MS Project/Thesis Seminar
What happens here?

- Designed to help you develop a project/thesis topic (through pre-proposal)
- Also to give you practice presenting technical material
- Can’t register for thesis/project until this course is passed
Activities of the course

- Figure out what you’re interested in
- Talk to professors
- Make some sort of progress each week
- Make 4 min. presentations to the rest of us
- Write a pre-proposal
The project/thesis process

• Talk to professors
• Find a chairperson
• Come up with a topic
• Write pre-proposal
• Get pre-proposal accepted
• Write proposal
• Get proposal accepted
• Do the work (keep talking to your chair)
• Update your web page
• Submit document and defend
Where you’re going

• When finished, a student will have a solid understanding of how to describe and solve a large, non-trivial computer science problem and how to write a technical report.
What is a project?

• Investigation of a theoretical hypothesis, or
• Software development effort
• Final report describes the above, with:
  • Background
  • Work performed
  • Significance of the work
  • Future work
  • References
What is a thesis?

• Should involve a significant question and involve original insight.

• Should be of a publishable standard

• Report is similar, but generally longer and more in depth (as is the work)
What is not a project/thesis?

- Programming project that might be in a course
- Anything that looks like one of our courses
- Reinvention of any wheel
What is a pre-proposal?

- One page document!
- Contains:
  - Problem description, background
  - Avenue of solution
  - What sort of work? (experimental, theoretical, development)
What is a proposal?

- More significant document
- Signable cover page
- Background, full related work section
- Problem statement
- Solution approach
- List of deliverables
- Timetable
Resources

• Past reports are on the DML (link from the CS homepage under Research)
• Theses are also in the Grad Lab
• Faculty web pages & publications for ideas
• Read papers! (search IEEE Explore, ACM Digital Library, INSPEC)
What do you want to do?

- Faculty research areas