

Data Science and Predictive Analytics

Biomedical and Health Applications using R

Over the past decade, Big Data have become ubiquitous in all economic sectors, scientific disciplines, and human activities. They have led to striking technological advances, affecting all human experiences. Our ability to manage, understand, interrogate, and interpret such extremely large, multisource, heterogeneous, incomplete, multiscale, and incongruent data has not kept pace with the rapid increase of the volume, complexity and proliferation of the deluge of digital information. There are three reasons for this shortfall. First, the volume of data is increasing much faster than the corresponding rise of our computational processing power (Kryder's law > Moore's law). Second, traditional discipline-bounds inhibit expeditious progress. Third, our education and training activities have fallen behind the accelerated trend of scientific, information, and communication advances. There are very few rigorous instructional resources, interactive learning materials, and dynamic training environments that support active data science learning. The textbook balances the mathematical foundations with dexterous demonstrations and examples of data, tools, modules and workflows that serve as pillars for the urgently needed bridge to close that supply and demand predictive analytic skills gap.

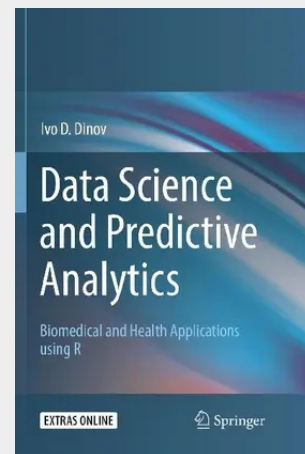
Exposing the enormous opportunities presented by the tsunami of Big data, this textbook aims to identify specific knowledge gaps, educational barriers, and workforce readiness deficiencies. Specifically, it focuses on the development of a transdisciplinary curriculum integrating modern computational methods, advanced data science techniques, innovative biomedical applications, and impactful health analytics.

The content of this graduate-level textbook fills a substantial gap in integrating modern engineering concepts, computational algorithms, mathematical optimization, statistical computing and biomedical inference. Big data analytic techniques and predictive scientific methods demand broad transdisciplinary knowledge, appeal to an extremely wide spectrum of readers/learners, and provide incredible opportunities for engagement throughout the academy, industry, regulatory and funding agencies.

The two examples below demonstrate the powerful need for scientific knowledge, computational abilities, interdisciplinary expertise, and modern technologies necessary to achieve desired outcomes (improving human health and optimizing future return on investment). This can only be achieved by appropriately trained teams of researchers who can develop robust decision support systems using modern techniques and effective end-to-end protocols, like the ones described in this textbook.

- A geriatric neurologist is examining a patient complaining of gait imbalance and posture instability. To determine if the patient may suffer from Parkinson's disease, the physician acquires clinical, cognitive, phenotypic, imaging, and genetics data (Big Data). Most clinics and healthcare centers are not equipped with skilled data analytic teams that can wrangle, harmonize and interpret such complex datasets. A learner that completes a course of study using this textbook will have the competency and ability to manage the data, generate a protocol for deriving biomarkers, and provide an actionable decision support system. The results of this protocol will help the physician understand the entire patient dataset and assist in making a holistic evidence-based, data-driven, clinical diagnosis.

- To improve the return on investment for their shareholders, a healthcare manufacturer needs to forecast the demand for their product subject to environmental, demographic, economic, and bio-social sentiment data (Big Data). The organization's data-analytics team is tasked with developing a protocol that identifies, aggregates, harmonizes, models and analyzes these heterogeneous data elements to generate a trend forecast. This system needs to provide an automated, adaptive, scalable, and reliable prediction of



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