

CSC490 Assignment A1 - Project Landscape - 10% of Final Grade

Due: Jan 23rd, 10:59pm with a Github PR and Quercus Submission

The goal of this assignment is to create a 4 page outline of the project you'd like to work on. This will include three sections including interest statements from your team, a landscape analysis, a project scope and a highlevel technical overview of your idea. Over the course of the term the project will evolve but this assignment will form the foundation.

1 Part One: Interest Statments (20 marks)

In this section write a paragraph on what problem your team wants to work on within a domain. You should include why you care as a team about the problem. Next include a sentence from each team member on what area they are excited to contribute to in this project.

2 Part Two: Landscape Analysis (30 marks)

Based on your problem area, conduct a landscape analysis of companies, research and/or products that are relevant. Organize them in a table and provide some light commentary on why you chose them. The goal is to be concise in communication but understand what oppurtunities exist for your project. 10 strong entries in the table is sufficient.

2.1 Landscape Sample Table

Table 1: Five relevant companies, two open source projects and three research papers

Relevant Item	Description	Commentary
Huggingface+ Transformers Package	A Model and Datahub with 2M+ models, powering the transformers package that enables training and serving	Key gaps: 5.0 deprecates JAX and TF, training stack is not as mature, minimal RL support guidelines for reasoning models.Moving more into the tutorials space.

3 Part Three: Project Outline (30 marks)

Create a 1 page project outline with:

- A Problem statement
- A Proposed solution
- A High-level technical approach and milestones
- A list of unknowns to investigate

4 Part Four: Project Press Release (20 marks)

Write a 1 page press release for your project, following the Amazon working backwards format. This should be written in a way that is accessible to a target audience and highlights the key features and benefits of your project. Include fictional quotes from users and stakeholders to illustrate the impact of your project. Include an appendix with a few iterations that you came up with.

5 Submission Instructions

Submit a pull request to the course Github repo with your assignment in a folder named a1 with your a1.pdf, include your team members names on the first page with student IDs. Also submit to quercus.

6 Suggestions

- Pick a problem that is specific and well defined. Solve a smaller problem well rather than a large problem poorly. You can always add scope later.
- Make sure your team is excited about the problem area
- Make sure your sections are consistent in scope
- Find the most relevant competitive landscape examples, don't shy away from great competition
- Flag interesting areas to investigate