Kamryn Parker

**(a) How are “Data Scientist” and “Machine Learning Engineer” similar? Where do they overlap in their skillsets? Responsibilities?**

Some of the similarities between these positions are that they both involve programming. The languages used are preferably python and with some experience in Java. They can both use predictive modeling to help answer questions about data sets. Each position also finds solutions to companies needs. Those needs may be different depending on the role but are a large part of either position.

**(b) How are they different? Where do their skills diverge? How might their responsibilities differ in a given corporate or research environment?**

Where these two positions differ are in how they develop and analyze their data. For example, Data Scientists typically develop A/B research testing whereas Machine Learning Engineers develop algorithms to model data before to make different predictions. Data Scientists use their skills often times to optimize customer experiences or ad targeting. Machine Learning Engineers use their skills for more internal problems in companies.

**(c) Which path interests you, and why? Would you rather be a Data Scientist? A Machine Learning Engineer? A Statistician? Do you enjoy research? Development? Undecided? It’s time to self-reflect and plan for the future.**

For me, I think my path leans more towards Data Science. I find using data to improve performance fascinating. I really enjoy research and I am currently on a research team for the CS Department developing curriculum/solutions to create a more cohesive and inclusive environment for CS students at BSU. I get to practice data analysis and visualization to create predictions and find solutions to issues that students speak about. My end goal, however, is to work as a data scientist for a professional sports team to evaluate performance of players and make data driven decisions about team needs. I would love to be on the development team that monitors player performance and makes decisions on how players should be improving. If I don’t end up working for a sports team, I think I would like to be on the research and development side of a company. Spotify is another company that interests me because they have a big R&D team to help improve user’s listening experience.

**(d) What do you hope to get out of this class? As a professor, I want you to be successful.**

I am actually really looking forward to this class. I think it will help me look at another side of data research that is important to have. I hope to learn more about different algorithms that can help me be successful in different data environments. I want to learn about the different models and how they can be successful in different data sets. For example, given a certain data set and its parameters would a regression model or a classification model be more successful? I also like learning about real world examples, so I am excited to hopefully hear about your experience as a machine learning engineer at Kount. I think it is a great way to learn more about the difference in roles that a Data Scientist vs Machine Learning Engineer has, as well as gain an understanding of what the industry looks like. I am excited to continue on this course and already look forward to attending classes each week!