36-780: Social Network Modeling
HW05

Project Proposals

Please submit a pdf, text or doc file with your project proposal for 36-780. Submit to Blackboard (look under "Assignments" for a section called "Project Proposals!"). Generally I am looking for one of two kinds of proposal:

1. List two papers that you want to present to the class. If the papers are not in the class bibliography, then provide links or pdf's of the papers also.
2. Propose a small project. Examples might include:
    - Begin a serious review paper;
    - Apply social network modeling to data of interest in your research;
    - Keep a diary of using and breaking the CIDnetworks software or the hierarchical networks software, etc.);
    - Prove a theorem or make some other methodogical or computational contribution;
    - Etc.

Your proposal, of no more than a page, is DUE BY FRI JAN 31 AT MIDNIGHT. I will read and react to the proposals over the weekend. I might say

- Great idea!
- Terrible idea – think of something else!
- This is great but you only need to present one of these two papers...
- Here's another thing to think about which will make this even better.
- Great idea, but you only need to do this much.
- etc...

You will need to make a 1/2 hr presentation (or lead a class discussion) on your project, and write a short conference-style paper. I will schedule presentations after I have seen the proposals (if you have some date preferences for the presentation, please include them in your proposal).

See page 2 for some notes about presentations and papers.

Presentations

Each presentation will be 30 minutes. You can choose to lead a class discussion, make a slide presentation, etc.

- For slides, use whatever method you are comfortable with (I use powerpoint with a LaTeX plugin, many people like Beamer, and of course there are many other options).
- You might want to make a handout instead or in addition to slides.

Please send me a pdf of your final slides, handout, etc.

Obviously you want to communicate the content of your project or of the paper(s) you are presenting, you want to stimulate some thinking and discussion, and you want people to not get too bored. It is especially nice when you can take a complex, difficult or nonobvious idea, show why it is useful or relevant, and break it down in a way that people can grasp relatively quickly what the idea is.

Papers

Please use a conference paper format. I have included some templates of 2-column conference papers from SIGCHI in the HW05 area of the class website. If you prefer, you can use a similar one-column format (one column sometimes works better if there are larger figures, longer equations, etc.). You do not have to adhere perfectly to the examples, but please do include:

1. Title & Date (an interesting and descriptive title, please!)
2. Author and author affiliation (you!)
3. Abstract (1–5 sentences that describe the main point of the paper)
4. Keywords (3–10 key words or phrases that would be helpful to someone using a text search to find your article. You can make these up, you don't have to follow the guidelines in the SIGCHI template.)
5. Introduction Section
6. One or more named sections & subsections
7. Conclusion Section
8. References
9. Figures & Tables as appropriate
10. Appendices, if appropriate

Please also follow these specific guidelines, whether you use a 1- or 2-column format:

- Items 1–7 above should cover no more than four pages
- Item 8 (references) should be no more than one page
- Item 9 is optional. It should cover no more than four pages. No figure or graph should be included here unless it is referred to by name in the text (items 5, 6, 7).
- Item 10 is optional. It should be online, and you should give me a URL to access it. I might not look at it closely, however!

Evaluation

I am interested in having you take a complex, difficult or nonobvious idea, show why it is useful or relevant, and break it down in a way that people can grasp relatively quickly what the idea is. What is "complex, difficult or nonobvious" depends on your background. I do not expect the same thing from an first-year master's student as from an advanced doctoral student.