

NTU 922 U0960: Machine Learning

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Dept. of CSIE, NTU

Course Policies, 09/18/2008

Only English

- English teaching
- English homework writing
- English email communications
- English forum discussions
- exception: Mandarin face-to-face discussions

If you are not comfortable with English-teaching classrooms, ...

Complicated Contents

- from a Taiwanese student taking MIT ML class (translated):
The professor started writing math equations as if he was using some writing accelerator. After class I always felt feeble. The worst part is: I needed to understand the contents as soon as I can. Otherwise I cannot finish the homework and cannot follow up in the next class.
- NTU ML class: designed to be as “good” as the best classes in the world
- similar things may happen to you

If you are not willing to be so miserable, ...

Strict Instructor

- Will you give me a second chance if I copy homework from other people? No.
- Could you let me pass because I will be kicked out by the 1/2 rule? No.
- Will you change my score from 59 to 60? No.
- Will you tolerate me to turn in my homework 10 minutes late? No.

If you do not like a strict instructor, ...

High Loads

- also from the Taiwanese student taking MIT ML class (translated):
*Every homework set is similar to three normal ones in NTU.
I devoted my whole Mid-Autumn Festival to homework 1.*
- ours: two to three times harder than a normal one in NTU
- seven to eight homework sets (and a final project)
- homework due within a week
- even have homework 0
 - already hard
 - no need to submit

If you do not want to spend so much time on homework, ...

Uncertain Outcome

- new course, lots of uncertainties
- How many people will not pass? I don't know yet.
- How complicated will the final project be? I don't know yet.
- Will your investment (time) get good return (knowledge)? No guarantees, but I'll try.

If you do not want to risk yourself, ...

May the Brave Ones Stay

Basic Information

- instructor: Hsuan-Tien Lin (htlin@csie.ntu.edu.tw)
- office hour: after class or by appointment
- course webpage: <https://ceiba.ntu.edu.tw/971ML>
announcements, homework, reference handouts, etc.
- discussion forum: hyperlink on course webpage (supported by CEIBA)
- mailing list: supported by CEIBA

Update your secondary email address on CEIBA!

- at most 60 in room 105
- limit 50 from electronic enrollment
- the other 10: my students, and “special cases”
—send me an email saying why you should be the “special case”
- auditing: welcomed (to sit) only if there is an empty chair

Drop as soon as possible!
Give your motivated classmates a chance to be miserable.

- Hanhsing Tu and Ming-Feng Tsai
(m108fall@csie.ntu.edu.tw)
- TA hours: 12–14 on the day before homework is due, R106
- special TA hour for homework 0:
12–14 next Wednesday (9/24/2008), R106

Go to TA hours to discuss with TAs and classmates!

Taking any unfair advantages over other class members is not allowed. It is everyone's responsibility to maximize the level of fairness.

- eating? fine, but no smells and no noise
- sleeping? fine, but no snoring
- cellphone? fine, but silent mode, and speak outside
- ...

applies to instructor, TAs, students

NO CHEATING

NO LYING

NO PLAGIARISM

very serious consequences

- no midterm, no final
- main reference: homework sets, final project
- supplementary reference: participation in discussions

from the principle: **no individual score change**

Collaboration and Open-Book

- homework discussions: encouraged
- but fairness?
write the final solutions alone and understand them fully
- references (books, notes, Internet):
consulted, but **not copied from**
- no need to lend/borrow solutions

to maximize fairness (everyone's responsibility),
lending/borrowing not allowed

- students: justify solutions clearly
- TAs: evaluate solutions fairly
- no individual extension unless not violating the principle (e.g. institute-established cases of illness or emergency)
- penalty for late “parts”:
80% of value for one-day late, 60% for two-days late, ...

five-min late is (one-day) late

Programming Assignments

- about half of the problems
- any language, any platforms
- upload source code, otherwise:
10% of value only!
- **no sophisticated packages**

students' responsibility:

ask TA in advance for what can/cannot be used

Important TODOs

- Update your secondary email address on CEIBA!
- Do homework 0 and go to the TA hour next Wednesday 12–14 in R106 for questions.
- If you want to be manually added, send me an email first.

May the Brave Ones Stay