**CSE 450 – Case Study Performance Evaluation**

Treat the questions in this evaluation like a professional document you would send to an executive team during a post-mortem. Write in complete sentences, using correct grammar and spelling.

**1. During this module, what are two key ideas you learned during this case study related to machine learning and data analysis?**

I learned about how modeling the brain can be an effective way of creating a machine learning model, and how data almost always has information that you can conjecture about it based on past knowledge that can be useful in the programming and the model.

**2. Choose one of your answers to the previous question and write a one-paragraph summary of that concept or idea as if you were teaching it to someone else.**

Neural networks model the brain by having different 'neurons' connect to other neurons. A small number of input nodes connect to other nodes, first by branching out, then by branching back down to a small number of output nodes.

**3. If you had additional time to work on this case study, what is one thing that you would you do to take things further?**

I would have experimented more on neurons, including different sizings, lengths, and taperings. I think there is a lot to uncover about neural networks, but they can be very complicated and what will make them improve is hard to predict. I think testing and trial and error are really the only ways to see what works and what doesn't.

**4. Aside from having to learn a new and/or difficult concept, what do you think was the biggest obstacle your team faced during this case study?**

I think our biggest obstacle was effectively describing the model. It can be challenging to describe a model when there are not many ways to see what it is actually doing. The lack of transparency makes uncovering why it is effective very difficult. I think this is an area we could improve on.

**5. What is the most insightful thing you learned from hearing about what the other teams did?**

The most insightful thing I learned from another team was about modifying the number and density of neurons. That insight helped our own team's model.

**6. What insights did you gather about learning in general from this module?**

It's not easy or straightforward. The effort spent in trial and error and testing does not always correlate to understanding. You don't always know what will result in meaningful improvement in the model, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try.

**7. Could these insights apply to spiritual learning? If so, how?**

I think it means you should be persistant, and keep trying even if you don't feel like you are making progress. Just because something doesn't seem to be working doesn't mean that it's not worth trying. Sometimes you just have to be persistent and continue trying different things, and there can be results.

**8. You should have received an email from the TEAMMATES web app for you to enter your personal and team evaluations for this module. (If not, you should email Brother Allred to fix this.) Before submitting this document, go complete the TEAMMATES online feedback survey. Did you complete the online TEAMMATES evaluation survey?**

**Yes**