**Expert meeting form**

Student name: Laikh Tewari

Week of: May 21, 2018

Date and time of “meeting” (in-person or otherwise): Thursday May 22, 2018 at 10:00am

Name and title of expert: Cristen Anderson, Software Developer at Google

Short responses: 3-4 sentences each

1. What aspects of your primary mode did you talk about? How did the conversation go?
   1. We focused on discussing the technical details of designing a convolutional neural network. ConvNets are slightly different from traditional neural nets in overall architecture and operation, so we discussed how to make design decisions. The conversation went well, as she provided me with general answers as well as framing them for the scope of my project, recommending that I sacrifice design complexity for the sake of time.
2. What aspects of your secondary mode did you talk about? How did the conversation go?
   1. We briefly discussed the creation of the design document, and she emphasized that I include the big picture ideas i.e. how each design decision helps me reach my goal, but also include design decisions that were made to limit the reach of my project to fit the defined scope.
3. What question(s) did you ask your “expert”?
   1. How do I choose a design for a neural network?
   2. What kind of activation function should I use?
   3. What’s the best backend library for designing and training the ConvNet? TensorFlow? PyTorch? Caffe?
4. What advice/ feedback did your expert provide you with?
   1. There are various methods of testing the design of a neural network, but she suggested that the pragmatic approach would be to choose a design and roll with it. For this same reason, she recommended using TensorFlow since it is (relatively) easy to get something going, and it also has a large community to help answer questions along the way. Since we have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 24, we decided to mainly focus on the primary mode in this meeting and discuss the secondary mode in the next meeting.
5. What are your next steps based on the feedback you received?
   1. I started implementing a 10 layer ConvNet with an input and output layer, two sets of convolution/activation/pooling layers, and one set of fully-connected/activation layers using Keras with a TensorFlow backend. I will begin training it soon on my dataset.