Numsense! Data Science for the Layman: No Math Added

Annalyn Ng , Kenneth Soo

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Used in Stanford's CS102 Big Data (Spring 2017) course.

Want to get started on data science?
Our promise: no math added.

This book has been written in layman's terms as a gentle introduction to data science and its algorithms. Each algorithm has its own dedicated chapter that explains how it works, and shows an example of a real-world application. To help you grasp key concepts, we stick to intuitive explanations and visuals.

Popular concepts covered include:

- A/B Testing
- Anomaly Detection
- Association Rules
- Clustering
- Decision Trees and Random Forests
- Regression Analysis
- Social Network Analysis
- Neural Networks

Features:

- Intuitive explanations and visuals
- Real-world applications to illustrate each algorithm
- Point summaries at the end of each chapter
- Reference sheets comparing the pros and cons of algorithms
- Glossary list of commonly-used terms

With this book, we hope to give you a practical understanding of data science, so that you, too, can leverage its strengths in making better decisions.

Numsense! Data Science for the Layman: No Math Added Details

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From Reader Review Numsense! Data Science for the Layman: No Math Added for online ebook

Rad says

Numsense! Data Science for the Layman is a great little book. Not only could it be a fine introduction for someone with little if any knowledge of data science, but it also provides nice summaries of several different areas for those with familiarity. Five starts for doing what the title says.

Isaac says

Awesome, clear, not to mind numbing overview of the major categories/types of data analysis and the types of questions that can be answered by the application of data science. Highly recommend for a figuring out what all the hand-waving is about.

Ismael Rosas says

Good machine learning start book

Easy to read. It gives a good grasp of different machine learning algorithms. It explains complex techniques in a very comprehensive way.

Bálint says

Great and simple overview of the most important machine learning models. This book is very useful if you have a fundamental understanding about machine learning, but feeling confused about what is what. The chapters can push you in the right direction and give you a good intuition. Given that, you will have a good grounding to start diving deeper into any of the models you like.

Jake McCrary says

Pretty good gentle introduction to some data science terms and techniques. This is a good refresher or first introduction to some general ideas and high-level techniques. It doesn't weigh you down with the math. It explains the concepts using plain English.

At the time I read this, it was available as a book you could check out for free if you were an Amazon Prime member. I have no hesitation in recommending this if you can do that as well and you are interested in these concepts at all.

I read this on an E ink Kindle. Unfortunately, many of the figures use color and this was lost. It might be

better to read this on your phone or tablet.

Bernard says

Comprehensive summary of data science

Great introduction for beginners. The author did a good job in using layman terms to explain how each algorithm works and provide the audience a general understanding of the big picture

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Hua Hao says

A very good introductory level ML book

This is a very good introductory level machine learning book, especially for those without very strong math background. It tells the algorithms in a very clear and simple way. I will recommend this book for machine learning beginners.

Todor says

Gives a nice basic knowledge on the algorithms used in data science.

Michael O'Flaherty says

Great Overview for the Uninitiated

I took the Coursera John Hopkins Data Science certification a few years ago. This book would have been great intro before starting that trek. I enjoyed the authors' simplicity and brevity. Highly recommended for dipping your toe into the data science data lake (or whatever moniker is being used today.)

Ram S says

Quick introduction to data science

This book introduces key concepts in data science and I read it in 1 hour. The explanations are intuitive and limitations are well explained. Probably you can read this book before more in depth technical works.

André says

Book contents: 10% preparation & evaluation and 90% algos & limitations, explained in plain text and illustrations.

It's an overview, detailed enough to get an idea of ??what's going on when using (not implementing) data science algorithms as you have to experiment with different algos; data science seems trial-and-error heavy (attributes selection, algorithms selection etc).

vs "Data Science" from the MIT Essential Knowledge series:
1/3 algos (wordy) and 2/3 extract, clean, and integrate data a.k.a. *data plumbing* ("80% of the time"), a data mining process model (CRISP-DM), ethics and regulations.

These 2/3 have no place in the Numsense book, so both books can be read in addition to each other (both introductions). There's overlap between the algos, but are explained in different ways.

Sylvain Duford says

Clear, concise and math free

The main tools and techniques of Data Science are explained with clear real-life examples and without resorting to math. A great introduction to Data Science and Machine Learning.

Swapnil Wadhwa says

Good Starting Book on Data Science & Algorithms

Good Book for Beginners - covers basics of Data Science and related Algorithms quite well. Recommended especially for Business Executives

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Jaakko Vasankari says

Very hard to judge by the cover

I was first disappointed in the lack of maths. Even though it was in the title. Then there is actually some math, so at this point I felt the urge penalise. The book is actually very good, and entertaining. It is told to be used at Stamford on some early levels for data science. Delivers good instructions. I think I actually realised the difference between a random forest and neutral network. Time will tell when I get deeper in the field if this was actually understand. Book includes a dozen different methods explaining their strengths, and limitations.

Manjunath MC says

Best book about the Data Science for a layman. Clear and precise definitions, can be read with in few hours.