Roadmap

- Administrivia
- Technical Tools
What you need for this course

- You need to use Python
- Helps to have a laptop to bring to class
- Math background
  - Prove things
  - Take integrals
  - Take derivatives
- Computer / programming skills
  - Must know how to program
  - Manipulate data (text files)
  - Algorithms relatively simple
Flipped Classroom

- Hands-on practice
- My responsibility: record lectures before class
- In class: you help each other, and we work through examples
- Your responsibility: come to class with questions from lecture (I’ll randomly call on you—part of participation)
Administrivia

- Keep track of course webpage
- Homeworks: 5 late days
- Midterm
- Project
- Let me know about special needs
Administrivia

- Keep track of course webpage
- Homeworks: 5 late days
- Midterm
- Project
- Let me know about special needs
- Read the syllabus!
  - Grade breakdown
  - Policies on lateness beyond free late days
Course reading

- We will provide reading materials, mostly from the book.
- Slightly different focus: same concepts, use book as starting point.
Course reading

Foundations of Machine Learning

- We will provide reading materials, mostly from the book.
- Slightly different focus: same concepts, use book as starting point
- Learnability will be from suggested book

Mehryar Mohri,
Afshin Rostamizadeh,
and Ameet Talwalkar
Communicating with Piazza

We will use Piazza to manage all communication

http://piazza.com/colorado/fall2015/csci5622

• Questions answered within 1 day (hopefully sooner)
• Hosts discussions among yourselves
• Use for any kind of technical question
• Use for most administrative questions
• Can use to send us private questions too
• Will be a factor in participation
How to ask for help

• Explain what you’re trying to do
• Give a minimal example
  ◦ Someone else should be able to replicate the problem easily
  ◦ Shouldn’t require any data / information that only you have
• Explain what you **think** should happen
• Explain what you get instead (copy / paste or screenshot if you can)
• Explain what else you’ve tried
Me

- Second year assistant professor
  - Office: 111B ECCS
- Was formerly a professor at University of Maryland
- Research: topic models, question answering, machine translation
- Fourth time teaching the class
- Born in Colorado (where all my family live)
- Grew up in Iowa (hometown: Keokuk, Iowa)
- Went to high school in Arkansas
- Undergrad in California
- Grad school in New Jersey
- Brief jobs in between:
  - Working on electronic dictionary in Berlin
  - Worked on Google Books in New York
- ying / jbg / jordan / boyd-graber