

# The Conference Tail



There has to be an end of some kind.

How did this happen to me? I was the one on the SOC arguing that we shouldn't have a summary.

At the end of my presentation you  
may decided that this is a better  
option?



# Option 1:

- Arrive at conference on Thursday afternoon and talk about my own work in the “Summary”

## Option 2:

- Attend all sessions, dutifully take notes, and try to summarize and highlight what happened.

# Why not to do Option 2

- Others have already provided better summaries of the various subject areas better than I can.
- My summary would reflect my tastes. You need something that reflects your tastes.
- It would be impossible not to upset some participants.
- You'd forget what I said by next week.
- Doing this would ruin the conference for me.

## Option 3:

- Do something so strange that nobody ever asks me to do a conference summary again.
- But you might remember it.

# Review of Conference Logistics

- ✓ AV
- ✓ Ample break and discussion time
- ✓ Good poster location
- ✓ Superior organization: Thanks CC









# A couple of questions I always ask myself

- Did I get at least one new idea which will affect my research?
- Did I meet at least one new potential collaborator?

# A preachy section

- Verbal rant on Powerpoint presentations

# A few random thoughts

- Too much data can be bad
- Never try to verify your own results
- Whenever I get depressed about 3-Helium, I'll think about 6-Lithium
- Tables of possible errors filling an entire page/slide have got to be bad for the health.

# More random thoughts

- Referees (and TACs) make us do stupid things
  - Regressions
  - Systematic Error Bars
- We may be in real trouble as many of those doing fundamental but not flashy science retire.

It had been a very long meeting. They considered this in silence.

Finally A spoke, very slowly and carefully. For a change.

“I look at it like this,” he said. “Before this meeting I was like everybody else. You know what I mean? I was confused and uncertain about the all of the little details, but now,” he brightened up, “I’m still confused and uncertain but on a much higher plane, d’you see, and at least I know I’m bewildered about the really fundamental and important facts of the Universe.”

B nodded. “I hadn’t looked at like that,” she said, “but you’re absolutely right. The study of the light elements has really pushed back the boundaries of ignorance. There’s so much about the universe we don’t know.”

They both savored the strange warm glow of being much more ignorant than ordinary people, who are ignorant of only ordinary things.

*Thanks to Tom Bania, and apologies to Terry Pratchett*

I'll end with something I hope you  
appreciate in the future.