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Online vs Offline Learning

SUBTLE BUT IMPORTANT
DIFFERENCE



01

Online Learning

Online Learning is an approach that ingests data one observation at a time i.e. the data becomes available in real-time in a sequential manner, one example at a time. For example: Real-time recommendation system on amazon.com where Amazon learns from each purchase you make and recommends similar products.



Offline Learning



Offline Learning aka Batch Learning is an approach that ingests all the data at one time to build a model i.e. all the data is statically available. For example, you downloading an entire dataset and running your model using it.

03

Which one is better?



Each one has its own advantages. Online Learning is time critical so you may not be able to use all the data to train your model whereas in offline learning you won't be able to learn in real time.

Tips from team at Robofied



Quite often companies use a hybrid approach in which they train the models both online and offline. They would learn a model offline from static data to interpret global patterns and then incorporate real-time data for online learning.

For instance, Twitter could learn a model offline to analyze sentiments on a global scale and if an event is happening at a particular place, it could use an online learning model on top of the already learned model to interpret real-time sentiments of the event.



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