Introduction and Logistics

Ryan P. Adams

COS 302 / SML 305 Mathematics for Numerical Computing and Machine Learning

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Alisha: Well, it used ML to predict how far a car is behind y And it's deploying in the next update!
Bob: I guess taking COS 324 really paid off!

How did the system work?



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Credit: Eleanor Adams

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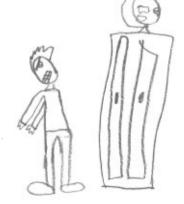
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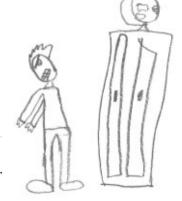
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Alisha: Well, machine learning IS math.

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Bob: I'm a CS major.

I took COS 340, but I don't know what any of that means!



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- graphics

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- Probability
 - reasoning about noise and uncertainty
 - Alisha: "...assuming Gaussian noise for the labels."
- Basic optimization
 finding the best fit to data

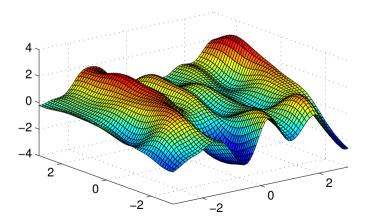
Alisha: '...maximize the log likelihood."

Linear algebra: weeks 1 through 5

- Linear systems
- Vector spaces
- Basis vectors
- Norms and inner products
- Orthogonality
- Projections
- Eigen-stuff
- Cholesky factorization
- Singular value decomposition

Vector calculus: week 7

Differentiating functions of vectors



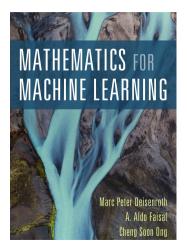
- Random variables
- Sampling
- Independence and dependence
- Monte Carlo
- Gaussian distributions
- Information theory

- Constrained optimization
- Convex optimization
- Conjugate gradient method

Marc Peter Deisenroth A. Aldo Faisal Cheng Soon Ong

(Cambridge University Press)

Freely available online at https://mml-book.github.io/



No.

This course is about the math you need for machine learning and other computer science that depends on continuous mathematics.









Alexander OH: Tue 5-7pm COS 201 Fangyin OH: Fri 4-6pm COS 201

Haochen OH: Mon 7-9pm FC Fishbowl

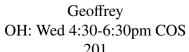






Sulin OH: Thu 7-9pm COS 201

Ari OH: Thu 5-7pm COS 201



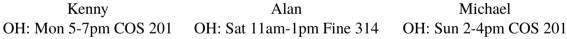
- Six weekly precepts, taught by TAs
- ▶ New material will be presented, so make sure you attend.
- Stick to your assigned precept.
- ▶ P01 (Haochen): Thu 9:00-9:50am, Friend Center 009
- ▶ P01A (Fangyin): Thu 9:00-9:50am, Friend Center 110
- ▶ P02 (Ari): Thu 10:00-10:50am, Friend Center 009
- ▶ P03 (Sulin): Fri 12:30-1:20pm, Friend Center 009
- ▶ P04 (Alexander): Fri 12:30-1:20pm, Friend Center 110
- ▶ P05 (Geoffrey): Fri 1:30-2:20pm, Friend Center 007

Staff: Lab TAs









Typical weekly calendar



Office hours available every day of the week!

Course website: https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spring20/cos302/

Piazza: http://piazza.com/princeton/spring2020/cos302

Staff email list: cos302-s20@lists.cs.princeton.edu

- ► Homeworks: 60%
- ▶ In-class Midterm: 20%
- ▶ Final: 20%
- ► We'll provide aggregate statistics about assignment/exam grades.
- > You won't get a letter grade until the final curve.
- Undergrads and grads will have different final curves.
- ► I generally will curve up but not down.

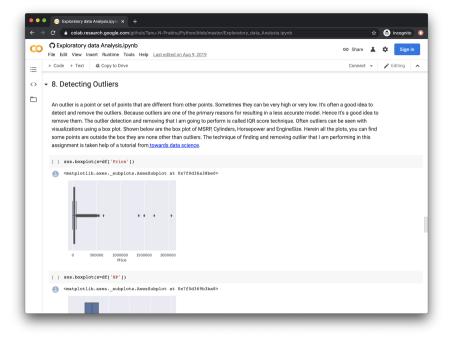
- ► 11 assignments, roughly weekly
- ► You'll them individually.
- Will drop lowest grade.
- Some math, some code in Python (Colab) notebook
- Writeup in $\angle T_E X$
- Submit via Gradescope
- ▶ Regrade? Request via Gradescope up to two weeks after due date.
- ► Simple late policy: up to a week for 50% off. (No late days.)

Collaboration Policy

- We want you to be able to discuss the class material with each other, but we want the homework you submit to be your own work.
- ► You may never:
 - Share code.
 - ► Share writeups.
 - Search the internet for assignment solutions.
- You may always:
 - Discuss the related concepts and the high-level approach.
 - ▶ Discuss the results of your code at a high level, e.g., "I got 90% test accuracy."
 - Search the internet for documentation on Python, Numpy, SciPy, etc.
- You should be wary of discussing details of proofs/derivations, your code, or results at an implementation level, rather than at the "big idea" level.
- ► In your assignment writeup, state who you discussed the problems with.
- You should assume that we will download your notebooks and run software to detect similarity between current and past code.

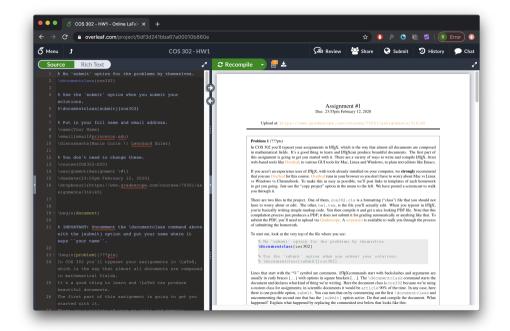
Python

- Python is the most widely used language for machine learning.
- ► It is gaining prevalence more broadly in scientific computation.
- Scientific stack: NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib
- Isn't it slow, since it is interpreted?
- ► For most things, no: BLAS and LAPACK libraries written in FORTRAN/C/C++
- ▶ Plus TensorFlow, PyTorch, JAX, etc. are in Python.
- We'll use **Jupyter notebooks** for our workflow.
- ► In-browser execution with interleaved rich text and figures.
- Google Colaboratory: free Jupyter notebooks in the cloud.
 Avoids the need for you to get an identical Python installation on your laptop.





- ► LATEX(Usually pronounced LAH-tekh or LAY-tekh) is a typesetting system.
- ▶ Uses a markup language to produce nice-looking PDF files.
- ► Is the best system for mathematical documents.
- ▶ Very broadly used in computer science and other math-oriented fields.
- Learning LATEX is a good life skill.
- ► Assignments must be turned in using the COS 302 LATEX template.
- ► I strongly suggest you use the browser-based system Overleaf.
- We've made a screencast to show you how to get started.



- Lots of great videos at http://videolectures.net and YouTube.
- Many resources compiled at http://metacademy.org.
- Every lecture will have some optional resources for you to explore.
- Everybody learns in different ways.
- Sometimes hearing things from a different perspective is helpful.

Coaching versus refereeing: a thing to think about

The structure of our educational system conflates two contradictory roles.

instructor (coach): help you learn – most important

assessor (referee): assign you a grade - less important

The tragedy of this is viewing your professor only as antagonistic assessor.

Strategies I employ to try to reduce this effect:

- Dedicated graders so that your TAs can have a **limited/no assessment role**.
- Gradescope so that rubrics are clear.
- Simple late policy to reduce "assessment surface area".
- Lots of staff office hours availability.
- ▶ Be as transparent as possible about assessment process.

- ► This is an undergraduate course.
- ► The material will target COS undergraduates.
- > You must participate constructively or I will ask you to leave.
- ▶ If you feel it's going too slow, take a different class.

Help us understand your background and why you're taking the course.

Fill out the anonymous survey at:

http://tiny.cc/cos302s20

Questions?

Looking forward to a great term!