

Teaching Statement

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3rd January 2006

There is a fundamental urge in most of us to give back to the world at large, and teaching is a satisfying way of doing this. My experience with teaching is diverse:

1. Teaching parts of classes. I have lectured as a guest or co-teacher in at least four classes. The most significant example of this was a graduate-level machine learning class that I cotaught with Partha Niyogi at the University of Chicago.
2. Running a Machine Learning Summer School. The MLSS series tries to bring together top machine learning researchers and interested students in an invited extended lecture format. We ran such a school in Chicago in May 2005, and it seemed succesful (there were about 130 students from all over the world). Details are available at <http://chicago05.mlss.cc> .
3. Running a Machine Learning blog. At <http://hunch.net>, you will find a series of posts on various machine learning and research subjects made over the last year. Many of the posts are pedagogical – we discuss the background around some detail or approach to machine learning. This has been frighteningly succesful: there are well in excess of 1000 unique visitors per day with significant growth. Many of the conversations there even teach me.
4. Tutorials. I have presented two tutorials. One was on sample complexity bounds and was presented at ICML (in 2003). The other was on learning reductions and was presented at IJCAI 2005. Both where also presented at the Machine Learning Summer School.
5. TAing. AT Carnegie Mellon, I TAed for the undergraduate AI class (twice), the graduate level algorithms class, and the graduate level machine learning class.

My future teaching plans include at least another appearance at a Machine Learning Summer School (this one is in Taiwan) and a tutorial on RL theory. I would teach a machine learning course (either at a basic or an advanced level) of my own. I could easily teach a general AI class (including search and planning). I have strong background knowledge in algorithms, data structures, and programming languages.