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3. Meet the Course Team

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Professor Dimitri Bertsekas

Dimitri P. Bertsekas is McAfee Professor of Engineering in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department of MIT. In 2019, he was also appointed a full time professor in the department of Computer, Information, and Decision Systems Engineering at Arizona State University, Tempe, while maintaining a research position at MIT.

His research spans several fields, including optimization, control, large-scale computation, and data communication networks, and is closely tied to his teaching and book authoring activities. He has written numerous research papers, and seventeen books and research monographs, several of which are used as textbooks in MIT classes.

Professor Bertsekas was awarded the INFORMS 1997 Prize for Research Excellence in the Interface Between Operations Research and Computer Science for his book "Neuro-Dynamic Programming", the 2000 Greek National Award for Operations Research, the 2001 ACC John R. Ragazzini Education Award, the 2009 INFORMS Expository Writing Award, the 2014 ACC Richard E. Bellman Control Heritage Award for "contributions to the foundations of deterministic and stochastic optimization-based methods in systems and control," the 2014 Khachiyan Prize for Life-Time Accomplishments in Optimization, and the SIAM/MOS 2015 George B. Dantzig Prize. In 2018, he was awarded, jointly with his coauthor John Tsitsiklis, the INFORMS John von Neumann Theory Prize, for the contributions of the research monographs "Parallel and Distributed Computation" and "Neuro-Dynamic Programming". In 2001, he was elected to the United States National Academy of Engineering for "pioneering contributions to fundamental research, practice and education of optimization/control theory, and especially its application to data communication networks."

Prof Bertsekas has been teaching probability for over 15 years.

Behind the Scenes



Qing He

Qing He received her PhD in the MIT Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Her research interests include inference, signal processing, and wireless communications -- all of which rely on the fundamental concepts taught in 6.041x/6.431x. Qing has taken several probability classes at MIT, and has been a teaching assistant for this course for two semesters.



Eren Kizildag

Eren Kizildag is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT; and doing research in the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems (LIDS) and the Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE). His research interests include probability, signal processing and optimization. Even though you will not see him in videos, Eren has made significant contribution to the written content of this course.



Jimmy Li

Jimmy Li received his PhD from MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. His research focused on applying the tools taught in this and related courses to problems in marketing. He took 6.041x/6.431x as an undergraduate and has also been a TA for the course three times.



Jagdish Ramakrishnan

Jagdish Ramakrishnan received his PhD from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT. His dissertation focused on optimizing the delivery of radiation therapy cancer treatments dynamically over time. His general research interests include systems modeling, optimization, and resource allocation. He was a teaching assistant for this course twice while at MIT.



Katie Szeto

Katie Szeto received her Bachelor and Master of Engineering degrees from MIT. Her Master's thesis explored applications of probabilistic rank aggregation algorithms. Katie took 6.041x/6.431x with Professor Tsitsiklis when she was a sophomore at MIT. Later, as a graduate student, she was a teaching assistant for the class.



Kuang Xu

Kuang Xu received his PhD from MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. His research focused on the design and performance analysis of large-scale networks, such as data centers and the Internet, which involve a significant amount of uncertainties and randomness. Kuang took his first probability course in his junior year, and served as a teaching assistant for 6.041x/6.431x in 2012.



Karene Chu

Karene Chu received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Toronto in 2012. Since then she has been a postdoctoral fellow first at the University of Toronto/Fields Institute, and then at MIT, with research focus on knot theory. She has taught multiple courses in mathematics at the University of Toronto where she received a teaching award.

Since then, as a digital learning lab fellow at MIT, she made major and significant contribution to the MITx courses in mathematics, including the Calculus series and Differential equations series. She is now leading the effort in the production and running of the *IDSS Micromasters Program in Statistics and Data Science*.

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