

Class 27: Project Presentations

Action Items

- **Now:** Project Demos
- **7pm Tonight:** Lighting of the Lawn
- **Friday (11:49pm):** Individual Submissions Due (includes evaluation of your project teammates)

Requests

- When your project is ready, make your github repository public.
- Remember the Honor Pledge from the [Syllabus](#):

I will provide useful feedback. I realize that this is the first time this course has been taught this way and it is important that I let the course staff know what they need to improve the course. I will not wait until the end of the course to make the course staff aware of any problems. I will provide feedback either anonymously or by contacting the course staff directly. I will fill out all course evaluation surveys honestly and thoroughly.

Please do this, especially on the individual submissions questions. If you want to submit them anonymously, just check the box, and separately submit your answers to those questions.

- Recommend students for the Spring class. If you know students currently waitlisted for the Spring cs4414 course, and can make a good case why you think they will contribute to the class, please do so. A recommendation from a student who contributed well to this class will be considered heavily.
- Consider being an assistant for next semester's class. If you are interested in this, email me to set up a meeting to discuss.

Project Presentations and Demos

[Norvigtorious](#) - Android Norvig Numbers

Alex Fabian, Daniel Nizri, Renee Seaman, Casey Silver [Download from Play Store Stats](#)

[The Droids that You are Looking](#)

Ryan Bates, Matthew Jenny, Zachary Brown

[Rust Raytracer](#)

Jonathan Goss, Kelvin Green, Nathaniel Hart, Kevin McVey Kevin

[Open Piazza](#)

Evan Boyle, Josh Lisko, Evan Teague [Code Repository](#)

[tRustees](#) - True Random Number Generation

Alex Mulchandani, Jeremy King, Liam Kostan, Samuel Ogbe

KrayDawg - Parallel Minimum Spanning Tree for Face Recognition

Ben Turner, Katy Williamson

Real Time Audio in Rust

Victor Shepardson

graphUVA

Nishant Shukla, Jasdev Singh

Norvig's Speech to the Graduates

Peter Norvig's *Keynote Address* at the U.C. Berkeley Computer Science Commencement, 21 May 2006.

Congratulations, graduates.

Let me start with a story. Two new researchers on my team at Google decided, for their starter project, to look at the way ads are matched to search queries. They discovered an improvement that results in about a 1% increase in revenue. Now the question is: is this a boring development – after all, what could be more routine than improving an existing system by 1% – or an exciting one: making progress on something that a lot of smart people had already thought hard about, and incidentally bringing in an additional \$100M a year in revenue to the company, and many times that value to the advertisers and consumers. And some larger questions: how many of these improvements do we need to keep our society moving forward, and what should be the mix of incremental 1% improvements versus revolutionary, 100% new ideas?

One way to look at it is that the World Gross Domestic Product is \$60 trillion/yr, but let's concentrate on the US GDP, which is \$12 trillion/yr (or \$42,000 per person). Except for a dip in the 1930's during the great depression, it has grown at a remarkably constant pace, doubling every 20 years. Now, there are about 3.5 million scientists and engineers in the US work force, of which computer scientists have the largest chunk. If we take it upon ourselves as scientists and engineers to deliver all of the doubling in the GDP, that works out to an increase of \$3.4M/yr that each of us needs to deliver in the next 20 years.

I should say that this model is highly simplified. As much as I respect computer scientists and engineers, we don't actually deliver all the increases. Just this month there was a *Scientific American* article that says insects produce \$57B/yr in free labor. Yet despite this, insects are rarely chosen as commencement speakers, so I'll exercise my chauvinistic prerogative and stick to us humans.

When doing back-of-the-envelope calculations, it is always a good idea to verify them with a second approach. Another way to look at the problem is to count scientific disciplines and figure out how much of each discipline we 3.5M scientists will have to handle. So I looked at the Dewey Decimal System. The 600s are technology. There are some substantial disciplines like 610: Medical Sciences, but there are some less extensive ones like 682: blacksmithing and 664: food technology, along with 663: beverage technology. I count about a dozen substantial disciplines. How substantial? Well the ACM categorization lists 857 subcategories within computer science. For example, my favorite category, Information Search and Retrieval, has the 5 subcategories Clustering, Query formulation, Retrieval models, Search process, and Selection process. (They don't mention ads matching.) A dozen times 857 is about 10,000 subcategories across all of technology. So on average, each of these 10,000 subcategories

gets 350 scientists and engineers to work on it, and each such team needs to bring in an additional \$1.2B/yr in the next twenty years.

Now let's go back to the two Google researchers from my first story. The two of them had the original idea, but three others helped implement it. According to my model, it takes 29 people to generate a \$100M increase, so that means if we want to maintain the average, the team of 5, along with 24 of you in the audience, can take the rest of the next 20 years off. But of course we don't want to be just average. We want to excel; we're from Berkeley! How can we excel?

Before I answer that, let me return for the moment to Dewey Decimal 663: beverage technology. It turns out that in my very first professional job, as an intern thirty years ago, I had a colleague, a chemist, who had worked in beverage technology. The summer before he had been an intern and was given the task of figuring out if there was a particular chemical that gave whisky the distinctive taste of being aged in an oak cask. The company figured if they could isolate the chemical maybe they could just mix it in, and skip five or ten years of aging. So my friend went into the lab and isolated what he thought might be the right compound. He ordered a small vial from a chemical supply company (remember, this was before online shopping and email, so they had to actually write words on paper) and mixed up a batch. It tasted pretty good. (Why can't we computer scientists get research projects that involve consuming alcohol?) My friend was duly congratulated, and he wrote to the chemical supply company and asked for a 55 gallon drum of the stuff. They wrote back, saying "we regret that we can not fill your order because we are currently low on stock and, as I'm sure you know, to produce this chemical we need to age it in oak casks for five years."

The point of this story is that if it had happened today, my friend would not have had to spend months in the lab; he could have spent minutes on Google instead. I searched for about three minutes and I'm not sure exactly what chemical he isolated, but I do know that there is a small body of literature on volatile oak extractives that would help me find out, if only I understood a little more chemistry. Furthermore, I was able to do this because of the many efforts of the computer scientists working in category H.3.3: Information Search and Retrieval, some of them making incremental 1% improvements, some making larger leaps, but not one of them, I'm quite certain, thinking that their work would one day be applicable to a 30-year old problem in Dewey Decimal category 663: beverage technology.

So my advice to you is to pick one of the 10,000 categories, or invent category number 10,001, and make some progress in it. Pick problems that are ambitious enough that your expected value over the next 20 years is at least your \$3.4M/yr share. But worry about the value you produce, not just the money. America's first great scientist, Ben Franklin, said "we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours". So be happy and productive, don't be evil, and be glad of an opportunity to serve others.