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Lauryn Fluellen

NLP Final Self-Reflection

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For the final project, I chose to work on my own. The two most important things that I learned by doing this project were how to use n-grams for sentence/word suggestion and the importance of n-gram size selection based on the data. Being able to use n-grams for sentence/word suggestion was something I was not able to complete successfully in the past homework assignments so learning how to properly implement this was important to me. Understanding the importance of selecting the correct n-gram size to fit your data was made very clear throughout this project. If I were to randomly pick an n-gram size without taking into consideration the data that I was putting into the n-gram model the results may not be optimal.

One thing that I think I did well in this project is walking through the results of the differing n-grams. I think I was able to make a clear argument for which n-gram size is best for the data that it was tested on.

If I was doing this project again I would have searched for a larger dataset to train my model on. I had a hard time finding a dataset of search queries that were complete and wellformed. I would also want to incorporate different ways to show the results of the testing. I went with a well-designed printout but I would like to see if there was a better table or graph that was also able to show these results in an easy-to-digest manner.

If I were to do this project again I would have liked to have more time to work on it. Throughout the course, we pushed back some assignment due dates, which was helpful. However, this being a larger project I feel like the timeline from Assignment 4 to the final project was not enough time to make a large project with good quality. Additionally, because we do not have a final in this class and grades aren't due for at least another week if we had more time to work on this after the big finals dump of work I would have had a lot more time to dedicate to this project.