Computational Social Choice 2026

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http://www.illc.uva.nl/~ulle/teaching/comsoc/2026/

Mini-Projects

Completing your project is a seven-step process:

- Form a group of size 3 (size 2 or 4 requires special permission)
- Identify a relevant topic and request approval for your topic
- Schedule a coaching meeting with me for your group
- Write a 2-page draft, focusing on definitions and motivation
- (Review the draft of another group)
- Present your project (20 minutes + questions)
- Submit your paper (4-5 pages + references, IJCAI style)

Identifying a Research Question

Option 1: Start from a real-world phenomenon that interests you.

- Come up with a model that is simple enough to permit analysis.
- Explore which of the techniques discussed might apply.

Option 2: Start from a paper you like.

- Theoretical paper? $\longrightarrow$ Design corresponding experiment!
- Experimental paper? $\longrightarrow$ Prove edge cases analytically!
- Econ paper? $\longrightarrow$ Look for algorithmic questions!
- Purely computational paper? $\longrightarrow$ Look for normative foundations!
- Negative results? $\longrightarrow$ Do better by focusing on special cases!
- General: What happens if you change some of the assumptions?

Group Assignment 1

We mostly have modelled ballots as strict rankings of the alternatives.

Propose an *alternative ballot format* and argue for its usefulness.

Group Assignment 2

For our standard model of voting rules aggregating lists of rankings into nonempty sets, think of a possible *application outside of politics*.

Formulate a novel *axiom* that's specifically relevant to your application.

Group Assignment 3

Give an example for a *technique* you learned about in another course that could potentially be applied in computational social choice.