Data Scientist's Toolbox Course Notes

Miguel Rosa

Contents

CLI (Command Line Interface)	2
GitHub	2
Markdown	2
R Packages	•
Types of Data Science Questions	
Data	
Experimental Design	:

CLI (Command Line Interface)

- / = root directory
- ~ = home directory
- pwd = print working directory (current directory)
- clear = clear screen
- ls = list stuff
 - -a = see all (including hidden files)
 - -1 = details
- cd = change directory
- mkdir = make directory
- touch = creates an empty file
- cp = copy
 - cp <file> <directory> = copy a file to a directory
 - cp <file> <renamed_file> = rename a file
 - cp -r <directory> <newDirectory> = copy all documents from directory to new Directory *
 -r = recursive
- rm = remove
 - -r = remove entire directories (no undo)
- mv = move
 - move <file> <directory> = move file to directory
 - move <fileName> <newName> = rename file
- echo = print arguments you give/variables
- date = print current date

GitHub

Workflow

- 1. make edits in workspace
- 2. update index/add files
- 3. commit to local repo
- 4. push to remote repository
- git add . = add all new files to be tracked
- git add -u = updates tracking for files that are renamed or deleted
- git add -A = both of the above
 - Note: add is performed before committing
- git commit -m "message" = commit the changes you want to be saved to the local copy
- git checkout -b branchname = create new branch
- git branch = tells you what branch you are on
- git checkout master = move back to the master branch
- git pull = merge you changes into other branch/repo (pull request, sent to owner of the repo)
- git push = commit local changes to remote (GitHub)

Markdown

- ## = signifies secondary heading (bold big font)
- ### = signifies tertiary heading (slightly smaller font than secondary, not bold)
- * = bullet list item

R Packages

- Primary location for R packages \rightarrow CRAN
- available.packages() = all packages available
- head(rownames(a),3) = returns first three names of a
- install.packages("nameOfPackage") = install single package
- install.packages(c("nameOfPackage", "nameOfPackage", "nameOfPackage") = install multiple package
- Bioconductor Packages:
 - source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
 - biocLite() = install bioconductor packages
- library(packagename) = load package
- search() = see all functions in package after loading

Types of Data Science Questions

- in order of difficulty: Descriptive o Exploratory o Inferential o Predictive o Causal o Mechanistic
- Descriptive analysis = describe set of data, interpret what you see (census, Google Ngram)
- Exploratory analysis = discovering connections (correlation does not = causation)
- Inferential analysis = use data conclusions from smaller population for the broader group
- **Predictive analysis** = use data on one object to predict values for another (if X predicts Y, does not = X cause Y)
- Causal analysis = how does changing one variable affect another, using randomized studies, Strong assumptions, golden standard for statistical analysis
- Mechanistic analysis = understand exact changes in variables in other variables, modeled by empirical equations (engineering/physics

Data

- Data = values of qualitative or quantitative variables, belonging to a set of items (usually population)
- Variables = measurement/characteristic of an item (qualitative vs quantitative)
- Data = not always structured, usually raw file, different formats
- Most important thing is question, then it is data
- Big data = now possible to collect data cheap, but not necessarily all useful (need the right data)

Experimental Design

- Formulate your question in advance
- Statistical inference = select subset, run experiment, calculate descriptive statistics, use inferential statistics to determine if results can be applied broadly
- [Inference] Variability = lower variability + clearer differences = decision
- [Inference] Confounding = underlying variable might be causing the correlation (sometimes called Spurious correlation)
 - dealing with confounding: fix variables, stratify (all options), randomize
- [Prediction] collection observations for different variable values, build predictive functions
 - similar problems of probability/sampling and confounding variables
- [Prediction] Difficult to understand where observation is from from different distributions. (size of effects important)

- [Prediction] Positive/negative statuses: True positive, false positive, false negative, true negative
 - **Sensitivity** = Pr(positive test | disease)
 - **Specificity** = Pr(negative test | no disease)
 - Positive Predictive Value = Pr(disease | positive test)
 - Negative Predictive Value = Pr(no disease | negative test)
 - **Accuracy** = Pr(correct outcome)
- **Data dredging** = use data to fit hypothesis
- Good experiments = have replication, measure variability, generalize problem, transparent
- Prediction is not inference, and beware of data dredging