SCIENTIFIC MACHINE LEARNING
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Hi All,

Hope you've all had a productive winter holiday!
We have the next monthly meet up this Friday (9th Jan). Join us at 11am in the Worsley building (room 11.87) for coffee, cake and chats about all the events we have planned, along with community updates and news in the field of machine learning. Everyone is welcome, in person or virtually via Teams.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in this community, but you don't know if they've signed up yet, we encourage you to forward them this newsletter! The community has grown considerably since its conception, but we still hope to unite researchers in diverse fields through this group. You don't need to be at the University of Leeds, or even in Academia! We are an interdisciplinary bunch, and anyone, from undergraduates to professors, established programmers to people just casually interested, are welcome to sign up!

To have something featured in this newsletter, please send us an email at sciml@leeds.ac.uk containing details of the event/opportunity/resource you want to share with the community!

📰 **Updates**

- Literature Club!
  Back by popular (lukewarm) demand, the literature club will be returning soon! During the December community meeting we discussed the results of the poll, but here is a summary if you missed that meeting:
  - Most people (55%) were happy with fortnightly sessions, and an equal number of people asked for more and less frequent sessions, and so the fortnightly frequency will stay.
    - To the one person asked for biweekly sessions, what did you mean?
  - We had an overwhelming (6) majority of you say that Thursday PM was the best slot in the week.
    - We are aware of the Fluids CDT weekly seminars, and will endeavour to avoid this time slot.
    - If you are in another research group that meets regularly on Thursday afternoons, feel free to send us an email to let us know so we can avoid that too.
  - Most (82%) of you would be happy to make these sessions hybrid, so we will change this!
    - The speaker still needs to present in person.
    - In person attendance is still encouraged.
    - We still won't record the sessions, and we request that you do not record the sessions either.
  - In response to some additional feedback or suggestions:
    - We have no budget for the lit club :((so we cannot offer food/drinks/vouchers for attendance.
    - We could offer a certificate that you have presented (potentially useful for PhDs who have a training plan to fulfill) and presentation feedback if you want it.
    - We won't be drawing speaker names. We only want willing presenters!
    - Most of the people in the room (often everyone but the speaker) have not read the paper that is being presented. You should all feel welcome to come to these sessions regardless of how familiar you are with the paper contents!
  - Save the date! 5th of February is (tentatively) the first session.
    - You can sign up to any of the slots currently unclaimed on the schedule, and for more information on how these sessions run, see the guidance document.

- We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join the SciML committee! The roles are flexible, and you can take on as much or as little as you want. Chat to any of us at our events or send us an email (sciml@leeds.ac.uk) if you want to know more.

- We have a Teams channel under the LIDA group - <u>click here to visit it</u> and make sure to turn channel notifications on!

📜 Resources & Opportunities

- **AI in Healthcare Conference:**
  - A two-day student-led conference.
    - 14-15th February 2026
  - Hosted collaboratively by The MedTech Foundation (MTF), LUU MedTech Society, and Leeds AI Soc.
  - The focus will be AI applications in healthcare, featuring expert speakers, a panel session, great networking opportunity and a hands-on Ideathon.
  - We'd appreciate it if you could complete this [brief interest form](#) to help us plan attendance, catering, and potential poster/oral presentations.
  - For more information, email Omar Choudhry (sc20osc@leeds.ac.uk).

- **LeedsHack 2026 - Volunteers required**
  - The School of Computer Science has recently launched LeedsHack 2026, a 24 hour hackathon held in the Bragg building for all university students to compete in on the 7th-8th February. For the event, we recruit mentors to help participants when building their solutions! By mentoring, you get free food throughout the event and an opportunity to put some volunteering work on your LinkedIn page
  - If this sounds of interest, fill in this form please: https://forms.gle/thP3XkdhNPBf8uG77
  - Alternatively, if this sounds like something you would rather compete in, you can register for a ticket here: https://www.universe.com/events/leedshack-2026-tickets-N9LZPY (although there is no guarantee you will get one).

- - If you have any questions, don't hesitate to message Eschal Najmi (sc22en) on teams or email leedshack@luucompsoc.co.uk,

- LIDA has sent us this round-up of current opportunities which may be of interest to members of the AI research community at Leeds. For support with grant applications, please get in touch with the [Research & Innovation Service](#).
  - **CALL FOR FEEDBACK**
    - [New ARIA Programme Thesis — Massively Scalable Neurotechnologies](#)
    - Advanced Research & Invention Agency (ARIA)
    - [Read the thesis](#) and [share your feedback](#) to help shape ARIA's potential new programme.
    - Join ARIA's [teaming platform](#) to connect with potential collaborators for any future calls.
  - **ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY**
    - [DSIT College of Experts - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK](#)
    - DSIT is expanding its College of Experts. This is a prestigious network of independent specialists who provide impartial, strategic scientific and technical advice to shape national policy and programmes.
    - Deadline 16 January 2026
  - **JANUARY**
    - [AI & Robotics Awards – Responsible AI UK](#)
      - Deadline 9 January 2026, AI & Robotics awards dinner London March
    - [Isambard-AI and Dawn AIRR supercomputers: Innovator route – UKRI](#)
      - Deadline 16 January 2026
    - [Reimagining Circularity: outline stage – UKRI/DEFRA](#)
      - *Data & Metrics is one of the three challenge areas for this Network Plus.*
      - Deadline 15 January 2026, max award £4.32M
  - **FEBRUARY**
    - [BBSRC 2025 Transformative Research Technologies (25TRT) – UKRI](#)

- - - Enabling the next generation of cutting-edge research technologies for the biosciences including bioinformatics tools and computational approaches.
    - Deadline 11 February 2026, max award £225K
  - [Dataset creation & challenge projects — gen ai](#)
    - Aims to encourage development of new datasets supporting scientific advancement and technological innovation.
    - Deadline 24 February 2026, max award £100K
  - [ADR UK Research Fellowships 2025 (RF2025) – UKRI](#)
    - Deadline 26 February, max award £200K
- **MARCH**
  - [Funding Opportunity: BIRAX Healthy Ageing Call 2025 | British Council](#)
    - Deadline 1 March 2026, max £400K
  - [Turing AI Global Fellowships – UKRI](#)
    - Deadline 12 March 2026, max £4.5M
    - *This opportunity has a demand management process in place. Please contact RIS for details.*
  - [Early Detection and Diagnosis Programme Award | Cancer Research UK](#)
    - Outline 26 March 2026, max £2.5 M
  - [Overarching Competition Document: Open Call for Innovation CY2025 - Cycle 1 - GOV.UK](#)
    - Defence – includes machine learning theme
    - Deadline 26 March 2026, max £250K
- **APRIL**
  - [Focal awards: multilingual futures for UK growth and connectivity – UKRI](#)
    - Deadline 21 April 2026, max £ tbc
    - Call goals include '*digitally enabled technologies, human-computer interactions, and the application of languages to broader advanced technologies*'
    - *This opportunity has a demand management process in place. Please contact RIS for details.*
- **OPEN**

- ■ [Isambard-AI and Dawn AIRR supercomputers: Rapid Access route – UKRI](#)
- ■ [Isambard-AI and Dawn AIRR supercomputers: Gateway route – UKRI](#)

📅 Upcoming Events

- **Monthly meetup -** 11:00, 9/1/26, Worsley Building, 11th Floor, room 11.87
  - ○ [Teams link for virtual attendance](#)
  - ○ (This Teams link is different to the 2025 meetings)

- **Seminar Series: Advancing Flood Forecasting with Machine Learning at ECMWF**
  - ○ Seminar from Dr Maria Luisa Taccari from the the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)
  - ○ 11:00-12:00, 30/01/26
  - ○ Location TBC
  - ○ Teams link and Outlook invites to be sent out within the next 2 weeks

- **Literature Club** - Time TBC (PM), 05/02/26, Location TBC
  - ○ Presenter and Paper unconfirmed

- **Monthly meetup -** 11:00, 6/2/26, Worsley Building, 11th Floor, room 11.87
  - ○ [Teams link for virtual attendance](#)

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https://sciml-leeds.github.io/