

The most significant challenges I have faced during the KEYS program (so far) is when I was reading research papers and testing two video segmentation methods. Although reading research papers wasn't necessarily a challenge, it was a little boring and hard to focus on. Not only that but I wanted to record the information in case I needed to go back to something later (I know I made it harder on myself by doing this but I thought it would make my life easier later). Needless to say the process took a while and I found myself distracted because it was so tedious. I combatted this by not necessarily writing down everything from the paper and not even reading and trying to understand everything (a lot of the math in the methods for example which was way beyond my level). I also struggled with testing two specific methods for video segmentation and spent almost 3 days trying to get them to work, but to no avail. This was deeply frustrating because not even my mentor could figure it out and why it wasn't working. I tried countless things, tons of tests, and many different methods but it still didn't work. And sadly I didn't really overcome this challenge. In a meeting with my mentor, he simply told me to move on since the methods were poorly documented and not worth the time. Although I didn't want to move on and give up, I had to because of the time that was being wasted on it. I think learning this method of cutting down on the work when something is getting boring and doing it in chunks as well as stopping when something is taking too much time is very helpful for the rest of the program and my life. Everything is time bound and you need to be able to decide where you want to spend it and what is the best use of it. Overall these challenges were frustrating but they are part of the process and helped me learn some important lessons.