Hey Professor,

For this week, I had done some research into graph analysis which peaked my interest since I am more of a fan of the data visual aspect of this field in being able to show information to different audiences and to tell an overall story. Therefore, this week, it was interesting to see how graph analysis can aid in providing insight but in telling a story as well. An example that I thought was interesting was how a Forbes article explained the process by using the “Kevin Bacon Rule” which implies that everything is somehow connected to Kevin Bacon on some level, whether it be because of a movie or franchise that he was in or starred with another actor/actress that belongs to another area and so forth. By having people and movies as the nodes, you were able to see the connections made and how strong certain relationships were compared to movies he starred in to a field of study that he has never been a part of in his life. Looking at other discussion posts this week, it caught my attention again how the book uses the example of the Wizard of Oz for the network analysis and the co-occurrence plots. From the example, you were able to see the strength of the relationships on the characters from that aspect. With someone that has never heard the story or seen anything about it, you could assume that the Scarecrow and Tin Man are her close friends, but you also might make the mistake in saying that the wicked witch is one as well. Because of this assumption, it proves how important context can be to an analysis in comprehending what the visual and data is telling you. Even though Dorothy and the witch are mentioned together multiple times, it does not signify that they are friends, and the same could said about the Scarecrow and the Tin Man.

With the graph analysis case study, I thought it was helpful to be able to walk through the code in order to gain a better understanding of how the process would work all together. When it comes to assignments in anything, you are taught about the concept and theory of the topic, but sometimes are not given an opportunity to actually see it in motion, especially if it’s for another assignment. Therefore, I appreciate this opportunity to see how it’s done before applying it myself.

-Gabe