Math 197: Senior Thesis

Putting Together a Poster for Presentation Days

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mathematics
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Introduction

Describe the basics about your thesis or project here—briefly! An image such as Figure 1 can help jazz up the introduction and get people interested in your poster.

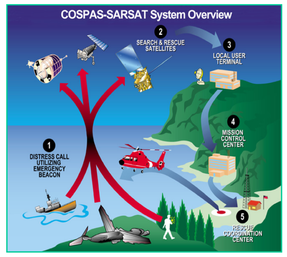


Figure 1: Search & Rescue in action!

It's important to give your reader a reason to keep reading your poster—why should they care about your project? Tell them!

Materials and Methods

Some basic information about how you went about doing your research. You might want to have some images here that show some of your equipment, your lab setup, or some other relevant things. (For example, for a project on image processing, you might have a "before" and "after" image.)

- Use itemized lists rather than full paragraphs of text
- Remember, people are supposed to be intrigued by your poster
- The details should be in your full report or thesis
- Tell them how to get those (if they can) at the end of the poster

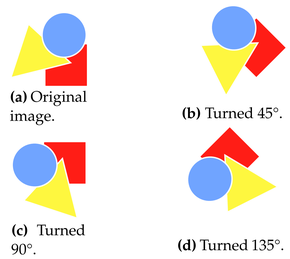
Results

Here we have the real meat of the poster. Talk about what you did, how it worked out, and how it could have gone better.

Diagrams and images—charts, graphs, photographs—are all good things to include here.

Figures in Small Multiples

Sometimes you need (or want) to include more than one image in a figure, such as when you have several close variations on a single image, as shown in Figure 2, which has subfigures a or (b). You could also refer to the subfigures as Figure 2c or Figure 2(d).



(a) Original image. **(b)** Turned 45°. **(c)** Turned 90°. **(d)** Turned 135°.

Figure 2: Small multiples.

Tables

You may also need to have some tables, in which case I strongly recommend that you stick with the booktabs package's table formats, which are clean and crisp.

As an example of a table to strive toward, Table 1 is taken from *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press, 2003). Also, all of the tables (except for those in the section describing tables, alas) in George Grätzer's *Math into LaTeX* (2000) were prepared with booktabs.

	1900		1906		1910	
Party	% of Vote	Seats Won	% of Vote	Seats Won	% of Vote	Seats Won
			Provincial Assembly			
Conservative	35.6	47	26.0	37	30.9	52
Socialist	12.4	18	27.1	44	24.8	39
Christian Democrat	49.2	85	41.2	68	39.2	59
Other	2.8	0	5.7	1	5.1	0
Total	100.0	150	100.0	150	100.0	150
			National Assembly			
Conservative	32.6	4	23.8	3	28.3	3
Socialist	13.5	1	27.3	3	24.1	2
Christian Democrat	52.0	7	42.8	6	46.4	8
Other	1.8	0	6.1	0	1.2	0
Total	100.0	12	100.0	12	100.0	13

Table 1: A sample table: Elections in Götefrith province, 1900–1910. (Taken from University of Chicago Press (2003), pg. 414.)

Etiam Commodo

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Conclusions

Rather than just a summary of your findings (which you presented in the previous section), write your *conclusions* based on those results—what have you learned, and what does what you've learned mean for your reader, the world at large, and your future research?

Integer aliquam auctor erat. Duis velit nulla, nonummy nec, elementum vel, congue sed, mauris. Fusce bibendum ipsum nec leo. Mauris ac odio. Nulla facilisi. Suspendisse vel lorem. Proin a risus. Duis justo. Proin eget purus. Aliquam eu est in enim pretium porta. Maecenas sit amet tortor vel mauris commodo vehicula. Vestibulum non ante a mi consequat porta. Aliquam sapien purus, rhoncus ac, suscipit quis, bibendum at, justo. Proin sed lacus. Sed laoreet scelerisque ipsum. Nulla velit mauris, sagittis a, pretium sed, posuere id, mauris. Phasellus ligula. Vivamus eu felis. Nam nunc.

References

As usual, you want to cite anything that you've taken from other sources, and provide the details here. If you don't want to use BibTeX, you can just put an itemized list here.

References

Grätzer, George. 2000. *Math into LaTeX*. Boston: Birkhäuser.

Purrington, Colin. 2006a. Advice on designing scientific posters. Online; viewed 2006 April 25. URL http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm.

———. 2006b. Sample scientific poster. Online; viewed 2006 April 25.

University of Chicago Press, ed. 2003. *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 15th ed.

Acknowledgments

If there are people or institutions that were particularly helpful to you during your research, thank them here. It's especially important to mention anyone who gave you money.

I want to express my appreciation to the Department of Biology at Swarthmore College, who provided an excellent sample poster (Purrington, 2006b) that helped inspire this version of our sample poster. Colin Purrington also maintains an excellent page with information about designing scientific posters. (2006a)

For Further Information

Possibly the most important section of your poster, here you want to tell people how they can find out more about your research. Be sure to include

- Your e-mail address. Mine's cmc@math.hmc.edu.
- A URL for a website with more information. http://www.math.hmc.edu/computing/support/printing/posters/.
- If possible, a URL where they can download and read your full report. The same as the last.
- A URL where they can download your *poster*. And, again, the same URL will do you.

Advisors: Melissa O'Neill , Lesley Ward