



# INTERVIEW MYTHBUSTING

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SV Python Workshop  
June 2021



# 01

YOU'RE THE  
ONE BEING  
INTERVIEWED



# INTERVIEWS ARE TWO-WAY STREETS

They're interviewing you and you're interviewing them.

Recruiting great candidates is hard and they need to fill this role!





## TEAM

Who are your teammates? Will you be proud to be a part of this team?



## TYPE OF WORK

What are you going to be doing day-to-day? What kind of projects will you be owning?

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# WHAT YOU'RE EVALUATING

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## CULTURE

What are the company's values and do they align with your own?



## GROWTH

How are the company's growth prospects and how will your career grow within it?

An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts an interview process. Three stylized figures are shown from behind, holding up large whiteboards. The whiteboards contain simplified icons: a person silhouette, checkmarks, and horizontal lines representing text. The figures are standing on a grey floor, and their shadows are cast to the right. The background is a light grey wall. A diagonal line separates this illustration from the text on the right.

# 02

INTERVIEWERS  
ARE UNBIASED  
JUDGES OF  
SKILL

# LET'S HAVE SOME PERSPECTIVE



YOUR EXPECTATION



THEIR REALITY

# HOW TO STAND OUT

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- Ask clarifying questions when you're unsure
- Respond to questions with composure
- Be genuinely curious about the team
- Research the industry and prepare questions



# 03

TECHNICAL  
SKILLS ARE THE  
MOST  
IMPORTANT



# LET'S IMAGINE

You're asked to discuss how you would  
evaluate the performance of an XGBoost model

# GOOD ANSWER

## PRECISION

% of churn predictions we got right

## RECALL

% of churn cases we identified

## F1-SCORE

Harmonic mean of precision and recall

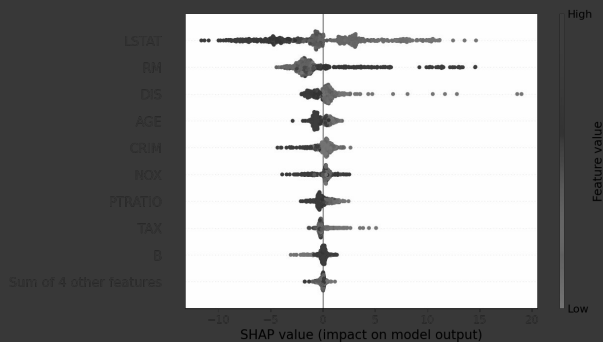
## CONFUSION MATRIX

Breakdown of TP/FP/TN/FN

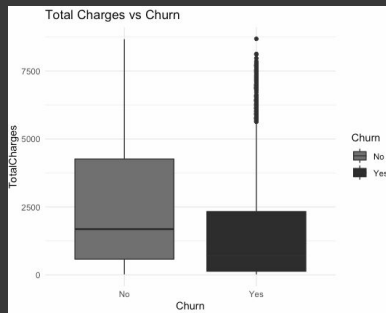
# SOME GREAT ANSWERS

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## THE EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONER

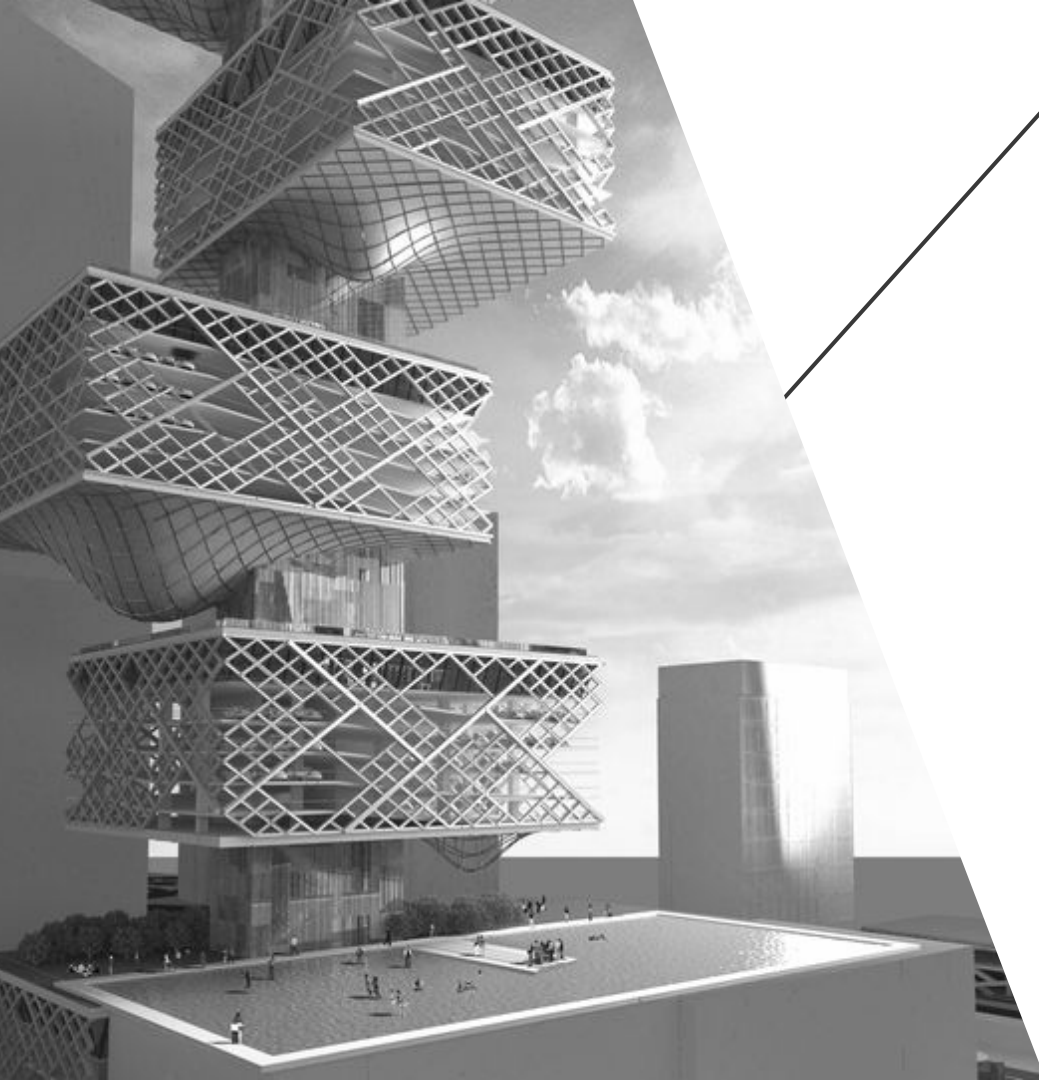


## THE CURIOUS PROBLEM-SOLVER



## THE DATA DIPLOMAT



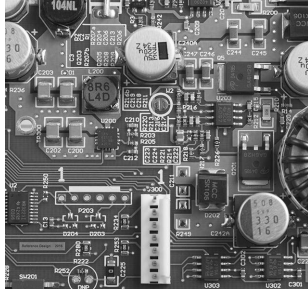


# 04

COMPLICATED  
THINGS ARE  
IMPRESSIVE

# WHEN ANSWERING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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## EXPECTATION

Finding ways to incorporate all the things you know gets you extra credit, right?



## REALITY

Wrong! Experienced engineers always seek to simplify.

AIM FOR ELEGANCE

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# GOOD REASONS FOR COMPLEXITY

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## PERFORMANCE

Complicated things *can* take longer to run, have a larger memory footprint, etc.

## MAINTAINABILITY

Complicated things are hard to maintain

## SCALABILITY

Does this code need to be refactored if the dataset grows? If more devs join the project?



# 05

YOU NEED TO  
HAVE A  
PORTFOLIO





**Andrew Ng** ✓

@AndrewYNg



Would love your feedback on this: AI Systems = Code (model/algorithm) + Data. Most academic benchmarks/competitions hold the Data fixed, and let teams work on the Code. Thinking of organizing something where we hold the Code fixed, and ask teams to work on the Data. (1/2)

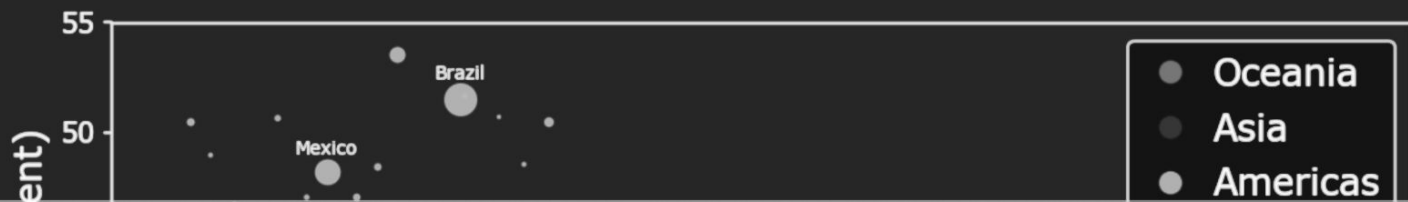
4:12 PM · May 24, 2021 · Twitter Web App

# Visualizing Global Poverty & Inequality

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017

I recently applied for a position at the [Center for Global Development](#), part of which involved a take-home exercise visualizing data from the [World Bank's Poverty and Equity Database](#). I figured I'd share the [code](#) and results here. That said, if you're *really* interested in learning about global poverty and inequality, I **highly recommend** checking out [Our World in Data](#), an excellent web publication by Max Roser.

The data, tracking various poverty and inequality measurements by country annually since 1975, is unfortunately extremely patchy, with about 90% of values missing. Even with interior interpolation, that only gets you to about 30%. If the assignment had allowed it, I'd recommend combining sources for a more complete dataset, but that's for another time. Despite the limitations, I'd like to think the figures I put together tell an interesting story. Enjoy!



# Side Projects



## OUTRUN

Synthwave-inspired adaptation of Sega's classic Outrun



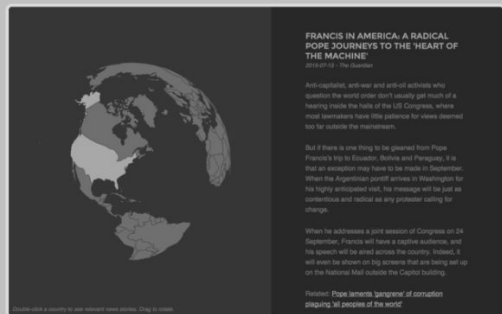
## WORD CUBE

Three-dimensional Boggle



## SKY HERO

Javascript clone of the classic NES game SkyShark



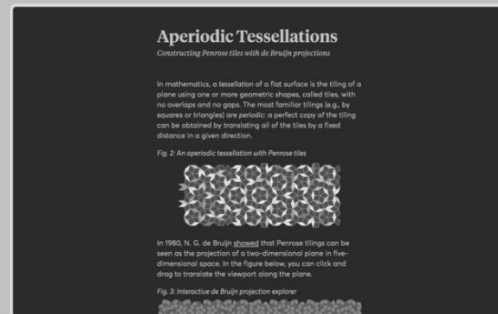
## WORLD NEWS

News from around the world, organized by country



## CURRENT STREAMFLOW IN N.C.

Provides paddlers with realtime streamflow data



## APERIODIC TESSELLATIONS

Constructing Penrose tiles with de Bruijn projections



# 06

A WRONG  
ANSWER MEANS  
NO JOB OFFER

GOOD  
INTERVIEWERS  
LOOK FOR SIGNAL

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# REFRAMING THE SITUATION

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## SITUATION

## REFRAME

Stumbled while solving a problem

Opportunity to show you can learn and recover

Having trouble understanding the question

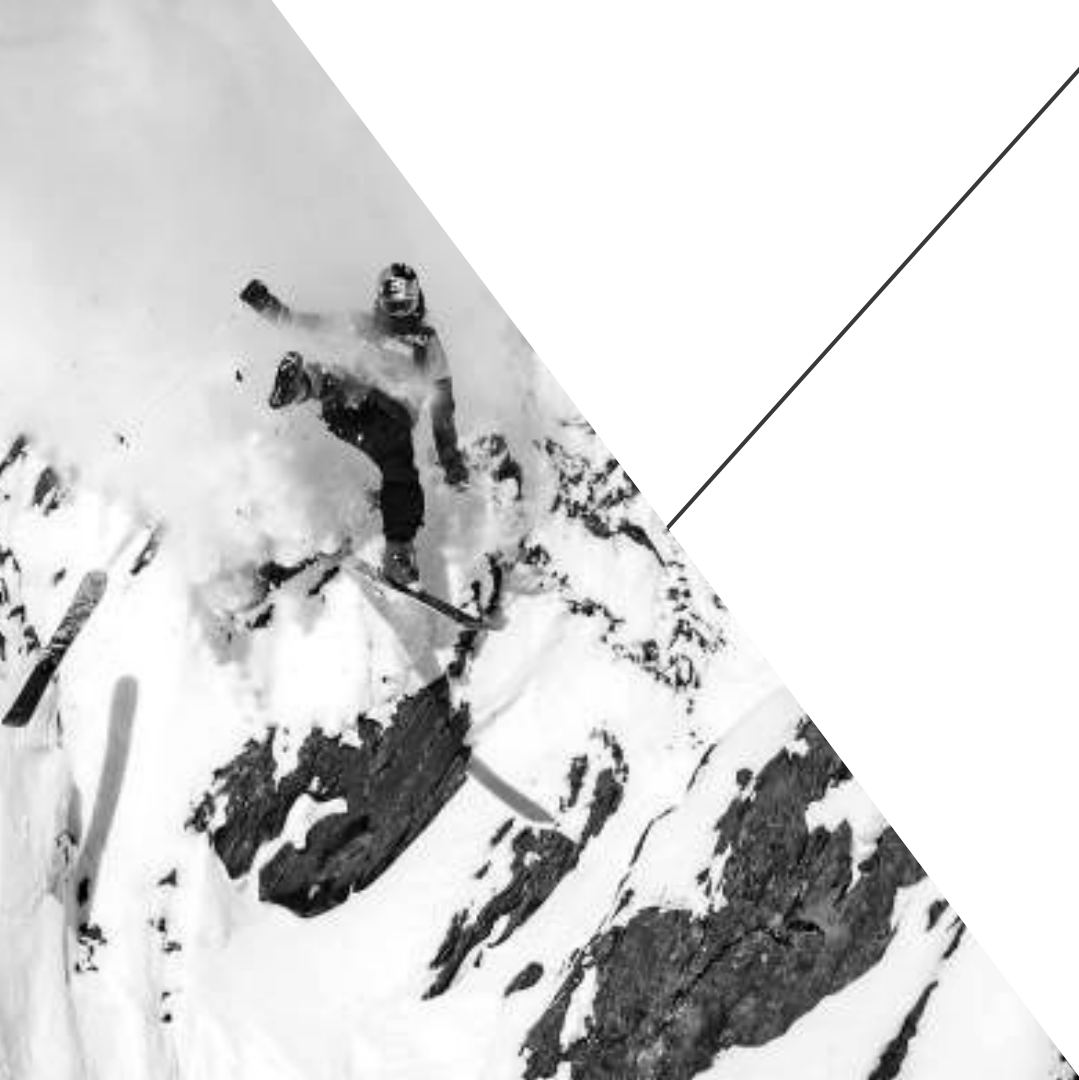
Opportunity to demonstrate communication skills

Feeling nervous

Opportunity to express how eager you are to work with this team

Unsure where to start

Opportunity to demonstrate how break down problems

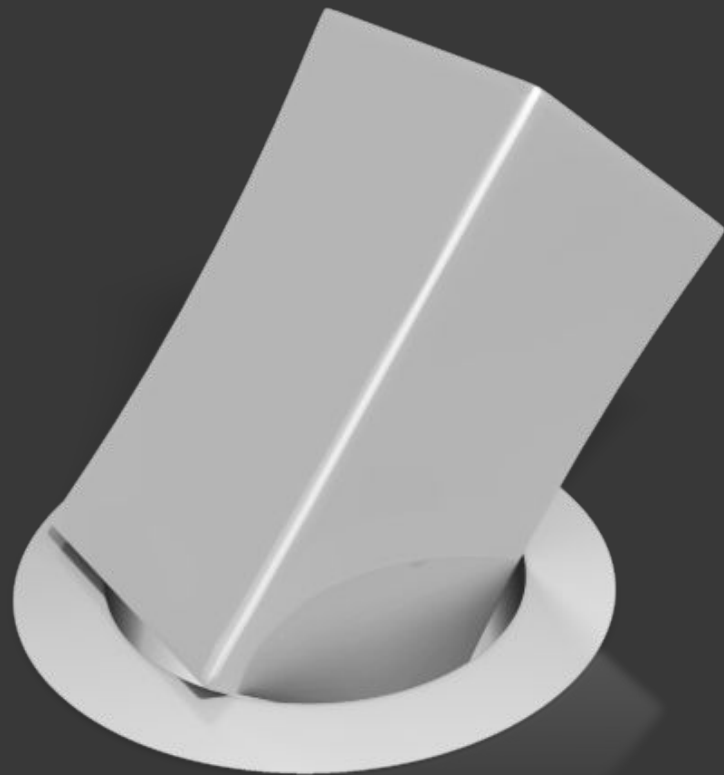


# 07

IF YOU DON'T  
GET AN OFFER,  
YOU WEREN'T  
GOOD  
ENOUGH

NOT EVERYBODY IS RIGHT  
FOR EVERYTHING,  
BUT **EVERYBODY** IS RIGHT  
FOR **SOMETHING**

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# 08

ONLY  
INTERVIEW  
WHEN YOU  
NEED A JOB

# KNOW YOUR WORTH

## Data Scientist Salaries

16,290 Salaries Updated May 23, 2021

 Very High  
Confidence

All industries



All company sizes

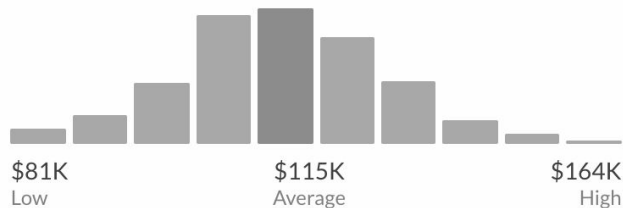


All years of Experie...



Average Base Pay

**\$115,299** / yr



\$81K  
Low

\$115K  
Average

\$164K  
High

Additional Cash Compensation 

Average

No Reports

Range

No Reports

How much does a Data Scientist make?

The national average salary for a Data Scientist is \$115,299 in United States. Filter by location to see... [More](#)

### Salaries for Related Job Titles

Big Data	\$104K
Data Analyst	\$68K
Data Scientist Intern	\$121K
Quantitative Analyst	\$109K
Senior Data Scientist	\$139K

INTERVIEWING  
IS A SKILL

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# PANEL DISCUSSION



FIRST...

What's something you do now that you didn't do when you were first interviewing?

AND FOR FUN...

Who's the most famous AI scientist you've met?

QUESTIONS?

