Summary
Hands-on introduction to data science and machine learning. We explore recommender systems, generative AI, chatbots, graphs, as well as regression, classification, clustering, dimensionality reduction, text analytics, neural networks. The course consists of lectures and coding sessions using Python.

Content
- Basic regression methods. Predicting numeric values.
- Basic classification methods. Predicting categorical values: logistic regression, k-NN classification, decision trees, random forests.
- Fundamental concepts: cost function and optimization, gradient descent, K-fold cross-validation, overfitting, model calibration, confusion matrix.
- Dimensionality reduction: Principal Component Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling, non-linear dimensionality reduction (ISOMAP, t-SNE), curse of dimensionality.
- Clustering.
- Neural networks and Deep Learning.
- Text analytics: text representation, sentiment classification, similarity search.
- Recommender Systems.
- Graph Analytics: Pagerank, centrality, 6-degrees of separation.
- Generative AI and chatBots. chatGPT.

Keywords
AI, Machine learning, Data Science Algorithms, Recommender Systems, Graphs, Generative AI, Regression, Classification, Dimensionality reduction, Clustering, Neural networks, Text analytics, Python.

Learning Prerequisites
- Required courses:
  Statistics and data science (MGT-499).
- Important concepts to start the course:
• Basic Probability and Statistics knowledge (random variables, expectation, mean, conditional and joint distribution, independence, Bayes rule, central limit theorem)
• Basic linear algebra (matrix/vector multiplication, system of linear equations)
• Multivariate calculus (derivative w.r.t. vector and matrix variables)
• Basic programming skills (Python)

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Describe the principal types of machine learning algorithms
• Investigate data, data types, and problems with the data
• Choose an appropriate Machine Learning method for a given task
• Implement Machine Learning algorithms in Python
• Optimize the main tradeoffs such as overfitting and computational cost vs accuracy
• Conduct a Data Science project

Transversal skills
• Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
• Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
• Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
• Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.

Teaching methods
• Lectures
• Lab sessions: coding exercises
• Data Science projects

Expected student activities
The students are expected to:
• attend lectures and lab sessions;
• work on the weekly theory and coding exercises;
• complete assignments (graded);
• conduct data science projects making use of the theory learned during lectures and code developed during lab sessions (graded)

Assessment methods
• Quiz: 20%
• Coding assignments: 40%
• Group Project: 40%

Supervision
Office hours No
Assistants | Yes  
Forum | No  
Others | Slack channel

Resources
Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)  
No

Bibliography
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Ressources en bibliothèque
- Data Science for Business / Provost & Fawcett

Notes/Handbook
Slides will be made available on the course Moodle page. Notebooks will be made available in a GitHub repository.

Moodle Link
- https://go.epfl.ch/MGT-502