3 Tips I wish I Knew Before Becoming a Data Scientist:

Presenter: Haidar Altaie, Data Scientist, SAS UK&I - DS last 2 years

Questions:

Agenda:

Theoretical data science

Day in the life

3 hot tips

* What exactly is a data scientist?
  + People who work on making data more useful
* A Day in the life
  + “If I had 6 hours to build a model, I would spend the first 5.5 hours interrogating the data”
  + Cleaning and collecting data takes most time
  + It isn’t all just the promise of self-driving cars and artificial general intelligence
  + Only 47% of models get deployed
  + Need to fully understand data before the fun ML parts
  + What are we and machines good at?
    - Machines are good at
      * Large data sets
      * Complex calculations
      * Learning
      * Automation
    - Humans are good at
      * Common sense
      * Intuition
      * Creativity
      * Empathy
      * Versatility
    - AI enhances our capability and gives organizations competitive advantage
* 3 Hot Tips
  + The whole is greater than the sum of its parts
    - Unspoken Data Science soft skills
      * Communication
      * Prepare to fail and ask
      * Critical thinking
      * Networking
        + Learn from people on the outside and they can learn from you
        + New trends all the time
        + Can help push career forward
      * Analytical lifecycle
  + Efficiency is doing the thing right, but effectiveness is doing the right thing
    - Relevant to business
    - Ethical
    - Explainable & interpretable
      * Model -> data & prediction -> explanation -> human decision
      * Wolf vs husky example – not looking at wolf vs husky it was looking at background, snow vs not snow
  + No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it
    - You can’t master everything
    - Important to have diverse team that specializes in different things and stays up to date
    - Specialize in something – area of expertise – long term strategy
* Questions:
  + What has been your biggest challenge as a data scientist?
    - Really believed it was all coding
    - In reality you need to speak and explain things to customers and senior stakeholders
    - Translate insights to people who know nothing about analytics
    - Always been a math/stats guy – no biz background. Need to have knowledge of business in order to build model with that in mind
  + Data Analyst vs Data Scientist?
    - DA – historical data
    - DS – predicts future data