

New Year, New Field

Weekly Report 4: 9/21 - 9/27

One of the primary aspects of becoming a software developer is to always be learning. Since technology is a rapidly changing industry, in order to retain the necessary skills to stay relevant in the industry, it is important to always be exploring the new and innovative.

This past week I made the decision to explore a field that was the intersection between linguistics and computer science: natural language processing. In doing this, I will have the chance to explore a unique field while my breadth of knowledge becomes more all-encompassing.

With any new field, there are new concepts that are specific to that field and cannot be found in tangential fields. Therefore many challenges arose when initiating further research for the field. One such challenge was understanding these specific new concepts. However, by leveraging prior machine learning and image processing knowledge, it was much easier to understand concepts such as Word2Vec, Doc2Vec, and Bad-Of-Words Model because they are the natural language processing equivalent to image encodings in image processing. Using this relational nature, many of the topics in natural language processing became much clearer. However, there will still other topics that had no relation to image processing. In order to understand these topics, I set up an informational interview where simplified explanations taught the concept and applications of each piece of technology.

Reflecting for the future, it is important to always be building skills like a willingness to explore new topics. It is traits like these that help develop a resilient and versatile nature while preparing me for a successful career within computer science. Looking forward, I plan on continuing learning new topics in parallel in order to be as useful in all fields in the workforce.

