

The background of the slide is a deep space image showing a vast field of galaxies. The galaxies are of various shapes and sizes, some appearing as bright, irregular clouds of light, while others are more distant and faint. The colors range from bright yellow and orange to deep reds and purples, set against a dark, almost black, cosmic background. The overall effect is one of immense scale and the beauty of the universe.

# A Non-talk About Giving Talks

(largely subjective advice by)

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Princeton University



# Why does public speaking matter?

Free advertising!

Your ability to get a job depends on it

Astronomy funding depends on it



# Today:

Consider Your Audience

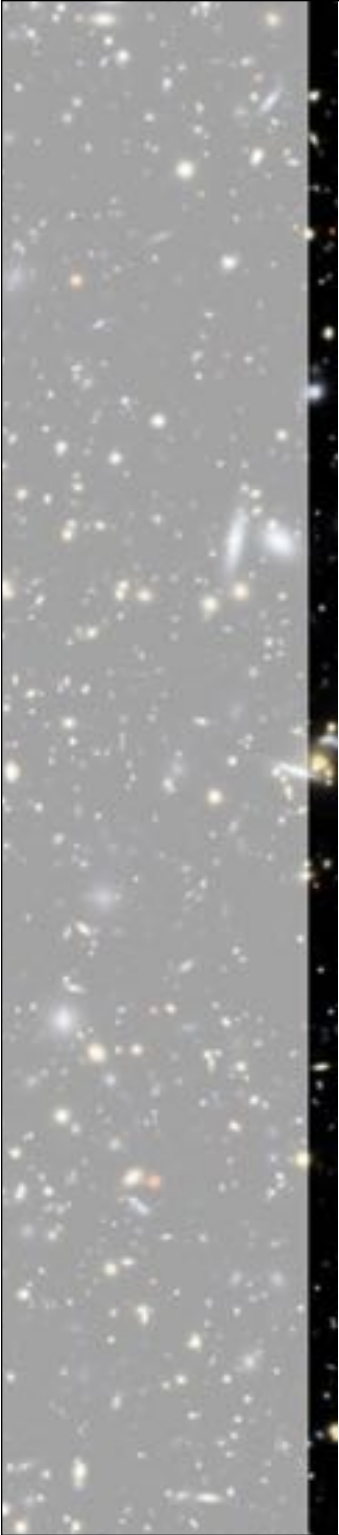
Choose Your Content

Slide Design

Practice



# Empathy



# Consider your audience

Non-Scientists

VS.

Scientists

VS.

Astronomers

VS.

Astronomers in your subfield



# Motivation

No one in the room is more interested  
in what you do than you are.

If they were, they'd be doing it.



# Audience diversity

Most audiences have both experts  
and novices.

Your job is to reach both.



# How much content belongs in my talk?

Start at the end:

What do you want people  
to know when they leave?





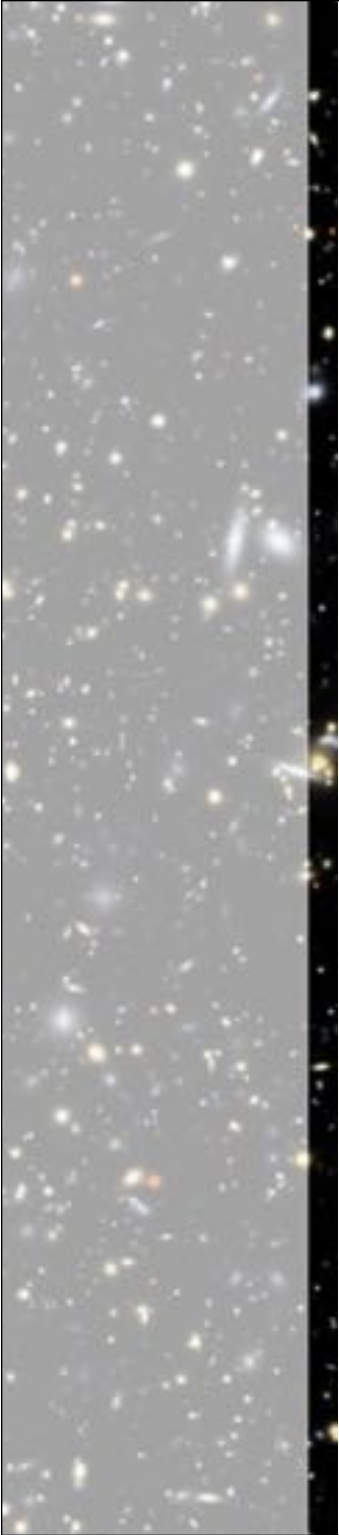
# Empathy, again

Your talk is not for you,  
it's for the audience.



Empathy, again

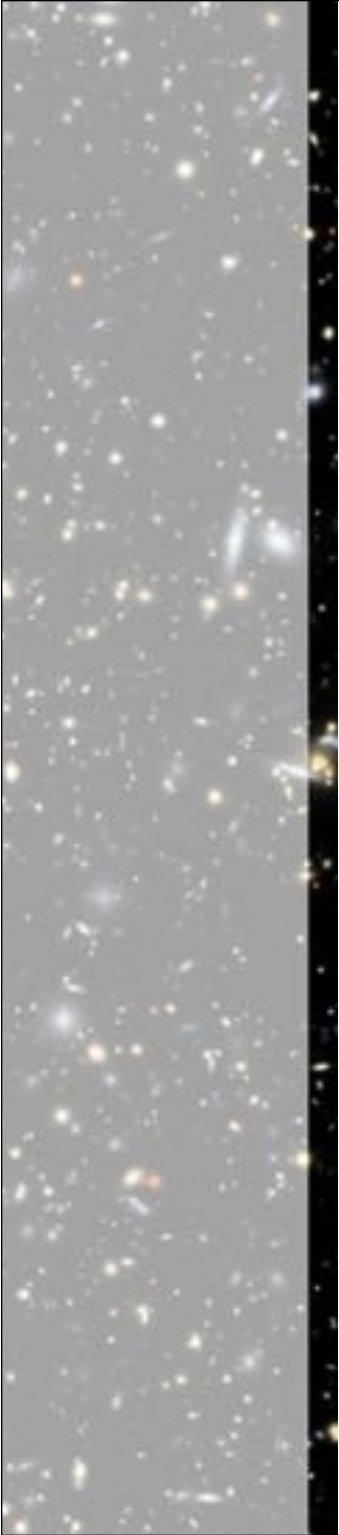
**DO NOT  
GO OVER YOUR TIME.**



# Content should fit comfortably within allotted time

People outside of your subfield  
don't necessarily know (or care)  
about your subject

Leave time for adequate  
introduction and explanation



# Content should fit comfortably within allotted time

Human beings have ~10 minute  
attention spans

## Consider making your talk modular



# Slide Design Basics

If it doesn't convey meaning  
don't put it on the slide

People can't listen and read  
simultaneously

Try to provide visual interest,  
not distraction



# Forget 95% of the features in your presentation software

Color is good but you don't need many--  
use saturation to convey importance

Bullets do not exist, neither do animations

You probably don't need bold or italic font



# What words go on slides?

Not many.

Slides  $\neq$  Documents.



# Showing plots

Relabel your axes

Directional arrows provide guidance

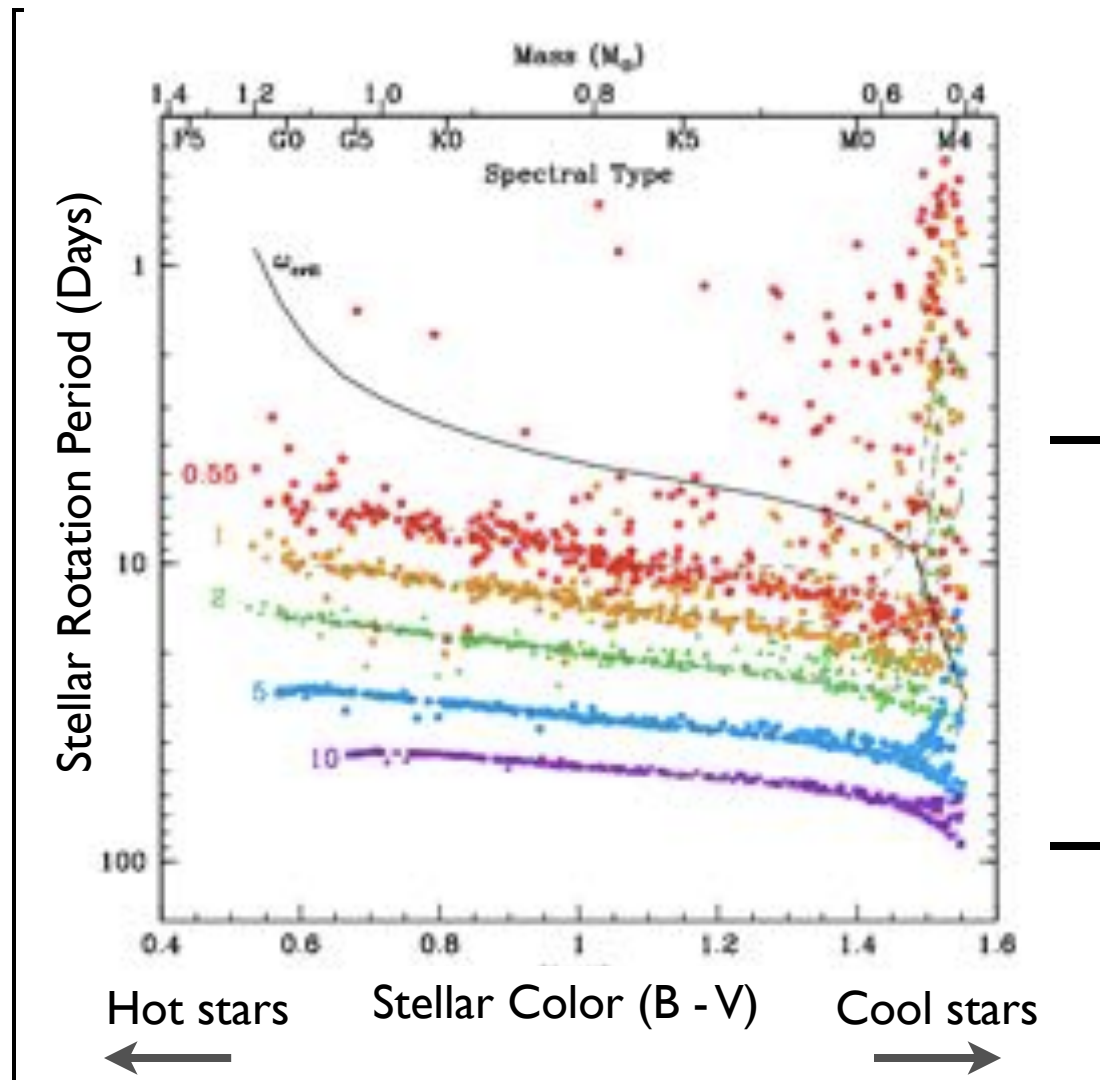
Color code when appropriate

Use the title to summarize the point



# Gyrochronology (age-rotation) relationships provide an estimate of the stellar age

Rotation slows with age



Age Snapshots:

0.55 Gyr

1 Gyr

2 Gyr

5 Gyr

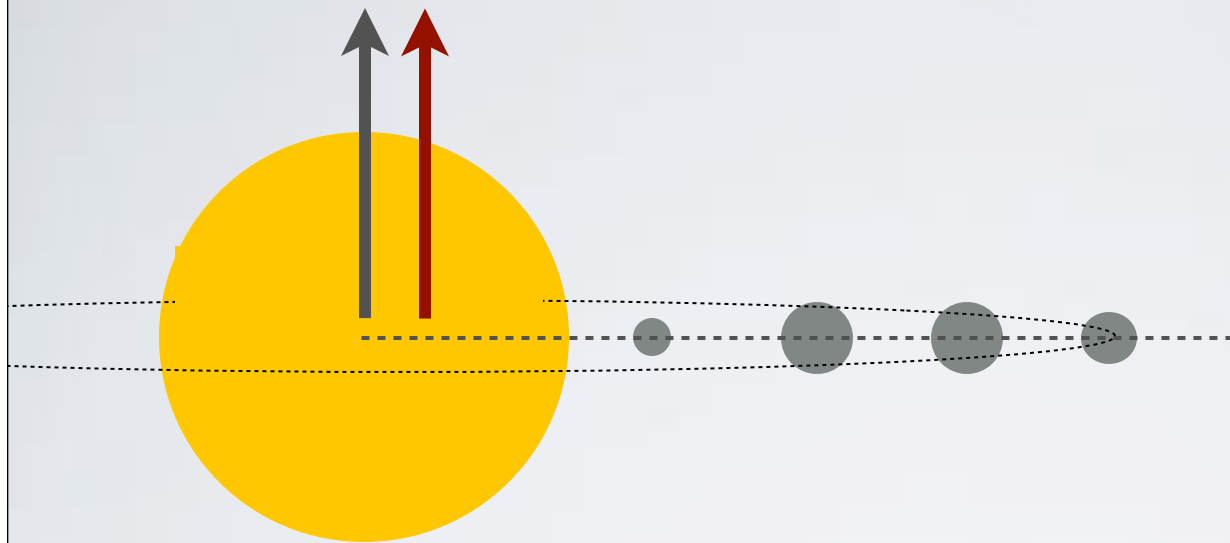
10 Gyr

models from Epstein & Pinsonneault (2012)



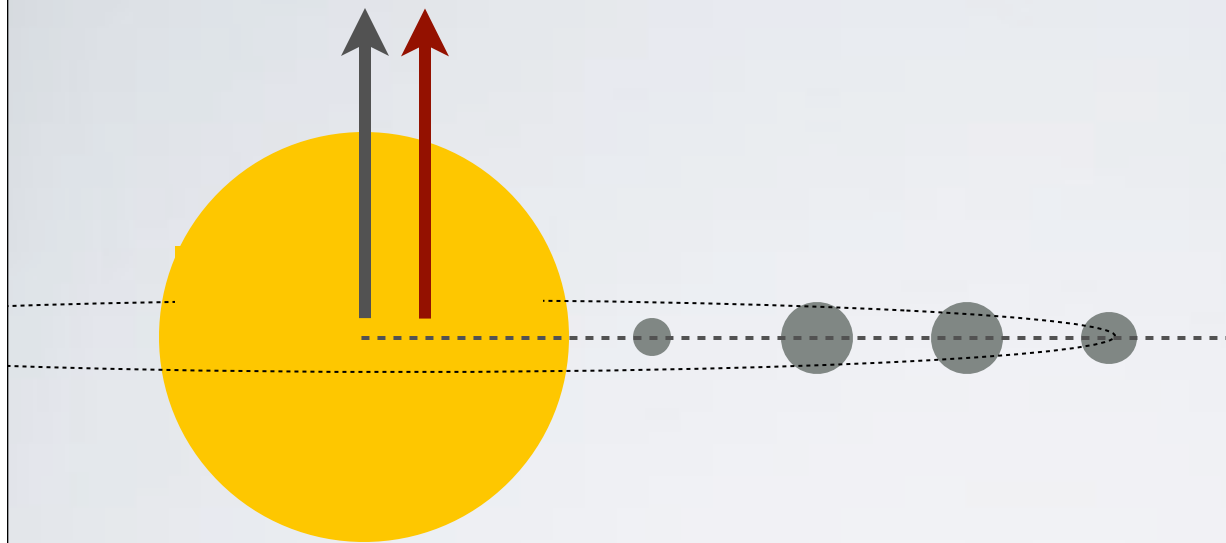
Cartoons are your friends

# Our expectations for exoplanet systems

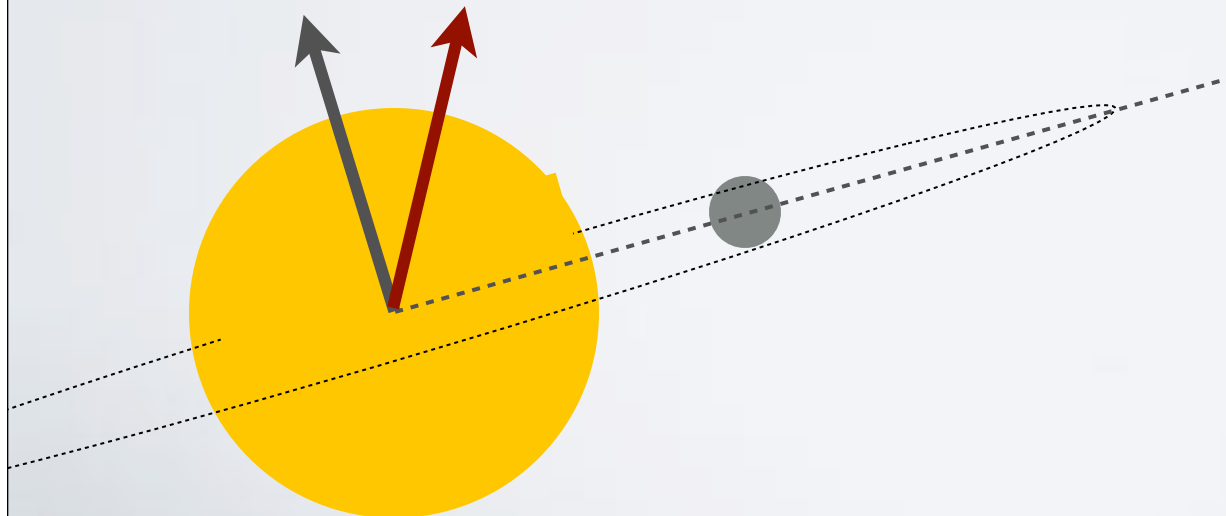


Our Solar System:  
close alignment between  
**stellar** and orbital axes

# Our expectations for exoplanet systems



Our Solar System:  
close alignment between  
**stellar** and orbital axes



Hot Jupiters around  
Hot Stars  
misalignment between  
**stellar** and orbital axes



# Practice

Practice... a lot

Film yourself and cringe

Practice for colleagues

Take criticism seriously



# A Few Parting Thoughts



# Credit where credit is due

Cite others, cite yourself

Use public domain images and  
give attribution

Practice using the word “I”



# On answering questions

People raise their hands for two reasons:

1. They have something to say
2. They have something to ask





# On answering questions

Remain calm, don't get defensive

Persistent questions are a sign of interest

You did the research, that makes you an expert

If you don't know, it's OK to say you have to think about it



# A few links

<http://bit.ly/scipres1>

<http://bit.ly/scipres2>

<http://www.colourlovers.com>