# Class 1- Welcome to the world of Machine Learning









## This is me!

### **Pedram Jahangiry**

Professional Practice Assistant Professor Department(s):

**Economics and Finance** 



#### **Contact Information**

- Eccles Business Building 507435.797.2345

Personal Website
Curriculum Vitae

#### **Education**

PhD, Economics, Arizona State University, 2017 Master, Economics, Simon Fraser University, 2013 MBA, Sharif University, 2012 Industrial Engineering, IUST, 2009

#### **Biography**

Pedram Jahangiry, PhD, CFA, is an assistant professor in the Economics and Finance Department of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. Prior to joining the Huntsman School in 2018, Pedram was a research associate within Financial Modeling Group at BlackRock NYC. His research is involved in machine learning applications in finance, empirical asset pricing, and factor models.





## → Meet the TAs!



Abraham Alhomadi

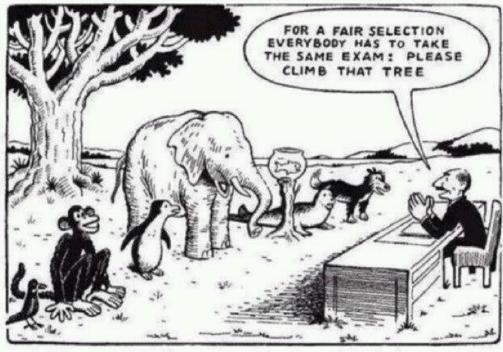


**Austin Francis** 





## My Teaching Philosophy



## Our Education System

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein





## My Teaching style!

More focus on interaction and application in class while putting more lecture-like material online

Classroom time will be used more to make mistakes in a safe environment

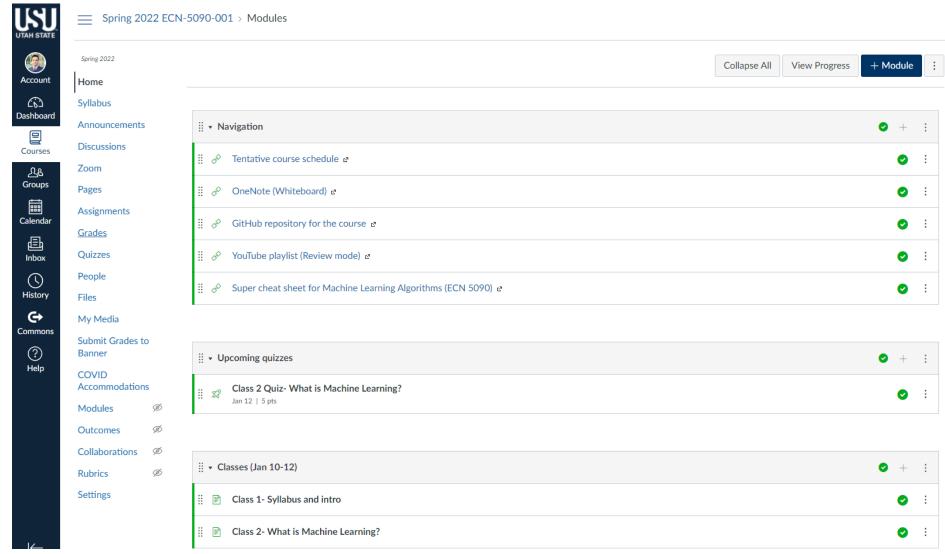
Balancing learning-bystudying with learningby-doing







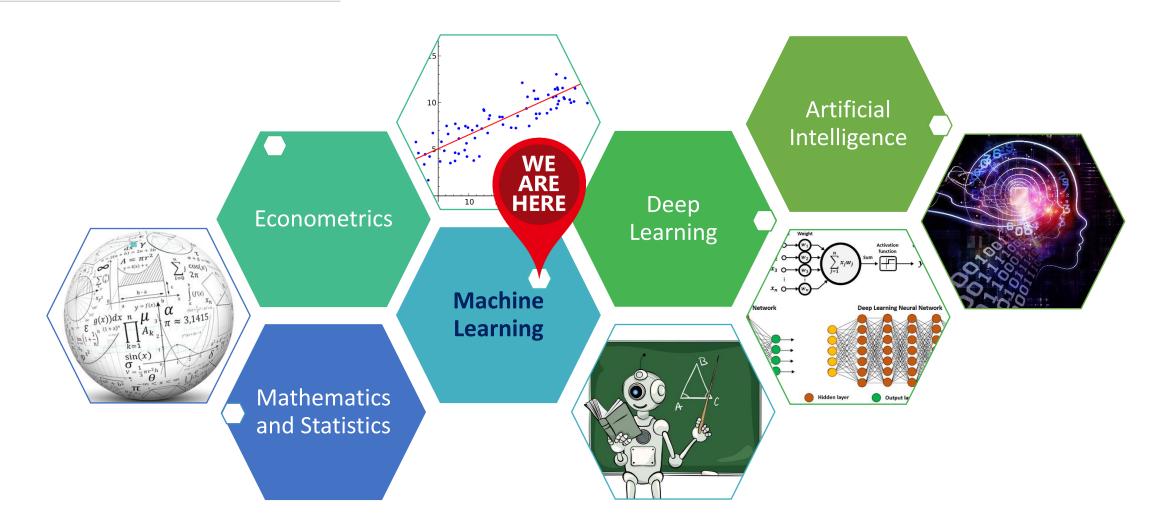
## What's on Canvas?







## Where we are?







## Big picture: Econometrics vs Machine Learning



What are we trying to do as a researcher?



Solve real world problems, right?



Is there a theory?

#### What is the relationship between

- Sales and advertisement / R&D expenditure / seasonality / industry / ...?
- Quantity demanded and price / income / technology / price of competitors / ... ?
- Wage and education/ age/ gender/ experience/ ...?



## $\Rightarrow$ A

## A simple example

- Let's see if we can predict your future salary! (is there a theory?)
- What are the drivers:
  - Education, age, experience, IQ, ...
  - Ethnicity, race, gender, ...
  - Industry, location, working hours, ...
- Let's build a model (assuming a linear functional form!)



$$wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 educ + \beta_2 age + \beta_3 exper + \beta_4 IQ + \dots + \beta_k hours + u$$

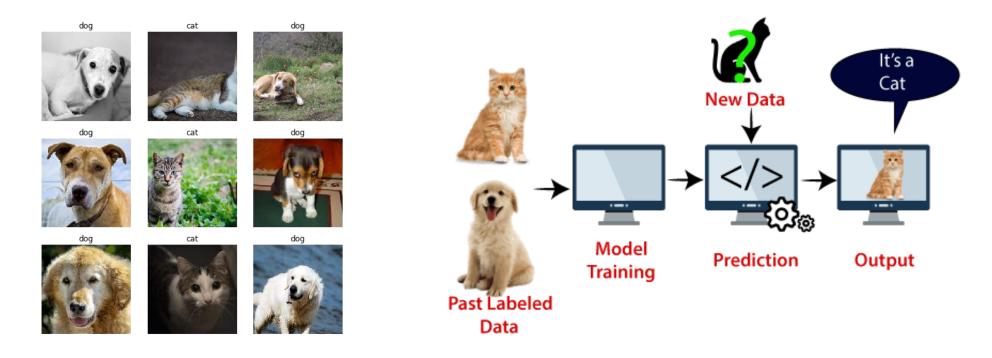
- ➤ Can you **interpret** this model? Do you care about the interpretability?
- ➤ Can you make **predictions** using your model?
- ➤ Can you make this functional form more flexible? What are the caveats?





## A different example

• Cat vs dog classification problem (image recognition)



- ➤ Do you really care about interpretability of the model here?
- ➤ What about accuracy of your predictions?





# Statistical learning vs machine learning

	Statistical Learning	Machine Learning
Focus	Hypothesis testing & interpretability	Predictive accuracy
Driver	Math, theory, hypothesis	Fitting data
Data size	Any reasonable set	Big data
Data type	Structured	Structured, unstructured, semi-structured
Dimensions / scalability	Mostly low dimensional data	High dimensional data
Model choice	Parameter significance & in-sample goodness of fit	Cross-validation of predictive accuracy on partitions of data
Interpretability	High	Low
Strength	Understand <b>causal</b> relationship & behavior	Prediction (forecasting and nowcasting)





## A more complex example

### Apple stock price prediction

- What are the classical drivers:
  - Company's fundamentals (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement)
  - Competitors (comparing multiples)
  - Technical analysis!
  - Seasonality (holidays, months, days, ...)

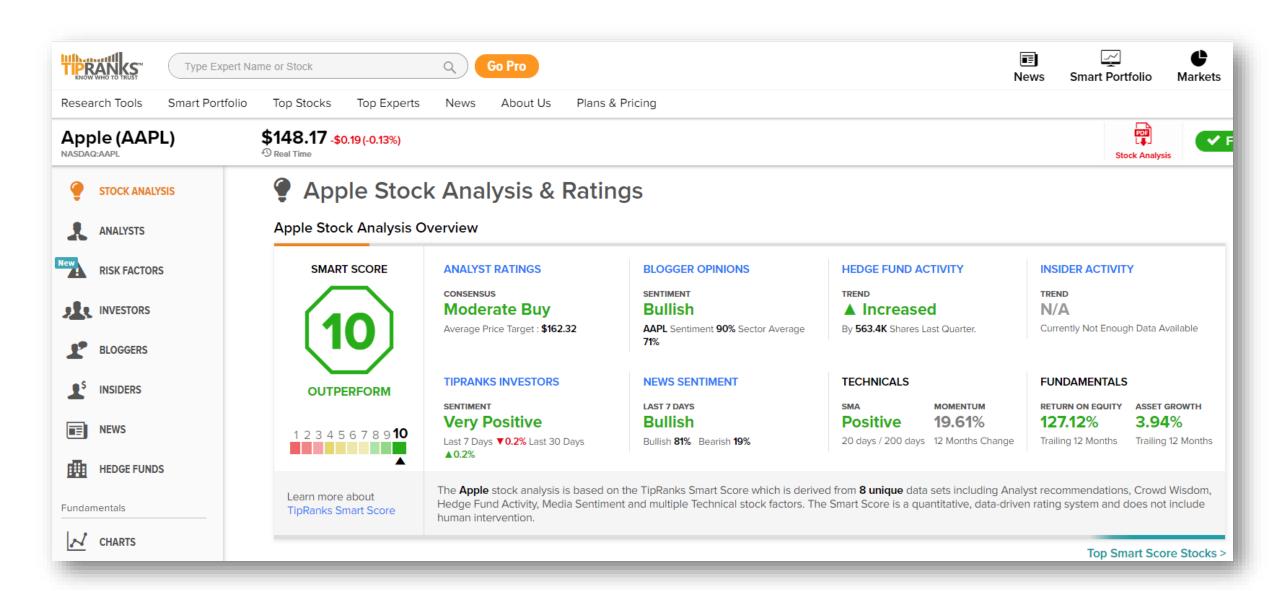


#### What else?

- Market sentiment (news, tweets, blogger opinions, conference calls, ...)
- Satellite images from Apple store parking lots!





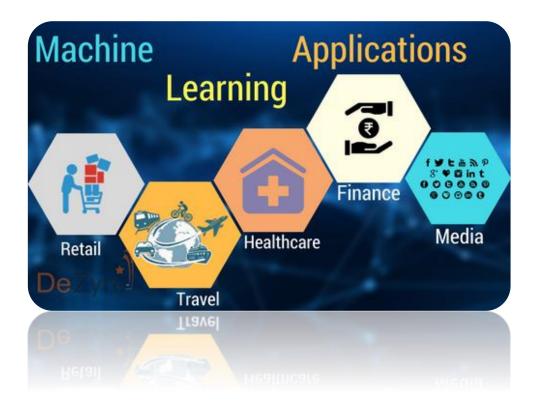






## Why should I learn it?

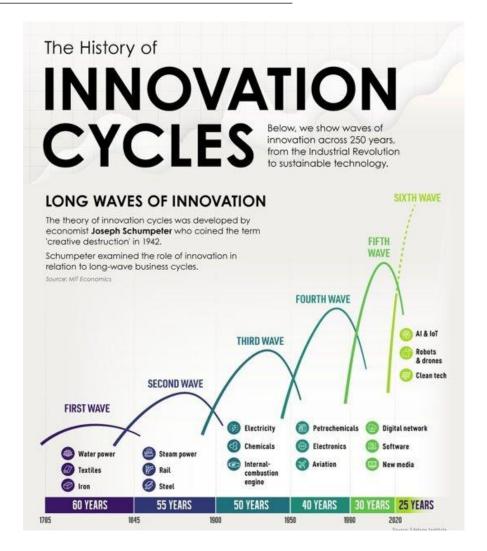
- It's a bid deal
- ML is closely linked to data science
- Better Career Opportunities
- Better salaries
- Hedge against next recession

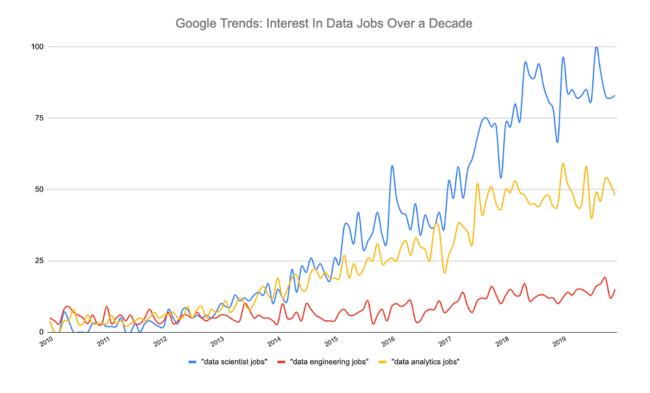






## Why should I learn it?







# You will be surprised to see what you can do when someone is counting on you!

I am counting on YOU



