

How to Give a Talk (Saavik-style)

K. E. Saavik Ford

CUNY Borough of Manh. Comm. College/Am. Museum of Natural History

Friday Rogue Workshop

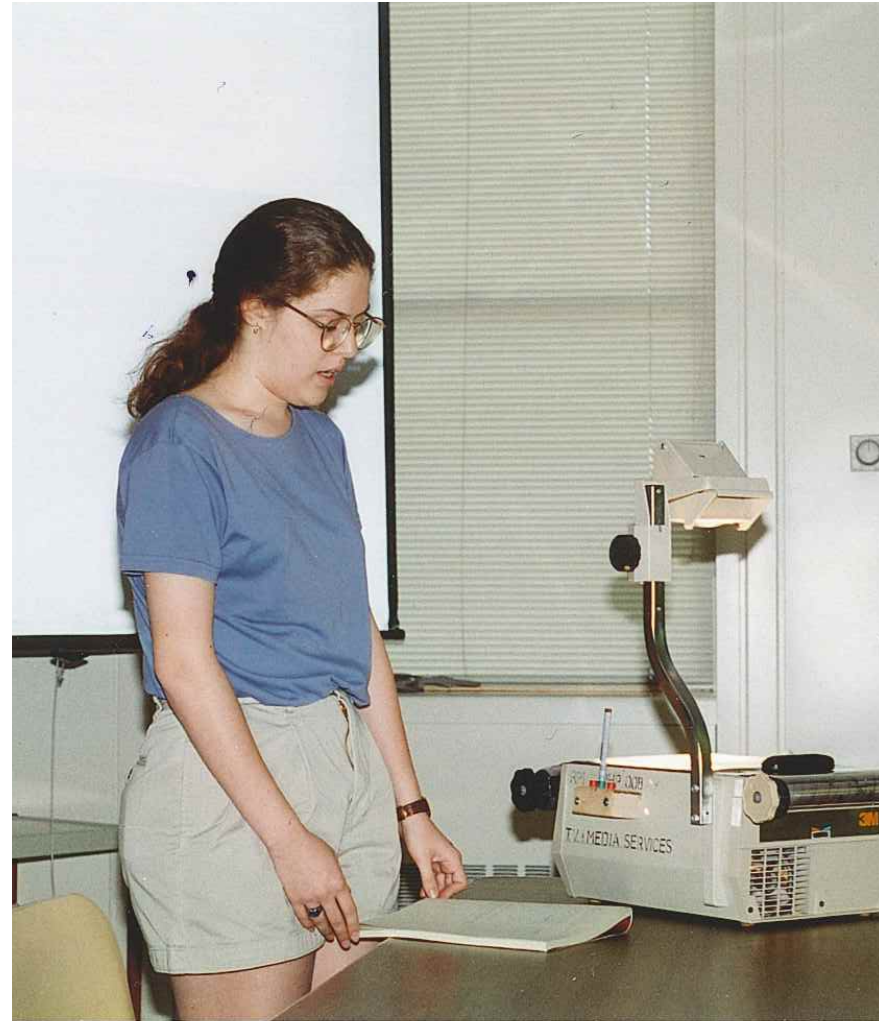
Oct 18, 2019

Tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em

- My first talk
- Body language
- Preparation
- Slides and visuals
- Structure and pacing
- Do's and Don't's

Saavik at 19

- I wasn't born good at this!



But I got better

- My 3rd professional talk



Body language

- Look at the audience
 - Cover the audience in a 'Z' pattern
 - Slowly
 - Look at friends
 - Gauge and adjust
- Never read from a script

Moving & Shaking

- Don't block the screen
- Use your hands
 - But deliberately
- Use pointers
 - But deliberately
- Talk less, smile more
 - BUT definitely let them know what you're against and what you're for!

ANXIETY

- Is your friend



Prepare yourself

- Know your audience
 - Ask your host
- Know your equipment
 - Projector/connector issues
 - Videos
 - Microphones—wear something with pockets
- Have a ritual

PRACTICE

Prepare your audience

- Narrative sets up your slides
- Explain, then show
- People cannot read & listen
- Use pauses

Getting Invited

- Invite yourself

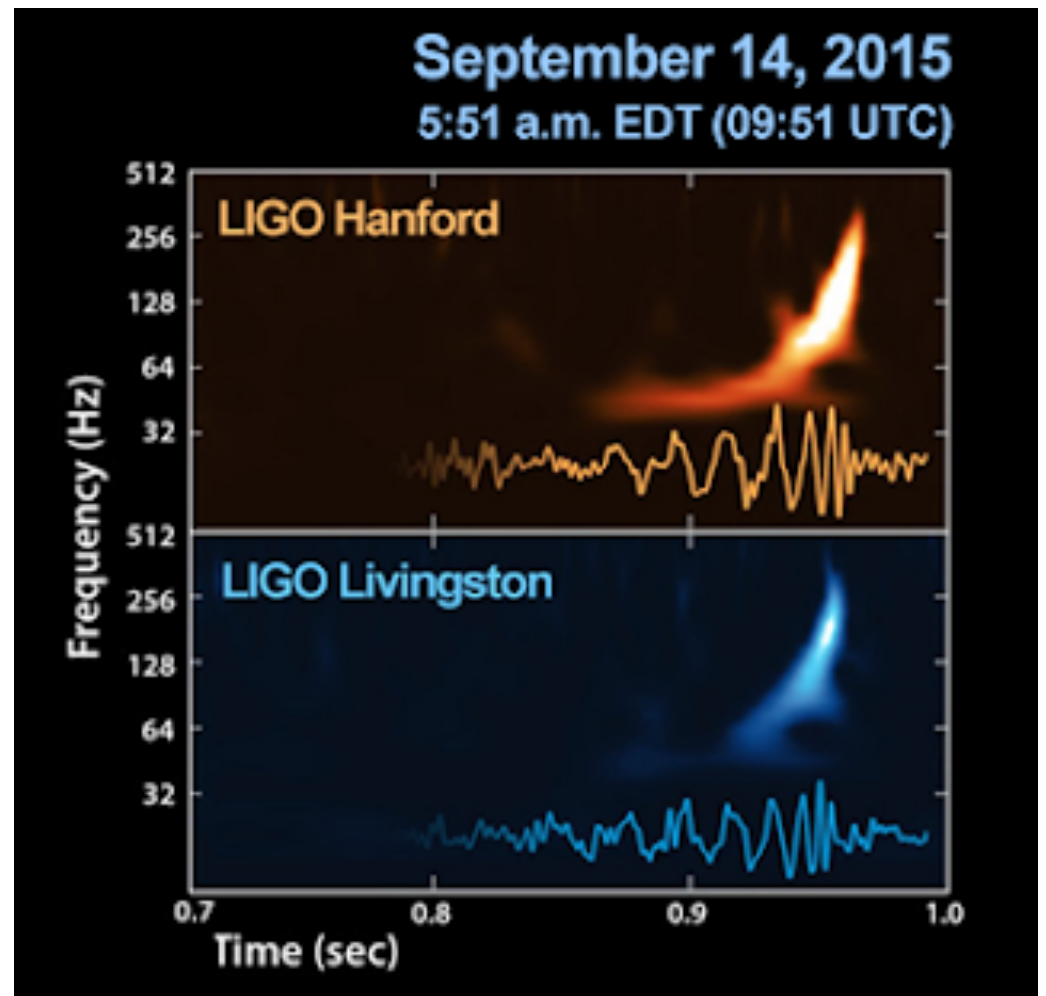


Slides

- 1 per 1-2 minutes of talk, MAX
- Minimalist
- Do not read

Figures

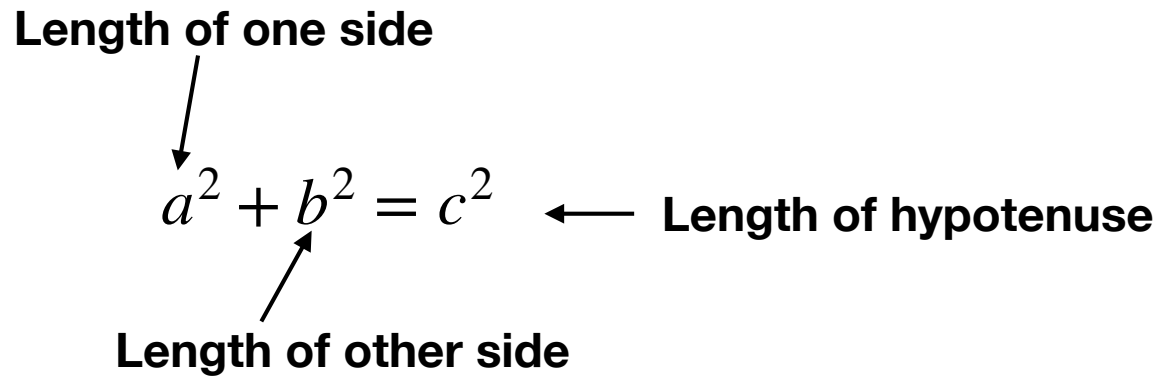
- Set them up



Equations

- Because they're important

Length of one side



The diagram shows the equation $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ with three arrows pointing to its components: one from 'Length of one side' to a^2 , one from 'Length of other side' to b^2 , and one from 'Length of hypotenuse' to c^2 .

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

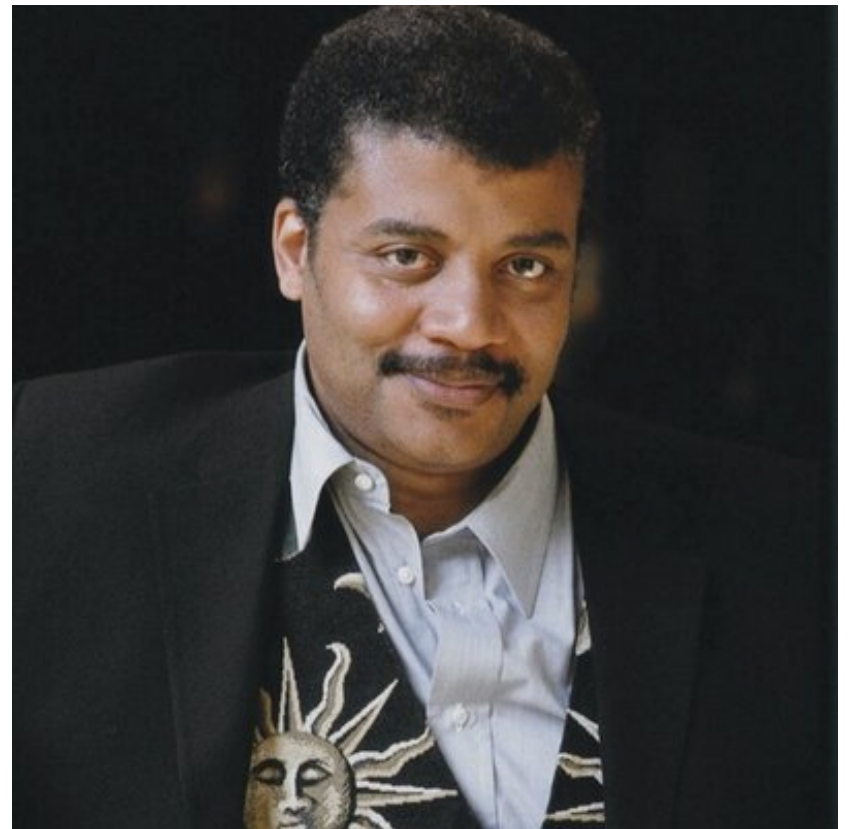
Length of hypotenuse

Length of other side

- Because you're in a pissing contest

Structure & Pacing

- Tell a story
- 1/3 to 1/2 should be intro and set up
- Drive towards a main point



Be precise

- And relatable
- But not flippant



Do's

- Practice practice practice
 - In front of people
- Tell a story
- Own your contributions
 - Give credit to others where appropriate
- Have a pocket
- Request feedback

Don't's

- Run long
- Block the view
- Apologize: do it right or don't show
- Read
- Dribble off at the end

Tell 'em what you told 'em

- Body language
 - Look, be confident, don't block
- Prepare
 - Know Audience, Design Visuals, Practice
- Structure and pacing
 - Beginning-middle-end

Have backup slides

- But only if someone asks