Guidelines for Literature Review

Due: Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 in CSci 8002 (not Jan. 20 as announced previously).

The literature review should be a comprehensive exposition of the current status of knowledge on a CS&E topic of your choice, consistent with the title and summary that you submitted recently. You will need to ensure that the topic is neither too broad nor too narrow and is one of current importance in the field. If you are not sure and need help getting started, you should talk to your CSci 8001 instructor or, better still, your advisor or prospective advisor (as your instructor may not have expertise in all areas).

Your review should be a distillation of information from multiple sources (reputable, peer-reviewed journals and conference/workshop proceedings, and books). You may also draw upon sources such Technical Reports, Ph.D. theses, and papers in arXiv (arXiv.org), which are generally not peer-reviewed, but are considered relatively “safe”. Exercise caution in using online sources (Wikipedia, blogs, forums, etc.) as these sometimes tend to be of uneven and dubious quality; these sources can be used as a starting point for your work, but information from them must be cross-checked against reliable sources, with appropriate citations provided for the latter.

The review should reflect your own independent views and thoughts on the subject under consideration, gained as you delve deeply into the topic. Accordingly the review should not be a mere recitation of information from individual sources. Rather it should be a synthesis of ideas and concepts spanning multiple sources, thus showing that you have understood and assimilated the subject matter. Your review should summarize the status of current knowledge accurately and provide a critique of it, as appropriate.

Be sure to list all your sources completely, accurately, and consistently in the “References” section at the end. At a minimum, include author names, title, publication name, date, and page numbers. You may find software such as BibTeX, RefWorks (available at the University Libraries), or EndNote to be useful. All listed references must be cited in the review.

**Format:** Please type your submissions (1-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font, single-spaced, single-column). Include a separate titlepage, with your review title, name, student ID#, and advisor name (if known). Proofread your submissions. The review (excluding titlepage and references) should be no more than 5 pages long. Please submit a hardcopy in class.

Have fun!