Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021
Dambre, Joni TW06 lecturer-in-charge
Dhaene, Tom TW05 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

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<td>Bridging Programme Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research</td>
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<td>Bridging Programme Master of Science in Computer Science Engineering</td>
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<td>Master of Science in Business Engineering (main subject Data Analytics)</td>
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<td>Master of Science in Computer Science Engineering</td>
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<td>European Master of Science in Photonics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme in Bioinformatics (master's level)</td>
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Teaching languages
Dutch, English

Keywords
Machine learning, regression, classification, Bayesian networks, clustering, PCA, kernel techniques, support vector machines, random forest, neural networks, deep learning, gaussian processes, robotics, reinforcement learning

Position of the course
The objective of this course is to provide theoretical and practical insights into the use of machine learning in practical applications. First, the fundamental principles of machine learning and learning theory are introduced in the context of linear models. The major historical families of machine learning techniques are addressed and...
selected state-of-the-art advanced methods are highlighted. The theoretical background is given in order to understand the benefits and limitations of each technique, but the emphasis of the course is on the practical use of the different techniques. This is achieved through a number of supervised PC-labs as well as a project in the form of a machine learning competition. For the applied parts of this course, the Python programming language is used.

Contents
- Introduction to machine learning: types of problems, types of techniques, types of data, introduction to learning theory, approximation versus generalisation, features and feature selection, uncertainty and overfitting, problem and model analysis, ensembles
- Unsupervised learning: clustering, dimensionality reduction, approximating probability density functions, Gaussian mixture models
- Rule-based techniques: decision trees and random forests
- Model-based techniques: linear regression and classification, logistic regression, neural networks
- Similarity-based techniques: KNN, kernel techniques, SVM
- Probabilistic and Bayesian approaches, maximal likelihood and expectation maximization
- State-of-the-art topical examples, e.g.: convolutional neural networks, natural language processing, biomedical applications
- Hands-on application to real-world problems

Initial competences
ICT: Being able to program in Python is a necessary prerequisite for this course! Mathematics: calculus, linear algebra, analytic geometry, probability theory and statistics (all at university level).

Final competences
1. Understand the fundamental principles and challenges of machine learning.
2. Understand the mathematical background of some common and advanced machine learning models.
3. Implement simple machine learning models and correctly apply machine learning libraries for more advanced techniques.
4. Analyse a new machine learning problem and address it by correctly applying the principles of machine learning and selecting suitable common machine learning models.
5. Understand and critically evaluate the techniques presented in scientific literature on machine learning.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, group work, lecture, online discussion group, online group work, online lecture, online seminar: practical PC room classes

Extra information on the teaching methods
The lectures will take place on-campus, with limited possibility for physical attendance and online streaming.
A limited number of PC-exercises will have to be made individually, at home, with the possibility to ask questions at pre-set dates.
A more complex machine learning assignment will be made in part individually and in part in groups. This will be split up into intermediate targets. Through regular scheduled (mandatory) contact sessions (online or on-campus depending on circumstances), support will be given and the progress towards the intermediate targets will be evaluated.

Learning materials and price
Slides, lecture recordings.

References

(Approved)
Course content-related study coaching
By the teachers and the assistants, before, during or after contact sessions, by appointment or via the e-learning system.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Participation, assignment, peer assessment, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
The exam consists of a written examination (closed book). It consists of several short questions to test knowledge and understanding (multiple choice or open questions with very short answers), as well as a few questions to evaluate deeper understanding.

The NPE for this course consists of graded programming exercises (individual work) and a project. This is split up into an individual part and a group phase, which builds upon the results of the individual phase. Grading for the project is based on the correct application of the methodology and techniques taught in the course, as well as on your personal contribution to the group work.

Students who do not participate in the individual part or obtain a score below 5/20 will not be allowed to participate in the group phase and can therefore not succeed in the first exam period. Not contributing sufficiently to the group's result can also lead to not succeeding.

The second exam period only consists of individually graded work (programming exercise - project - exam), but only the parts for which you did not succeed have to be retaken.

Calculation of the examination mark
50% NPE (evaluation during the semester), 50% PE (exam).
Participation to all parts of NPE is mandatory in order to succeed. Students who fail to hand in assignments or do not take their share of the group work can receive an insufficient grade for the NPE.

For the group phase, peer assessment and individual questions are used to monitor each student's contribution. **Students who fail to contribute sufficiently to the assignment, because of lack of effort, understanding or coding skills, will not pass for the course.**

You need to obtain a score of at least 9/20 on each of both parts (NPE and PE) in order to obtain a credit. Students who do not fulfill the second condition but for whom the calculated score would be 9/20 or more, will receive a score of 8/20 (i.e., the largest score that is smaller than 9/20).