First Mentor Visit

Weekly Report 18: 1/7 – 1/12

In order to progress knowledge significantly in a certain field, you may first independently study that field. However, after some point, it is necessary to find someone who can mentor you because experienced individuals have knowledge acquired through experience that textbooks or articles can never get you.

This past week there was the opportunity to meet my mentor, Mr, Blankenship, a software developer at Raytheon, and go over my current progress within the field of computer vision. Upon having gone over my progress in the field, we brainstormed ideas that we could implement in my final product.

Despite having a mentor to assist me, there were still some challenges to overcome. The first and primary challenge that arose was working with a professional. This mentor visit was the first time I actually worked with a professional for an extended period of time. Because of this, there was a lot of technical jargon needed to be understood. In order to understand all of this, questions were constantly being asked to further my knowledge and adapt to the way software developers think. From asking the questions, I now feel better prepared to tackle further challenges within the field.

Reflecting for the future, this first mentor visit is extremely important for the foundation of the rest of the year in ISM and beyond. By getting comfortable with the mentorship process now, I am able to be prepared for future mentor visits as well as adapt to the atmosphere of a mentor visit. Going forward, ideally, mentor visits will take place at the place of work and so allow me to become better acquainted with the role of a software developer.

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