

Final Project

IFT 6085, Winter 2013

Due: April 30, 2013, 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 must 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 few classes at the end of April are reserved for short project presentations (around 15 minutes each). The purpose of these presentations is to present the idea, related work, (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/mlvis2013/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 roughly 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. 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 doesn't matter if 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 insights as you do research, interesting new directions suggest themselves all the time. 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 probably show in your results and writeup.