

# Introduction to Data Science



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*„We are drowning in information, but starving for knowledge”  
-John Naisbett*

What is **knowledge**?

*\*This lesson refers to chapters 1 and 2 of the GIDS book*

## Content of this lesson

- What is Data Science?
- The Data Science Process
- Data Science: An Example

# What is Data Science?

## Data

- refer to single instances (single objects, people, events, points in time, etc.)
- describe individual properties
- are often available in large amounts (databases, archives)
- are often easy to collect or to obtain (e.g., scanner cashiers in supermarkets, Internet)
- do not allow us to make predictions or forecasts

## Knowledge

- refers to *classes* of instances (*sets* of objects, people, events, points in time, etc.)
- describes general patterns, structures, laws, principles, etc.
- consists of as few statements as possible
- is often difficult and time consuming to find or to obtain (e.g., natural laws, education)
- allows us to make predictions and forecasts

- **correctness** (probability, success in tests)
- **generality** (domain and conditions of validity)
- **usefulness** (relevance, predictive power)
- **comprehensibility** (simplicity, clarity, parsimony)
- **novelty** (previously unknown, unexpected)

# What is Data Science?

[Wikipedia quoting Dhar 13, Leek 13]

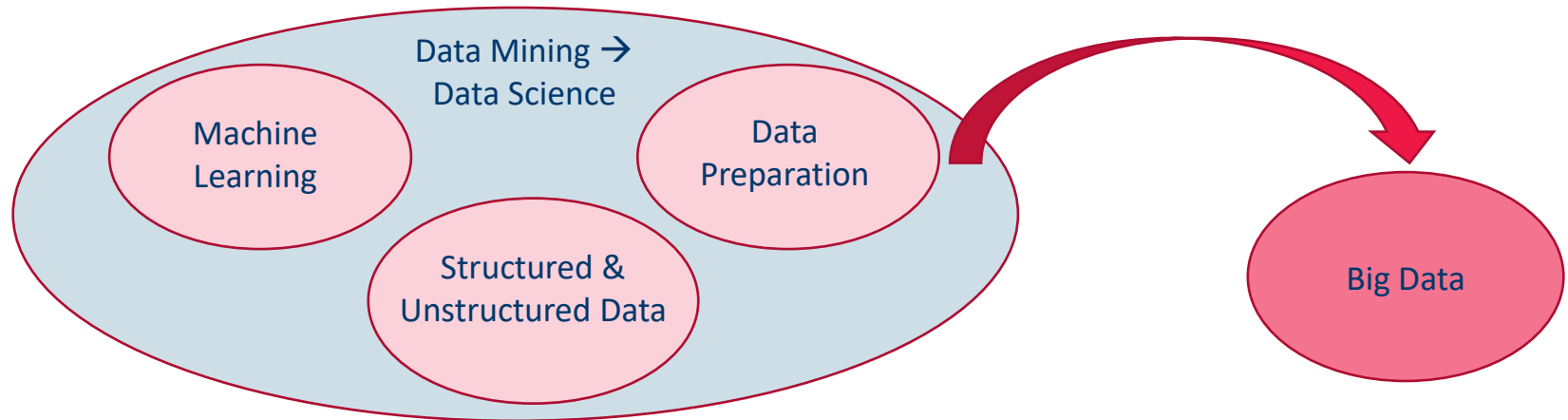
**Data science** is a multi-disciplinary field that uses scientific methods, processes, algorithms and systems to **extract knowledge and insights** from structured and unstructured data.

[Fayyad, Piatetsky-Shapiro & Smyth 96]

*Knowledge discovery in databases (KDD)* is the process of (semi-)automatic **extraction of knowledge** from databases which is *valid, previously unknown, and potentially useful*.

## Some Clarity about Words

- *(semi)-automatic*: no manual analysis, though some user interaction required
- *valid*: in the statistical sense
- *previously unknown*: not explicit, no „common sense knowledge“
- *potentially useful*: for a given application
- *structured data*: numbers
- *unstructured data*: everything else (images, texts, networks, chem. compounds, ...)





Valid?

Valid?  
99.98%

Valid?

customer age  $\in [18, 150]$   
(in 9, 999 of 10, 000 cases)

Previously Unknown?

$A \Rightarrow B$  (in 100% of all cases)

Previously Unknown?

Pregnant => Female

Useful?

$A \Rightarrow B$

(with  $s = 0.81\%$  and  $c = 21.3\%$ )

# Useful?

Beer  $\Rightarrow$  Diapers

(with  $s = 0.81\%$  and  $c = 21.3\%$ )

# Valid, Interesting, and Useful?

Books A and B  $\Rightarrow$  Book C

(with  $s = 0.81\%$  and  $c = 21.3\%$ )

# The Data Science Process



# The Data Science Process

## — SEMMA

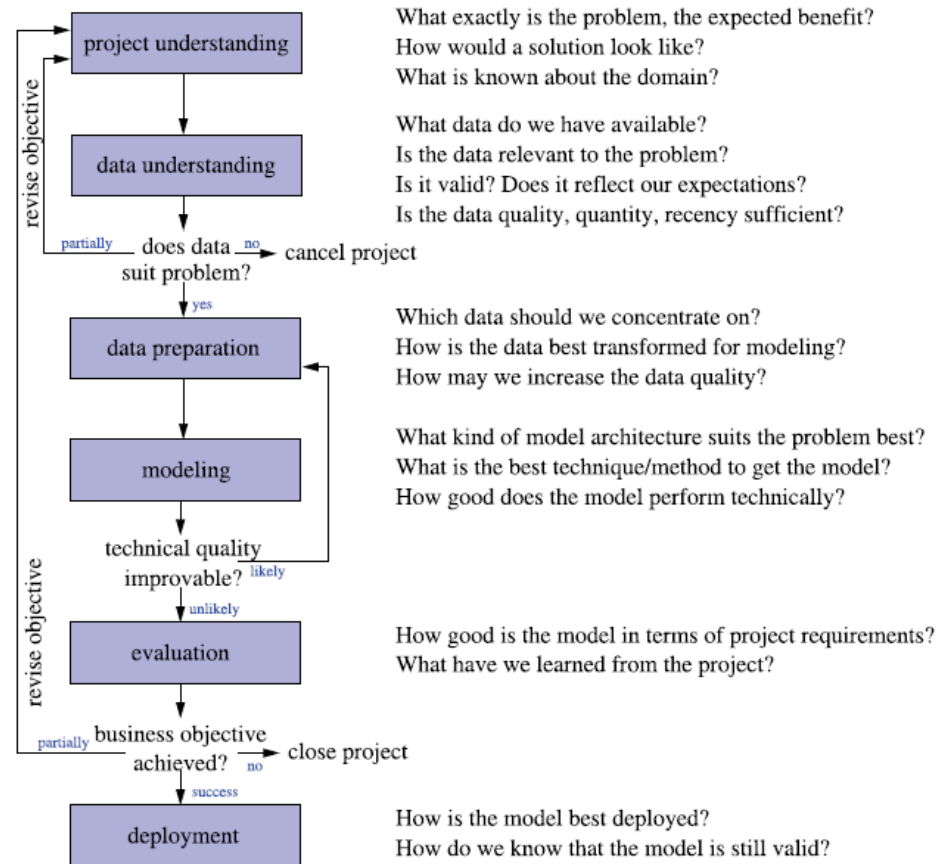
- Sample, Explore, Modify, Model, Assess

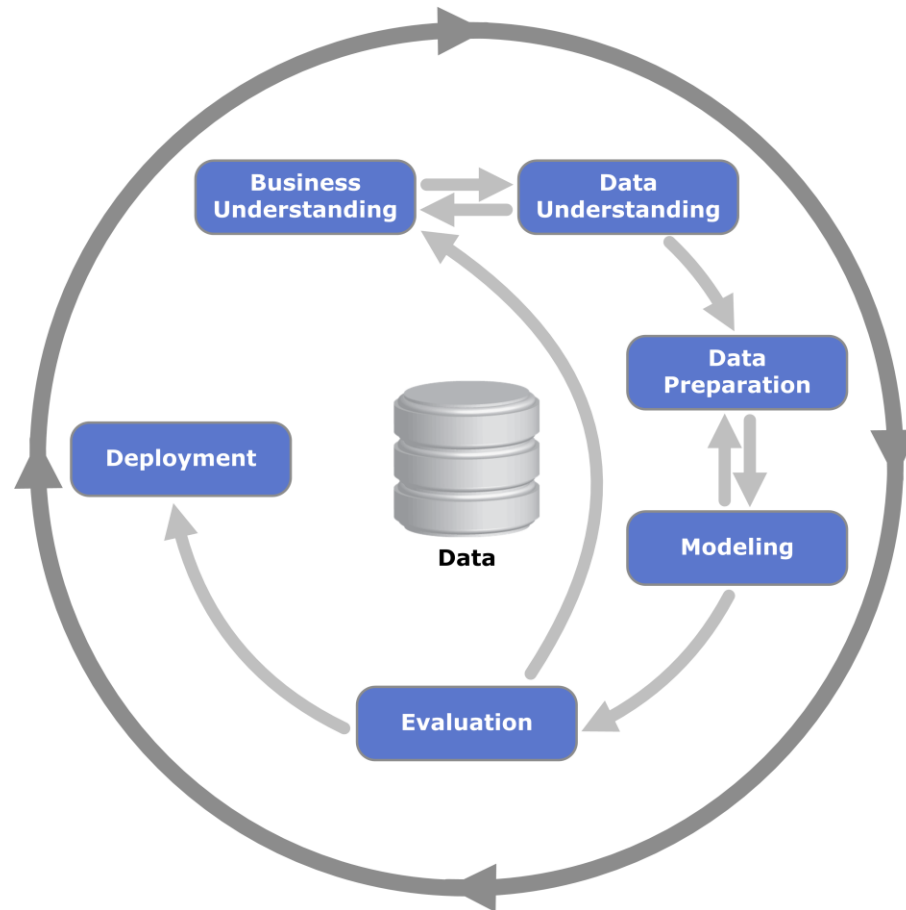
## — CRISP-DM

- Cross Industry Standard Process for Data Mining

## — KDD

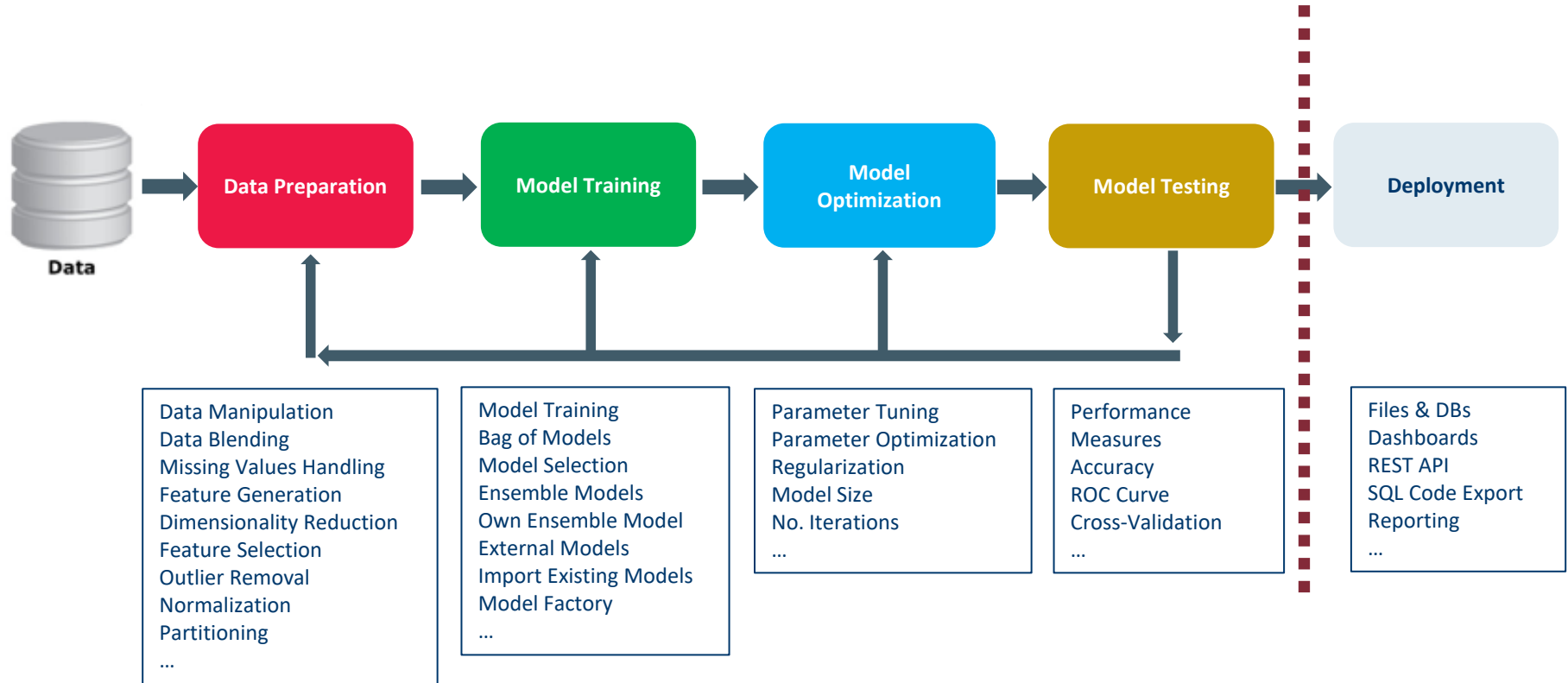
- Knowledge Discovery in Databases



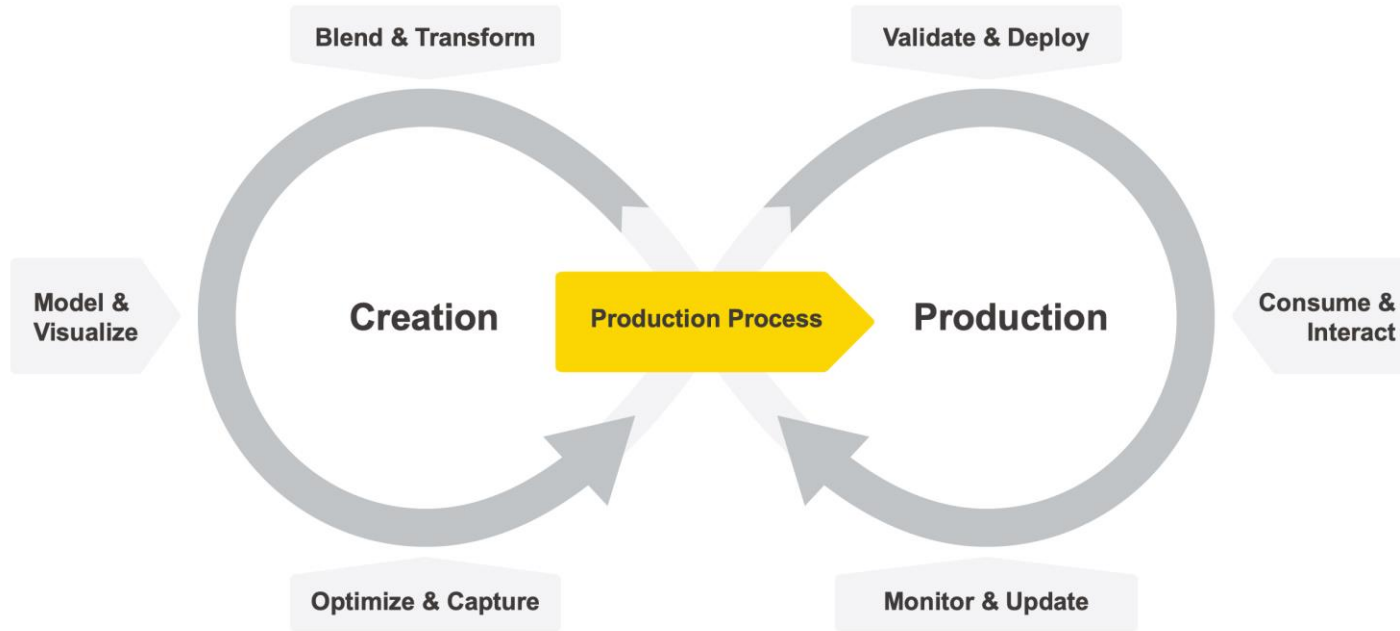


# A Classic Data Science Project

It always starts with some data ...



# The Data Science Life Cycle



## – Classification

- Predict experiment outcome falling into a finite number of possible results
- *How credit-worthy is this customer ? Very / Enough / Not enough / Absolutely not*
- *Will this customer respond to our mailing? Yes / No*

## – Regression

- Predict numeric values
- *How will the EUR/USD exchange rate develop?*
- *What will be the price of this washing machine next week?*

## – Clustering, Segmentation

- Group similar cases in order to get overview, detect outliers, or get insights on the data structure
- *Do my customers separate into different groups?*
- *How many operating points does the machine have, and what do they look like?*

## – **Association Analysis**

- Find correlations to better understand the interdependencies of all the attributes
- Focus in the full record (all the attributes) rather than on a single target variable
- *Which optional equipment of a car often goes together?*
- *How do the various qualities in a car influence each other?*

## – **Deviation Analysis**

- Knowing the trend of the data, find subgroups that behave differently
- *Under which circumstances does the system behave differently?*
- *Which properties do those customers - who do not follow the crowd - share?*

# Data Science: an Example

- Dataset from a hypothetical supermarket chain
  - Customers
  - Products
  - Purchases
- Three tasks
  - Divide customers into different groups according to their purchase behaviour
  - Identify connections between products to implement cross-selling campaigns
  - Helping design a marketing campaign to increase purchases
- Two approaches
  - Naive approach lead by common sense
  - Sound approach using DS techniques



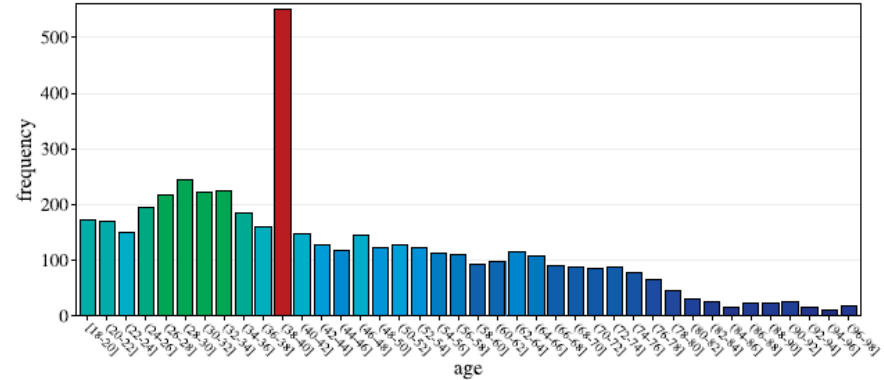
## – Naive Approach

- Aggregate purchases to respective customer
- Join with the customer details
- No interesting relations highlighted

Cluster id	Age	Customer revenue
1	46.5	€ 1,922.07
2	39.4	€ 11,162.20
3	39.1	€ 7,279.59
4	46.3	€ 419.23
5	39.0	€ 4,459.30

## – Sound Approach

- Check values for the string attributes (name, employment..)
- Check and add constraints to numeric attributes (e.g. Age between 18-100)
- Look for misleading information (e.g. In the dataset a missing birthdate was by default set to 1970. If not handled properly, this information can lead to errors)
- Use average basket price as estimator for the value of a customer
- Use average number of purchases per month as further estimator
- Apply normalization to average attributes magnitudes



Cluster	Age	Avg. cart price	Avg. purchase/month
1	75.3	€ 19.-	5.6
2	42.1	€ 78.-	7.8
3	38.1	€ 112.-	9.3
4	30.6	€ 16.-	4.8
5	44.7	€ 45.-	3.7

- Naive Approach

- Run Association Rule Mining algorithm with default setting
- Consider Product ID (differentiating each product)
- Unintuitive and unuseful result
- Rules have high confidence but low support values

'foie gras' (p1231) ← 'champagne Don Huberto' (p2149),  
'truffle oil de Rossini' (p578) [s=1E-5, c=75%]  
'Tortellini De Cecco 500g' (p3456)  
← 'De Cecco Sugo Siciliana' (p8764) [s=1E-5, c=60%]

## — Sound Approach

- Consider product categories
- Rules match with well-known facts
- Monitor combinations on regular basis

```
tomatoes ← capers, pasta [s=0.007, c=32%]  
tomatoes ← apples [s=0.013, c=22%]
```

### – Naive Approach

- No detailed analysis
- Send coupon with discounts after a certain purchase amount
- Just monitor the results
- Fail: customers only combine shopping trips, no additional revenues
- The data analyst is in the end fired

### – Sound Approach

- Discriminate valuable customers => exploit earlier segmentation
- Derive meaningful attributes, e.g. Customers underperforming on specific category, distance
- Build black box classifier model

**Thank you**