Finding answers

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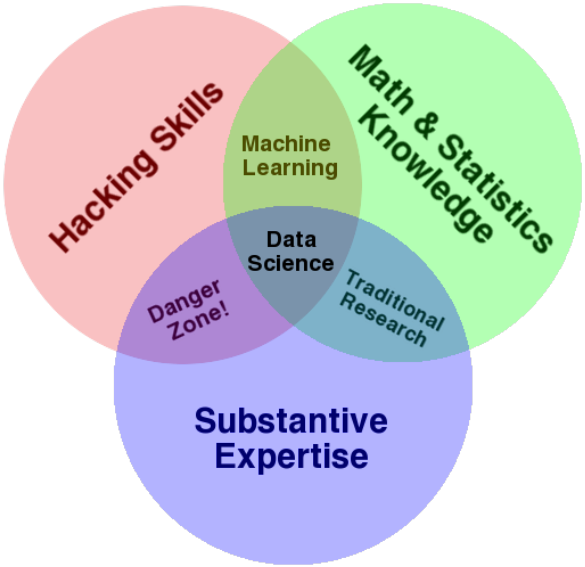
One of the key data science traits



Drew Conway

Key characteristics of hackers

- Willing to find answers on their own
- Knowledgeable about where to find answers on their own
- Unintimidated by new data types or packages
- Unafriad to say they don't know the answer
- *Polite but relentless*

Google knows it too

Where to look for different types of questions

- R programming (see also: http://bit.ly/Ufaadn)
  - Search the archive of the class forums
  - Read the manual/help files
  - Search on the web
  - Ask a skilled friend
  - Post to the class forums
  - Post to the R mailing list or Stackoverflow
- Data Analysis/Statistics
  - Search the archive of the class forums
  - Search on the web
  - Ask a skilled friend
  - Post to the class forums

A note on Googling data science questions

- The best place to start for general questions is the forums
- Stackoverflow (use the tag "[r]"),R mailing list for software questions, CrossValidated for more general questions
- Otherwise Google "[data type] data analysis" or "[data type] R package"
- Try to identify what data analysis is called for your data type
  - Biostatistics for medical data
  - Data Science for data from web analytics
  - Machine learning for data in computer science/computer vision
  - Natural language processing for data from texts
  - Signal processing for data from electrical signals
  - Business analytics for data on customers
  - Econometrics for economic data
  - Statistical process control for data about industrial processes

Credits

- Roger's Getting Help Video
- Inspired by Eric Raymond's "How to ask questions the smart way"