Spring 2014 Class Project Guide

Project definition: A three week effort in the general area of RFIC design that demonstrates your ability to make progress using the understanding you have developed during this class.

The project has four parts:

1. A definition of the problem you are addressing

2. Preliminary work including simulations, references, discussions with friends and colleagues, and other evidence that the problem is worth your time

3. A detailed presentation of your own work that shows progress on the problem

4. The issues you have encountered that will need further work to move forward

The project report is 4 pages, broken down into the four areas listed above. The report is submitted electronically for grading, due the day of the final. The final exam class period will be spent discussing projects.

Suggested content in each of the four topic areas includes:

1. Problem definition: why you find this particular problem interesting

2. A discussion of the quality and extent of background information

3. Enough detail of your own work that an independent reader (for example, someone screening candidates for a job interview) can tell what you did and judge the extent and limits of your understanding.

4. Three weeks is not nearly enough time to complete a challenging, interesting project. A good predictor of success is your ability to clearly define the next things to try.
Project Schedule. Completing the four steps of the project requires discipline. In this class, some discipline is imposed externally.

The first deadline is Monday, June 2: submit a one-page preliminary report including the Problem Definition and a one paragraph progress report that briefly covers your preliminary research, collaborations and the independent work under way. Do not include any “next step” information. The one-page report is submitted electronically to rlc3@pdx.edu by midnight June 2.

Your independent work should be complete by Friday June 6, so that you can spend the next few days thinking about what is not yet working and come up with a clear plan for addressing those issues.

An ideal project extends well beyond the class period, and ultimately results in a contribution to the state of the art. That may take years. Treat this class project as the beginning of such an effort.

Project Grade. The 4 page project report has roughly the same weight as the midterm exam. The four project parts listed are each required, and will be graded separately. Note that section 2 covering the current background and section 4 clearly stating what you need to do next carry equal weight to the progress you can make during the short project period.