The following Machine Learning Mentors volunteered time to compile this list of Frequently Asked Questions: Colin Beckingham, Kevin Burnham, Maxim Haytovich, Tom Mosher, Richard Gayle, Simon Crase, Michael Reardon and Paul Mielke.

Be sure to thank them when you see them in the discussion forums!

General Questions

Q: Is the grader server down? A: First step is to check here.

Q: The audio in the videos is quite bad sometimes, muffled or low volume. Please fix it. A: You can mitigate the audio issues by turning down the bass and up the treble if you have those controls, or using a headset, which naturally emphasizes the higher frequencies. Also you may want to switch on the English closed captioning. It is unlikely to be fixed in the near term because most students do not have serious problems and therefore it is low on the priority list.

Q: What does it mean when I see "Math Processing Error?" A: The page is attempting to use MathJax to render math symbols. Sometimes the content delivery network can be sluggish or you have caught the web page Ajax javascript code in an incomplete state. Normally just refreshing the page to make it load fully fixes the problem

Q: How can I download lectures? A: On Demand videos cannot be downloaded.

Q: Is there a prerequisite for this course?A: Students are expected to have the following background:

- Knowledge of basic computer science principles and skills, at a level sufficient to write a reasonably non-trivial computer program.
- Familiarity with the basic probability theory.
- Familiarity with the basic linear algebra.

Q: Why do we have to use Matlab or Octave? Why not Clojure, Julia, Python, R or [Insert favourite language here]?A: As Prof. Ng explained in the 1st video of the Octave tutorial, he has tried teaching Machine Learning in a variety of languages, and found that students come up to speed faster with Matlab/Octave. Therefore the course was designed using Octave/Matlab, and the automatic submission grader uses those program interfaces. Octave and Matlab are optimized for rapid vectorized calculations, which is very useful in Machine Learning. R is a nice tool, but:

1. It is a bit too high level. This course shows how to actually implement the algorithms of machine learning, while R already has them implemented. Since the focus of this course is to show you what happens in ML algorithms under the hood, you need to use Octave 2. This course offers some starter code in Octave/Matlab, which will really save you tons of time solving the tasks.

Q: Has anyone figured out the how to solve this problem? Here is my code [Insert code]. A: This is a violation of the Coursera Honor Code. Find the Honor Code here.