CS 3654 Paper

Week 1

The biggest idea that grabbed my attention in these readings were exactly how in-demand data scientists are in today’s technology fields, largely because of the explosion of connectivity between web services and our daily lives that came with the rise of wireless internet and data.

Some of the other big ideas that stuck with me are:

1. The importance of a diverse, but specific, set of skills a data scientist requires.
2. Some “experiments” like LinkedIn’s “people you may know” are successful. Others, like Facebook’s are not.
3. There are different technologies and methodologies for the data science field, but due to the diversity of tools needed, it is important to have a clear set defined before embarking on a project.
4. Interpersonal communication is key, perhaps moreso than in other areas of the technology field.

And of course with these new ideas, I have developed some questions. My biggest one is: where do these product/experiment plans come from? They mention all of the services used by big companies like Amazon and LinkedIn and Google, but did the ideas themselves come from a data scientist? Or did someone at the company have the idea, and they went to find a data scientist to implement it?

It also is making me wonder how many of these concepts will be intuitive to me, and how many will not. I fancy myself good with numbers, computers, and data, but I have no real experience. Will these modelling techniques be over my head? Or will it be something I can take in stride and run with to use in projects?