The Online Revolution: Education for Everyone

Andrew Ng
Stanford University and Coursera
ang@cs.stanford.edu

Daphne Koller
Stanford University and Coursera
koller@cs.stanford.edu

ABSTRACT

In 2011, Stanford University offered three online courses, which anyone in the world could enroll in and take for free. Together, these three courses had enrollments of around 350,000 students, making this one of the largest experiments in online education ever performed. Since the beginning of 2012, we have transitioned this effort into a new venture, Coursera, a social entrepreneurship company whose mission is to make high-quality education accessible to everyone by allowing the best universities to offer courses to everyone around the world, for free. Coursera classes provide a real course experience to students, including video content, interactive exercises with meaningful feedback, using both auto-grading and peer-grading, and a rich peer-to-peer interaction around the course materials. Currently, Coursera has 62 university partners, and over 3 million students enrolled in its over 300 courses. These courses span a range of topics including computer science, business, medicine, science, humanities, social sciences, and more. In this talk, I'll report on this far-reaching experiment in education, and why we believe this model can provide both an improved classroom experience for our on-campus students, via a flipped classroom model, as well as a meaningful learning experience for the millions of students around the world who would otherwise never have access to education of this quality.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

K.3.1 [**Computers and Education**]: Computer Uses in Education—*Distance learning*

General Terms

Experimentation

Keywords

Online Courses; Coursera

Short Bio

Andrew Ng is a Co-founder of Coursera, and a Computer Science faculty member at Stanford. In 2011, he led the development of Stanford University's main MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) platform, and also taught an online Machine Learning class that was offered to over 100,000 students, leading to the founding of Coursera. Ng's goal is to give everyone in the world access to high quality education, for free. Today, Coursera partners with top universities to offer high quality, free online courses. With 62 university partners, over 300 courses, and more than 3 million students, Coursera is currently the largest MOOC (Massively Open Online Courses) platform in the world. Outside online education, Ng's research work is in machine learning, with an emphasis on Deep Learning. He is also the Director of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab.