

Novel Nexus

Helping Debut Authors get
Published

Andrew Mooney

Who am I?

- Writer, word enthusiast
- Data Scientist, number enthusiast
- Huge Science Fiction and Fantasy fan
- Unsuccessfully tried to find an agent for 4 separate novels



The background features a stylized landscape of white and light orange clouds against a pink-to-yellow gradient. Five blue rockets of varying sizes are scattered across the scene, some launching upwards and others positioned among the clouds. Small white stars are scattered across a purple-to-pink gradient sky at the top.

1.

Writer's Roadblock

When good books gather dust, not readers

Who Wants Your Book?

- Writing and rewriting is incredible and rewarding...but who is going to buy your book?
- Who is your target demographic?
- What genre does it fit into?
- What books is it similar to?

Finding a Literary Agent

- Why? They your industry champion
- Most publishing houses won't consider unsolicited manuscripts
- Finding them is hard. Most popular books' agents aren't looking for debut authors
- You need to write a kickass query letter
- It all starts with a BLURB





“Literary agents don’t take on every potential client who wants representation – unlike a lawyer or an accountant – because agents don’t get paid unless their clients get paid. So they need to be blown away or ‘hooked’ on a potential client’s project to take it on”

- Robert Lee Brewer, *Writer’s Digest*



A stylized background featuring a gradient from purple at the top to yellow at the bottom. Several white, semi-transparent clouds are scattered across the middle. Five blue rockets are shown launching vertically; three are in the foreground on the left and two are in the background on the right. Small white stars are scattered across the purple sky area.

2. Novel Nexus

A tool for finding agents

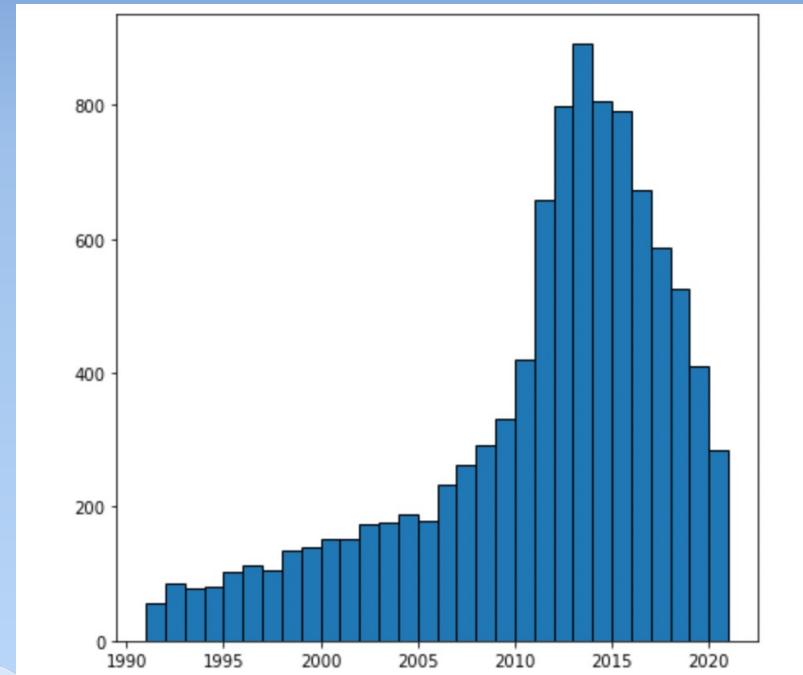
What Does it Do?

- Tells you the major Science Fiction subgenres and age demographics of your book blurb
- Tells you what words affected your scores to help you edit your work
- Tells you the top 10 books with the most similar descriptions to help you research agents



How Does it Work?

- Uses Natural Language Processing and machine learning to score your book description.
- Trained on 11,000 science fiction novels on Goodreads, mostly published in the last 30 years
- Uses TF-IDF vectorization – doesn't care about syntax, just words used



Data for Arcadium

Sub-Genre Scores

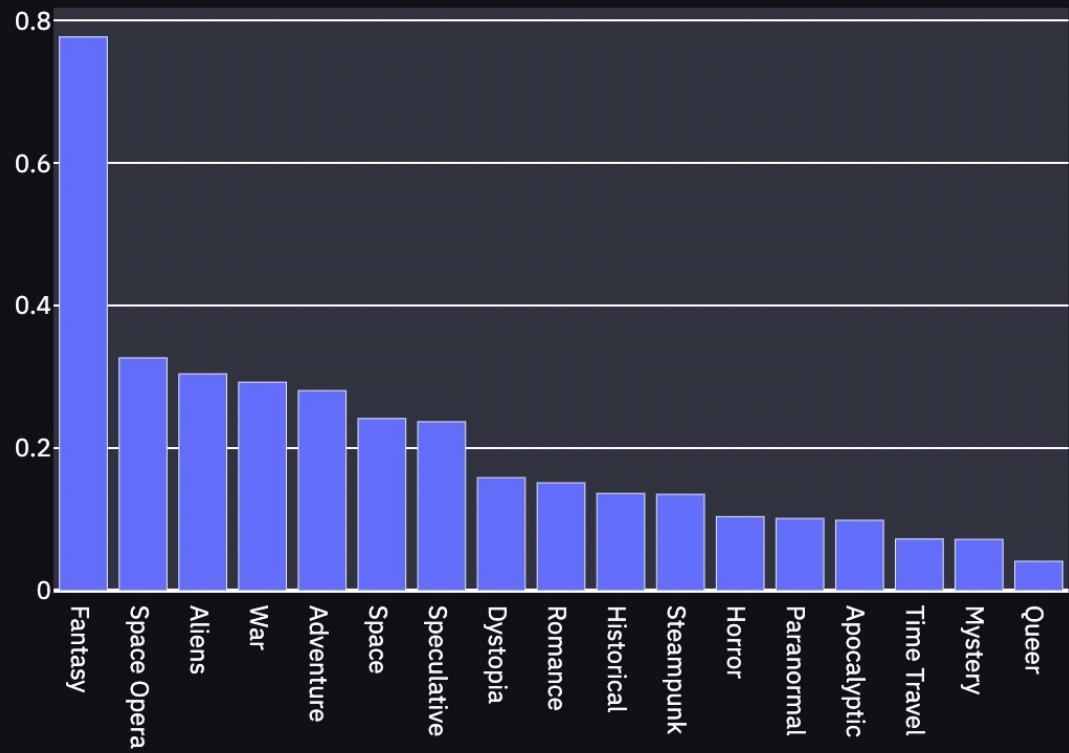
	Probabilities
Fantasy	0.7770
Space Opera	0.3266
Aliens	0.3042
War	0.2925
Adventure	0.2807
Space	0.2415
Speculative	0.2370
Dystopia	0.1586
Romance	0.1513
Historical	0.1365
Steampunk	0.1352

Important Words

	Value
planet	0.2811
political	0.2677
two	0.2573
years	0.2479
forced	0.2348
enemies	0.2343
part	0.2335
every	0.2004
way	0.1716
jack	0.1445
trilogy	0.1345

Age Group Scores

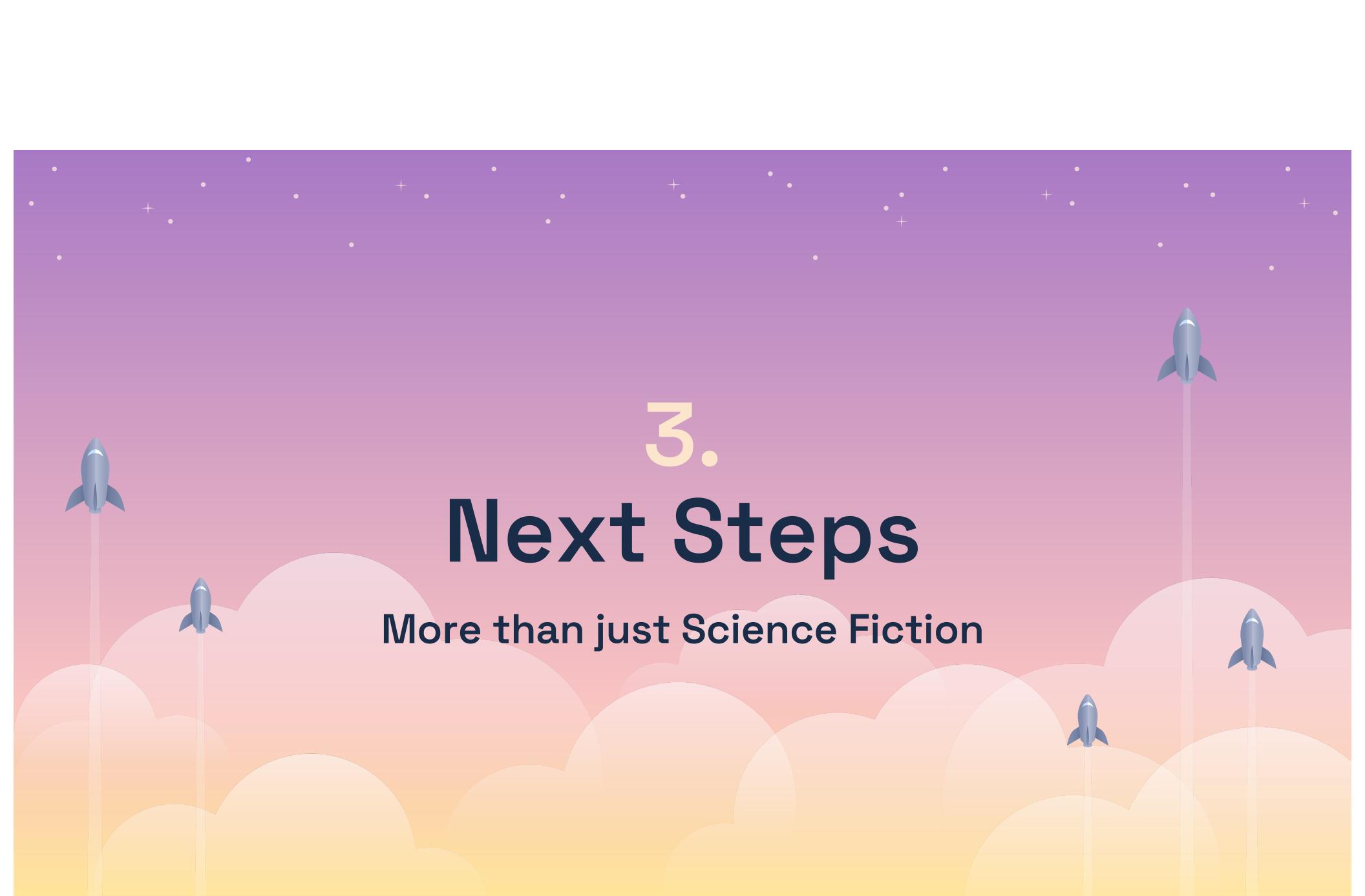
	Probabilities
Adult	0.8389
Young Adult	0.1499
Children	0.0112





Finding an Agent is Hard

You should use every tool available to you to make sure you find the right agent for you



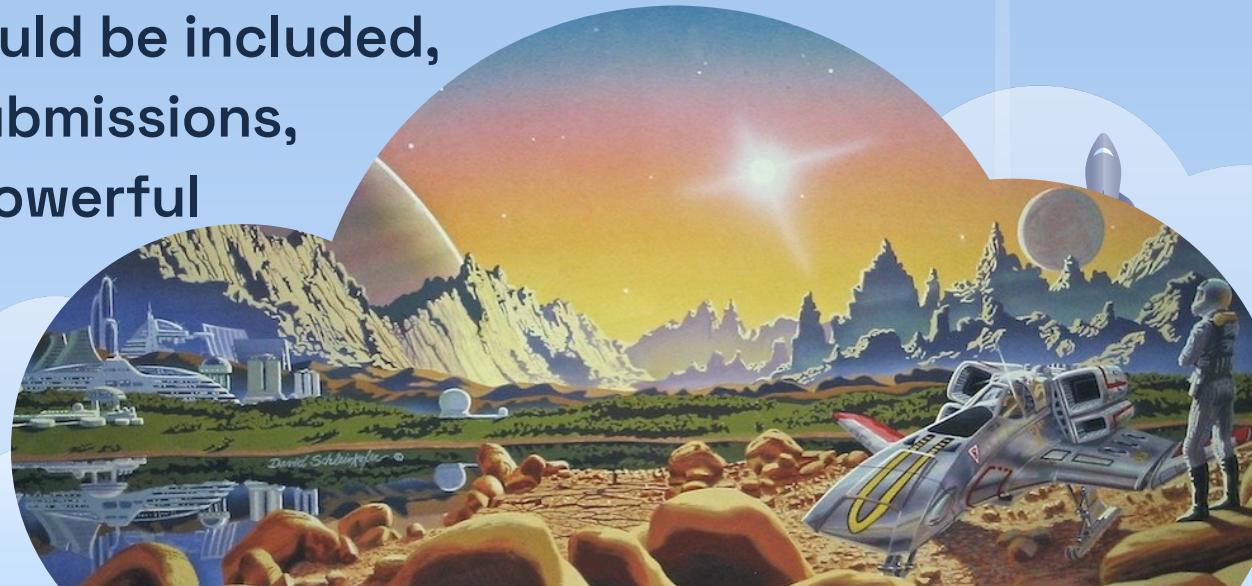
3.

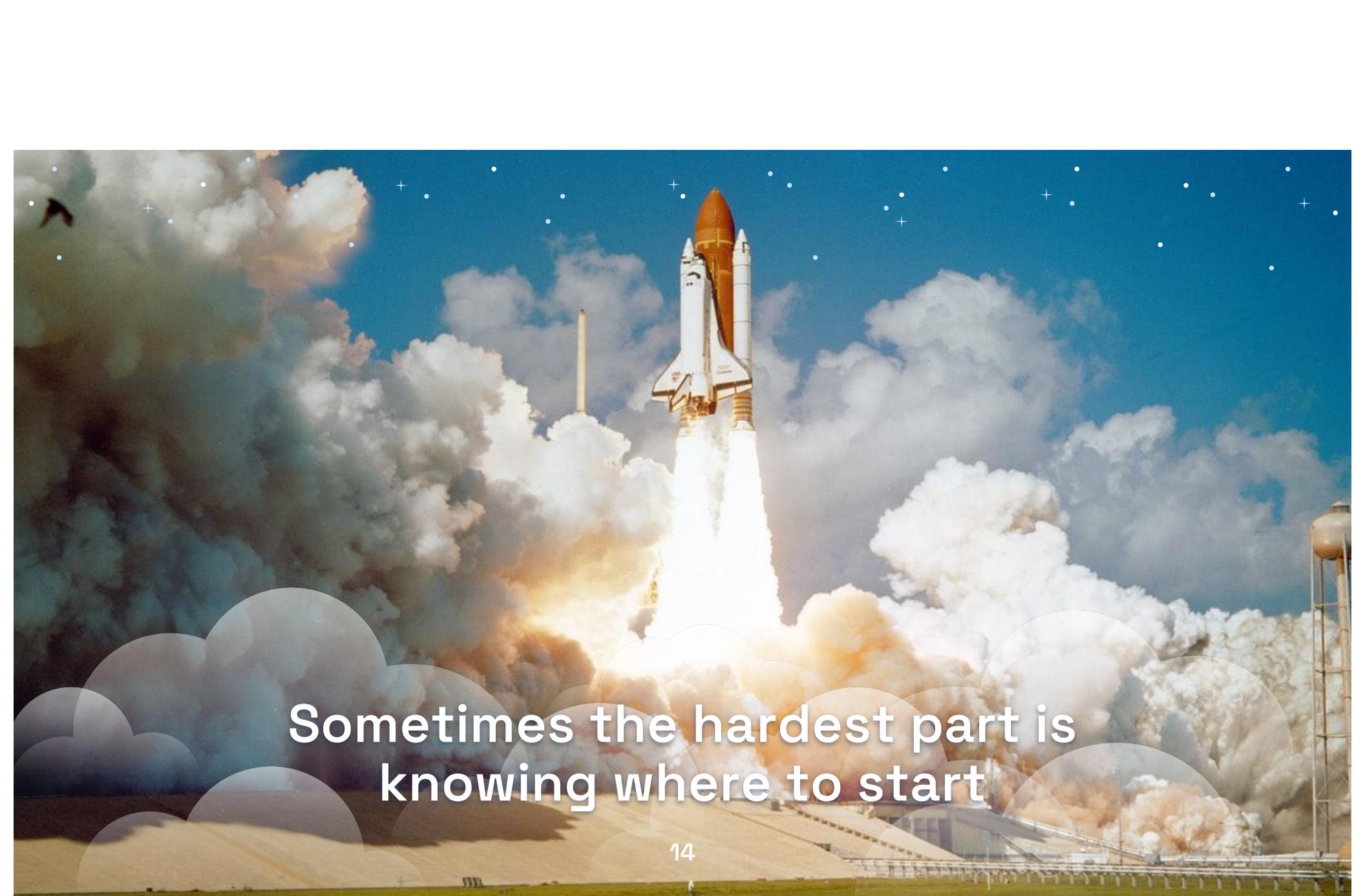
Next Steps

More than just Science Fiction

There's More Coming!

- With an expanded dataset, we can identify books from other genres like mysteries, thrillers and literary fiction
- If agent information could be included, such as openness to submissions, it could become very powerful





Sometimes the hardest part is
knowing where to start

Thank You!

Any questions?

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- github.com/andrewkmooney/

Novel_Genres

