



Machine Learning with R

By Brett Lantz

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R gives you access to the cutting-edge software you need to prepare data for machine learning. No previous knowledge required - this book will take you methodically through every stage of applying machine learning.

Overview

- Harness the power of R for statistical computing and data science
- Use R to apply common machine learning algorithms with real-world applications
- Prepare, examine, and visualize data for analysis
- Understand how to choose between machine learning models
- Packed with clear instructions to explore, forecast, and classify data

In Detail

Machine learning, at its core, is concerned with transforming data into actionable knowledge. This fact makes machine learning well-suited to the present-day era of "big data" and "data science". Given the growing prominence of R—a cross-platform, zero-cost statistical programming environment—there has never been a better time to start applying machine learning. Whether you are new to data science or a veteran, machine learning with R offers a powerful set of methods for quickly and easily gaining insight from your data.

"Machine Learning with R" is a practical tutorial that uses hands-on examples to step through real-world application of machine learning. Without shying away from the technical details, we will explore Machine Learning with R using clear and practical examples. Well-suited to machine learning beginners or those with experience. Explore R to find the answer to all of your questions.

How can we use machine learning to transform data into action? Using practical examples, we will explore how to prepare data for analysis, choose a machine learning method, and measure the success of the process.

We will learn how to apply machine learning methods to a variety of common tasks including classification, prediction, forecasting, market basket analysis, and clustering. By applying the most effective machine learning methods to real-

world problems, you will gain hands-on experience that will transform the way you think about data.

"Machine Learning with R" will provide you with the analytical tools you need to quickly gain insight from complex data.

What you will learn from this book

- Understand the basic terminology of machine learning and how to differentiate among various machine learning approaches
- Use R to prepare data for machine learning
- Explore and visualize data with R
- Classify data using nearest neighbor methods
- Learn about Bayesian methods for classifying data
- Predict values using decision trees, rules, and support vector machines
- Forecast numeric values using linear regression
- Model data using neural networks
- Find patterns in data using association rules for market basket analysis
- Group data into clusters for segmentation
- Evaluate and improve the performance of machine learning models
- Learn specialized machine learning techniques for text mining, social network data, and "big" data

Approach

Written as a tutorial to explore and understand the power of R for machine learning. This practical guide that covers all of the need to know topics in a very systematic way. For each machine learning approach, each step in the process is detailed, from preparing the data for analysis to evaluating the results. These steps will build the knowledge you need to apply them to your own data science tasks.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Brett Lantz

Brett Lantz has spent the past 10 years using innovative data methods to understand human behavior. A sociologist by training, he was first enchanted by machine learning while studying a large database of teenagers' social networking website profiles. Since then, he has worked on interdisciplinary studies of cellular telephone calls, medical billing data, and philanthropic activity, among others. When he's not spending time with family, following college sports, or being entertained by his dachshunds, he maintains datasplunking.com, a website dedicated to sharing knowledge about the search for insight in data.

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From reader reviews:

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