

My Journey into Data Science

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Agenda:

- My Journey to my 1st Data Science role.
- Summary.
- Q&A
- Conclusion.



March, 2016 - Decided to pursue career in DS

- Had tried App and Web development for a brief and wasn't captivated by them.
- Got introduced to data science by one of my college seniors.
- After exploring all career possibilities, started learning about data science.
- Started searching of resources and was really overwhelmed by the choices!
- Narrowed down the resources based on my background and skill set and started learning R from a youtube tutorial.
- Learnt some analytics basics and merged data science with one of my biggest interests - football to start a blog post named Season Insights to analyse big football matches in European leagues.



June, 2016 - Joined an DA Internship

- Gave some interviews and got an internship as a Data Analyst in a StartUp.
- Was really challenged by working in data at that scale but manage to cope up.
- Boosted my analytics and data handling skills over the summer.



July, 2016 - Got into Top 40 of ZS Young Data Scientist Challenge 2016

- Also started with going through a lot of kernels on Kaggle's Titanic toy problem.
- Got a hang of the end-to-end ML pipelines and some ML models with their working-maths.
- Participated in Competitions on Analytics Vidhya heavily for practice.
- Got into Top 40 of ZS Young Data Scientist Challenge in a 3-day hackathon which was an intense learning experience.
- This really motivated me to pursue bigger goals in boosted the morale.
- I learning and picked up a number of projects in R like creating a Twitter sentiment analysis shiny app, analysing public datasets and participating on several hackathons.
- I even thought of creating a R package and get it on CRAN to help others.



September, 2016 - Published a package named ensembleR on CRAN

- This was one in series of many big bold bets I took.
- Heavily researched on how to create a R package and get it on CRAN.
- Compiled my learnings from multiple hackathons to put together a two-layered stacking architecture in form of a R package.
- After getting approvals from a couple of reviewers, I finally got it on CRAN!



October, 2016 - Got an Internship at Analytics Vidhya

- Had studied most of the AV articles and wanted to be part of their mission.
- Approached Kunal Jain on linkedin to get an interview and cracked it.
- Worked in wide variety of projects and learnt a great deal.
- Most importantly found really some really good mentors that I'm even in touch with today.
- Started participating aggressively on Kaggle.
- Also, realised that I should start with Python and started learning Python from tutorials and other people's code.



December, 2016 - Published a package on PyPI

- Published a package named Pyensembler on PyPI which - a two-layered stacking architecture.
- Started learning and practicing deep learning.
- Picked up more projects and hackathons.



April, 2017 - Got a full-time offer at Zomato

- Got full-time offer to work as a Data Scientist at Zomato - India's oldest unicorn start-up in food tech.
- Learnt a great deal solving multiple business problems with machine learning at scale.
- Got to know the 360 degree aspect - DS is just an enabler, you need to have sound business acumen and engineering skills to really stand out.



July, 2017 - Ranked in Top 1% Data Scientists on Kaggle

- Finally made it to Top 1% Data Scientists on Kaggle after putting in a lots of hard work and performing well in a number of competitions.
- Also, in Top 15 Data Scientists on AV.
- Secured top percentiles in multiple hackathons organised by likes of McKinsey, Fractal Analytics, Societe Generale, Santander, Sberbank, Quora, Two Sigma, etc.



Summary

- Combine Data Science with your interests to make the learning process engaging.
- Challenge yourself. Take Big bold bets.
- Do internships.
- Maths is important.
- Create short feedback loops to keep yourself on track.
- Participate in competitions.
- Cherish small achievements, they keep you going.
- Don't hesitate to ask someone a question.
- Find a good mentor(s).
- Keep doing side-projects.



Q&A



Thank you!

For your time

Feel free to reach out to me at:

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With your questions, I'll try to respond to maximum of them.