# Learning Journal draft

## Key takeaways per chapter (notes from learning)

### Chapter 1:

* Machine learning is a branch of artificial intelligence focused on training algorithms to make predictions or decisions based on data.
* There are three main types of machine learning: supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning.
* Scikit-learn is a library that provides machine learning models and tools for data preprocessing, feature engineering, model selection, and evaluation.

### Chapter 2:

* Machine learning projects consist of various steps, such as data acquisition, data cleaning, data exploration and visualization, feature engineering, model selection, and evaluation.
* Data preprocessing involves dealing with missing values, outliers, encoding categorical variables, scaling numerical variables, and splitting data into training and testing sets.
* Data visualization can help understand the relationship between variables and detect patterns in the data.
* Often it is necessary to visualize the data to be able to build a comprehensive model

### Chapter 3:

* Linear regression is a powerful algorithm that predicts continuous values.
* Polynomial regression can detect nonlinear relationships between variables.
* How to avoid overfitting
* Logistic regression is a binary classification algorithm that forecasts the probability of a binary outcome.
* Softmax regression is a multiclass classification algorithm that predicts the probability of each class.

### Chapter 4:

* Decision trees are simple models that can handle both numerical and categorical data.
* Random forests are an ensemble of decision trees that can reduce overfitting and improve performance.
* Gradient boosting is another ensemble method that trains models sequentially, with each new model correcting the errors of the previous one.
* Support vector machines (SVMs) are binary classifiers that find the best separating hyperplane between classes.
* SVMs use kernels to transform data into a higher-dimensional space and identify nonlinear relationships between variables.
* Stochastic Gradient Descent, and Mini-Batch Gradient Descent

## Learnings from homework 5

What is a pre-trained NLP model?

A pre-trained NLP model is a type of machine learning model that has been trained on a large text corpus to learn the patterns and connections between words and phrases in natural language. These models can be utilized for various NLP tasks like sentiment analysis, named entity recognition, language translation, and more.

How do I load pre-trained NLP models?

There are multiple libraries and frameworks like Hugging Face's Transformers library, TensorFlow, PyTorch, etc., that you can use to load pre-trained NLP models. Depending on the library, you may have to download the model weights and configuration files and then load them into your code.

What is tokenization?

Tokenization is the process of dividing a piece of text into smaller units called tokens, such as words, subwords, or characters. Tokenization is an essential step in NLP tasks as it transforms text into a format that machine learning models can comprehend.

What does fine-tuning mean?

Fine-tuning is the process of taking a pre-trained NLP model and training it on a smaller, domain-specific dataset to adapt it for a particular task. Fine-tuning can improve the performance of the model on the target task since the model has already learned the general understanding of natural language from its pre-training.

What types of NLP models are there?

There are various types of NLP models, including Bag of Words models, Neural Networks (such as Recurrent Neural Networks and Convolutional Neural Networks), Sequence-to-Sequence models, Attention models, and Transformers (such as BERT, GPT-2, and T5).

What possibilities do I have with the Transformers package?

The Transformers package from Hugging Face is a widely-used and powerful library for working with pre-trained NLP models. Using the Transformers package, you can load and use pre-trained models for a wide range of NLP tasks, fine-tune pre-trained models on your own data, train your own models using the same architectures as popular pre-trained models, generate text using pre-trained models, visualize the attention and output of pre-trained models, and more.

How to use a transformer model in practise?

First, the input data needs to be preprocessed by splitting it into tokens, converting them into integer representations, and grouping them into batches. Depending on the model, special tokens and input masks might need to be inserted.

Next, the model processes the inputs and produces intermediate vector representations of the sentences.

Finally, the post-processing step involves converting the number representation of the final task result back into human-readable format, using different functions depending on the task and model.

The huggingface Transformers library provides a Tokenizer object for handling pre-processing and post-processing steps, as well as a Trainer object for fine-tuning models. Additionally, a pipeline can be created to handle all necessary steps from pre-processing to post-processing, as long as the model head is retained.

# Projects for the learning portfolio

## Project 1

Since we began with linear regression models, I chose to construct a linear regression model independently (assignment 3.1). However, I didn't want to use pre-existing data; instead, I desired a dataset that I could consistently update and extend. My interest in real-time financial data led me to build a Linear Regression model with the scikit library and yfinance. I aimed to predict the price of Bitcoin by assessing its correlation with other assets in the market.

To utilize the data consistently, I developed a database that stores the predictions, allowing me to create a trading bot that can make informed decisions based on the model's predictions. I also calculated the correlation between assets over various time periods, dynamically implementing a time range that adapts as I retrain the model. To diversify the assets, I included those with positive correlations, such as SPY to Bitcoin, those with negative correlations, such as Gold to Bitcoin, and a broad index of bonds. I utilized as many parameters as possible in the model to account for biased predictions due to the differences in base values of the assets, and converted the dataset to work on percentage change of the assets values.

Project 2

For my second project (assignment 3.2), I constructed a basic LSTM (long short term memory) neural network that predicted Bitcoin's price based on sequential analysis. I utilized historical data from Yahoo Finance via the yfinance library to focus specifically on BTC. I designed and trained an LSTM-based neural network model to predict future BTC prices based on past data. The model's efficiency was evaluated on a test set, and I created functions to determine the optimal training sequence length and visualize the model's predictions. The ultimate goal of this project was to develop a model that can accurately predict BTC prices based on historical data, potentially allowing for more informed cryptocurrency trading decisions.

### Project 3

As a third project (assignment 3.3), I used to create a linear regression model and a random forest to predict the probability of survival for passengers of the titanic. Firstly, I analyzed the dataset, whereas already some clear patterns emerged, converted the data, and selected a couple features for the models. I was quite happy with my third project, although I tried to keep it simple, as it was mainly a review of last week’s lesson.

## Project 4

For my fourth project (assignment 4.1) I used a pretrained CNN (Convolutional Neural Network) to detect faces on rated pictures of an online platform (hot or not). From coordinates of the landmarks of the face, I calculated scores and build a linear regression model on top of the metrics in order to predict what ratings the person would have due to the metrics that the landmarks resulted in (symmetry, adiposity…). Check out the presentation about CLIP and the Tinder-bot for more information about the project.

### Project 5

As a fifth project I reengineered the Endpoint of the Tinder-api and wrote a bot, consisting of multiple pretrained neural networks in order to swipe and communicate on the application. The bot was deployed as a docker container in an ubuntu runtime environment. See the presentation (of me and Damiano) we did on the project/topic.