Since most of my work has been geared toward Data Engineering, it seems that I am drawn to more human interest stories that came up at social gatherings, work and reading.

# Is the relationship between economic growth and unemployment rate (Okun’s Law) more than just a past observation?

Moore’s Law on chip density growth and Murphy’s Law on system failure were general observations that became self-fulfilling production goals, an excuse, or a product maintenance creed. In the early 1960s, Economist Arthur M Okun proposed a relationship or rule-of-thumb that showed a negative correlation between GDP growth and unemployment. The simplicity of Okun’s Law is its use of two important macroeconomic variables. While Okun’s Law has some empirical support, especially in the short term, the longevity of Okun’s law has been in the recalculation of its coefficient over time.

While there are differences with Okun’s law coefficient during recessions and economic expansions, there looks to be are general trends within recessions and expansions. So, are there statistical trends between different recession times, between different expansions times, and general trends shared by both recessions and expansions periods? (Transitions between recessions and expansions (and vice versa) are not planned to be discussed) Also, with the reported high speed of change today, will Okun’s coefficient have less stability in today’s modern times?

To include Okun’s samples, the recessions and expansions from post WWII, 1948, to present times will be the sample range. Particularly, the focus will be difference of stability for Okun’s coefficient over three periods: 1948 to 1974, between 70s and early 90s, and the 90s to today. Also, utilizing that recent expansions have been longer on average, can it be shown that there more stability the longer an expansion (or contraction) continues?

The difference version of Okun’s law, which measures over a set number of years, will be used to avoid complications in the gap version that requires assumptions from unobserved macroeconomic variables. A quick look will be done to see if varying the years in the difference version will show a noticeable difference or show a better numbers of year to use. US Federal economic data will be used for unemployment and real output, where real output was gross national product (GNP) prior to 1992 and gross domestic product (GDP) thereafter. Future studies might be done comparing US results with the same results on Germany’s “more stable economy”.

# Cuban Umpire not judged fairly by MLB

CINCINNATI (CN) – A Cuban-born baseball umpire claims in a federal discrimination lawsuit that Major League Baseball routinely denies promotions to Latino umpires under its chief baseball officer, who was named to the post in 2011 and oversees all of the league’s umpires. The Cuban-born umpire’s evaluations for the years from 2001 to 2010 were outstanding, with the MLB recognizing his work by awarding him multiple postseason assignments from 2002 through 2010. Major League Baseball’s attitude toward Hernandez changed in 2011 when Joe Torre arrived. “Instead of promoting Hernandez to the position of crew chief, Major League Baseball chose instead to promote individuals who were white and were not as qualified as Hernandez,” the lawsuit states.

[may want to step out of the detail on umpire pitch call. Even though many fan sites and comments reference data collect thru Pitch f/x, comparing umpires pitch calling may be for another time. Need to get back to review comparing current crew chief (game day managing umpire) proficiency with minority umpires.]

With the amount of data collected for MLB and by media, all umpires proficiency by experience and race over their careers could be extrapolated and shown. Audience law firm primary , and media secondary.

Umpires, Years umpiring and Race can MLB Umpire Roster (<http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/umpires/roster.jsp>) gaps on Race or country of origin can be found on links in Wikipedia or Umpires home pages.

The first inclination is to look at the home-plate umpire call quality. While pitch calling is big part of the game and interesting large dataset, there are other umpiring positions and there seems to be little difference between plat umpires.

Proficiency 1 (home plate) While Bloomberg did a nice job empirically rating home plate strikes and balls. It does not differentiate between ¼ , ½ or 2 inches outside of the batter’s strike zone. Even without adding a degree of bad call, the variance between home plate umpires does not seem to be a smoking gun, 87% +- 3% (<https://www.bloomberg.com/businessweek/graphics/baseballs-worst-call-of-the-day/#/umpires/ranking/2016>)

Might want to look at the off pitches

 With the introduction of PITCHf/x in stadiums around the league a decade ago, every pitch location as it crosses home plate is tracked, and every umpire ball or strike decision is recorded <http://gd2.mlb.com/components/game/mlb/year_2017/month_04/day_06/gid_2017_04_06_colmlb_milmlb_1/inning/inning_1.xml>

Proficiency 2 (calls out side of balls and strikes)

Game statists

Handicapping? Can one review as an expectation guide? <http://www.statfox.com/mlb/umpirereport.asp?sortby=umpire>

# Is the Kansas City medical care gear to last minute health care?

[Needs additional work]

Are Medical appointments weighted to Emergency Room visits, vs regular In Patient, or Ambulatory visits. Has this change in the few years of AHCA (Obama Care) Is there a difference between patient with health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, ADC (Aid to dependent children), and no insurance. Is there a social/race/economic dependency? Have the trends for the time patients seek care changed over time?

[need to look for data sources]

May be able to ask friend for nationwide Healthcare data pool. Audience politicians and/or media

Look for other studies.

Look at city or state look at the size of the area to countries.

Social economic

Is the US medical industry profiting from non-preventive health care?