

CS 591/791C Empirical methods in SE and CS
Term project & presentation
Spring 2010

Assigned: March 2

Presentation due: 11:59 pm on April 26 (send it as an e-mail attachment)

Paper due: hard copy at the beginning of the class on April 27, also an e-mail attachment, preferably in PDF format

Your term project consists of choosing a topic for conducting an empirical study and writing a paper to describe the work. The paper should be approximately 15 - 20 pages long (12 point font, 1.5 interline spacing). The outline of your paper should be as follows:

- Title
 - Descriptive, but catchy
- Abstract
 - It gives a summary of the entire document.
- Introduction
 - Presents the key ideas and should include background information and motivation.
- Related work
 - Includes analysis of the relevant work to your chosen topic. For the purpose of this paper it does not have to be exhaustive. However, if you base your work on the work of others (e.g., improvement, fixing a problem, replication, etc) discuss it in your term paper.
- Problem statement
 - State the research question that you address in your term project, why it is a worthy problem, and how solving it would contribute to the community.
- Description of your empirical study
 - Follow the appropriate steps for the approach you chose, including the methods for data analysis. (See the Power Point presentation for details.)
- Threats to validity
 - Elaborate on at least 3-5 threats to validity
- Conclusion
 - The conclusion recapitulates the paper and presents ideas for future work.

Each student is required to give in-class presentation of the term project. Acceptable formats for the presentation are Power point and PDF. The presentation should typically be around 20 slides. To keep the size of the file reasonable, please use a simple background.

The presentations of your term projects will be scheduled for the last week of the semester. The schedule, including the links to the presentations, will be available on the class Web page. Allotted time for each presentation is 20 minutes, including Q&A.

Academic honesty

Students are encouraged to discuss the term project topics among themselves. However, each student should develop the term project and the presentation individually. The term paper and the presentation must be written entirely in student's own words, and all figures and factual information must be properly cited. Text copied from a book, paper or Internet source must be clearly marked as a quote and include the citation to the source. Evidence to the contrary will be dealt with in accordance with the Lane Department of CSEE academic dishonesty policy.