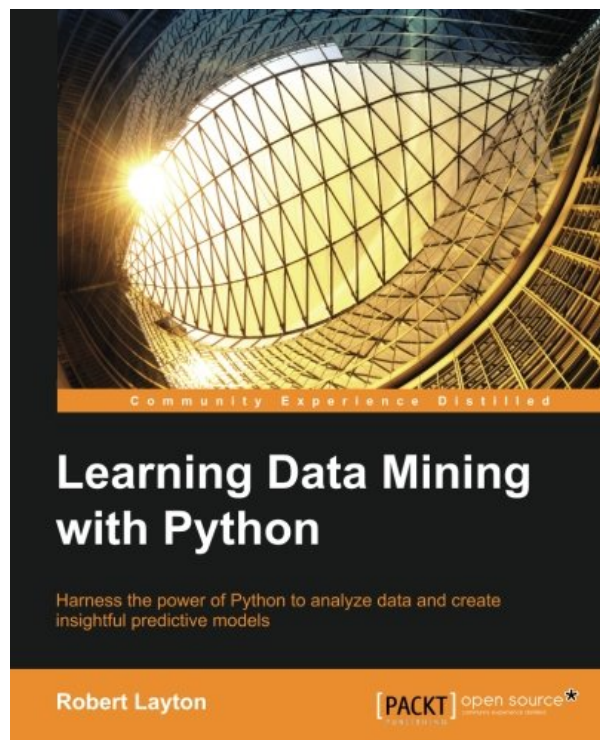# LEARNING DATA MINING WITH PYTHON BY ROBERT LAYTON
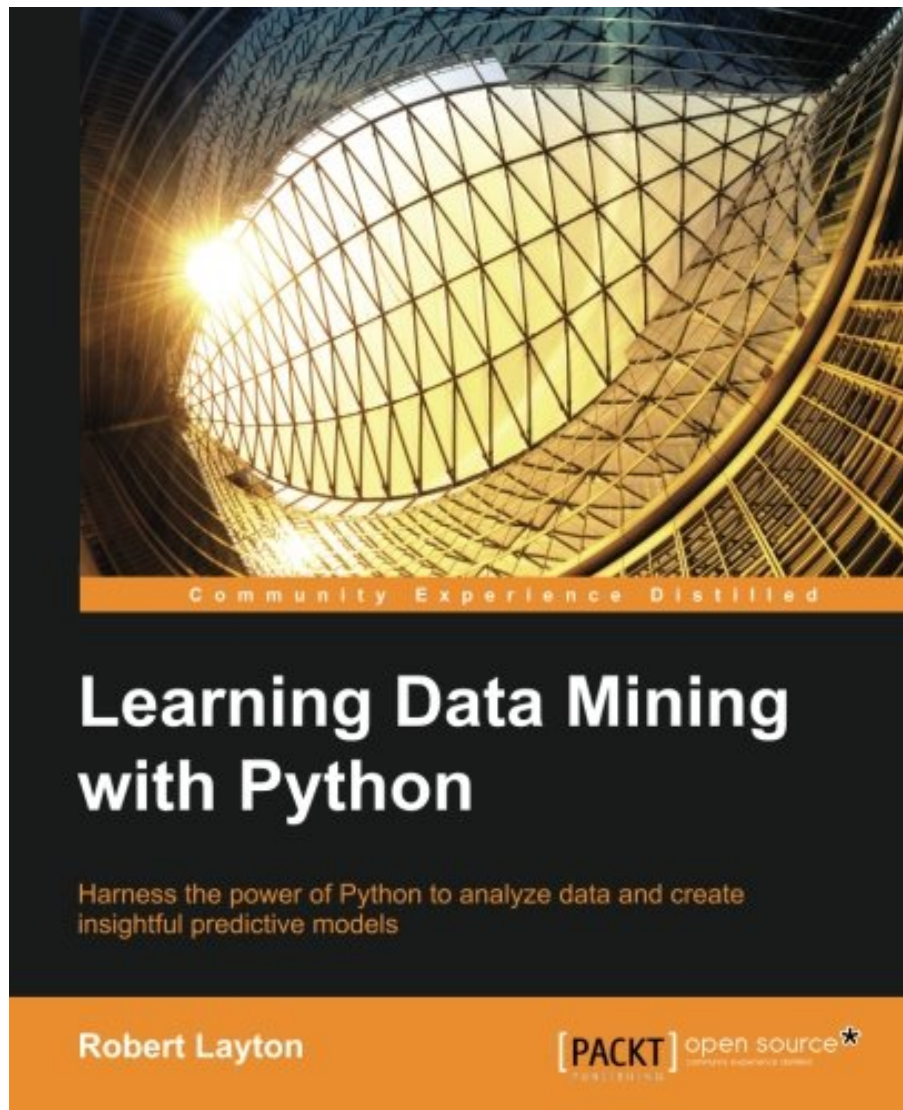

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Harness the power of Python to analyze data and create insightful predictive models

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Robert Layton has a PhD in computer science and has been an avid Python programmer for many years. He has worked closely with some of the largest companies in the world on data mining applications for real-world data and has also been published extensively in international journals and conferences. He has extensive experience in cybercrime and text-based data analytics, with a focus on behavioral modeling, authorship analysis, and automated open source intelligence. He has contributed code to a number of open source libraries, including the scikit-learn library used in this book, and was a Google Summer of Code mentor in 2014. Robert runs a data mining consultancy company called dataPipeline, providing data mining and analytics solutions to businesses in a variety of industries.

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Harness the power of Python to analyze data and create insightful predictive models

About This Book

- Learn data mining in practical terms, using a wide variety of libraries and techniques
- Learn how to find, manipulate, and analyze data using Python
- Step-by-step instructions on creating real-world applications of data mining techniques

Who This Book Is For

If you are a programmer who wants to get started with data mining, then this book is for you.

What You Will Learn

- Apply data mining concepts to real-world problems
- Predict the outcome of sports matches based on past results
- Determine the author of a document based on their writing style
- Use APIs to download datasets from social media and other online services
- Find and extract good features from difficult datasets
- Create models that solve real-world problems
- Design and develop data mining applications using a variety of datasets
- Set up reproducible experiments and generate robust results
- Recommend movies, online celebrities, and news articles based on personal preferences
- Compute on big data, including real-time data from the Internet

In Detail

The next step in the information age is to gain insights from the deluge of data coming our way. Data mining provides a way of finding this insight, and Python is one of the most popular languages for data mining, providing both power and flexibility in analysis.

This book teaches you to design and develop data mining applications using a variety of datasets, starting with basic classification and affinity analysis. Next, we move on to more complex data types including text, images, and graphs. In every chapter, we create models that solve real-world problems.

There is a rich and varied set of libraries available in Python for data mining. This book covers a large number, including the IPython Notebook, pandas, scikit-learn and NLTK.

Each chapter of this book introduces you to new algorithms and techniques. By the end of the book, you will gain a large insight into using Python for data mining, with a good knowledge and understanding of the algorithms and implementations.

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.
Grinding through the errors
By Amazon Customer
The text tries hard to be accessible, the author makes a point of sacrificing complexity to provide clear examples. Often explanations, concepts, and machine learning functions are left to the reader to investigate on their own. I have no problem with any of this, however the text is rife with typos both in the explanations and in the code. Particularly egregious examples of the poor editing include calling the wrong name object in the example code, not a typo in the object-name the wrong object all together, and mixing up the training and test sets while performing a model build.

To make matters worse the text is essentially paraphrasing the iPython Notebooks that make up bulk of this book. The book only contains code snippets which are discussed in the context of any given lesson, such that without the notebooks the code examples are incomplete. The complete code examples, provided in the iPython Notebooks, lack any description, such that reading the text requires moving between the book and the browser based notebooks to combine the disjoint material. Furthermore to download the notebook material, without which the book is worthless, you are forced to register with Packt Publishing. I was very unhappy to learn that this book costs only five dollars on Packt when downloaded as an ebook. (it may have been on sale)

All in all, I'm still going to grind through this book since it has been helpful for introducing some high level machine learning concepts and functions. If the typos were cleaned up it would be a solid 3.5 stars. Oddly enough for five dollars I'd even recommend this to folks, but with a disclaimer that it will be a slog trying to untangle the mistakes and omissions.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting for non mathematicians and non coders as well

By Mouha

The Robert's book is one of those I've finished used and reuse. I have many books on AI, Machine learning /data mining . Very few give me access to the minimum knowledge so I'd be able to use AI by myself. Jeff Heaton book was one of them, now I can add this book because it allows you to understand the main algorithms in this area, in a way that even you are not strong in maths through Python code you can really apply each algorithms in a minute. Really easy and understandable. Some could argue that the author doesn't dive deeply in the explanation: I think this is on purpose, and btw there are so much book about the theory. I didn't put 5 start because of some (small) cons : In chapter 8 "Beating Captcha...." The author would have use a recent framework like FANN instead of Pybrain which seems to be abandoned since years. This is not a showstopper anyway. I was so happy to use NN which for me is a kind of magic sometimes.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good, original book

By Dimitri Shvorob

Wishing to learn Python's machine-learning toolkit - I am an emigrant from R Country - I rounded up several relevant books, and set out to narrow the field to one or two suitable for further study. My haul included (in no particular order)

"Machine Learning in Python" by Bowles, published in 2015 by Wiley, 360 pages, $25 for the cheapest hardcopy now available from Amazon (including shipping)
"Designing Machine Learning Systems with Python" by Julian, 2016, Packt, 232 pages, $42
"Mastering Python for Data Science" by Madhavan, 2015, Packt, 294 pages, $39
"Learning Data Mining with Python" by Layton, 2015, 369 pages, $43
"Python Data Science Cookbook" by Subramanian, 2015, 347 pages, $48
"Data Science From Scratch" by Grus, 2015, 330 pages, $24
"Learning scikit-learn" by Moncecchi and Garreta, 2013, 118 pages, $28
"Building Machine Learning Systems with Python" by Coelho and Richert, 2015, 305 pages, $49
"Python Machine Learning" by Raschka, 2015, 454 pages, $34

The whittling-down turned out to be harder than expected: Python titles are better than R counterparts, and Madhavan's book alone was easy to dismiss. Subramanian, Moncecchi-Garreta and Julian did not make the cut based on comparison with alternatives, but were not of themselves bad. Grus is the beginner's best bet - beginners can stop reading here - while Bowles is a book which I like a lot, but which may be a bit too specialist. As a reviewer, thinking about what other "intermediate" readers might find useful, I end up pointing to the trio of Raschka, Layton and Coelho-Richert as the books worth choosing from.

I distinguish Raschka, in appreciation of his more pedagogical style - or maybe I am just giving the top spot to the thickest book! - but the other two titles are definitely worth checking out. Compared to Coelho-Richert (CR), Layton's book surveys a wider range of algorithms - a good third of CR's page count is devoted to text analysis, which means less space for everything else - but strangely neglects regression, my own primary interest. (This is why I dock one star). The writing is more "cohesive" and methodical - but while Coelho and Richert know to "liven up" the early chapters with visualizations, Layton does not use "matplotlib" till page 98. (And after that, you see charts in the chapter on graph mining - notably, a topic you don't find in the other two books). Get both, and see which one you prefer.

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