

Final Project

IFT 6268, Winter 2016

Due: April 19, 2016, either by email (*pdf only*) or hand in a paper copy (Pav. A. Aisenstadt, 3349)

- The final project is worth 40%
- For the final project, pick a simple but original idea, implement it and test it on some data. Hand in a paper of a few pages, where you describe the idea, relate it to existing work, and discuss your results.
- Your submission should be prepared in the NIPS paper style available at

<http://nips.cc/PaperInformation/StyleFiles>

It must be no longer than 9 pages. Do not hand in any code.

- The last classes in April is reserved for short project presentations (around 15 minutes each). The purpose of these presentations is to present the idea, related work, any preliminary results, and to get feedback.
- To get an idea of possible project topics, you can find some example ideas at

http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~memisevr/teaching/ift6268_2016/projectideas.txt

You may either come up with your own idea or pick one from the list.

- Marking of final projects will be based on the following criteria, each weighted about the same and taking into account your presentation and writeup:
 1. Clarity of problem statement and description of approach.
 2. Discussion of prior work and references.
 3. Design and execution of experiments.
 4. Figures, tables and presentation of results. In particular, figures need to be (a) informative, (b) clear, (c) readable, (d) properly labeled.
- Choose your project wisely. Having chosen a “bad project” does not count as an excuse for doing a poor job.

- You will *not* be evaluated based on how good your numerical results are in comparison to other methods, and it is irrelevant whether you achieve “state-of-the-art” performance in any application domain.
- Friendly advice:
 - *Keep it simple:* Research almost always takes longer than expected. Therefore, take a problem you think is really simple, and do that really well. It almost certainly will take longer than you think.
 - *Stay focussed:* While it is good to be flexible and react to unexpected new insights as you go along, interesting new directions suggest themselves all the time. So try to stay focussed and to work towards a simple, coherent “story” that you can present in the end.
 - *Have fun:* Pick a topic you find cool and interesting. It will almost certainly show in your results and writeup.