DISC-NET ML Workshop

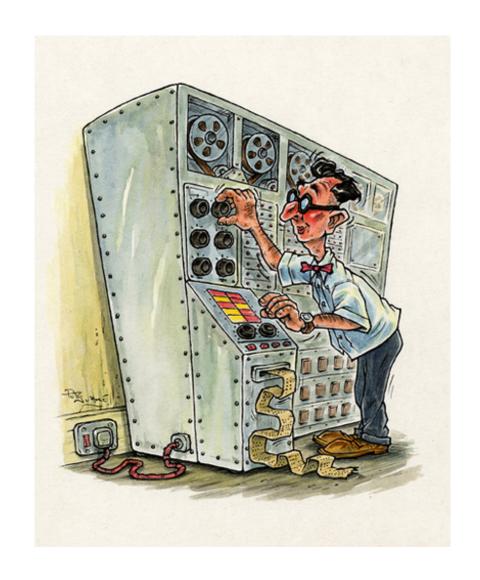
How to Do a ML Project



Details, Ideas, Research Methods

Outline

1. How to Do a ML Project



How to Do a Machine Learning Project?

- Starting a Machine Learning Project is daunting and requires you to think strategically
- The book "Hands-on Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems" by Aurélien Géron takes you through this process
- In the Appendix there is a check list (also on a web page—see course page)

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- In the Appendix there is a check list (also on a web page—see course page)

- 1. Frame the problem and look at the big picture
- 2. Get the data
- 3. Explore the data to gain insights
- 4. Prepare the data to better expose the underlying data patterns to Machine Learning algorithms
- 5. Explore many different models and short-list the best ones
- 6. Fine-tune your models and combine them into a great solution
- 7. Present your solution
- 8. Launch, monitor, and maintain your system

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- 1. Define the objective in business terms
- 2. How will your solution be used?
- 3. What are the current solutions/workarounds (if any)?
- 4. How should you frame this problem (supervised/unsupervised, online/offline, etc.)?
- 5. How should performance be measured?
- 6. Is the performance measure aligned with the business objective?
- 7. What would be the minimum performance needed to reach the business objective?
- 8. What are comparable problems? Can you reuse experience or tools?
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- 1. List the data you need and how much you need
- 2. Find and document where you can get that data
- 3. Check how much space it will take
- 4. Check legal obligations, and get authorization if necessary
- 5. Get access authorizations
- 6. Create a workspace (with enough storage space)
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- 2. Create a Jupyter notebook to keep a record of your data exploration
- 3. Study each attribute and its characteristics:
 - Name
 - Type (categorical, int/float, bounded/unbounded, text, structured, etc)
 - Number of missing values
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- Possibly useful for the task?
- Type of distribution (Gaussian, uniform, logarithmic, etc)
- 4. For supervised learning tasks, identify the target attribute(s)
- 5. Visualise the data
- 6. Study the correlations between attributes
- 7. Study how you would solve the problem manually
- 8. Identify the promising transformations you may want to apply
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4. Prepare the Data

• Notes:

- * Work on copies of the data (keep the original dataset intact)
- Write functions for all data transformations you apply, for five reasons:
 - * So you can easily prepare the data the next time you get a fresh dataset
 - * So you can apply these transformations in future project
 - * To clean and prepare the test set
 - * To clean and prepare new data instances once your solution is live
 - * To make it easy to treat your preparation choices as hyperparameters

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4. Prepare the Data continued

1. Data cleaning

- Fix or remove outliers (optional)
- Fill in missing values (e.g., with zero, mean, median. . .) or drop their rows (or columns)
- 2. Feature selection (optional):
 - Drop the attributes that provide no useful information for the task
- 3. Feature engineering, where appropriate:
 - Discretize continuous features
 - Decompose features (e.g., categorical, date/time, etc.)
 - Add promising transformations of features (e.g., $\log(x)$, \sqrt{x} , x^2 , e^x , etc.)

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- 2. Measure and compare their performance
 - For each model, use N-fold cross-validation and compute the mean and standard deviation of the performance measure on the N folds
- 3. Analyse the most significant variables for each algorithm
- 4. Analyse the types of errors the models make
 - What data would a human have used to avoid these errors?
- 5. Have a quick round of feature selection and engineering
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7. Short-list the top three to five most promising models, preferring models that make different types of errors

6. Fine-Tune the System

Notes:

- * You will want to use as much data as possible for this step, especially as you move toward the end of fine-tuning
- * As always automate what you can
- 1. Fine-tune the hyperparameters using cross-validation
 - Treat your data transformation choices as hyperparameters, especially when you are not sure about them (e.g., should I replace missing values with zero or with the median value? Or just drop the rows?)
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- 2. Create a nice presentation
 - Make sure you highlight the big picture first
- 3. Explain why your solution achieves the business objective
- 4. Don't forget to present interesting points you noticed along the way
 - Describe what worked and what did not
 - List your assumptions and your system's limitations
- 5. Ensure your key findings are communicated through beautiful visualizations or easy-to-remember statements (e.g., "the median income is the number-one predictor of housing prices")

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8. Launch

- Get your solution ready for production (plug into production data inputs, write unit tests, etc.)
- Write monitoring code to check your system's live performance at regular intervals and trigger alerts when it drops
 - ★ Beware of slow degradation too: models tend to "rot" as data evolves
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