

Introduction to Machine Learning



CS 1675 – Spring 2015

Lecture meeting time: Tuesday, Thursday: 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

Classroom: 5129 Sennott Square (SENSQ)

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Course Description:

The goal of the field of machine learning is to build computer systems that learn from experience and that are capable to adapt to their environments. Learning techniques and methods developed by researchers in this field have been successfully applied to a variety of learning tasks in a broad range of areas, including, for example, text classification, gene discovery, financial forecasting, credit card fraud detection, collaborative filtering, design of adaptive web agents and others.

This introductory machine learning course will give an overview of many models and algorithms used in modern machine learning including linear models, multi-layer neural networks, support vector machines, density estimation methods, Bayesian belief networks, clustering, ensemble methods, and reinforcement of learning. The course will give the student the basic ideas and intuition behind these methods, as well as, a more formal understanding of how and why they work. Through homework assignments students will have an opportunity to experiment with many machine learning techniques and apply them to various real-world datasets.

Prerequisites: STAT 1000, 1100, or 1151 (or equivalent), and CS 1501, or the permission of the instructor.

Textbook:

Chris Bishop. *Pattern recognition and Machine Learning*. Springer, 2006

Homework assignments

Homework assignments will have mostly a character of projects and will require you to implement some of the learning algorithms covered during lectures. Programming assignments will be implemented in **Matlab**. Please visit <http://technology.pitt.edu/software/matlab-for-students> to see how to get a free copy of Matlab license for students. The assignments (both reports and programming parts) are due at the beginning of the class on the day specified on the assignment. In general, no extensions will be granted.

Policy on collaboration: No collaboration on homework assignments, programs, and exams unless you are specifically instructed to work in groups, is permitted.

Grading

The final grade for the course will be determined based on homework assignments, exams, and your lecture attendance and activity. The midterm exam will be held prior to the spring break in late Feb/early March.

Policy on Cheating

Cheating and any other anti-intellectual behavior, including giving your work to someone else, will be dealt with severely and will result in the Fail (F) grade. If you feel you may have violated the rules speak to us as soon as possible. Please make sure you read, understand and abide by the Academic Integrity Code for: the University of Pittsburgh and Faculty and College of Arts and Sciences: <http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html>.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS – www.drs.pitt.edu), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Tentative syllabus:

- Machine learning introduction
- Density estimation
- Supervised learning:
 - Linear and logistic regression
 - Generative classification models
 - Multi-layer neural networks
 - Support vector machines
- Unsupervised learning
 - Bayesian belief networks (BBNs)
 - Learning parameters and structure of BBNs
 - Expectation maximization
 - Clustering
- Dimensionality reduction/feature selection
 - Feature filtering
 - Wrapper methods
 - PCA
- Ensemble methods (mixtures of experts, bagging and boosting)
- Reinforcement Learning