

## How to give a seminar talk

Manuel Lüthi, Andreas Wieser

16. Januar 2018

In this short text we would like to explain a good strategy for you to approach giving a talk in our seminar “Homogeneous Dynamics and Counting Problems”.

1. *Read the main reference* for your talk. A reference can sometimes be short on the details and thus it is a great (and necessary) exercise for you to fill in the gaps.

It can also be useful to look at other references so that one obtains a broad view of the topic. Make sure that you understand why the topic you are talking about is interesting and how it fits into the context of the previous talks. If you don't know how or where to obtain good additional references, do not hesitate to contact us.

2. *Solve exercises* on the topic of your talk. For this, it is of course advisable to start with the exercises of the main reference (if it contains any). Again, we can provide additional exercises if necessary.
  3. *Choose 1-3 goals* for your talk. Make sure that the other students see the goals of your talk as soon as possible.
  4. *Ask questions* if something is not clear to you.
  5. *Do a write-up* of your talk that addresses your goals. It should be written like “lecture notes” for yourself. We also encourage you to share it with the other participants of the seminar.
  6. *Test your talk* on somebody and record the time. It may even be useful to take the time at several points of your talk.
  7. *Be open to constructive feedback*. Teaching is usually learned in practice, which is one of the main goals of this seminar.
-