Questionnaire (Project #1)

1. What did you enjoy most about this project?

I enjoyed having the opportunity to pursue our own project. The loose project description gave our group a lot of freedom. It was very interesting to create a logistical model. I really enjoyed working with my group, especially Lee who shares my tenacity and curiosity when faced with difficult problems.

I enjoyed learning about weather prediction and was amazed that our model did so well.

I enjoy crafting new variables based on existing data and this project gave me a chance to explore a time-based model. It was gratifying to find that my rate of change variables were independent of the variables on which they were based but unfortunate that none ended up in use. We chose to simplify our model with a series of time intervals and it would have been interesting (I think) to include more possible points. We also simplified by modeling on any time that we had information from 24, 12, 6, 3 and 1 hour previous so that time zero varied a lot. This was done for simplicity (our times were in UTC and converting to Denver time would have been busy work) but I would like to try the model again using a specific time like midnight or 6 am.

1. What was most challenging about this project or statistical analysis?

The most challenging part of this project was it was way too ambitious. We struggled to develop a good idea and with a dearth of alternatives, we went with mine despite my partners’ deep reservations (honestly, choosing appropriate project topics has been an issue with me since grade school when I presented on Kuru, so I get it).

Having to switch gears two weeks into a three week project was unsettling. We each had to focus very hard on our own area and didn’t get to collaborate very much. So while I feel very good about what I learned about model design and specification, I didn’t learn very much about analysis or creating graphics. Even in our presentation, we each produced and presented our own slides without much input from the others.

I also feel that I did not adequately investigate colinearity in the model or why model selection gave the results that it did. All three model selection methods produced the same model but variables were chosen in different orders so it took some time to prove that they were equivalent. Same thing with correlation, running the whole data set produced 34 pages of relationships most of which involved data that would never be run together. So I had to build a dataset for each model (remember we had five) so I could investigate each one independently. This left me little time to craft models based on my correlation findings.

I mentioned my rule of thumb about having three times the variables I want to end with. I noted while watching the other presentations that others were successful with a very small number of variables.

1. Do you have any recommendations for future project or presentation instructions? If so, what?

It might be a good idea to mention that projects often fail! My group this summer also had to scrap our first linear regression project, so I am well aware that this happens, but I’m not sure that everyone understood that starting over is a thing that can happen. I know there was sadness in the class about this.

Also, I always like a reflection portion at the end: what could have been done differently, what would be an interesting follow up line of work. And while it was nice not to do a write up, we did so much work and discovered so many interesting details that it’s a shame not to share them.

1. Do you have any other comments or suggestions? If so, please state them below.

It is certainly exciting to take a project based class! I love projects although I tend to dive way too deep. I liked that you chose our teams to break the ice, I had never worked with Lee before and while Leo is a dear friend I’ve never done a project with him either. It was so valuable. In the future though, I will save my creativity for solo projects. My teammates did not deserve the horror show that is working on my ideas.