IDS 706 Semester Team Reflection

Overall Team Reflection of Project

Our teamwork for the data engineering project was structured into two stages: specialization and collaboration. During the first stage, each team member focused on a specific aspect of the project based on their strengths and expertise. In the second stage, we worked collaboratively through in-session coding, debugging, and finalizing minor tasks to complete the project.

First Stage, Each of us at their own pace:

- **Meron** prepared and tested the AI functions, ensuring their accuracy and integration into the project workflow to handle resume inputs. Meron also prepared the load test.
- **Diego** focused on developing and testing NLP functions and generating visualizations to enhance the presentation of our results, completing the matching between resume and job post.
- **Yirang** designed and implemented the app's front-end interface using Flask, merging contributions from different team members into a cohesive user experience.
- **Adil** managed the repository ecosystem, ensuring smooth deployment by refining the Dockerfile, Makefile, and AWS deployment process.

Second Stage, Together:

- **Meron** and **Yirang** took care of additional formatting
- **Diego** prepared the final architecture diagram
- **Adil** ran the final deployments on AWS, final tests, and wrote the readme file.
- All together, prepare, organize, and record the Demo video.

This division of responsibilities allowed us to effectively leverage each member's skills, resulting in a well-rounded and robust final product. Additionally, the collaborative phase enabled us to address any issues as a team, ensuring the project met our shared standards for quality and functionality.

Individual Reflections Of Team

Meron Gedrago

General Reflections

I really enjoyed working with everyone on this project. Our early brainstorming sessions, regular meetings to track progress and timelines, and constant communication helped us stay on track. The team fostered an environment where anyone could easily ask questions or request help, which made for a highly collaborative atmosphere. I felt supported throughout the process, and together we were able to create a great final product.

I greatly appreciate the humility, positive attitude, and strong work ethic that each team member brought to the table. Their unique skills and dedication were instrumental in the success of the project, and I believe that these qualities played a major role in achieving our goals.

Meron Feedback to team members

Adil

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Consistently bring positive energy, creating an environment that keeps morale high	Expanding involvement and participation in areas outside of your main workstream to gain broader experience
Being highly resourceful, regularly leveraging diverse tools, sources, and connections to achieve results.	Being more transparent and proactive in communicating your workload and any challenges you are facing
Maintaining a strong enthusiasm for their work, approaching each task with genuine passion and drive.	Actively seeking help and support when needed to ensure tasks are completed efficiently.

Diego

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Continue structuring problems effectively and creating clear paths toward solutions.	Explaining the technical aspects of your work more clearly so that everyone can fully understand
Maintaining a strong sense of urgency in completing tasks and meeting deadlines.	I think you were good at organizing the team and ensuring we were on track - you can even improve on this by working towards creating a more collaborative environment within teams so everyone feels supported/ can excel
Keep demonstrating flexibility and the ability to pivot plans when solutions don't work out as expected	Working more in other people's workstreams so you can have an overview of all aspects of the project

Yirang

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Continue maintaining your positive and can-do attitude	Proactively communicating challenges you're facing and any potential delays, so support can be provided as needed.
Keep up your dedication and willingness to put in the effort	Asking more questions about others' work to gain a better understanding of their processes and contributions.
Continue being resourceful by effectively allocating resources to learn new tools quickly	Requesting additional support earlier to help reallocate resources and meet deadlines.

Diego Rodriguez

General Reflections

Our teamwork and communication throughout the project were well-structured and highly effective. I always had a clear understanding of our starting point and ultimate goals, which helped maintain focus and direction. We also kept our communication open, ensuring that any challenges—whether technical or logistical—were promptly addressed as a team.

This project reinforced the value of skill specialization in achieving greater outcomes. By allowing each member to focus on their area of expertise, we were able to create a final product that seamlessly combined concepts and tools from multiple disciplines, including NLP, AI, and data engineering. I'm proud of what we accomplished together, as it represents a synthesis of everything we've learned and showcases the power of collaboration and interdisciplinary integration.

Diego Feedback to team members

Adil

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Keeping a calm and focused mindset when challenges arise, fostering a productive and positive environment.	Working ahead of deadlines to reduce the likelihood of unexpected uncertainties. For example, seeking help earlier when encountering roadblocks during preparation to limit time spent resolving issues.
Maintaining open and structured communication with the team to ensure clarity of goals and efficient problem-solving.	Asking more questions about how other parts of the project are built to better understand the overall structure and improve efficiency in my contributions.
Willing to explore and learn new areas, such as AWS and other tools or frameworks that enhance deployment and scalability.	Giving my input more confidently, particularly when technical decisions are being discussed, to ensure critical aspects are addressed.

Meron

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Maintaining a proactive and collaborative attitude throughout the project to secure is completeness.	Being more direct and assertive when expressing ideas or opinions. While politeness is important, strengthening the delivery of good ideas ensures they are recognized and impactful.
Demonstrating a willingness to take on new tasks and challenges with enthusiasm.	Communicating additional accomplishments during the project to help the team track progress and align goals.
Contributing thoughtful ideas and insights during discussions, which add value to the team's efforts.	You are ready to lead and propose new initiatives—step into this role with confidence. Taking the lead in certain areas will allow you to further demonstrate your abilities and contribute to the team's success in even greater ways.

Yirang

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Leveraging a variety of resources to ensure tasks are completed thoroughly and effectively	Asking more clarifying questions about aspects of the project that impact the overall product to reduce the time spent resolving uncertainties.
Maintaining a willingness to explore new areas of expertise to support app development and enhance your skill set.	Demonstrating greater proactivity in areas beyond your immediate responsibilities to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the project and its challenges.
Reaching out with milestones and advances to make sure that the project is moving forward	Asking for feedback and opinions to refine and improve the product during its development.

Adil Gazder

General Reflections

One of the notable instances where I actually enjoyed and learned over the course of the project. Although the project had initially seemed very daunting, by effective delegation and open communication, we were able to split up the work according to my fellow team members' passion areas, areas of interest (where they were looking to explore), and areas of development (where they wanted to strengthen their domain/technical knowledge). Combining this with regular check-in meetings, open lines of communication, and peer assistance really aided in bringing out the best of our work.

No team is without its 'conflicts' and although there were times when we had differences in approach to a problem statement or an edge case, open discussion really helped us address the problem holistically and from various perspectives, bringing in different viewpoints which make our code even more robust.

Adil Feedback to team members

Meron

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Communication: Proactive, clear clarity of thought with an understanding of her audience, and actively listening to new ideas and approaches.	Identifying and proposing larger-scale areas of opportunity to build solutions on (during the brainstorming phase of the project).
Resourcefulness: Meron has an ability to bring innovative ideas to overcome technical nuances and is able to leverage the resources at hand to address the problem statement.	Balancing urgent fixes with long-term optimizations when working with tighter timelines.
Accountability: Meets the perfect balance of working in a team environment and independently, discussing approaches with the team and implementing them flawlessly in code.	Taking the lead on certain tasks/ additional initiatives that could contribute to the overall success of the project.

Diego

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Problem-solving mindset: Brings a structured approach to each task at hand while still being open to new ideas	Encouraging more frequent and constructive feedback from/within the team.
Organization: Able to effectively coordinate with the team on timelines and deliverables, ensuring the entire team is on track. Takes the initiative and lead on ideas.	Contingency planning: Baking in additional times to ensure timelines aren't as rigid while working with intermittent milestones
Diligence: Always meets timelines and deliverables and is able to justify every line of code, displaying a deep technical understanding of the code.	Code explainability: A little more detailed explanation of code written and implemented, would help to sometimes give code walkthroughs to ensure the entire team is on the same page

Yirang

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Technical ability: In-depth understanding of technical structure and code, willing to go the extra mile to learn and apply what's needed for the team to push forward.	Technical communication: Be able to present complex approaches in relatively simpler terms
Collaboration: Always willing to adapt roles based on the team's needs and brings very unique approaches to handling technical roadblocks. Additionally, she ensures team morale is always high!	End-to-end verification of code to ensure smooth deployment across the pipeline, understanding the downstream impact of code changes, and possibly alerting relevant members to address issues
With the ability to work under pressure and tight timelines, Yirang is very adaptable to dynamic situations and ensures timelines are met.	Open communication and pulse checks, taking feedback on code and peer review of code

Yirang Liu

General Reflections

I loved the teamwork we have. We started early to plan for the whole roadmap of the project. We helped each other all the way to the end by proposing good ideas, clear obstacles, and polish the finish. Everyone is willing to contribute their knowledge, time, intelligence, and efforts selflessly. Work is relatively evenly divided and each of us learned a lot from the practice and cooperation.

As for myself, I have learned the need to improve my confidence to speak out loud for myself and for the team. I do recognize that my teammates are really nice and kind to take care of me, which becomes another motivation for me to self improve. I also would like to improve my technical skills so that we can cooperate and help others.

Feedback to team members

Adil

What to continue doing	Areas of development
AWS is new to all of us. Adil learned to quickly pick it up and implement it in the group project. He ensured the smooth deployment process by refining technical workflows, including Dockerfile and AWS setup and all other CICD related tasks.	Proactively communicating timelines and sharing any blockers earlier to avoid last-minute challenges.
Adil provided a highly organized approach to repository management. Supporting the team by handling key operational tasks like deployment and documentation.	Asking questions to gain a deeper understanding of upstream processes.
Adil actively communicated with TAs and peers to leverage our work, which provided a lot of sense of security and achievement.	Exploring ways to increase collaboration in team-wide tasks, like final demos or presentations.

Meron

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Meron prepared and validated complex AI functions from her previous experience while ensuring accuracy in our project outputs. It was new and intriguing to me. The team benefited a lot from her.	Taking initiative to lead larger sections of the project independently.
Meron provided creative and effective solutions to technical challenges during collaborative sessions, which actively pushed the team progress forward and improved the innovation and quality of it.	Being more direct and assertive when presenting ideas, ensuring impactful suggestions are noticed.
Meron kept the team motivated by bringing a positive energy to the work environment.	Sharing more updates on accomplishments throughout the project to ensure alignment and visibility.

Diego

What to continue doing	Areas of development
Diego structured problems effectively and created clear pathways for solutions, especially in NLP tasks.	Providing additional explanations for complex technical implementations to ensure team-wide understanding.
Diego maintained a strong sense of urgency to complete tasks on time, which kept us on schedule while keeping a positive vibe in the team for final completion.	Engaging more with other workstreams to gain broader project insights.
Diego organized the team to ensure progress remained steady during individual and collaborative phases.	Creating a more collaborative environment where all team members can contribute ideas more freely.