







# TOP PREDICTION ALGORITHMS



	TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Linear		Linear regression	The “best fit” line through all data points. Predictions are numerical.	Easy to understand -- you clearly see what the biggest drivers of the model are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Sometimes too simple to capture complex relationships between variables.</li> <li>✗ Tendency for the model to “overfit”.</li> </ul>
		Logistic regression	The adaptation of <b>linear regression</b> to problems of classification (e.g., yes/no questions, groups, etc.)	Also easy to understand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Sometimes too simple to capture complex relationships between variables.</li> <li>✗ Tendency for the model to “overfit”.</li> </ul>
Tree-based		Decision tree	A graph that uses a <b>branching method</b> to match all possible outcomes of a decision.	Easy to understand and implement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Not often used on its own for prediction because it’s also often too simple and not powerful enough for complex data.</li> </ul>
		Random Forest	Takes the average of many decision trees, each of which is made with a sample of the data. Each tree is weaker than a full decision tree, but <b>by combining them we get better overall performance.</b>	A sort of “wisdom of the crowd”. Tends to result in very high quality models. Fast to train.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Can be slow to output predictions relative to other algorithms.</li> <li>✗ Not easy to understand predictions.</li> </ul>
		Gradient Boosting	Uses even weaker decision trees, that are increasingly <b>focused on “hard” examples.</b>	High-performing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ A small change in the feature set or training set can create radical changes in the model.</li> <li>✗ Not easy to understand predictions.</li> </ul>
Neural networks		Neural networks	Mimics the behavior of the brain. Neural networks are interconnected neurons that pass messages to each other. Deep learning uses several <b>layers of neural networks put one after the other.</b>	Can handle extremely complex tasks - no other algorithm comes close in image recognition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Very, very slow to train, because they have so many layers. Require a lot of power.</li> <li>✗ Almost impossible to understand predictions.</li> </ul>