A Practical Introduction to Data Science (CIT323007) - WS2627

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Before asking questions, please read these FAQs carefully:
(Duplicated questions will not be answered)

We will keep updating this document during the semester.
Last updated on Sep 26th, 2025

Q: Where can I ask questions?
A: First check the FAQs. If not answered, post on the Moodle forum. Only if your question is personal (eg registration, health issues for the exam, etc) write to teaching.cmm@cit.tum.de

Do not write to the email address of the professor or the members of the teaching team as they may be overlooked and not answered.

Course FAQs

Q: Is the course in R or python?

A: In WS2627 the module will be taught in python. The data science concepts are the same as previous years.

Q: How can I give you feedback on the script?
A: Use the following document
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tdWmtkDaNUnQLkG_cNfJ2KLHwnaldtQwZh6pUQh8Mpc/edit?usp=sharing

Q: Is there a pdf version of the script?

A: No (for now).

Q: How can I print the script?

A: One option is to print it by chapter from your browser (CTRL+P).

Q: Is the lecture virtual?
A: Lectures are in person, unless indicated. Check the Syllabus on Moodle for

up-to-date information.

Q: Are the tutorial sessions virtual or in person?
A: The tutorial sessions including the central exercise will mostly be in person, unless indicated otherwise. Check the Syllabus on Moodle for up-to-date information.

Q: Is attending the lectures mandatory?
A: No. You may find it helpful. We recommend studying from the script as it is up-to-date and it is the sole basis for the exam.

Q: Is attending the exercises mandatory?
A: No, but highly recommended.

Q: Are the tutorial sessions being recorded?
A: No.

Q: Are the lecture slides provided?
A: Yes. However, the script shall be used for reference for the exam in case there is any discrepancy between the lecture and the script.

Q: Where can I find the course materials (lecture recordings, link to script, exercise sheets)?
A: On Moodle.

Q: Are exercise solutions available?
A: Yes, we post the solutions at the end of each week on Moodle. If you have a question: FAQ -> Post on moodle -> email to teaching-gagneurlab@in.tum.de.

Q: What is the difference between the central exercise and the tutorial sessions?

A: In the tutorials, you solve questions of the first part of the exercise sheet interactively with the tutor and other students. At home, you solve the second part of the exercise sheet. The solutions to this second part are shown and discussed in the central exercise session.

Q: Is there any difference between the different tutorial sessions?
A: Same content. Different tutors. Different time slots and rooms.

Q: Which tool should I use to code in python?

A: We recommend Google colab which works over a browser and does not necessitate installation on your computer. It is the most convenient. However, you will need a Google account. If you prefer a local installation, we recommend using Visual Studio Code. You can find many tutorials on how to set this up online, e.g. here
Note that we do not provide support for local installations. You will have to maintain your environment and packages.

Exam content FAQs

Q: Will optional content from the exercise be covered in the final exam?
A: Yes, this is not excluded.

Q: Are the advanced sections in the script relevant for the exam?
A: No

Q: Is the exam more based on the code provided in the script and lectures or is it more based on the code of the exercises (those codes were sometimes really long and sophisticated)?
A: Both can be questioned. However, the questions do not demand very long coding. We may give snippets of code to complete that are reminiscent of things seen in exercises.

Q: Will mathematical proofs be requested?
A: No.

Q: Do we need to know the mathematical proofs from the script?
A: No, but you need to know and understand the assumptions of the methods. That requires being accurate with notations and statistical concepts.

Q: Do we need to understand the mathematical notations?
A: Yes. You need to understand notations such as p(y|X), E[X], etc. as used throughout the script in order to understand some questions or to answer them correctly and unambiguously. As described in the module description and as repeated on day 1: A prerequisite for this module is a successfully passed module on Probabilities.

Exam orga FAQs

Q: Is the exam a virtual exam or in person?

A: The exam is on campus.

Q: When will the exam take place?

A: The exam takes place in the weeks following the end of the lecture. The exact date will be announced as soon as it is known.

Q: Will there be a retake exam?

A: Yes. It will take place in the first 2 weeks of the summer semester, before the summer semester lecture period starts. The exact date will be announced once it is scheduled (typically at the end of January).

Q: Do I need to be registered for the exam in order to register for the retake exam?

A: No.

Q: Can we register for the retake exam without registering for the first final exam?
A: Yes.

Q: Can you change when the exam or the retake exam takes place?

A: No. Exam planning is done centrally by the exam planning office of the faculty of informatics. Our teaching team has no say on the date of the exam and of the retake. The dates are set to arrange most of you.

Q: Can I use my passport and/or matriculation certificate instead of my student ID for the final exam?
A: Yes, you can if you do not have your student id card. Possibly, we will ask you to show your printed certificate of matriculation (Immatrikulationsbescheinigung).

Q: Where can we register for exam and the retake exam?
A: Via TUMOnline usually after the first exam.

Q: Will there be a test exam?
A: No.

Q: Is there an example of past exams?
A: Yes, we provide one on Moodle together with the correction. However, the provided mock exam contains R code whereas in WS2526, the exam will be based on python code. As pointed out above, the data science concepts will not change.

Q: Which materials are allowed during the exam?

A: For the exam you only need to bring a pen (not a pencil, not red), your student card and an ID card (identity card, passport or residence permit / Personalausweis, Passport or Aufenthaltstitel).

No other materials are allowed during the exam (e.g. laptops, mobile phones, cheat sheets, books, calculators). It is not necessary to bring extra blank pages with you, as these will be provided by us in case you need them.