Machines that learn

John Lafferty teaches computers to extract knowledge from data, almost on their own.

Learning a subject well means moving beyond the recitation of facts to a deeper knowledge that can be applied to new problems. Designing computers that can transcend rote calculations to more nuanced understanding has challenged scientists for years. Only in the past decade have researchers found the tools to extract items from a vast collection and raise them to the surface for human use.

“Machine learning draws on and pushes forward both of these disciplines.”

—John Lafferty