

A First Course in Machine Learning (Chapman & Hall/Crc Machine Learning & Pattern Recognition)

By Mark Girolami

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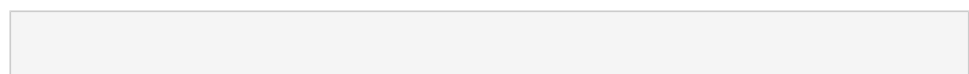
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A First Course in Machine Learning covers the core mathematical and statistical techniques needed to understand some of the most popular machine learning algorithms. The algorithms presented span the main problem areas within machine learning: classification, clustering and projection. The text gives detailed descriptions and derivations for a small number of algorithms rather than cover many algorithms in less detail.

Referenced throughout the text and available on a supporting website (<http://bit.ly/firstcourseml>), an extensive collection of MATLAB[®]/Octave scripts enables students to recreate plots that appear in the book and investigate changing model specifications and parameter values. By experimenting with the various algorithms and concepts, students see how an abstract set of equations can be used to solve real problems.

Requiring minimal mathematical prerequisites, the classroom-tested material in this text offers a concise, accessible introduction to machine learning. It provides students with the knowledge and confidence to explore the machine learning literature and research specific methods in more detail.



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Editorial Review

Review

"This book offers an introduction to machine learning for students with rather limited background in mathematics and statistics. ... The book is well written and focusses on explaining the main concepts at a very basic level, keeping in mind the limited mathematical background of the intended audience. There are also useful references for further reading at the end of each chapter, and MATLAB code implementing the methods is available online along with the data sets. The code also seems to work well with free alternatives to MATLAB like Octave and FreeMat."

?Thoralf Mildenerger, IDP Institute of Data Analysis and Process Design, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, writing in *Stat Papers* (2015) 56:271

"... the authors do well to keep complicated mathematical notation of the kind sometimes found in statistical texts to a minimum. The concepts are introduced in quite a simple way so as to be intelligible to a reader with no statistical background. ... this introductory text will be useful to computer scientists who need some basic introduction to statistical methods to apply in their respective problems ..."

?Arindam Sengupta, *International Statistical Review*, 2014

About the Author

Simon Rogers is a lecturer in the School of Computing Science at the University of Glasgow, where he teaches a masters-level machine learning course on which this book is based. Dr. Rogers is an active researcher in machine learning, particularly applied to problems in computational biology. His research interests include the analysis of metabolomic data and the application of probabilistic machine learning techniques in the field of human-computer interaction.

Mark Girolami is a chair of statistics and an honorary professor of computer science at University College London, where he is also the director of the Centre for Computational Statistics and Machine Learning. An EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow, an IET Fellow, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Dr. Girolami has made major contributions to the field, including his generalisation of independent component analysis, his work on inference in systems biology, and his innovations in statistical methodology.

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