COMPSCI 514: ALGORITHMS FOR DATA SCIENCE

Andrew McGregor
Lecture 1
MOTIVATION FOR THIS CLASS

People are increasingly interested in analyzing and learning from massive datasets. • Twitter receives 6,000 tweets per second, 500 million/day. Google receives 60,000 searches per second, 5.6 billion/day. • How do they process them to target advertisements? To predict trends? To improve their products?

• The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope will take high definition photographs of the sky, producing 15 terabytes of data/night. • How do they denoise and compress the images? How do they detect anomalies such as changing brightness or position of objects to alert researchers?
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• Traditionally, algorithm design focuses on fast computation when data is stored in an efficiently accessible centralized manner (e.g., in RAM on a single machine).
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• Massive data sets require storage in a distributed manner or processing in a continuous stream.

• Even ‘simple’ problems become very difficult in this setting.
For example:

• How can Twitter rapidly detect if an incoming Tweet is an exact duplicate of another Tweet made in the last year? Given that no machine can store all Tweets made in a year.

• How can Google estimate the number of unique search queries that are made in a given week? Given that no machine can store the full list of queries.

• When you use Shazam to identify a song from a recording, how does it provide an answer in <10 seconds, without scanning over all ∼8 million audio files in its database.
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A Second Motivation: Data Science is highly interdisciplinary.

- Many techniques that aren’t covered in the traditional CS algorithms curriculum.
- Emphasis on building comfort with mathematical tools that underly data science and machine learning.
WHAT WE’LL COVER

Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching

How can we efficiently compress large data sets in a way that lets us answer important algorithmic questions rapidly?

- Probability tools and concentration inequalities.
- Randomized hashing for efficient lookup, load balancing, and estimation. Bloom filters.
- Locality sensitive hashing and nearest neighbor search.
- Streaming algorithms: identifying frequent items in a data stream, counting distinct items, etc.
- Random compression of high-dimensional vectors: the Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma, applications, and connections to the weirdness of high-dimensional geometry.
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- Principal component analysis, low-rank approximation, dimensionality reduction.
- Singular value decomposition (SVD) and its applications to PCA, low-rank approximation, LSA, MDS, ...
- Spectral graph theory. Spectral clustering, community detection, network visualization.
- Computing the SVD on large datasets via iterative methods.
Section 3: Optimization

Fundamental continuous optimization approaches that drive methods in machine learning and statistics.
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• Stochastic and online gradient descent.
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A small taste of what you can find in COMPSCI 651.
IMPORTANT TOPICS WE WON’T COVER

• Systems/Software Tools.
• COMPSCI 532: Systems for Data Science
• Machine Learning/Data Analysis Methods and Models. E.g., regression methods, kernel methods, random forests, SVM, deep neural networks.
• COMPSCI 589/689: Machine Learning
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- **Systems/Software Tools.**
  - Hadoop
  - TensorFlow
  - Spark
  - Flink
  - Giraph

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- The homework is designed to make you think beyond what is taught in class. You will get stuck, and not see the solutions right away. This is the best (only?) way to build mathematical and algorithm design skills.

A strong algorithms and mathematical background (particularly in linear algebra and probability) are required.

UMass prereqs: COMPSCI 240 and COMPSCI 311.

For example: Bayes’ rule in conditional probability. What it means for a vector $x$ to be an eigenvector of a matrix $A$, projection, greedy algorithms, divide-and-conquer algorithms.
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See course webpage for lecture slides and related readings:

https://people.cs.umass.edu/~mcgregor/CS514F22/

See Moodle page for this link if you lose it.
**PERSONNEL**

**Professor:** Andrew McGregor

- Email: mcgregor@cs.umass.edu
- Office Hour: Wednesday 9:30am

**TAs:**

- An La: Monday 11am-12pm
- Forsad Al Hossain: Tuesday 9am-10am
- Mohit Yadav: Monday 9:30am and Thursday 9:30am

See Moodle page for Zoom links.
We will use Piazza for class discussion and questions.

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PIAZZA AND PARTICIPATION

We will use Piazza for class discussion and questions.

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You’re helping yourself and others if you:

- Ask good clarifying questions and answering questions during lectures.
- Answer other students’ or instructor questions on Piazza.
- Post helpful/interesting links on Piazza, e.g., resources covering class material, research articles related to class topics.
We will use material from two textbooks (links to free online versions on the course webpage): *Foundations of Data Science* and *Mining of Massive Datasets*, but will follow neither closely.

- I will sometimes post optional readings a few days prior to each class.
- Draft lecture notes will be posted before each class and potentially updated afterwards if necessary.
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Problem set submissions will be via Gradescope.

- See Moodle for a link to join.
Will release a Moodle quiz each Friday. It’s due Monday at 8pm.
WEEKLY QUIZZES

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• Designed as a check-in that you are following the material, and to help me make adjustments as needed.

• Should take under an hour per week, open notes. Most questions easy but sometimes some more challenging ones.
Grade Breakdown:

- Five Problem Sets: 24%.
- Weekly Quizzes: 24%. (We’ll drop lowest quiz.)
- Midterm: 24%. Thursday October 20th
- Cumulative Final: 24%. (During Final’s Week.)
- Piazza Participation: 4%.
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Academic Honesty:

- A first violation cheating on a homework, quiz, or other assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment.
- A second violation, or cheating on an exam will result in failing the class.
UMass is committed to making reasonable, effective, and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

- If you have a documented disability on file with Disability Services, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in this course.
- If your disability requires an accommodation, please notify me by Friday 9/16 so that we can make arrangements.
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I understand that people have different learning needs, home situations, etc. If something isn’t working for you in the class, please reach out and let’s try to work it out.
Questions?
Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching
Consider a random variable $X$ taking values in some finite set $S \subset \mathbb{R}$.

• Expectation:
  $E[X] = \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s$.

• Variance:
  $\text{Var}[X] = E[(X - E[X])^2]$.

E.g., if $X$ takes the values $1, 2, 4$ with probabilities $1/3, 1/2, 1/6$ then
  $E[X] = 1/3 \cdot 1 + 1/2 \cdot 2 + 1/6 \cdot 4 = 2$.
  $\text{Var}[X] = 1/3 \cdot (1-2)^2 + 1/2 \cdot (2-2)^2 + 1/6 \cdot (4-2)^2 = 1$.

Exercise:
Show that for any scalar $\alpha$, $E[\alpha \cdot X] = \alpha \cdot E[X]$ and
  $\text{Var}[\alpha \cdot X] = \alpha^2 \cdot \text{Var}[X]$.
Consider a random \( X \) variable taking values in some finite set \( S \subset \mathbb{R} \). E.g., for a random dice roll, \( S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \).
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Consider two random events $A$ and $B$. 

$A \cap B$: event that both events $A$ and $B$ happen.
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- **Conditional Probability:**
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Using the definition of conditional probability, independence means:
\[
\frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)} = \Pr(A) \implies \Pr(A \cap B) = \Pr(A) \cdot \Pr(B).
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Independent Random Variables: Two random variables \(X, Y\) are independent if for all \(s, t\), \(X = s\) and \(Y = t\) are independent events. In other words:

\[
\Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) = \Pr(X = s) \cdot \Pr(Y = t).
\]
When are the expectation and variance linear?

I.e., under what conditions on $X$ and $Y$ do we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$$

and

$$\text{Var}[X + Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y].$$

We’ll find out next time!

$X, Y$: any two random variables.