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HUDK 4050 Core Methods in Educational Data Mining

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HUDK 4050 Reflection Essay

INTRODUCTION

This is the reflection essay for course HUDK 4050 from Columbia University. This course focus on several common applied education data mining techniques like regressions in prediction, classification, and clustering. The course provides several individual coding exercises and analysis challenge assignments. Analysis challenge assignments show some real-world problems with educational data involved.

PRE-COURSE EXPERIENCE

I took this course because my major is Learning Analytics and this is one of the required courses for my major. Before taking this course, I expected the course to comprehensively explain the fundamentals of educational data mining. I had a bachelor's degree in computer science at UC Davis before my master's program. I didn't set a goal for this course because it is hard to determine the goal of educational data mining.

COURSE EXPERIENCE

The course actually surprised me with its first analysis challenge assignment. I thought it could be challenging for someone who had no coding experience before. The biggest take-away would

be it let me analyze a question by finding a series of ways to solve it. I liked the way to think step by step and actually present a final solution. The most challenging experience was analysis challenge assignment two. For analysis challenge assignment two, I tried different methods but got the same result. I talked to my classmates about the issue and it seemed that they also faced the same situation as I faced. I learned an actual way to approach a problem and steps to analyze the problems and several methods to solve them. It really developed systematic inquiry plans of data analysis to answer the identified questions.

LOOKING FORWARD

I didn't expect a lot of educational data could be analyzed in the real world. After the course, I believed that the course increased my curiosity about not only educational data but also other real-world data. I would definitely develop more personal skills and try to get a data scientist job because it is fun to deal with data. It is also very great to actually get more findings from data.

CONCLUSION

The course is the required course for the Learning Analytic program. The course covered enough methods and technologies associated with Data Science, Educational Data Mining, and Learning Analytics. It also provided opportunities for education that these methods present and the problems that they may create. I had a great time exploring the contents of this course and learned a lot.