SUSTech Southern University of Science and Technology

南方科技大学 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

地球与空间科学系 DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

GGC5039 / ESS419

Academic Communication

Section 4-1: Presentations at Conferences (Oral)

Instructor: Dikun Yang

Term: Fall 2020-2019

Outline

- Section 1: **Introduction** (2 hr)
- Section 2: **International communications** (2 hr)
- Section 3: **Writing and publishing** (8 hr) – Assignment 15%
- Section 4: **Presentations at conferences** (6 hr) – Assignment 15%
- Section 5: **Writing proposals and applications** (6 hr) – Assignment 15%
- Section 6: **Interviews** (4 hr) – Assignment 15%
- Section 7: **New media** (2 hr) – Assignment 15%
- Section 8: **Integrated practice** (2 hr) – Final defense/participation 25%


HALL D
ROOMS 123-125
ELEVATION
ROOMS 123-125
AGU FALL MEETING
AGU
FALL MEETING

Why Conferences (aka Academic Parties)

Give a presentation

Listen to other presentations

Social networking

Professional events

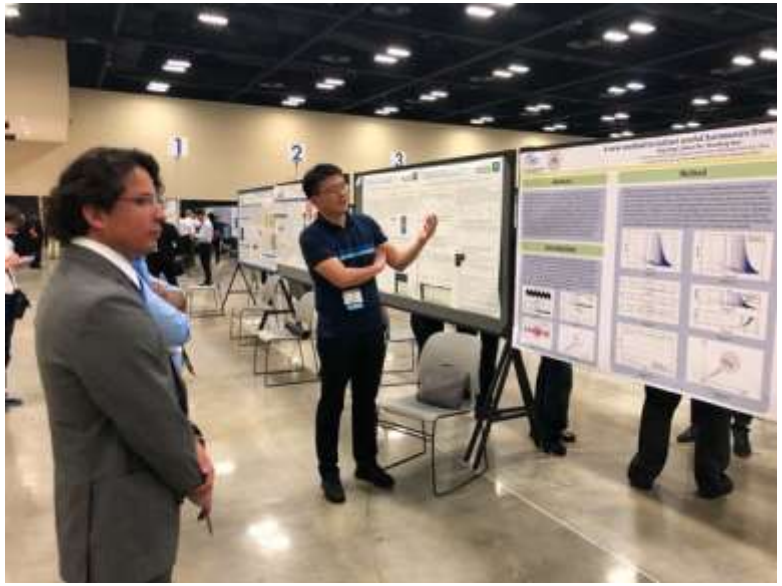
Communication on paper cannot replace face-to-face interaction

Types of Conference

- Name: congress, conference, meeting, symposium, workshop
- Periodicity: every 10 or 4 or 2 or 1 year; every 18 months;
- Size: tens to tens of thousand
- Organizer: professional society/association, foundation, institutions, NGO or government agencies, companies
- Identify a professional conference and try to make it next time!
  - Be a presenter
  - Choose a student-friendly one
  - Consider your career plan

Submit to a Conference

- Conference abstract
  - One-paragraph or letter of intent
  - Expanded or extended abstract (usually 4 pages)
  - New or preliminary results
- One-way peer review
  - Accept or reject in one shot
  - No reviewers' comments; no revision
- Request oral or poster
  - Know the implications – quality, audience, format
  - Poster: quality can vary
  - Other types: e-poster, e-lightning, interactive panels



Your Abstract is Accepted as an Oral

- Read the speaker guidelines and instructions
  - Time restriction: 10 or 30 minutes; how long is the Q/A?
  - Visual: slide template; aspect ratio 4:3 or 16:9?
  - Format: ppt/pptx/pdf; video/audio allowed?
- IMRAD
  - One or two “take-home message”
  - Discuss with your co-authors/supervisor
  - Tell a joyful story – like a good cup of coffee
    - Not an over-sized feast that takes long time to digest
    - Must be enjoyable before, during and after
    - Handcrafted to please the consumers
    - Simple but rich in flavor

Expectation – Fulfillment – Aftertaste

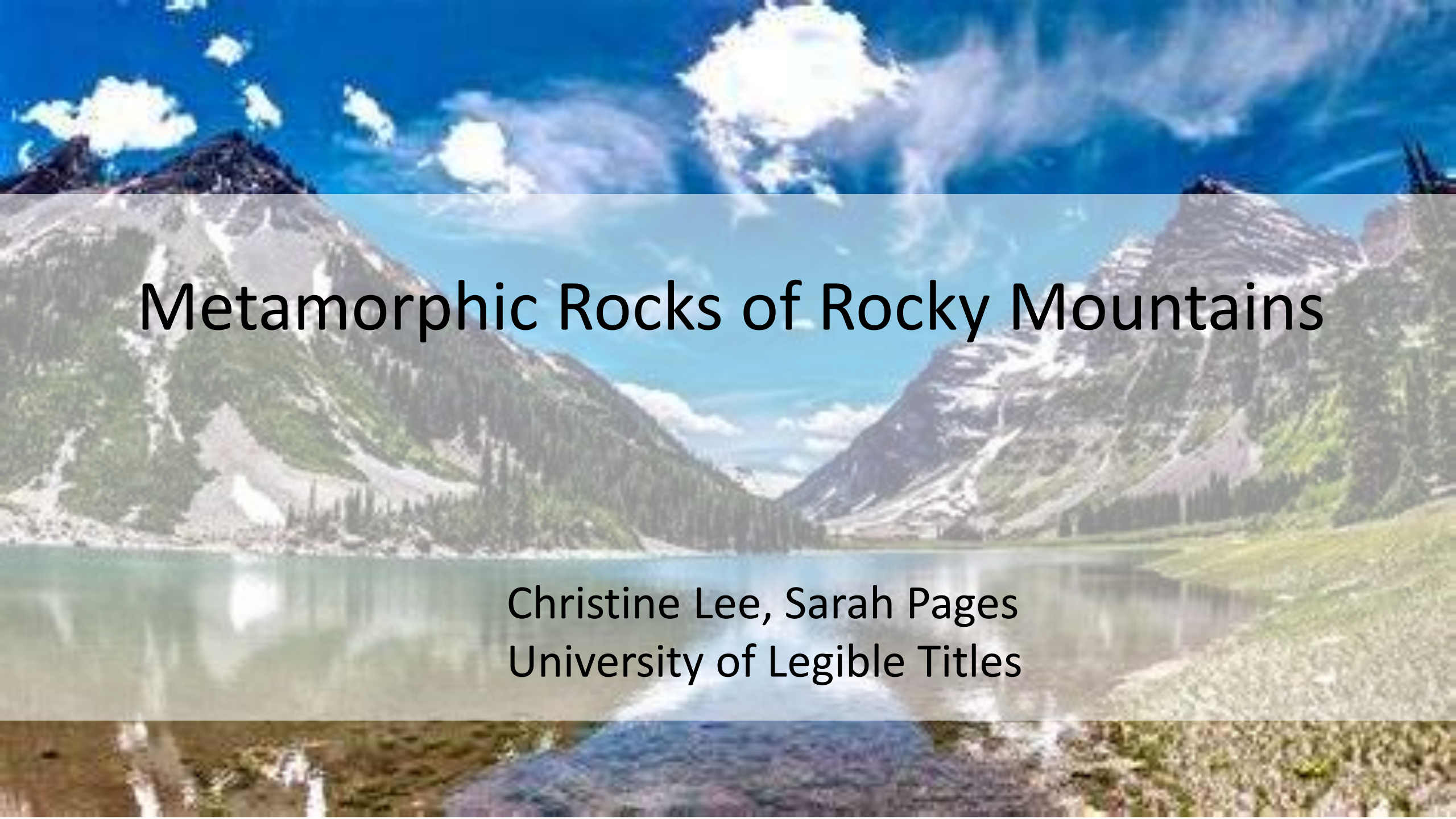
PPT slides aid the presentation –
A good talk is an interaction between humans, not an explanation of slides

Designing of Unprofessional Cover Pages

Mike Jones, *University of Curly Flowers*
Jane Blade, *University of Decorated Excessively*

Metamorphic Rocks of Rocky Mountains

Christine Lee, Sarah Pages
University of Unclear Titles



Metamorphic Rocks of Rocky Mountains

Christine Lee, Sarah Pages
University of Legible Titles

Stimulating Background Color

- The solar wind is a stream of charged particles released from the upper atmosphere of the Sun, called the corona. This plasma mostly consists of electrons, protons and alpha particles with kinetic energy between 0.5 and 10 keV.
- Embedded within the solar-wind plasma is the interplanetary magnetic field. The solar wind varies in density, temperature and speed over time and over solar latitude and longitude. Its particles can escape the Sun's gravity because of their high energy resulting from the high temperature of the corona, which in turn is a result of the coronal magnetic field.
- At a distance of more than a few solar radii from the Sun, the solar wind reaches speeds of 250 to 750 kilometers per second and is supersonic, meaning it moves faster than the speed of the fast magnetosonic wave.
- The flow of the solar wind is no longer supersonic at the termination shock. The Voyager 2 spacecraft crossed the shock more than five times between 30 August and 10 December 2007. Voyager 2 crossed the shock about a billion kilometers closer to the Sun than the 13.5-billion-kilometer distance where Voyager 1 came upon the termination shock. The spacecraft moved outward through the termination shock into the heliosheath and onward toward the interstellar medium.
- Other related phenomena include the aurora (northern and southern lights), the plasma tails of comets that always point away from the Sun, and geomagnetic storms that can change the direction of magnetic field lines.

Font Color Emphasizing Everything

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Insufficient Color Contrast

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Distracting Background Image

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A Introduction with a Spirit of Laziness

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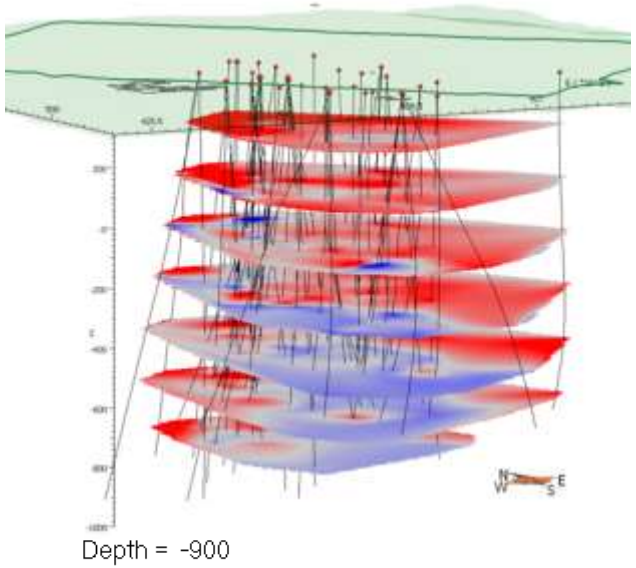
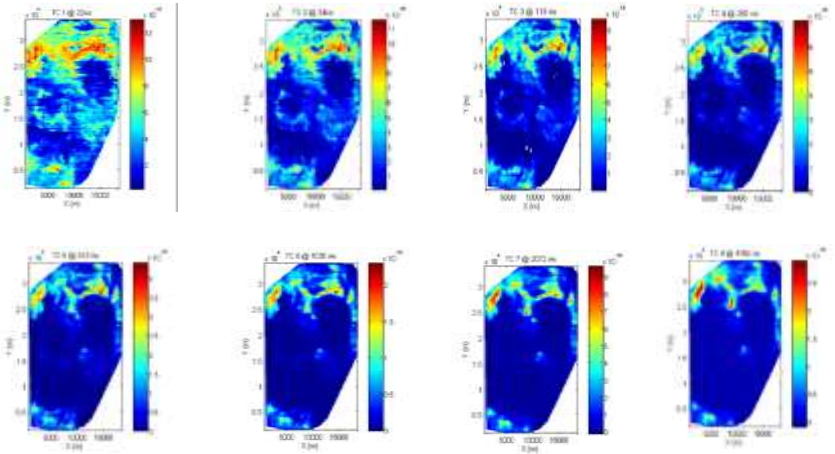
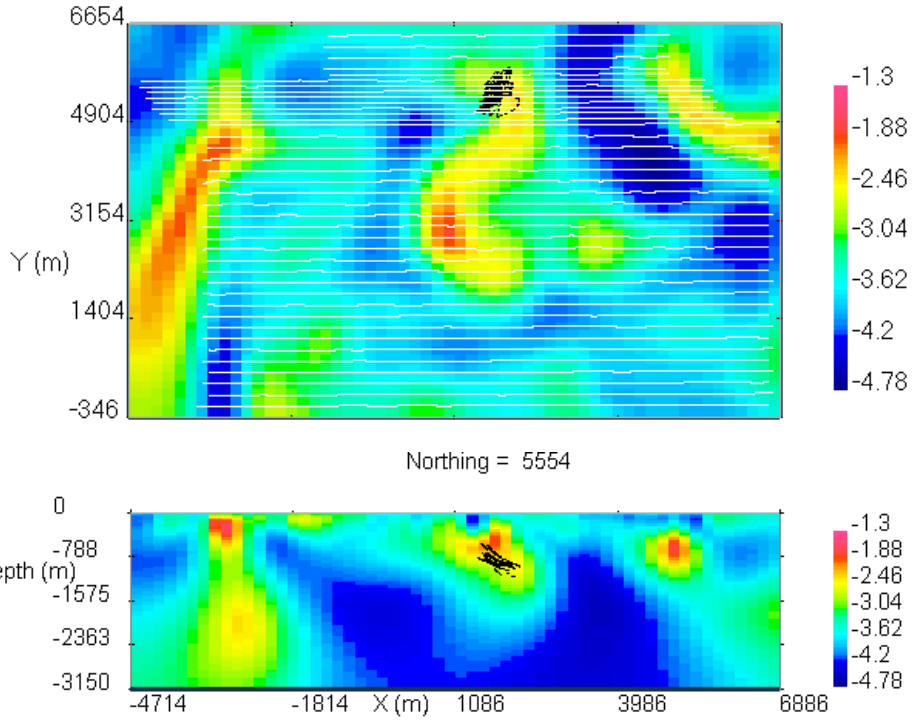
Choice of Fonts (Who said serif is ugly?)

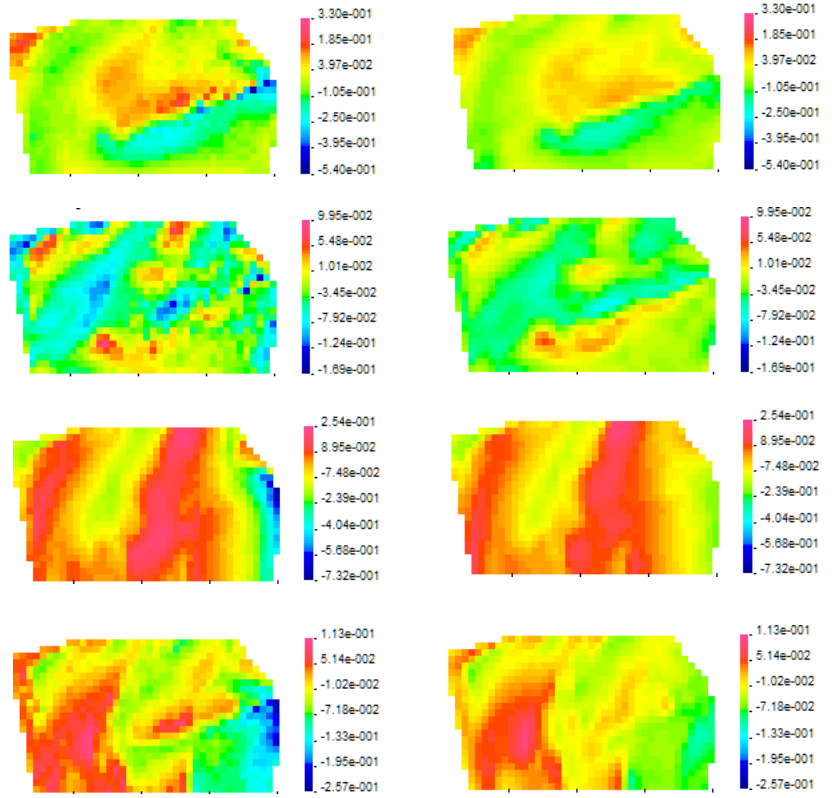
- By default, PowerPoint uses sans serif, but some people have **unique** tastes
- They may be very artistic
- They may need wide fonts to fill the space
- They may have to use a narrow font so all the technical details can be tightly squeezed into one line
- They may feel their results are premature like lab notes
- They have too much information they think are necessary to show, so the font size is reduced to make more room; the exact sentences on
- They use whatever font that was printed on a journal

An example of crowded and busy slide with a long paragraph of text



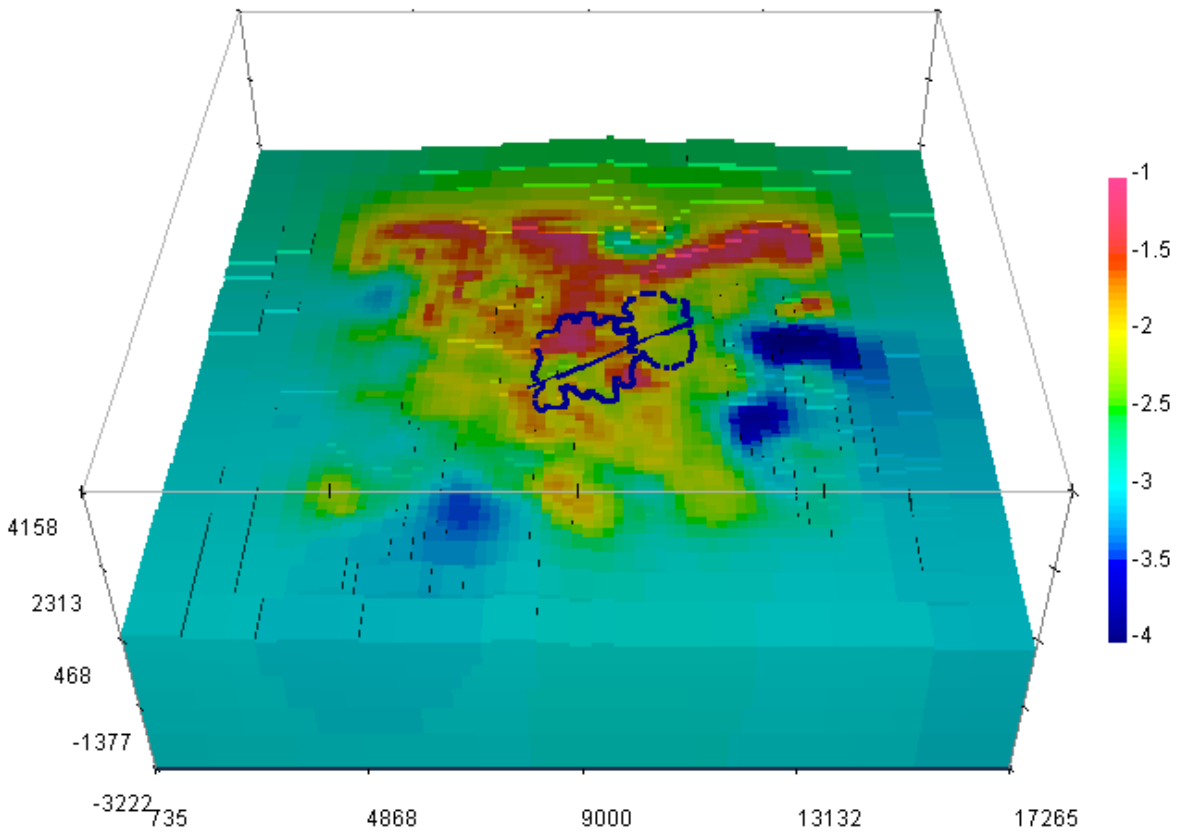






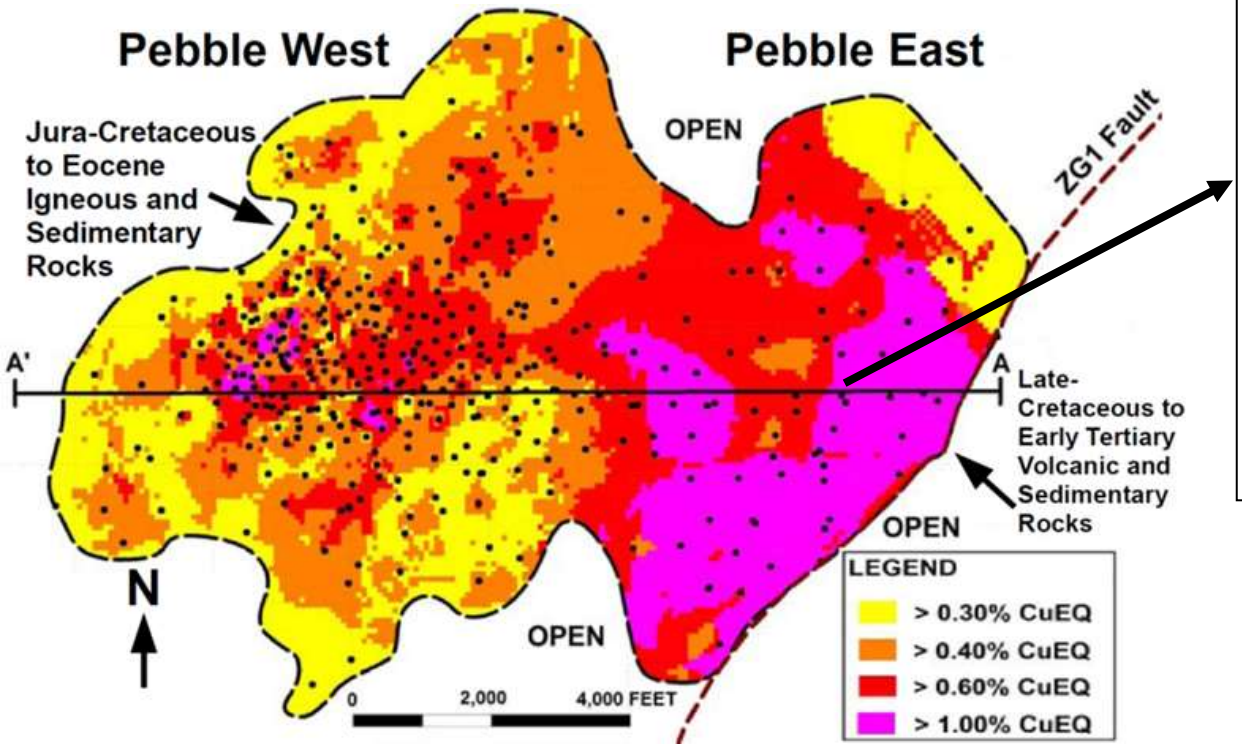
Four very different data sets inverted in 3D. All models show the Lalor deposit clearly, but the bad news is that they look different. We think they bear independent information, so a unified model that incorporates information from multiple data sets must be sought.

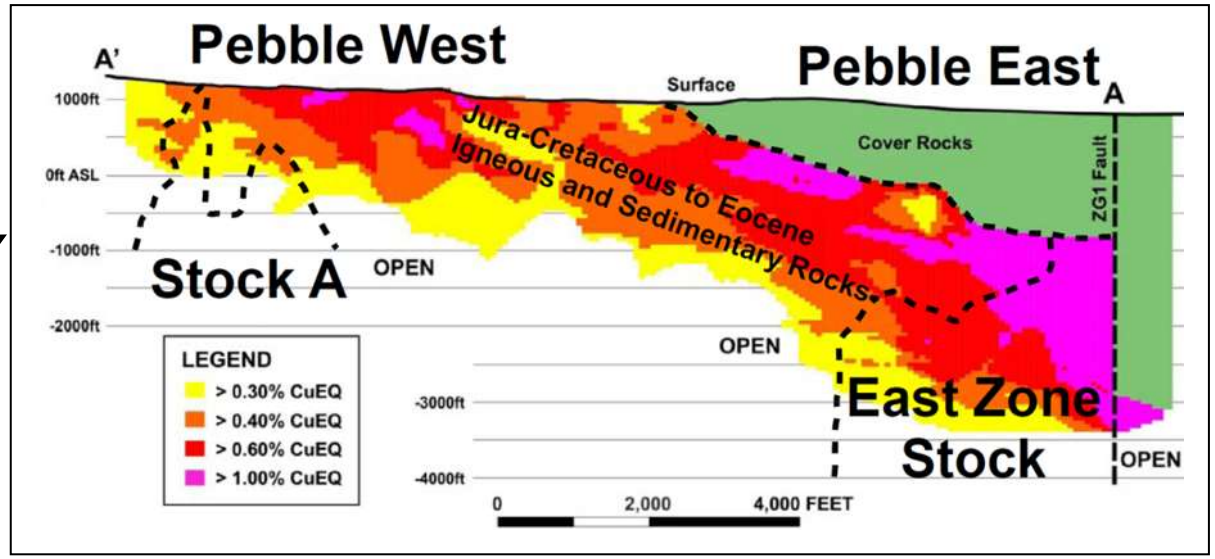
Crazy Animations Annoy Everyone



- Geophysical data are used to generate a 3D image of the area
- The reconstructed model agrees well with the existing geological knowledge
- A new mineral deposit has been discovered near the main ore bodies

A Good Example: Pebble Deposit in Alaska



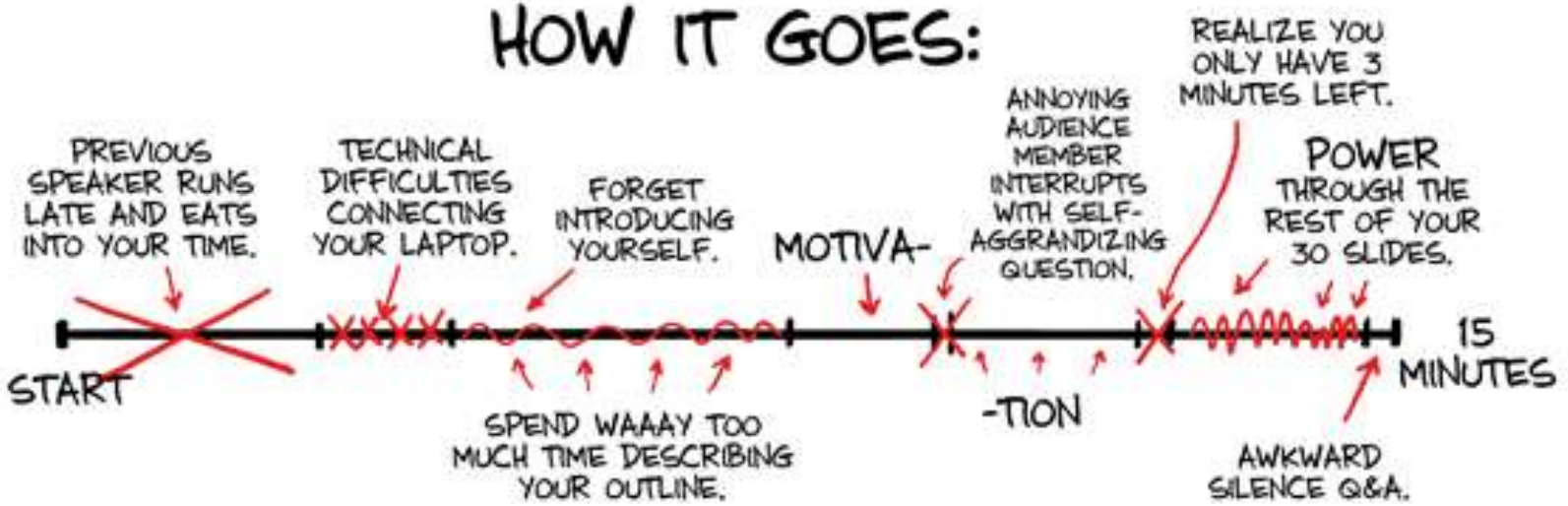


- **Pebble**: Calc-alkaline porphyry Cu-Au-Mo
- **Pebble West**: Exposed at the surface
- **Pebble East**: Higher grade but under cover
- Can geophysics discover Pebble East?

YOUR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

HOW YOU PLANNED IT:

HOW IT GOES:



(www.phdcomics.com)

You at the Podium

- Timing
  - Focus: the key information on each slide
  - Practice: identify unnecessary repetition and “um”, “you know”, “we can see”
  - You know your own research, so don’t recite
  - Get familiar with the timing and reminding system
- Stage fright
  - Confidence on the uniqueness of your research
  - Don’t take it too seriously; it’s a party!
  - Feel free to make eye contact and pause (people will appreciate that)
  - Get rid of distractions: cell phones, toilet, unpleasant food
  - Invite your friends to sit in the front rows and ask them to keep smiling

You at the Podium

- Q&A
  - Real questions, suggestions, self-aggrandizing, or hostile attack?
  - Be respectful, tolerant and honest
  - Redirect harsh comments or use humor; don’t fight
  - Take some notes: it’s the first round of peer review!
- Other tips
  - Young scientists: thank everyone (polite) and give a self introduction
  - Laser pointer is helpful but don’t over-use
  - “Less is more”: Prepare for unexpected slowing down; absolutely no rush
  - Don’t repeat the words and other obvious things on screen

Assignment 2

- Present your research in one of the following formats
  - Option 1: Record a video in the 3-minute thesis style
  - Option 2: Make a 10-slide oral presentation
  - Option 3: Make a full-size poster
- Due date: November 27
- Send your assignment to TAs

Giving a good talk is like making a good cup of coffee