My Data Science Journey At Stutern

My data science journey began three years ago with a desire and a passion to get to the field. It developed so much that by 2020 so I decided to start learning by taking the Data Science and AI course at STUTERN. Learning data science has been accompanied by an array of mixed feelings along the way. At one point things became difficult and at some point, the ride was very smooth.

The journey started with the pre-onboarding task, which was very strenuous as it required me to learn new skills to successfully attempt the task. The precourse week helped me get familiar with basic data tools like SQL, Python and Pandas library. Going into the programme proper, we were formally introduced to what data science is, its applications and career prospects. This helped answer so many questions about the field.

Definition and creation of virtual environments was an official introduction into understanding what creating machine learning models was all about as different models required different dependencies.This task was quite difficult as downloading and installing the required dependencies required a lot of data for updating and downloading, time and patience was also needed as errors kept popping up. Understanding the programme language(the mascot of the programme) was next. We needed to understand the language before applying it to data science. The video adaptation of Ken Youens-Clark book; Tiny Python Projects, DataCamp’s learning portal amongst a host of other learning materials was used to learn and practice programming with python. Upon acquiring basic understanding of python, its application in data analysis was the next step. We were introduced to Pandas library, Matplotllib, Seaborn, and Numpy as tools for data analysis. After a few weeks with these libraries we moved to exploring databases using the Sqlite3 in python. Like the SQL, Sqlite3 is a query language that can run on a python script. Web Scraping was next using Python, BeautifulSoup4.

The latter part of the programme was an introduction to using Google Colabs, Machine Learning and its libraries like Scikit, Time Series analysis using Machine Learning tools and Facebook’s Prophet and ARIMA. We were also introduced to Natural Language Processing, Deep Learning with Keras and TensorFlow and how to use the deployment platform Docker. The training was rigorous at times pushing me to my limit especially the latter part of the programme as we were very new to these concepts and I feel it was quite rushed.

In this journey, have learnt several lessons:

* Determination to keep pursuing my goal. Never give up in doing what you are passionate about. Detractors may be on your way, but keep going. There is a lot of light at the end of the tunnel as they say.
* There are so many resources online and can sometimes be overwhelming. Choose wisely.
* Get a learning path and follow it. Learning is hard work. Be consistent. Even when you get discouraged and things become too hard, relax and keep moving as a gallant soldier.
* Be patient with yourself. Learning is a process not an event. Take one day at a time.
* Take some simple projects to help you master the skills.
* Finally, share your knowledge and experiences with other people. Let others learn from you.

My data science journey continues. Our tutor was wonderful and at times complicated but I am still grateful to him and STUTERN. I am still in the process of learning. I keep pushing myself to learn new things. Learning is time-consuming and so it has been one of the challenges. I am very deliberate to make time for it.