

Final Peer Review

The *SDS 385* course on *Big Data* is a very open-ended and challenging course and has a very steep learning curve. This course has exposed me to the implementation of many of the optimization methods that I study as a part of my Operations Research degree. This has helped me in developing an understanding of the problems and the unexpected behaviors that arise while applying iterative mathematical algorithms in a computing environment. The flexibility of the course allowed me to make the most of my time and allowed me to invest some time in studying the behavior of algorithms under varying conditions and delving deeper into the mechanics of optimization techniques, such as that of the matrix inversion routines.

An important component of the learning process in this class was Peer-Learning. I was fortunate to have been a part of such an eclectic group of motivated individuals.

Yanxin was a source of support and help, as a class mate, and as a project mate. She provided me with considerable amounts of reading resources and research papers. She graciously taught me to write Rcpp codes and educated me about various R packages, especially for generating descriptive heat maps. Her presentation on Sparse Quadratic Discriminant Analysis was very informative and she is also helping me with its application to an Insurance Claim Dataset, to classify risky costumers.

Mauricio has been an important source of unique and additional information which has enriched my learning experience. His suggestion and comments about a lot of new methods and new applications has motivated me to study further and has created a compulsive curiosity about many things. His codes have been very helpful in understanding problems that I couldn't have solved using the text book or the GitHub tutorials.

Bowen has been a buffer to the class and has presented work when many of us couldn't. His consistent presentations have helped reduce performance pressure during days when I couldn't make the code work.

Aron provided me with a unique insight into a whole new world of Big Data that I was oblivious to. His presentation on his work at the LHC was interesting and deeply fulfilling to the armature Physics enthusiast inside of me.

Hyunsang's work on the 4th exercise was very elaborate and is the reference for some work that I am undertaking.

Apart from the above-mentioned people, the whole class has given their unique perspective about a variety of things. I am also thankful to the Professor for sharing his experiences and insights from his work. This unique diversity of thoughts and ideas was highly fulfilling and something I want to experience more!

Thank You

Ashutosh Singh