

Project report: Guidelines

Networks II: Market Design

The final report is worth 13pts, and is due by Sunday **May 5, 12noon** on CMS.

(The remaining project submissions relate to *presentation*; these are fairly lightweight and are discussed (and corresponding deadlines specified) in a separate CMS handout.)

1 Formatting and length

- Length: Seven pages, 2500 words upper limit; excluding list of references. (Note that you do not need to use all seven pages—seven is a (strict) *upper bound*, not a lower bound!)
- Format: Single spaced, single column; any (easily readable) font size and style that does not exceed the 2500 word limit is fine.
(Note: Please do not use a tiny font to squeeze in more material—projects are graded on quality rather than quantity, and the reports need to be easy to read for the TAs grading them!)
- Optional appendix: If you have supplementary material that does not fit in the 7 pages, you may include it in the Appendix if you really want to. (Note that the material in the Appendix will be reviewed only if necessary to *verify* any of the claims made in the main body, and may not be read at all. You should make sure that your (first) 7 pages contain all of the relevant information about problem setting and description, analysis and key takeaways, and a discussion of related literature and limitations.)

2 Structure of report

- Abstract: A very brief summary of the entire project. (One paragraph)
- Introduction: Motivate setting, describe problem. (1-2 pages)

- Model and/or analysis and/or design: These can be broken up into subsections as required (the key is clarity of exposition). (Up to 4-6 pages.)
- Conclusion: (i) Summarize the key takeaways from your investigations
(ii) Discussion of limitations and open questions. (Up to 1 page)
- Related work: Positioning your investigations in the context of what is already known and has been done in the past in the area you are exploring. If your project is primarily a survey of the literature, this section is irrelevant to you, since your entire project discusses existing literature. You could still include more peripherally related papers if you like here, though. (Up to 1 page.)

Note: Every report will be different, since every project is different— this structure is only meant as a friendly guideline to get you started. In case of any doubt about what to put in your report, you can always revisit the slides where we discussed what a good project is (and see below for how project reports will be graded) to make your choices.

3 Grading criteria

Recall the evaluation criteria for projects:

- Significance: How is your project related to networks?
- Clarity: What exactly are you doing, and what are you doing about it?
- Coherence: How do the various ‘what are you doing’s connect to each other? (This is especially important for literature surveys.)
- Value-add: Original contribution (insight, commentary, modeling, problem-solving, ...)

Here is the detailed breakup of how the 13 points corresponding to your final project report will be assigned, based on these criteria:

1. Clarity and content quality: (pts, broken up as follows)
 - (a) Clearly specifying and motivating problem setting and question addressed (2pts)

- (b) Explaining your analysis (data or theory): Extent of work; depth; clarity (5pts)
 - (c) Positioning project wrt existing work (1pt) (If literature survey, this merges with the previous for a total of 6pts)
 - (d) Honestly addressing limitations of your project; giving directions for further work (1pt)
2. Coherence (2pts): How do various ‘what are you doing’s (*i.e.*, parts of your analysis) connect to each other?
 3. Originality, value-add (2pts): Insightful commentary, model, or solution
 - Graded between 0 and 2, with 0 for inadequate, 1 for good, and 2 reserved for exceptional value-add (newness (contribution over existing work); creativity/interestingness (a heads-up that this is subjective).)

Note: You do need to clearly explain the connection to networked behavior in your project report. While there are not explicit points awarded *for* doing this, please make sure to clarify this in order to not lose points in case the connection does not make itself evident from your writeup!