

COGS 127: Modern Everyday Cognition
Final Paper: Collect Data, Use Mode, Report Results

Due date: This paper is due by 11:59pm on Saturday, December 19th

You may form a team of up to 3. Make sure to note all names on the submission.
Please note the “For Teams” requirement below.

Goal of the final paper

Now that you have some ideas set out for your app using GroupSource, this final project asks you to...

- collect data from participants using your “app”
- upload those data into Mode and explore your data; build two charts
- report what you’ve found
- draw some conclusions and discuss future directions

Structure of the paper

The paper must be at least 7 full double-spaced pages of text, 1” margins, and no larger than 12pt. font. Please compose your paper with the following structure (the rest is up to you and your creativity).

Introduction, interface, methods, goals, and screenshot from your Paper 1 (or, something new, but according to the rules specified in Paper 1). You may reuse your text, but please note that I expect your paper to flow and be coherent, so you may find yourself making lots of subtle changes.

How much data do you need? To build your results, collect data from participants (friends, family, etc.). How many you recruit will depend on whether you are doing a personal informatics or a crowdsourcing project. Here are the rules: The data you analyze on Mode must have at least 50 records (rows). If you are doing a crowdsourcing project, that would mean 50 different people entered your data. If you are doing personal informatics, that might mean that 2 participants entered data (entering at least 25 each — for 50 rows). Altogether there must be at least 50 rows of data.

Results. Load your data into Mode, and conduct some analysis. Include at least two graphs from your data, and report numbers in the body of the text. Do not include your graphs in the body of your paper (they must be on separate pages). I am happy to discuss in person what patterns you might be looking for in your app. Look for relationships within your data. For example, in the simplest graphs, you could use scatterplots or bar graphs (e.g., a scatterplot with “happiness” on the y-axis and “exercise” on the x-axis). I invite creativity, though.

Expanded conclusion: What did you find and how might you expand your exploration in the future? What useful or “good” applications could you envision for a tool like yours? What limitations did you face, and how could your approach be improved? Did you discover anything surprising or interesting that could be communicated to a broad audience? How does this relate to cognitive science and “everyday cognition”? Please try to answer all of these questions in some way, but compose an expanded conclusion that flows in a structured way (in other words, you do not have to answer these questions in the order that I’ve listed them; do so in prose).

Final notes: The paper must be presented in coherent prose — I prefer not to read point-form descriptions, but rather one smooth narrative.

For teams: Please include a brief description under your screenshot of how each team member contributed to this project, and assure us that each person invested equally in this paper, and the members will invest to a similar extent in the final project, as well.

Submission and grading: Each section above (Introduction, Interface, etc.) will be scored up to 5, with points deducted for lacking completeness, coherence, and correctness. You will be able to upload your document on CatCourses as the deadline approaches. Please don’t hesitate to meet with Rick or Maryam anytime to discuss the project.