CS 672 — Meaning Machines
Guide for project proposal
Nov 3 2004

The end of the semester is in sight, so you need to get moving on your project. Now is your chance to frame your ideas, plan your project and get some feedback.

For November 3, prepare a brief description outlining the following things:

- Who is working on your team?

- What is the problem or issue that you're going to investigate?

- What is the intellectual approach that you are going to take? In other words, what kinds of hypotheses are you starting from? What kind of a solution are you aiming for?

- What methodology are you going to employ? What kind of literature will you be using? What kind of data? What kinds of algorithms? There's no wrong answer: for your project, you can do philosophy, linguistics, computer science, communication, or whatever. You just need to describe your techniques clearly.

- What will be the final product of your effort? Just a paper? Then you should probably be thinking of putting together 20-30 pages per person. Just a program? That's OK too, as long as you briefly document the functionality of the program, its organization, and the sources for the ideas implemented in it. Data analysis? Ditto.

You should be able to address these issues in at most a few pages, maybe less (especially if you're working on your own). Of course, I'm hoping that you'll team up, in which case you will probably want prepare something longer—an interdisciplinary collaboration will involve multiple methodologies and may require a plan for you to coordinate your efforts.