**What Inspires You as a Data Scientist?**

And just like that, it’s a new year! We hope you’ve been enjoying the first few days of 2023.

We know that many data scientists embark on new adventures and ambitious projects this time of year, and every new endeavor is also an opportunity to enhance our skills or acquire new ones.

Learning is at the core of any type of growth, professional or otherwise, but there are many other goals that motivate our readers. To help those of you who are just starting out in the field (or thinking about it), our [January Edition offered a collection of resources](https://towardsdatascience.com/january-edition-becoming-better-learners-a595626554d6) for becoming a better learner.

As a complement to that roundup, we dedicate the first Variable of the year to recent articles that will inspire you to take action and give you fresh ideas to explore in the coming months. Enjoy!

* [**Harness the power of data for environmental change**](https://towardsdatascience.com/understanding-climate-variability-d987097b5bc7). No data scientist will singlehandedly solve the climate crisis, which is why growing the community of climate-aware practitioners is so crucial.

[Maybritt Schillinger](https://medium.com/u/dba4029558b7?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

contributes to this effort with a TDS debut that brings together physics, statistics, and time-series analysis to better understand climate variability.

* [**A few simple decisions can produce a major cumulative effect on your career**](https://towardsdatascience.com/10-simple-things-you-can-do-to-improve-your-data-science-skills-in-2023-af274dc513da). New year’s resolutions tend to be big and splashy — and easy to forget come February. Instead,

[Murtaza Ali](https://medium.com/u/607fa603b7ce?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

proposes 10 concrete ideas—from learning to design a user study to choosing a personal project— that can help you become a stronger, more well-rounded data scientist.

* [**Is it time to push for a role switch?**](https://towardsdatascience.com/making-the-jump-from-data-analyst-to-data-scientist-in-2023-74e2cf7fc139)If you’re a data analyst who sees themselves as a future data scientist,

[Mary Newhauser](https://medium.com/u/6b27bdb820b9?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

’s guide is a must-read: it covers the ins and outs of transitioning between these roles. (It’s also a very useful resource if the career change you’re thinking about is a different one.)

* [**A more diverse tech sector won’t come about without action**](https://towardsdatascience.com/the-value-of-diversity-in-tech-c37d3b0d60c7). Are you a data professional working in industry, and aren’t sure how to promote inclusion in your organization?

[Thomas A Dorfer](https://medium.com/u/7c54f9b62b90?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

’s primer on the benefits of diverse teams is a good place to start, and might help you launch important conversations with stakeholders.

* [**Get better not just at problem-solving — but also at problem-preventing**](https://towardsdatascience.com/sssneaky-data-problems-that-creep-in-over-time-9394da10b9c9). For many of you who work on data products for internal (and maybe even external) users, keeping things chugging along smoothly isn’t some humdrum activity; it’s at the very core of your work.

[Marian Nodine](https://medium.com/u/929a3612398a?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

’s latest article tackles the root causes of data drift and bit rot and explains how to approach them with an eye towards long-term sustainability.

If you’re coming out of the holiday season with some extra energy—or at least a not-yet-full agenda—we encourage you to carve out some time for these other recent standouts:

* [Carolina Bento](https://medium.com/u/e960c0367546?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

is back with a new easy-to-follow (yet also very thorough) tutorial, this one on [ROC analysis and the area under the curve](https://towardsdatascience.com/roc-analysis-and-the-auc-area-under-the-curve-404803b694b9).

* The debate around AI-generated art will most certainly rage on in 2023;

[Steve Dennis](https://medium.com/u/150c3b7f6784?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

’s article [discusses the ethical tensions that have undermined this technological feat](https://towardsdatascience.com/the-ai-art-debate-excitement-fear-and-ethics-c04d30f338da), as well as ideas for resolving them.

* It’s not too late for one more 2022 retrospective—at least one as insightful as

[Prukalpa](https://medium.com/u/38a5ef6ab673?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

’s, who assesses [her own past predictions for the future of the modern data stack](https://towardsdatascience.com/what-i-got-wrong-looking-back-at-my-2022-predictions-for-the-modern-data-stack-f18a2b94f9f6).

* [Where is graph machine learning headed in the coming year](https://towardsdatascience.com/graph-ml-in-2023-the-state-of-affairs-1ba920cb9232)?

[Michael Galkin](https://medium.com/u/4d4f8ddd1e68?source=post_page-----ee43e922cae2--------------------------------)

covers the newest trends and developments you’ll need to keep track of in this ever-buzzing field.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our work. If you’d like to help TDS continue to publish great articles in 2023 and beyond, consider [becoming a Medium member](https://bit.ly/tds-membership).

Until the next Variable,

TDS Editors