

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



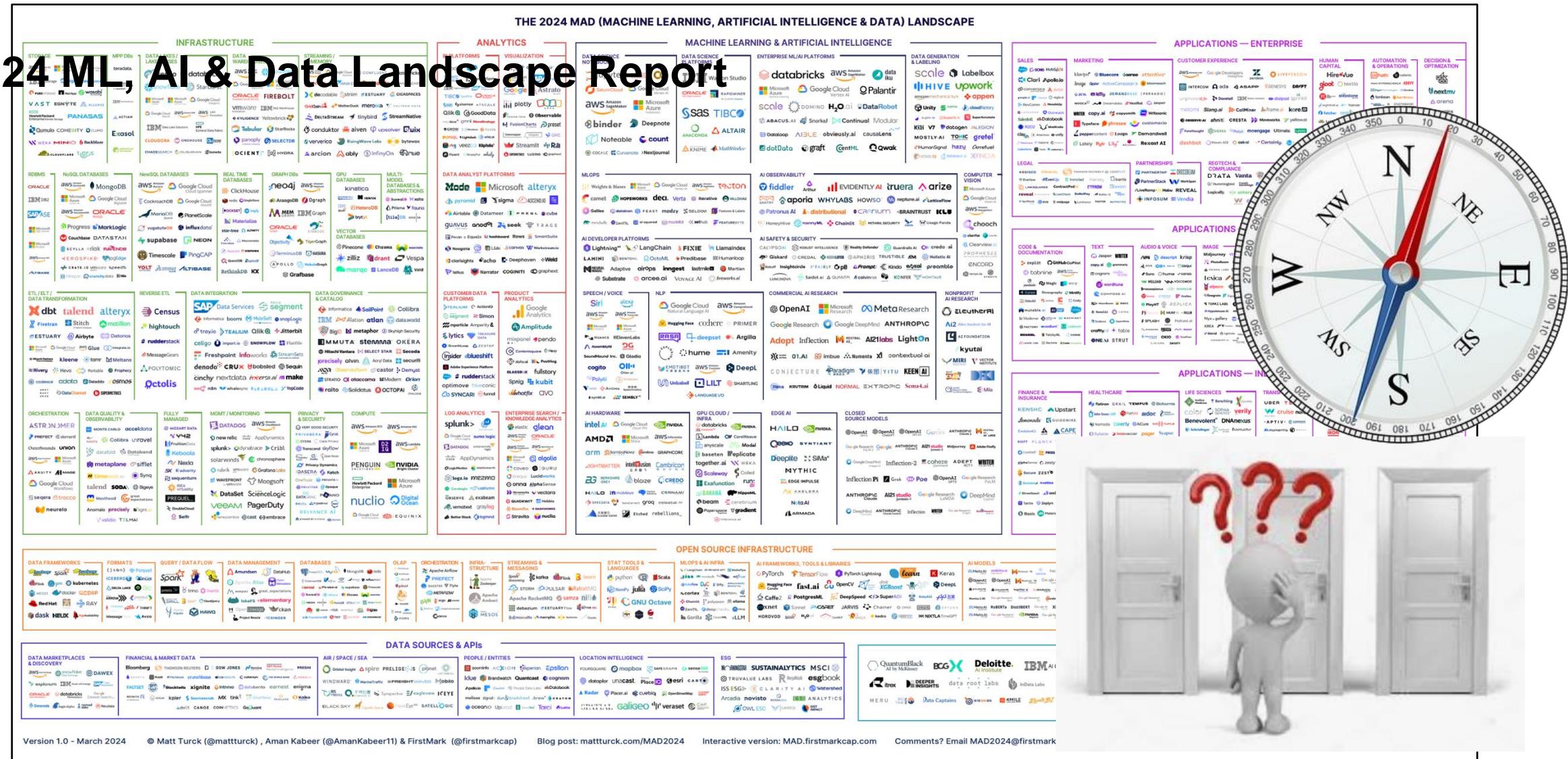
Yulun Jiang
Doctoral Assistant



Ziyi Zhang
Doctoral Assistant

What this lab is about?

2024 ML, AI & Data Landscape Report



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

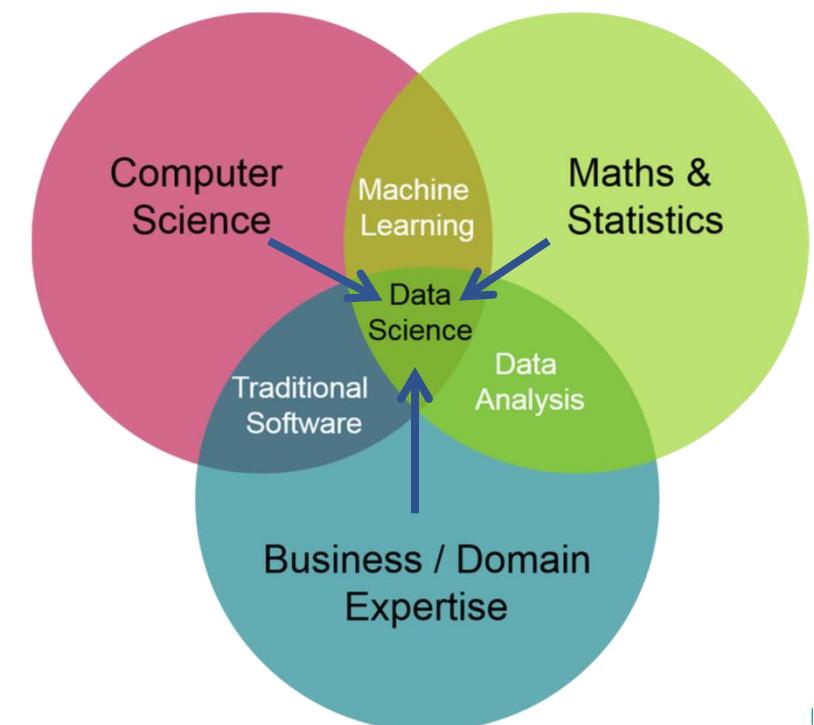
Agenda 2025 - Module 1a

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

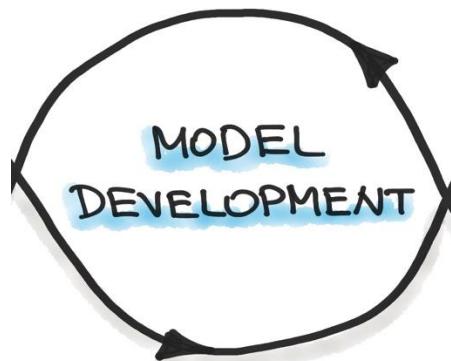
Lab Overview

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

Drew Conway's Venn Diagram

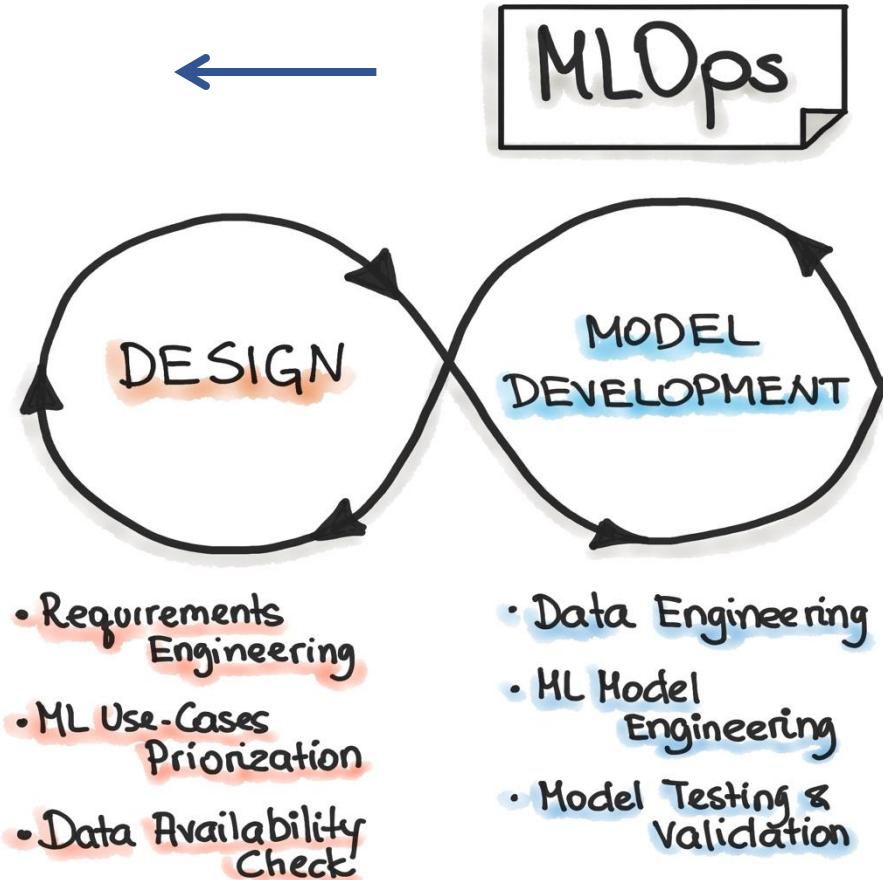


Lab Overview

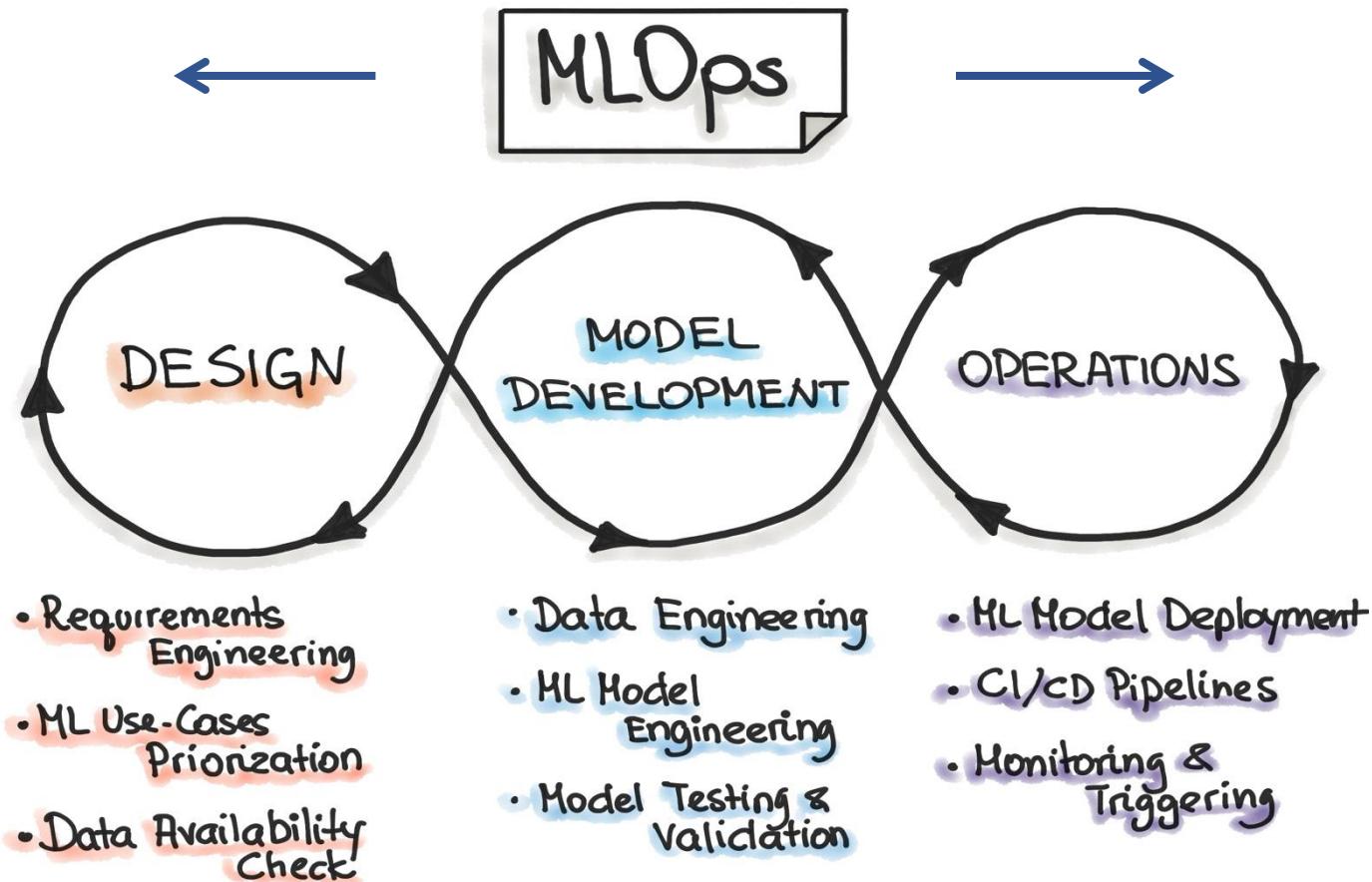


- Data Engineering
- ML Model Engineering
- Model Testing & Validation

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](#)

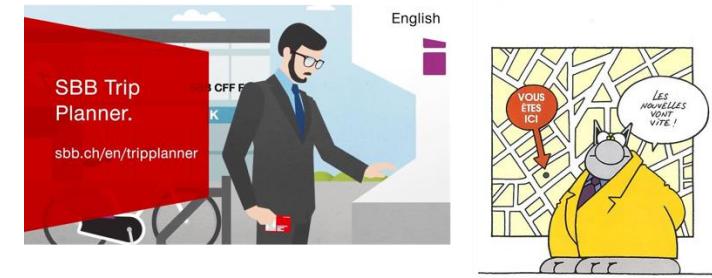
Communication

- **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](https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=15635)

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

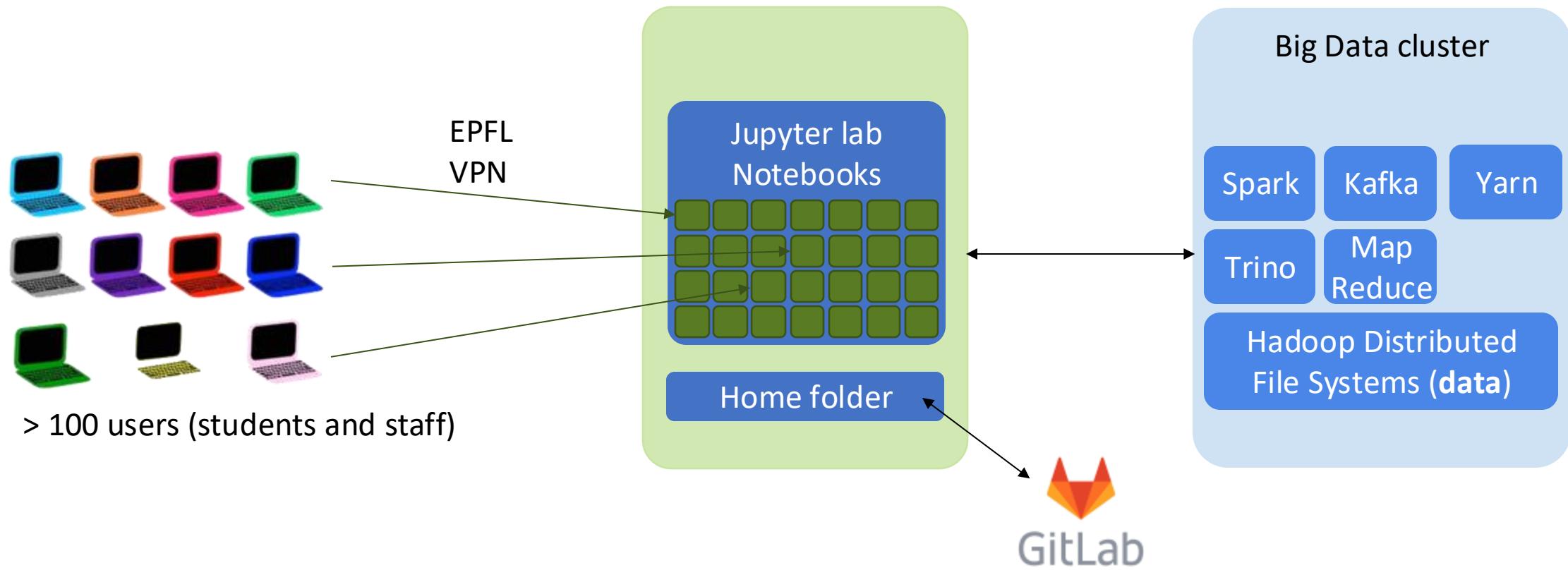
- **Programming Languages**

- 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.

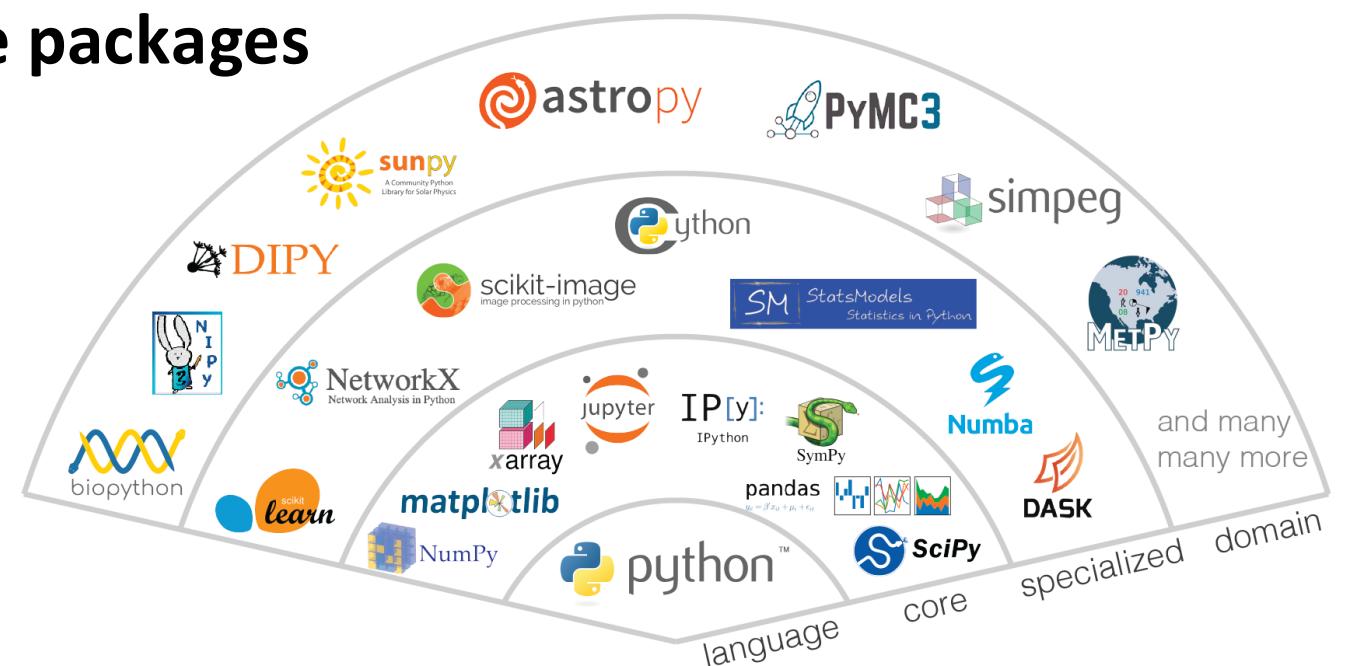
Gentle Introduction to Data Science With Python

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

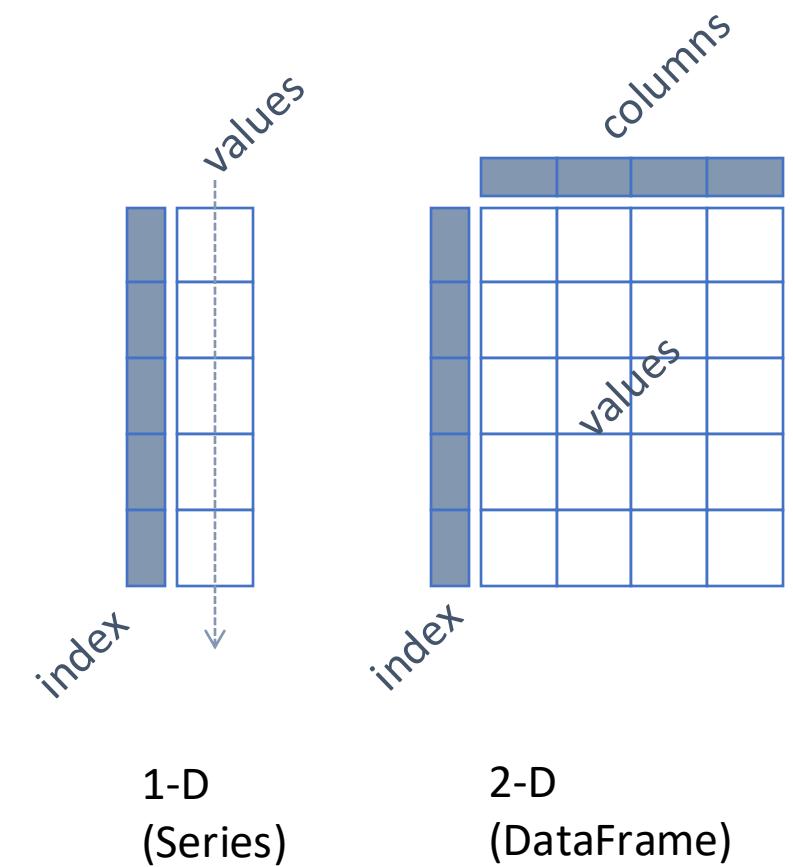
- **SciPy**

- 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](#)

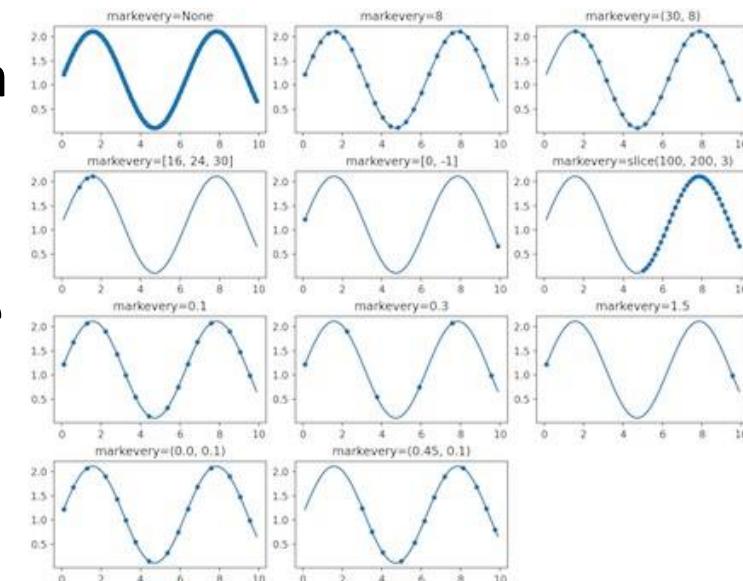


Python Data Science Ecosystem

- **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

ic-spark-com-490-1
ic-spark-com-490-2
ic-spark-com-490-3
ic-spark-com-490-4
ic-spark-com-490-5

iccluster082.iccluster.epfl.ch
iccluster083.iccluster.epfl.ch
iccluster084.iccluster.epfl.ch
iccluster086.iccluster.epfl.ch
iccluster087.iccluster.epfl.ch

4. Start My Server

1. AnyConnect VPN status showing connection to **vpn.epfl.ch**. A red box highlights the connection status.

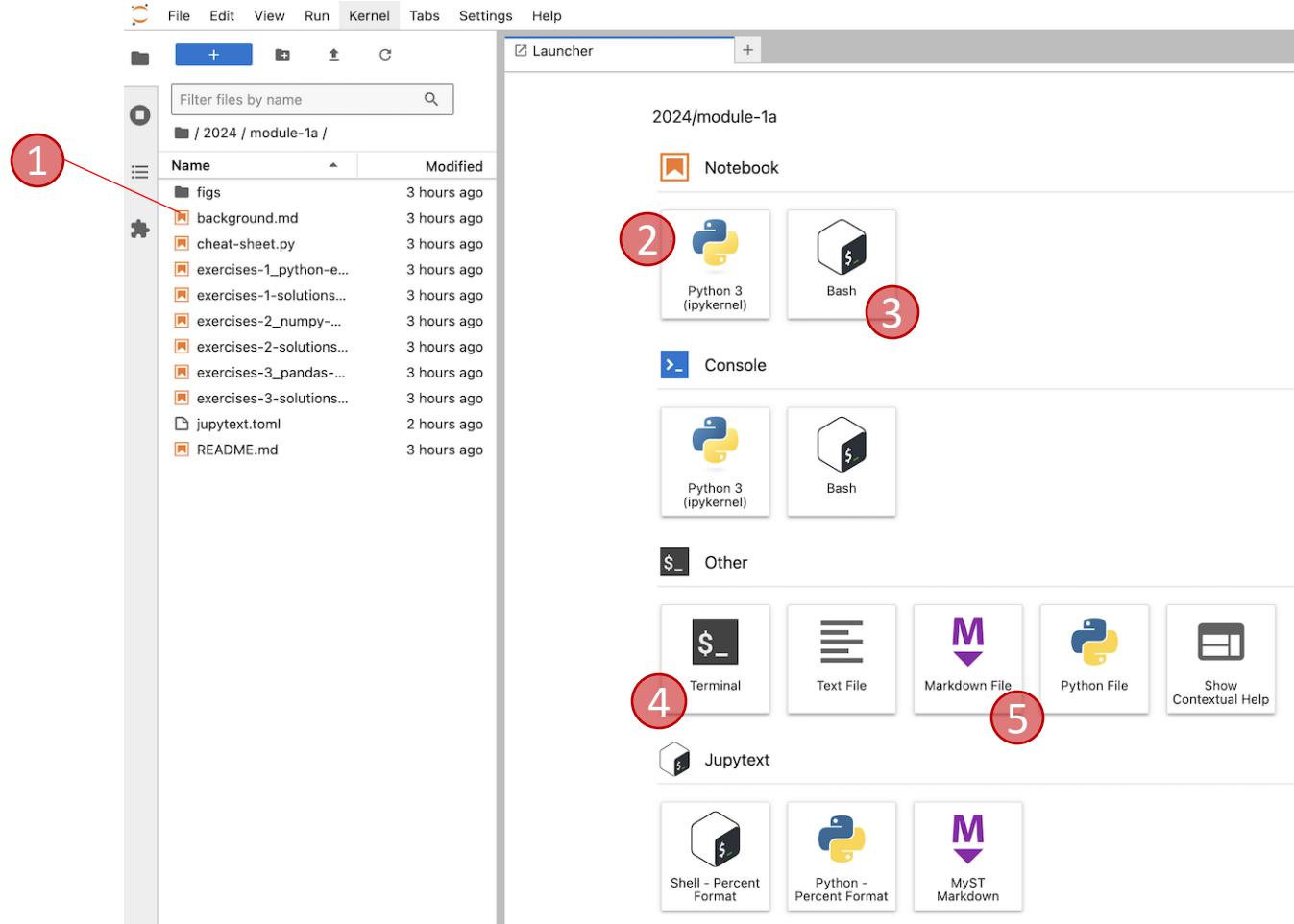
2. EPFL Groups page showing search results for **com-490**. A red box highlights the search input field.

3. Sign in form with **ebouille** entered in the Username field. A red box highlights the username input field.

4. JupyterHub dashboard showing the **Start My Server** button. A red box highlights the button.

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 a new folder

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

Jupyter Lab – Exercises module 1a

- If you need to restart your jupyter lab server

