Course Title: Tackling the Challenges of Big Data

Meet Your Course TAs!

Brian Bell

Brian is a Masters student in the ALFA Machine Learning Group at MIT CSAIL. His research interests focus on applications of machine learning to challenges within healthcare, such as building effective models from clinical data. He has extensive experience developing classification tools and predictive models for patient EMRs (Electronic Medical Records). Other interests include NLP for clinical notes, distributed machine learning systems, NoSQL databases and personalized search.

Brian will be the Lead TA for the following modules:
Week 1: Big Data Challenges
Week 5-6: Big Data Analytics

Manasi Vartak

Manasi is a PhD student in the Database Group at MIT CSAIL. Her research interests lie at the intersection of databases and machine learning, and she works on new techniques to efficiently query, analyze, and visualize large scale data. Past projects have included tools to find interesting differences in datasets, recommender system for item sets, and a comparative analysis of current data management systems for complex analytics. She has worked at Google, Facebook and Microsoft in areas including dynamic ad targeting and real-time data querying. She is particularly interested in data management and analysis for healthcare applications.

Contact:

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Manasi will be the Lead TA for the following modules:
Week 2: Big Data Collection
Week 3: Big Data Storage
Week 4 - Big Data Systems

How to use the discussion forum

Participating in the discussion forum is optional, but will enrich your learning experience by giving you the opportunity to interact with a community of professionals from around the globe.

To discuss the topics presented in each module (including videos and optional discussion questions), go to the "Discussion" tab at the top of the page. There will be one discussion board per module. All discussion regarding video sequences, discussion questions posed by course staff, assessments and anything related to the topics in the particular module will be discussed in these boards.

Creating a discussion forum post:

1) In order to create a post in the discussion forum, click on the blue "New Post" button.
2) When adding a new post, you must identify the post as either asking a question or starting a discussion.
3) Select "Topic Area" from the drop-down menu. This is important. If you do not specify, your post will go under the "General" discussion thread and may get overlooked. However, if you have a general topic not related to a specific module in the courseware, this is where to begin these discussions.
4) When titling your post, be as specific as possible as to the subject of your post. For example, just titling a post "Big Data Issue" is not as effective as titling it "Big data challenges in customer relationship management".
5) Enter text for your post and then hit "submit".

The TAs will be monitoring the discussion forum daily, and will respond to questions and other posts of note throughout the duration of the course.

For questions and concerns you would like directly addressed by the TAs, please post in the "Ask your TA" thread that will be under the "General" discussion board. TAs will also pay close attention to the posts that get the most upvotes, so if you come across a question or conversation that you find especially interesting or helpful, click the plus sign (+) at the top right of the post.