

# Deep Learning Projects / Spring 2023

## PROJECT DEADLINES AND REPORT GUIDELINES

1. Project description deadline: **03/10 (Friday) 6pm on Gradescope**

2. **Project description guidelines (project descriptions are part of the project grade):**

- (a) Project description: exactly 2-pages in ICLR 2023 format:  
<https://github.com/ICLR/Master-Template/raw/master/iclr2023.zip>
- (b) Description must contain a title and student name + Purdue ID
- (c) Section “Introduction”: ~1/2 page to describe objective, clearly define the task (statistically, e.g., learn  $p(x)$  , learn  $p(y|x)$  where train and test data have the same distribution, etc.)
- (d) Section “Dataset”: ~1/4 page to describe dataset used and why it aligns with the task
- (e) Section “Deep learning method used”: ~1/2 page to describe deep learning methods that will be used (or tried) and why it aligns with the task
- (f) Section “Related work”: ~1/2 page to describe the related work and how it connects to the proposed work
- (g) Section “Expected results”: ~1/4 page describing the expected results and metrics of success (how can we tell your project failed or has been successful?)

3. **Final project report due: 04/15 (Saturday) 6pm**

- (a) Final report must contain between 4 and 6 pages in ICLR 2023 format:  
<https://github.com/ICLR/Master-Template/raw/master/iclr2023.zip>
- (b) Description must contain a title and student name + Purdue ID
- (c) Section “Introduction”: ~1 page to describe objective, clearly define the task (statistically, e.g., learn  $p(x)$  , learn  $p(y|x)$  where train and test data have the same distribution, etc.)
- (d) Section “Dataset”: ~1/4 page to describe dataset used and why it aligns with the task
- (e) Section “Proposed Approach”: 2+ pages to describe deep learning methods that will be used (or tried); formally write down the **objective function**, describe why objective aligns with objective described in the introduction.
- (f) Section “Related work”: ~1/2 page to describe the related work and how it connects to the proposed work
- (g) Section “Results”: 1+ page describing the results and metrics of success.

## SOME SUGGESTED TOPICS (FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT A TOPIC)

1. OOD robustness in graph neural network methods
  - (a) Choose an inductive graph task or a task that uses GNNs (like neural algorithm reasoning)
  - (b) Design a shift between the train and test distributions
    - i. A simple shift is graph size. Test graphs are larger than training graphs.
    - ii. Changing the distribution of degrees, triangles, etc. is also relatively simple
    - iii. Shifts driven by applications are better and easier to justify.
  - (c) Instructor will send relevant papers to the ones interested.
2. Contrastive learning on graphs
  - (a) Connections to OOD robustness
  - (b) Connection with counterfactually-invariant representations
3. Stable diffusion generative methods for sets and graphs
  - (a) Stable diffusion is used mostly for ordered sequences (e.g., images, text)
  - (b) Design a generative method with some invariance or equivariance, such as a method for sets or graphs (you can make simple modifications to existing methods. Will later list some papers)
4. Stable diffusion for aiding supervised learning via self-supervision
5. Predicting links in knowledge graphs using structural (pairwise) representation methods (GNN-type methods)
  - (a) Open problem.
6. Conditional invariances for more robust supervised learning. The choice of invariance changes depending on the input data.
7. Causal representation learning vs contrastive learning
  - (a) Connect/contrast causal representation learning with contrastive learning
  - (b) Let  $T$  be a data-augmentation operator. And  $\text{do}(T)$  be a counterfactual intervention on the training data that impose this transformation. Is contrastive learning learning a counterfactually-invariant representation? Yes, no? Why?
  - (c) Would contrastive learning work if the transformations we must be invariant to are not lumpable (Definition 2 in Mouli & Ribeiro, “Asymmetry Learning”, ICLR 2022)