

Lec X:
Final Project Kickoff

Parallel Computer Architecture and Programming
CMU 15-418/15-618, Fall 2016

A few more words on projects

Final project expectations

- **Frequently asked questions:**

Q. Do I need to do something that no one has done before?

A. Nope. However I expect you to take on a challenge where I believe the answer should not be obvious to you based on what you've learned in the course so far.

Common Scenario: Student: "I am going to run a cat detector on 1M images from YouTube and parallelize it on a cluster." Professors: convince us why this is hard?

Q. Can my project be a part of something bigger? (e.g., a project from my research lab)

A. Absolutely. As long as you carve off a task that is clearly only being done you.

Q. How much work is expected?

A. Including the proposal period, the project is 6 weeks of the course. We are expecting proportional effort. (For example, we are expecting at least 2 class assignments worth of work.)

Q. What if I need special equipment?

A. Contact the staff soon. We can help you find resources around CMU: high-core count machines, GPUs, Oculus Rifts, FPGAs, Raspberry Pi's, Tegra K1's, etc.

Final project expectations

- **October 28th's lecture slot is devoted to project meetings**
- **Project proposals are due on October 31 (but you are welcome to submit early to get feedback... often we have to iterate)**
- **Project milestones due on November 21st**
- **The parallelism poster session is on Tuesday, Dec 13th during the final exam slot.**
- **Your grade is based on the technical quality of your work, your writeup, and your poster**
- **You are absolutely encouraged to design your own project**
 - **This is supposed to be fun (and challenging)**

Proposal Expectations

- **More details will be available on the website**
- **What is the problem.**
- **Why is this hard?**
- **What is your goal?**
 - **How do we evaluate your success?**
 - **What is your goal if things go slowly?**
 - **What is your goal if things go faster?**
- **What is your schedule by week?**