

CSci551 Spring 2006 Thursday Section Homework 1

Assigned: January 12, 2006. Due: see below

Correction: 17-Jan-06: the submission e-mail address is `csci551@aludra.usc.edu` (not just `cs551`).

You are welcome to discuss your homework with other students, but each student is expected write his or her final answer independently.

Submission for *most* homeworks will be done via running the `submit` program. However, submission of this homework will be handled differently, as described below.

Homework overview: For this homework, you will write a short summary of four papers. Three will be either primary or supplementary class papers, and one will be any paper of your choosing that is related to class topics.

Summary contents: Each summary should answer the following questions: a) What is the name of the reviewer (i.e., what is your name)? b) what are the key ideas or claims of the paper (1-2 sentences)? c) what is novel about the paper (1 sentence, note that this *may* be different than your answer to (a))? d) what methodology (or methodologies) does the paper use (1-2 sentences)? e) what is the best way the paper could best be improved (1-3 sentences)? (Ideally, improvements would be new work that extend, generalize, or fix the prior paper—future work. Alternatively, the improvements could a specific better way to present the material.) f) do you consider this paper important or not, and why (1-2 sentences)?

And for the paper outside of class: g) what class paper does the paper you chose most closely relate to and why (1-2 sentences)? h) What is a *full* citation for your paper? (Remember to include volume, issue number, date, and pages for journals or magazines; pages, conference location, and full conference title for conferences, workshops, and similar things.) i) What is a URL to a complete copy of the paper? (This copy must be viewable from USC.)

When you answer these questions, *label your answers a through f or i.*

Papers to review:

- 1) Answer most of above parts (parts a–f) for your first assigned class paper.
- 2) Answer most of above parts (parts a–f) for your second assigned class paper.
- 3) Answer most of above parts (parts a–f) for your third assigned class paper.
- 4) Answer all of above parts (parts a–i) for some paper related to class of *your* choosing. (It's up to you to judge how well related the paper is to class, but you may lose some points if the paper is really not related to class materials in a meaningful way.)

Due date: Unlike most homeworks, this homework will be spread throughout the whole semester, because the papers are due at different times.

Before the second class, you will receive e-mail containing your paper assignments for papers 1–3. For each these three papers you will need to write up your review and send it in *twice*.

First, as of *noon the day before the paper appears in the class syllabus*, you must e-mail your text about the paper to the class account `csci551@aludra.usc.edu`. This e-mail must be *sent* before noon the day the paper is listed in the syllabus; it must be *received* before

6pm the day before. The format of the mail must be plain text (not HTML or any kind of attachment).

Second, *between when class ends and midnight the day after the class when the paper appeared in the syllabus*, you must take the same content and submit it to the relevant discussion page in the class wiki. I have already created discussion pages for all of the papers, these have links off the the syllabus page in the wiki. You should create a new subsection under the “HW1 Summaries” section of the discussion page corresponding to your paper.

You must submit *both* of these to get full credit for your homework.

(The purpose in posting your summary on the wiki is to allow other students to read it, comment on it, maybe even add to it, and thereby hopefully get another couple of points of view about the paper. Students are not required to edit, comment on, or add to other people’s summaries, but it is encouraged.)

As an example, if you were assigned the paper [Hansen99a], this paper appears on the syllabus on Jan. 12. So by noon Jan. 11 you must submit your description of that paper to the professor, and between noon Jan. 12 and midnight Jan. 13 you need to enter a copy of your description in the class wiki. (In this case, at <http://wiki.isi.edu/csci551/index.php/Hanson99a> in the “Discussion of Hanson99a” section of the wiki page.)

For paper #4, the external paper, there are two steps. First, all students must select *different* papers (by adding them to the list) by *noon January 27th*. To select your paper, please add it to the list by editing the wiki page http://wiki.isi.edu/csci551/index.php/HW1_Q4_Paper_List. To keep things orderly, please do the following things:

- keep the list sorted by the *last name of the first author*.
- make sure your reference is *complete*—include page numbers, location of the conference, full name of the conference, journal volume and number, etc.
- you must include a link to an on-line copy of the paper (if your preferred paper doesn’t have an on-line copy, pick another paper)
- you must include a link to your “review” (i.e., your answers to hw1q4). Please put that text on a new page, called “LastnameYear-hw1q4” (where *lastname* is the last name of the first author and *year* is the last two digits of the year)
- when you click “save page”, put the paper name as a comment

Once you’ve selected a paper, you have until noon February 17 to finish the question by answering parts a-i for that paper. When you answer those parts, again, e-mail them to csci551@aludra.usc.edu before the deadline and edit the discussion page for your paper by then as well. Full credit requires that all three these steps (selecting your paper, e-mailing the review, and adding it to the wiki page) be completed on time.

The professor has done a complete example of Q4; it can be found on the web at the wiki page listing HW1Q4 papers.