

Data Science Project Structure

The CRISP-DM Methodology

#	Stage	Considerations
1	Business understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem statement: Understand the context of the problem • Objectives: What is the purpose of the project? • Needs: What is the use case of the solution? Who are the users? Which features are necessary, and which are just nice to have? • Data: Identify data sources, an estimate of the data size and velocity, and data collection method. • Definitions of success: Determine the satisficing and optimising metrics, as well as the success and exit criteria. • Presentation: Dashboard, application, or report? Cloud or on-prem? • Timelines: Milestones
2	Data understanding <i>Return to stage 1 if required</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data quality: What are the quality issues and treatment options? • EDA: Inspect the distributions, statistical summaries, and units/scale. Explore whether there are any correlations or underlying patterns within the data.
3	Data preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-processing: Select and apply treatment to your data quality issues, do some feature engineering. • ETL: Integrate the data, perform transformations and scaling.
4	Modelling <i>Return to stage 3 if required</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling: Build a baseline model quickly, then iterate. • Split: Determine the train-dev-test split or consider cross-validation. • Tuning: Use the principles of orthogonalisation to guide you with hyperparameter tuning; consider grid search. Apply optimisation techniques if required. • Comparison: Use your metrics to guide whether your current idea is better than your previous idea. • Iterate: Iterate until either the success or exit criteria have been met.
5	Evaluation <i>Return to stage 1 if required</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write-up: Document the results of your trials as well as any reasoning for your decisions. • Evaluation: Ask the stakeholder to assess your final model against the business requirements.
6	Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan: Create a deployment plan and checklist. • Clean up: Convert any notebooks into scripts, draw diagrams for each script. • Deploy: Deploy your project, provide access to the stakeholders, and monitor the results.