Doing Resarch in Natural Language Processing

Session 20: Individual Project

Frank Keller

24 November 2023

School of Informatics
University of Edinburgh
keller@inf.ed.ac.uk

Overview

What is the Individual Project?

- you will work on a small research project over one semester (40 credits; for comparison: an MSc project is 60 credits);
- you can work with your first or second supervisor;
- or with any other member of staff;
- this can be a pilot study for your PhD research, or something independent;
- the project needs to be self-contained, and feasible in one semester;
- it will enable you to practice many of the skills taught in this course.

Timeline

30 Nov	Meet the supervisors session (3-5pm)
17+19 Jan	Project pitches
26 Jan	Proposal submission deadline
6, 8, 15, 17 Mar	Project progress presentations
29 Mar	Report writing clinic
22 Apr	Report submission deadline

Timeline

30 Nov	Meet the supervisors session (3-5pm)
17+19 Jan	Project pitches
26 Jan	Proposal submission deadline
6, 8, 15, 17 Mar	Project progress presentations
29 Mar	Report writing clinic
22 Apr	Report submission deadline

Assessed items: proposal (30% of NLP-DR), presentation (30% of NLP-DR), report (100% of NLP-IP).

Next Steps

Homework for the time between the semesters:

- identify an IP supervisor;
- meet with them to discuss a project topic;
- get ready to write a project proposal (that will be coursework 2);
- check Session 15 on how to do this :)
- specification: 2 pages in ACL format, excluding references;
- discuss the proposal with your supervisor;
- get ready to pitch it to the rest of your cohort in week 1.

The IP Proposal

- research objectives: which problem will you solve?
- motivation: why is this interesting, novel, important?
- state of the art; background literature
- methods:
    - data sets you will use
    - your models or experimental techniques
    - work you will build on (e.g., existing code base)
    - evaluation
- potential risks; your plan B if things don't work
- timeline