Introduction to Machine Learning: Administrivia

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LECTURE 1A

Roadmap

- Administrivia
- Technical Tools

What you need for this course

- You need to use Python
- Helps to have a laptop to bring to class
- Math background
  - Prove things
  - Take integrals
  - Take derivatives
- Computer / programming skills
  - Must know how to program
  - Manipulate data (text files)
  - Algorithms relatively simple

Flipped Classroom

- Hands-on practice
- My responsibility: record lectures before class
- In class: you help each other, and we work through examples
- Your responsibility: come to class with questions from lecture (I'll randomly call on groups—part of participation)
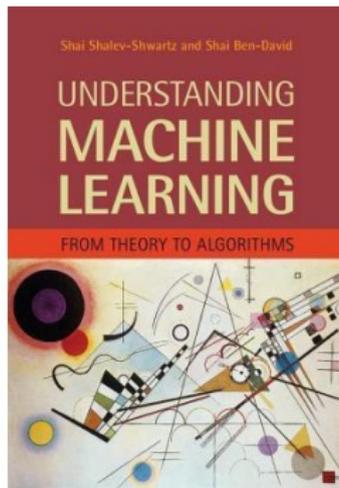
Administrivia

- Keep track of course webpage
- Homeworks: 5 late days
- Midterm
- Final Project
- Let me know about special needs

Administrivia

- Keep track of course webpage
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- Let me know about special needs
- Read the syllabus!
  - Grade breakdown
  - Policies on lateness beyond free late days

Course reading

- We will provide reading materials, mostly from the book.
- Slightly different focus: same concepts, use book as starting point

Communicating with Piazza

We will use Piazza to manage all communication

- Questions answered within 1 day (hopefully sooner)
- Hosts discussions among yourselves
- Use for any kind of technical question
- Use for **most** administrative questions
- Can use to send us private questions too
- Will be a factor in participation

How to ask for help

- Explain what you're trying to do
- Give a minimal example
  - □ Someone else should be able to replicate the problem easily
  - □ Shouldn't require any data / information that only you have
- Explain what you **think** should happen
- Explain what you get instead (copy / paste or screenshot if you can)
- Explain what else you've tried

Me

- Associate professor
  - Office: AVW 3155
- Was formerly a professor at University of Colorado
- Research: topic models, question answering, machine translation
- Fifth time teaching the class
- Born in Colorado (where all my family live)
- Grew up in Iowa (hometown: Keokuk, Iowa)
- Went to high school in Arkansas
- Undergrad in California
- Grad school in New Jersey
- Brief jobs in between:
  - Working on electronic dictionary in Berlin
  - Worked on Google Books in New York
- ying / jbg / jordan / boyd-graber