



MITx 6.86x

Machine Learning with Python-From Linear Models to Deep Learning[Course](#)[Progress](#)[Dates](#)[Discussion](#)[Resources](#)[Course](#) / [Unit 3. Neural networks \(2.5 weeks\)](#) / [Project 3: Digit recognition \(Part 2\)](#)[< Previous](#)

1. Introduction

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Your friends now want you to try implementing a neural network to classify MNIST digits.



Setup:

As with the last project, please use Python's **NumPy** numerical library for handling arrays, and use **matplotlib** for producing figures and plots.



*Write on software: For all the projects, we will use python 3.6 augmented with the **NumPy** numerical library for handling arrays, and the **matplotlib** plotting toolbox. For THIS project, you will also be using **PyTorch** for implementing neural networks and **scipy** to handle sparse matrices.*



[About](#) Download [mnist.tar.gz](#) and untar it in to a working directory. The archive contains the

[Affiliates](#) Dataset directory, along with the following python files:

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- `part2-nn/neural_nets.py` in which you'll implement your first neural net from scratch
- `part2-mnist/nnet_fc.py` where you'll start using PyTorch to classify MNIST digits
- `part2-mnist/nnet_conv.py` where you will use convolutional layers to boost performance
- `part2-twodigit/mlp.py` and `part2-twodigit/conv.py` which are for a new, more challenging

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Tip: Throughout the whole online grading system, you can assume the NumPy python library is imported as `np`. In some problems you will also have access to python's random library `random` you've already implemented. Look out for the "Available Functions" Tip before the code editor for the last project.

This project will unfold both on MITx and on your local machine. However, we encourage you to run the functions locally. For this project, there will not be a `test.py` script. You are encouraged to write your own test cases to make sure your code works as you expected before submitting it to the

Connect

You may work through the Pytorch tutorial in [Introduction to ML Packages \(Part 2\)](#) (optional section).

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