**Machine learning project requirements**

Machine Learning is a fantastic new branch of science that is slowly taking over day-to-day life. From targeted ads to even cancer cell recognition, machine learning is everywhere. The high-level tasks performed by simple code blocks raise the question, "How is machine learning done?".

In this tutorial titled ‘The Complete Guide to Understanding [Machine Learning](https://www.simplilearn.com/tutorials/machine-learning-tutorial/what-is-machine-learning) Steps’, you will go through the steps involved in making a machine learning model.

What Is Machine Learning?

Machine learning is the process of making systems that learn and improve by themselves, by being specifically programmed.

The ultimate goal of machine learning is to design [algorithms](https://www.simplilearn.com/10-algorithms-machine-learning-engineers-need-to-know-article) that automatically help a system gather data and use that data to learn more. Systems are expected to look for patterns in the data collected and use them to make vital decisions for themselves.

In general, machine learning is getting systems to think and act like humans, show human-like intelligence, and give them a brain. In the real world, there are existing [machine learning models](https://www.simplilearn.com/machine-learning-models-article) capable of tasks like :

* Separating spam from actual emails, as seen in Gmail
* Correcting grammar and spelling mistakes, as seen in autocorrect

Thanks to machine learning, the world has also seen design systems capable of exhibiting uncanny human-like thinking, which performs tasks like:

* Object and image recognition
* Detecting fake news
* Understanding written or spoken words
* Bots on websites that interact with humans, like humans

Machine Learning Steps

The task of imparting intelligence to machines seems daunting and impossible. But it is actually really easy. It can be broken down into 7 major steps :

1. Collecting Data:

As you know, machines initially learn from the [data](https://www.simplilearn.com/what-is-data-article) that you give them. It is of the utmost importance to collect reliable data so that your machine learning model can find the correct patterns. The quality of the data that you feed to the machine will determine how accurate your model is. If you have incorrect or outdated data, you will have wrong outcomes or predictions which are not relevant.

Make sure you use data from a reliable source, as it will directly affect the outcome of your model. Good data is relevant, contains very few missing and repeated values, and has a good representation of the various subcategories/classes present.

2. Preparing the Data:

After you have your data, you have to prepare it. You can do this by :

* Putting together all the data you have and randomizing it. This helps make sure that data is evenly distributed, and the ordering does not affect the learning process.
* Cleaning the data to remove unwanted data, missing values, rows, and columns, duplicate values, data type conversion, etc. You might even have to restructure the dataset and change the rows and columns or index of rows and columns.
* [Visualize the data](https://www.simplilearn.com/data-visualization-article) to understand how it is structured and understand the relationship between various variables and classes present.
* Splitting the cleaned data into two sets - a training set and a testing set. The training set is the set your model learns from. A testing set is used to check the accuracy of your model after training.

3. Choosing a Model:

A machine learning model determines the output you get after running a machine learning algorithm on the collected data. It is important to choose a model which is relevant to the task at hand. Over the years, scientists and engineers developed various models suited for different tasks like speech recognition, image recognition, prediction, etc. Apart from this, you also have to see if your model is suited for numerical or categorical data and choose accordingly.

4. Training the Model:

Training is the most important step in machine learning. In training, you pass the prepared data to your machine learning model to find patterns and make predictions. It results in the model learning from the data so that it can accomplish the task set. Over time, with training, the model gets better at predicting.

5. Evaluating the Model:

After training your model, you have to check to see how it’s performing. This is done by testing the performance of the model on previously unseen data. The unseen data used is the testing set that you split our data into earlier. If testing was done on the same data which is used for training, you will not get an accurate measure, as the model is already used to the data, and finds the same patterns in it, as it previously did. This will give you disproportionately high accuracy.

When used on testing data, you get an accurate measure of how your model will perform and its speed.

6. Parameter Tuning:

Once you have created and evaluated your model, see if its accuracy can be improved in any way. This is done by tuning the parameters present in your model. Parameters are the variables in the model that the programmer generally decides. At a particular value of your parameter, the accuracy will be the maximum. Parameter tuning refers to finding these values.

7. Making Predictions

In the end, you can use your model on unseen data to make predictions accurately.