Amazon Mechanical Turk live demo
Course Projects

• Gain hands-on experience and to explore in greater depth some aspect of crowdsourcing and human computation

• Teams of 3
  – You can vary from this with permission (the further you go from 3 the better your argument must be)
  – Project expectations will depend on size of team

• Can be your own idea or one of mine
Course Project

• Any project connected to course topics is fair game
• Can be connected to other work
  – Course portion must be delineated and of appropriate size
  – All relevant parties agree
  – Documented in report
• Can be focused on methods, ideas, systems building, etc.
  – Careful with systems building projects: Don’t want to fail for programming difficulties
  – Your project should “fail gracefully”
• It is ok if you explore a hypotheses that turns out to be false – you will be evaluated on whether you asked an interesting question, explored it effectively, and documented it in your report
Course Project Ideas

• Design a “game with a purpose”
• Test hypotheses about how various cognitive biases might impact worker performance on Amazon Mechanical Turk
• Implement a new human computation algorithm for some task
• Test hypotheses about behavior of a crowdsourced system such as Wikipedia, TripAdvisor, AMT, etc., by mining publicly available data about the system
• Solve some task using crowdsourcing
  – Be careful to target something where you have reason to believe you would be able to get a crowd
  – Be clear what is interesting about a project – simply using a crowd isn’t enough
Free Money!!!

• If your project would rely on AMT, I can provide $20 for worker payments
• In your project proposal give a budget estimate (what kind of tasks, how many workers you would need, etc.)
Milestones

• Due Thursday, March 17: Propose ideas
  – Post 3-5 ideas on Piazza
  – Need not be long
  – What question are you asking?
  – What do you think it will take to do it?
Milestones

• Tuesday, March 22: Comment on ideas
  – Provide comments on at least 5 of your classmates’ ideas
  – More credit the more comments you give
  – More credit if you’re one of the first to make a comment on an idea
  – Be generous with praise
  – Be honest about concerns
    • The best expressions of concern include constructive feedback
  – Make a mental note of the projects you might like to team up on
Milestones

• Thursday, March 24: Revise your ideas
  – Review the feedback you’ve gotten and revise your ideas accordingly
  – Kill off any ideas that you no longer think worthy of pursuing