

Counting things (02-04)

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Soc 596: Computational Social Science



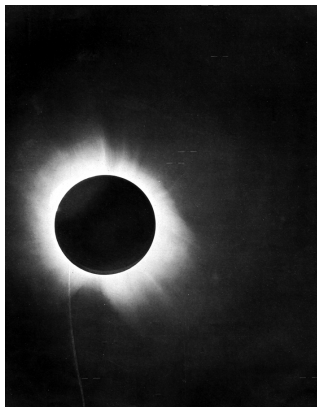
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What to count?

- ▶ Interesting
- ▶ Important

- ▶ Theory-driven data analysis
- ▶ Data-driven theorizing



What makes this interesting and important is not in the data itself

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1919_eclipse_positive.jpg

WHY YOU CAN'T FIND A TAXI IN THE RAIN AND OTHER LABOR SUPPLY LESSONS FROM CAB DRIVERS*

HENRY S. FARBER

Farber 2015. "Why you can't find a taxi in the rain and other labor supply lessons from cab drivers." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*,
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjv026>

- ▶ Strategic research site (Merton)

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- ▶ Best-case for big data

Careful counting of hours worked and hourly wages
Better data leads to better estimate

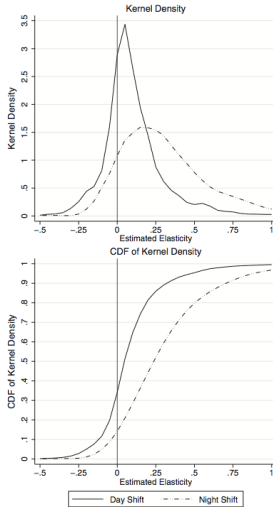
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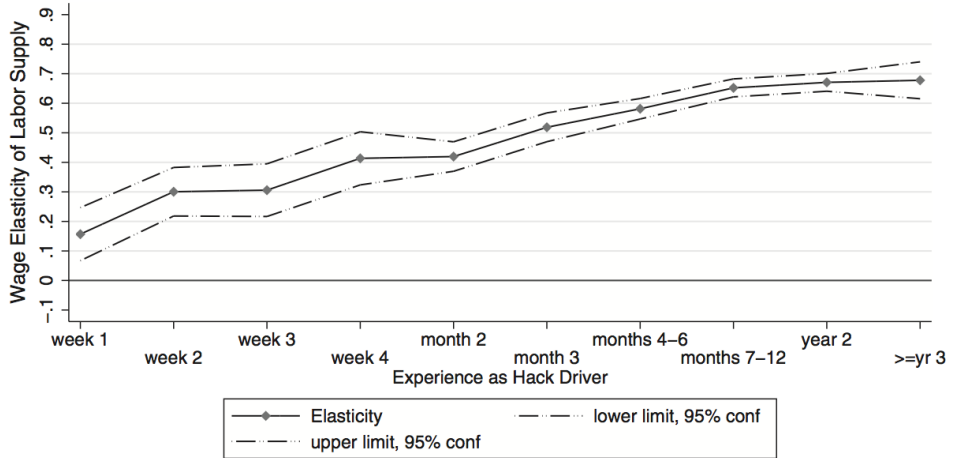
heterogeneity, mechanisms

Key ideas from social science:
heterogeneity, mechanisms

Kernel Density and CDF, IV Estimates of Individual Elasticities



New Drivers — All Shifts



Compare this to everything else people have done with NYC taxi data