In place of a regular homework, for this week I’d like you to start thinking about your project.

The following is not a requirement, but a suggestion; there will not be a grade assigned.

You should write up a project proposal. This should be a 2-3 page document, which should essentially be a rough outline of what you hope the final paper will be about, along with some additional logistic information. You should include the following:

- an explanation of the question(s) you hope to answer
- a bibliography of related work
- your plan for answering the question. This can be in the form of what topic you hope to survey or explain, experiments you plan to do, code you plan to write, or theorems you plan to prove.
- resources your project requires. (This is to ensure that you are not going to attempt a project that we don’t have the resources for.)
- backup plans, for when things don’t work out the way you expect.

If you like, you can PRINT OUT the proposal and give it to me, and I’ll try to take a look. Please put your e-mail on the proposal if you want feedback. Please do not mail it to me (unless you are an extension student); it will just get lost in the mail spool.

Since it is optional, please do not send me a proposal unless it is worth reading. It should not be something that looks like you started it the day before. Make sure you have a clearly defined problem to tackle. Find related work on Google Scholar or elsewhere. Have the first steps outlined.

If you need suggestions for problems, let me know. I can probably find some implementation-oriented projects to suggest. However, it is generally better to find a project yourself that you are interested in.