CS 525M Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing Focus on Projects

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The Problem

- Problem must have societal benefit
 - If project succeeds, clearly saves lives, money, time, etc.
 - Example: Project helps with health problems, education, organization
 - Entertainment (games, etc)?
 - Too many different tastes. Some people don't care
 - Game that's fun to one person, annoying to another

Problem Questions



- Proof that problem exists
- Cite statistics, numbers from papers. E.g.
 - 7.8 percent of Americans have type 2 diabetes
 - Diabetes costs \$178 billion annually to system
 - \$78 billion is wasted in traffic every year
- Why? Big problem = potentially big savings
- If no papers with numbers, do pre-survey to show
 - problem exists
 - People would like/use your solution



Methodology

- This is a graduate computer science class
- Graduate: You have already taken intro classes
- Invalid excuses:
 - I can't program
 - I don't understand operating systems
- Computer Science class
 - Science: Systematically generating knowledge NOT building products
 - Use scientific method



Projects Types

- Science: About knowledge generation
- Engineering: building things to solve problems
- Scientific method
 - Construct hypotheses (what do you believe)
 - E.g. Locations with bad signal strength have poor throughput
 - Develop experiments to prove/disprove hypothesis
 - E.g measure throughput at locations with bad sig. strength
 - Experiments must be reproducible

Engineering Projects



- Can build things to solve problems
- Make reasonable assumptions
- Decompose problem into parts, Solve each piece with reasonable tools
- CrowdSense paper Example:
 - Sphynx speech analysis engine (open source)
 - OCR recognition module from microsoft
 - Object recognition
 - Indoor scene classification





- Must evaluate! Evaluate! Evaluate!
 - Demonstrate that solution presented works either quantitatively or through user studies
 - Under what conditions your system works well/not?
 - That's why papers present so many graphs
 - Start with nice design and justify choices
 - Think: have a sub-problem = what component solves that?
 - E.g. Require fast access to lots of data = hash tables





- More difficult to do projects not leveraging some of work in previous papers
- Don't want shooting from hip
 - I like this project so I'm doing it
 - Build what's cool to you
 - Don't use scientific method or good engineering
 - Don't evaluate to prove it works