



## Lab 2

### **ARTI 308 – Machine Learning** *Academic Year (2025/2026) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester*

## **Lab 2: Identifying ML Problems, Selecting Open Datasets, and Drawing a Methodology Diagram**

### **Learning Goals:**

By the end of this lab, you will be able to:

1. Identify whether a problem is Regression, Classification, or Clustering
2. Select a suitable dataset from open sources
3. Define the target variable (if supervised)
4. Write a clear problem statement
5. Draw a methodology diagram

### **Part 1: Choosing an Open Dataset**

Start by selecting one tabular dataset from an open-source platform. You may use any of the following resources:

- Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>
- UCI Machine Learning Repository: <https://archive.ics.uci.edu>
- OpenML: <https://www.openml.org>
- Government open-data portals (for example: data.gov)
- Etc...

Your dataset should be in CSV or Excel format and should be suitable for a machine learning task such as prediction or pattern discovery.

### **Examples of suitable datasets:**

- Predicting house prices based on size and location



- Classifying emails as spam or not spam
- Predicting whether a customer will churn
- Grouping customers based on behavior (clustering)
- Avoid image, audio, or text-heavy datasets for this lab.

## Part 2: Defining the Machine Learning Problem

Once you select a dataset, your next task is to clearly define the machine learning problem.

Ask yourself:

- Is this a **regression**, **classification**, or **clustering** problem?
- Is there a target variable?
- What is the model expected to learn or predict?

Write a short problem description in your own words.

## Part 3: Loading and Inspecting the Dataset in Python

Create a Jupyter Notebook and load your dataset using Pandas.

At this stage, you only need to:

- Load the dataset
- Display its shape
- Preview the first few rows
- Check column names and data types

## Part 4: Designing the Methodology Diagram

The final task in this lab is to create a methodology diagram that explains your machine learning workflow. This diagram should visually represent how the project would proceed from start to finish.

A typical methodology includes steps such as:

- Dataset selection
- Data loading

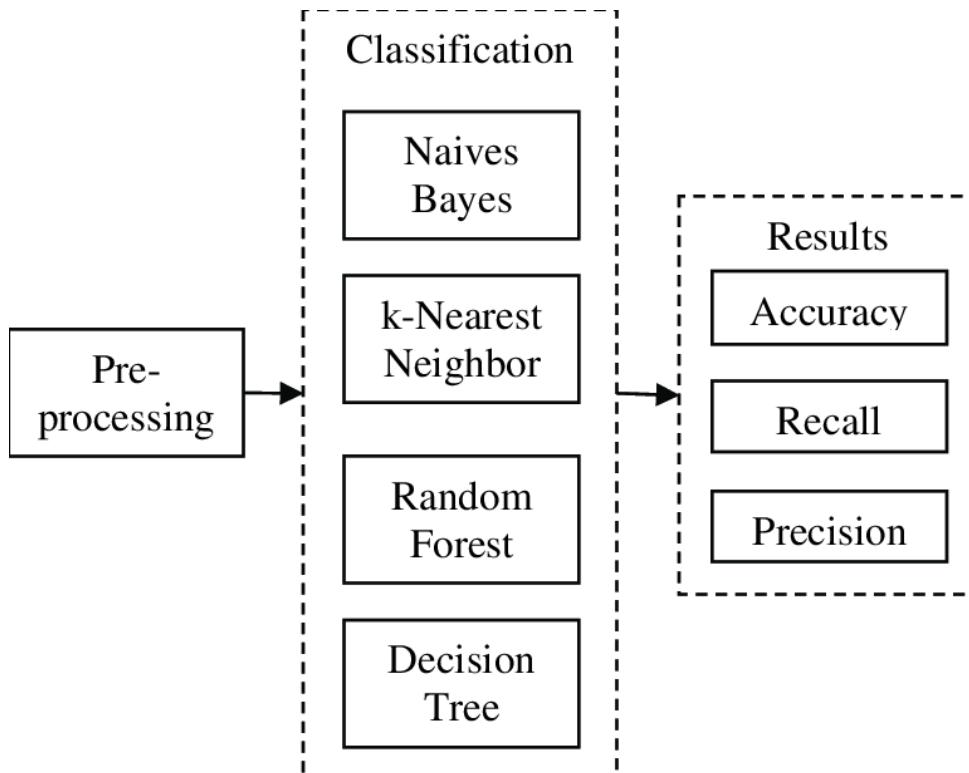


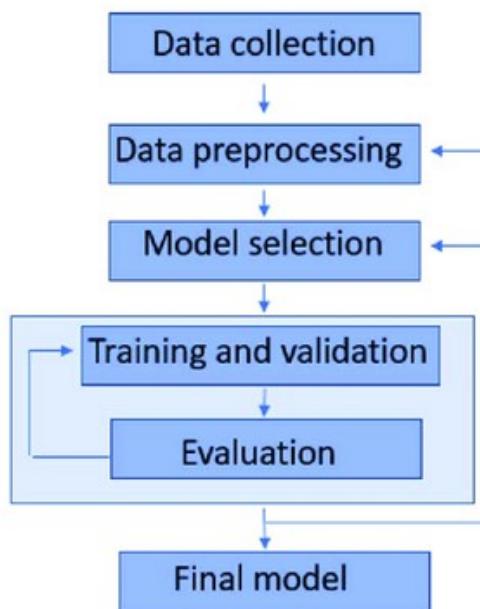
- Data preprocessing
- Train/test split
- Model training
- Model evaluation
- Results

You may create the diagram using any free tool, such as:

- draw.io: <https://www.drawio.com>
- Canva: <https://www.canva.com>
- Figma: <https://www.figma.com>
- Napkin: <https://www.napkin.ai>
- PowerPoint
- Etc...

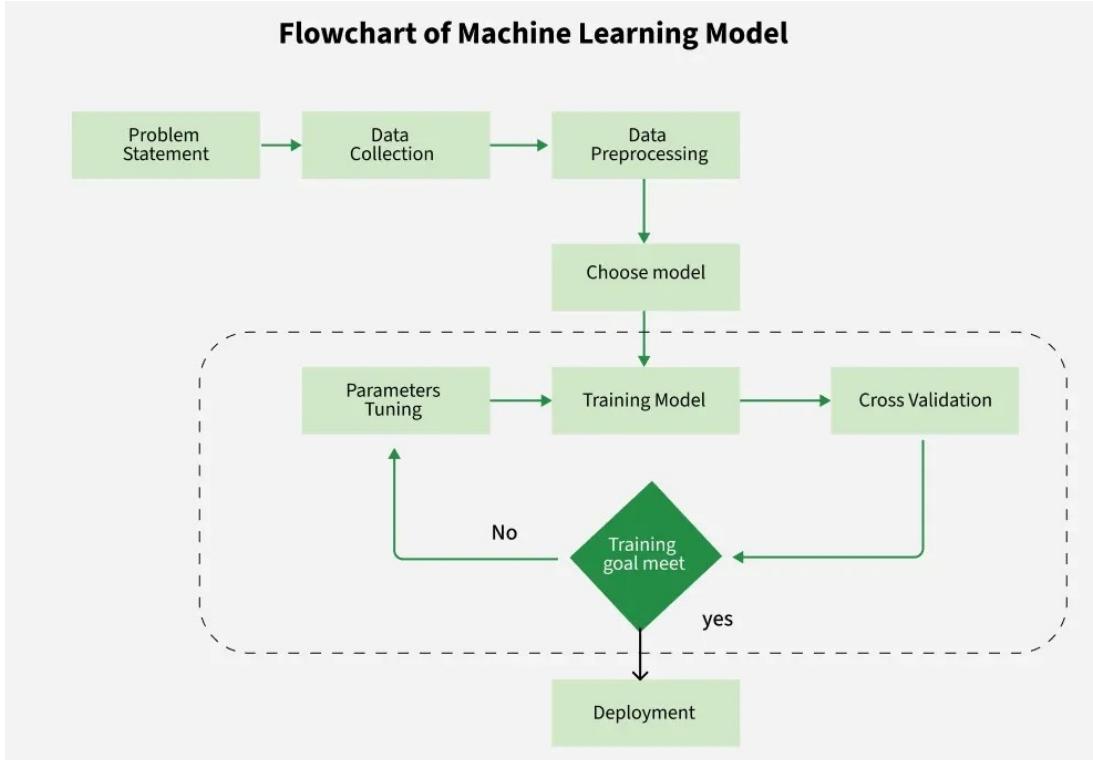
Export your diagram as a PNG or PDF and save it in your GitHub repository.

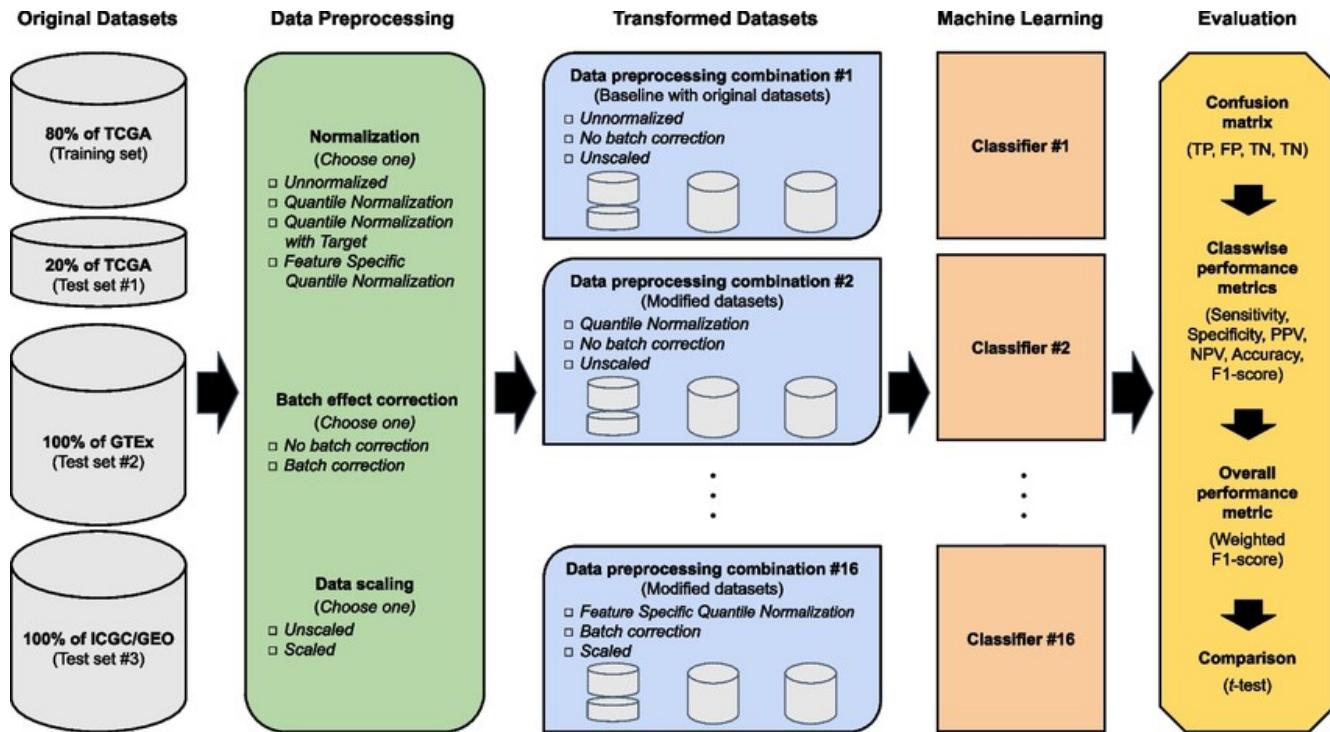


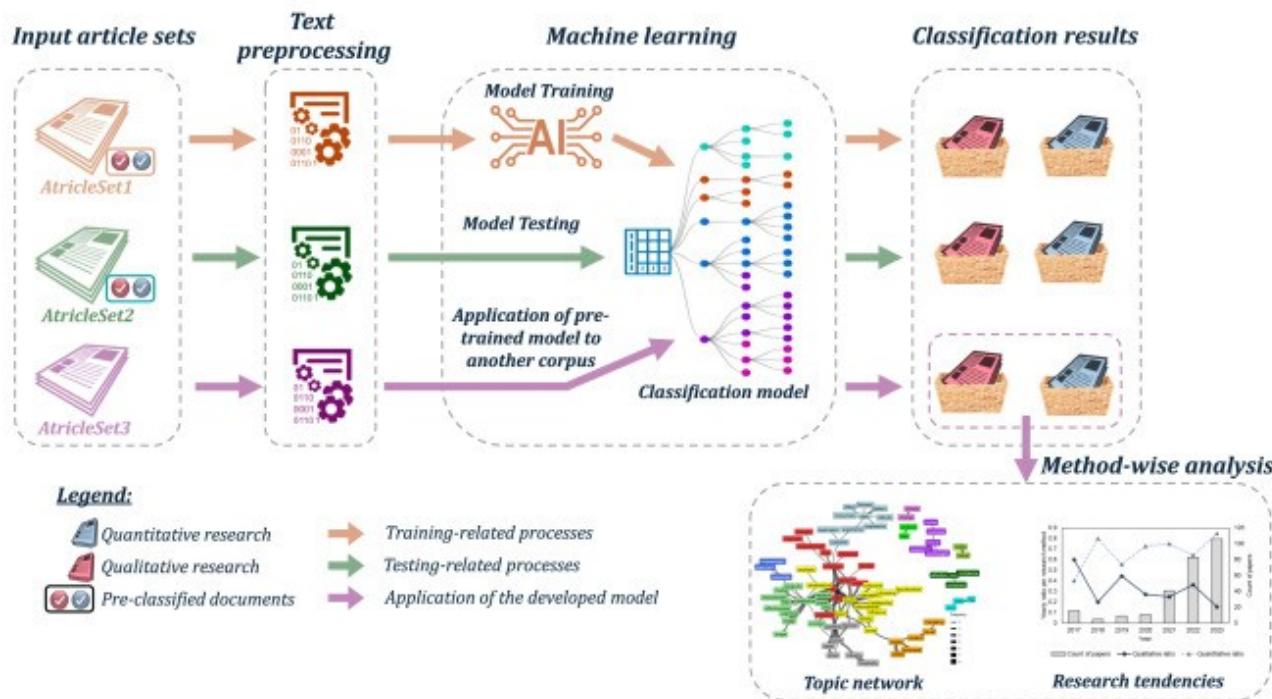




### Flowchart of Machine Learning Model









## Assignment 2 - Instructions

Your work for this lab must be submitted through GitHub only.

Your GitHub repository must contain:

- A short written summary describing the dataset and the machine learning problem
- A Jupyter Notebook that loads the dataset and displays basic information
- The methodology diagram saved as an image or PDF

Submit only the GitHub repository link through the Assignment 2 submission link on Blackboard.

Do not upload files or screenshots directly to Blackboard. Make sure your repository is accessible.