

# Machine Learning for Natural Language Processing

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- My research focuses in two areas: Political and Development Economics. In my research I deal with tons of data and (lots of) text data. That's why this course.
- Introduce yourself. What are your expectations? Why are you here? What kind of text/data you are currently using or plan to use?

# Plan for this course

- Supervised Learning
- Unsupervised Learning
- Applications on Text Data
- Implementation of algorithms with Python

Final assessment will consist of the following:

- **In classroom** (20% of final grade). We'll measure this from answers in Slack and cameras on. If less than 60 percent of class has their cameras off in a class, all participants will be deducted 1 point. Experiment with virtual backgrounds.
  - ▶ Participation 10 %
  - ▶ Quizzes 10 %
- **2 Problem Sets** (40% of final grade)
- **Individual Project** (40% of final grade)

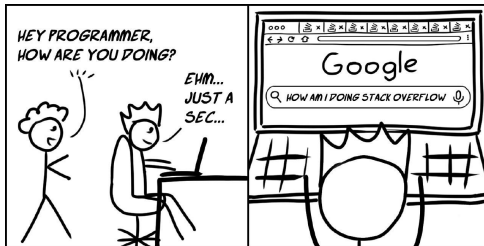
# Deadlines

- Past deadline submissions do not get graded
- Email for meetings, questions etc
- Emails/Questions: You will get a reply if you send an email but send it 24 hours before a deadline (no response otherwise)
- Slack will be our communication tool for this course
  - ▶ Post questions and answers in respective channels
  - ▶ Keep a close eye on channels on quizzes and assignments
  - ▶ Make sure you reply in thread when needed
- I strongly encourage peer learning. Feel free to post in the Slack channel if you think some information is of common interest

# Rules

- In each class, I will assign readings for the next class. Make sure you do the readings (you will be quizzed on those).
- Try to type code along with me – share screen.
- Ask questions and feel free to google
  - ▶ Don't feel bad about this especially for the programming part of the course. (Even software developers spend a lot of their coding time googling programming related questions)
  - ▶ Important to know how to read error messages
    - ★ or google them
  - ▶ Stack Overflow is a programmer's best friend

# Stack Overflow



# Recommended Material

- Python
  - ▶ [Codecademy](#) is the place to start
  - ▶ [Automate the Boring Stuff with Python](#) and [The Real Python](#) are great sources
- Machine Learning
  - ▶ An Introduction to Statistical Learning by Gareth, Witten, Hastie and Tibshirani
  - ▶ The Elements of Statistical Learning by Hastie, Tibshirani, Friedman
  - ▶ Statistical Learning with Sparsity by Hastie, Tibshirani, Wainwright
  - ▶ Introduction to Machine Learning with Python: A Guide for Data Scientists by Sarah Guido, and Andreas Muller
- Text Analysis
  - ▶ [Introduction to Information Retrieval](#) by Christopher D. Manning, Prabhakar Raghavan and Hinrich Schutze
  - ▶ Speech and Language Processing by Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin



# Academic Papers in Economics

TABLE 4  
PERCENT DISTRIBUTIONS OF METHODOLOGY OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES, 1963–2011\*

Year	Type of study				
	Theory	Theory with simulation	Empirical: borrowed data	Empirical: own data	Experiment
1963	50.7	1.5	39.1	8.7	0
1973	54.6	4.2	37.0	4.2	0
1983	57.6	4.0	35.2	2.4	0.8
1993	32.4	7.3	47.8	8.8	3.7
2003	28.9	11.1	38.5	17.8	3.7
2011	19.1	8.8	29.9	34.0	8.2

\* A type could not be assigned to seventeen of the articles published in 1963.

Hammermesh (2013)

# Background

- Old data, structured and small: (gdp, population, investment)
- New Data, less structure and larger (scraped price data, consumer search patterns, social networks, texts, ?)
- New methods needed: data collection/management, workflow/collaboration, description/analysis (Machine Learning).

# Causal Inference and Machine Learning

- Causal Inference

- ▶ Focus on one/few coefficients of interest (causal effect)
- ▶ Use one main specification, show robustness to alternative specification and placebo tests
- ▶ Model rarely evaluated (when pure inference we focus on in-sample-properties, mostly  $R^2$ )

- Machine learning

- ▶ Focus on prediction (and description)
- ▶ Use data-driven model selection to have best prediction (treated as a black box)
- ▶ Model is evaluated out-of-sample (e.g. cross validation)

Use ML to identify the most meaningful predictive variables (i.e Lasso and Ridge), dimensionality reduction, generate outcome of interest  $Y$ , or/and main variable of interest  $X$

# Linguistic differences

	Econometrics	Machine Learning
$Y$	Outcome	Target
$X$	Independent Variables	Features
Scikit-learn	Observations	Samples(?)

# Supervised vs Unsupervised Learning

- Supervised Learning:  $Y$ , the target, is available. Labelled data
  - ▶ Regression:  $Y$  is continuous
  - ▶ Classification:  $Y$  is categorical (binary or multi-class – ordered or not ordered)
- Unsupervised Learning:  $Y$  is not available
  - ▶ Exploratory data analysis and can be useful as a pre-processing step for supervised learning
- Neural Networks: We're not going to talk about them

# Know Your Task

- Each algorithm is different in terms of what kind of data and what problem setting it works best for. When building an algorithm ask:
  - ▶ What question(s) am I trying to answer? Do I think the data collected can answer that question?
  - ▶ What is the best way to phrase my question(s) as a machine learning problem?
  - ▶ Have I collected enough data to represent the problem I want to solve?
  - ▶ What features of the data did I extract, and will these enable the right predictions ?
  - ▶ How will I measure success in my application?
  - ▶ How will the machine learning solution will help my project?

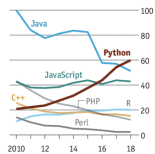
# Know Your Data

- The most important task when working with data is knowing your data
  - ▶ Empirical work, Machine Learning text analysis
  - ▶ Extract features only if you know your data well enough.  
We are going to talk about best practices throughout this course

# Why Python?



US, Google searches for coding languages  
100 = highest annual traffic for any language



The Economist

The Economist  
3 hrs ·

Python has soared in popularity since it's invention nearly 30 years ago. Today it is the language of choice of AI researchers

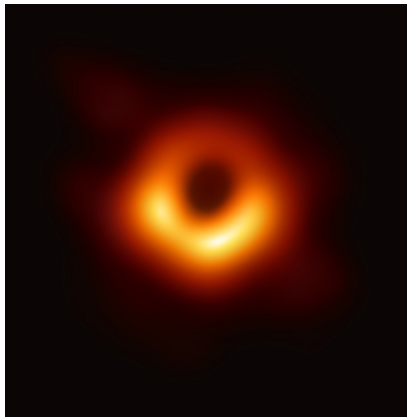




# A bit about Python

- Programming language intended for general purpose high-level language
- Web development, scientific and numeric education, desktop graphical user interface, software development
- Free and open source
- You can do everything that you can do in a programming language
- Big community (Google, Youtube, Nasa...)
- High readability (more than R or C)
- Python was first released in early 1980
  - ▶ Python 2 in 2000 and Python 3 in 2008

# Black Holes and Python



# Purpose of the course

- Machine Learning and Text Analysis, as well as programming in Python are (mildly put) very broad topics, and we will not be able to cover many(!) things
- Build foundations such that in the future you get confidence in starting to dig deeper into these topics
- Strong focus towards applications and real life problems