COMP 766 - Project Proposal Specifications

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Preamble

- This proposal is **due on February 7th at 5pm.** Late work will be automatically subject to a 20% penalty, and can be submitted up to 3 days after the deadline. No submissions will accepted after this 3 day period.
- The class project is to completed in groups of two or three. All members of a group will receive the same grade. It is not expected that all team members will contribute equally to all components. However every team member should make integral contributions to the project.
- You will submit your assignment on the CMT conference management system here: `https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/McGillGRL2020/` All students in a group must register and include their names/emails on the submission.

Requirements

- Your proposal must contain 1-2 pages of content and unlimited pages for references. The proposal should follow an "extended abstract" style. The recommended subsections/headers are:
  - Abstract
  - Background and motivation
  - Proposed approach
  - Data availabilty and computational requirements
- You must use the NeurIPS 2019 formatting template: `https://neurips.cc/Conferences/2019/PaperInformation/StyleFiles`. Note that you should use the NeurIPS 2019 style but ignore their length guidelines. Your submission should be written in an anonymous style, following the NeurIPS 2019 rules to ensure a double-blind review.
- A good proposal should accomplish the following:
  - Motivate the problem, task, model, or methodology you want to investigate.
  - Position the project with respect to related work with a thorough discussion and list of references.
  - Describe the datasets you plan to use and the kinds of empirical validation you plan to employ.
  - Discuss data availability and the computational requirements of the project.
- **Note that I do not expect you to have the full methodology or contribution mapped out at this stage, but you should have a clear problem you want to work on and/or methodology you plan to build upon, with references and a concrete plan of action including what datasets you want to use.**

Evaluation

The project will be graded on the McGill letter scale, with the following criteria given roughly equal weight.

- Writing quality.
  - Is the report free from grammatical errors and typos?
  - Are the ideas stated in clear, concise, and understandable ways?
  - Does the report follow the formatting guidelines?
- Soundness of proposed approach.
  - Is the proposed investigation based upon a correct understanding of the course material and related work?
  - Is the proposed investigation reasonably feasible? Obviously, some projects might be too ambitious, but an obviously impossible/unrealistic project will be docked marks.
- Quality of the discussion of related work.
  - Are there a sufficient number of references (at least 10)?
  - Does the discussion of the related work indicate an understanding of the material?

Final remarks

You are expected to display initiative, creativity, scientific rigour, critical thinking, and good communication skills. You don't need to restrict yourself to the requirements listed above - feel free to go beyond, and explore further. You can build upon previous work, but you must follow proper citation and attribution practices for code, images, figures, and text. The work you submit must be your own, and all cases of plagarism will be taken seriously and reported.