The Shibui Beamer Theme

A Minimalist Design for Clear Communication

Your Name
Your Institution
November 13, 2025

1. Introduction

2. Typography & Color

3. Content Examples

4. Data & Figures

5. Best Practices

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Overview

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Design Philosophy

The Shibui theme embodies Japanese minimalist design principles:

- Clarity through simplicity
- Generous use of whitespace
- Elegant typography
- Minimal but effective navigation
- Focus on content, not decoration

Shibui represents simple, subtle, and unobtrusive beauty through refined restraint.

Key Features

1. **Dark Theme Colors**: Dark background with light, readable text
2. **Navigation Squares**: Shows current section slides only
3. **Progress Bar**: Visual indicator with page numbers
4. **Minimal Headline**: Section and title without visual clutter
5. **Multiple Fonts**: Choose from sans-serif, serif, or monospace options

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Typography Matters

Good typography is essential for effective presentations.

This theme offers 5 font options for different presentation styles:

- **sans** (default): Fira Sans – clean, modern sans-serif
- **serif**: ET Book or Palatino fallback – classic elegance
- **garamond**: EB Garamond – sophisticated serif typography
- **charter**: Charter – highly readable serif
- **mono**: Fira Mono – monospace for code-heavy presentations

Emphasis through italics rather than bold helps maintain visual calm.

Color Palette

The theme now supports **9 color schemes** for different aesthetics:

Original Themes
dark (default): Dark background with light text and red accent
light: Warm cream background with near-black text and dark red accent

New Color Schemes
solarizedlight, **solarizeddark**, **solarizedosaka**: Solarized variants
nord: Arctic, north-bluish color palette
gruvboxlight, **gruvboxdark**: Retro groove with warm tones
autumn: Warm autumn colors with browns and oranges

All palettes provide excellent contrast and reduce eye strain.

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Lists & Structure

Itemized lists use simple squares:

- First level items
  - Second level items
    - Third level items

Enumerated lists use simple numbering:

1. First item
2. Second item
3. Third item

Blocks & Emphasis

Standard Block
Blocks have minimal styling to avoid visual clutter.

Example Block
Examples use slightly muted text for subtle differentiation.

Alert Block
Alerts use the accent color to draw attention when needed.

Use blocks sparingly—content should speak for itself.

Custom Shibui Boxes

The theme provides a custom `shibuiframe` environment with minimal styling:

Key Concept

This is a custom box with only bottom and right borders, following Shibui's minimal aesthetic. The title overlaps the top-left corner with a clean border.

Perfect for highlighting important concepts without visual clutter.

Mathematical Insight

The box adapts to both light and dark themes automatically, maintaining readability and the clean Shibui style across all color schemes.

Simple Tables

Tables follow the minimal Shibui aesthetic:

Method	Accuracy	Time (ms)
Algorithm A	94.2%	12.3
Algorithm B	96.7%	18.5
Algorithm C	95.1%	15.2

Keep tables simple and uncluttered. Use horizontal lines sparingly.

Advanced Tables

More complex data organization:

Category	Item	Q1	Q2
Revenue	Product A	$125K	$142K
	Product B	$89K	$95K
Costs	Marketing	$42K	$38K
	Operations	$67K	$71K
Net		**$105K**	**$128K**

Align numbers to the right, text to the left.

Two-Column Layout

The theme supports standard Beamer columns:

Left Column

- Clean layout
- Easy to read
- Balanced design

Right Column

Use columns to:

1. Compare concepts
2. Show before/after
3. Present alternatives

Quotations

“Less is more.”

— Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.”

— Leonardo da Vinci

Mathematics

The Shibui theme handles mathematical content elegantly:

Inline math: The quadratic formula is $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

Display equations:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2}\,dx = \sqrt{\pi} \tag{1}$$

Aligned equations:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \tag{2}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \tag{3}$$

Code Listings

Clean, readable code with syntax highlighting:

```python
# Fibonacci sequence generator
def fibonacci(n):
    """Generate first n Fibonacci numbers."""
    a, b = 0, 1
    for _ in range(n):
        yield a
        a, b = b, a + b

# Usage example
for num in fibonacci(10):
    print(num, end=' ')
```

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Presenting Data

When including figures or data visualizations:

- Keep charts simple and uncluttered
- Remove unnecessary gridlines and decorations
- Use the theme's color palette for consistency
- Ensure high contrast for readability
- Add concise, informative captions

Remember: The goal is to illuminate, not decorate.

Visual Hierarchy

Good presentations guide the eye naturally:

1. **Most important**: Use size and weight
2. *Moderate importance*: Use italics or color
3. Least important: Use smaller text or gray

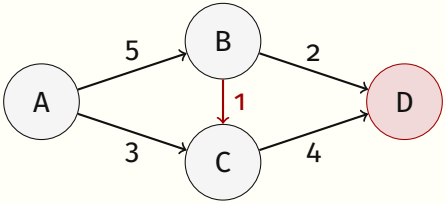
The Shibui theme's generous whitespace helps create natural visual hierarchy without competing elements.

Algorithms

Algorithm 1 Binary Search

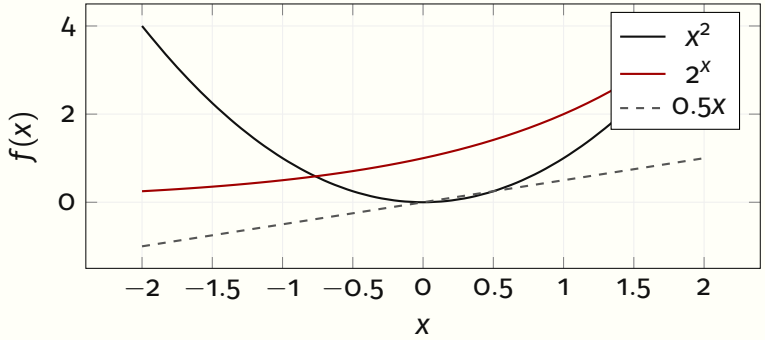
```
1: procedure BinarySearch(A, n, T)
2:     L ← 0
3:     R ← n − 1
4:     while L ≤ R do
5:         m ← ⌊(L + R)/2⌋
6:         if A[m] < T then
7:             L ← m + 1
8:         else if A[m] > T then
9:             R ← m − 1
10:        else
11:            return m
12:        end if
13:    end while
14:    return unsuccessful
15: end procedure
```

TikZ Diagrams



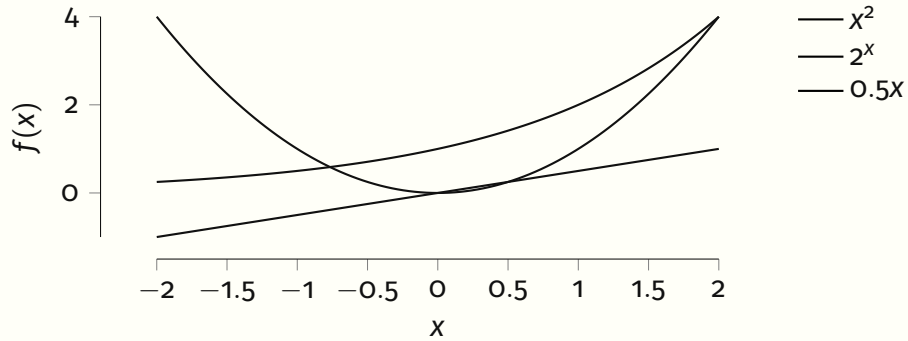
Weighted directed graph using themed colors (shibuitext, shibuiaccent, shibuigray)

PGFPlots: Standard Style

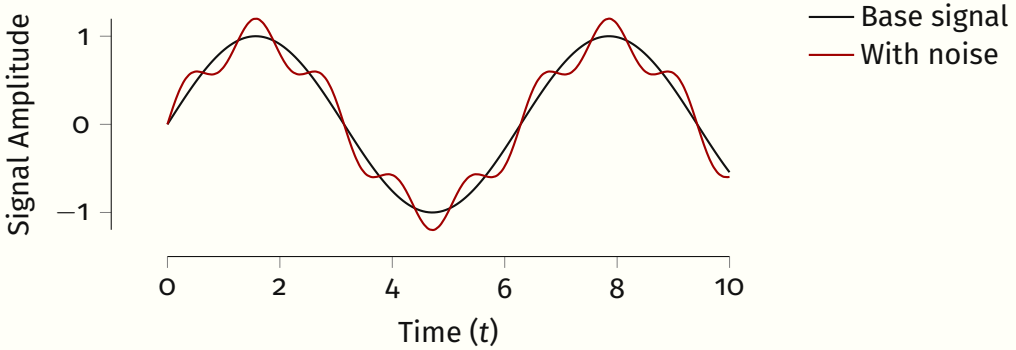


PGFPlots: Shibui Style

Simple activation with `shibui style` (no grid, legend outside):



Dynamic Data Visualization



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Shibui Principles

Apply these principles when using this theme:

- **Show the content**: Let content take center stage
- **Reduce noise**: Every element should serve a purpose
- **Integrate text and graphics**: Create a unified whole
- **Respect your audience**: Clear, honest presentation

The theme provides the framework; you provide the clarity.

Technical Tips

- Use `aspectratio=169` for widescreen (16:9)
- Use `aspectratio=43` for traditional (4:3)
- Uncomment `\sectionframe` in theme for automatic section slides
- Keep slides focused—one main idea per slide
- Use generous spacing with `\vspace`

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Summary

The Shibui Beamer theme offers:

- **Elegant design** inspired by Japanese minimalism
- **Minimal interface** that stays out of your way
- **Clear navigation** through sections and slides
- **Multiple font options** including Fira Sans, Garamond, Charter, and more
- **Calm color palettes** including Solarized variants

Use it to create presentations that respect both content and audience.

Thank You

Questions?

This theme is available at:
`github.com/yourname/shibui-beamer`

Overview

7. Appendix

Theme Options Reference I

Complete list of theme options:

Color Themes

`light` – Light cream background (default)
`dark` – Dark background
`solarizedlight`, `solarizeddark`, `solarizedosaka` – Solarized variants
`nord` – Arctic blue theme
`gruvboxlight`, `gruvboxdark` – Warm retro colors
`autumn` – Warm earthy tones

Theme Options Reference II (cont.)

Font Themes

`sans` – Fira Sans (default)
`serif` – ET Book/Palatino
`garamond` – EB Garamond
`charter` – Charter
`mono` – Fira Mono

Layout Options

`nosectionheader` – Hide section name from header
`navontop` – Show navigation squares above title
`nosub` – Hide subsections in table of contents

Theme Options Reference III (cont.)

Progress Bar Options

`progressbar=basic` – Single continuous bar (default)
`progressbar=segmented` – Section-based segments
`progressbar=none` – No progress bar, page numbers only

Usage: `\usetheme[nord,sans,navontop]{Shibui}`
Example: `\usetheme[progressbar=segmented]{Shibui}`

Color Definitions

Theme colors available for use:

Color Name	Usage
`shibuibg`	Background color
`shibuitext`	Main text color
`shibuiaccent`	Accent/highlight color
`shibuigray`	UI elements (light)
`shibuidarkgray`	Secondary text
`shibuicodebg`	Code/box background

Use with: `\color{shibuiaccent}` or `\textcolor{shibuiaccent}{text}`

Custom Environments

Special environments provided by the theme:

shibuiframe

Minimal box with background color for highlighting concepts.

Usage:

```
\begin{shibuiframe}{Title}
Content...
\end{shibuiframe}
```

All standard Beamer environments work as expected: blocks, columns, overlays, etc.

Custom Footer Text

Add custom text or logos above the progress bar:

footertext Command

The `\footertext{}` command lets you add custom text displayed above the progress bar in very small font.

Usage in preamble:

```
\footertext{Conference 2024 - Paris}
```

Perfect for adding: conference names, dates, institutional logos, or copyright notices.

The footer text appears on all slides except the title page and uses the secondary text color for minimal visual impact.

Additional Resources

- **Design References**
  - Japanese aesthetics: Wabi-sabi, Shibui, Ma
  - Minimalist design principles
  - Typography in presentation design
- **Color Schemes**
  - Solarized color palette
  - Nord theme
  - Gruvbox retro colors
- **Beamer Documentation**
  - Official Beamer user guide
  - Theme development guide

Troubleshooting I

Font Issues

If ET Book font is not available, Palatino is used as fallback. For Fira Sans, ensure the package is installed: `texlive-fonts-extra`

Color Problems

Ensure you're using XeLaTeX or pdfLaTeX with appropriate color packages. Theme loads colors automatically.

Troubleshooting II (cont.)

Progress Bar

Progress bar is automatically hidden on title page and plain frames. Three modes available:

- **basic** (default): Single continuous bar
- **segmented**: Section-based segments with gaps. Past sections are dimmed, current section fills progressively
- **none**: No bar, only page numbers

Use `noframenumbering` option to exclude specific frames from count.