Lab 10

I liked how the lectures were concise and to the point, they weren't very theoretical, so it was easy to apply the concepts to the labs. The examples in the lecture were extremely helpful to understand as well. The labs were not difficult to understand but took quite a bit of time to apply correctly, so the overall difficulty felt just right.

Apart from this, having made it so far into the course, I still feel that the cumulative design is not the best idea especially when the assessments are weekly. Also, the classes and office hours were only there for the first three days of the week (Mon, Tue, Wed), so if I started late, I found it more challenging to get help. The Discord was useful, but I couldn't show code to anyone, so it would've been helpful if the sessions were distributed across the week.

Since these office hours were rare, I would try to spend time to get help on the current week's lab instead of trying to fix the previous week's lab. That's why I feel like it would have been better if solutions were shared, but I can see it being an issue if the assignments build on top of the labs as well. If the assignments used similar concepts (not the exact same), it would be great because that way lab solutions could be shared, and we would be able to see the correct way to do it. Alternatively, I would not have minded if some assessments could have been in a test / quiz like format.

Amount of lecture content felt right, I think some more content in the second half of the course would also have worked well because the first half felt so packed with content, but the second half was sparse in comparison. Personally, I did not need to delve much into the supplementary content apart from when tf-idf and alpha values were discussed. I really found the crawling and elasticlunr part interesting, they would be useful for mini projects for students who want to create personal projects to boost their resume, but the second half of the course was also interesting for different reasons. I feel like the second half would be useful for people considering getting into research.

Item-based and user-based recommendations could be combined into one lecture. Honestly, the last two topics were not tested on in the course at all, and I think it might have been useful to have a mini assessment for those so that students would not simply skip them.

Overall, the course was interesting and fun. The weekly assessments stressed me out, but in the end, I appreciate it. I took the course with the misunderstanding that this course would be about Mobile Multimedia and I would have the chance to build fancy little mobile applications and use React – which is the tech stack I will be using for my internship, but the information I learnt from this course was also new and worthwhile.

Thanks for the course, I will now go hibernate until the next term :)

- Meera