David Kinney DSC 550

Professor Deitenbeck Winter 2019

4.4 Reflection: Week 4 Reflection

This week was particularly challenging, mainly for two reasons: 1) I had the flu for most of it (ok, ok, next year I’ll get the shot!); and 2) lots and lots of technical names bandied about in the text, with accompanying definitions, classifications and theoretical explanations: Mahalanobis distance, Jaccard distance, partitive clustering, agglomerative clustering, Latent Direchlet Allocation—OK, I’ll stop there (but that was just Chapter 6!). It’s good timing that we have two weeks off, as I’ll be spending that two weeks re-reading these two chapters.

From a Practical Data Science standpoint though, I enjoyed the exercises. But then, as I’ve mentioned before, I enjoy *all* the exercises, because I’d rather be coding something up than trying to wrap my head around what “non-negative matrix factorization” is (I got fatigued just typing that).

In all seriousness, that felt like a whole lot of theory to have to absorb in one week. Oh, I know this is a Master’s program and not some Data Camp course; it *should* be hard, or at the very least, challenging. I’ll just take the next two weeks of down time to review the two chapters, code up the examples, and at least hope to inject place-holders in my brain for the time when I need to use these things in the real world.

OK, I could blather on with filler for another paragraph, but I won’t waste your time—I’m tapped out. 😊