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Reflection 4

The 5th week of the introduction to science, engineering and technology class came to an end, with this time more focus on the different guest speakers and more diverse topics than the general focus of the other old week. The first topic of the week, Dr. Jonathan focuses on the human factor as it is one of the main professions that he has studied and teaches before. He demonstrated the importance and what engineers should aim to build for users, for humans are not machines and require to understand their interaction with the program that builds the machine. The general understanding of the human factors is the fact that the people who built the interface are generally those who understand the machine inside out, so there is usually a skewed view on how to interact with what the mechanisms perform. The next guest lecture talked about the general view of engineering, from the more electrical components to software base machines. Mr. Minh, the guest lecturer, introduced the capabilities of computational science and the current capabilities of modern classical computers, with certain emphasis on what the job market for students to participate in. These lessons are certainly useful as it allows students to understand the future that can occur in the next coming decades or more, and it certainly helps students to be prepared for the upcoming information revolution. The most important one that I found is the human factors lecture, as it is easy to forget that prior knowledge of how engineers built the machine can easily influence the outcome of how the machine works in the main market with other people. It is also extremely important that a team composed of different people and a more diverse skill set of engineers are required to build an effective machine as it allows the people to completely view the project on many sides, which in result require good communication skills to transfer the main idea across the team. Overall, both Dr. Jonathan and Mr. Minh lectures are very important and interesting. The two lectures talk about the importance of human interaction with the machine, while the other talks about the limits and capabilities of the current technology and what the job market can provide.