Having good experience in AI in general, and also specifically in NLP, is definitely the biggest assest I can offer to the team. I have previously worked for Cerence, which makes AI assistants, similar to what Norwood does, but for cars. I have good domain knowledge of what evaluation for such AI would look like. I also have a published research in deep learning (link - https://thesai.org/Publications/ViewPaper?Volume=14&Issue=6&Code=IJACSA&SerialNo=57), which eventhough is not similar to what I will be doing, shows that I can easily do intensive research, which is one of the key element of the project. I am also a private ML tutor, hence my concepts are always brushed up. I am actively researching in field of ML integrated Geoscience, which has overall made me very aware of new research in all fields, and also how to find such research. Very often when we are looking to create something new, in this case evaluation framework, its more about aptitude and ability to think, than just knowledge. This just happens to be my strongest suite, being one of the national toppers in India’s biggest aptitude competition (CAT 99.63 percentile and MAH-CET 99.81 percentile).

Soft skills wise, I have been elected the team lead, so I am essentially acting as a project manager, where I assign tasks to everyone, making sure everyone gets as equal as possible. I am also the point of contact for Norwood. I have fair bit of experience with giving presentations, so I will take the lead in all presentation that we will be having with Norwood. Given that everybody is new to deeper NLP concepts, it is also my job to ensure active learning of everyone, instead of just doing everything myself, otherwise the unit wont be useful for them.

Given that in recent times, I have focused more on images, and the last time I really focused on NLP was when I was working, I really need to brush up key concepts. Having got high distinction last semester in NLP, I feel I am halfway there, and I need to look more into recent updates in this field. I have been looking into recent Kaggle competitions in this field, and what top performers did in them. I am looking to read more relevant research papers.

As mentioned earlier, I am the team lead and also primary coder. I need to come up with different ideas and direct the team accordingly. I also need to be someone who is readily available to help, so that everyone can contribute effectively. Currently, we have 2 domains of focus- contextual sentiment analysis, where I will be involved alongside Mingyao and other metrics, where I will be involved alongside Penny, Bhavik, Nachiket. This will ensure both sides are on same page. After sprint 1, I have realised that I underplayed the depth of this project, and this will require more time than I had expected. Hence I have drastically reduced other commitments, which were primarily tutoring/consulting, because they themselves required a lot of intellectual energy and time. I have no other major commitments, except other units that I am part of.

As asked by Norwood, I have set up Jira for task management, and I will be allotting tasks there, once everybody is familiar with using it. I have setup the Github, as asked, for our project as well. I will be using Colab for coding, so that everyone can simultaneously see my changes as well.

Major risk that I see is us not understanding the direction in which we need to invest our time in. Given that it is so open-ended, we might get fixated on few ideas, only to realise that they were pretty irrelevant or bad based on situation. This is pretty much what happened in our sprint 1, where we were asked to completely change our approach. This issue was there because we did not know the capabilities of chatbots we were working with, as we were not given this information originally. To fix this, I asked Norwood to show us a bit of demonstration of their chatbot, and this made us realize the sophistication of their chatbot. In future to make sure we don’t sway from direction, I have decided two things- 1) weekly update by us to Norwood, so that they can immediately tell us if we are wrong. 2) Not falling in love with our idea, and always keep our options open. We shouldn’t be fixated with our idea, as we can only be certain of it after testing.

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