Internship Program in Technology Supported Education(IPTSE)

The CMU-NITK Winter School 2014, was held from 10th December to 24th December at NITK Surathkal by Carnegie Mellon University, USA. I would say this was the perfect place for beginning my journey towards my lifetime goal of developing an Artificially Intelligent Machine that is way more intelligent than the humans are. 44 students from 30 institutions belonging to all corners of the country were selected to participate in this program. All the 14 days that I spent there at the Winter School seemed to be magical and like a dream come true for me, we had a hectic schedule that included rigorous research, coding, jargon filled tech talks, interactions with some of the greatest minds from India and professors from CMU,UC Berkeley that extended up to 20hrs a day, of which I enjoyed nearly every second of it. We were guided by **Prof. Bhiksha Raj (CMU), Prof. Rita Singh (CMU) and Mr. Pulkit Agrawal (UC Berkeley)**. After a lot of confusion regarding the team formations, the four of us(Satish Palaniappan (SSN), Skand Arora (Amity University), Dhruv Goel (MIT Manipal), Jinank Jain (IITJ)) randomly got together, which later ended up to be one of the best teams around, at the winter school. Our research guides introduced us to a plethora of ideas ranging from developing a national voiceprint database to detecting crime patterns. Inspired by them, we decide to pitch in our ideas for the projects. However, coming up with ideas and supporting them with feasible solutions seemed a daunting task.

We finally decided on a research problem namely "Emotion Detection from Text" codenamed "TexEmo". The applications of such a system are plenty. Personalized information generation for every user like advertisements, search results, etc can transform the web world. Such a system will enable the development of powerful human-computer interaction machines and will also lead to the evolution of more intuitive and emotionally characterized text to speech systems. Or how about developing the perfect recipe to inspire millions of people through a speech? We could analyze speeches by the world's greatest personalities to find out how the flow of emotions from their words inspired millions of people.

For the next 2 weeks, we worked day and night to achieve our objectives. We made great progress under the guidance of Bhiksha, Rita and Pulkit. As in the field of research, we kept on experimenting with a number of different ways through which we could come up with a more improved system and got mixed results. The 14 days ended in a flash. However, we had already begun our journey to develop a system that could understand emotions through text. Our work was even recognized by the media and got noted in **The Deccan Herald** newspaper (http://www.deccanherald.com/content/449978/44-students-prepare-10-projects.html) Inspired by our research guides, our team continues to work on this project codenamed "TexEmo".

(For more details/suggestions on our project visit: **http://projecttexemo.wordpress.com/**)

So get ready to be emoted by us, TexEmo is coming soon...!

Satish Palaniappan, 3rd Year.