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Data Mining
Dr. Jackson

Reflection Paper

The semester before this one, I had achieved some milestones in my Thesis project. My project is focused on receiving GPS data from users, so the system (I have built) can crunch and compute meaningful traffic information out of it.

When the register forward emails to students about the portal for registration been open, I took about 40 minutes to do brief research on the electives I had to choice from. With virtual discussion and later a follow up discussion with my supervisor, I realized the need to sign up for this class. Prior to this course, I didn't know I had done some 'data mining' before. Maybe that was because I had this image of NASA associated to the term.

Looking at my journey through this course, I have benefited in more than one way. Apart from gaining in-depth knowledge in this 'blossoming' field, this course significantly contributed to the success of my thesis project.

Dr. 'J' has influenced me with a variety of lens and ways to see and approach situations involving heaps and Petra bytes of data. Last semester, I struggled with conjuring an effective algorithm to determine the traffic flow on a road (with the assumption that I had more than one user on the system). Early this semester, after three weeks of Data Mining, I began to approach the problem of 'finding an effective algorithm' from a indirect avenue instead of focusing directly on the users using the service (was not making any head way with this approach anyway).

A highlight of the data mining class that triggered this idea, was a story Dr. 'J' told us about how Wal-Mart was pushing pregnancy adverts to one fathers computer, who later had to find out it was so because his daughter had made pregnancy inquiries with the computer and that was because she was pregnant.

Dr. Jackson is a patient instructor who kept adjusting his tutoring approach to help those of us who had a bad start jump back on to the wagon. Data Mining was refreshing and enlightening.

Thank you Dr. 'J'