



CS/ECE 760: Machine Learning **Course Overview**

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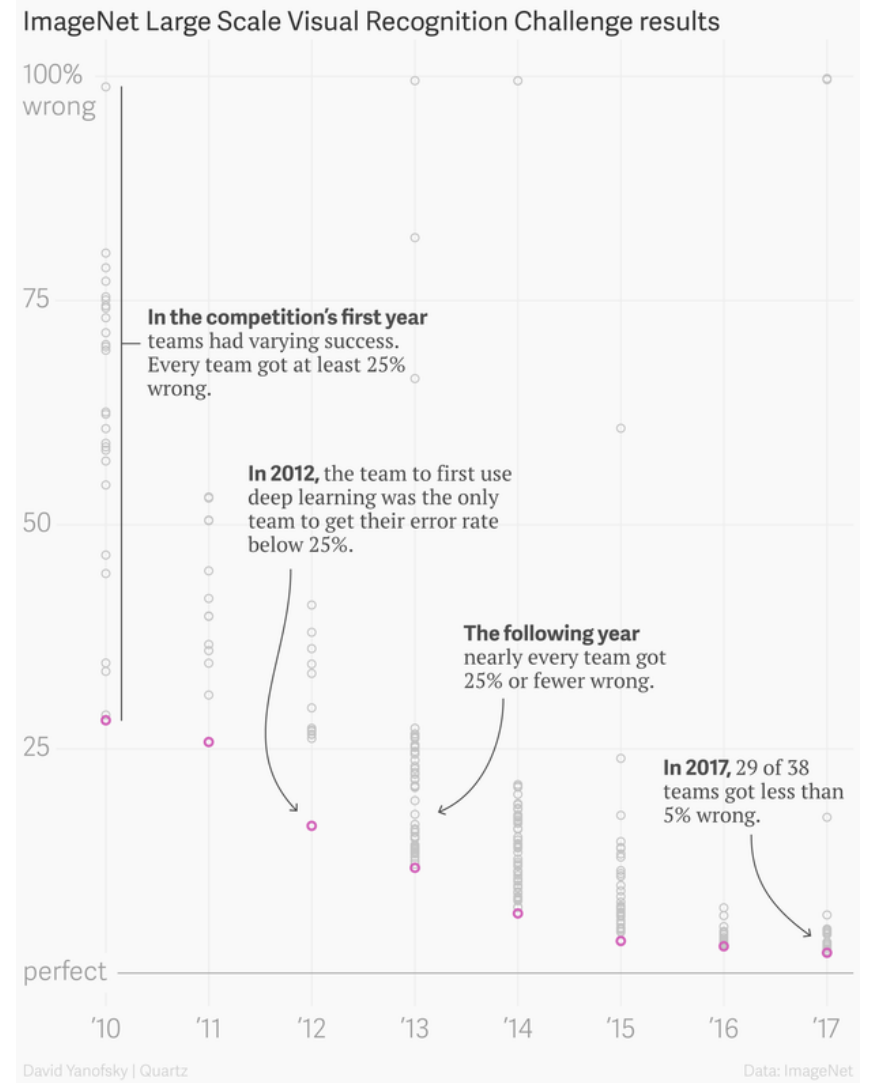
January 22, 2025

Classify Images

<http://www.image-net.org/>



Classify Images



Detect and Segment Objects



https://github.com/matterport/Mask_RCNN

Generative Modeling

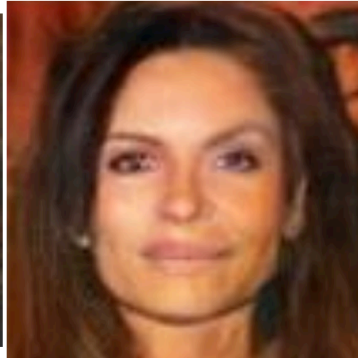
4.5 years of face generation



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018

<http://www.whichfaceisreal.com/methods.html>

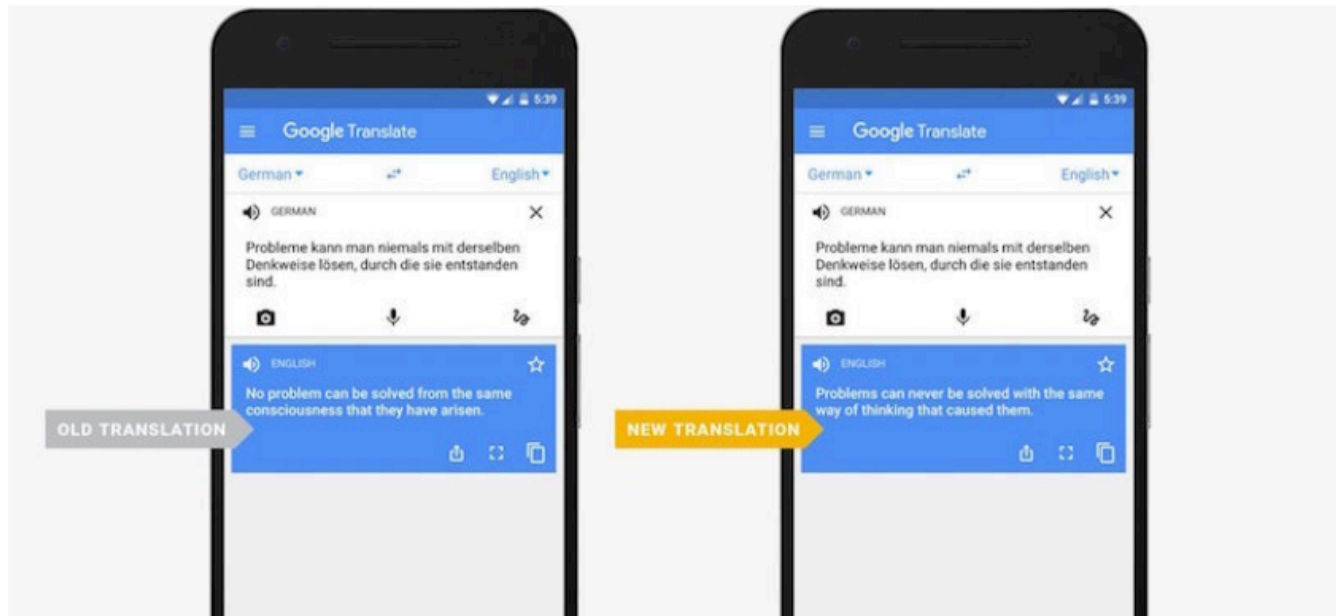
Machine Translation

Google Expands Neural Networks for Language Translation

The new system can translate whole sentences at a time, rather than just phrases.



By [Tom Brant](#) November 15, 2016



Open AI GPT-3: Giving GPT-3 a Turing Test

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: My favorite animal is a dog.

Q: Why?

A: Because dogs are loyal and friendly.

Q: What are two reasons that a dog might be in a bad mood?

A: Two reasons that a dog might be in a bad mood are if it is hungry or if it is hot.

Q: How many eyes does a giraffe have?

A: A giraffe has two eyes.

Q: How many legs does a frog have?

A: A frog has four legs.

Q: Are there any animals with three legs?

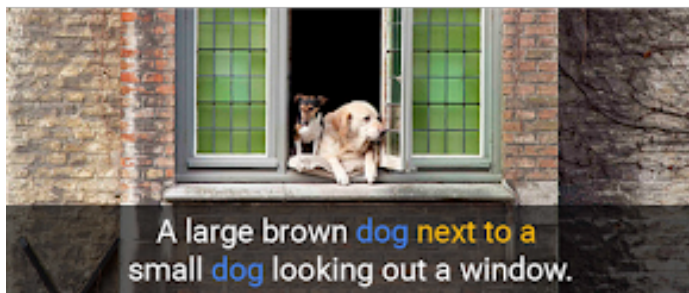
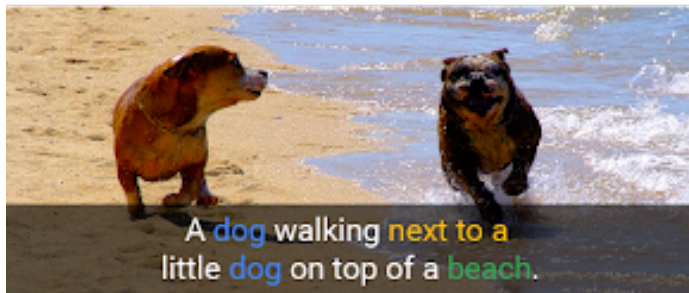
A: No, there are no animals with three legs.

Q: Why don't animals have three legs?

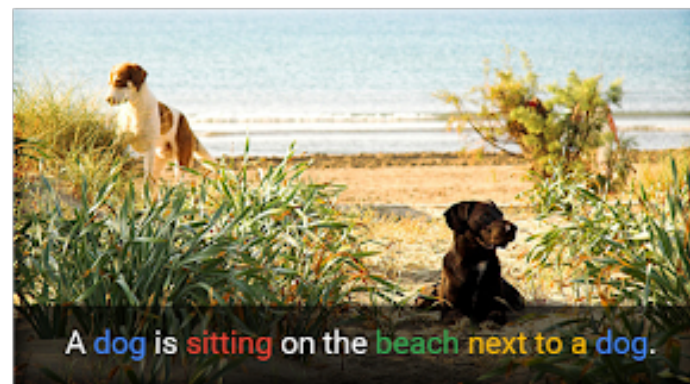
A: Animals don't have three legs because they would fall over.

Image Captioning

Human captions from the training set



Automatically captioned

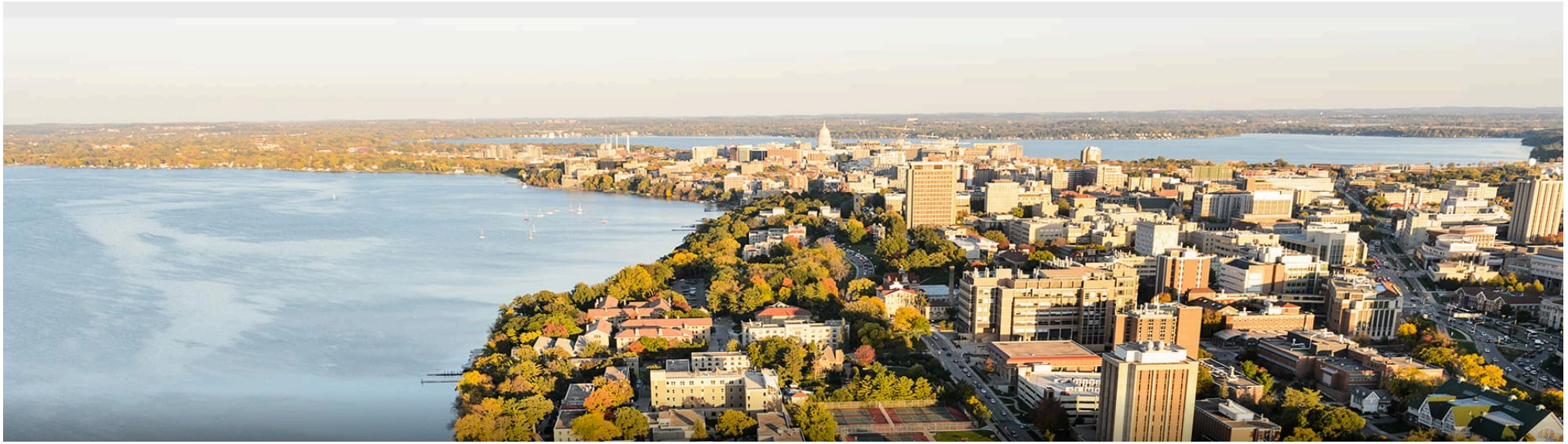


Machine learning used in many other fields

- Other areas of computer science
 - Distributed systems, computer architecture etc.
- Electrical engineering
- Industrial engineering
- Physics
- Materials science
- Drug discovery
- Finance & economics
- E-commerce
-

Outline for today

- Class logistics
- Overview of machine learning
- Who should take this class? prerequisites and expectations



Logistics

Logistics: Lectures

- Location: Psychology 107
- Time: Monday-Wednesday-Friday*, 1pm – 2.15pm
- Recorded lectures: No



Logistics: Enrollment

- Currently at capacity
 - Most students on waitlist may not make it in
- **Sorry** 😞 ... will be offered every semester



Logistics: Teaching Team

Instructor: **Ilias Diakonikolas**

- Office Hours: TBD (CS 4387)

TA: **Nikos Zarifis**

- Office Hours: TBD

Logistics: Content

Three locations:

1. Course website:

<http://www.iliasdiakonikolas.org/teaching/Spring25/index.html>

2. Piazza. TBC

Preferred for questions! Sometimes your peers might be able to better answer your questions than the instructor/TA.

3. Canvas: TBC

Do not share materials on canvas outside of class

Logistics: Lecture Format

Typically, 75 minutes

- You are encouraged to ask questions!

We will post slides on website **before class**



Logistics: Assignments & Grades

Homeworks:

- 6-7 homeworks, worth 50% total
- Posted after class; due before class starts on due date.
- No late submissions!
 - Lowest scoring homework will be discounted.
 - Solutions should be typeset (not handwritten).

Exams:

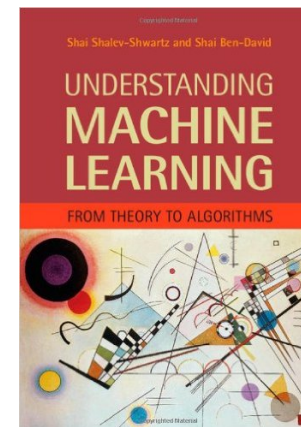
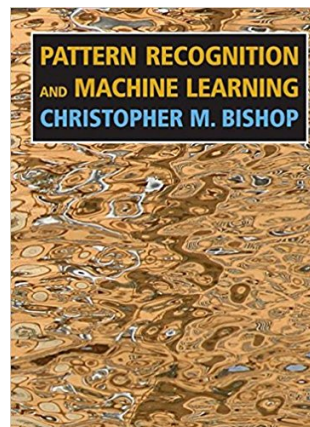
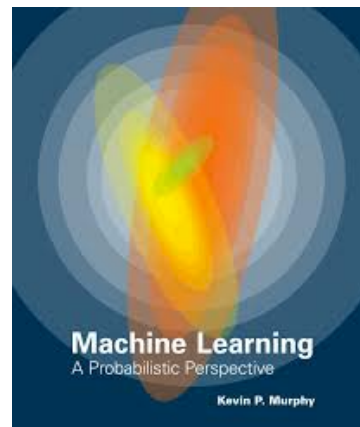
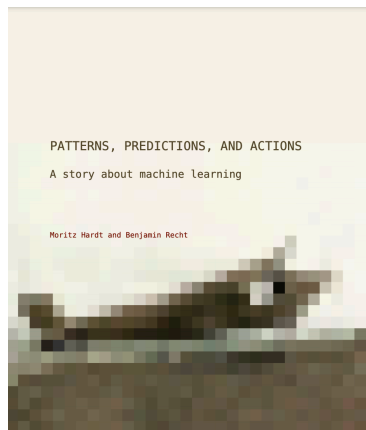
- Midterm: 25%, TBD
- Final: 25%, TB

Some of these details are *subject to change*.

Logistics: Recommended reading

No required textbook, but you should read from the below

- Should all be available online / digital library access
- Will also post articles, papers to read





Overview of machine learning

ML Overview: Motivation

Why machine learning?

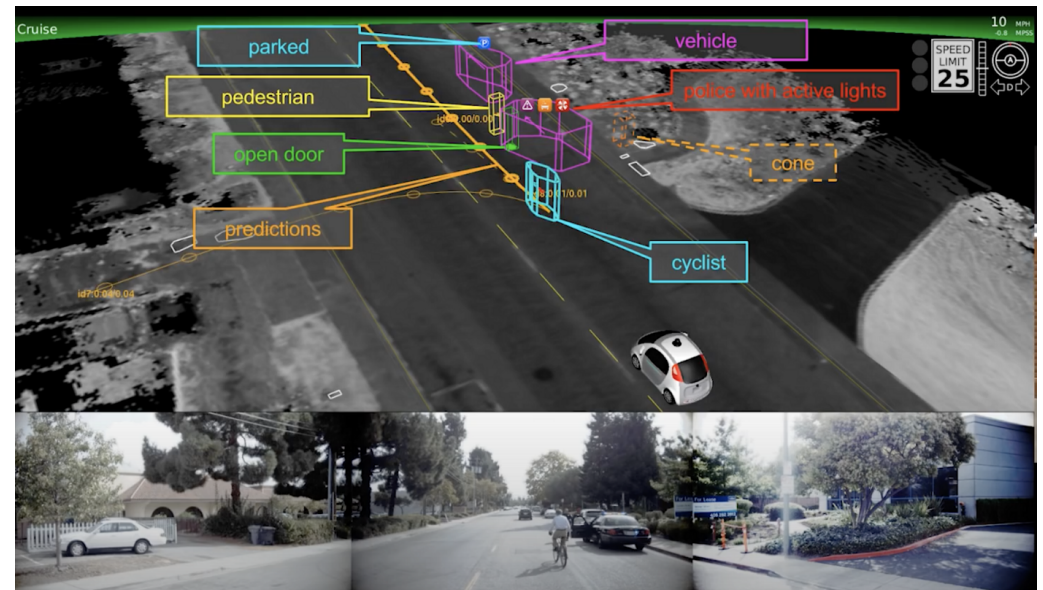
- We're building a self-driving car. Could just write down rules
 - **Painful!** A lot of cases...

```
/**
 * controls steering of the car
 * @param angle
 * @param trim
 */
void steer(float angle, float trim = 0.0) {
    // seems like 360 right 520 left
    PWMPCA9685Device device = new PWMPCA9685Device()
    device.setPWMPFrequency(50) //internet says 50hz for servos is optimal
    Servo servo0 = new PCA9685Servo(device.getChannel(channel:1))
    LOG.info("steer angle non corrected:${angle} trim:${trim}")
    if (trim != 0) {
        trim = configTrim
        servo0.setTrim(trim)
    }
    servo0.setInput((angle).toFloat())
    System.out.println("configTrim in service=${configTrim}")
    Thread.sleep(millis:1000) // important to give time for servo to move
}
```

ML Overview: Motivation

Why would we do this?

- We're building a self-driving car. Could just write down rules
 - **Painful!** A lot of cases...
 - **Learn from examples** instead

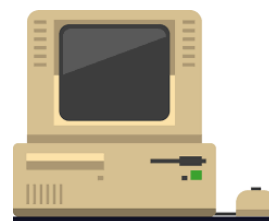


Waymo

ML Overview: Definition

What is machine learning?

“A computer program is said to learn from experience **E** with respect to some class of tasks **T** and performance measure **P**, if its performance at tasks in **T** as measured by **P**, improves with experience **E**.” *Machine Learning*, Tom Mitchell, 1997



learning

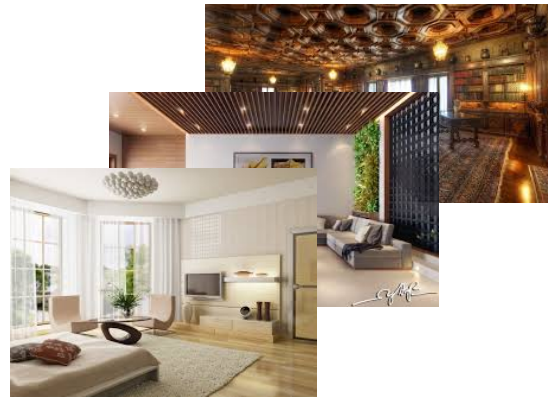


ML Overview: Flavors

Supervised Learning

- Learning from examples, as above
- **Workflow:**
 - Collect a set of examples {data, labels}: **training set**
 - **“Train”** a model to match these examples
 - **“Test”** it on new data

• Image classification:



indoor



outdoor

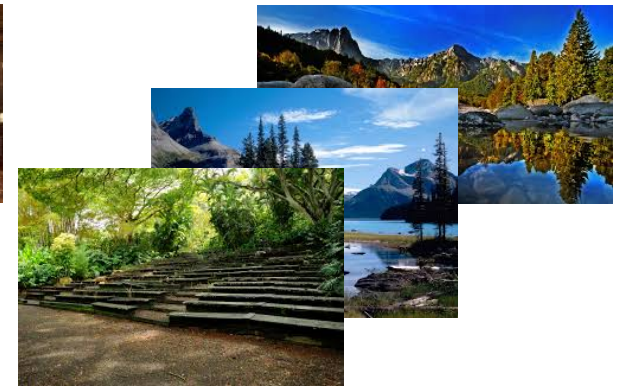
ML Overview: Flavors

Supervised Learning

- **Example: Image classification**
- Recall **T**ask/**P**erformance measure/**E**xperience definition
 - **T**ask: distinguish **indoor** vs **outdoor**
 - **P**erformance measure: probability of misclassifying
 - **E**xperience: labeled examples



indoor



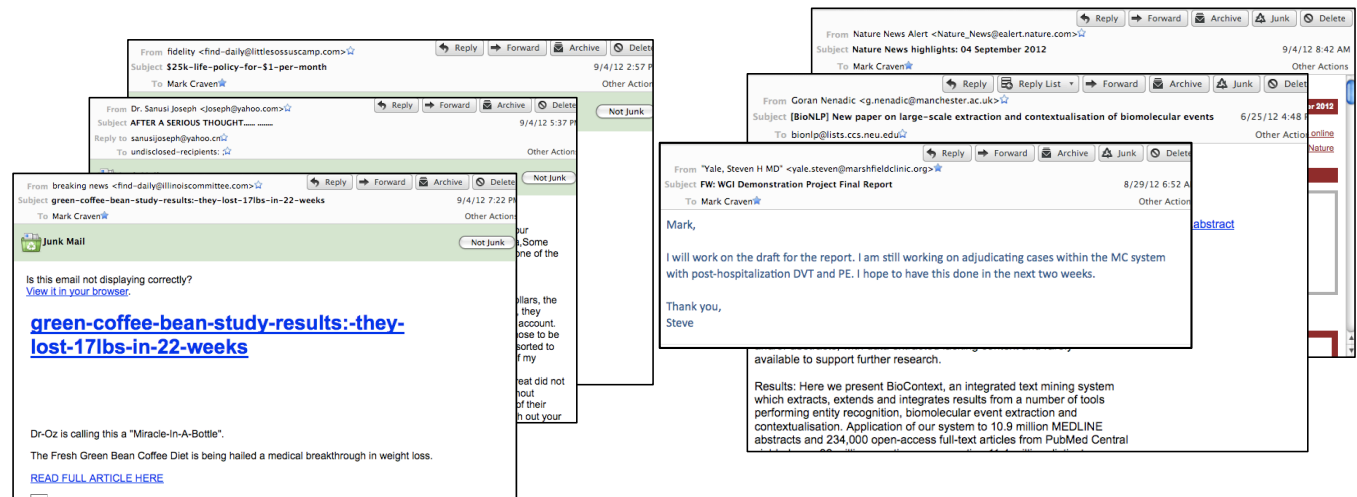
outdoor

ML Overview: Flavors

Supervised Learning

- **Example: Spam Filtering**

- **Task:** distinguish **spam** vs **legitimate**
- **Performance measure:** probability of misclassifying
- **Experience:** labeled examples of messages/emails



ML Overview: Flavors

Supervised Learning

• Example: Ratings/Recommendations

- Task: predict how much a user will like a film
- Performance measure: difference between prediction and user's true rating
- Experience: previous ratings



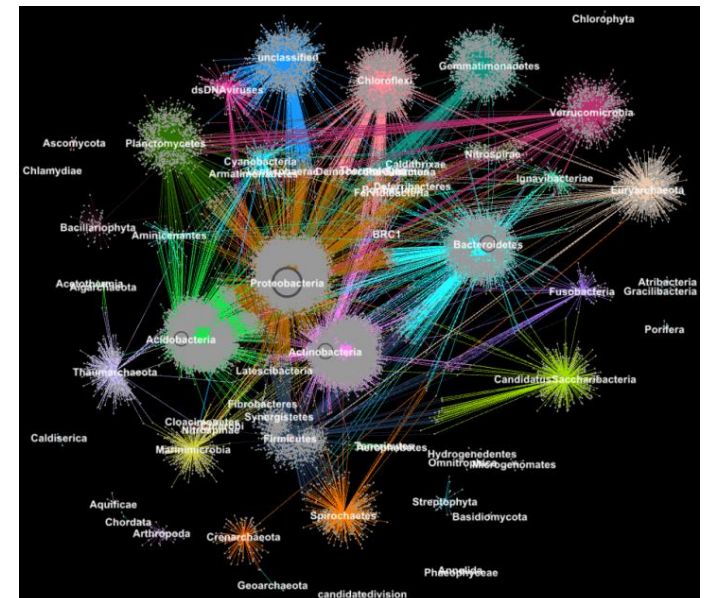
Our best guess for Mark:



ML Overview: Flavors

Unsupervised Learning

- Data, but no labels. No input/output.
- Goal: “find something”: structure, hidden information, etc
- **Workflow:**
 - Collect a set {data}
 - Perform some algorithm on it and draw insights about data
 - Sometimes: test on new data

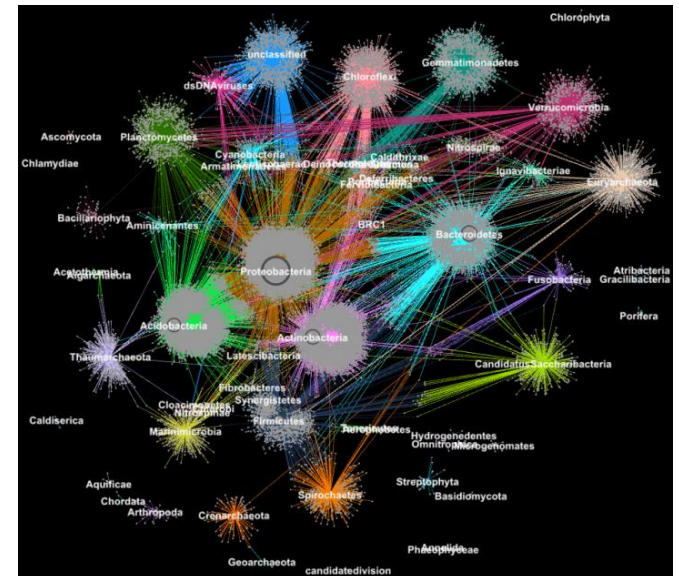


ML Overview: Flavors

Unsupervised Learning

• Example: Clustering

- Task: produce distinct clusters for a set of data
- Performance measure: closeness to underlying structure
- Experience: available datapoints



ML Overview: Flavors

Unsupervised Learning

- **Example: Generative Models**

- **Task:** produce artificial images of faces
- **Performance measure:** photorealism
- **Experience:** available images



StyleGAN2 (Kerras et al '20)

ML Overview: Flavors

Reinforcement Learning

- Agent interacting with the world; gets rewards for actions
- Goal: learn to perform some activity
- **Workflow:**
 - Create an environment, reward, agent
 - **Train:** train policy to maximize rewards
 - **Deploy** in new environment



ML Overview: Flavors

Reinforcement Learning

- **Example: Controlling aircraft**

- **T**ask: keep the aircraft in the air, steer towards a desired goal
- **P**erformance measure: reward for reaching goal quickly
- **E**xperience: data (state/action/reward) from previous flights



ML Overview: Flavors

Reinforcement Learning

- **Example: Playing video games**

- **Task:** play Atari arcade games
- **Performance measure:** winning/advancing
- **Experience:** state/action/reward from previous gameplay episodes



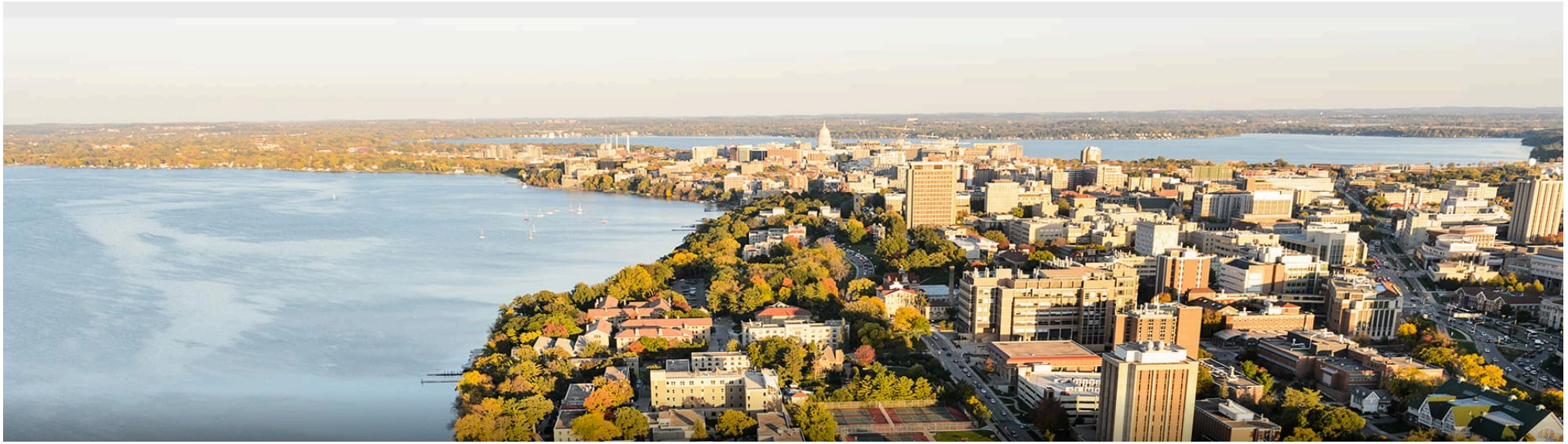
ML Overview: Flavors

Reinforcement Learning

- **Example: Playing video games**

- **Task:** play Atari arcade games
- **Performance measure:** winning/advancing
- **Experience:** state/action/reward from previous gameplay episodes





Who should take this class?

Required Background

You are expected have (at least) a working understanding of:

- **Linear algebra** (working with data, linear transformations)
- **Calculus** (for optimization, convergence, etc.)
- **Probability** (dealing with noise, sampling)
- **Programming** (for implementation, mostly python)

Plenty of resources available online

- Just need enough experience/mathematical maturity to pick up missing bits

Assignment: Homework

For HW1, self-diagnostic on background. Topics:

- Linear Algebra
- Calculus
- Probability
- Big-O notation
- Basic programming skills



Assignment: Homework

For HW1, self-diagnostic on background. **Examples:**

Consider the matrix X and the vectors \mathbf{y} and \mathbf{z} below:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 8 \\ 7 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Is X invertible? If so, give the inverse, and if no, explain why not.
2. If $y = \tan(z)x^{6z} - \ln\left(\frac{7x+z}{x^4}\right)$, what is the partial derivative of y with respect to x ?

Assignment: Homework

For HW1, self-diagnostic on background. **Examples:**

Match the distribution name to its probability density / mass function. Below, $|\mathbf{x}| = k$.

- (a) Laplace
- (b) Multinomial
- (c) Poisson
- (d) Dirichlet
- (e) Gamma
- (f) $f(\mathbf{x}; \Sigma, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k \Sigma}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)$
- (g) $f(x; n, \alpha) = \binom{n}{x} \alpha^x (1 - \alpha)^{n-x}$ for $x \in \{0, \dots, n\}$; 0 otherwise
- (h) $f(x; b, \mu) = \frac{1}{2b} \exp\left(-\frac{|x-\mu|}{b}\right)$
- (i) $f(\mathbf{x}; n, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \frac{n!}{\prod_{i=1}^k x_i!} \prod_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^{x_i}$ for $x_i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ and $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i = n$; 0 otherwise
- (j) $f(x; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}$ for $x \in (0, +\infty)$; 0 otherwise
- (k) $f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^k \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^k x_i^{\alpha_i-1}$ for $x_i \in (0, 1)$ and $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i = 1$; 0 otherwise
- (l) $f(x; \lambda) = \lambda^x \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{x!}$ for all $x \in Z^+$; 0 otherwise

Assignment: Homework

For HW1, self-diagnostic on background. Examples:

Draw the regions corresponding to vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with the following norms:

1. $\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \leq 1$ (Recall that $\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_i |x_i|$)
2. $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \leq 1$ (Recall that $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2}$)
3. $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty \leq 1$ (Recall that $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty = \max_i |x_i|$)

Assignment: Homework

For HW1, self-diagnostic on background. Topics:

- Linear Algebra
- Calculus
- Probability
- Big-O notation
- Basic programming skills



- If these feel very unfamiliar, consider taking relevant courses first and then take CS760 in the future.

Resources

Probability

- Lecture notes: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~aarti/Class/10701/recitation/prob_review.pdf

Linear Algebra:

- Short video lectures by Prof. Zico Kolter:
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~zkolter/course/linalg/outline.html>
- Handout associated with above video:
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~zkolter/course/linalg/linalg_notes.pdf
- Book: Gilbert Strang. Linear Algebra and its Applications. HBJ Publishers.

Big-O notation:

- <http://www.stat.cmu.edu/~cshalizi/uADA/13/lectures/app-b.pdf>
- <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~avrim/451f13/recitation/rec0828.pdf>

Wikipedia is always a great resource!

Programming background

We expect you to be able to

- Implement simple routines/logic in Python (for/while loops, if/else, break conditions)
 - Familiarity with NumPy would be a plus
- Write simple shell scripts in Linux/Unix
- Install and use ML packages (e.g. scikit-learn, PyTorch)

- Generally, we will **not** help you with these during OHs!
- Usually, you can resolve such issues via online forums (e.g., stack overflow) or Piazza.

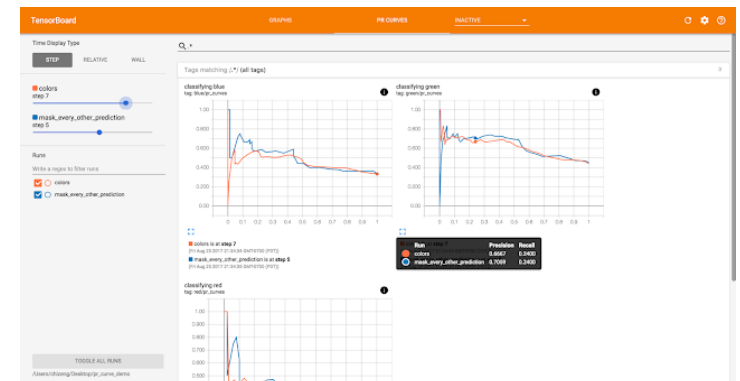
Target audience for the course

Students who:

- Want to do research in ML
 - CS760 will lay the foundations of several topics in ML, but will likely not be sufficient on its own to advance a topic.
- Want to use ML in other research areas.

If you just want to **use** ML, but do not plan to do research, consider taking:

- CS540
- STAT 451
- ECE/CS/ME 532



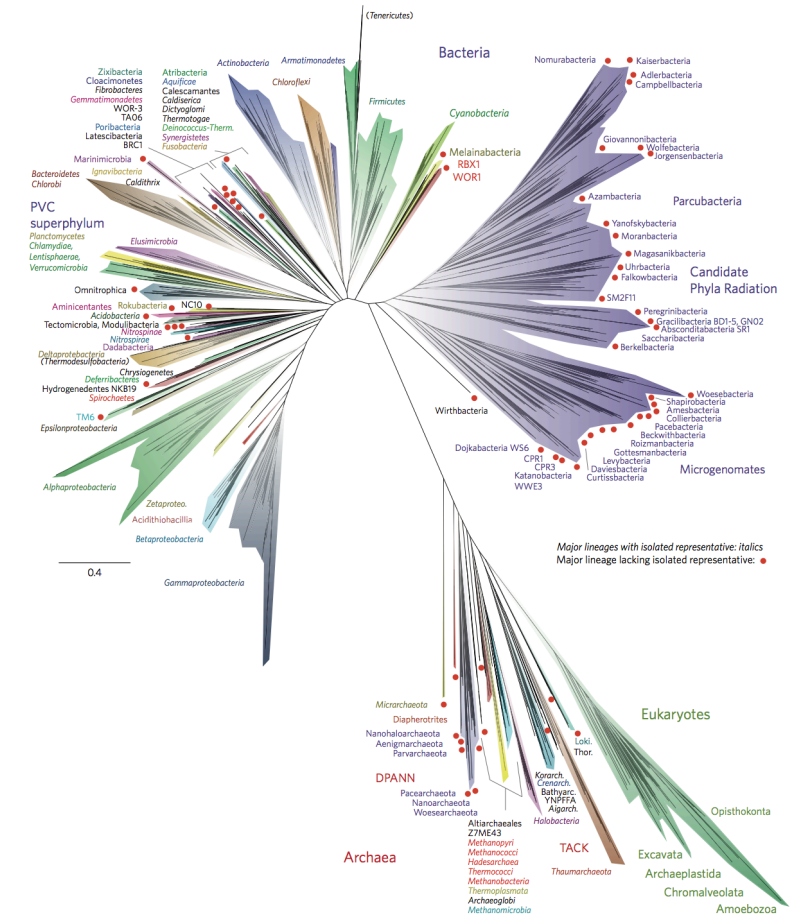
Class Goals

Mini-goals:

- Intuition for each algorithm/model
- Big picture/ML ecosystem

Examples:

- When to use what type of ML?
- How hard is it to train?
- What generalizes best?
- Where is the field going?





Thanks Everyone!

Some of the slides in these lectures have been adapted/borrowed from materials developed by Mark Craven, David Page, Jude Shavlik, Tom Mitchell, Nina Balcan, Elad Hazan, Tom Dietterich, Pedro Domingos, Jerry Zhu, Yingyu Liang, Volodymyr Kuleshov, and Fred Sala