

THE DATA SCIENCE LAB

- Introduction -

COM 490 – Module 1a

Week 1

Week 1 - Agenda

- Introduction to the class
- Set up your lab environment

Meet the team



Sofiane Sarni
SDSC
Module 4



Pamela Delgado
SDSC
Module 3



Eric Bouillet
SDSC
Module 1
Module 2



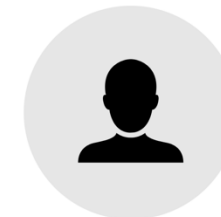
Dongqing Wang
Doctoral Assistant



Daichi Kuroda
Doctoral Assistant



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Doctoral Assistant

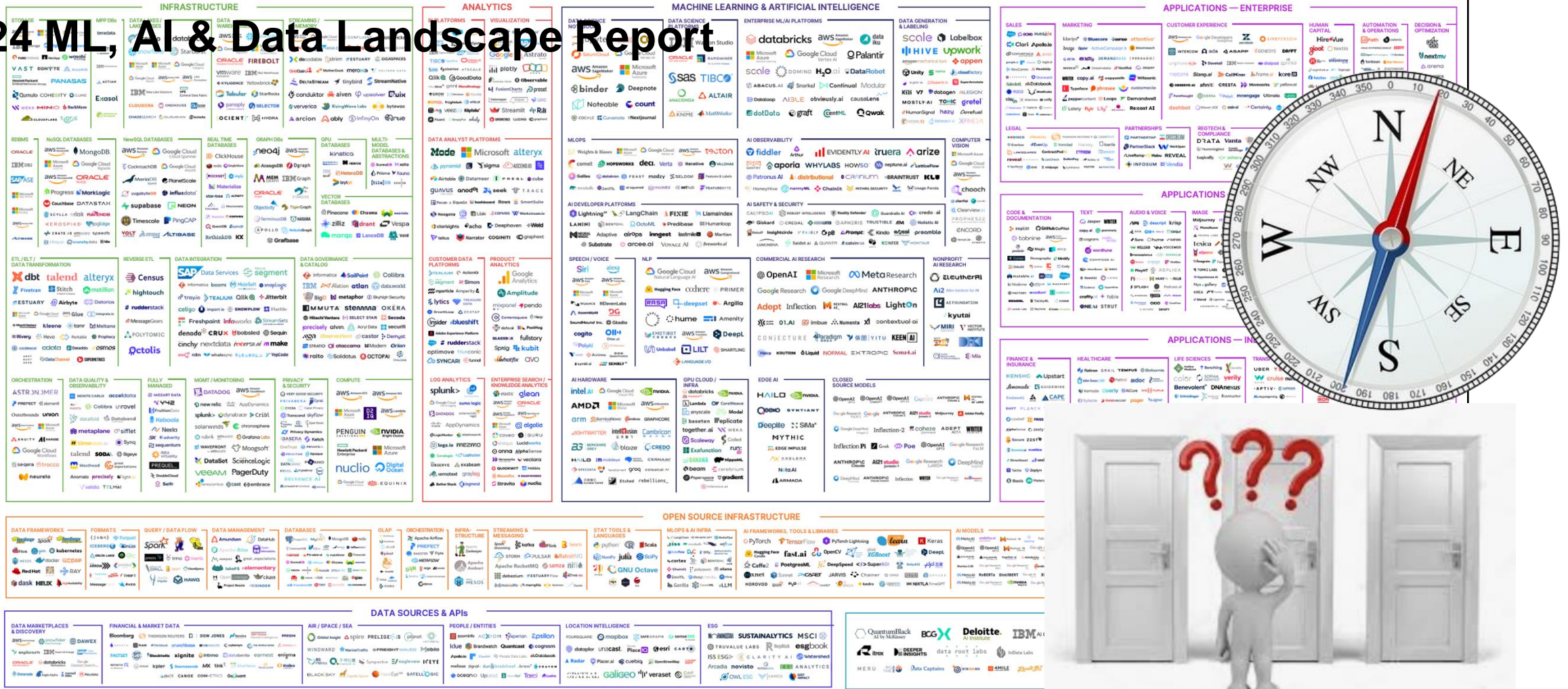


Ziyi Zhang
Doctoral Assistant

What this lab is about?

2024 ML, AI & Data Landscape Report

THE 2024 MAD (MACHINE LEARNING, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & DATA) LANDSCAPE



Version 1.0 - March 2024 © Matt Turck (@mattturck), Aman Kaberi (@AmanKaberi11) & FirstMark (@firstmarkcap) Blog post: mattturck.com/MAD2024 Interactive version: mattturck.com/MAD2024 Comments? Email MAD2024@firstmarkcap.com

Lab Overview

- A journey through a real-world data science project
- Very hand-on and pragmatic
- **4 Modules**
 - Module 1 – Review of Data Science with Python
 - Module 2 – Big data wrangling and query
 - Module 3 – Big data processing & Machine Learning with Apache Spark
 - Module 4 – Real time data acquisition and processing

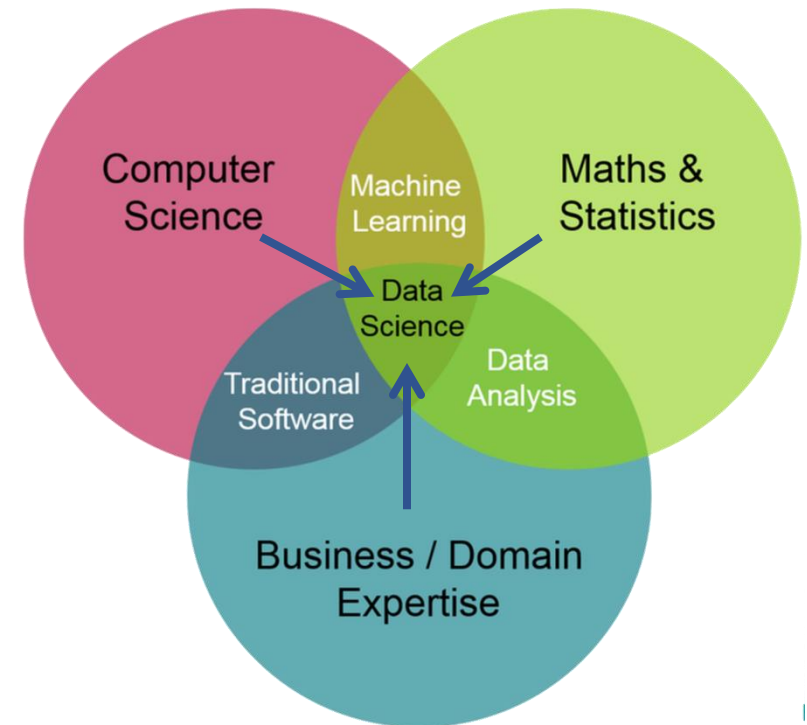
Agenda 2025 - Module 1a

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 19.02 | Introduction to Data Science with Python | 09.04 | Advanced Spark |
| 26.02 | (Bigger) Data Science with Python | 16.04 | Introduction to Stream Processing |
| 05.03 | Introduction to Big Data Technologies | 30.04 | Stream Processing with Kafka |
| 12.03 | Big Data Wrangling with Hadoop | 07.05 | Advanced Stream Processing |
| 19.03 | Advanced Big Data Queries | 14.06 | Final Project Q&A |
| 26.03 | Introduction to Spark | 22.05 | Final Project Videos Due before midnight |
| 02.04 | Spark Data Frames | 28.05 | Oral Sessions |

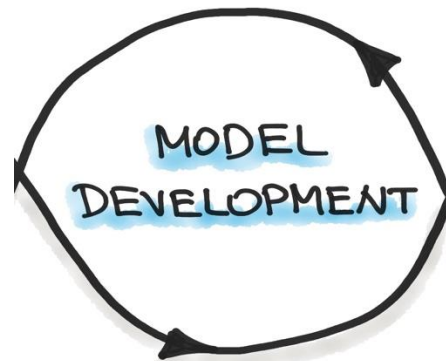
Lab Overview

- 50% (Big) Data/Feature Engineering
- 30% (Big) Data Science
- 20% Build foundations for ML-Ops

Drew Conway's Venn Diagram

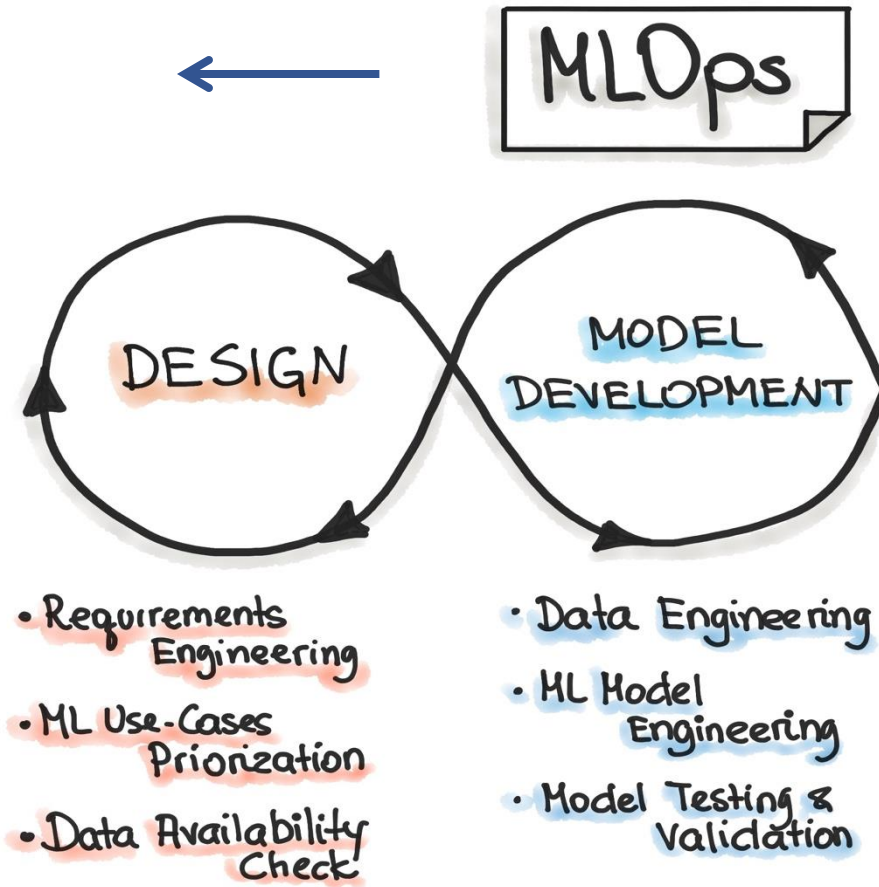


Lab Overview

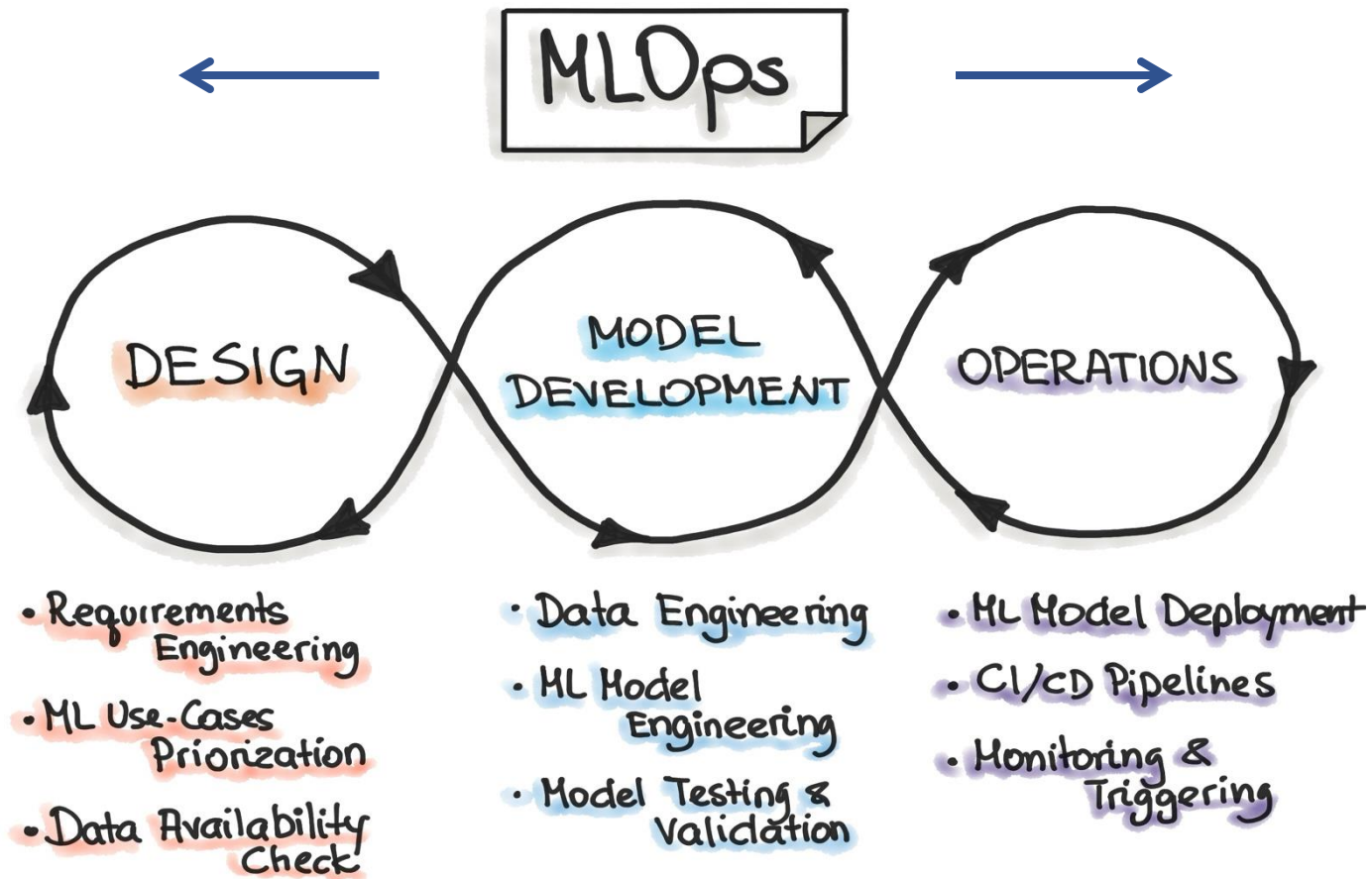


- Data Engineering
- ML Model Engineering
- Model Testing & Validation

Lab Overview



Lab Overview



Class Format

- **Labs on Wednesday – 13h10 to 16h00**
 - Theory and general introduction to exercises
 - Exercise sessions of 30min to 40min each, and 10min recap between sessions
 - Classes are recorded (Zoom*), and videos are made available after the class
- **Office hours**
 - Interactive communication via Ed forum(*)
 - Outside class hours on demand - time to be adapted according to students' schedule

*Details on [Moodle](#)

Communication

- **Moodle**

- <https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=15635>
- Class materials (slides), form groups, oral schedule, and other useful links

- **Ed (*)**

- For real-time intra/inter group communication, and to reach us outside class hours
- Channels:
 - General For our general announcements or to forward EPFL guidelines
 - Labs Discussions related to the lectures and labs
 - Assignments Channel for each assignment (A1, ...), and one for the final
 - Social Looking for a team, or a team-mate ?
- Etiquette:
 - **DO** Answer questions in a comment under a thread
 - **DO** Help each other with technical issues etc.,
 - **DO NOT** provide solutions to assignment

*Details on [Moodle](#)

Lab Assessment

- 40% Final project
 - Collaborative project, in groups of ~5 students
 - Due before final week of semester
 - 6-7min video presentation
 - Code
 - Mini oral presentation (group) during the final week
- 60% Continuous assessment
 - One take-home assignment per module 1 to 3
 - To complete in groups, within 3 weeks each
 - Assignments are related to the final project



Lab Assessment – Important Dates



| | | |
|-----------|-------|---|
| Tuesday | 18.03 | – Assessment 1 is due by midnight |
| Tuesday | 08.04 | – Assessment 2 is due by midnight |
| Tuesday | 06.05 | – Assessment 3 is due by midnight |
| Thursday | 22.05 | – Short video final assessment is due by midnight |
| Wednesday | 28.05 | – Oral sessions (10mins per group) |
| Friday | 30.05 | – Final assessment is due by midnight |

Programming Languages

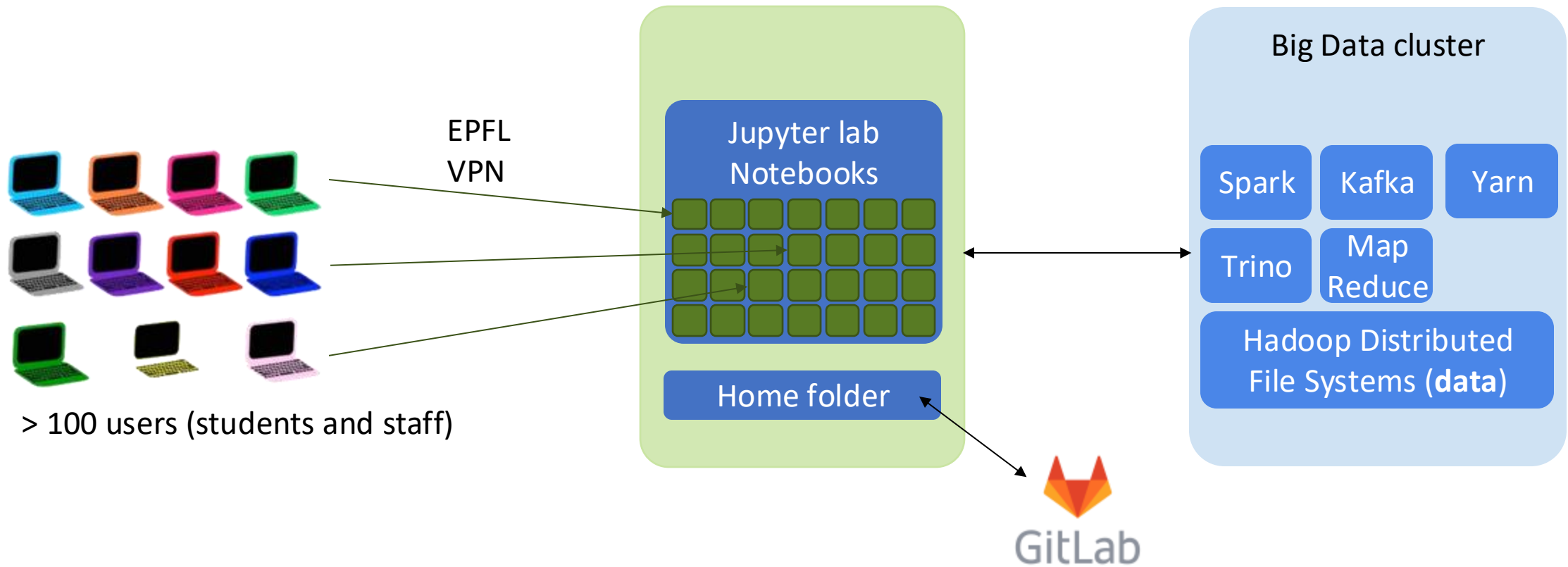
- **Programming Languages**

- Mainly Python
 - Numpy, pandas, scikit-learn, matplotlib, PySpark, ...
- Also SQL(-like)
- And a pinch of Linux Shell command lines

- **Developer tools**

- Git (gitlab)
- Hadoop big data stack command lines (hdfs, yarn, ...)
- Jupyter notebooks

Programming Environment



1

BYOL: Students work remotely using their laptops. Nothing to install – only web browser is needed.

2

Students work in teams, write and share code and environment in jupyter notebooks and gitlab

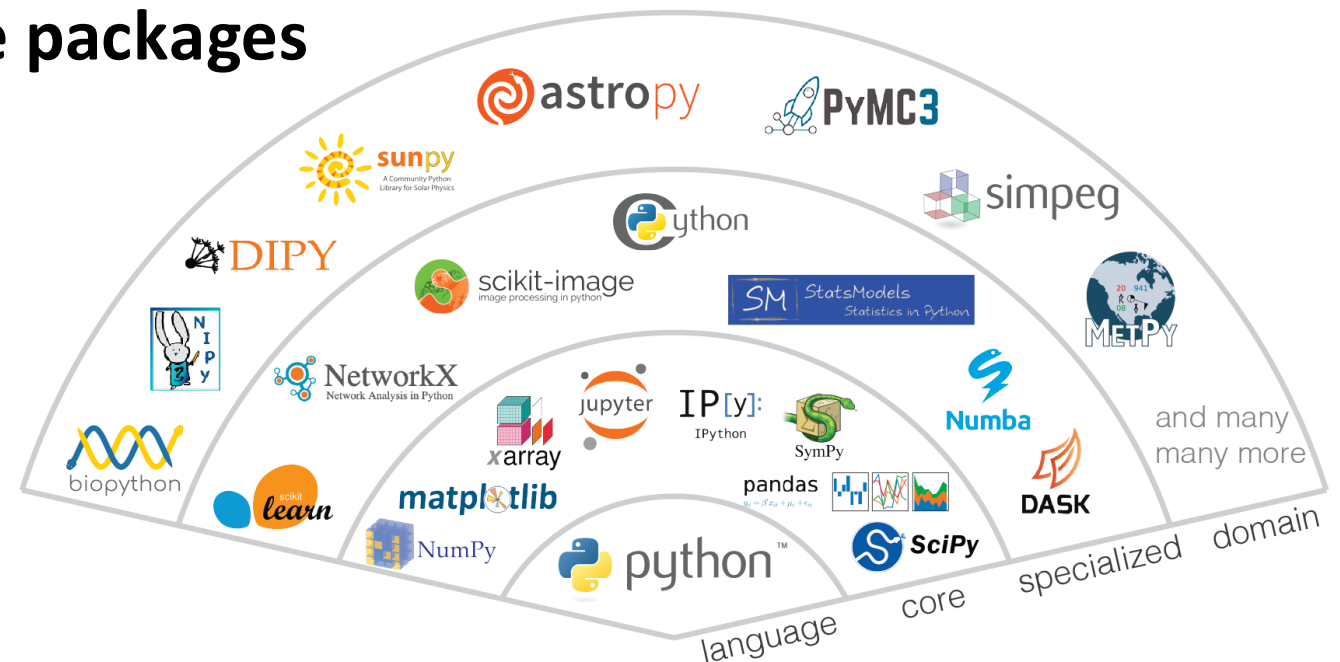
3

All data stored, and compute intensive processing executed on the distributed Big Data cluster.

Gentle Introduction to Data Science With Python

Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **Python**
 - Core programming language used in the class
- **Python Math & Data Science packages**
 - Numpy
 - Pandas
 - Scikit-Learn
 - ...



and many more ...

Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **Numpy**

- Core library for scientific computing in Python
- Provides a high-performance multidimensional array object, $<N>$ -D
- Large collection of high-level mathematical functions to operate on arrays objects
- Optimized for size and performance

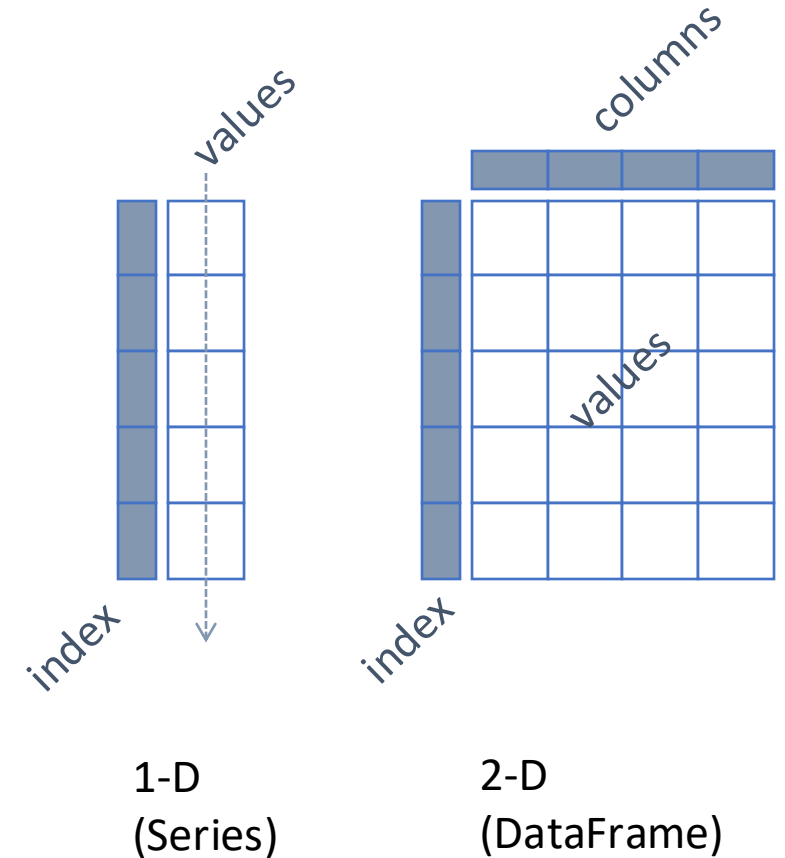
- **SciPy**

- Built on NumPy
- Mathematical library for Scientific and Technical Computing
 - Integration, linear optimization, spatial, stats, FFT, ...

Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **Pandas**

- 1D or 2D structures
- Built on top of NumPy
 - NumPy stores your data in arrays
 - Pandas takes the arrays, ...
... and gives you labelled index to it
 - Basically dictionary based NumPy *ndarray*
- Powerful & flexible data munging library
- Recommended reading: [pandas documentation](#)



Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **Scikit-learn - Machine Learning in Python**

- Model algorithms (Classification, Regression, Clustering, NN, ...)
- Performance metrics
- Model hyper-parameter tunings
- Model Training, Validation
- Feature selection
- Data Processing, Pipelines
- ...

- **PyTorch, TensorFlow**

- AI, Deep Learning
- GPU-based optimization
- ...

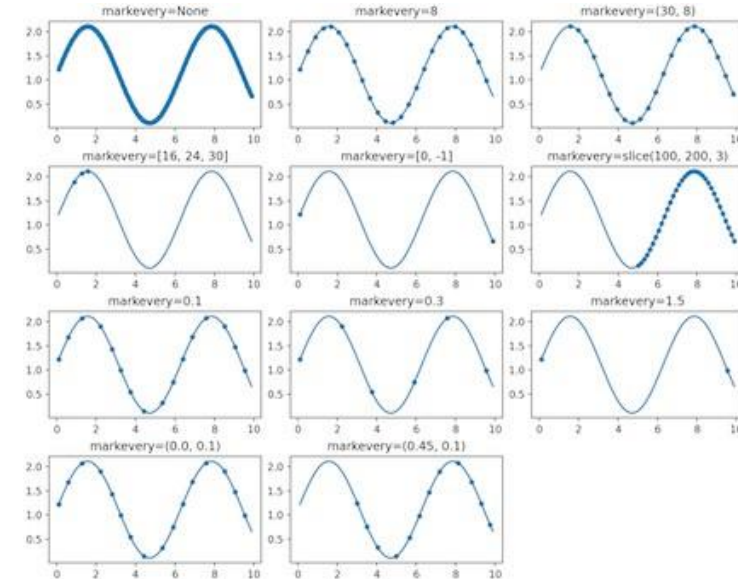
Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **Matplotlib**

- The library for creating visualizations in Python
- Pandas' default visualization engine
`pandas.DataFrame.plot()`
- Powerful, but low level programming interface
- Best for quick and basic data exploration

- **Alternatives**

- Plotly
- Seaborn, folium, bokeh, osmnx, vispy, pygal, cufflinks, ...



Today's check list – key objectives

- **You have access to EPFL network (VPN)**
 - Otherwise: → <https://vpn.epfl.ch>
- **You have registered for the class on IS-Academia**
 - Otherwise: → <http://is-academia.epfl.ch>
- **You have access to our Moodle page and have bookmarked it**
 - <https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=15635>
 - Contact us to add you to the list
- **You have access to our programming environment (JupyterHub)**
 - You can login to your assigned jupyter notebook with your usual EPFL (gaspar) username and password
- **You have access to the exercises of module 1a**
 - You can login and access <https://dslabgit.datascience.ch/course/2025/module-1a>
- **You master the ABCs of building and validating a predictive model with Scikit-learn**

Start your engines

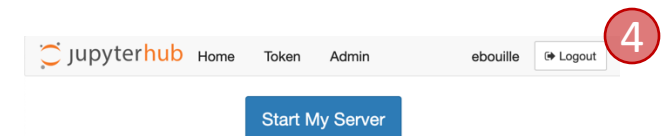
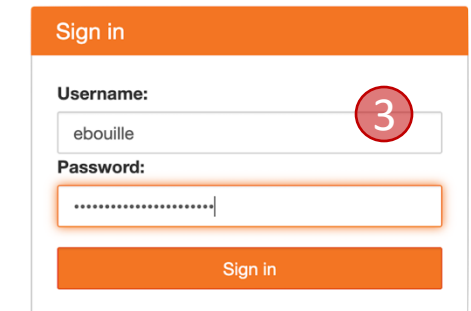
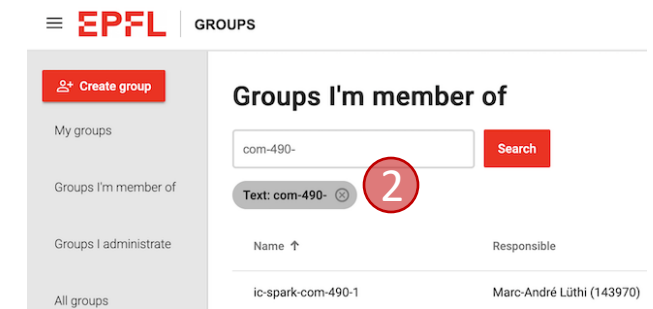
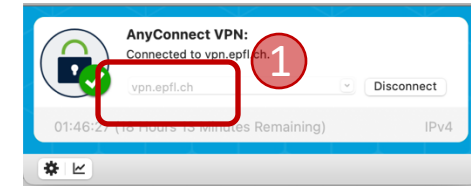
Bootstrapping into Jupyter notebooks

Jupyter Hub – Login

1. Must be on EPFL network (VPN)
2. Sign in <https://groups.epfl.ch/> and in “My groups” search for **com-490** to find your assigned Jupyter hub server
You should see **ic-spark-com-490-...** If not, come to us
3. Based on the above, in a browser (Firefox, Safari, Chrome), sign in with your EPFL (gaspar) username and password

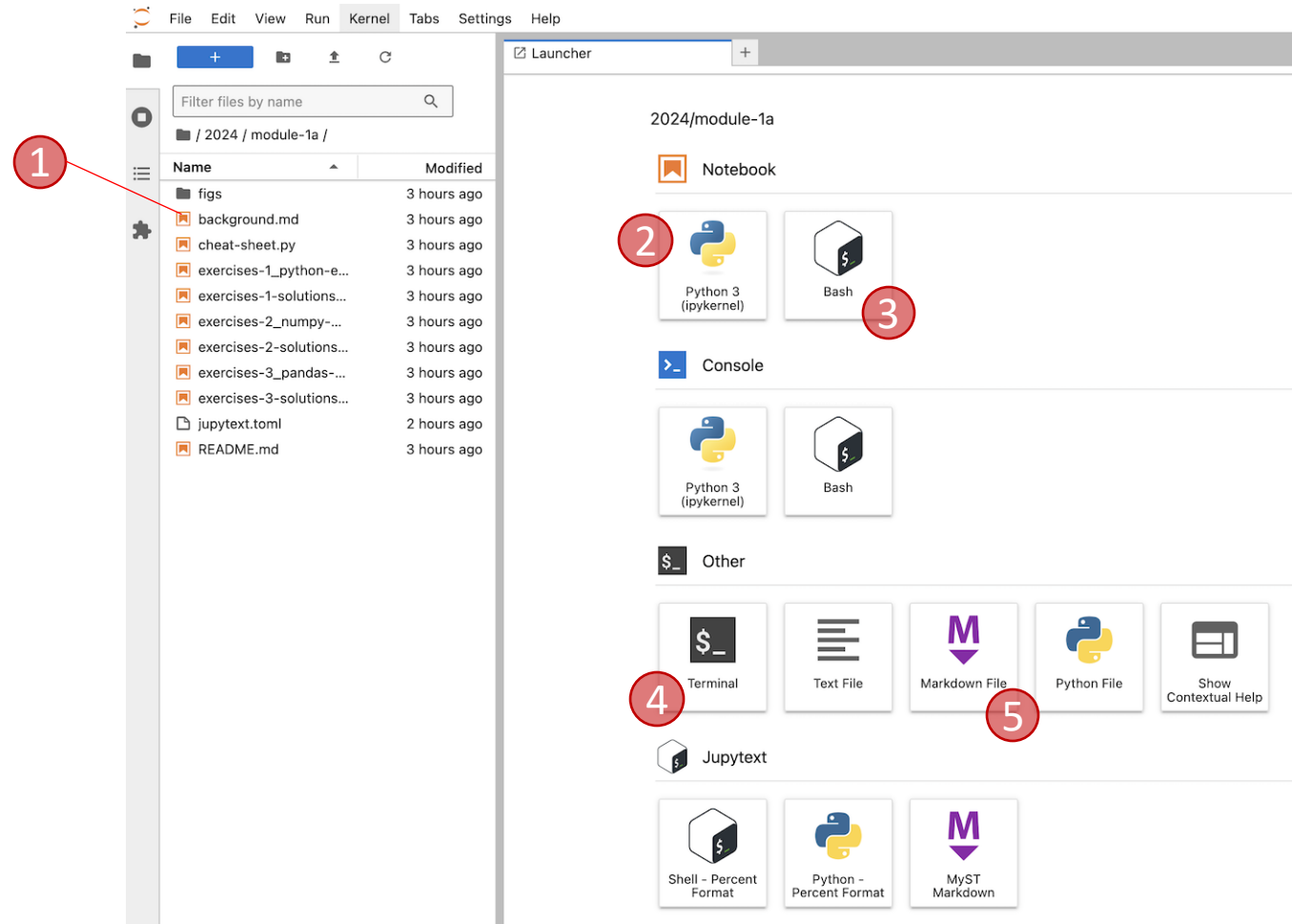
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| ic-spark-com-490-1 | iccluster082.iccluster.epfl.ch |
| ic-spark-com-490-2 | iccluster083.iccluster.epfl.ch |
| ic-spark-com-490-3 | iccluster084.iccluster.epfl.ch |
| ic-spark-com-490-4 | iccluster086.iccluster.epfl.ch |
| ic-spark-com-490-5 | iccluster087.iccluster.epfl.ch |

4. Start My Server



Jupyter Lab – Interactive sessions

1. Folders and files of weekly lab
E.g. module-1a, module-1b, ...
2. New python notebooks
3. New shell script (bash) notebooks
4. New terminal (bash/linux)
5. Markdown .md files (README, doc)



Jupyter Lab – Exercises module 1a

1. Start a new terminal session

2. Open a terminal and in the terminal, type:

```
git clone git@dslabgit.datascience.ch:course/2025/module-1a.git
```

3. Press enter

4. You should have a new folder

```
./module-1a
```

5. If git clone does not work for you, download the file module-1a.zip from moodle in the same terminal

```
wget -O module-1a.zip https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/IWccU0aqEgbLCRk/download
```

```
unzip module-1a.zip
```

6. You should have a new folder

```
./work/module-1a.zip
```

Jupyter Lab – Exercises module 1a

- If you need to restart your jupyter lab server

