After a whole year of conscientious effort, we eventually finished the final year project in the middle of May. It was certainly a terrific learning experience for Angel and me to work as a team, completing the project of investigating the eye movement patterns in virtual reality under various conditions.

I remembered the initial project proposal was way more diverse than the final version. At first, we planned to incorporate the hidden Markov model (HMM) to boost accuracy by adding causal elements in the probabilistic model after observing the whole set of frequent subsequences given a set of sequences and a support threshold. Then, the comments received in the questionnaire would be aggregated to divide clusters using cluster analysis after obtaining many orders, just like what we had taught and did during the courses. Nevertheless, at the first meeting with Dr Hu, we were panic as she mentioned most of the ideas that we proposed had been done in the previous papers. Although we could learn the background and introductive knowledge of eye movement tracking, which was indeed a unique topic for us, we still consumed time studying what analysis and methods we could apply to find out new discoveries. While preparing the revived thoughts, Jeremy and Ying assisted us a lot by providing references for us to promptly understand the concept such as what is fixation and saccade these basic terms in the eye movement analysis. They certainly helped us to back on the right track quickly and we appreciated the effort they had put in.

This semester has been really demanding especially since I am an exchange student studying in the United Kingdom. It was difficult for me to balance the workload of each module while familiarizing living outside Hong Kong, as well as finish the final year project on time. In addition, one of the troubles was the time difference as Hong Kong is seven hours ahead of England even in daylight saving time. Thus, I was required to attend almost all of the meetings very late around 2 am. It was a challenge for me to keep my mind refreshed and reported the latest process of the project at the midnight. Thank you for the concern from Dr Hu as she had already moved the meeting time earlier for me, but there was more than one exchange student under the guidance of Dr Hu, so I needed to get used to it. The time difference was also a tribulation for communicating with my teammate Angel too. Therefore, we had come out with a solution, leaving all messages in a Google document even though we had already chatted and confirmed the decision to avoid any missing or misunderstanding issues. If there was a significant change, we had agreed that we were required to secure the zoom meeting at least before a day. Hence, completing the final year project can also improve our time management, which is the necessity of leaving a certain amount of time for preparation, more than just enhancing our knowledge in social data science.

If I had been given a chance to do the project again, I would complete it differently in several areas. Throughout this endeavour, I think we lacked focus at certain stages during processing. It could be seen on the last submission day, I still needed to modify some parts of the coding to generate results in various ways that we had just decided to apply a day before. We were eager to do better striving for the best, but this should not be happened due to the limit of time and should stuck with the original plan.

Since Angel and I are experts in separate areas, she would focus more on the literature review and also on the final checking of the report to dodge any grammar or vocabulary mistakes. I aimed to tackle all problems in the technical area like solving the research questions and troubles by Python and R, then posting the outcome to the documents and explaining to Angel how to utilize and interpret them. I believe it was the most comfortable way for both of us to collaborate because we all could do parts that we wanted and were suitable. She is certainly an excellent member with great communication and completes her assigned tasks on time. I would love to choose her as my partner again if we have to finish a task together.

After the recent presentation, I hope I can share the progress with professors and the third-year students who have joined the meeting. I cannot praise this project enough and I believe it encourages them to consider completing it next year.