

The First Interview

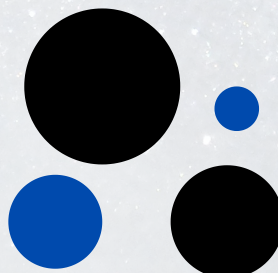
Weekly Report 2: 9/7 - 9/13

Oftentimes, reading straight from research papers, textbooks, or websites can make it difficult to learn new concepts without much prior knowledge. However, when speaking one on one with a person, it is much easier to ask the direct questions that bridge the gap in understanding.

This past week I had the chance to pursue further research by seeking out an informational interview with Professor Won Hwa Kim from UT Arlington. In doing so, I was able to better understand concepts in machine learning that otherwise may have taken me several weeks to understand.

Like every endeavor, the interview process came with some challenges. For example, natural language engineers are not very abundant in the Dallas Fort-Worth Metroplex. However, there are careers that are tangential to natural language processing engineers which include machine learning and computer vision engineers. By leveraging this knowledge, it was apparent that interviewing professionals in the field of machine learning would be most helpful because the tools that are utilized in the machine learning field can easily be transferred over to the natural language processing field. Another challenge that arose was balancing the type of the questions I was planning on asking. As a student who is likely to going to college soon, it was incumbent to also ask questions that would be insightful when trying to engage in higher level research at the university level. Through this, I was able to get information and resources-- that I would otherwise be unable to obtain --regarding the best practices at the university level while also learning more about machine learning.

Reflecting for the future, I believe that it is interviews like these that prepare me for the best of the technical and professional worlds. Looking forward, it is necessary to continue having interviews to best maintain the skills I have gained from this process.



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