Week 2-3

In the last two weeks, much of my work revolved around the difficulty of trying to install tensorflow onto the Raspberry Pi. The problem was that it ran on Raspbian 8, which didn’t naturally support tensorflow. Beyond that, manual installation was difficult as there were no documented cases of tensorflow installation on Raspbian 8 in my searches. In the end, I tried to upgrade Raspbian 8 to Raspbian 9. I managed to follow a tutorial on youtube on how to perform this upgrade but ultimately, at the reboot step, the Raspberry Pi failed to boot up into its GUI mode – apparently the screens were missing.

I didn’t want to find out what else went wrong in that upgrade, so instead I decided to reinstall Raspbian 9 from scratch. This required me to reformat the MicroSD card, which meant a trip to Best Buy to buy a MicroSD to USB adapter as my computer didn’t have a way to access a microSD card. I managed to reformat the MicroSD card once I obtained the adapter and proceeded to install NOOBS onto the MicroSD. After inserting the SD card back into the Raspberry Pi, NOOBS performed the installation of Raspbian 9 for me. From there, as tensorflow was naturally supported on pip in Raspbian 9, I managed to install tensorflow simply by running pip3 install tensorflow.

In particular, trying to install anything on cooper’s Wifi was agonizingly slow – to the point where processes would time out 40 minutes in, rendering the whole process pointless. Much progress was made simply by dragging the Raspberry Pi home. Highly suggested that all package downloads be done with a secure and reliable internet connection in the future.