Introduction to BeamerPoster

Please see the following poster examples:

- JSM2019.zip – Landscape poster for the Joint Statistical Meetings in 2019. Headers for three main columns are used. This poster won the American Statistical Association's Statistical Significance Poster Award.

- RSS 2018 Presentation.zip – Portrait poster for the Royal Statistical Society Conference in 2018. Brianna Hitt presented it.

- NESSiS.zip – Landscape poster for the New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports in 2019. This is a simpler poster format than the JSM2019.zip poster.

Options

There are many different options for creating posters. I primarily have used Microsoft's Publisher software during my career. This has more flexibility that Microsoft's PowerPoint software, because Publisher is made for a variety of publication formats. I recently started using BeamerPoster in LyX to create posters. The authors used the Beamer package with some additional content to create this new package. Therefore, the package provides a familiar setting for Beamer users to create a poster. While not as flexible as Microsoft Publisher, I think it does a good job.

The purpose of this document is to provide introductory notes on how to use BeamerPoster that any Beamer user could use to get started.

Important points

- Top concept to understand: The poster is ONE slide in Beamer!

- Different portions to the poster are created by dividing the slide into columns. The width of the columns is specified with `\linewidth`.

- Use blocks within a column to separate out parts of your text. There are three types of blocks available:

  - Block
  - Example
  - Alert

  Within slide-based presentations, blocks are used to differentiate text from other items on a slide. For example, a theorem could be stated within one of these blocks. For posters, these blocks work very well to distinguish segments of text, tables, or figures. Also, I will often use a block with multiple blocks within it to provide a column header - see JSM2019.zip.

- My preferred theme is Berlin for posters due to the overall structure and color of the document.

- A parbox needs to be used to force LaTeX to print the title, author, and affiliation information.

- Set orientation, size, and font scaling with `\PassOptionsToPackag` in the premable.

- LyX comes with a number of templates for posters - see FILE > NEW FROM TEMPLATE. I used poster-beamerposter.lyx when I started with BeamerPoster.

- When creating a poster, I strong recommend to

  - Modify a previous poster LyX file that compiles correctly
  - Frequently compile your LyX file to make sure that it still compiles correctly

Smaller points

- The default colors for the Berlin theme can be a little dull when printed on a fabric poster. You can change these colors using `\setbeamercolor{}` within the preamble. Note that colors can be made partially transparent by using something like `red!30` (30% of the true color).

- The title bar of a block will automatically adjust its height when a letter, like "p", has part of its character drop below the normal text line. Unfortunately, LaTeX does not properly adjust other title bars to be the same height, so you are left with differing heights of these title bars throughout the poster. A fix for this problem is to use a strut in each title bar that forces a uniform height.

- Because Beamer is used for presentations, a number of items need to be removed from the one slide created by Beamer-Poster. For example, all of the default navigation elements of a presentation need to be removed.