Final Project Guidelines

CSCI 2840

March 30, 2025

1 Overall Objectives

- Connect course content to your own research or an approved standalone idea in groups of up to 3 individuals.

- Present your (joint) findings to the course in a 15 minute presentation.

- Impress Sorin!

2 Submission

There are two important deadlines for the final project. Each deadline accounts for 10% of your project grade, as is outlined in the grading section below. The deliverables are:

- A written project proposal, to be submitted on gradescope no later than **April 8th at 11:59 PM**. We cannot guarantee timely feedback on submissions turned in after this date. You must also submit your presentation timing preferences by this date at the following form.

- A set of files containing a 5-8 page typeset report on your findings, your slides for the final presentation, and the core implementation of whatever course algorithm or idea you chose to use, to be submitted on gradescope no later than **May 14th at 9:00 AM**.

Your presence and engagement at your selected presentation time also accounts for a part of your presentation grade.

3 Grading

You will be graded according to the following scheme:

- Deadlines - 20%

- Presentation - 30%

- Report - 50%

To receive the 20% allocated to the deadlines, you need only submit each set of deliverables listed above on time in gradescope.

The presentation grade includes 5% allocated to a binary value as to whether you ask a question to another group or not during your presentation section. It includes 15% allocated to your

understanding of your project, particularly surrounding course concepts, to be assessed by Sorin. It includes 10% allocated to the quality of your slides - this is an important skill in any field. We have particularly noticed that many students' presentations throughout the semester thus far have slides that are overly text-dense, so we want to encourage you to spend the extra time cutting down what actually appears on your slides. As they say: "I wanted to make it shorter, but I didn't have enough time".

The report grade will have 20% allocated to the quality of the report itself (i.e. writing, figures, etc.) and 30% allocated to the quality of the science (i.e., if there are any major unaddressed questions, etc.). Included in this 30% will be the scope of the project as it relates to the number of individuals in your group. We expect that for groups of two, either you utilize two or more course concepts or apply the concept you use in two or more distinct areas/experiments. For groups of three, we expect equivalent scaling, e.g. three or more course concepts, two concepts applied to a total of two different areas, etc. We will be flexible around what is encompassed as a course concept or algorithm.

4   Proposal

The project proposal, which does not have to be too formal, should contain the following information:

1. The course concept(s) you choose to integrate into your specified application(s), scaled according to your group size above (although, we will be flexible).

2. Where you anticipate the project will be in 2 weeks and 4 weeks from the proposal deadline.

5   Report

The report should be structured in a similar way to any other scientific paper, where (depending on how closely you stick to our suggestions above) will focus on the implementation of a course-related algorithm in a methods section and whatever results you find on an application in a results section.