Course logistics
Course Information

• Instructor: Dr. Xiaoli Fern
  Kec 3073, xfern@eecs.oregonstate.edu

• TA: Xu Xu and Zahra Iman

• Office hour
  Instructor: T, Th after class 1:30 -3:30
  TA: see class webpage

• Class Web Page
  classes.engr.oregonstate.edu/eecs/fall2014/cs534/

• Class email list
  cs534-f14@engr.orst.edu
Course materials

• Text books, not required but recommended
  – *Pattern recognition and machine learning* by Chris Bishop (Bishop)
  – Machine learning by Tom Mitchell (TM)
  – Pattern Classification by Duda, Hart and Stork (DHS) 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition

• Slides and reading materials will be provided on course webpage

• A lot of online resources on machine learning
  – Check class website for links
Discussion session

• The TAs will hold occasional discussion sections
• What:
  – review prerequisite materials
  – supplement the lecture materials
• When:
  – Thur 5-6
  – Not every week, announcement will be made when a section is held
  – Attendance is optional
• Where:
  – BEXL 417
Prerequisites

• **Basic probability theory and statistics concepts:** Distributions, Densities, Expectation, Variance, parameter estimation
  – Links to video lectures provided on class website
• **Multivariable Calculus and linear algebra**
  – Links to useful video lectures provided on class webpage
• **Knowledge of basic CS concepts such as data structure, search strategies, complexity**

Please spend some time review these!
It will be tremendously helpful!
Homework and Grading

• Assignments: written and implementation, and a term project
  – Assignments generally due at the beginning of the class on the due day unless otherwise specified
  – You may have gained access to solutions from previous years – **do not copy from them** – they will do no good for you. If you are caught copying from the old solution set or any other source, you will be reported for AD and **any form of cheating will result in automatic F for this class**

• Late policy: each student has one late allowance (48 hours) without penalty. Once the late allowance is used up, your submission will be discounted 10% each day up to two days.

• Grading policy:

  Written homework not graded based on correctness. TA will record the # of completed problems (either correctly or incorrectly). Completing a problem requires a non-trivial attempt at solving the problem. Judgment of whether a problem was "completed" is left to the instructor and the TA

• Final grades breakdown:
  – Midterm 25%; Final 25%; Project 25%; Implementation assignments 25%.
  – The resulting letter grade will be decreased by one if a student fails to complete at least 80% of the written homework problems.
A few tips for success

• Do the assigned reading before class, be prepared
• Participate in in-class discussions and attend the extra discussion sessions
• Find a good partner to collaborate on your term project, start early!