Assignment 11 (Mini-Project)

L645

Due Wednesday, December 16 at 5pm

As mentioned, for your final assignment, you’ll be doing a mini-project, with many of the parameters left up to you to fill in. These were some example cases listed in the last assignment:

- Implement and use a technique described in class (e.g., probabilistic chart parsing) for some task you are interested in
- Use the tools we have discussed for some purpose of your own interest (e.g., parsing for sentiment analysis)
- Develop or improve upon a technique described in class assignments (e.g., sentiment analysis)
- Continue one of your earlier projects, expanding it out into something bigger and better.

Your project (and thus the write-up of the project) should more specifically do the following:

1. Have a clear purpose, i.e., motivation: how will what you’re doing make the world better? (the world of NLP, the world of some application domain, the world at large, ...)
2. Have a clear long-term goal: what are you setting out to accomplish for the future, given more time and effort?
3. Have a clear short-term goal: what is it that you set out to accomplish this semester, and how will that accomplishment put you closer to your long-term goal? (Note that being closer could mean having a better understanding of what doesn’t work.)
4. Have a clear implementation: what did you actually do, and how did it achieve your short-term goal(s)?
   - Note: I don’t need to see code within your write-up (though, relevant bits can illustrate a point), but I want to know what approach you took, what difficulties you encountered, what solutions you came up with, what your results are & what they illustrate, etc.
5. Have a clear evaluation: how can you tell whether you did what you wanted to do or not, and how can you tell whether you’re moving closer to your long-term goals?
6. Have a clear connection to the literature: where does your project fit in the NLP world?
7. Have a clear connection to this class: where does your project fit into the scope of things we have covered?

Essentially, you are simultaneously writing a research prospectus and doing the legwork to determine whether and how your prospectus is feasible. Remember that this is a mini-project, so it will not be exhaustive in scope; rather, the mindset is to put yourself in a good position to do more exhaustive work after the semester.

Specific requirements to turn in via oncourse:

- A paper, approximately 5 pages per person in your group. (I’m happy with longer papers, too.) The paper will be the focus of my grading, so make sure it is self-contained.
- Any associated implementation files that could help me understand what is happening.