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CS 105

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Dr. Emily Hand

Dr. Hand's guest talk was based on gathering data from noisy information. She began her talk by reviewing her previous jobs and qualifications. She also covered her motivations for her current research regarding computer vision and assistive technology. Dr. Hand briefly summarized convolutional neural networks and their uses for deep learning. She discussed how she could use a basic visual data set with binary tags and neural networks to find attribute relationships such as a receding hairline has a correlation with balding. She wanted to take the results from this data and make it less noisy, so they applied a lazy learning technique where the machine only learns when it is surprised. She also discussed handling issues with the data.

I think what was discussed by Dr. Hand can affect me in many ways, especially regarding data mining. Machine learning is a phenomenal tool, especially when exploring and analyzing large datasets. Dr. Hand focused on facial attribute recognition which to me means it will result in better facial recognition technology. While this can be good for things such as unlocking devices or identifying people, it can also lead to negative impacts such as companies or government entities being able to track people through visual data significantly easier. Cameras are everywhere in today's modern world, so the only real way that I could keep myself from being impacted by this is by staying home and never going near a camera. Since that is highly unrealistic though, I can only accept that every action and every appearance I make in public can lead to companies or government entities collecting more information on me, potentially resulting in an invasion of my privacy.