energy? Which is more likely to make people attend? Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday were stars of the lecture halls. Many distinguished scientists — Richard Feynman, J. B. S. Haldane and Peter Medawar among them — knew how to hold a popular audience, and they weren't afraid to address their peers with the same vividness and economy. In fact, their fame became inseparable from their gift for words. So the case for scientists as inherently bad communicators is a canard.

And while we have our ducks in a row, let me invoke the canard that scientists occasionally propagate about the media: that it does not appreciate scientific uncertainty. That one is especially irritating. It seems to say "I, as a scientist, wish to have it both ways. I want the privilege of knowing better than you, and the indulgence of being wrong without guilt, because science, don't you see, is really about uncertainty." To which the British answer might be "In which case, why should we listen?" But also, people in any case listen selectively even to the best communicators, which might be why so many Americans think Darwin's theory of evolution is "only a theory". Scientists are not the only people to blame for a problem in communication. ■

Tim Radford was science editor of *The Guardian* until 2005. e-mail: tim.radford@guardian.co.uk

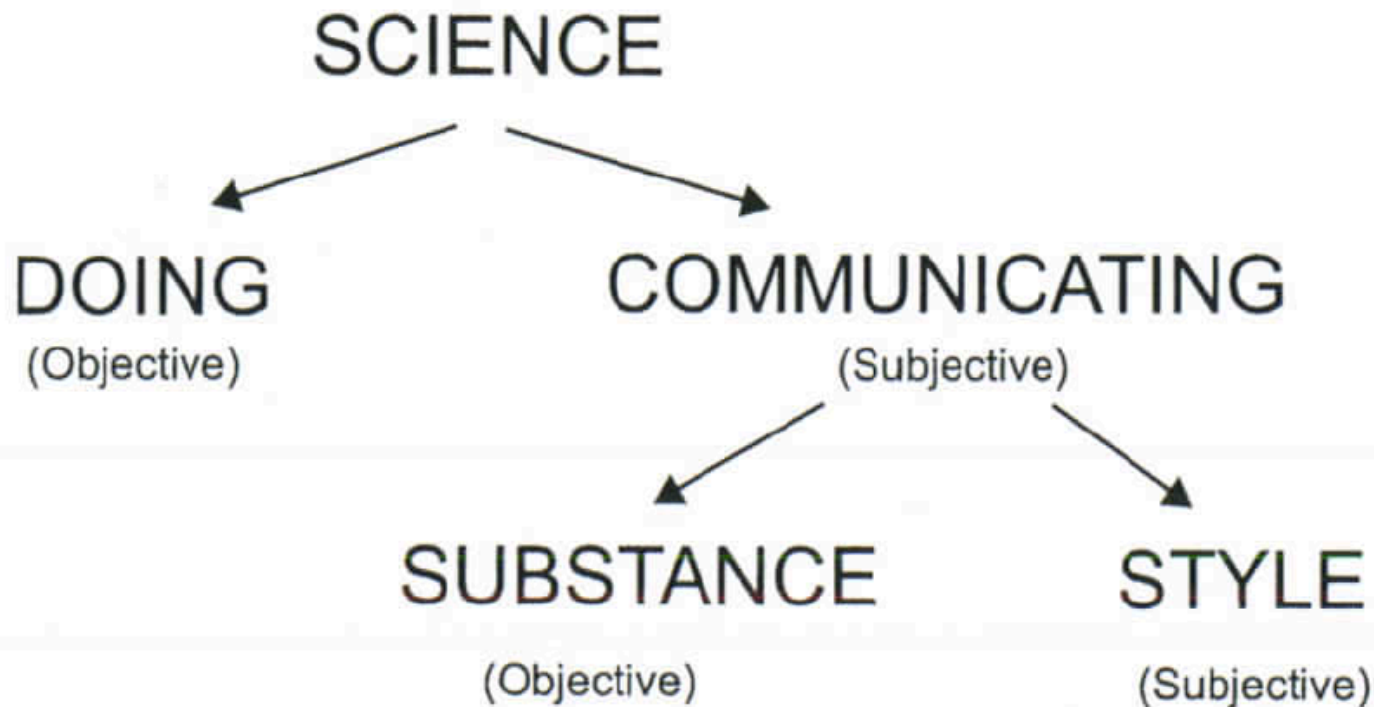
ENTHUSIASM IS INFECTIONOUS, BUT TO COMMAND AN AUDIENCE OF READERS, SCIENTISTS SHOULD EXPLOIT THEIR OTHER NATURAL GIFTS.

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Discuss this article  
at: [guardian.com/sci/tyr](http://guardian.com/sci/tyr)

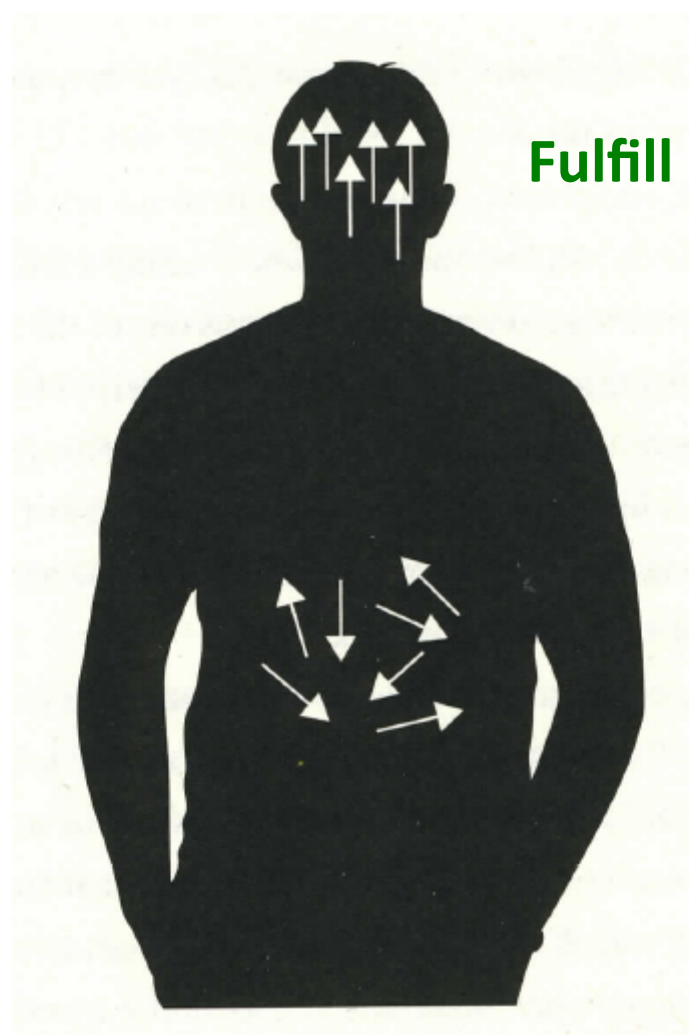


# Today: presentations

- Planning the presentation
- Building the content (slides)
- Preparing the narrative and practicing
- Delivering the presentation



Randy Olson, [Don't Be Such a Scientist](#)



**Fulfill**

**Arouse**



# References



## ctools

- excerpts from Don't Be Such a Scientist, Randy Olson
- “Effective oral presentations”, Jean-Luc Doumont
- interview with Alan Alda, “Communicating Science”

## Other

- “Seminar on giving seminars” by Prof. Ken Suslick (UIUC)  
<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/suslick/seminars.html>
- Edward Tufte, “The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint: Pitching out corrupts within”
- Nancy Duarte, “The secret structure of great talks”  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy\\_duarte\\_the\\_secret\\_structure\\_of\\_great\\_talks.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_duarte_the_secret_structure_of_great_talks.html) (on trajectories and storytelling)



**(example RFE presentation)**

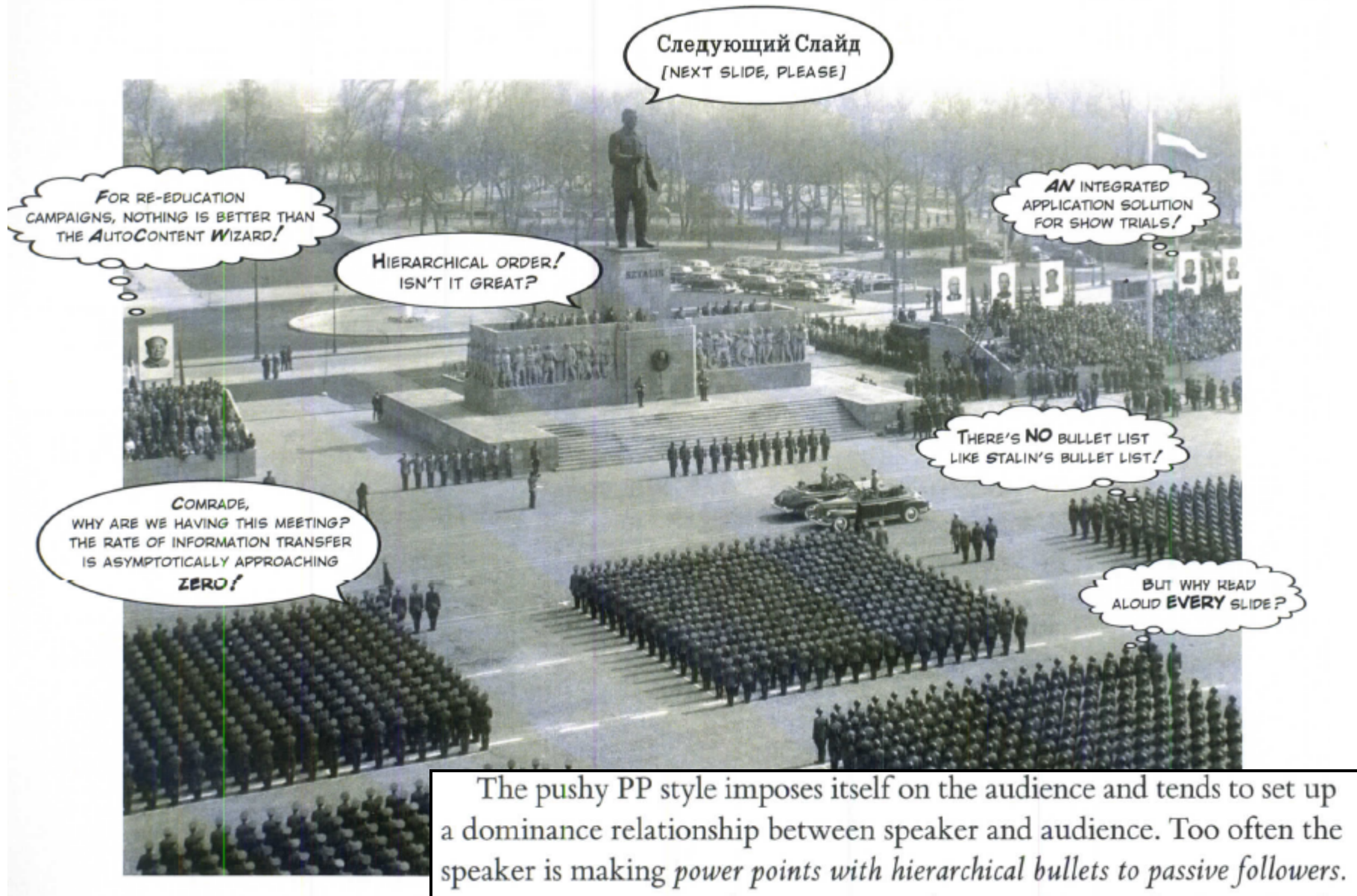
# Let's talk about

- Organization of the presentation
- Clarity of key ideas
- Clarity of details
- Slide design (text + graphics)
- Delivery (voice, style)





# Tufte's opinion of Powerpoint

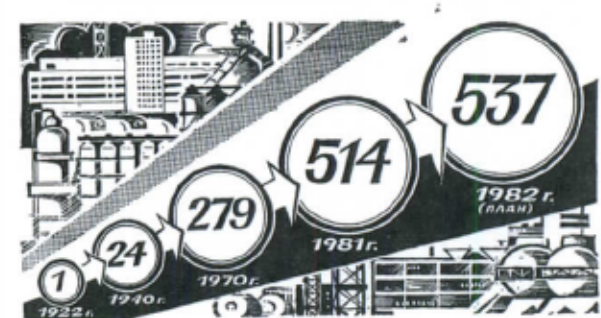
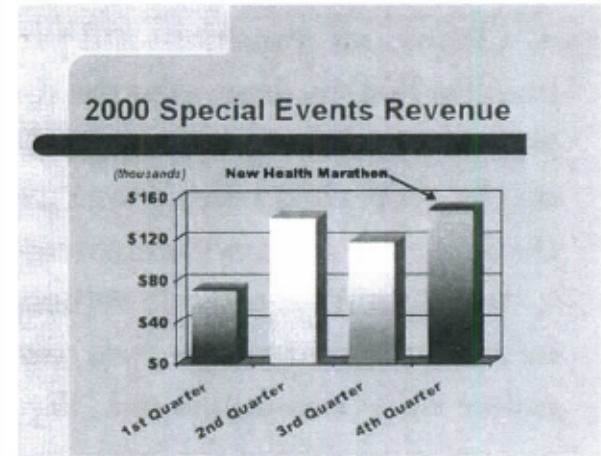


# Presentations tend to have graphics with low data density (why?)



MEDIAN NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN DATA MATRICES FOR STATISTICAL GRAPHICS IN VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS, 2003

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <i>Science</i>                                     | > 1,000 |
| <i>Nature</i>                                      | > 700   |
| <i>New York Times</i>                              | 120     |
| <i>Wall Street Journal</i>                         | 112     |
| <i>Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung</i>              | 98      |
| <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>             | 53      |
| <i>Asahi</i>                                       | 40      |
| <i>Financial Times</i>                             | 40      |
| <i>The Economist</i>                               | 32      |
| <i>Le Monde</i>                                    | 28      |
| → 28 books on PowerPoint presentations (1997–2003) | 12      |
| <i>Pravda</i> (1982)                               | 5       |



*Pravda*, May 24, 1982.

# The Gettysburg address



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

*t* = 2 minutes





## Gettysburg Cemetery Dedication

Abraham Lincoln

11/19/1863

Home Back

## Review of Key Objectives & Critical Success Factors

- What makes nation unique
  - Conceived in Liberty
  - Men are equal
- Shared vision
  - New birth of freedom
  - Gov't *of/for/by* the people

11/19/1863

Home Back

## Organizational Overview

| Year      | Value |
|-----------|-------|
| -87 Years | 1.0   |
| Now       | 0.0   |

11/19/1863

Home Back

## Not on Agenda!

- Dedicate
- Consecrate
- Hallow
- (in narrow sense)
- Add or detract
- Note or remember what we say

11/19/1863

Home Back

## Agenda

- Met on battlefield (great)
- Dedicate portion of field - fitting!
- Unfinished work (great tasks)

11/19/1863

Home Back

## Summary

- New nation
- Civil War
- Dedicate field
- Dedicated to unfinished work
- New birth of freedom
- Government not perish

11/19/1863

Home Back



A BETTER metaphor for presentations is *good teaching*. Practical teaching techniques are very useful for presentations in general. Teachers seek to explain something with credibility, which is what many presentations are trying to do. The core ideas of teaching—*explanation, reasoning, finding things out, questioning, content, evidence, credible authority not patronizing authoritarianism*—are contrary to the cognitive style of PowerPoint. And the ethical values of teachers differ from those engaged in marketing.<sup>7</sup>

Edward Tufte, “The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint: Pitching out corrupts within”

Powerpoint is our framework; there is rarely an alternative.

Nevertheless, we should design the presentation to fit the message, rather make the message fit the presentation.

**We must organize our thoughts before touching powerpoint!**

# How to begin: know your audience



- Who are they? How many?
- What do they know? (background/field)
- Why are they attending?
- What do they want to learn about?

## and define the boundary conditions

- How much time? (how many slides?)
- What is the room like? (check it out in advance if possible)

**Table 5-1. How the Broad versus Academic Audiences Respond to Various Aspects of Communication**

|                          | <b>Broad</b>          | <b>Academic</b>     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Main information channel | Visual                | Audio and visual    |
| Structure                | Need a story          | Information is fine |
| Mode of response         | Visceral              | Cerebral            |
| Need humor?              | Pretty much           | Not necessarily     |
| Like sincerity?          | Always                | Suspicious of it    |
| Sex appeal?              | The ultimate          | Potential disaster  |
| Prearoused?              | No                    | Yes                 |
| Effective elements       | Humor, sincerity, sex | Information         |
| Effective organs         | Heart, gut, gonads    | Head                |
| Preferred voice          | Human                 | Robotic             |

# 3 types of academic talks



- Seminar
  - Broad technical audience (specialists and generalists; experts and novices)
  - Audience needs to be motivated!
  - Typically 40-50 minutes
  - A few (2-3) major points
- Conference talk
  - Highly specialized audience (experts)
  - Audience *already* motivated
  - Typically 10-20 minutes
  - ONE major point
- Group meeting “update” (not of seminar or conference flavor)
  - Specialized audience
  - Maybe 10 minutes?
  - Focus on a key finding or question (this should be really clear up front)



# Define the message and scope



“Imagine yourself standing outside the meeting hall after your presentation, asking audience members what they got out of your talk:

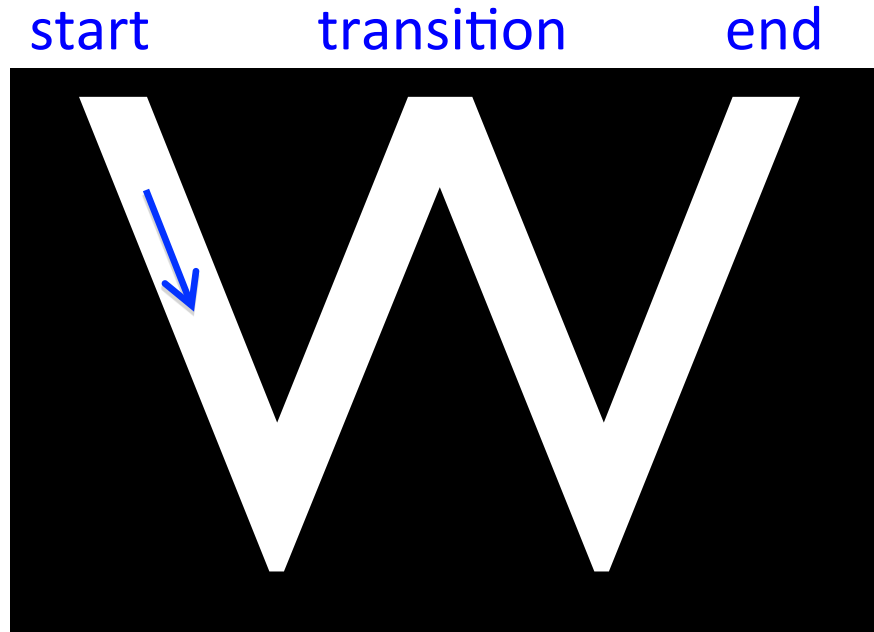
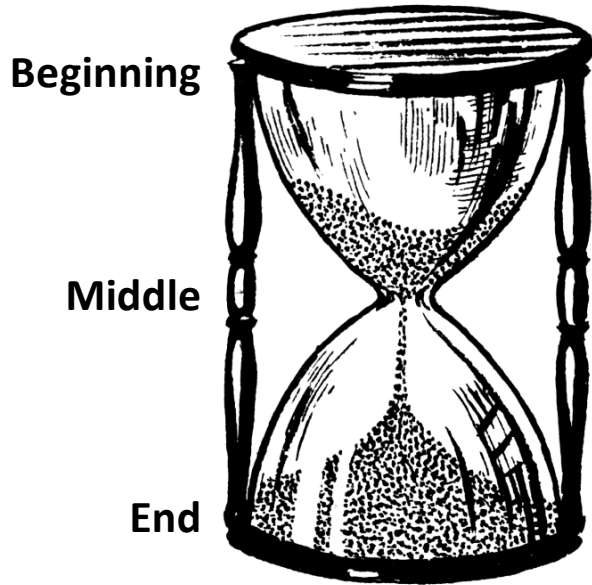
- What did you learn?
- What do you now understand that you didn't before?
- What action will you take because you heard my presentation?”

**TEACH**

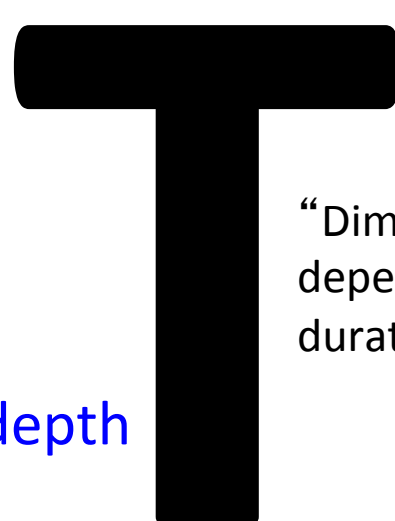
# The trajectory



- Start broad, end broad. Details in the middle. Make smooth transitions between key points.



Always need both  
breadth and depth!



breadth

depth

“Dimensions” of the T  
depend on audience and  
duration of talk

# Nancy Duarte, “The secret structure of great talks”



TEDxEast, Filmed Nov 2011; Posted Feb 2012

**TEDx**

What could be      What could be      What could be

What is      What is      What is      What is

YouTube

07:29 / 18:08      360p

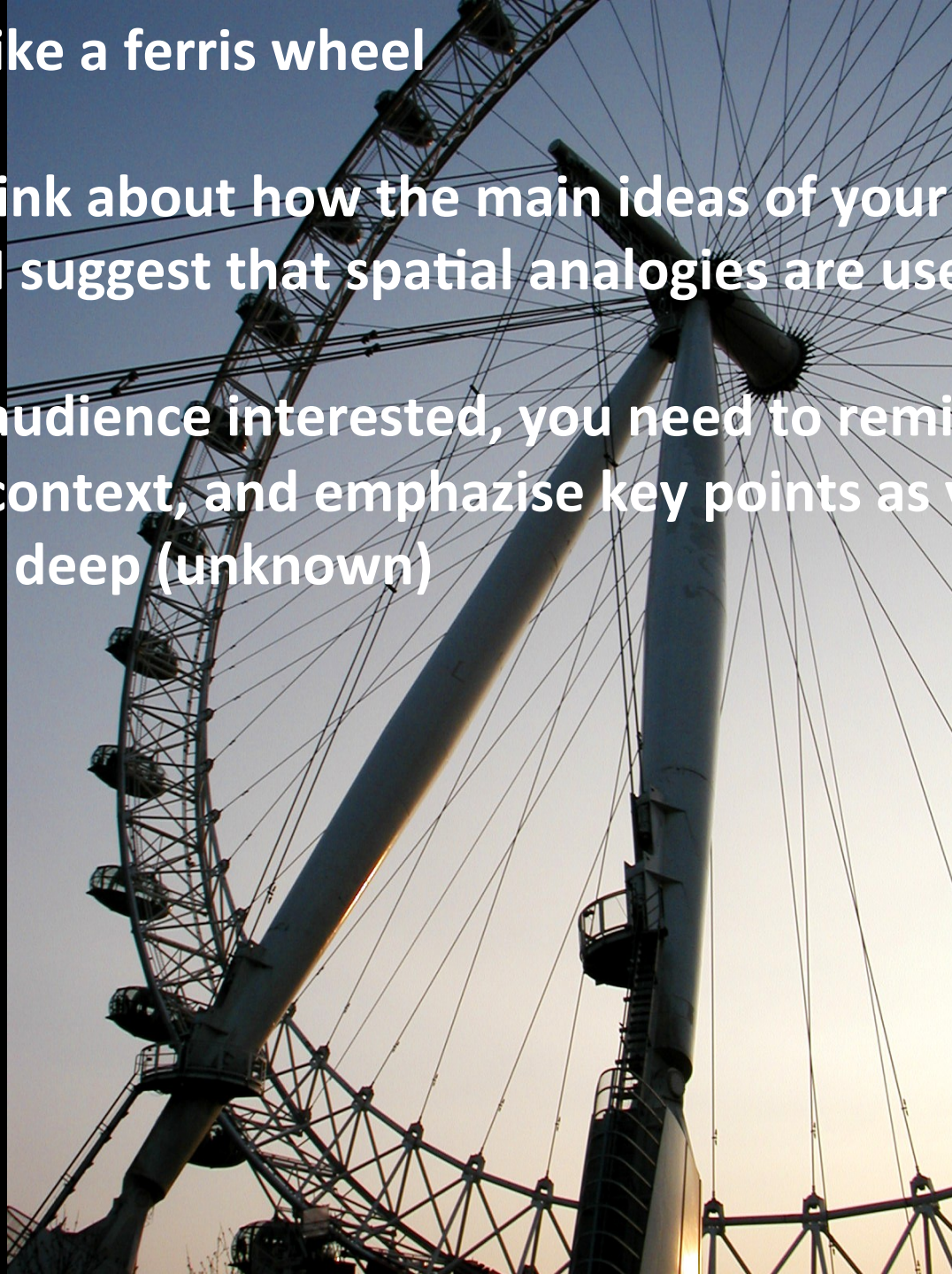
[http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy\\_duarte\\_the\\_secret\\_structure\\_of\\_great\\_talks.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_duarte_the_secret_structure_of_great_talks.html)

450,000 views in <2 months

**Or maybe a like a ferris wheel**

**The point: think about how the main ideas of your talk are related, and I suggest that spatial analogies are useful**

**To keep the audience interested, you need to remind them of the context, and emphasize key points as you dive back into the deep (unknown)**





# In general, envision the framework



*Attention getter*

Need

Task

Main message

**Preview (Object)**

Arouse! Make a forceful and clear first impression

If it's a short presentation, consider a 1 slide summary (elevator pitch), right after the title slide ...this really helps in an exam

Don't list the sections of your talk; preview the topics you will present

Point 1

*transition*

Point 2

*transition*

⋮

Make sure the main points follow a logical sequence, and their relationship is clear

**Review**

Conclusion

*Close*

Use the main points (findings) to build a perspective

Emphasize the take-home messages

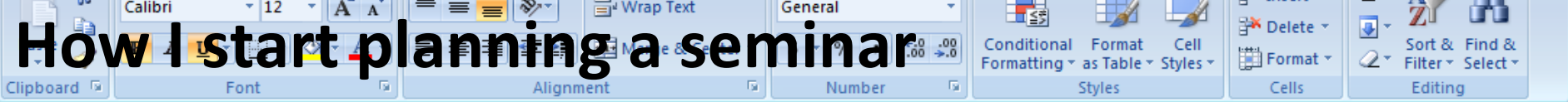
End forcefully (audience should feel very fulfilled)

# How to build the presentation



1. Answer the scope questions
2. Make an outline (see spreadsheet example)
3. Start making the presentation
  - a. Create a series of blank slides with placeholder titles
  - b. Add images and important notes to slides
4. Revisit your desired scope; refine the structure and outline
5. Do the detailed slide-making
6. Practice...

# How I start planning a seminar



| #  | Section           | Slide topic                                 | Notes / to do / things to say  |
|----|-------------------|---|--|
| 1  | title             | title w/flowers                             | Carbon Nanotube Micromaterial Architectures  |
| 2  | intro             | muse  |  |
| 3  |                   | nanocarbons                                 |  |
| 4  |                   | elec/mech comparison                        | is there a good way to join electrical and mechanical properties? remove current progress and reveal later?  |
| 5  |                   | application map -general or MEMS?           | difficult to make great combinations of properties   |
| 6  |                   | guy with bag?                               |  |
| 7  |                   |   |  |
| 8  | growth            | cvd diagram                                 | focus on process control for efficient synthesis   |
| 9  |                   | helveg video or stach?                      | what's important: gas and catalyst ...express the challenges succinctly                                      |
| 10 |                   | forest growth schematic w/AFM               |  |
| 11 |                   | hot wall and cold wall systems              |  |
| 12 |                   | tall forest on sabre                        |  |
| 13 |                   | forest growth video                         |  |
| 14 |                   | sidewall and diameters                      |  |
| 15 |                   | kinetics with alkynes                       | note abrupt termination and savings in emissions using the correct carbon sources                            |
| 16 |                   | collective model                            | density of nucleation, rate of growth, and rate of decay depend strongly on fluctuations we don't understand |
| 17 |                   | distributions                               | height and density versus time in calendar   |
| 18 |                   | robofurnace - photo w/arrows                |  |
| 19 |                   | robofurnace - video                         | forest coming out of the oven!   |
| 20 | capillary forming | grid pattern, with obamas inset             |  |
| 21 |                   | sidewall image                              |  |
| 22 |                   | elastofibers AND futaba and chakarpani      |  |
| 23 |                   | CF process diagram                          |  |
| 24 |                   | CF beaker [and DC w/flux curve]?            |  |
| 25 |                   | wells before and after                      |  |
| 26 |                   | wells ESEM video                            |  |
| 27 |                   | well map                                    |  |
| 28 |                   | semicircles (PrE intro)                     |  |
| 29 |                   | tilting model (new details from PrE)        |  |
| 30 |                   | trusses and flowers                         |  |
| 31 |                   | twists                                      |  |
| 32 |                   | motivation: wang tilting and wegner helices | geometry AND properties matter!  |
| 33 |                   | rings and conductivity data?                |  |
| 34 |                   | mech pillars w/comparison chart             | *where do the rings come in?   |
| 35 | replication       | replication diagram with 1 pillar           |  |
| 36 |                   | replication 5 cycles                        |  |
| 37 |                   | replication AFM                             |  |
| 38 |                   | replication HEX and TWIST                   |  |



# A better seminar

- Tweaked the content based on the audience and their interests
- Clear transitions, and “W” emphasis
- Fewer slides (60 → 45)
- Fewer, more important visual elements on slides

In any case, no mysteries!





# Principles of good slide design



## Layout:

- Don't use bright background colors or wacky templates; black-and-white are typically best, with careful use of color for emphasis
- Make sure the visual elements are in a logical order (i.e., the eye reads from top-bottom and left-right), and are aligned
- Make sure the audience can read all labels/axes
- Avoid imbalanced empty space and one-word lines (orphans)
- Don't have >2 bullet levels
  
- GOOD
  - OK
    - Noooo.....

# Principles of good slide design



## Content:

- Use concise and descriptive titles (“so what”, not just “what”)
  - Don’t have too much text
    - You aren’t supposed to read the slide; rather, the slide is a visual to accompany your spoken words.
  - Make sure every element is there for a reason
- *Simple* designs are best – have a high **data-ink ratio!**

# Use photos to illustrate an important observation



The rapidly accelerating Columbia in effect ran into the foam debris. Post-accident frame-by-frame analysis yields the impact velocity of the foam, 600 miles or 970 km per hour, the speed of sound. Since kinetic energy =  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$ , the velocity-squared contribution is substantial.



In the video, 2 relevant variables are indeterminate: *angle of incidence* and *impact location*. Did the debris hit the insulation tiles on the left wing, or the reinforced carbon-carbon (RCC) on the leading edge of the wing? Post-accident investigation established that the foam hit the especially vulnerable RCC.

# The Boeing study (during shuttle flight) used (bad) slides in lieu of written reports!



10

On this one Columbia slide, a PowerPoint festival of bureaucratic hyper-rationalism, 6 different levels of hierarchy are used to display, classify, and arrange 11 phrases:

- Level 1 Title of Slide
- Level 2 ● Very Big Bullet
- Level 3 — big dash
- Level 4 ◆ medium-small diamond
- Level 5 • tiny bullet
- Level 6 ( ) parentheses ending level 5

The analysis begins with the dreaded Executive Summary, with a conclusion presented as a headline: "Test Data Indicates Conservatism for Tile Penetration." This turns out to be unmerited reassurance. Executives, at least those who don't want to get fooled, had better read far beyond the title.

The "conservatism" concerns the *choice of models* used to predict damage. But why, after 112 flights, are foam-debris models being calibrated during a crisis? How can "conservatism" be inferred from a loose comparison of a spreadsheet model and some thin data? Divergent evidence means divergent evidence, not inferential security. Claims of analytic "conservatism" should be viewed with skepticism by presentation consumers. Such claims are often a rhetorical tactic that substitutes verbal fudge factors for quantitative assessments.

As the bullet points march on, the seemingly reassuring headline fades away. Lower-level bullets at the end of the slide undermine the executive summary. This third-level point notes that "Flight condition [that is, the debris hit on the Columbia] is significantly outside of test database." How far outside? The final bullet will tell us.

This fourth-level bullet concluding the slide reports that the debris hitting the Columbia is estimated to be  $1920/3 = 640$  times larger than data used in the tests of the model! The correct headline should be "Review of Test Data Indicates Irrelevance of Two Models." This is a powerful conclusion, indicating that pre-launch safety standards no longer hold. The original optimistic headline has been eviscerated by the lower-level bullets. Note how close attentive readings can help consumers of presentations evaluate the presenter's reasoning and credibility.

The Very-Big-Bullet phrase fragment does not seem to make sense. No other VBB's appear in the rest of the slide, so this VBB is not necessary.

Spray On Foam Insulation, a fragment of which caused the hole in the wing

A model to estimate damage to the tiles protecting flat surfaces of the wing

### Review of Test Data Indicates Conservatism for Tile Penetration

- The existing SOFI on tile test data used to create Crater was reviewed along with STS-87 Southwest Research data
  - Crater overpredicted penetration of tile coating significantly
    - ◆ Initial penetration to described by normal velocity
      - Varies with volume/mass of projectile (e.g., 200ft/sec for 3cu. In)
      - ◆ Significant energy is required for the softer SOFI particle to penetrate the relatively hard tile coating
        - Test results do show that it is possible at sufficient mass and velocity
      - ◆ Conversely, once tile is penetrated SOFI can cause significant damage
        - Minor variations in total energy (above penetration level) can cause significant tile damage
  - Flight condition is significantly outside of test database
    - ◆ Volume of ramp is 1920cu in vs 3 cu in for test

Here "ramp" refers to foam debris (from the bipod ramp) that hit Columbia. Instead of the cryptic "Volume of ramp," say "estimated volume of foam debris that hit the wing." Such clarifying phrases, which may help upper level executives understand what is going on, are too long to fit on low-resolution bullet outline formats. PP demands a shorthand of acronyms, phrase fragments, clipped jargon, and vague pronoun references in order to get at least some information into the tight format.

\*The Columbia Accident Investigation Board (final report, p. 191) referred to this point about units of measurement: "While such inconsistencies might seem minor, in highly technical fields like aerospace engineering a misplaced decimal point or mistaken unit of measurement can easily engender inconsistencies and inaccuracies." The phrase "mistaken unit of measurement" is an unkind veiled reference to a government agency that had crashed \$250 million of spacecraft into Mars because of a mix-up between metric and non-metric units of measurement.

COGNITIVE STYLE OF POWERPOINT 11

The vigorous, vaguely quantitative, words "significant" and "significantly" are used 5 times on this slide, with meanings ranging from "detectable in a perhaps irrelevant calibration case study" to "an amount of damage so that everyone dies" to "a difference of 640-fold." None of the 5 "significants" refer to "statistical significance;" such wordplay hints that a formal statistical analysis has been done.

Note the analysis is about *tile* penetration. But what about RCC penetration? As investigators later demonstrated, the foam did not hit the tiles on the wing surface, but instead the delicate reinforced-carbon-carbon (RCC) protecting the wing leading edge. Alert consumers should carefully watch how presenters delineate the *scope of their analysis*, a profound and sometimes decisive matter.

Slideville's low resolution and large type generate space-wasting typographic orphans, lonely words dangling on 4 separate lines:

Penetration significantly 3cu. In and velocity

The really vague pronoun reference "it" refers to *damage to the left wing*, which ultimately destroyed the Columbia (although the slide here deals with tile not RCC damage). Low-resolution presentation formats encourage vague references because there isn't enough space for specific and precise phrases.

The same unit of measurement for volume (cubic inches) is shown in a slightly different way every time

3cu. In 1920cu in 3 cu in  
rather than in clear and tidy exponential form  $1920 \text{ in}^3$ . Shakiness in conventions for units of measurement should always provoke concern, as it does in grading the problem sets of sophomore engineering students.\* PowerPoint is not good at math and science; here at NASA, engineers are using a presentation tool that apparently makes it difficult to write scientific notation. The pitch-style typography of PP is hopeless for science and engineering, yet this important analysis relied on PP. Technical articles are not published in PP; why then should PP be used for serious technical analysis, such as diagnosing the threat to Columbia?





## The Problem

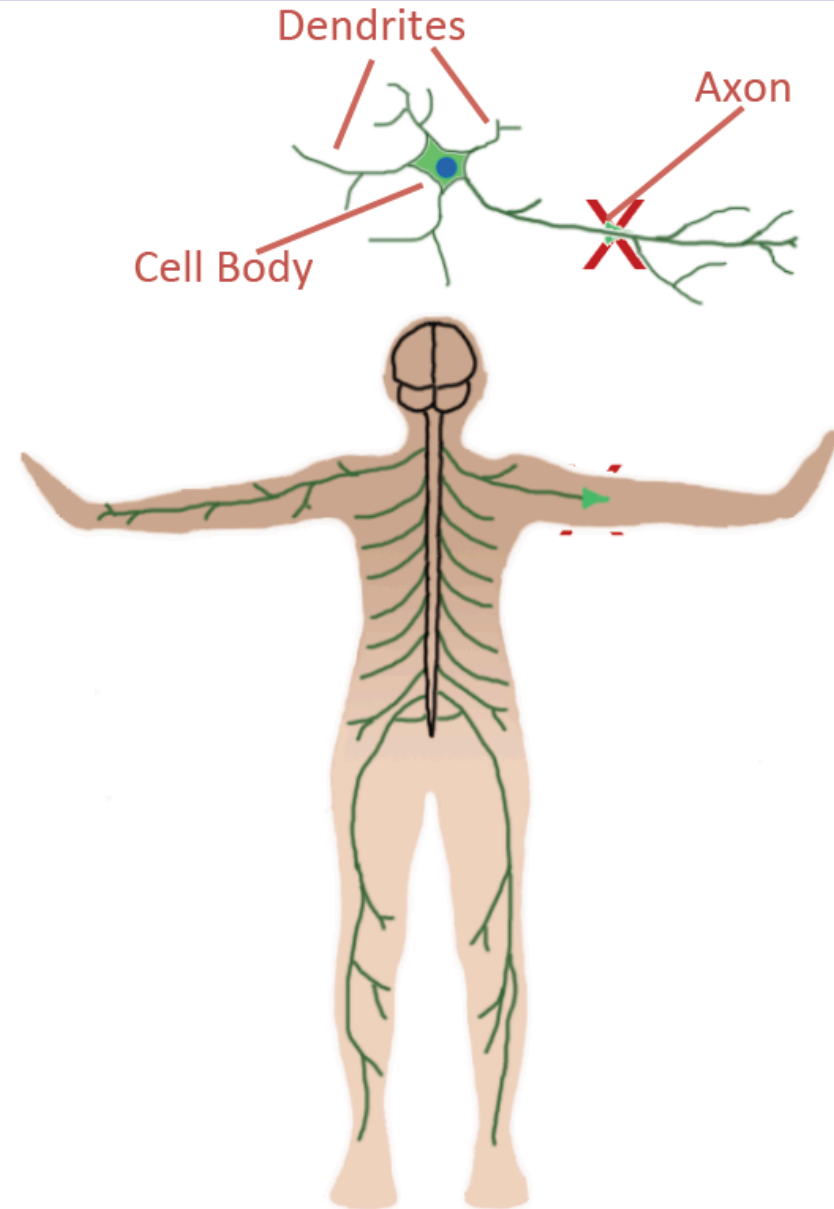
- None of the processes are 100% efficient.
  - Thus, all these processes produce heat.
  - The heat signature of reactions in a cell are in order of picowatts.
- No calorimeter has been built to support this.
  - For this reason, we cannot trace many metabolic activities of single cells (others are still possible).
  - ATP turnover can only be discussed for ensemble of cells.
  - Once our device is built, we can trace the activity of cells, label-free and without perturbing them, given that we have enough temporal resolution.
  - A first goal is to make a heat output measurement from a single cell.

| Cell Type             | Avg. Approximated Heat Output |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| E. Coli               | 5 pW                          |
| T- Lymphoma           | 6.1 pW                        |
| Human Lung Fibroblast | 20-48 pW                      |
| Human Skin Fibroblast | 51 pW                         |
| Rat Hepatocyte        | 320 pW                        |



# Peripheral Nervous System Repair

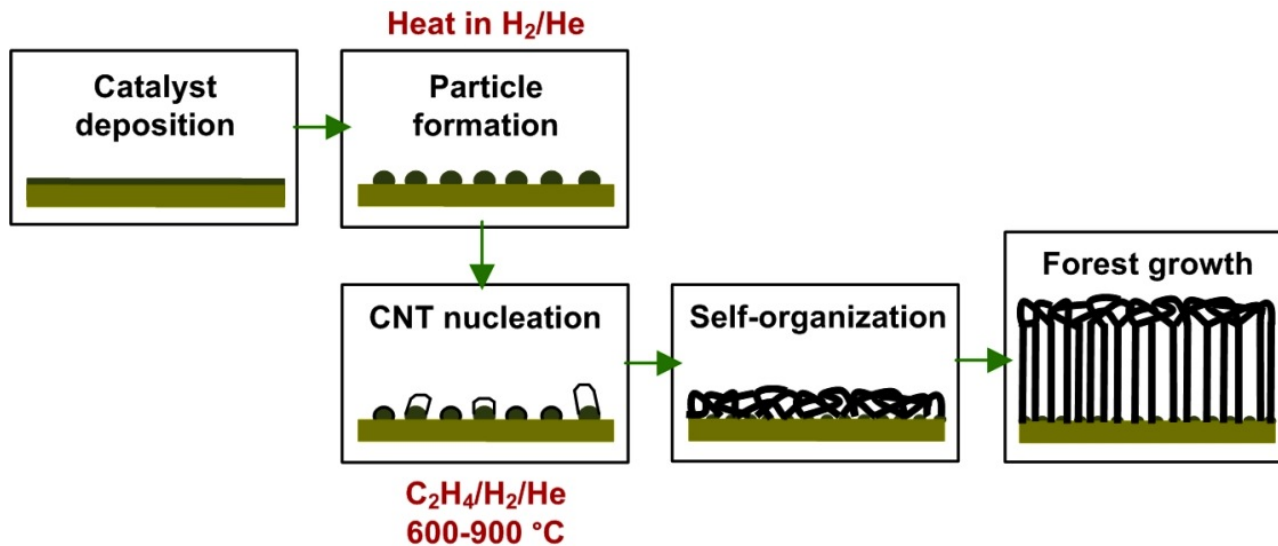
- Neuron Morphology
- Peripheral Nervous System vs Central Nervous System
- Peripheral Nervous System
  - 3 types of neurons
    - Autoneurons
    - Sensory Neurons
    - Motor Neurons
  - Ability to regenerate
    - 1 mm/day, away from spine
    - Limited length
    - Errors
  - Nerve Grafts



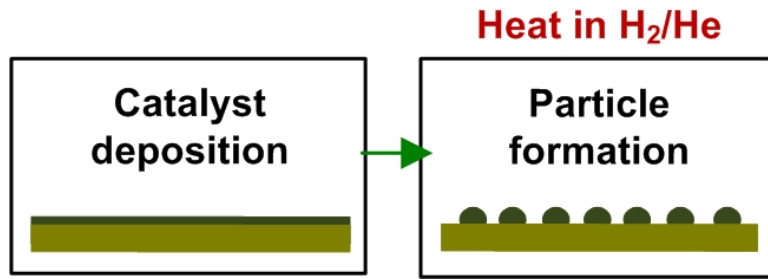
# This slide has redundant information

## How to grow a CNT forest

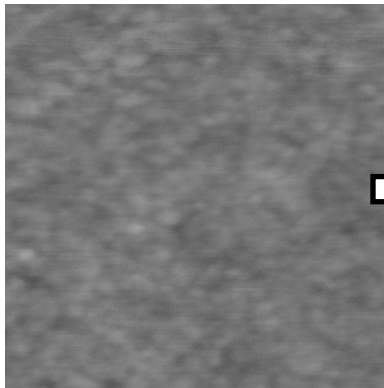
1. Deposit catalyst film on Si wafer by e-beam evaporation
2. Heat in 100/400 sccm H<sub>2</sub>/He, 750 C
3. Add 100 sccm C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>
4. Hold at 750 C for 1-30 minutes
5. Cool



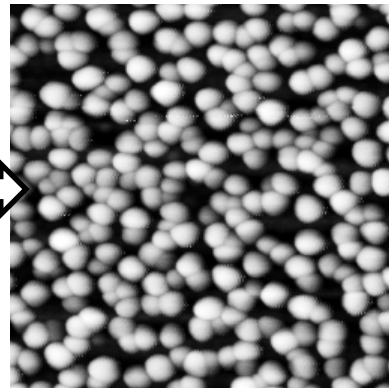
# Remove the text listing the steps: use figures and spoken words only, and show more results



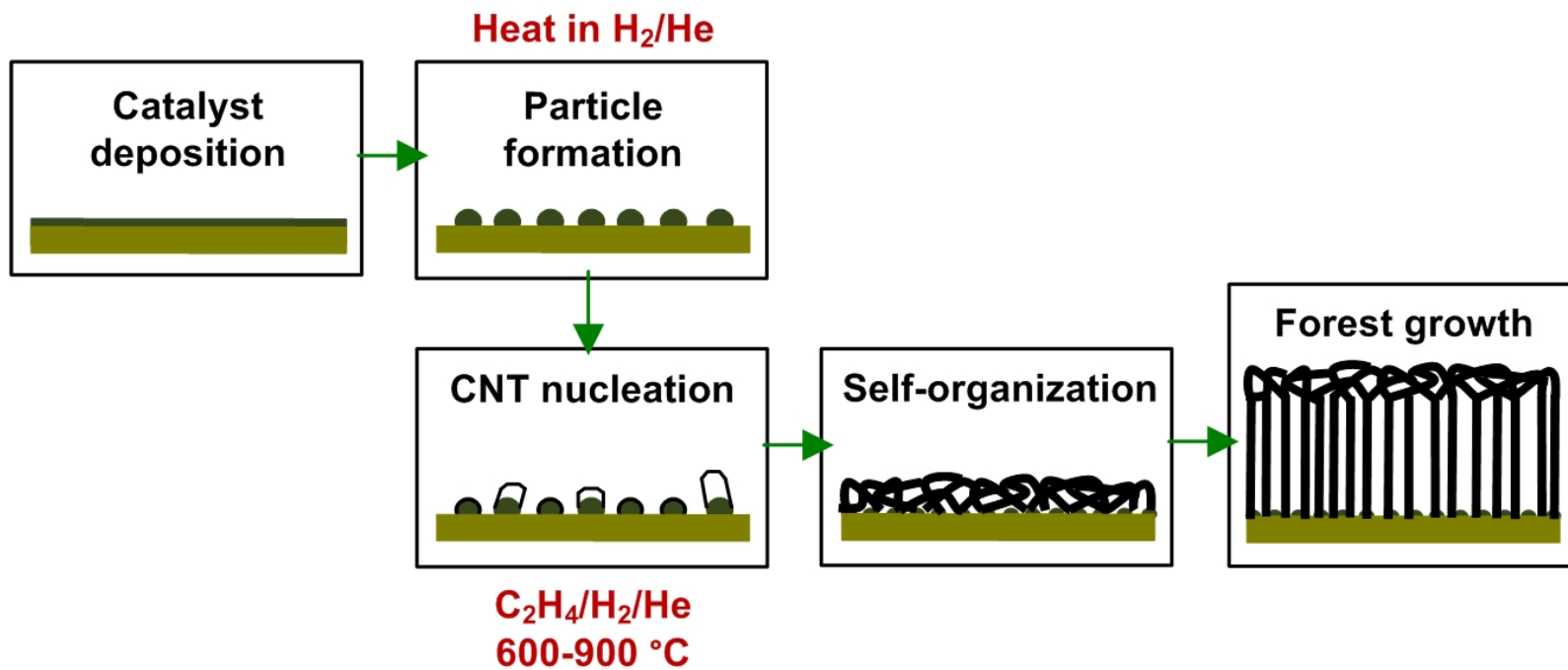
1 nm Fe/10 nm Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
as-deposited



After 2 min.  
heating in H<sub>2</sub>/He



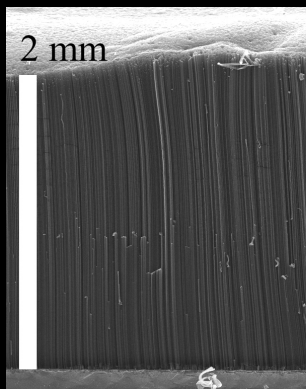
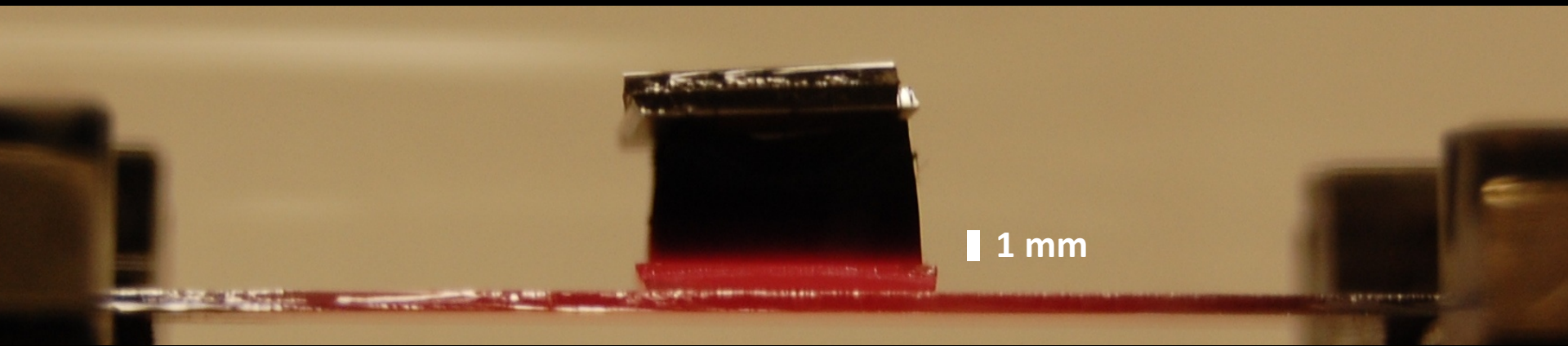
500 nm



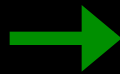
Hart and Slocum, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 110:8250-7, 2006.

Meshot, et al. *ACS Nano* 3(9):2477-2486, 2009.

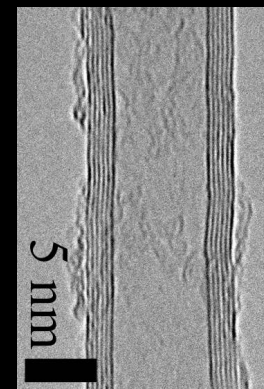
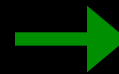
# Tall CNT “forests”



50X



70,000X



3,500,000X

- growth rate up to 500 microns/min: a 1 ft diameter tree growing at 500 mph!
- areal density:  $\sim 10^{10}$ -  $10^{12}$  CNTs/cm<sup>2</sup>
- volume fraction:  $\sim 1$ -5%

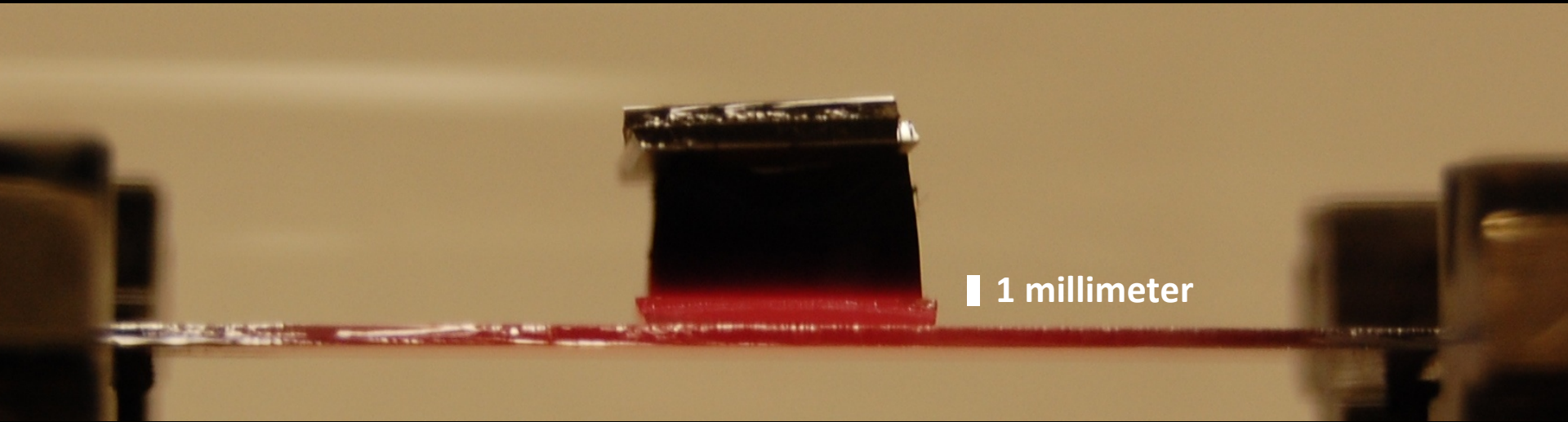
Hart and Slocum, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 110:8250-7, 2006.

Hart, van Laake, Slocum, *Small* 3(5):772-777, 2007.



# 2 slides are better than 1?

## a tall carbon nanotube forest



1 millimeter

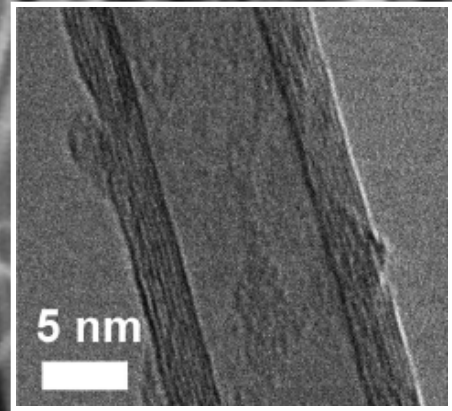
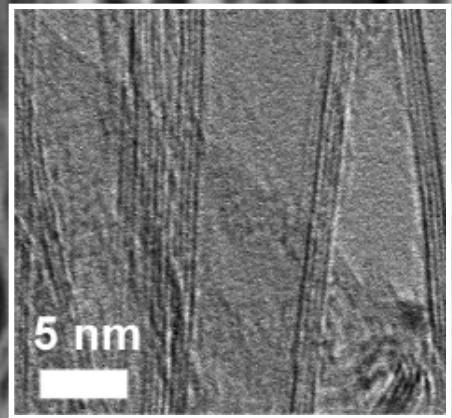
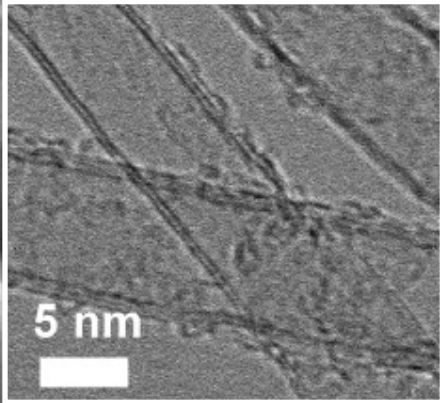
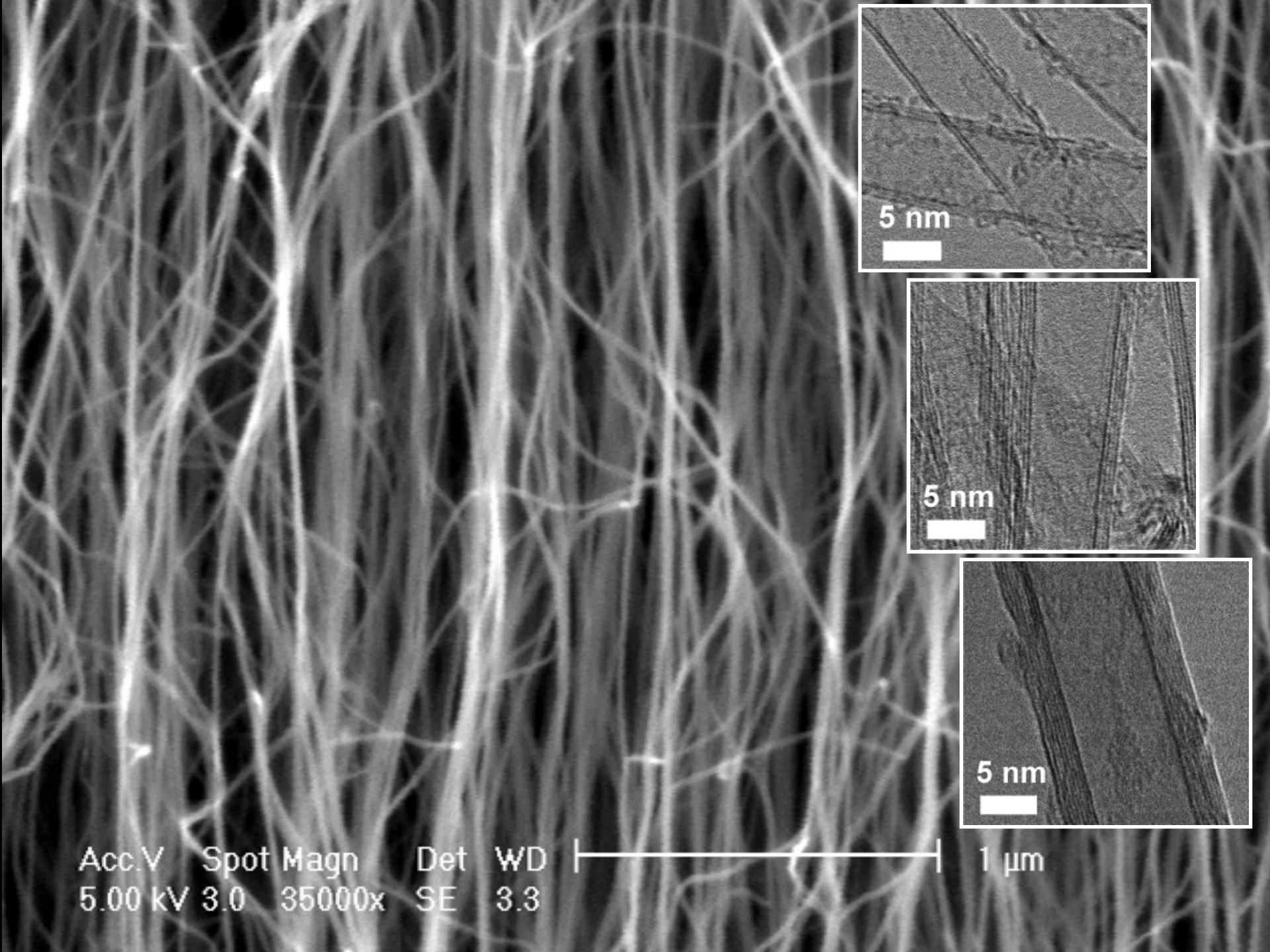
≈20 billion CNTs

≈99% air

Meshot, Plata, Tawfick, Zhang, Verploegen, Hart. *ACS Nano* 3(9):2477-2486, 2009.

Hart and Slocum, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 110:8250-7, 2006.

Hart, van Laake, Slocum, *Small* 3(5):772-777, 2007.



Acc.V Spot Magn Det WD  
5.00 kV 3.0 35000x SE 3.3



1 μm



# The narrative

- Come up with 1-2 sentences to accompany each slide
- This should:
  - Transition from the previous slide
  - State the key point of the current slide (i.e., if you're in a rush this is all you need to say)
- In my opinion, its not necessary to memorize more than this
- Writing these sentences (essentially a script) will be very helpful to prepare, and will help refine the order of your presentation because you will realize how the ideas flow



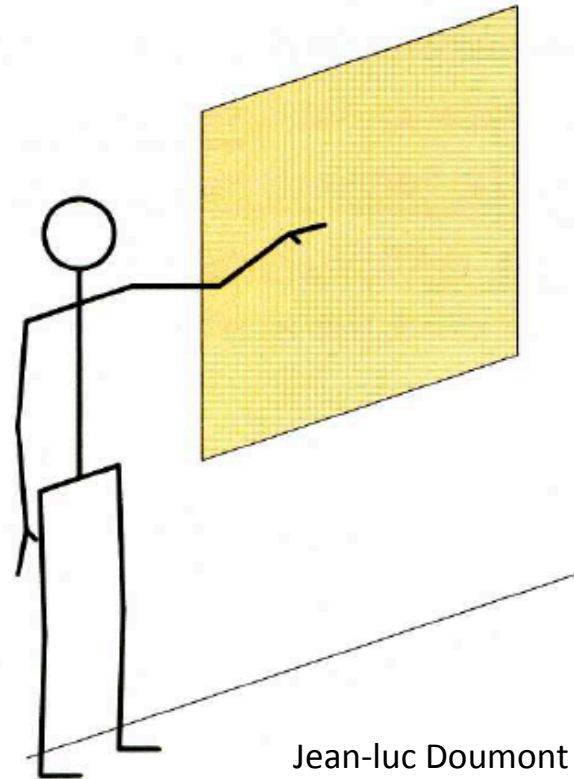
# During the presentation

- Eliminate filler words (e.g., umm, err, essentially) and phrases
- Make eye contact (don't look at the screen or laptop!)
- Modulate your tone of voice, rate, and volume
- Keep the laser pointer under control

**The face** conveys emotions.  
The eyes look at the audience  
(at everyone, at all times).

**The hands** make deliberate,  
varied, highly visible gestures  
and no noise between gestures.

**The body** assumes a confident,  
stable stance. Shoulders, hips,  
and feet are facing the audience.



Jean-luc Doumont



**A presentation is a live performance**





# Effect of colour coordination of attire with poster presentation on poster popularity

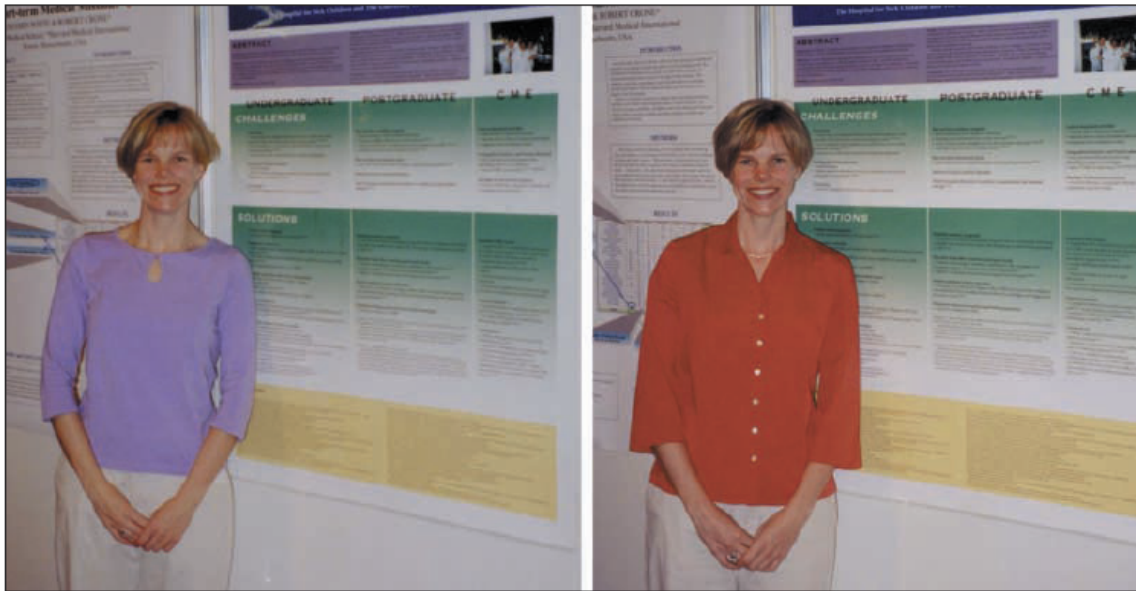


Fig. 1: Study presenter in lavender-coloured blouse (chosen to coordinate with poster colour) and in rust-coloured blouse (chosen to clash with poster).



Fig. 2: Control presenter, in neutral-coloured attire.

Table 1: Total number of visitors during poster session, by attire of study presenter

| Attire of study presenter              | No. of visitors |                |       |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-------|
|  | Study poster    | Control poster | Total |
| Coordinated (lavender-coloured blouse) | 68              | 40             | 108   |
| Clashing (rust-coloured blouse)        | 32              | 71             | 103   |
| Total                                  | 100             | 111            | 211   |

Visitation cannot be ensured simply by having the presenter wear attire that is colour-coordinated with the poster. However, the significance of our results suggests that colour coordination between the poster and the presenter's attire may substantially increase the popularity of the poster and the likelihood that the research will be disseminated.

# Practice: it makes you organized and calm



- Simulate the real environment as closely as possible
- Get written comments from others
  
- As you talk/listen
  - Note what is not **crystal clear**
  - Note what feels out of order
  - Note where you get stuck or wordy
  - Note what you can remove (e.g., stuff that you don't describe may only distract)



|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Listen            | Strive to understand the question exactly.  |
| Repeat (rephrase) | Make sure everyone gets the question.       |
| Think             | Construct your answer before delivering it. |
| Answer            | Deliver your answer to the whole audience.  |

When you are under attack, remain calm and professional:

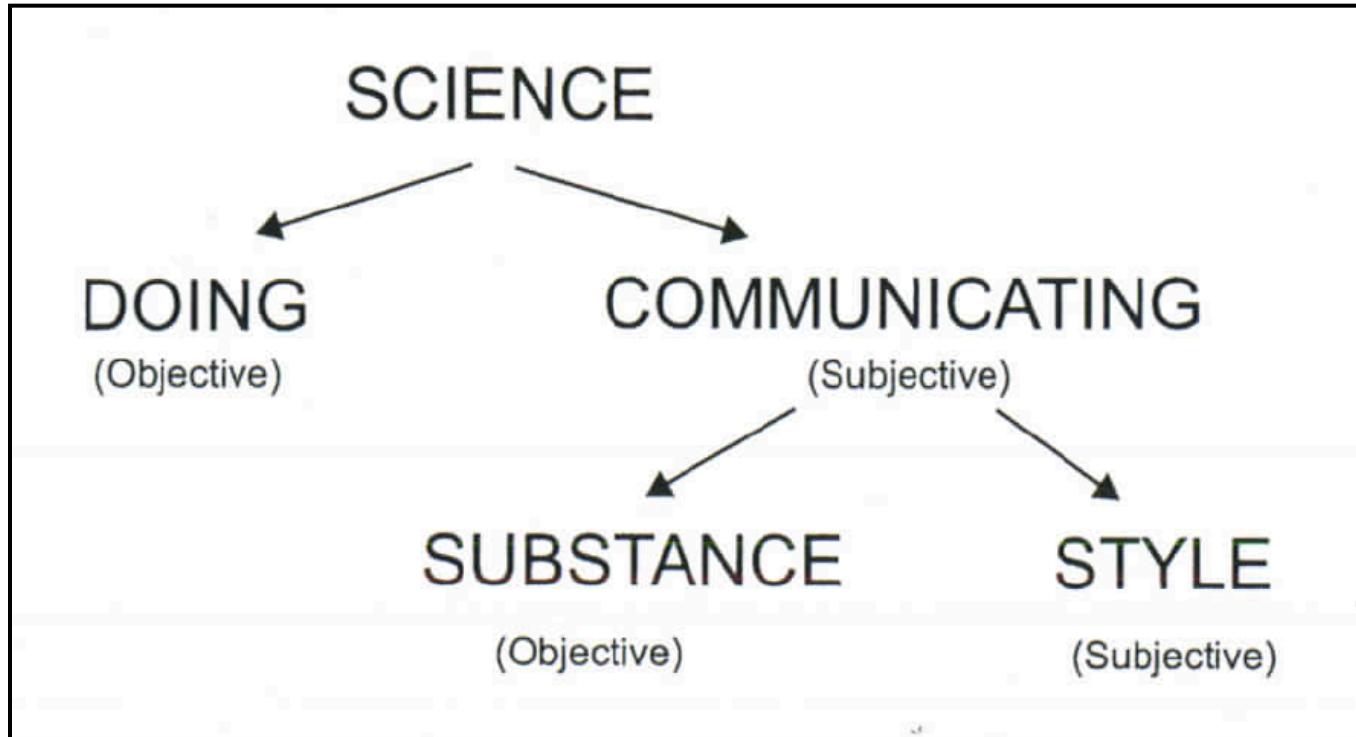
- quiet the atmosphere: mark a pause before you answer;
- acknowledge the questioner's concern (emotional level);
- disagree with the questioner's opinion (intellectual level).



# The RFE presentation

- 15 minutes (of slides)
- Faculty examiners act both as generalists and specialists
- Prove that you can do independent research
  - WHAT: general and specific
  - WHY: general and specific
  - HOW: results (specific) and interpretation (specific and general)
  - WHAT NEXT ...thinking ahead
- No mysteries!

# Always keep this in mind, and adjust the balance according to your content and audience



As a scientist or science communicator, you need to become “bilingual”—to be conversant in your area of specialty in both languages.



# Prezi: presentations on a virtual canvas



- <http://prezi.com>
- <http://prezi.com/zvsqdyisrcgt/academy-prezi-workflow-in-15-minutes/>
- You can hire someone to make a prezi presentation for you like <http://prezintations.com/>

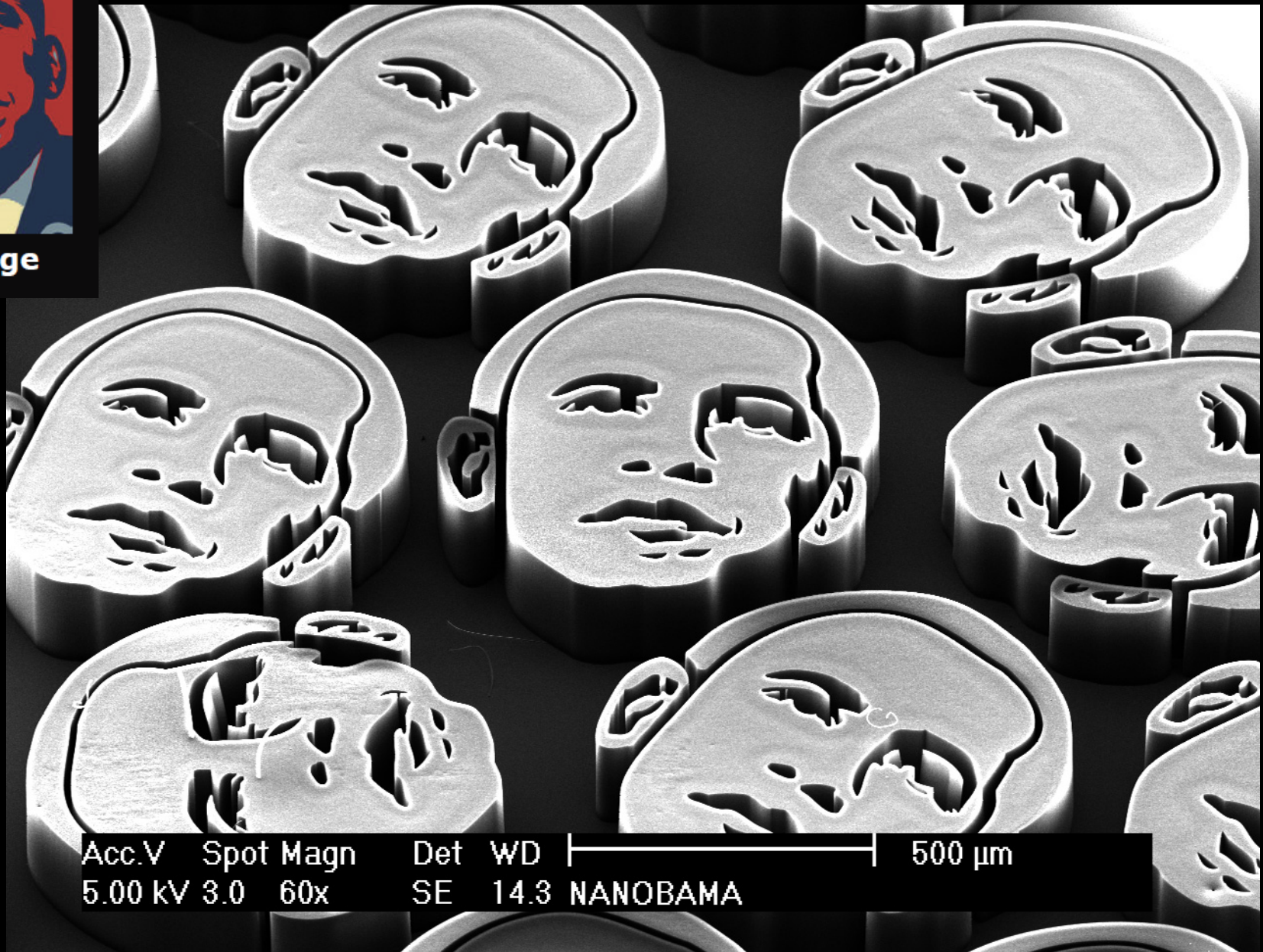
The screenshot shows the Prezi Academy interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'PREZI' logo, 'Create', 'Learn', and 'Explore' buttons, along with 'Sign up', 'Pricing', and 'Log in' links. The main content area is titled 'Academy: Prezi Workflow in 15 minutes' by Adam Somlai-Fischer, dated 03 February 2011. The presentation content is displayed on a virtual canvas. It features a central character, a woman with blue hair, who is speaking. The text on the canvas includes 'Next Step: Move things around' and 'In Prezi you create hierarchy with size'. There are also diagrams showing a flow from a 'main' node to 'Child' nodes, and a 'Do it with Prezi' section with a calendar-like grid. Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom of the canvas.

**My favorite story about science communication**

also at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGtJxwG00v4>



(0) image



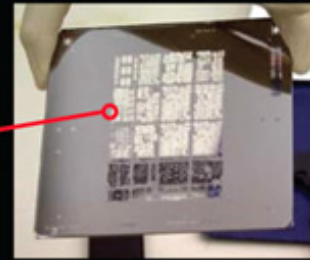
|         |      |      |     |      |             |
|---------|------|------|-----|------|-------------|
| Acc.V   | Spot | Magn | Det | WD   | 500 $\mu$ m |
| 5.00 kV | 3.0  | 60x  | SE  | 14.3 | NANOBAMA    |



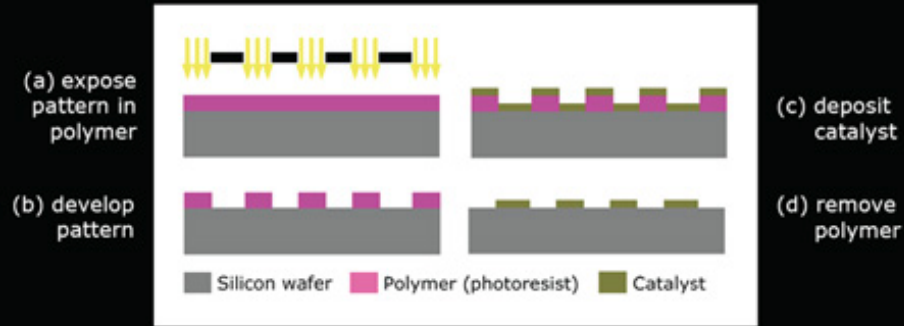
**(0) image**



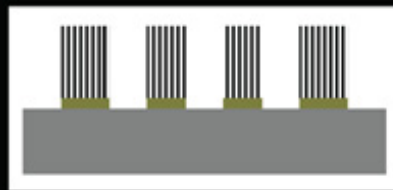
**(1) line drawing**



**(2) mask**



**(3,4,5) photolithography and catalyst patterning**

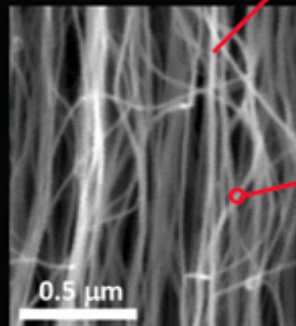


**(6) grow nanotubes**

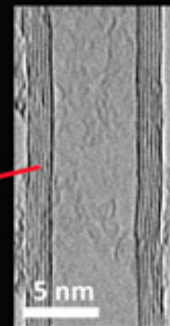


**(7) take pictures**

closeup of nanotube "forest"



individual nanotube





# Welcome to nanobama



Acc.V Spot Magn Det WD | 500µ  
5.00 kV 3.0 60x SE 14.3 NANOBAMA

NANOBAMA: PRÄSIDENT UNTERM MIKROSKOP



Fotostrecke starten: Klicken Sie auf ein Bild (11 Bilder)

Hart ist Professor am Department of Mechanical Engineering der University of Michigan. Er untersucht die genialen

smh.com.au  
The Sydney Morning Herald

McCain  
72

## Technology

Gadgets Games @Home Biztech Security Connect

You are here: Home » Technology

# Obama under the microscope

The giant granite sculpture of Barack Obama in Washington — the first president of the United States — and at Mount Rushmore famous images in the than 14 years and so complete the 18-met Now Barack Obama the 44th president of immortalized in car

**THE Sun**  
Monday, January 26, 2009

HOME MYSun MOBILE SUN LITE SITE MAP

**NEWS**

- Forces
- Royals
- Sun Justice
- Sun Money
- Sun City
- Captain Crunch
- Columnists

**Tiny P**



## Microscopist.ru

Портал микроскопии

Избранное · Регистрация · Вход

500мкм-ый Обама из нанотрубок!

「勝田敏彦」米ミシガ  
が、髪の毛の太さの  
炭素の筒カーボンナ  
ノオバマ米次期大統  
「ナノバマ」と題  
写真がネット上で公  
「チャー」は、「08年を  
選の一つとして取り  
リストを縮小した原画  
「ナノチューブ」でき  
ジョン・ハート助教  
がナノテクの応用例と

## 「ナノバマ」 Yes, we can



# IMAGES OF THE YEAR



## msnbc

Technology & science / science

You'll need a  
Team of researchers

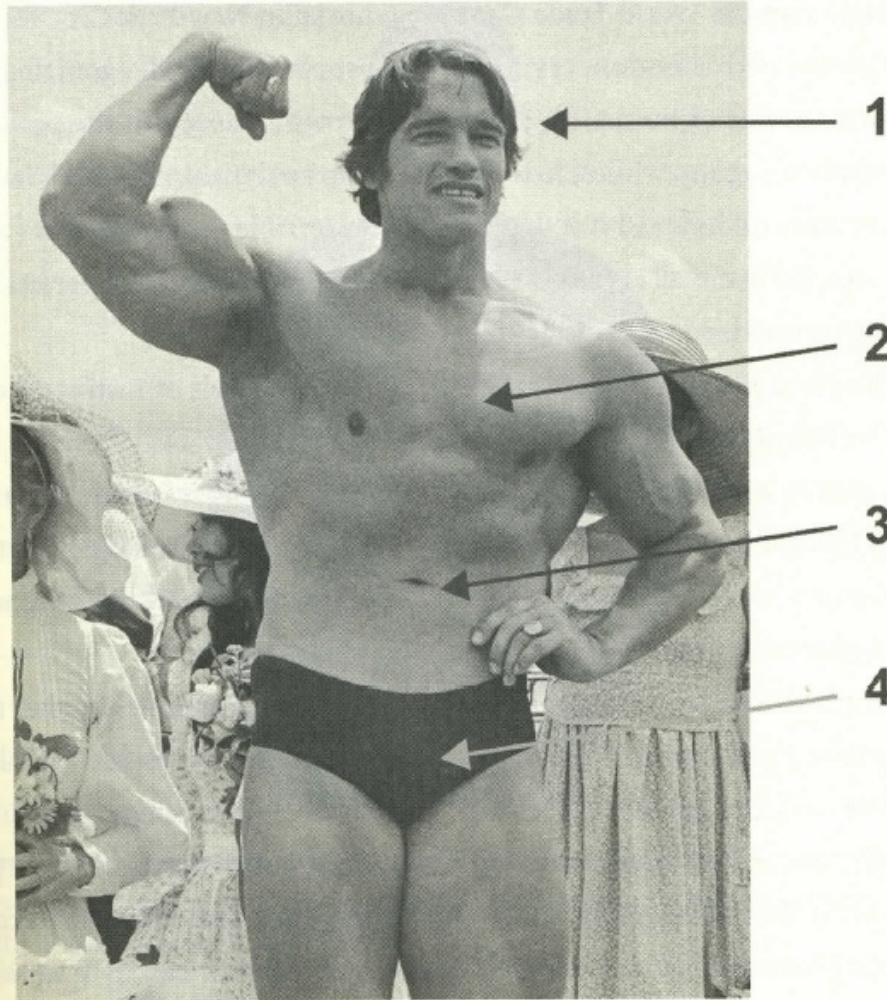
By Corey Williams  
Associated Press

## Nanobama Administration

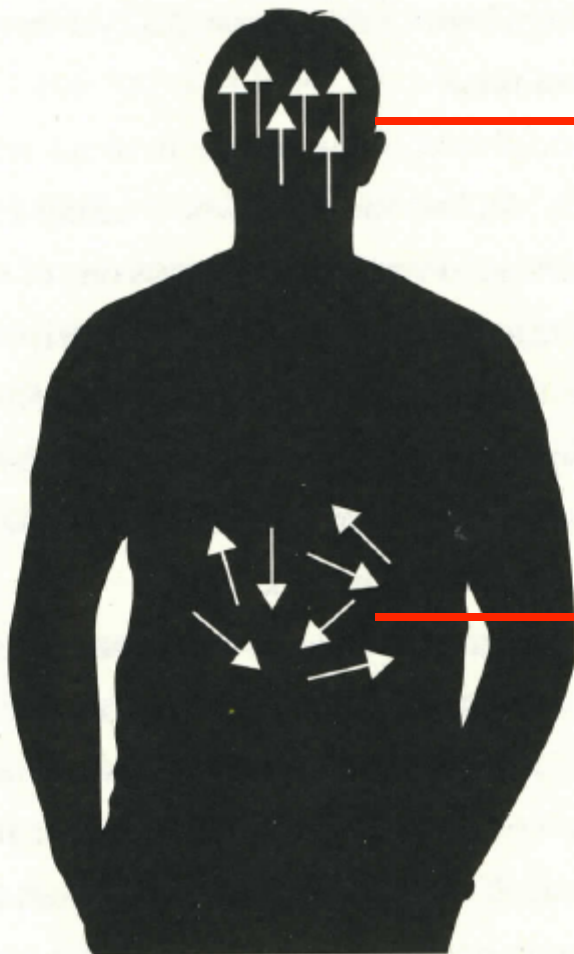


# How the world reacted

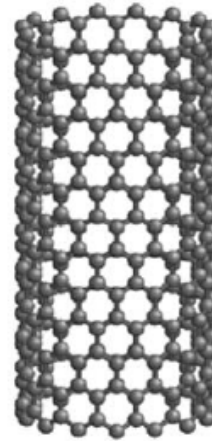
- Wow, nanotechnology is here!
- Let's show nanobama and talk about science policy.
- A political statement?
- It's just a cool art project.
- What a waste of money!



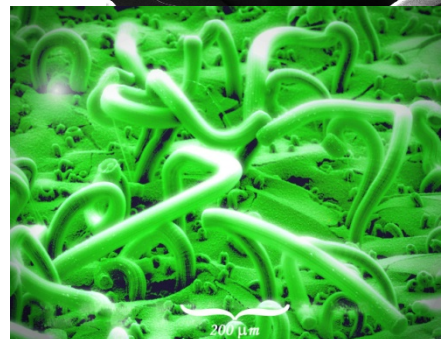
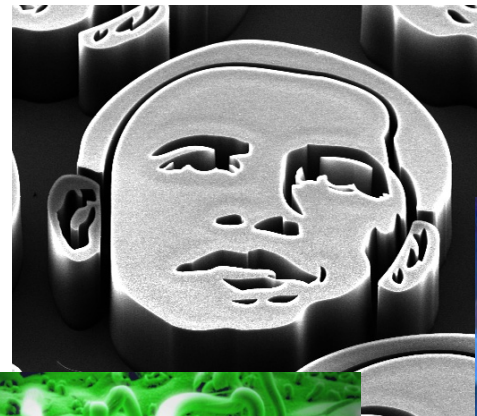
**Figure 1-1.** The four organs of mass communication. To reach the broadest audience, you need to move the process out of the *head* (1) and into the *heart* (2) with sincerity, into the *gut* (3) with humor and intuition, and, ideally, if you're sexy enough, into the *lower organs* (4) with sex appeal. Photo courtesy of © Mirkine/Sygma/Corbis.



Fulfill



Arouse



Randy Olson, "Don't Be Such a Scientist"





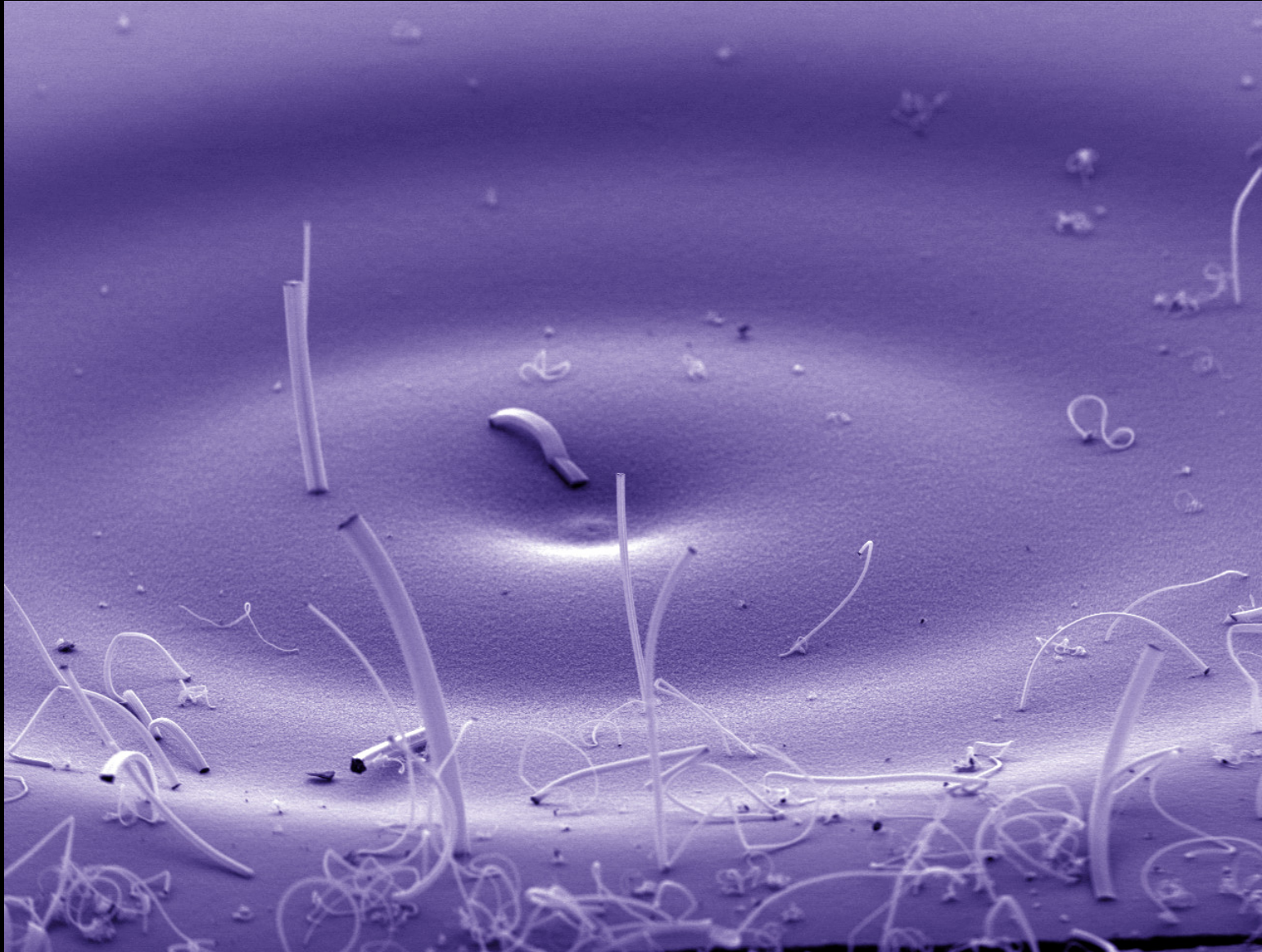
PCAST meeting on nanotechnology  
White House, March 12, 2010

**NANOBAMAS:** Each face is a "forest" of 150 million vertically aligned carbon nanotubes reacting a carbon-containing wafer. Each nanotube is 100 nm in diameter, or 1/5,000<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair, and is stronger and stiffer than copper.





# How can you make waves?





# Homework



- I will email instructions about the proposal peer reviews; please complete them by Monday, April 9.