A major change in my project since the last status meeting is that the existing peer tutoring software was tested and found to not be functional enough for useful data to be collected during the classroom pilot originally scheduled for this Thursday and Friday, 2/13 and 2/14. As a result, the classroom pilot has been rescheduled to 4 weeks later, on 3/9 and 3/10.

Since my last bi-weekly status meeting, I have added a feature on the tutee side of the peer tutoring software which allows a student working individually to request for help on a particular given skill. While working individually, the student can view his/her progress on the skills being assessed in the problems being worked on through the skill bars on the interface. This helps give them awareness of their progress and may push them to request for help on a skill they are not performing as well in. When a student requests for help, they specify the skill they need help on and the names of classmates they would prefer to work with as a tutor-tutee pair. After this request is submitted, software which is not yet implemented will be able to determine the best possible pairing and push a new collaborative assignment to the student who requested for help and the classmate chosen to be the tutor. For the purposes of the upcoming pilot, there will be a person from our team performing the actual pairings manually, and thus acting as a temporary substitute for the pairing AI to be implemented.

The major surprise in my project since my last meeting was the outcome of the classroom simulation testing on the peer tutoring software. Since it was a project worked on over the summer and had been tested before, I did not expect many problems to come up with it. However, many issues involving synchronization between the tutor and tutee interfaces, as well as the grading model for the problems, came up. I have been working actively with my professor’s research programmer to try to debug these issues as quickly as possible in time for the rescheduled classroom pilot.

Since the tutoring software had many issues and modifications to be made, the classroom pilots were pushed back by 3 weeks and thus, I did not meet my milestone for this week.

Over the next few weeks, I plan to continue to debug and improve the peer tutoring software. I plan to perform at least one more round of testing, with one of them being load testing in order to ensure that the server can handle entire classrooms of students.

Given the schedule change for the first classroom pilot, I am changing my milestone goals to instead having performed a round of testing on the peer tutoring software for the next milestone, and having completed the classroom pilot and reviewed feedback from it for the milestone after that.

I have all of the resources needed to complete my project.