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Assignment #4: Baby Names

Video:

https://youtu.be/x9mB267z53Y

Analysis:

After running the generator several times, it is evident that there is still room for this name creator to improve. There are good names and bad names that are generated, and it depends on the user input parameters. In general, the male names seem male and the female names seem female. I do not know the logic behind why I feel this way, but the names seem to exude a gender when they are generated. This is a good thing and it means that the probabilities for male and female names are different because they are structured differently. Therefore, there is a difference in the generated names when I choose to train the model with boy vs girl names. I never knew that there was a difference in how male and female names are structured, but it becomes clear in this model that there are clear patterns between the two types.

After assessing the validity of the created names, the results are interesting. As stated above, names are entirely dependent on the desired length of a name. An example of a bad name is something like “Calec” for a male name. Another name that is bad and happens to be long is “Damael”. They don’t really make sense, nor do they sound like legitimate names. While it is following a generic structure that seems legit, they look like they are the combination of two names. Using a model of a higher order could solve this as I’m only looking at the last 2 letters to the beginning and end of the name could be completely different. This is especially prominent in longer names because the variation of the beginning and the end is so much greater as the letters are just farther removed from each other. An example of a good name is “Abell” for a male name. This sounds like a real name, or a variation of such. It could be because it is a shorter name, or the code run-through just so happened to produce this name.

The same results are produced for the female names as well. A good name could be “Camee” and a bad name could be “Adrah”. Some names just sound more legit than others. Creating a model of a higher order can combat some of the discrepancies that I am getting back in the created names. I believe that having an algorithm choose names will ultimately end in a couple throwaways because there is only so much that the program can understand about names. As I said in a previous paragraph, the names just feel like they are for a male or female, I am not sure what the semantics are behind that feeling. Maybe that is not something that can be replicated in a program.

While I believe that I completed the assignment, I think there is room for improvement in the way that I generated the names. Possibly a more efficient data structure as there are for and while loops everywhere in my code. I do believe that the generated names are right and effective but if there was a larger name database, my code would take forever to run. These are just things to think about in hindsight but overall a very interesting assignment!