Welcome to Machine Learning for All

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H ello. W e are very excited to welcome you to Machine Learning for All, a course that we think is revolutionary because it allows people without a background in mathematics or programming to get hands-on experience of one of the hottest current topics in technology: Machine Learning.

L ike most MOOCs, this course will use video lectures, and also interviews with experts, to explain the key concepts of machine learning and have quizzes to practice and deepen your understanding of the ideas.

But this course isn't just about this, it is about trying machine learning for yourself. You will do this using a custom online platform developed by researchers at Goldsmiths, University of London. It will allow you to train machine learning models based on one of the most common and flexible types of data: images. You can use it for anything you can represent as an image. That could be recognising faces, classifying animals, understanding line drawings, you could even try the classic machine learning task of recognising handwritten numbers.

Y ou will start by learning about the difficult challenges involved in artificial intelligence (AI), getting computers to do things that we humans can do effortlessly, and we will quickly dive into explaining what machine learning is and how it works. You will end the first week by trying your first practical machine learning.

The second week will look at one of the most important aspects of machine learning: the data used to learn from and how it is represented.

Week three will cover some practical aspects of machine learning. What can go wrong and how to test a machine learning system to make sure it works, with some hands-on practice. It will also cover some of the important applications of machine learning and also some of the potential dangers of this technology.

Each of the first three weeks will end with a short quiz to test your knowledge. These quizzes will contribute to your final grade.

In the final week, you will work on your own machine learning project. You will gather data, train and test a machine learning model. This will give you hands-on experience of the power of machine learning, and probably some of the pitfalls involved. The project will end with a peer review exercise, in which you will describe and reflect on your project work (and will form the main assessment of the course).

So it is now time to get started and enter the new world of learning machines.