Week 5 Reflection

* What have I learnt this week?

This workshop emphasised the idea on how aggregating decisions and behaviour could lead to predicting patterns and learning how to model them overall. Utilising probability distributions and the central tendency theorem all assist in being able to utilise a range of skills such as algorithms and logic to predict human behaviour in the future and present.

* What do I ‘now know’ that I did not before?

Understanding the importance of statistics in modelling was a concept I was previously unfamiliar with. I believed statistics was always used for sciences and data bases, however this workshop emphasised that statistics provide us with the necessary calculations needed to predict behaviours. For example, the probability distribution is a major part of this as it can reveal certain aspects such as why there are exceptional outcomes that occur in smaller populations. It was revealed that different types of normal distributions can also reveal important information about the predictability. For instance, long-tailed distribution will imply less predictability in comparison to normal distributions which imply more regularity.

* What insights have I gained?

The TED talk viewed in class was very interesting and insightful. Geoff West discussed how there is an exponential increase in urbanisation how we desperately need scientific theories for cities so we can ensure entropy and other factors do not destruct our world. Utilising scientific concepts such as biology and mathematical laws to govern the properties of cities, this video was insightful as it highlighted just how necessary it is to create predictive and accurate frameworks to maintain our universe. These ‘power laws’ will allow individuals to predict the lifetimes of cities, businesses and corporations, which was interesting to me as it almost seems as though our future is dependent on a series of science and mathematical equations.

* What were the perceived strengths and weaknesses that I have observed?

During this workshop, a strength of mine was my ability to refresh my knowledge on statistics and gain a deeper understanding on how various elements such as the mean, variance and distribution work together to provide useful information. As I currently study the subject “Business Statistics”, I was able to successfully apply what I have learned during that course in this workshop and make connections between the examples and questions that were being asked. Moreover, I was also able to ask my group members to start thinking about what topic we might choose, and suggested COVID -19 as the topic was deeply explored in this workshop. I was able to take initiative and encourage my peers to start thinking and collaborating on ideas for our upcoming assessment.