

# HIGH PERFORMANCE RESEARCH COMPUTING

## Micro-credentials in Research Computing



09/30/2022



High Performance  
Research Computing  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH



# Outline

- Overview of Microcredentials
- Details about Specific Courses
- Demonstrations of Online Course Elements

# Overview of Microcredentials

# Background

- The High Performance Research Computing Group has many years of experience teaching computer skills.
  - Short courses
  - Workshops
  - Summer Camps
  - 1-on-1 User Support
- We are excited to announce that we are ready to take our expertise to the next level.

# Short Courses

- Short courses provide small-scale learning opportunities targeting specific skills.
- Short courses fill gaps in coursework for traditionally non-computing degree programs.
- Online, asynchronous courses developed with support from Texas A&M Engineering Studio for Advanced Instruction and Learning (eSAIL).



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Engineering Studio for  
Advanced Instruction & Learning

# Research Skills

- Exercises and topics designed for researchers
  - E.g., graduate students
- Coding skills for specific disciplines and purposes
- Training in standard workflows and common practices
  - Especially useful for High Performance Computing

*Not just another generic tutorial!*

# Microcredentials

- Microcredentials are rewards for completion of small-scale learning goals, recognized by academia and industry.
- Supported by Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station Education Generations (TEES EDGE)
- This program is part of the professional and continuing education credit system.
  - Outside the university course credit system



# Audience

- This program will eventually be publicly available
  - Currently: only TAMU members, by invitation

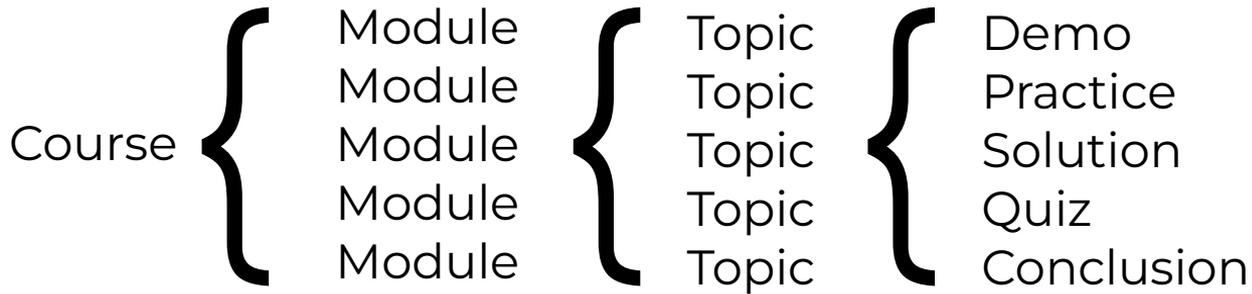
*We invite you to help us test our courses!*

# Canvas Learning Management System

The screenshot displays the Canvas LMS interface. On the left is a dark red navigation sidebar with icons and labels for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, Studio, and Help. The top header shows the TAMU logo and the course ID 'HPRC-09-FUNAIML'. The main content area features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Modules', 'Grades', and 'Collaborations'. The 'Home' section is active, showing the course title '09 - Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning'. Below the title is a large image with a futuristic, glowing blue and orange circuitry background. An orange semi-transparent box is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning'.

# Online Course Structure

Online Courses are organized hierarchically.



# Example Course Hierarchy

The screenshot displays a user interface for a course management system. On the left is a vertical navigation sidebar with icons and labels for Home, Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, and a video player icon. The main content area shows a course hierarchy. The first course is 'M1. An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning', which includes modules 'M1T1 - What is Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning' and 'M1T2 - Types of Machine Learning Techniques', and a quiz 'M1. Quiz' worth 100 points with a requirement to score at least 80.0. The second course is 'M2. Data Exploration', which has prerequisites from the first course and includes modules 'M2T1 - Data Manipulation' and 'M2T1 - Demo: Pandas'.

Home

Modules

Grades

Collaborations

Account

Dashboard

Courses

Calendar

Inbox

History

▼ M1. An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Complete All Items

📄 M1T1 - What is Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

📄 M1T2 - Types of Machine Learning Techniques

🚀 M1. Quiz  
100 pts | Score at least 80.0

▼ M2. Data Exploration Prerequisites: M1. An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Complete All Items

📄 M2T1 - Data Manipulation

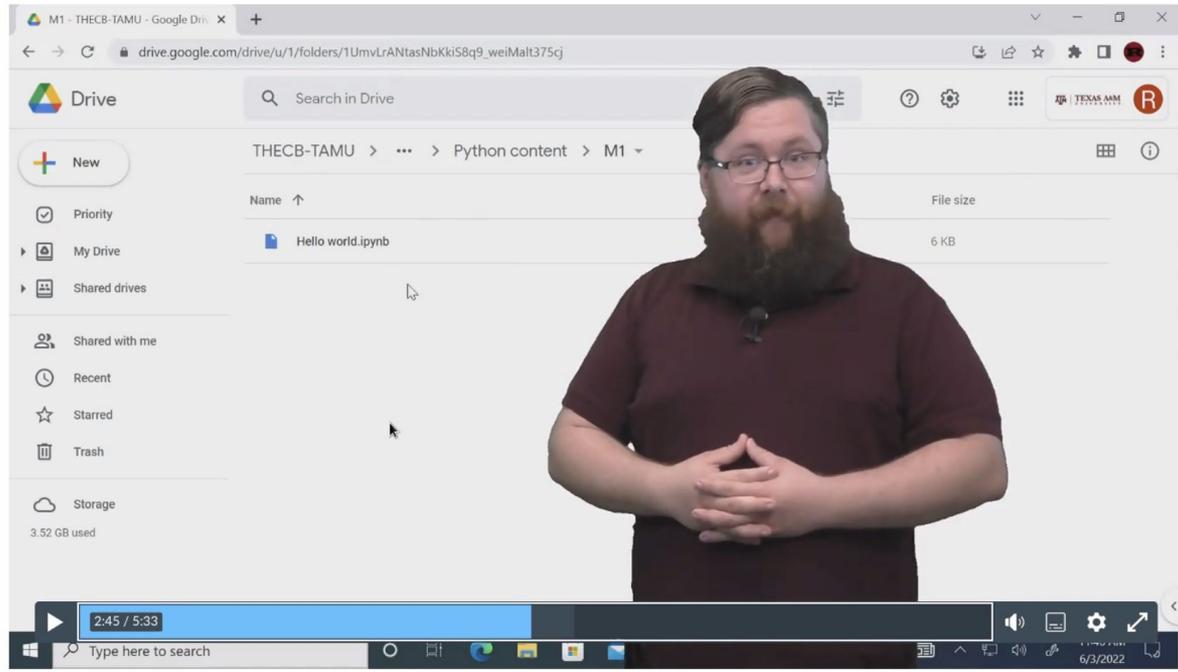
📄 M2T1 - Demo: Pandas

# Demo, Practice, Solution

- Each Topic has a cadence of course materials
  - Demo (a video lecture) 5-10 minutes
  - Practice 10-20 minutes
  - Solution (a video lecture) 5-10 minutes
- The student stays maximally engaged with minimal wait between activities.

# Example Demo Video

## M1T2 - Getting Started With Jupyter Notebook



# Quizzes for Completion

- Each module has at least one quiz.
  - “about 5” questions selected at random from a pool of questions.
  - Retries are allowed, but the questions will vary.
- Passing the module quiz is required to proceed to the next module.
- Some courses also have a final quiz.
- Passing all quizzes ( $\geq 80\%$ ) is required to earn your micro-certificate.

# Table of Courses (1/2)

Theme	Course Title	CIP CODE(s)	Duration	Delivery Mode
Cybersecurity	Fundamentals of Cybersecurity	11.1003	0.3 PDU	Asynchronous
Coding	Fundamentals of Python	11.0201	1 PDU	Both
	Intermediate Python for Data Science	11.0202, 30.71	1 PDU	Both
	Advanced Python for Data Science	11.0202, 30.71	0.5 PDU	Both
	Fundamentals R Programming	11.0201	1 PDU	Both
	Intermediate R Programming	11.0202	1 PDU	Both
	GPU Programming with CUDA	30.3001	0.3 PDU	Live
AI/ML	Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	11.0102	0.3 PDU	Both
	Introduction to Deep Learning with TensorFlow	11.0804, 11.0202	0.3 PDU	Both
	Introduction to Deep Learning with PyTorch	11.0804, 11.0202	0.3 PDU	Both
	Using Scikit-Learn for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	11.0804, 11.0104, 11.0202	0.3 PDU	Both

## Table of Courses (2/2)

Theme	Course Title	CIP CODE(s)	Duration	Delivery Mode
Bioinformatics	RNA-seq and Differential Expression	11.0104, 11.0401, 26.1103	0.3 PDU	Both
	Short Variant Discovery	11.0104, 11.0401, 26.1103	0.3 PDU	Both
	Metagenomics	11.0104, 11.0401, 26.1103	0.3 PDU	Both
	ChIP-seq	11.0104, 11.0401, 26.1103	0.3 PDU	Both
Linux	Fundamentals of Linux	11.0201	0.3 PDU	Both
	Linux for Administrators	11.1006, 11.1001	0.3 PDU	Live
Cloud Computing	Job Scheduling with SLURM	11.0103	0.3 PDU	Live
	Containers and Orchestration	11.0103	0.3 PDU	Live
	Introduction to Cloud and Cluster Computing	11.0103	0.3 PDU	Live
	Parallel Computing Using OpenMP	11.0201	0.3 PDU	Asynchronous
	Parallel Computing Using MPI	11.0201	0.3 PDU	Asynchronous

# Stackable Courses

- Some short courses have prerequisites
- Stack microcredentials to build your own program

Example. Six Microcredentials for “High Performance Computing Machine Learning”	
1	Fundamentals of Python
2	Intermediate Python for Data Science
3	Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
4	Introduction to Deep Learning with PyTorch
5	Fundamentals of Linux
6	Job Scheduling with SLURM

# Details about Specific Courses

# Cybersecurity

One course:

- Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

# Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

- This course covers fundamental concepts in cybersecurity
- M1 - Introduction and Security Trends
  - The security problem
  - Threats to security
  - Attributes of actors
  - Security trends
  - Targets and attacks
  - Approaches to cybersecurity

# Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

- M2 - General Security Concepts
  - Security basics
  - Security tenets
  - Security approaches
  - Security principles
  - Security models
- M3 - The Role of People in Security
  - Social engineering
  - Poor security practices
  - People as a security tool

# Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

- M4 - Types of Attacks and Malicious Software
  - Avenues of Attack
  - Malware
  - Attacking Computer Systems
  - Advanced Persistent Threats
  - Tools
  - Auditing

# Python Programming

- Three courses:
  - Fundamentals of Python
  - Intermediate Python for Data Science
  - Advanced Python for Data Science
- Each course is a *prerequisite* for the next.
- Learning takes place using the Google Colab integrated development environment.
- Topics and exercises are selected to be relevant for scientific research applications.

# Google Colaboratory

The screenshot displays the Google Colaboratory web interface. At the top left is the Colab logo (two orange circles) and the text "Welcome To Colaboratory". Below this is a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Insert", "Runtime", "Tools", and "Help". On the right side of the top bar are icons for "Share", "Settings", and a user profile picture. Below the menu bar is a secondary toolbar with "+ Code", "+ Text", "Copy to Drive", "Connect", "Editing", and an expand/collapse icon. On the left side, there is a "Table of contents" sidebar with a search icon and a list of items: "Getting started", "Data science", "Machine learning", "More Resources", "Featured examples", and a "+ Section" button. The main content area on the right contains the heading "Welcome to Colab!" followed by a paragraph: "If you're already familiar with Colab, check out this video to learn about interactive tables, the executed code history view, and the command palette." Below the text is a video thumbnail with a play button icon. The thumbnail text reads "3 Cool Google Colab Features" and shows a man's face on the right side.

# Fundamentals of Python

- 10 hours
- This course covers the most important core components of Python programming at the introductory level.
- Students will learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, data structures, flow control, and object-oriented programming.

# Fundamentals of Python

- Using Google Colaboratory
- Variables
- Data Types
- User Input
- Operations
- Control structures
- Errors and Files
- Lists
- Dictionaries
- Classes
- Modules

# Intermediate Python for Data Science

- 10 hours
- This course covers a selection of scientific programming tools commonly used in Python programming at the intermediate level.
- Students will learn research techniques such as manipulating and visualizing data, exploring functions, modeling, and retrieving data from the internet.
- *Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Python*

# Intermediate Python for Data Science

- Arrays with NumPy
- Plotting with Matplotlib
- Mathematics with SciPy
- Data Tools with Pandas
- Web Scraping

# Advanced Python for Data Science

- 3 hours
- This course covers a selection of scientific programming tools commonly used in Python programming at the advanced level.
- Students will learn research techniques such as handling multidimensional data, and parallelization.
- *Prerequisite: Intermediate Python for Data Science*

# Advanced Python for Data Science

- Arrays with Xarray
- Parallelization with Dask

# Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Four courses:
  - Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
  - Using Scikit-Learn for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
  - Introduction to Deep Learning with TensorFlow
  - Introduction to Deep Learning with PyTorch
- The four courses are *independent* of each other.
- *Recommended* prerequisite: Intermediate Python
- Learning takes place using the Google Colab integrated development environment.

# Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Introduction to AI/ML
  - What is AI/ML and their Relationship
    - AI and ML Description
    - Relationships
  - Terminology
    - Data Formats
    - Types of Data
      - Labeled Data
      - Unlabeled Data
    - What is training?
    - What is testing?
    - Common types of Learning

# Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Types of ML techniques
  - Supervised learning
    - Regression
    - Classification
  - Unsupervised learning
    - Clustering
- Data Exploration
  - Data Manipulation with Pandas
    - Demo
    - Practice
  - Data Visualization with Matplotlib
    - Demo
    - Practice

# Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Application of ML techniques
  - Demo 1: Predict House Prices
  - Practice 1: Linear Regression
  - Demo 2: Classify Handwritten Digits
  - Practice 2: Classification
  - Demo 3: Build a Clustering Model
  - Practice 3: Clustering
- Final Assessment

# Using SciKit-learn for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Introduction to ML Algorithms
  - Linear Regression
    - Guided Practice
  - Logistic Regression
    - Guided Practice
  - Support Vector Machine
    - Guided Practice
  - K-Means Clustering
    - Guided Practice

# Introduction to Deep Learning with TensorFlow

- Overview of AI/ML/DL
  - What is Deep Learning and Its Advantages
  - Learning Principle of DL
  - Convolution
  - Pooling
  - Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)
- TensorFlow
  - TensorFlow Introduction
  - TensorFlow Keras API
  - Demo 1: Get Started with TensorFlow
  - Demo 2: Classify Handwritten Digits with TensorFlow

# Introduction to Deep Learning with PyTorch

- Overview of AI/ML/DL
  - What is Deep Learning and Its Advantages
  - Learning Principle of DL
  - Convolution
  - Pooling
  - Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)
- PyTorch
  - PyTorch Introduction
  - Major Components
  - Demo 1: Get Started with PyTorch
  - Demo 2: Classify Fashion MNIST with PyTorch

# R Programming

- Two courses:
  1. Fundamentals of R Programming
  2. Intermediate R Programming
- The first is a *prerequisite* for the second.

# Fundamentals of R Programming

- 6 hours
- RStudio
- Topics Covered:
  - Data types
  - Variables
  - Built-in Functions
  - Vectors
  - Loops

## Fundamentals of R Programming

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- R as a calculator
- Data types
- Data types and math
- Converting data types
- Variables
- Built-in Functions
- Vectors in R**
- Vector arithmetic
- Selecting elements from a vector
- For Loops
- Iterating through vectors
- Nested for loops
- While loops

Start Over

## Vectors in R

Vectors are one of the most fundamental data structures in R. They are a data object that contains a collection of elements of the same type.

Here are four of the main vector types in R:

Type	Examples
logical	TRUE, FALSE
integer	1L, 23L
numeric	1.5, 23
character	"Texas A&M"

Vectors, unlike lists, must contain matching element types.

### Creating vectors in R

Use the colon operator `:` to create a sequence:

```
Code Start Over Run Code
1 V1 <- 1:6
2 print(V1)
3 class(V1)
```

Use the function `seq()` to create a vector:

Fill in the `___`s to complete the code.

```
Code Start Over Run Code
1 V2 <- ___(4.5, 10.5, by = 1)
2 print(V2)
3 ___(V2)
```

# Intermediate R Programming

- 6 hours
- RStudio
- Topics Covered:
  - Matrices
  - Factors
  - Data frames
  - Base plotting
  - ggplot2
  - User-created functions

## Intermediate R Programming

Texas A&M HPRC

- Matrices
- Math with Matrices
- Factors
- Data Frames
- Creating data frames in R
- Subsetting Data Frames
- Re-ordering Data Frames
- Factors in Data Frames
- Base Plotting Functions in R
- Introduction to ggplot2
- Aesthetics in ggplot2
- Plot titles and labels
- Plotting Multiple Layers and Variables
- Histograms with ggplot
- User-created Functions

Start Over

## Matrices

In R, a matrix is a group of elements of the same data type (just like in vectors) arranged into a set number of rows and columns. The data types can be `numeric`, `character`, or `logical`.

The `matrix()` function allows us to create a matrix of numbers so we can begin to learn how to work with matrices in R. In the code chunk below, we create a matrix using a simple range of numbers.

```
Code Start Over Run Code
1 new_matrix <- matrix(1:12, byrow = TRUE, nrow = 6)
2 print(new_matrix)
3
```

### Independent Exercise

In the code chunk below, create a matrix named `my_matrix` using the `matrix()` function. Have the numbers range from 13 to 24, be arranged in 4 rows, and set `byrow = FALSE`. Print the matrix after you create it.

```
Code Start Over Run Code
1
2
3
```

Copy your code from the code chunk above and change the range of numbers to 12 to 24. How does R handle matrix generation when the specified range is not divisible by the number of rows requested?

```
Code Start Over Run Code
1
2
3
```

### Independent Exercise

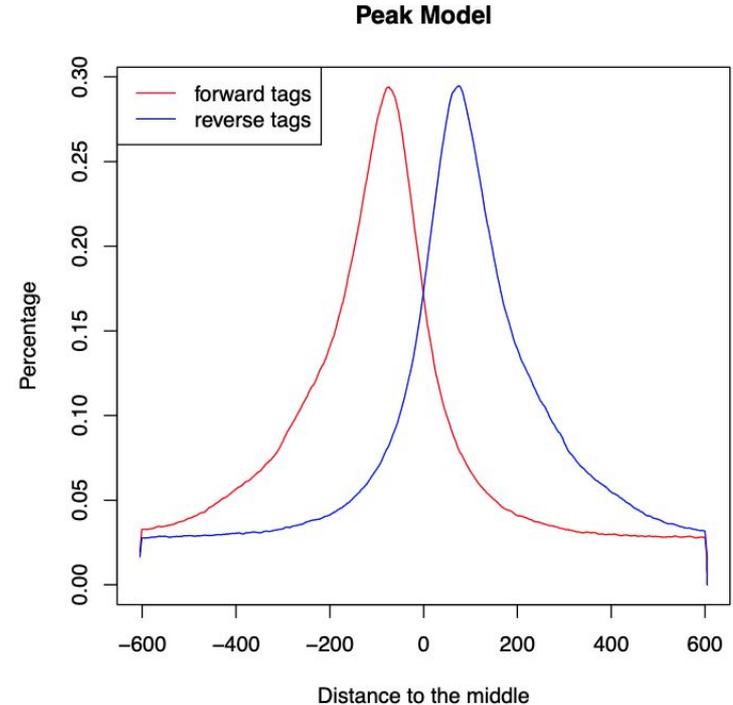
We can also use the `matrix()` function to turn our own vectors into a matrix. The vectors below represent the GDP (in trillions), GDP growth (%), Population, and GDP per capita of several countries. Combine these vectors into a single vector (hint: you'll need to use `c()` for this) and then convert it to a matrix named `GDPbyCountry`.

# Biology Applications

- Four courses:
  - Introduction to ChIP-seq
  - Short Variant Discovery
  - Introduction to Metagenomics
  - RNA-seq and Differential Expression
- These four courses are *independent* of each other

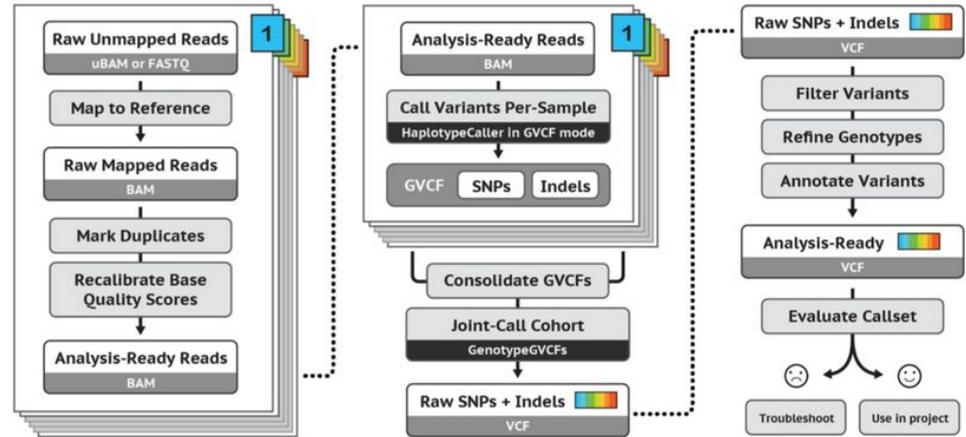
# Introduction to ChIP-seq

- 3 hours
- ChIP-seq experiment overview
- Commonly used software
- Bioinformatics on the Grace Cluster
- Full ChIP-seq pipeline
  - Library QC and Trimming
  - Read mapping
  - ChIP-QC
  - Peak calling



# Short Variant Discovery

- 5 hours
- Commonly used software
- Bioinformatics on the Grace cluster
- Step-by-step through GATK
  - Library QC and Trimming
  - Alignment and processing
  - Per-sample variant calling
  - Cohort sample calling
  - Variant filtering



<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us/articles/360035535932-Germline-short-variant-discovery-SNPs-Indels->

# Introduction to Metagenomics

- 3 hours
- Metagenomics sequencing strategies
- Commonly used software
- Full pipeline for marker gene analysis (16s) with QIIME2
  - QIIME2 terminology/format
  - Importing data
  - Denoising and filtering
  - Diversity analyses
  - Taxonomic classification



<https://qiime2.org/>



# Demonstrations of Online Course Elements

*time permitting*

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Help us help you. Please include details in your request for support, such as, Cluster (Faster, Grace, Terra, ViDaL), NetID (UserID), Job information (Job id(s), Location of your jobfile, input/output files, Application, Module(s) loaded, Error messages, etc), and Steps you have taken, so we can reproduce the problem.