

DS-GA 1018.001 Probabilistic Time Series Analysis

Project proposal instructions

Proposal due on 10/15 by 6pm (but if you have something ready earlier send it as soon as you can, to speed up receiving feedback)

The project should be done in groups of 2 or 3 registered students (exceptions possible, but only if you have explicitly cleared it with CS first).

The **project** can take any of the following forms:

- High quality **software implementation** of algorithms related to the class that are currently not publicly available, to be released for public usage.
- Application of a machine learning model to a previously unconsidered **dataset** and to a specific scientific question. For this: find some interesting (for you) data. Keep in mind the issue of stationarity. Make sure you have enough data to be able to fit a reasonable model (the more parameters, the more data you'll need).
- **Extension** to existing method, or **theoretical analysis** of existing algorithm. This would likely have a scope outside the course, e.g. it could be the starting point for a longer research project.
- Multiple **models comparison** on existing dataset
- In-depth **review** of recent papers related to time series topics either covered in the lecture (e.g. generalizations of LDS, HMMs) or not (e.g. probabilistic RNNs).

If you are unsure if your idea fits into these types, talk to CS.

Proposal:

Write a proposal that details the question you are planning to address, which dataset are you planning to use (if applicable), the family of algorithms used for the analysis, and how you plan to evaluate these methods. The goal is to check that you have a plan, so add whatever details you have already worked out that may be relevant (Keep within reasonable space limits: **no more than 1 page**).

Important: explain also how the tasks will be allocated across team members (**who does what**).

Proposals should be emailed to cs5360@nyu.edu in **pdf (one email per team)**. We plan to provide some constructive feedback days after receiving it.

Some past project examples:

- **Model comparison:** HMMs vs RNNs for anomaly detection.
- **Model comparison:** Automatic speech recognition - HMMs Acoustic models, Deep nets
- **Implementation:** RNNs for multivariate time series with missing values (GLU-R)
- **Implementation:** Deep Kalman filtering
- **Object tracking:** implementation + model comparison
- **Dataset:** Modeling protein sequences + Model comparison HMMs vs RNNs (data not public)
- **Dataset:** Forecasting Wikipedia web traffic
- **Dataset:** Prediction of Beijing pollution levels
- **Dataset:** NYC environmental sounds (check out J. Bello's page)
- **Dataset:** EKG based prediction
- **Dataset:** emotion detection in audio
- **Dataset:** cryptocurrency modeling
- **Dataset:** Hourly electrical demand
- **Dataset:** Earthquake prediction
- **New algorithm:** Gaussian Process Factor Analysis with Spectral Mixture kernels
- **Review:** latent state space models for modeling neural data
- **Voice synthesis:** speak like Pippa the pig
- **Image synthesis:** video style transfer
- **Theory:** the role of dependent measurements in causal inference

Some other things that I'd like to see explored more:

- **ML reproducibility challenge 2021:** <https://paperswithcode.com/rc2021>
- **Finite sample** properties of linear models (e.g. *Kley et al*) — *for statisticians*
- **Probabilistic RNNs** — variational auto-encoders for time series
- **Volatility** models, e.g. ARCH/GARCH
- **Nonlinear** generalizations of a model considered in class
- **Nonstationarity:** datasets, or models, or theory
- Bring your own data!

Unless otherwise specified, the datasets modeled are publicly available. If anything sounds interesting, but you don't have a clear idea how to make it into a project — reach out to CS and we can figure it out together. I have also included some example research papers in the current literature folder.