From practice to theory in data science at Amazon
by
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Amazon

Location: South Hall 202
Date: Monday, March 14
Time: 2-4 pm

Abstract
In this talk I will discuss examples of how Amazon serves
customers and improves efficiency using learning algorithms applied to
large-scale datasets, and open research questions that are inspired by
these applications. These questions are unsolved issues that arise
repeatedly and should be the topic of more research in the academic
community. One research question is how to learn multilabel classifiers in
time that is sublinear in the number of features, of examples, and of
labels. Another is how to distinguish between users that are influenceable,
versus merely likely to respond. A third question is how to measure and
maximize the long-term benefit of movie recommendations and other
recommendations. Note: All information in the talk will be already publicly
available, and any opinions expressed will be strictly personal.

Bio

Charles Elkan is on leave from being a professor of computer science
at the University of California, San Diego, working as Amazon Fellow and
leader of machine learning for Amazon in Seattle and Silicon Valley. In the
past, he has been a visiting associate professor at Harvard and a
researcher at MIT. His published research has been mainly in machine
learning, data science, and computational biology; the MEME algorithm that
he developed with Ph.D. students has been used in over 3000 published
research projects in biology and computer science. He is fortunate to have
had inspiring undergraduate and graduate students who are in leadership
positions now such as vice president at Google and professor at the
University of Washington.