## Topic 1 – “*With four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk”*

The following quote above was said by Von Neumann, a famous mathematician, physicist, computer scientist and engineer. The first time I heard of him was in relation to the model of the computer. In my other intro to computer science classes, there is always a section that talks about the Von Neumann architecture. He has always been an integral part of my computer science journey. That is why I was very attentive when you said a quote by him. At first, I didn’t understand what the point of the quote was. What does an elephant have anything to do with parameters? Then I remembered how changing the degree of the dataset (for p\_fit) changed the line to hit all points. I also remembered how useless the regression line became since it was paying connect the dots instead of displaying trends. The quote boils down to the idea that sometimes more is less. I can’t imagine that the task given to Von Neumann was to create an elephant using a dataset. There is also no need to make it wiggle its nose. Just because you can doesn’t mean that you should. All this realization happened in the span of a couple seconds but it is cool to take the time to dissect the moment.

## Topic 2 – import mathplotlib.pyplot as mp

In class, while following along with the walkthrough, I was having trouble importing matplotlib. I was getting all sorts of errors. I originally thought that I didn’t have the proper packages installed. It’s a new semester and I’ve been tweaking with python throughout the break. I thought I messed something up during that time. I spent the next few minutes searching the error code given by the terminal, looking up at the board to make sure I wasn’t lagging too behind, and generally getting frustrated. No matter what I did, the simple import statement wouldn’t work. I reinstalled matplotlib through the terminal. I created virtual environments to have a clean slate. I switched to different python kernels. I was surfing the web for answers. This was while everyone else was following along with the walkthrough and creating entire plots. Long story short, the error ended up being that I wrote ‘mathplotlib.pyplot’ instead of ‘matplotlib.pyplot’. I’ve always liked python because you could never get an error by missing a semicolon like in c++. I hate that I will continue to encounter this ‘small but time-consuming error’ phenomenon again. **AI Policy Statement**

By writing my name below, I acknowledge that I did not use ChatGPT or any AI software to assist in this assignment in any way.

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