It is not a technology-based but an intention-driven class. We need to not only preview books and cases but also do discussions during class and review and peer evaluation after class.

During the first class, we discuss a specific case with relevant questions. When dealing with problems, one thing is that we should have a business understanding and care about intention and possible outcomes before digging into data. When having a plausible solution, first do not judge if a better one exists but define and see the inner relationship between problem and solution. And list all things we care about, the target users, stakeholders and all the relevant stuff behind the problem, think further and combine the reality. When going to the data part, we not only get as much as possible if it’s relevant but also consider the sensitivity and the cost. Also, think of a more appropriate method, such as whether we want to know the rules or only want the best result, the feasibility (such as speed and cost), how much the error we want to bear and so on. So, there’s not as simple as we combine all the relevant data and forming the most accurate model but splitting the question into logic, business, and technology parts.

And one thing I learned from this course is that there’s no right or wrong answer, and the best-fitting model may be useless, the most influential variable may turn out to be underused. Realistic is not ideal, the systematic right does not mean it can happen in reality. So keep a critical mind and embrace various circumstances when it comes to different cases in the future.