

Book Summary

Insight-Driven Problem Solving: Analytics Science to Improve the World

Book Description

An intriguing tour of the main ideas in analytics and how they have impacted the world around us.

About the Author

Soroush Saghafian is a professor at Harvard University. He is the founder and director of the Public Impact Analytics Science Lab (PIAS-Lab) at Harvard, which is devoted to advancing and applying the science of analytics for solving societal problems that can have public impact. His teaching at Harvard focuses on machine learning and big data analytics tools for solving societal problems. His research has appeared numerous times in the media, and he has received various notable awards for his work.

Book Summary

The book delves into the evolution of analytics science and its application to pressing societal challenges, such as improving public policies, enhancing AI systems, reducing crime, optimizing healthcare efficiency, addressing climate change, managing pandemics, and stabilizing supply chains.

Saghafian, a Professor at Harvard University and founder of the Public Impact Analytics Science Lab (PIAS-Lab), brings a wealth of experience in applying operations research, machine learning, and data science to real-world problems. His work has been recognized for its practical impact, particularly in healthcare systems.

Given its comprehensive approach to analytics and its relevance to current global issues, this book would be a valuable addition for readers interested in data science, public policy, and the application of analytics to societal challenges.

Is the book worth buying?

Absolutely—here's why *Insight-Driven Problem Solving: Analytics Science to Improve the World* by Professor Soroush Saghafian is worth buying:

1. **Real-world relevance, not academic abstraction.** This isn't just another book on analytics or optimization. Saghafian takes the tools of operations research, machine learning, and decision science and shows how they can actually improve public policy, healthcare delivery, crisis management, and even reduce societal inequities. If you've ever asked, "How can analytics make the world better?"—this book answers that.
2. **Written by a top scholar who builds for public impact.** As a Harvard professor and founder of the Public Impact Analytics Science Lab, Saghafian is deeply embedded in both rigorous science and policy implementation. You're learning from someone

whose work has influenced hospital systems, government agencies, and global organizations.

3. **It's not just about what analytics can do—it's about how to do it right.** The book bridges insight and action. You'll walk away not just inspired but better equipped to tackle problems with data in a way that is ethical, thoughtful, and societally beneficial.
4. **A rare combination: theory, case studies, and vision.** Expect a mix of conceptual depth, real-world case applications, and future-forward ideas—ideal whether you're a data scientist, policymaker, health leader, or just someone who wants to be a better problem solver.

Summary: If you're someone who values meaningful, insight-driven work—and wants to make a real difference—this book will be a guide, a toolkit, and a source of lasting inspiration.