Sustainable Data Science

and Artificial Intelligence

Activity #1

Damian Gordon, D1234567

*TU850/1: BSc (Hons.) Data Science*

*and Artificial Intelligence*

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# Introduction

The goal of this activity is to ask a Large Language Model (LLM) model respond to a question on the origins of my surname. In this case, my surname is “Gordon”, and the LLM I used was ChatGPT 3.5.

# Output

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| **What can you tell me about the origins of the surname "Gordon"?** |
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| The surname **Gordon** has rich and diverse origins, primarily tied to Scotland, but with possible roots in other parts of Europe. Here are some key points about its origins:  **1. Scottish Origins**   * **Place Name**: The surname Gordon is widely believed to originate from a place name in **Berwickshire**, in the Scottish Borders. The **Barony of Gordon** is an old territorial designation, and people who lived in or owned this land adopted the name as their surname. The name may derive from the Old English elements *gor* ("mud" or "slope") and *dun* ("hill" or "fort"), meaning "muddy hill" or "hill near water." * **Clan Gordon**: One of the most famous Scottish clans, **Clan Gordon**, became prominent in the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands. The clan's influence grew in the 12th century, and they held significant power, particularly in Aberdeenshire. The Gordons were also known for their loyalty to the Scottish crown, including their support of the Stuart monarchy during the Jacobite risings.   **2. Norman and Anglo-Norman Connection**   * Another theory suggests that the surname could be of **Norman origin**. Some claim that the Gordon family arrived in Scotland from **Normandy, France** after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. According to this view, the family was given lands in Berwickshire, where they established themselves. * The **Gordon de Huntly** family is thought to descend from a Norman knight, **Sir Adam de Gordon**, who arrived in Scotland during the reign of King David I (12th century).   **3. Jewish Heritage**   * There is also a potential **Jewish connection** to the name Gordon. Some Jewish families adopted the surname "Gordon" when they emigrated to Europe, particularly in Russia and Lithuania. This is thought to have been inspired either by a place name in Eastern Europe or by adopting a prestigious Scottish or English surname during the 19th century.   **4. Other European Roots**   * In some cases, the surname "Gordon" could have origins in **Ireland** or **France**. In Ireland, it is sometimes an Anglicization of the Irish surname **Mac Goirden**, while in France, the name may be connected to local place names or historical families.   **Conclusion**  The surname **Gordon** has multiple potential origins, with its strongest connections to **Scotland** (where it is associated with a powerful clan) and **Normandy** (through the Norman Conquest). In addition, Jewish families in Eastern Europe also adopted the surname, giving it broader cultural and geographical significance. The surname remains prominent today in many parts of the world, particularly in the UK, the US, and Canada. |