AI in Fact and Fiction
CSCI 4965 / COGS 4962
Summer 2020

Project Information

The following will include the expectations, schedule and deliverable details for the team project for the AI in Fiction and Fact course.

I) Schedule

Jul 16: Project Introductions
Jul 23: **HW 3 – project suggestions**
Jul 27: **Project idea pitch session // initial team assignments**
Jul 30: (Project team assignments completed)
Aug 3: Project teams describe their plans
Aug 10: Team work day
Aug 13: Team work day
Aug 17: **TEAM PRESENTATIONS** during class time (See deliverables below)
Aug 21: **TEAM DEMOS** by appointment (See deliverables below)
Aug 21: **SUBMISSION OF TEAM MATERIALS** (See deliverables below)

II) Project Goals

Given the short time that is possible for the projects in the summer course, there is no expectation of success at the specific task set out. Rather, the goal is to learn about the topic being explored, develop a feel for what is and is not doable long-term, and to demonstrate at least a framework and/or some results that show what could be done with more time. Something working is required, but it clearly need not be equal to the original project goal.

In short, the goal of this project is to learn, and explain what you have learned, about the task you have taken on. The grading will depend on showing an understanding of the problem and its solution space more than on what you have achieved.

WORKING ON YOUR PROJECTS

- After the project teams and the topics are confirmed on July 30th, each team must email us the short name for the project and the GitHub user names of the team members.
- We will set up a WebEx team for each group to communicate on the projects.
- We will also create a GitHub repo with the short name you sent us for your project in the "AI in Fiction and Fact" GitHub organization (https://github.com/AIFictionFact).
- ***You must use the GitHub repo created for your team to organize your code and documentation.***
- Please feel free to use the GitHub's "Issues" and "Projects" features to manage your project effectively. For example, you can use GitHub issues to divide up the tasks among the team members, or if you are feeling ambitious, you can manage your project using "GitHub Project Boards." Using such tools will also give us an indication as to what each team member is doing in the project.

- We encourage you to use Python notebooks to explain the code you implement for the project. Though this is not required if implementing code directly in python works better depending on the goals of the project.

TEAM PRESENTATIONS

Project ideas: On July 27th, students will submit a short (1 paragraph) proposed project. These can be submitted by 1-3 students, and they will be presented to the whole class on the 27th. Based on these ideas, project teams will be formed. *There is no guarantee that a group of students submitting together will have that project approved or even necessarily end up on the same team.* However, the project ideas page will be a place to bounce ideas around and get some feedback.
Please have your suggestion written up and submitted to LMS before class on July 27 – (so due 1:29p Eastern on July 27). If multiple people are submitting, be sure all names are on it – we plan to set up LMS to allow multiple submission.

Initial Presentation:

- On August 3rd, each team will give a short (4-5 minute) presentation on what they plan to do. At least one person from the team must present the ideas decided on by the group, then other students in the class will ask questions which can be answered by members of the team.
    - We ask that all team members will turn on their video during the time the team is presenting. (If you cannot do that for some reason, contact the professors in advance to explain)
    - Following class, comments from teams to other teams or individuals to teams will be encouraged on the slack channel.

- On August 17th, each team will present the status of their project in a roughly 10-minute presentation***. A PDF of the presentation must be submitted by the beginning of class on that date on LMS.*** The presentation should contain all of the following
    1. **Title** of the group's work and the **names of all the participants** on a title slide
    2. **One or two slides** that outline the **current state** of this work in AI in general – if your project's goals have been achieved elsewhere, that is fine – nothing wrong with duplicating work others have done, as long as you are aware. If it has not been done, what has been done that is similar.
    3. *Note: the goal is not a thorough literature search, but some evidence that you have explored the status of such work.*
    4. **Several slides** that outline what has been achieved by your group to this point and, more importantly, what you hope to achieve by Aug 21st.
    5. **One or Two slides** on what the next steps would be to achieve the original goal, if not achieved, or to extend the goal further if you have.
    - We ask that all team members will turn on their video during the time the team is presenting. (If you cannot do that for some reason, contact the professors in advance to explain)

TEAM DEMOS

Your team needs to show some working product, whether it achieves much of the goal or is only a step in the right direction is less important than that you can explain how the problem has been tackled, what works or doesn't, and where you think the problem is and what the next steps will be. This will be done in a team chat with the professors.

If for some reason your group cannot do this on the 21st, we can arrange an earlier time by appoint.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

You should upload to LMS the zipped code download of your entire GitHub repo by 11:59:59pm on Aug 21st. In your zip file, we will be specifically looking for the following:

1. A **readme** file that would explain how the code could be run. As most projects are likely to be dependent on external sources, be sure to document what these are and how to use them in your project (for example, you may use the GitHub 'submodule' feature if you depend on another GitHub project). If you use python notebooks for the implementation, clearly indicate which notebook we should be looking at and in what order.
2. A **requirements.txt** file that lists all the software libraries and versions that you are using in the project. For example, if you are using PyTorch for learning, you would point to the version you're using, and if you're using the other libraries, the names and the versions of the libraries must be specified.
3. Project **documentation** (either in markdown or HTML) that details your project. If you have already used descriptive python notebooks for your code, you need not have additional documentation.
4. **Updated slides** used in the team presentation to correspond to what was achieved by the final deadline. Some screenshots from the demo would be particularly valuable to add.
5. (Optional) A link to a recorded **screencast** with a demo of your product.

Team Work Days

On the team work days, you should plan on attending class for the first 10-15 minutes for announcements, updates, etc. After that, you are welcome to use webex teams or a different mechanism to interact – or to leave and meet on your own at a time that works better for your team.

While you are not required to be in class for the two team work days, that will be a time where the Professors will be available to answer questions, help you decide if what you have accomplished or plan to accomplish is sufficient/necessary, and of course provide a time where there are should be no conflicts for your team to meet.

Grading:

The original pitches will not be graded.

The first presentation will be graded at 10% of the project, but it will be all or nothing (i.e. when you do it, you get the ten points)

The second presentation will be graded as 35% of the project.

The demo and final updated slides will be worth 45% of the project.

Documentation and source code will be worth 10% of the project.

Exceptions:

We understand that there could be some of you with issues making it impossible to work synchronously with other students (for example, being out of the country). We will deal with exceptions on a case by case basis, but you must tell us in advance of July 27 so we can work this out – send email to both instructors: hendler@cs.rpi.edu and senevo@rpi.edu