**Reflective Summary**

This module has been both a review and an opportunity to deepen my understanding of key AI concepts. Having previously completed Purdue’s Generative AI certification, much of the material was familiar, but this course allowed me to move beyond theoretical learning and apply those ideas more practically. Topics like convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and the Jaccard coefficient were new territory for me, and I found them particularly valuable additions to my knowledge base.

**Team Collaboration**

Our team project was one of the highlights of this module. Online collaboration can be difficult when team members haven’t met and communication is limited to digital channels. Despite that, our group worked effectively together. With my project management background, I naturally took the lead on organizing tasks and ensuring everyone understood their responsibilities. What impressed me most was how team members volunteered for areas they were comfortable with and even went above expectations. The result was a cohesive and balanced final product.

If I were to approach it again, I’d introduce more structure to our discussions. We used Discord for most communications and established informal team rules around response times, but they weren’t always followed consistently. Still, our flexibility helped us stay on track. Importantly, we learned to manage scope—a crucial lesson in both academic and professional projects. Our team recognized early that the original scope was too broad for the word limit, and scaling it back was the right decision.

**Time Management and Learning Approach**

Balancing coursework with professional commitments proved challenging. Two major work events overlapped with this module, which meant I had to compress my study time. My prior experience helped bridge those gaps, but it also reminded me how quickly this field evolves. Some readings were outdated which, in AI, can feel like another era. In contrast, my Purdue program adjusted its curriculum midstream due to rapid industry changes. I believe this module would benefit from pairing older readings with newer material on the same topics, offering a clearer sense of how thinking has evolved and which early predictions have proven true or false.

**Learning Through Practice**

The Collab notebooks were a strong component of the course. While simply running pre-written code doesn’t always demonstrate deep learning, these exercises provided valuable hands-on experience. I often retyped the code from scratch rather than running it directly, which helped me internalize how different pieces fit together. As someone who learns best by doing, this approach was ideal. My submitted work for each module, stored in the e-portfolio, reflects that engagement.

Citations and documentation were maintained throughout my submissions, and I appreciated that the module emphasized academic rigor even in technical exercises. It reinforced the importance of precision—both in code and in writing.

**Academic vs. Applied Understanding**

One of the most interesting aspects of this module was realizing the difference between working with AI tools in the field and understanding their theoretical foundations. I’ve worked with data and statistics for years, but this was the first time I had to fully engage with the underlying mathematical notation—the Greek letters, formulas, and academic framing that support the applied work. It’s possible to use the tools effectively without that knowledge, but understanding it adds a new level of clarity and depth. This has strengthened my grasp of the “why” behind the “how,” and I now appreciate the value of blending practical expertise with academic discipline.

**Engagement and Course Design**

This was also the first module where I truly interacted with classmates. The team project and weekly seminars provided that sense of connection that’s often missing in online courses. Those sessions helped contextualize the material, allowing for shared interpretation and discussion. The module struck a good balance overall—it wasn’t overwhelmingly difficult but still introduced fresh concepts that expanded my perspective.

**Looking Ahead**

I still have several of the optional textbooks from this module that I plan to continue studying. Having physical copies helps me revisit complex topics and build a more solid foundation for future modules. Professionally, I’m already applying these lessons in real time. As part of my role, I’m developing AI tools for our company, and this module’s content has been directly relevant. It’s gratifying to be able to take what I’ve learned academically and implement it in a practical, organizational setting.

With upcoming conferences behind me, I’ll have more bandwidth for the next module, which I expect will allow for deeper engagement. This course reinforced key concepts, expanded my theoretical understanding, and provided tangible skills that I can use immediately. Overall, it has been a rewarding experience that bridges the gap between academic learning and applied AI development, and I look forward to building on this foundation as the program continues.