Reflection: Minor Business Analytics

Descriptive account with reflection on personal progress

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Reflection: Data Camp

For the start of the Minor, the first assignment was to go through and complete the Associate Data Scientist course hosted on Data Camp. This course was an introductory course into the world of Data Science and programming in general for those who had little to no experience, but also offered material of more advanced subjects in the later chapters, from experimental design to hypothesis testing, which are important chapters when it comes to the “Science” part of a Data Scientist.

For me, personally, the earlier chapters which work on more of the basic Python programming skills. Was not my primary focus, since I already have experience in programing in general, and had good grip of the basics when it comes to Python as a language. The Introductory chapter, up to the chapters going deeper in to how python is used in Data Science were relatively easy for me. Unfortunately, when reflecting I realize I spent too much time on those courses. There was the possibility of assessing the knowledge of chapters, to determine if it was necessary to follow that specific chapter of the course. But I decided to follow the courses either way, seeing it as refresh of my knowledge of Python as a programming language. While useful, I had a hard time committing to it, which led to me doing less chapters per day than I would have liked to, resulting in some procrastination which in turn led me to having to work through the harder chapters faster, which made me not understand the material as well as I would have liked. Especially the material concerning the statistical side of the course.

Reflecting on this, the next time I would plan my work on the course in such a way that I would allow myself more time to work on a given chapter per day, giving me the ability to study the material more in depth. If a course would handle material already familiar to me, given the option I would take a knowledge assessment to see if it would be necessary for me to follow that specific chapter of the course, or go through the first set of exercises, and then determine if this were material I would need to work on.

Reflection: Individual Assignment

When it comes to the individual assignment, which one is allowed to work on after receiving the Data Camp certification. The dataset chosen dealt with the prediction of travelers being either satisfied or dissatisfied with their flight.

Luckily, there was not a lot of work that had to be done on the dataset itself. Except for some missing values, it was only necessary to convert some of the columns to categories. Seeing as they were scores being represented as integers. Not allowing me to properly visualize them against the ‘satisfaction’ columns, which was the dependent variable of the dataset. And I was rather happy that I had this realization on my own, instead of having to read it up somewhere. Showing me that I was very much capable of coming to that kind of decision on my own.

When it came to creating the models, I was kind of suspicions since with some relatively basic models, with some standard parameters I managed to get some impressive scores across the models, especially the Gradient Boosting classifier. Which had the 2nd highest score but with a much lower runtime compared to the Random Forest classifier. I am unsure what could be the cause, but this is something I wish I had investigated more when evaluating the model’s performance. Now this can all be due to me always trying to find ways to improve something, even though that is not needed, or worth it. The models’ results are great. And that I came to those results with relative ease, I feel. Should not be a reason to think they are good results. I can imagine that those doing the Minor, without prior programming experience are having a harder time, so this is something that I must keep in mind for myself when working on assignments. And be proud of the results that I have gotten.