Introduction

CPS 300: Introduction to Graduate Study
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September 7, 2011
Website: http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/fall11/cps300/
Class meetings: Wednesdays 4:25-5:40 pm, LSRC 344
C/NC grading: class participation + completion of (ungraded) assignments
No exams
Talks in the department: check event calendar (http://www.cs.duke.edu/events/)
Local TCSDLS: “must” attend
Telecast TCSDLS and dept. colloquia: “should” attend
Watch for email announcements to cps300 alias

Goal & content
- To help you get started (especially on research)
- Faculty are here to inform and advice
- But you must learn by doing!
- Advice on graduate life and research
- Navigating through requirements
- Finding/keeping advisors
- Reading/reviewing/writing papers, giving talks
- Attending conferences
- Weathering highs and lows of grad student life
- I am open to your suggestions on what to cover

Team building & discussion (20 min.)
- Get to know your team
- Why did you choose to go to CS grad school?
- List the top 5 reasons
- Are there right/wrong reasons?
- Come up with a good name for your team!
- Elect a member to summarize your team's discussion (3-5 minutes)

Team assignment
- Team JARS
  - Jie, Sandeep, Alex, Ralf
- Team Tachikoma
  - Songchun, Puneet, Kyle
- Team Bob
  - Cassi, Ruofan, Razvan
- Team Jymasher (“Jy” is silent)
  - JJ, Yuqian, Mahanth

A few points to keep in mind
- Research, research, research!
- You already know how to excel in courses anyway
  - Try to go out of your comfort zone!
- Courses are just a means to an end
- Dive in early
- Seek out faculty and senior students
- Attend research group meetings
- Plan your first courses based on research instead of requirements
- Talk to your mentor(s)
Jeopardy! in two weeks (Sep. 21)

- PhD RIP: Bob
- PhD prelim: Jymasher
- PhD dissertation: Jymasher
- PhD quals: JARS
- MS requirements: Tachikoma
- General requirements: Tachikoma
  - Including annual review
- Grad school and university rules: Bob

References:
- http://www.cs.duke.edu/education/graduate/requirements


Homework (due by next class)

- Record a .WAV of you speaking your name (the way you want others to pronounce it) and email it to me
- Read On Being a Scientist (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12193)
- Teamwork: study the requirements, and come up with 10 Jeopardy! questions (5 for each of your assigned categories)