Final project presentations
Presentation schedule

• Each team will give a presentation on their project

• Email me slides prior to class
  – Powerpoint or pdf ok

• All team members should participate in presenting and answering questions

• After that:
  – Demonstrations during lab, last week of class
  – Final reports due the Monday of finals week
Giving technical presentations

• First determine:
  – what is the purpose of your talk?
  – who is the audience?
  – what do you want the audience to come away with?
  – for example, these talks would be very different:
    • A presentation to a client
    • A presentation at a technical conference
    • A presentation in your class

• Most presentations are very time limited
  – You can’t cover everything
  – But on the parts you do cover, you should do a good job
    • you should show that you thoroughly understand the problem and have a good solution or approach
    • the audience will infer that you have done a good job on the other parts as well
Technical presentations (continued)

• You want to avoid raising doubts ("red flags") in the mind of the audience, about the soundness of your work
  – The audience will worry and start questioning everything you have done

• Some ways to avoid this:
  – Well designed slides
    • Readable, neat, clear
    • Sufficient technical detail appropriate to the audience
    • It’s ok to show more detail than you will cover ... just address the overall picture and maybe go into more detail on one piece
  – No mistakes on slides (including spelling and grammar)
  – Know what you are talking about
    • If you try to bluff your way through and are caught, it destroys your credibility
    • It’s ok to not know everything (but you should know the important things!)
Technical presentations (continued)

• A good format is --->

• That way, if you need to shorten your talk, you just cut out the middle

• Practice, practice, practice!
  – It will improve your confidence
  – It will make the talk go smoother
  – It will avoid problems with running over (or under)
Critical Design Review

• Demonstrates that the design will meet the requirements
• Has sufficient technical detail (hardware, software) to support this

• You should show
  – An understanding of the requirements
  – Schematic diagram(s)
  – Software flowchart(s) or pseudocode
  – Timing diagram(s)
Additional information

- Classes on “Professional Oral Communications” are good
- The books by Edward Tufte are very good:
  - “The Visual Display of Quantitative Information” and others

Charles Joseph Minard’s thematic map of Napoleon’s ill-fated march on Moscow. Six separate variables are captured on a two dimensional surface. “It may well be the best statistical graphic ever drawn.” (Tufte)