Machine Learning and Big Data
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The project I worked on aimed to understand why certain companies are able to utilize big data technologies better than others. My co-researcher and I were involved in collecting the data needed in order to measure company success. We did this by writing algorithms to collect data on a set of around 65,000 companies from various social media platforms including LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and AngelList. We wrote the code in python and were given access to the Wharton High Performance Computing Cluster (the HPCC/ grid), which is a network of 64 computing units supporting most major softwares, to deploy our programs.

I personally had an amazing experience with PURM- it allowed me to interact with technologies I had previously not encountered. My mentor made sure that it was challenging, but in a very rewarding way. She made sure that even as new additions to the team, our opinions held just as much weight in relevant areas, and was always open to new ideas. I think the opportunity to interact with her as well as the PhD student (now a Professor herself) was an amazing perk of the job. In general, I think one’s job as a researcher is very much affected by the PI, and the drive the team members share- and I was very lucky in that aspect.

I would strongly recommend PURM to anyone looking to try their hand at research. I have only heard great things about other mentors also, and it is a great way to spend your summer in a productive yet highly enjoyable manner!