

The Data Science Track

Jeffrey Leek

May 17, 2016

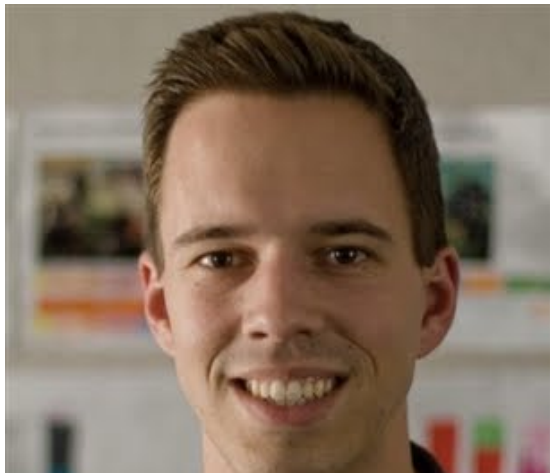
Why do data science?

“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”



The key challenge in data science

“Ask yourselves, what problem have you solved, ever, that was worth solving, where you knew all of the given information in advance? Where you didn’t have a surplus of information and have to filter it out, or you didn’t have insufficient information and have to go find some?”



About us

Data intensive statistics in biology and medicine

- ▶ Brian Caffo
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- ▶ Twitter [[@rdpeng](https://twitter.com/rdpeng)](<https://twitter.com/rdpeng>)
- ▶ Github <https://github.com/rdpeng>

Why data science?



Why data science?

McKinsey Global Institute



June 2011

Big data: The next frontier for innovation, competition, and productivity

[http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/
big_data_the_next_frontier_for_innovation](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/big_data_the_next_frontier_for_innovation)

Why statistical data science?

The New York Times

For Today's Graduate, Just One Word: Statistics


By **STEVE LOHR**


Published: August 5, 2009

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — At Harvard, Carrie Grimes majored in anthropology and archaeology and ventured to places like Honduras, where she studied Mayan settlement patterns by mapping where artifacts were found. But she was drawn to what she calls “all the computer and math stuff” that was part of the job.

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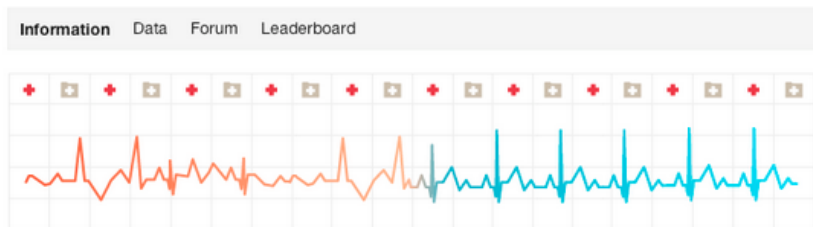
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`http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/06/technology/06stats.
html?_r=0`

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Why are you lucky?



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COMPETITION GOAL

Identify patients who will be admitted to a hospital within the next year, using historical claims data.

Heritage Health Prize

Why R?

The New York Times

Business Computing

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Capital One

WORLD

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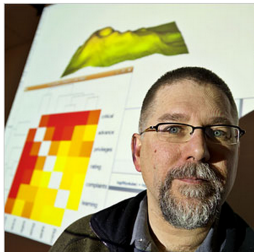
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Goldman Sachs

Data Analysts Captivated by R's Power



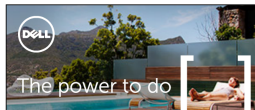
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What's Popular Now

Amiri Baraka, Polarizing Poet and Playwright, Dies at 79



'Very Sad' Chris Christie Extends Apology in Bridge Scandal



<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/07/technology/business-computing/07program.html?pagewanted=all>

Why R?

- ▶ It is free
- ▶ It has a comprehensive set of packages
- ▶ Data access
- ▶ Data cleaning
- ▶ Analysis
- ▶ Data reporting
- ▶ It has one of the best development environments - Rstudio
<http://www.rstudio.com/>
- ▶ It has an amazing ecosystem of developers
- ▶ Packages are easy to install and “play nicely together”

Who is a data scientist?



Daryl Morey

Who is a data scientist?



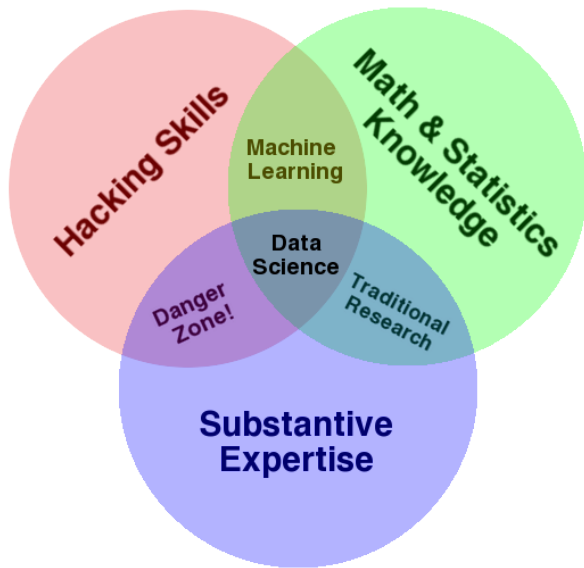
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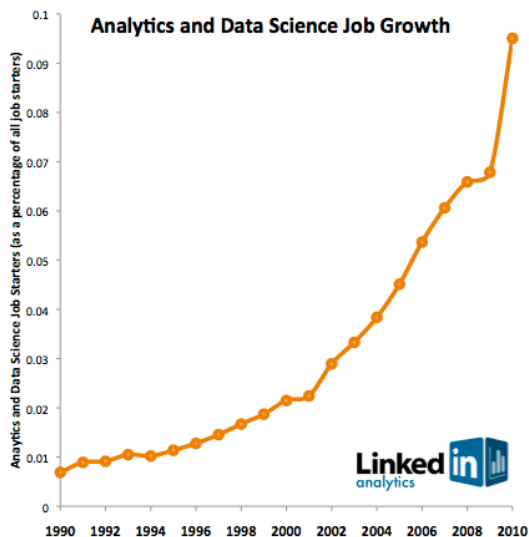


Our goal



Drew Conway

Plus jobs



<http://radar.oreilly.com/2011/09/building-data-science-teams.html>

This course

- ▶ Introducing you to the track
- ▶ Getting tools set up
- ▶ Giving you basic background