
PRESENTATIONS USING seminar.sty

- **What is seminar.sty?**
- **The basics**
- **Importing graphics**
- **Color and other fancy stuff**
- **Pointers for making “good” slides**
- **Laptop presentations**
- **Where to learn more**
- **Competing packages**

WHAT IS seminar.sty?

Background: seminar.sty is a L^AT_EX *document class* for typesetting slides

- Created and freely distributed by Timothy Van Zandt at Princeton University
- Has been around for over 10 years
- One of *many* resources for creating presentations using L^AT_EX and still one of the most *popular*

Here: A *very brief* introduction

- See the User's Guide and examples on the class web page for much more...

THE BASICS

Usage: For full-sized slides

```
\documentclass{seminar}
```

- Options for making *handouts*
- *Special commands* (some of these coming up...)
- *Almost anything* one would do in an ordinary L^AT_EX document can be done in **seminar**

Creating a single slide: *Easy!*

```
\begin{slide}
```

```
stuff on slide
```

```
\end{slide}
```

- Creates a slide in *landscape* format
- Can also create slides in *portrait* format; may be useful for presentations using *transparencies* (which no one uses anymore!) but *not* for presentations using *a laptop*

```
\begin{slide*}
```

```
stuff on slide
```

```
\end{slide*}
```

Content of slides: May be *anything*

- *Text*
- *Math* (mathematical expressions, displayed equations, etc.)
- *Tables and figures* (imported graphics)
- *Pictures*

Size of slide content: Scaled to be *larger* than in a regular document

- ... So there is a *limit* to what will fit on a slide (more later)

Use of packages: Most L^AT_EX packages may be used with `seminar.sty`

- Packages for *importing graphics*
- Here, I have used `fancyheadings.sty` to create a “*header*” and “*footer*” for each slide (these could in fact be changed during the presentation; e.g., display the title of the current section); see slide 15
- In addition, `seminar` has its *own commands*

Special commands: Like any L^AT_EX package, `seminar` defines a number of commands

- See the *documentation* for a complete description (slide 29)

Examples:

- *Vertical positioning* – default is for material on each slide to be *vertically centered*; may be changed to be *Flush to the top* using

```
\centerslidesfalse
```

and back to centered again with `\centerslidestrue`

- *Frames* – default is for slides to have a *frame* (the plain style); may be changed to with

```
\slideframe{style}
```

where valid styles are plain and none; the fancybox package offers *further options*

Examples, continued:

- Use `\slideframe{none}` for *laptop presentations* (coming up)
- *Size* – Dimensions are set using `\slideheight` and `\slidewidth` (defaults are 8.5 in wide and 6.3 in high), e.g., these slides use `\setlength{\slideheight}{6.6in}`

Preparing handouts: Printed slides two-to-a-page (“*two-up*”) or four-to-a-page (“*four-up*”)

- *Printing* “*two-up*”

```
\documentclass [article, portrait] {seminar}
```

Slides come out two-to-a-page in *landscape format*

- *Printing* “*four-up*”

```
\documentclass [article, portrait] {seminar}
```

```
\twoup [1]
```

- See the *template file* `seminartemplate.tex` and examples on the class web page

IMPORTING GRAPHICS

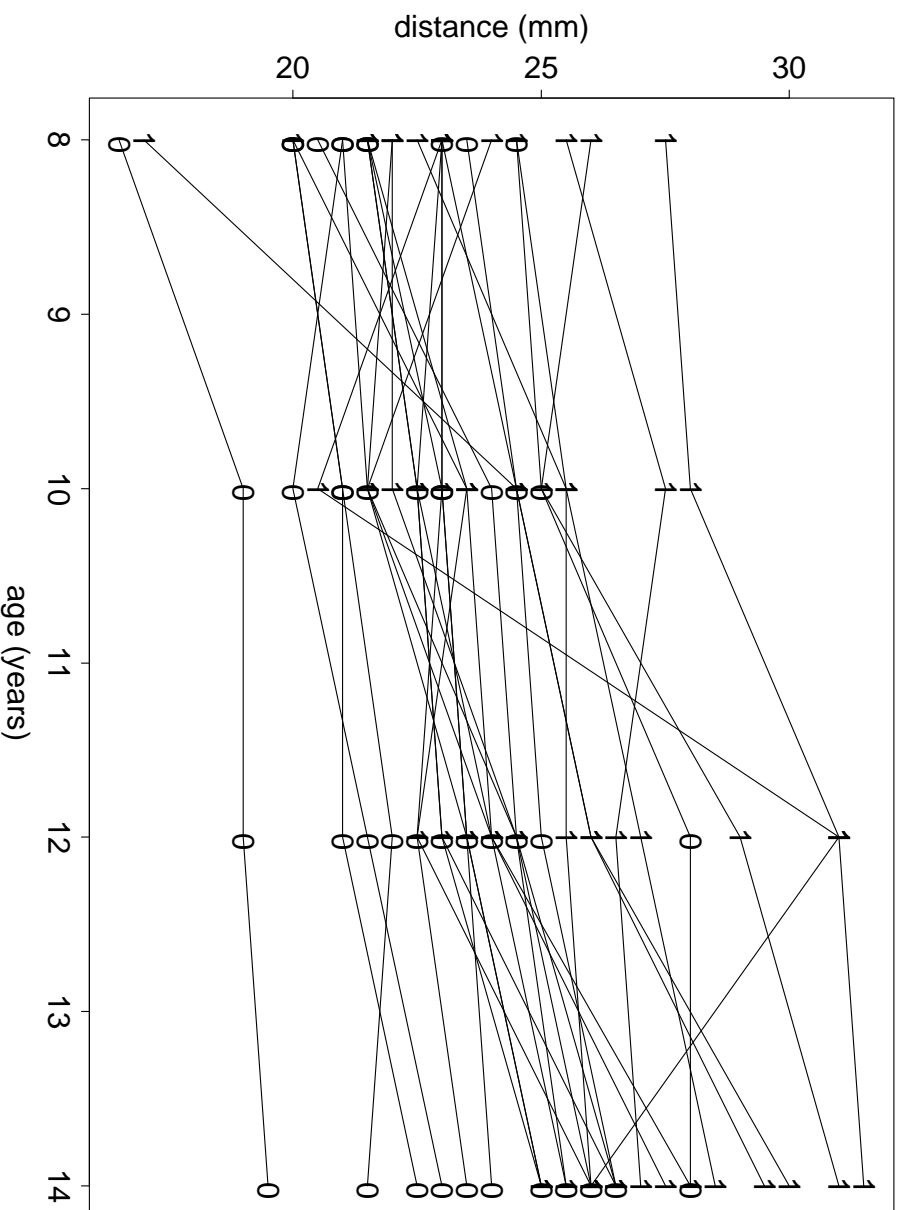
Several options: Can use psfig, epsf, graphicx, etc, as in an usual L^AT_EX document

- *For example* – using graphicx

```
\begin{slide}
{\bf \red Dental trajectories for 27 children:}
\begin{figure}
\begin{center}
\includegraphics[height=2.5in]{dental.ps}
\end{center}
\end{figure}
\end{slide}
```

Dental trajectories for 27 children:

Dental Study Data



COLOR AND OTHER FANCY STUFF

Colors: I use the `ps tricks` package to define colors

- Some colors (including `red`, `green`, `blue`, `cyan`, `magenta`, and `yellow`) are *predefined*
- Others can be *defined*
- See the *template* file and the `ps tricks` documentation (link on the class web page)

Making headings: I use the following `\newcommand` that exploits the shadow package

```
\newcommand{\myheading}[1]{\begin{center}\shabox{\bf #1}\end{center}}
and invoke it as
```

```
\myheading{\blue COLOR AND OTHER FANCY STUFF}}
```

Making bullets: I make *colored bullets* with

```
\newcommand{\ritem}{\item {\red $\mbox{}}$}}
```

```
\begin{itemize}
```

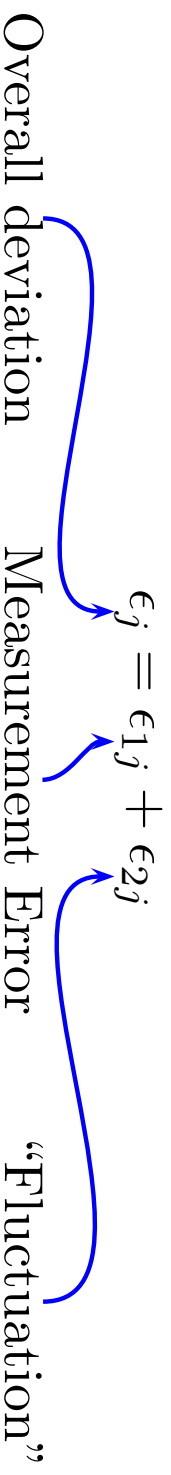
```
\ritem This item will have a red bullet
```

```
\end{itemize}
```

Other neat stuff: Drawing arrows to stuff using the pst-node

package

```
$$\rnode{1t}{\epsilon_{1j}}=\rnode{ftt}{\epsilon_{1j}}+\rnode{st}{\epsilon_{2j}}$$  
  
\hfill\rnode{t1}{Overall deviation}  
  
\hfill\rnode{ttf}{Measurement Error}  
  
\hfill\rnode{tts}{'Fluctuation'}  
  
\hspace*{\fill}  
  
\ncurve[1linecolor=blue,angleA=90,angleB=270]{-->}{t1}{1t}  
\ncurve[1linecolor=blue,angleA=90,angleB=270]{-->}{ttf}{ftt}  
\ncurve[1linecolor=blue,angleA=90,angleB=270]{-->}{tts}{st}
```



Other neat stuff: Here's how I made the *headers* and *footers* – this goes at the beginning of the *document body*

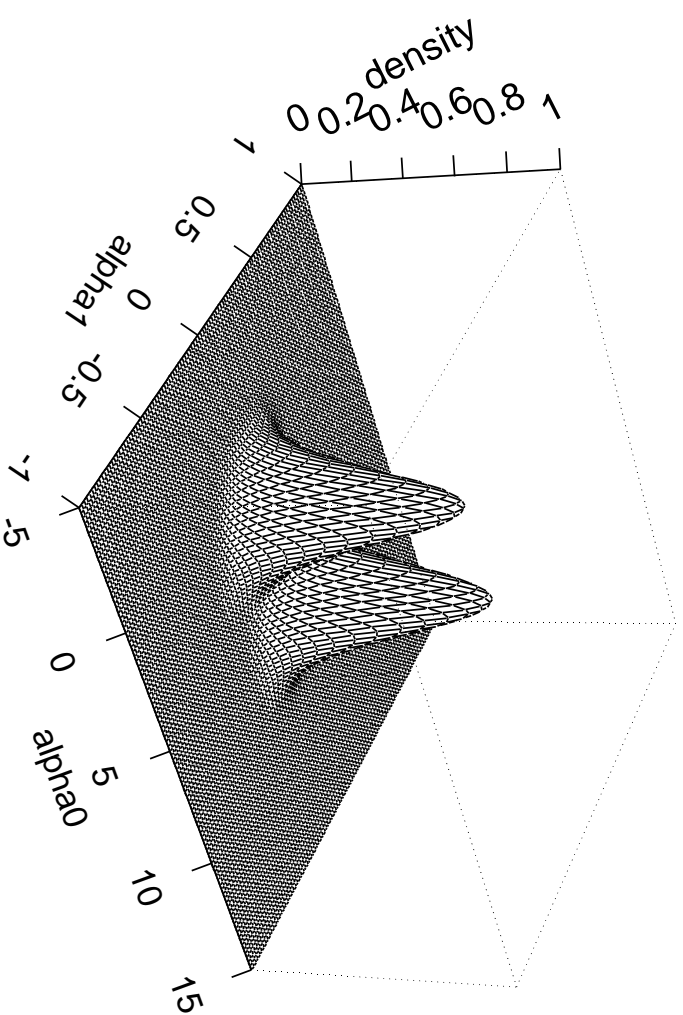
```
\pagestyle{fancy}
\setlength{\headrulewidth}{0.15pt}
\setlength{\footrulewidth}{.15pt}
\rhead{\includegraphics[height=0.3cm]{newlogo.ps}}
\lhead{\scriptsize \sl ST 810A, M. Davidian, Spring 2004}
\lfoot{\scriptsize \sl Presentations using {\tt seminar.sty}}
\cfoot{ }
\rfoot{\scriptsize \rm \theslide}
```

Other neat stuff: Can insert *math* into figures using the `psfrag` package – put the following before the figure

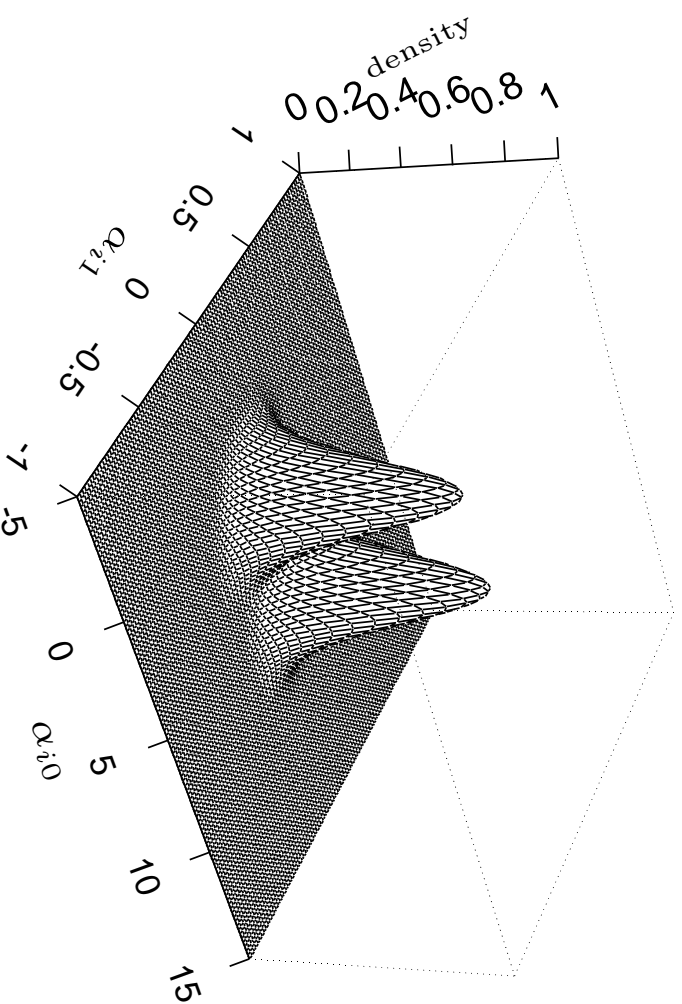
```
\psfrag{\alpha0}{\scriptsize $\alpha_{i0}$}$  
\psfrag{\alpha1}{\scriptsize $\alpha_{i1}$}$  
\psfrag{density}{\tiny density}
```

- *Replaces* the first argument with the second

Without psfrag:



With psfrag:



POINTERS FOR MAKING GOOD SLIDES

Personal view:

- *Good slides* are *simple slides* – try not to pack *too much* on one slide, and try not to make *busy* slides
- Use a *consistent style* throughout a presentation
- Use *bullets* to organize material
- Use *color* for highlighting important points (but remember some colors *may not show up well* on screen or on handouts)
- If appropriate, use *lots of figures*
- Use tables of numbers *sparingly*
- Do not introduce *too much notation*; your audience will never remember it all!

LAPTOP PRESENTATIONS

These days... . . . Transparencies are a *thing of the past!*

- *Projection equipment is now reliable*
- *Projection is slicker*
- Can use *devices* such as *overlays* (possible with seminar) and slick *slide transitions* (possible with add-ons to seminar)
- *More generally*, use of a laptop allows *greater flexibility* (e.g., show video clips, access web sites, etc.)

- Result:** The *modern* presenter will prepare a *laptop presentation*
- Standard in *industry*
 - Standard at *statistical meetings, seminars*

Animation: There are many popular *effects* that one can exploit in a laptop presentation

- A useful such effect is the ability to uncover material on a slide a little bit at a time
- Sometimes called “cumulative overlays”
- seminar only does “non-cumulative” overlays

Cumulative overlays: Not built-in to seminar, but there is a [fix-up](#)

- Add the following to the preamble:

```
\makeatletter
\def\pst@initoverlay#1{%
\pst@Verb{%
/BeginOL {dup (all) eq exch TheOL 1e or {IfVisible not {Visible
/IfVisible true def} if} {IfVisible {Invisible /IfVisible false
ifelse} def
\tx@InitOL /TheOL (#1) def}}
\makeatother
```

To uncover material a bit at a time:

```
\begin{overlay}{0}  
This comes up first\ldots  
\end{overlay}
```

```
\begin{overlay}{1}  
And then this\ldots  
\end{overlay}
```

```
\begin{overlay}  
And finally this!  
\end{overlay}
```

This comes up first...

This comes up first...

And then this...

This comes up first...

And then this...

And finally this!

Overlay facts:

- May be *turned on or off* with `\overlaystrue` and `\overlaysfalse` (for printing handouts)
- See the *class web page* for the source code to a full talk made with seminar that makes use of cumulative overlays

Personal opinion: There can be *too much of a good thing* when it comes to *fancy slide shows*

Recommendations:

- *Learn* how to make laptop presentations
- Get used to using a *laser pointer*
- Become comfortable – remember, you can't *write on slides!*
- Presentations with a laptop are *fun!*

How to project slides made using seminar?

- Create a pdf file
 - stat% add acrobat
 - stat% latex myslides
 - stat% dvips -P pdf myslides
 - stat% distill myslides.ps
- Can use *full screen mode* of *Acrobat* reader
- Can also use new versions of *ghostview* to project postscript version in *full screen mode*
- *Advantage of pdf* – *portability* (many Windows users will not have postscript viewer installed)

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

Written and web resources:

- Van Zandt, T. (1993) seminar.sty: A L^AT_EX Style for Slides and Notes. (*Available on the class web page, along with a template file and examples.*)
- Examples, other resources (prepared by Denis Girou) available at <http://www.tug.org/applications/Seminar/> (*There is a link on the class web page.*)

COMPETING PACKAGES

For making laptop presentations:

- seminar is really a *basic* choice
- Other packages allow *fancy backgrounds, neat slide transitions, etc.*
- Options are *too numerous* to demonstrate

Some possibilities:

- prosper – uses seminar but adds fancy *backgrounds, slide transitions* (see link on the class web page)
- texpower
- foilltex, pdftex/pdflatex
- ppower4
- *Go to google and type latex presentations!*
- *Some links* to examples available on the class web page