How To Get Started in Data Science

ABIGAIL HADDAD

Learn skills

Do projects

Be able to talk about them

Who I Am

Kenyon Economics

Public Policy Ph.D.

Lead Data Scientist

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Agenda

What do you do in a 'data science' job?

How much math do you need to know?

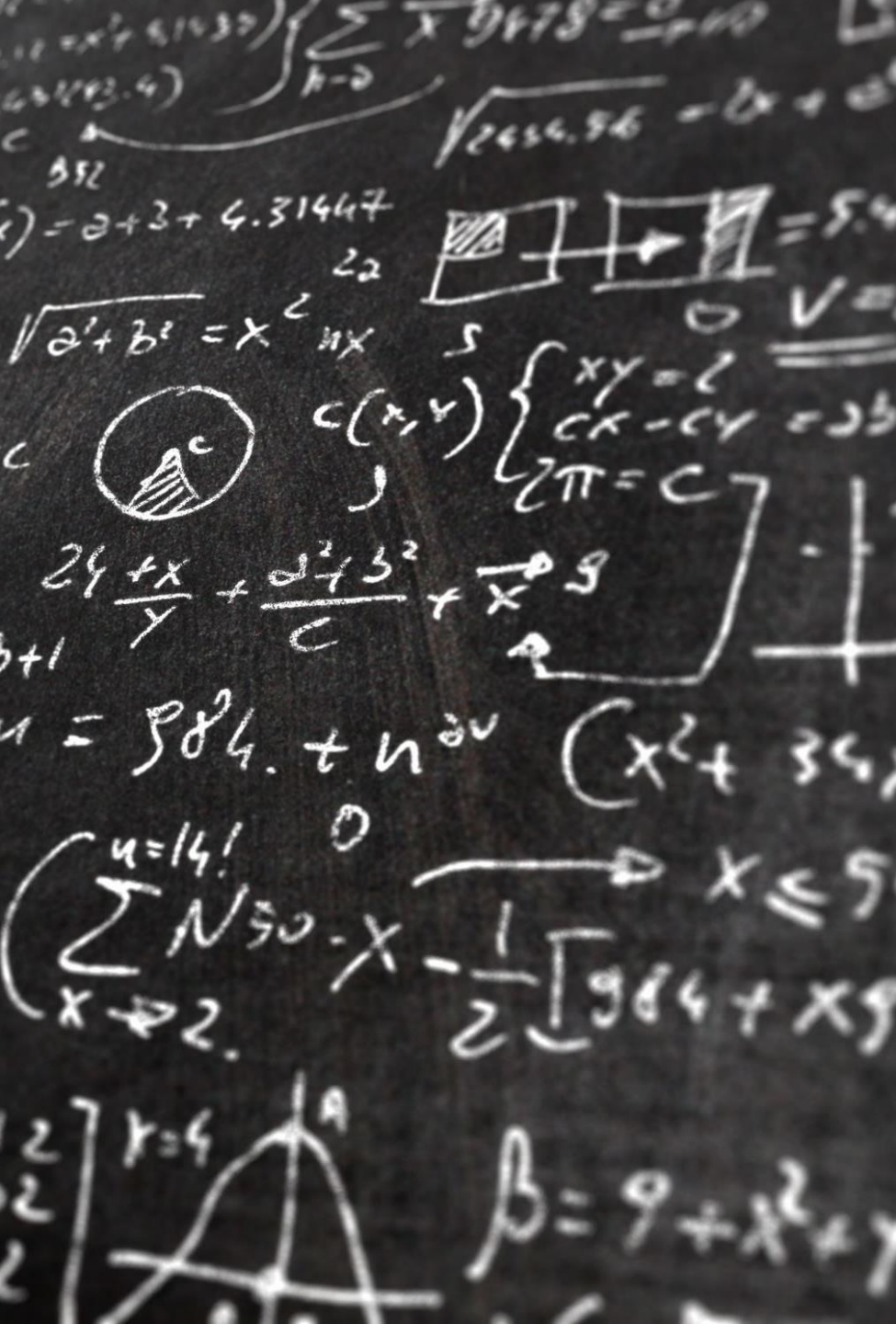Python vs. R

How to learn the basics

Job searching

Preparing for interviews

Writing good-enough code

You will always have to learn new skills

What Do You Do In A 'Data Science' Job?

- **Getting data**
- **Cleaning data**
- **Analysis and modelling**
- **Visualization**
- **Managing code**
- **Talking to people**
- **Writing**

How Much Math Do You Need To Know?

Algebra, statistics, probability – but really well
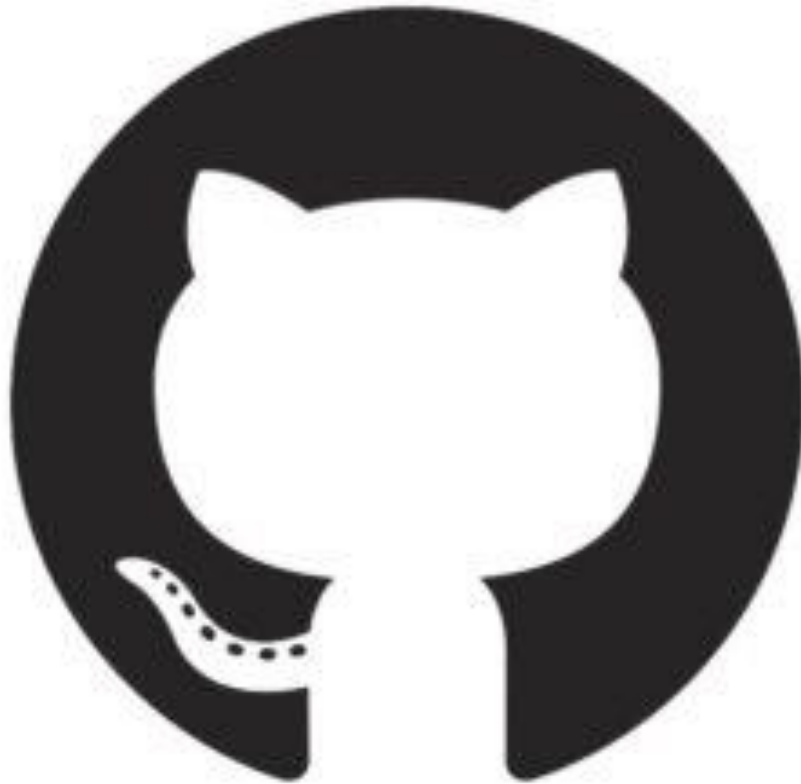
Should I learn Python or R?

Yes.

How Do I Learn The Basics?

- Boot camps
- Classes
- Certificates
- Books like Learn Python the Hard Way
- -Practice with leetcode/hackerrank

Be careful with master's degrees

Do Projects

-Anything you're interested in

-Good code

-GitHub

ACCURATE **TRANSPARENT** **REPEATABLE**

Good-Enough Code

Practices for Achieving That

Automating everything – doing all the steps in your code

Version **control**

Documentation

Isolation**/containerization**

Modular code/packaging your code

Test cases

Coding standards

Code review

Apply to jobs like this early in your career

Qualifications

- Ability to program using SAS, R, Python, or Stata for data management and analysis
- Exceptional problem-solving abilities with an understanding of statistical methods
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to produce careful and detail-oriented work
- Ability to work in a team environment

Education Requirements

BA/BS in statistics, biostatistics, economics, mathematics, quantitative social sciences, or related field required; MA/MS preferred.

Interview Failure Modes

Listing skills you don't have

Not being able to talk about what you did

The future!

No code/low-code

AI

Changing field requiring new skills

Questions

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