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In Collaboration with
The Institute for Data Science

What is Data Science ?



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Turing Award Laureate 2020

Date: Friday, Oct 14th
Time: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM
Location: GITC 1400

Pizza will be served at 11:30 AM

Abstract: The term "data science" is heard frequently today. But what does it really mean? Arguably, it is an extension of database research to apply computational techniques in many areas of science and commerce. We shall compare the notion of data science with some related terms: Statistics, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning. We shall then give two examples of important algorithms -- locality-sensitive hashing and approximate counting -- that are important in data science, yet are neither AI, ML, nor Statistics.

Bio: Jeff Ullman is the Stanford W. Ascherman Professor of Engineering (Emeritus) in the Department of Computer Science at Stanford and CEO of Gradiance Corp. He received the B.S. degree from Columbia University in 1963 and his PhD from Princeton in 1966. Prior to his appointment at Stanford in 1979, he was a member of the technical staff of Bell Laboratories from 1966-1969, and on the faculty of Princeton University between 1969 and 1979. From 1990-1994, he was chair of the Stanford Computer Science Department. Ullman was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1989, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012, the National Academy of Sciences in 2020, and has held Guggenheim and Einstein Fellowships. He has received the SIGMOD Contributions Award (1996), the ACM Karl V. Karlstrom Outstanding Educator Award (1998), the Knuth Prize (2000), the SIGMOD E. F. Codd Innovations Award (2006), the IEEE von Neumann Medal (2010), the NEC C&C Foundation Prize (2017), and the ACM A.M. Turing Award (2020). He is the author of 16 books, including books on database systems, data mining, compilers, automata theory, and algorithms.