

# DATA SCIENCE

## DATA-INFORMED SUPPLY CHAIN DECISIONS

Bradley C. Boehmke, Ph.D.  
September 14, 2016



# DATA SCIENCE

## DATA-INFORMED SUPPLY CHAIN DECISIONS

Bradley C. Boehmke, Ph.D.  
September 14, 2016

# AGENDA

- What is data science?
- Why do you care
- How is it different
- Air Force examples
- How do you grow this capability

# INTRODUCTION

*A little about me.*

**HELLO**  
my name is

**Brad**

 bradley.boehmke.4@us.af.mil

 bradleyboehmke@gmail.com

 LinkedIn

 @bradleyboehmke

# I AM WHO I AM

I'm a computational economist focused on applying data science to provide decision makers robust understanding of economic behavior, performance, and potential policy impacts across an organization.

# I AM WHO I AM

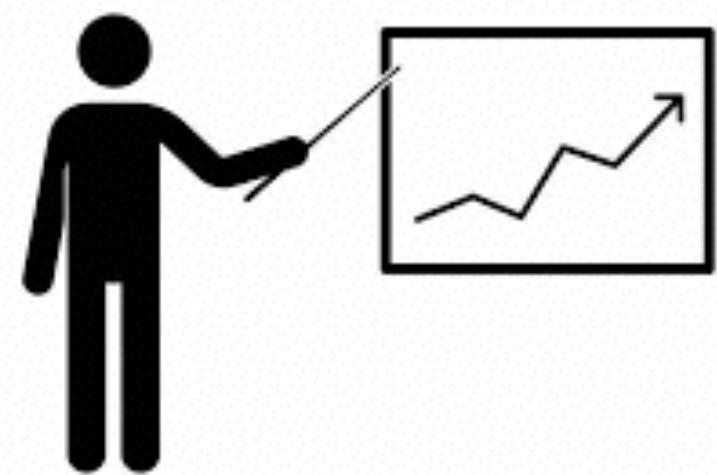
I'm a computational economist focused on applying data science to provide decision makers with insights into economic behavior, performance, and potential for an organization.



# THIS TIME WITH PICTURES

computational economist

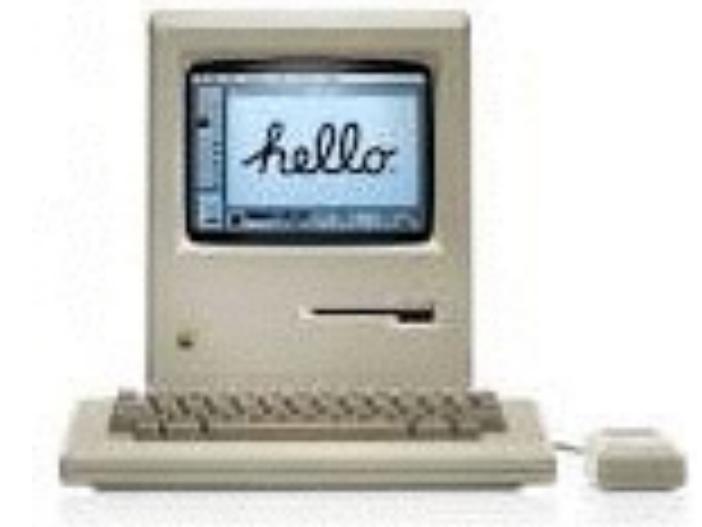
economics



management science



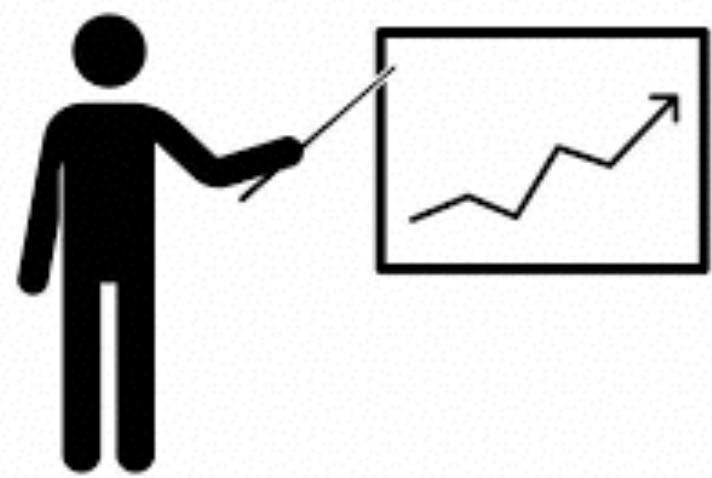
computers



# THIS TIME WITH PICTURES

computational economist

economics



management science



computers



I study human and organizational interactions to reveal how and why they behave in particular ways.

# THIS TIME WITH PICTURES

computational economist

economics



management science



computers



I apply statistical & analytical methods to analyze and solve organizational problems.

# THIS TIME WITH PICTURES

computational economist

economics



management science



computers



I use computer programming to get, clean, manipulate, analyze, and visualize data for economic and management science purposes and develop products to communicate my results.

# MY RELATIONSHIP TO YOU



# DATA SCIENCE

*So what is it?*

Statistics

Big data

Data mining

Artificial intelligence

Data science

Business intelligence

Machine learning

Predictive analytics

Interactive data visualization

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?



Statistics

Big data

Data mining

Artificial intelligence

Data science

Business intelligence

Machine learning

Predictive analytics

Interactive data visualization

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?



Statistics

Big data

Data mining

Artificial intelligence

Data science

Business intelligence

Machine learning

Predictive analytics

Interactive data visualization

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?



Statistics

Big data

Data mining

Artificial intelligence

Data science

Business intelligence

Machine learning

Predictive analytics

Interactive data visualization

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?

**Science** is the investigative process used to extract knowledge, information and insights about reality through observation and experiment.

Statistics

Big data

Data mining

Artificial intelligence

Data science

Business intelligence

Machine learning

Predictive analytics

Interactive data visualization

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?

***Data science*** is the investigative process used to extract knowledge, information and insights about reality by examining data.

# DATA SCIENCE

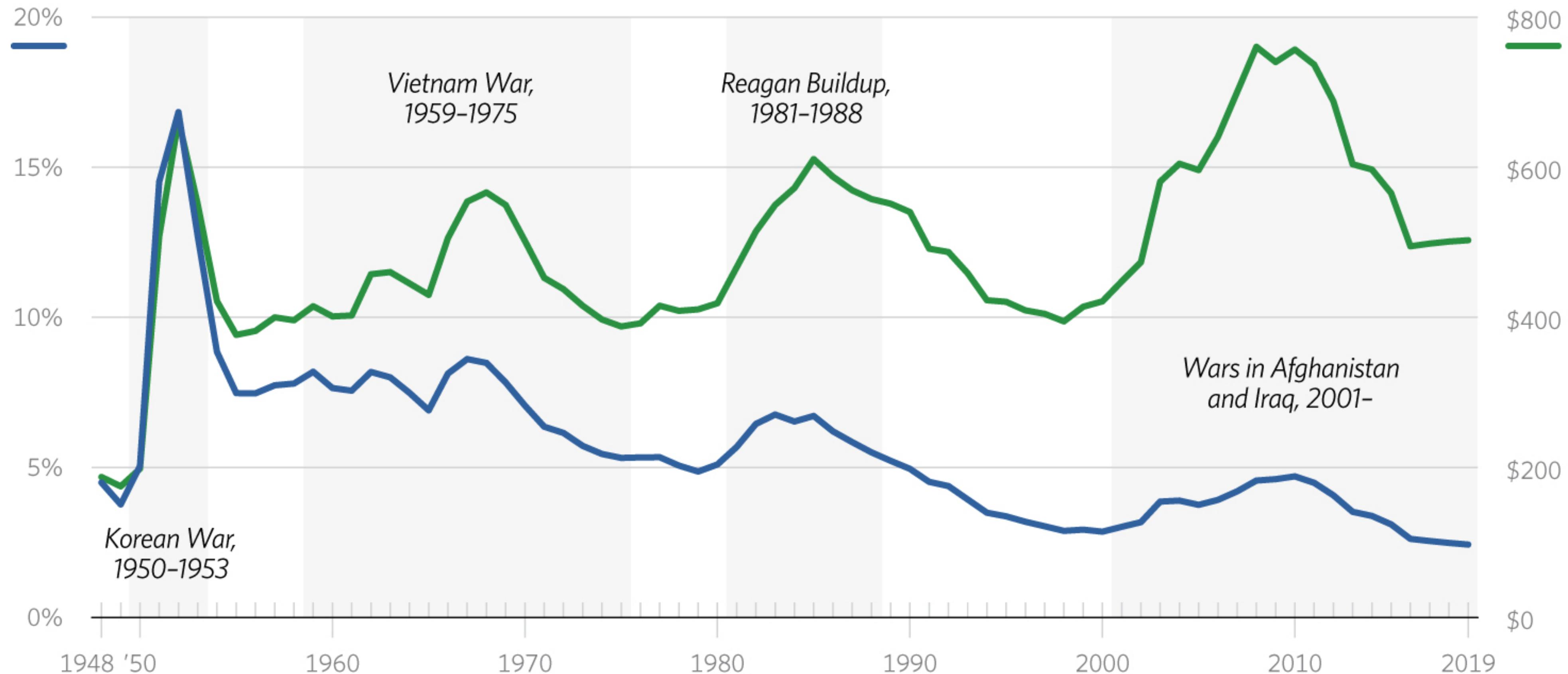
*Ok, so why do I care?*

# THE ONLY CONSTANT IS NOTHING IS CONSTANT

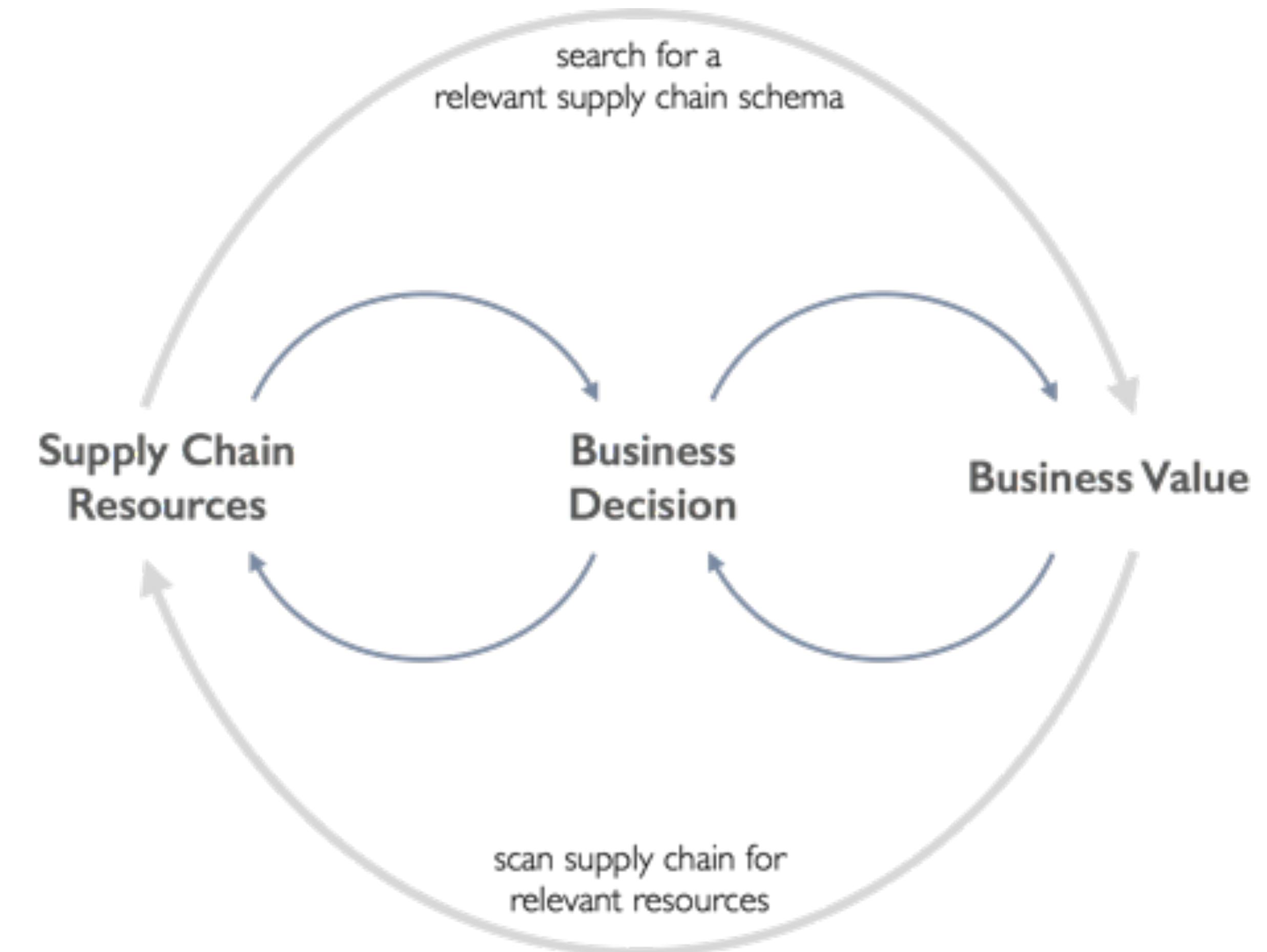
## Historical Defense Spending

AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP

DEFENSE BUDGET IN  
CONSTANT FY 2015 DOLLARS



# YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE RESOURCE DECISIONS



# YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE RESOURCE DECISIONS

Reducing F-35 lot size

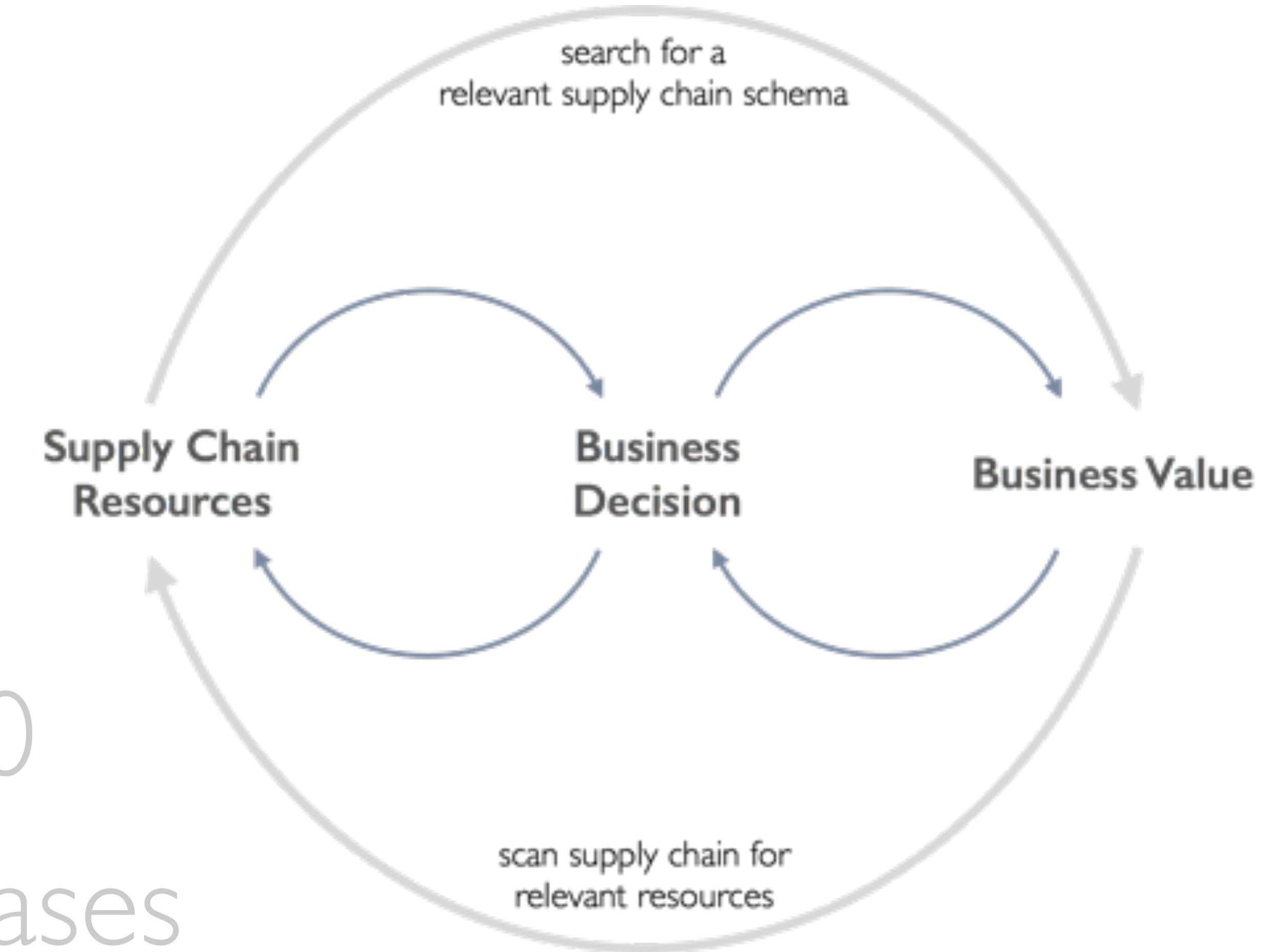
A-10 fleet reduction

Divesting GH block 40

Scraping KC-10 fleet

Reduce ICBM force by 50

Eliminating Reaper purchases



# YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE RESOURCE DECISIONS

Security Forces

Civil Engineering

Utilities

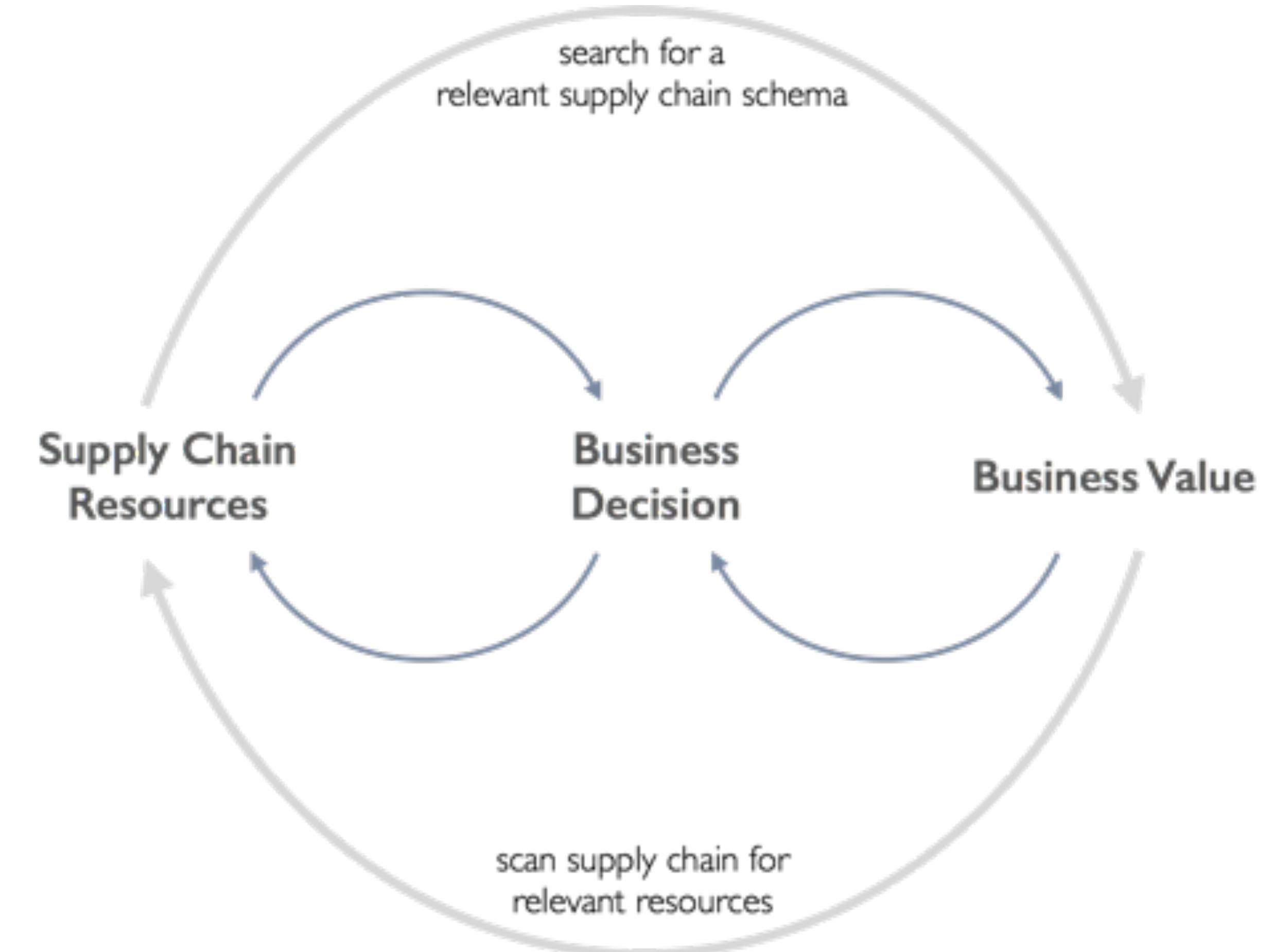
Facility Sustainment

Contracting

Utilities

Personnel Services

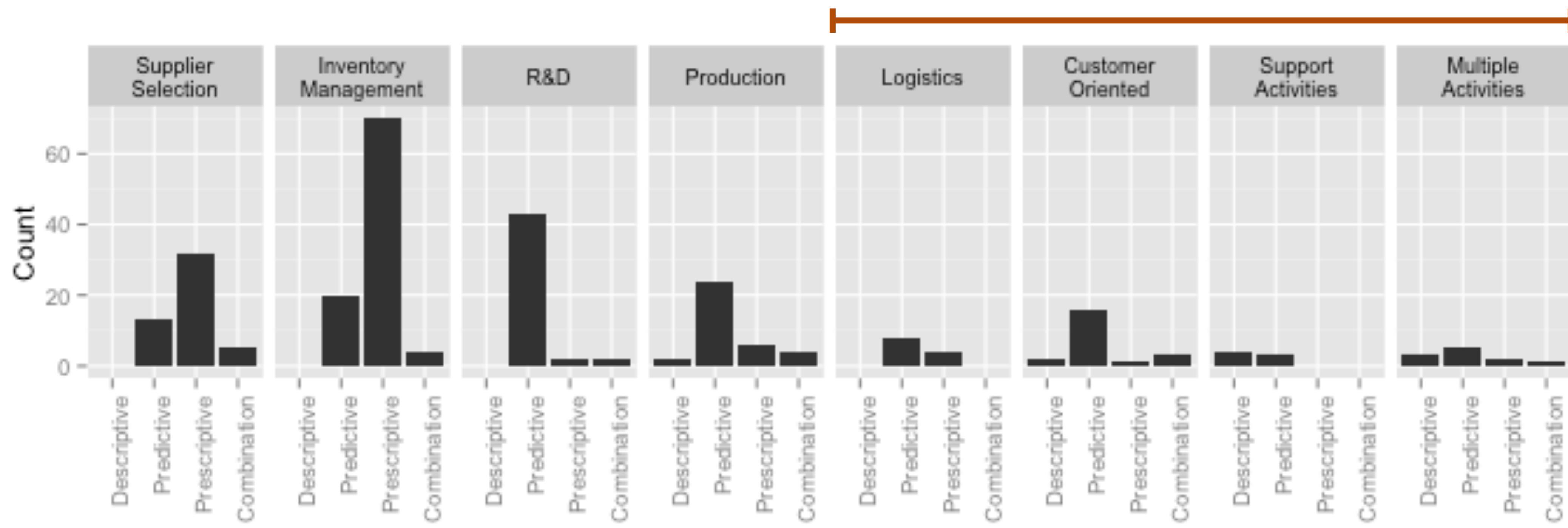
MWR



# TOOTH vs. TAIL

## AN UNBALANCED ANALYTIC FOCUS

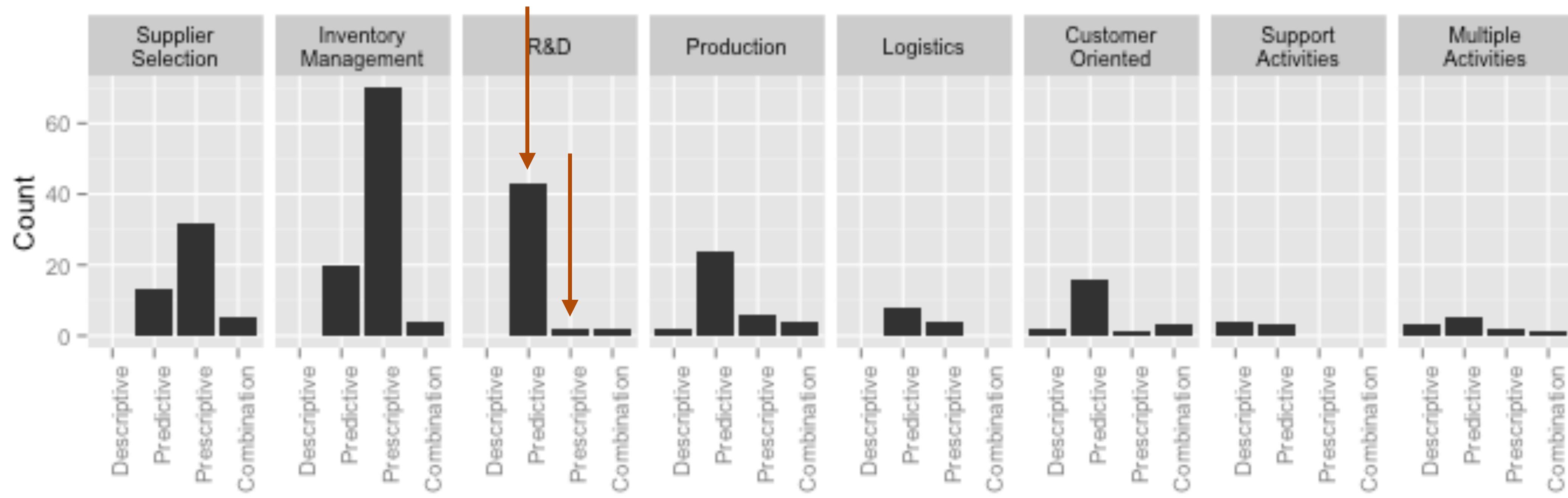
**Problem:** The “long tail” of supply chain data science is a systemic problem; many decisions in the tail appear to not be data informed.



# TOOTH vs.TAIL

## AN UNBALANCED ANALYTIC FOCUS

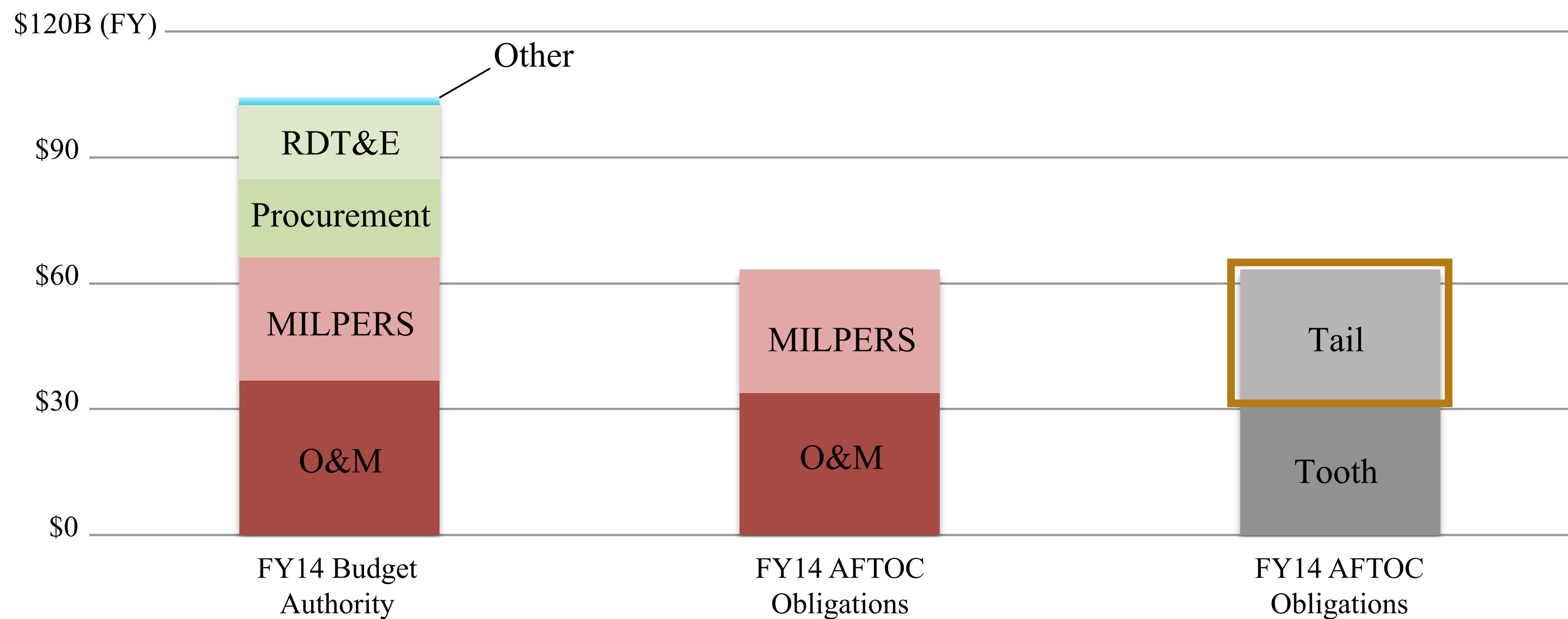
**Problem:** *Significant imbalances exist in how we apply different data science methodologies across and even within supply chain domains.*



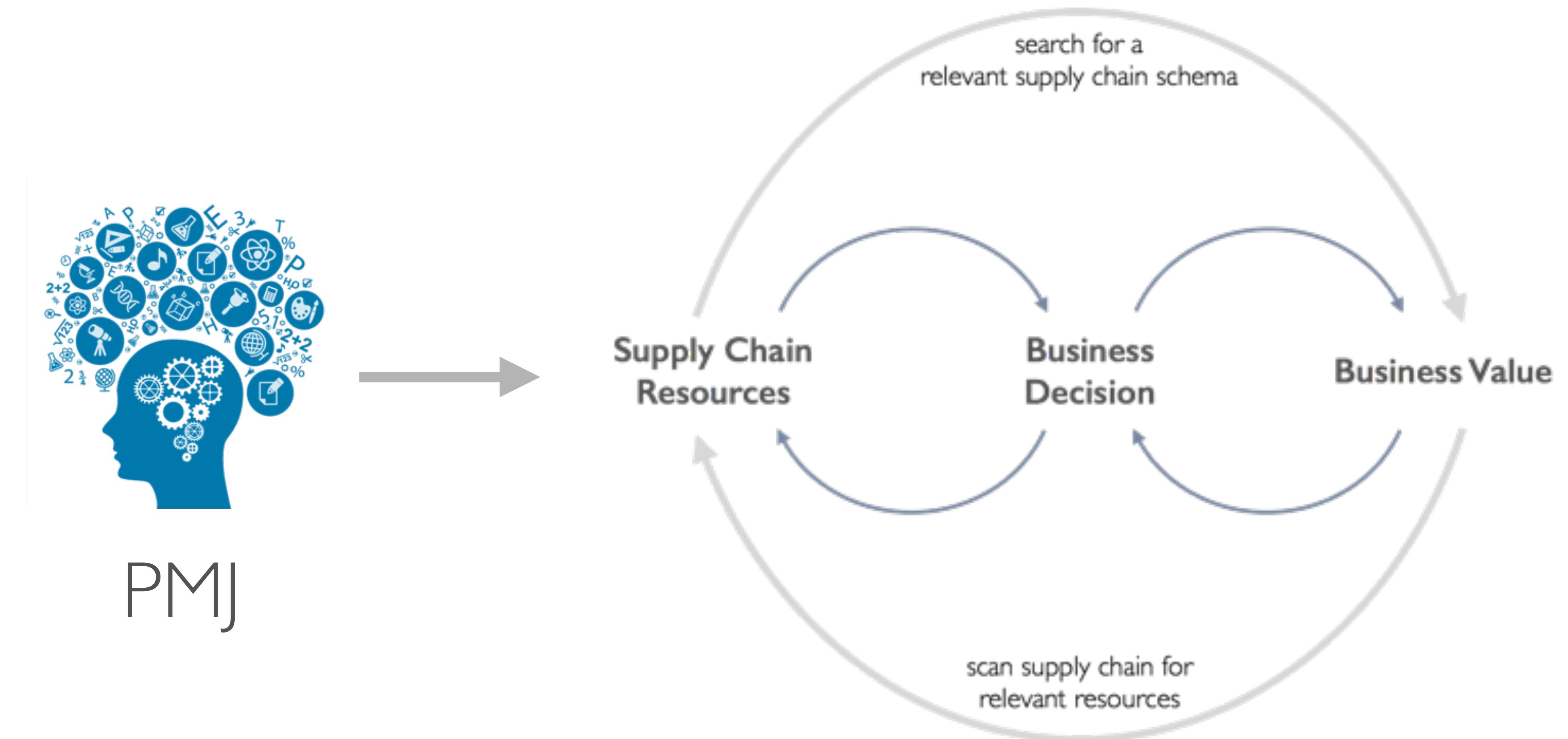
# TOOTH vs.TAIL

## AN UNBALANCED ANALYTIC FOCUS

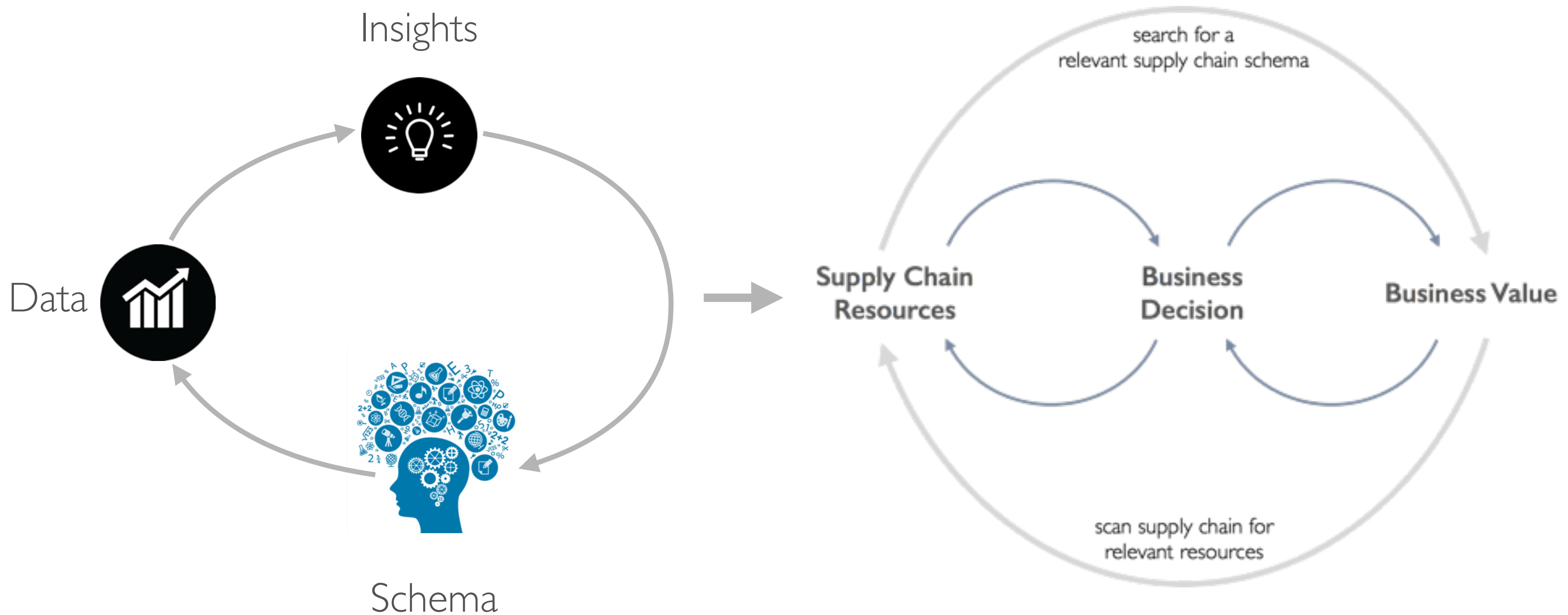
**Problem:** *Lack of research focusing on the economics of, and data science approaches applied to, tail activities for resource management purposes.*



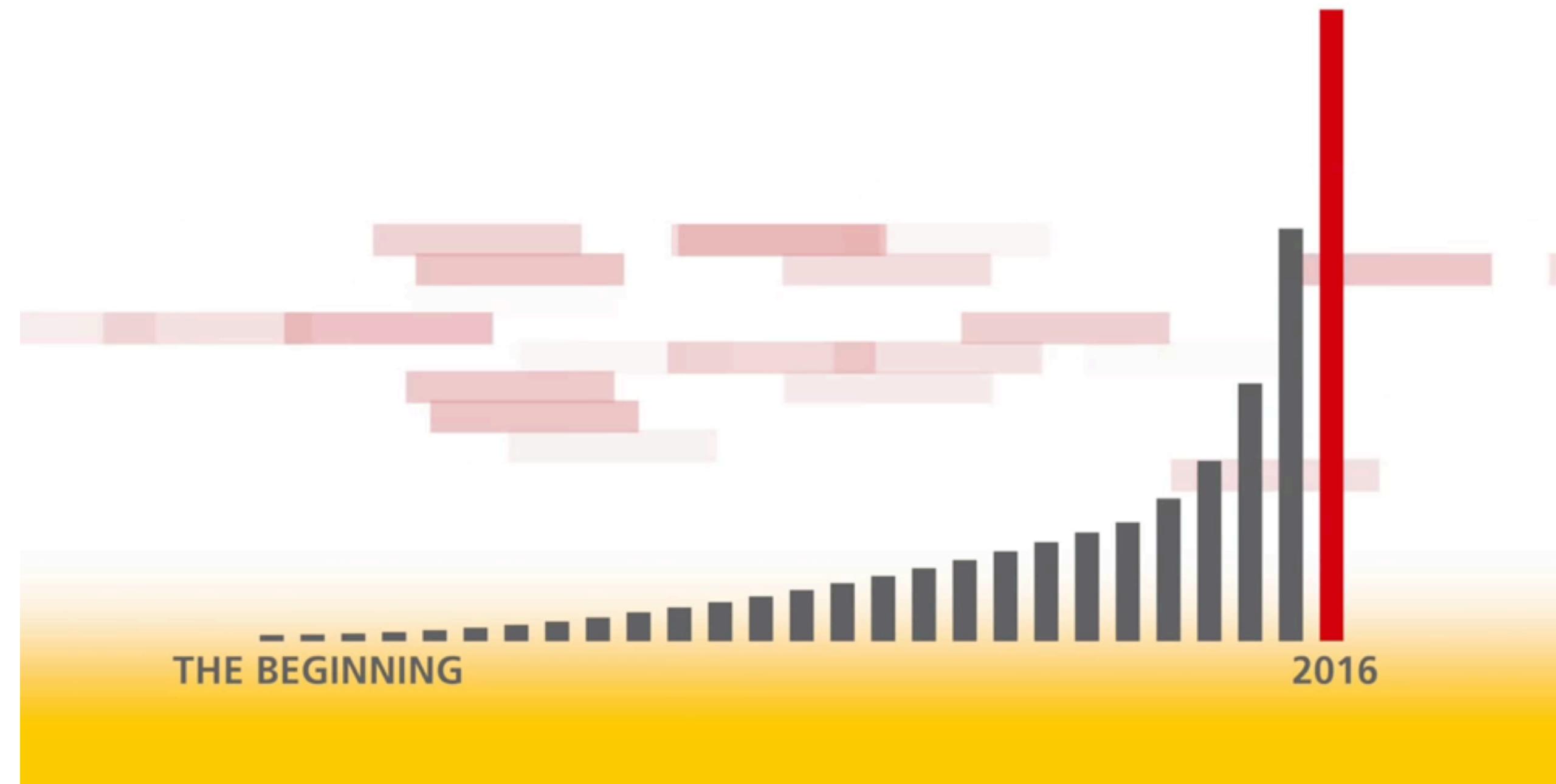
# WE NEED TO GO FROM THIS TO...



# DATA DRIVEN INFORMED DECISIONS



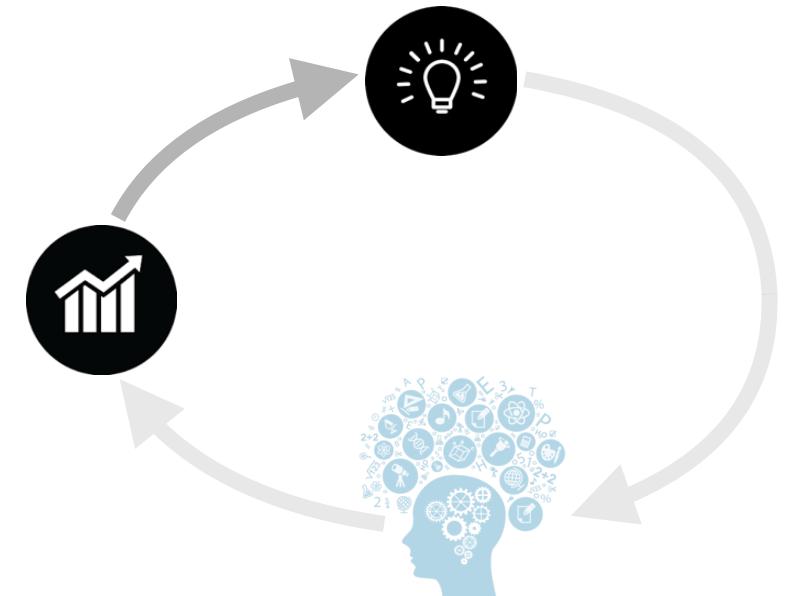
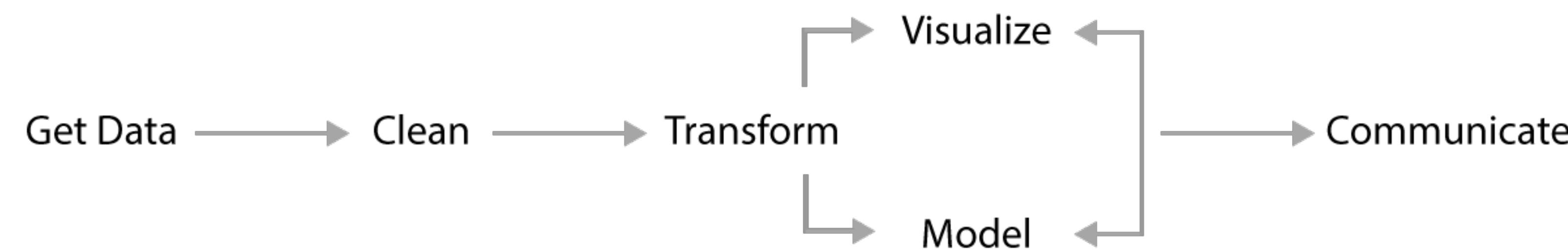
# DATA INFORMED SUPPLY CHAIN DECISIONS



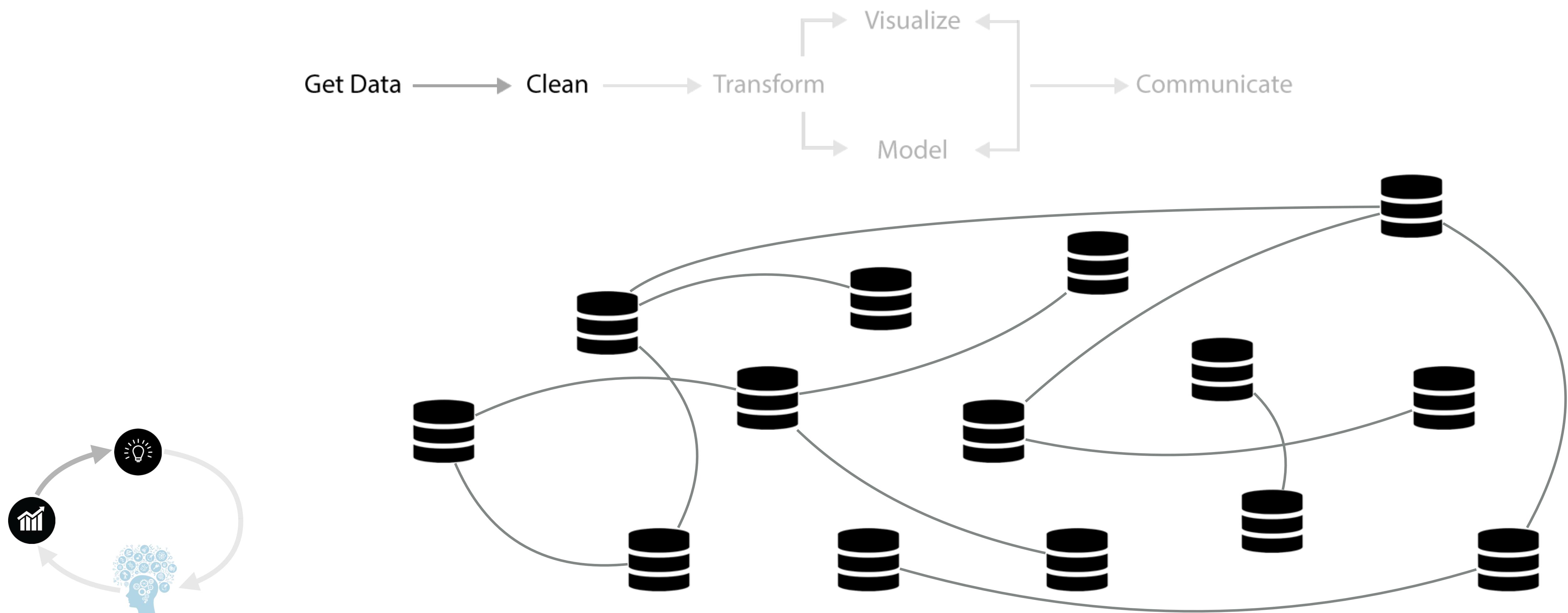
# DATA SCIENCE

*Why do you call it data science rather than analytics?*

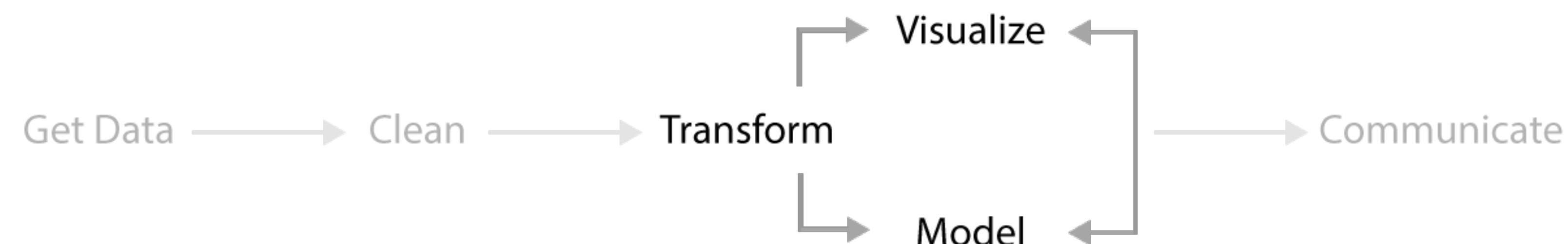
# THE DATA SCIENCE PROCESS



# THE DATA SCIENCE PROCESS



# THE DATA SCIENCE PROCESS



Text analysis

Pareto analysis

Linear regression

Time series modeling

Survival analysis

Simulation

Cluster analysis

Data envelopment analysis

Factor analysis

Support vector machines

Risk modeling

Linear programming

Neural networks

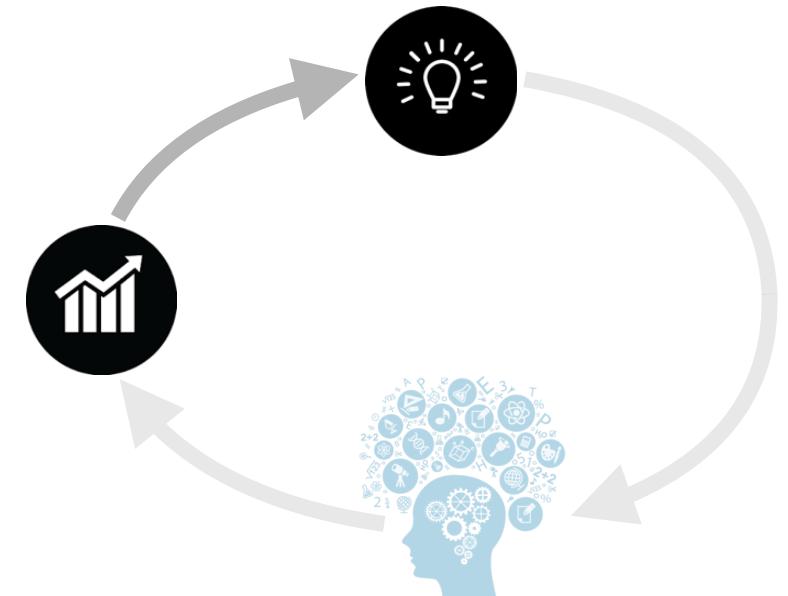
Correlation analysis

Anomaly detection

Bayesian networks

Multilevel modeling

Analytical hierarchy proce



# THE DATA SCIENCE PROCESS



# PowerPoint

# Technical Docs

# Bullet point memos

# Dashboards

# Interactive graphics

# Analytic packages

# Tufte-style handouts

# Interactive HTML reports

# Shiny applications

# Literate statistical programming

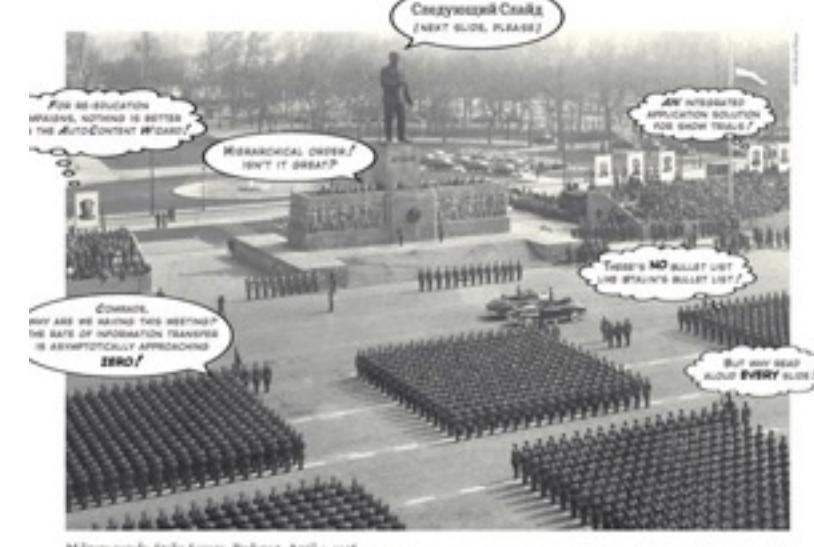
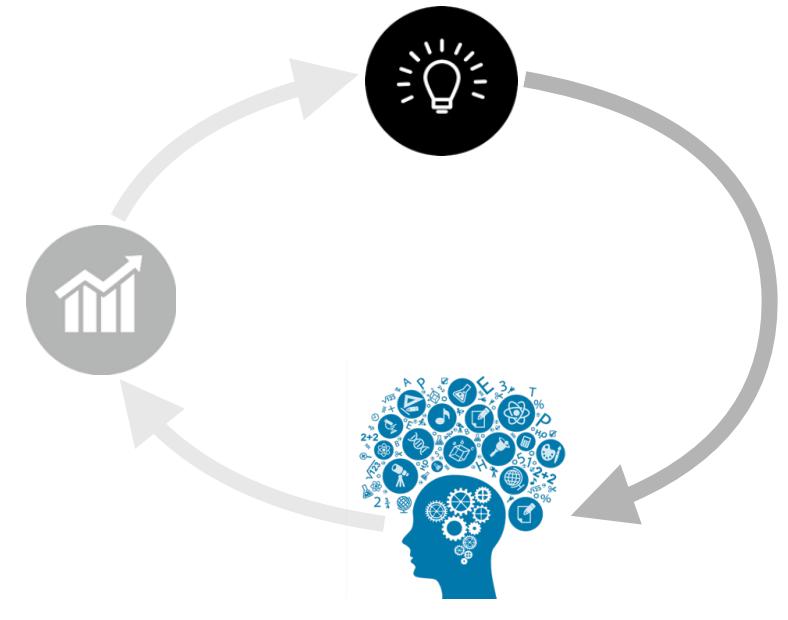
# Interactive storyboards

# Electronic books

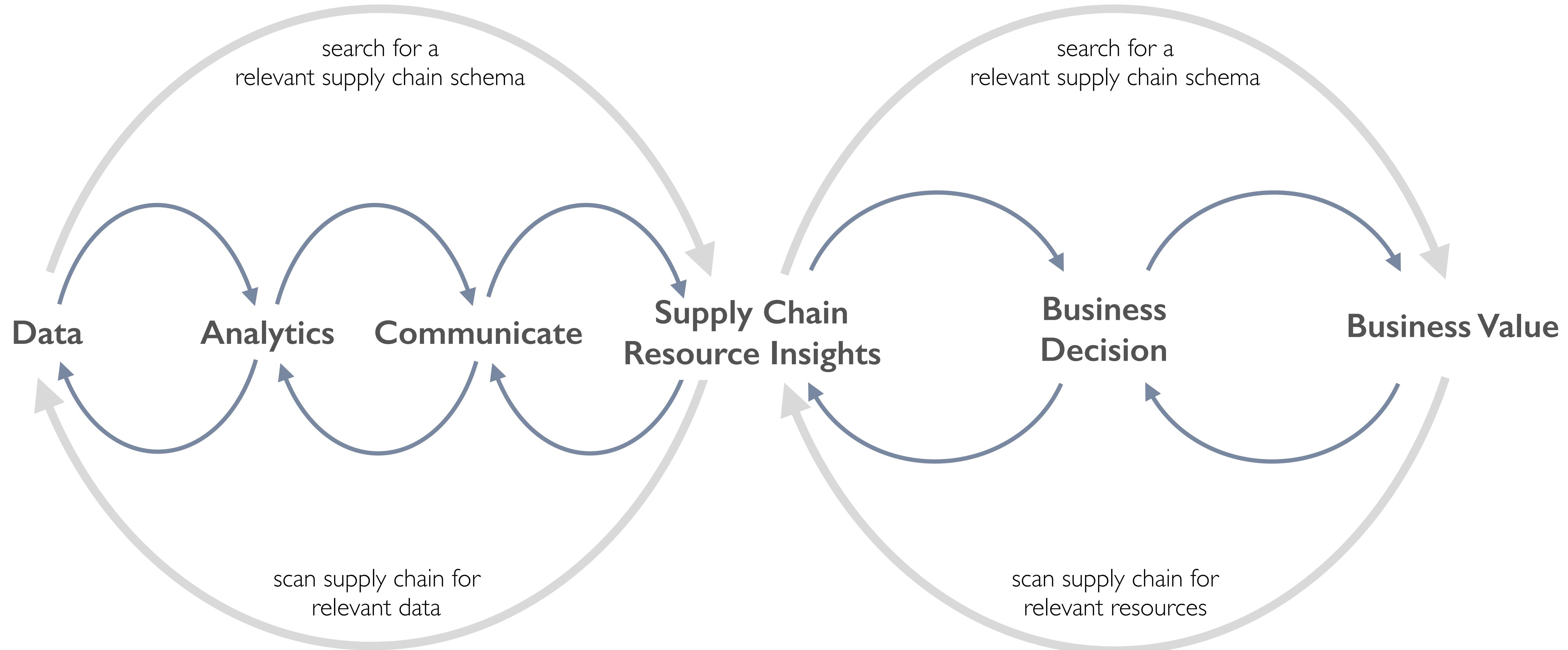
# Shared Dashboards

# Vignettes

# Scientific



# AN INTEGRATED DATA SCIENCE PROCESS



# DATA SCIENCE

*Can I get some examples?*

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

## Resource Problem

Organizations love metrics but often base decisions on aggregated values

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

## Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

## Results

## Key Data Science Components

Acquired, cleaned and combined data from two different organizations and three databases.



## Insights

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

## BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

### Objective

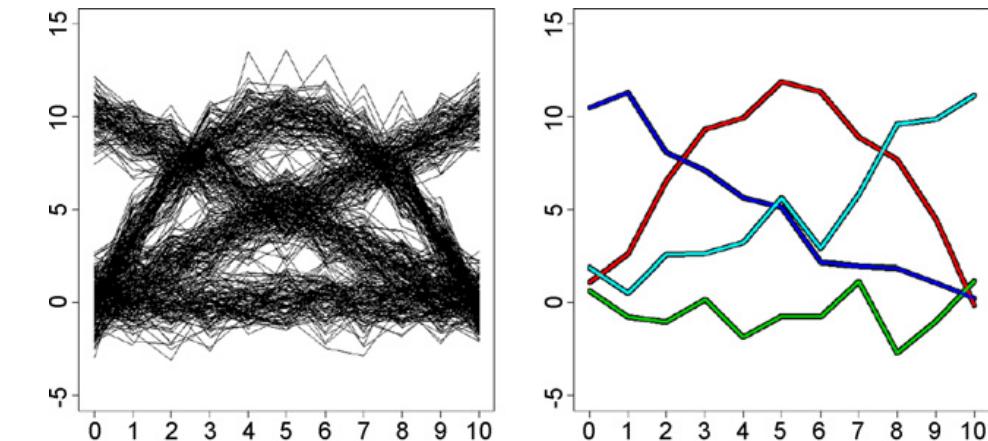
Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

### Key Data Science Components

Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$
$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



### Results

### Insights

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

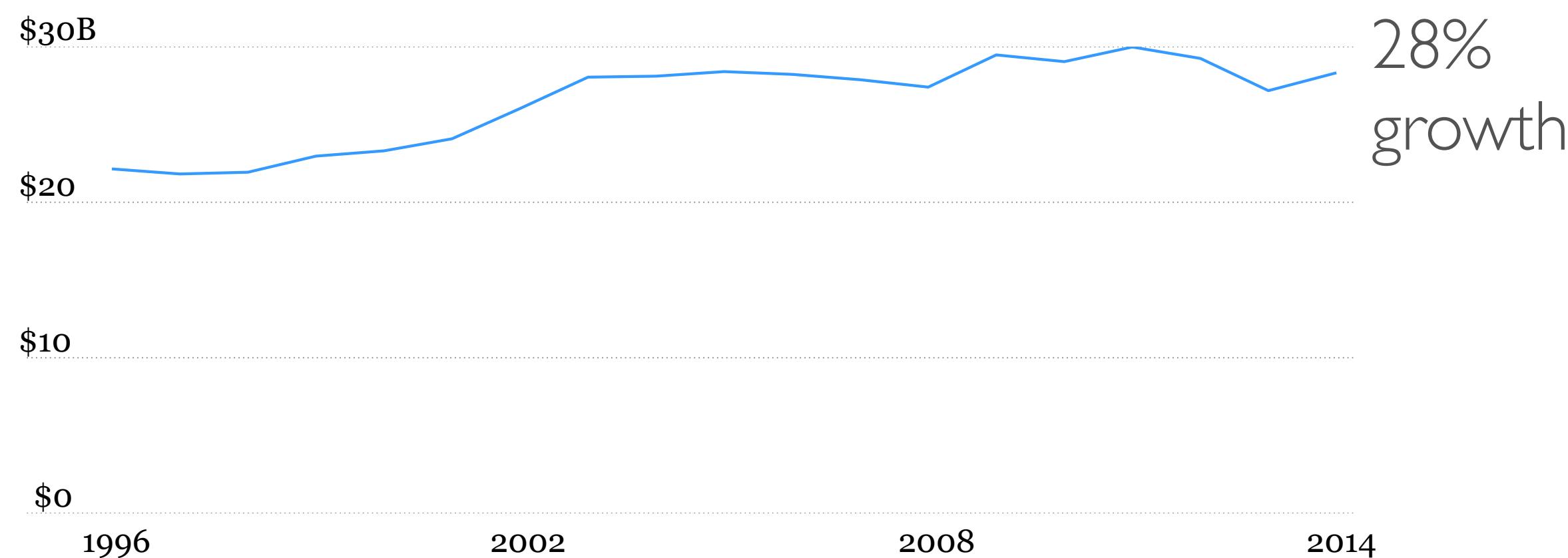
BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

## Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

## Results

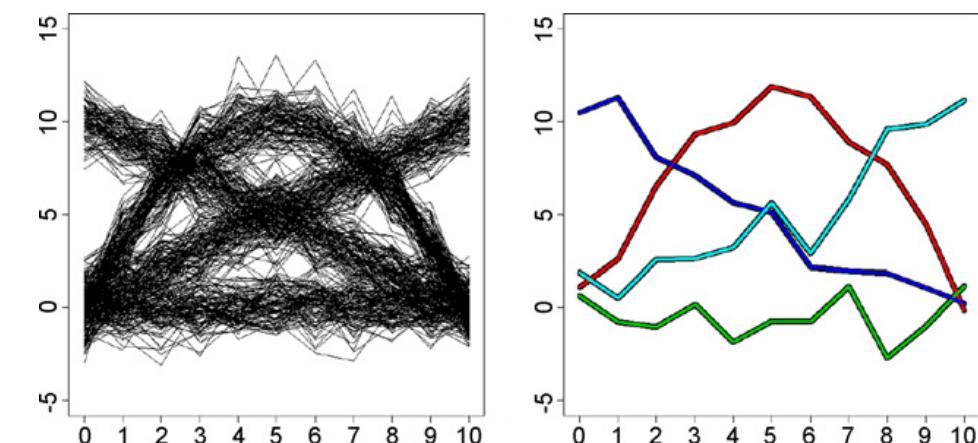


## Key Data Science Components

Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$

$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



## Insights

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

## Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

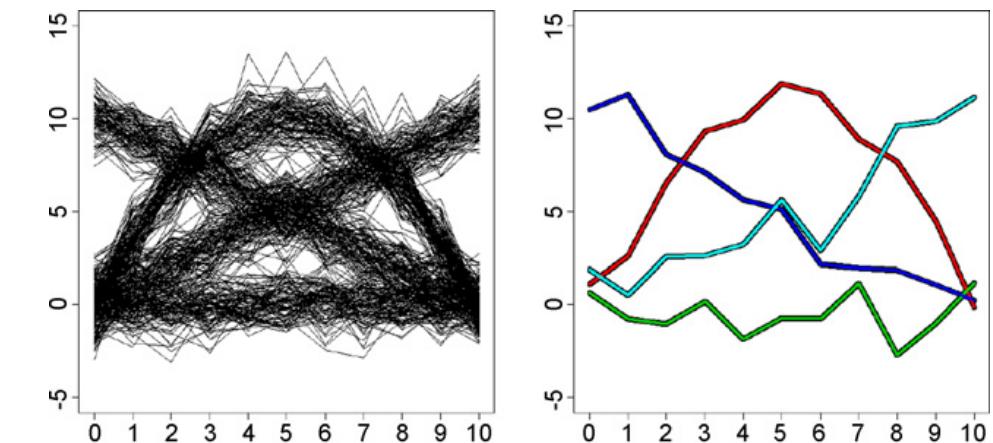
- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

## Key Data Science Components

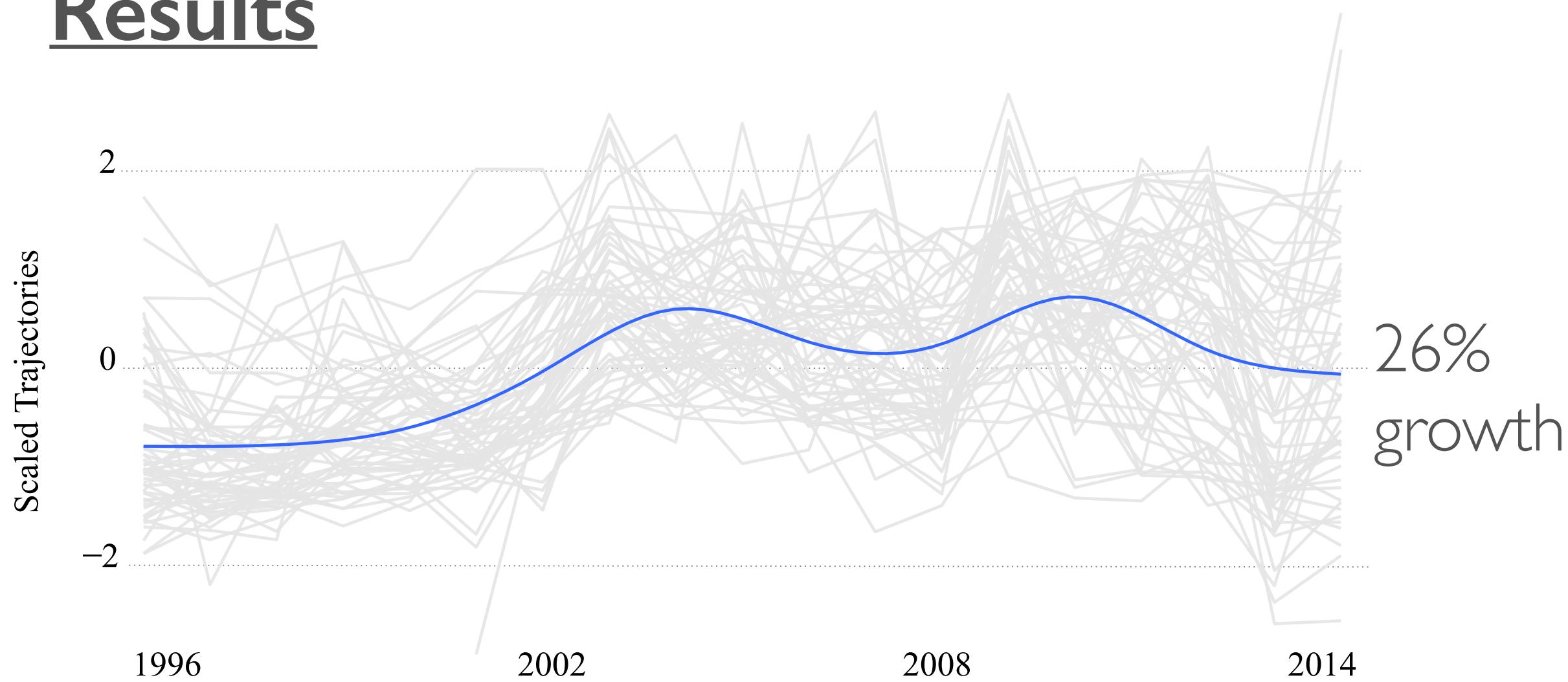
Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$

$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



## Results



## Insights

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

## BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

### Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

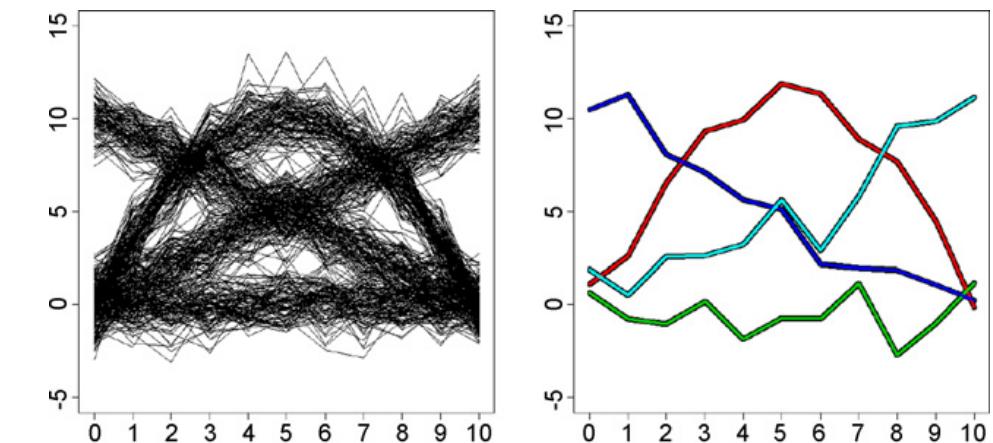
- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

### Key Data Science Components

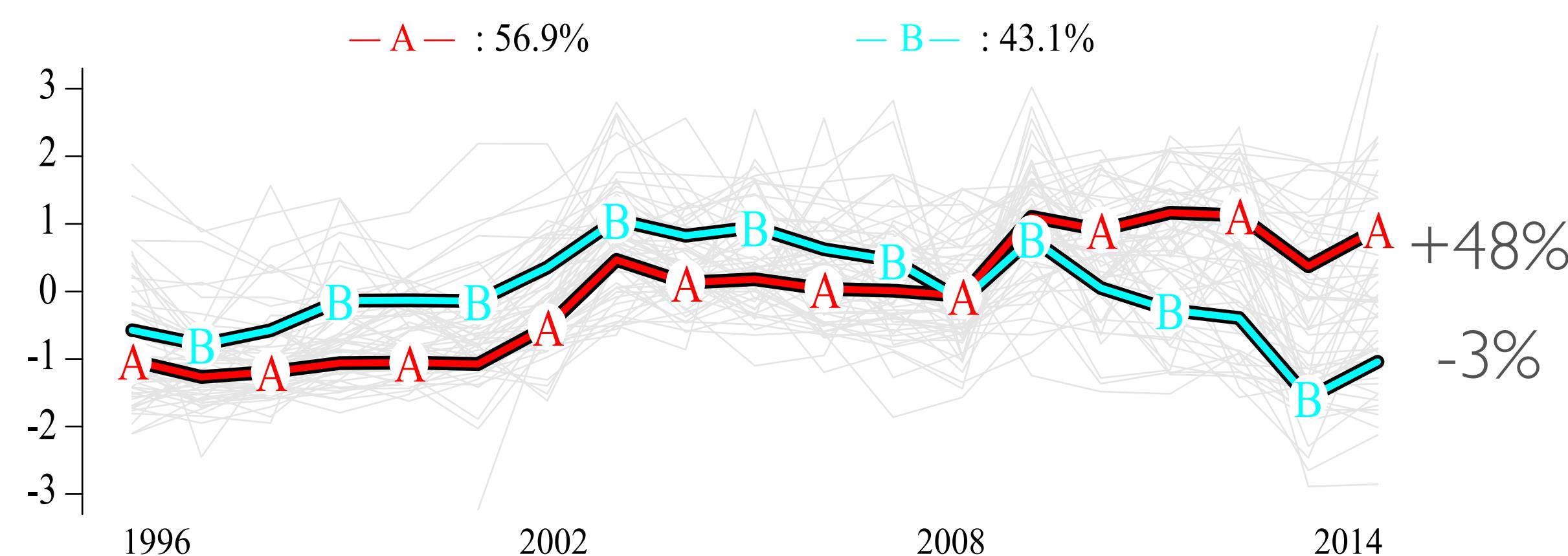
Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$

$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



### Results



### Insights

- I. Illustrates micro vs macro level trends

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

## BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

### Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

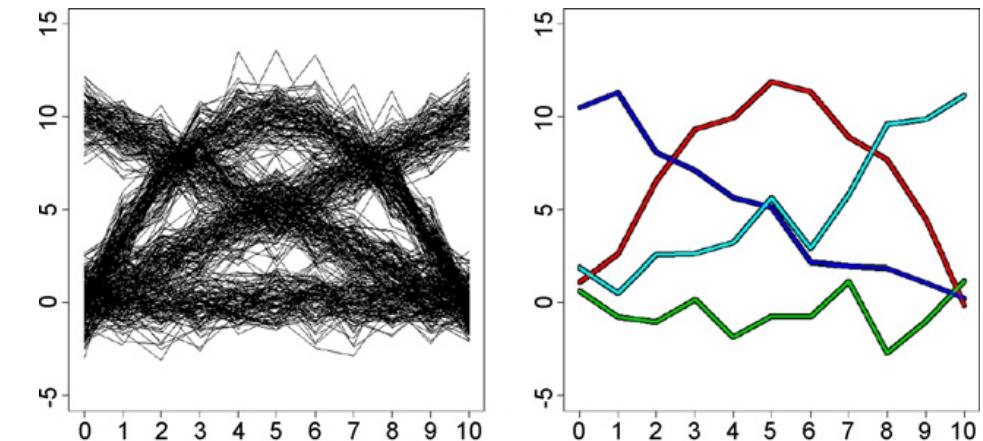
### Results

Metric	Increasing Cost Curves			Decreasing Cost Curves		
	Percent of Bases	Cost Curve	Percent Growth	Percent of Bases	Cost Curve	Percent Growth
Total Support Costs	57%		48%	43%		-3%
Total Manpower Costs	62%		30%	38%		-15%
Indirect-to-Direct Headcount Ratio	52%		129%	48%		-58%
Per Support Person Costs	62%		15%	38%		-13%
Total Facility Sustainment Costs	38%		182%	62%		36%
Facility Sustainment Cost per PRV	29%		144%	26%		-42%
	45%		29%			
Facility Sustainment Cost per SqFt	62%		70%	38%		162%
	38%					
Total Utility Costs	38%		123%	31%		-26%
	31%		11%			
Utility Cost per PRV	60%		75%	40%		-71%
Utility Cost per SqFt	76%		105%	24%		-16%
Total Discretionary Costs	28%		137%	72%		-35%
Discretionary Cost per Support Person	36%		100%	64%		-44%

### Key Data Science Components

Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$
$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



### Insights

1. Illustrates micro vs macro level trends
2. Identifies common themes across the enterprise

# AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE METRICS

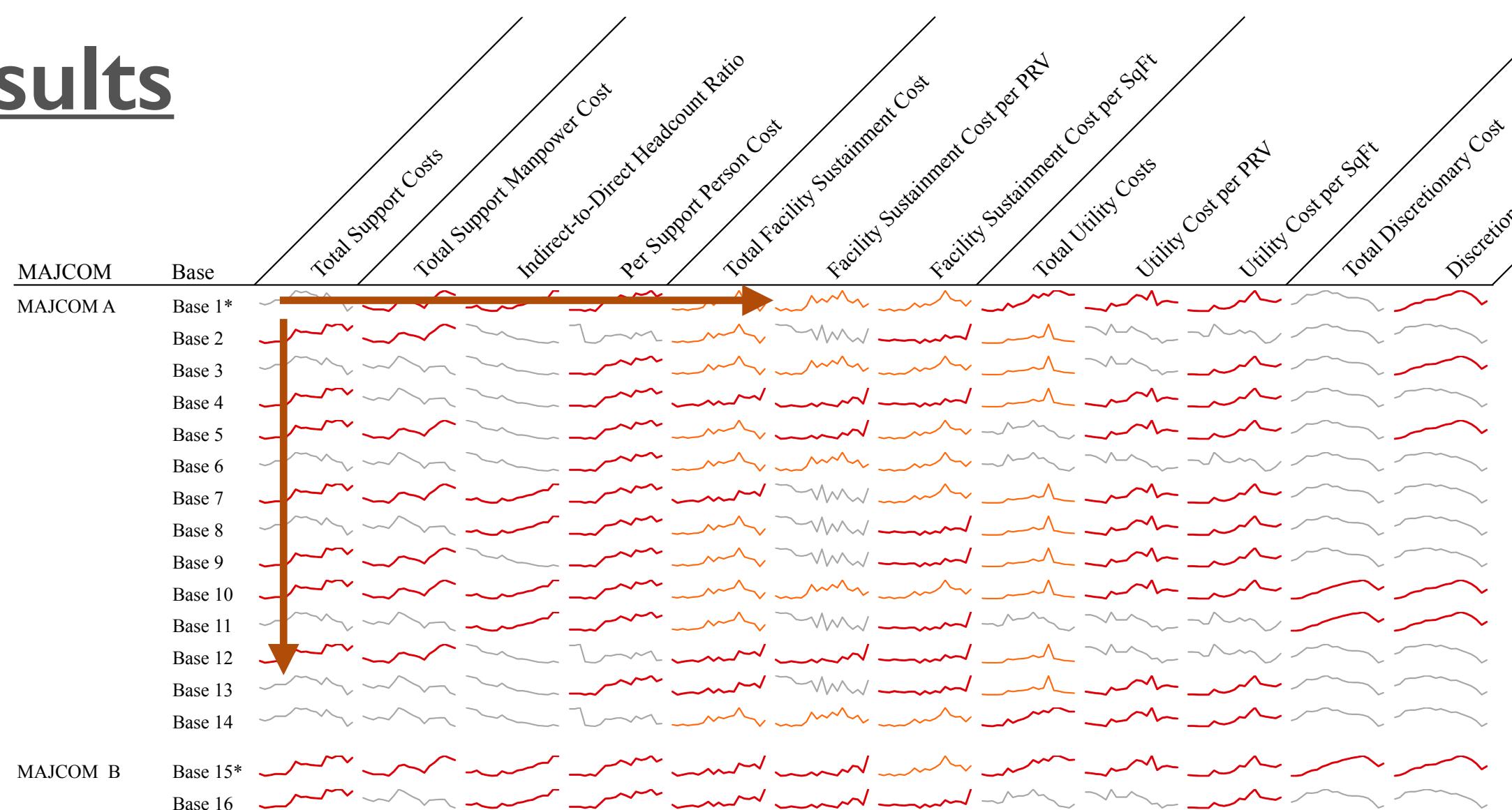
## BETTER AWARENESS OF TRENDS & PATTERNS

### Objective

Establish an approach to identify underlying metric trends, and the pervasiveness of the behavior, across an enterprise:

- Identify the existence of homogenous base-level metric trends
- Identify the bases affiliated with these trends
- Identify the magnitude of these cost trends

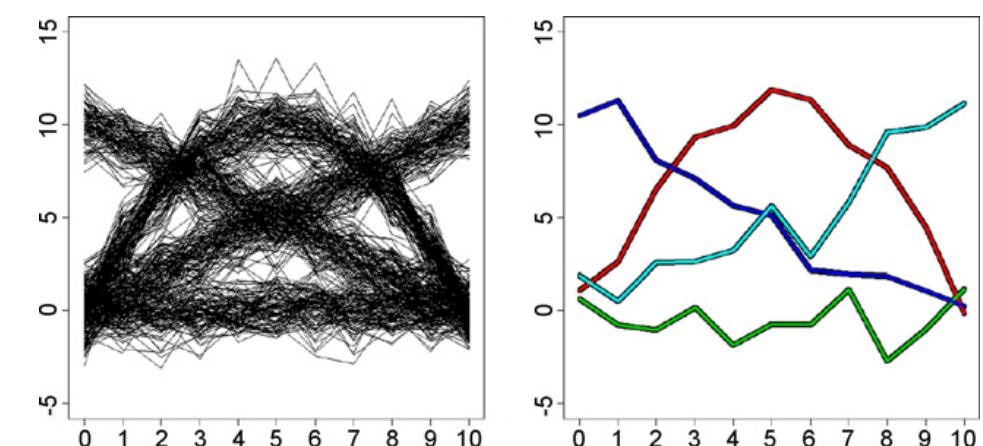
### Results



### Key Data Science Components

Non-parametric k-means clustering algorithm for longitudinal data

$$Dist^E(y_i, y_m) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^t (y_{ij} - y_{mj})^2}$$
$$C(k) = \frac{SS_B}{SS_W} \times \frac{(N - k)}{(k - 1)}$$



### Insights

1. Illustrates micro vs macro level trends
2. Identifies common themes across the enterprise
3. Directs decision-makers' focus

# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Resource Problem

The current performance assessment process for installation support activities fails to inform resource allocation decisions

# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Objective

Improve the performance assessment process for installation support activities:

- Benchmark performance
- Identify potential cost savings
- Identify potential performance improvements

### Results

### Key Data Science Components

Acquired, cleaned and combined data from two different organizations and three databases.



### Insights

# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

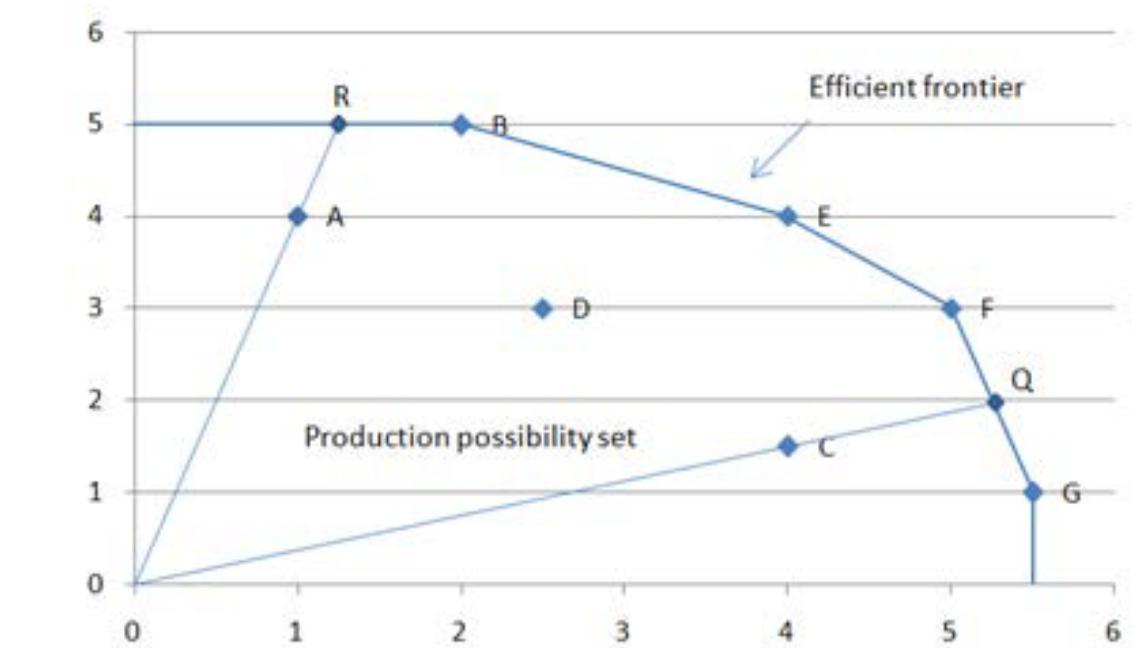
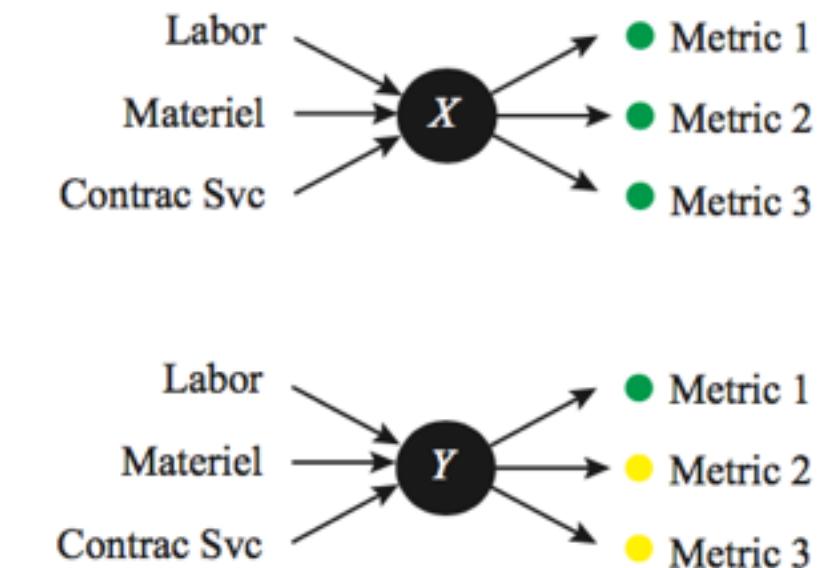
### Objective

Improve the performance assessment process for installation support activities:

- Benchmark performance
- Identify potential cost savings
- Identify potential performance improvements

### Key Data Science Components

Data Envelopment Analysis



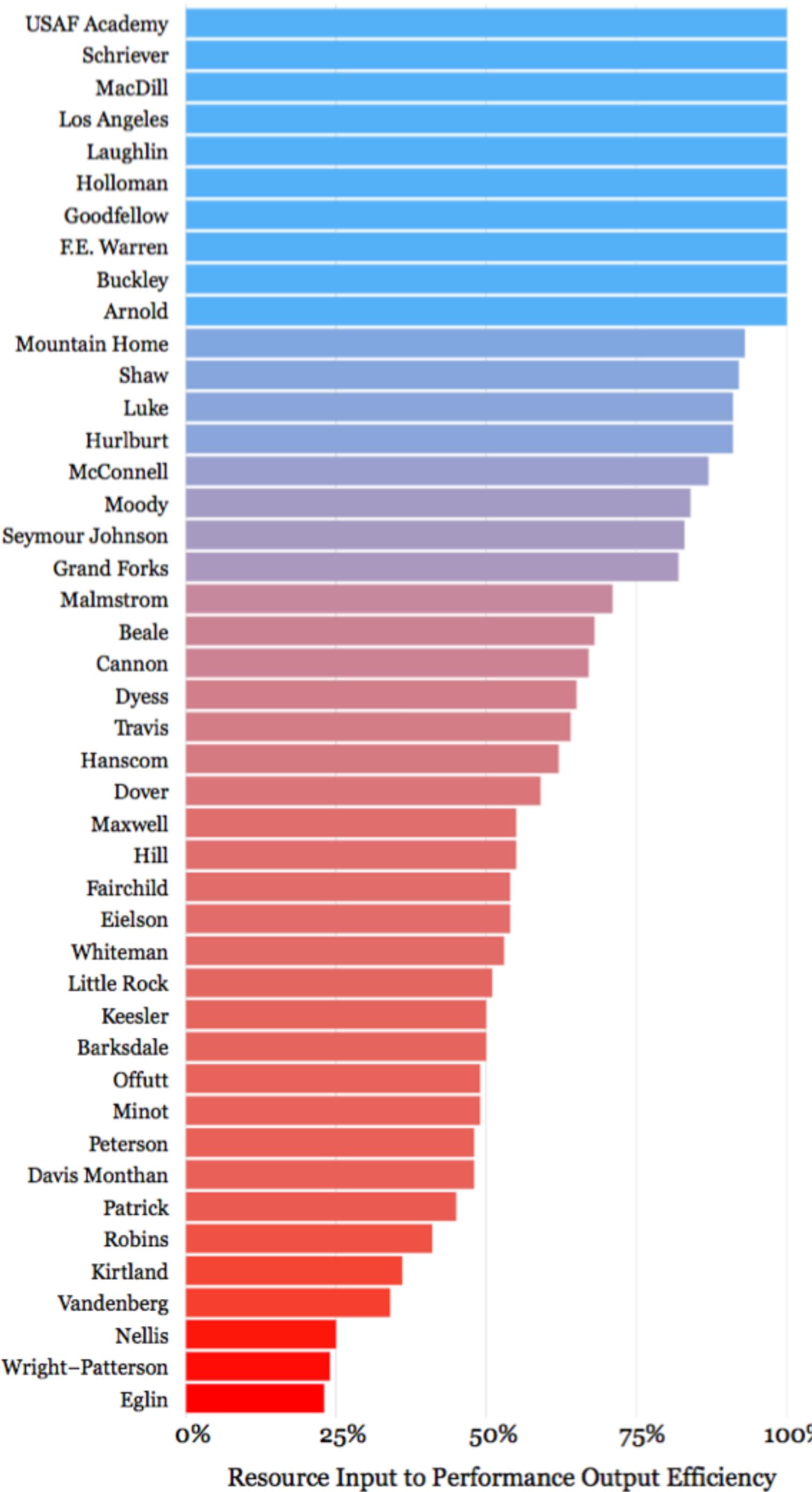
### Results

### Insights

# CE ASSESSMENTS

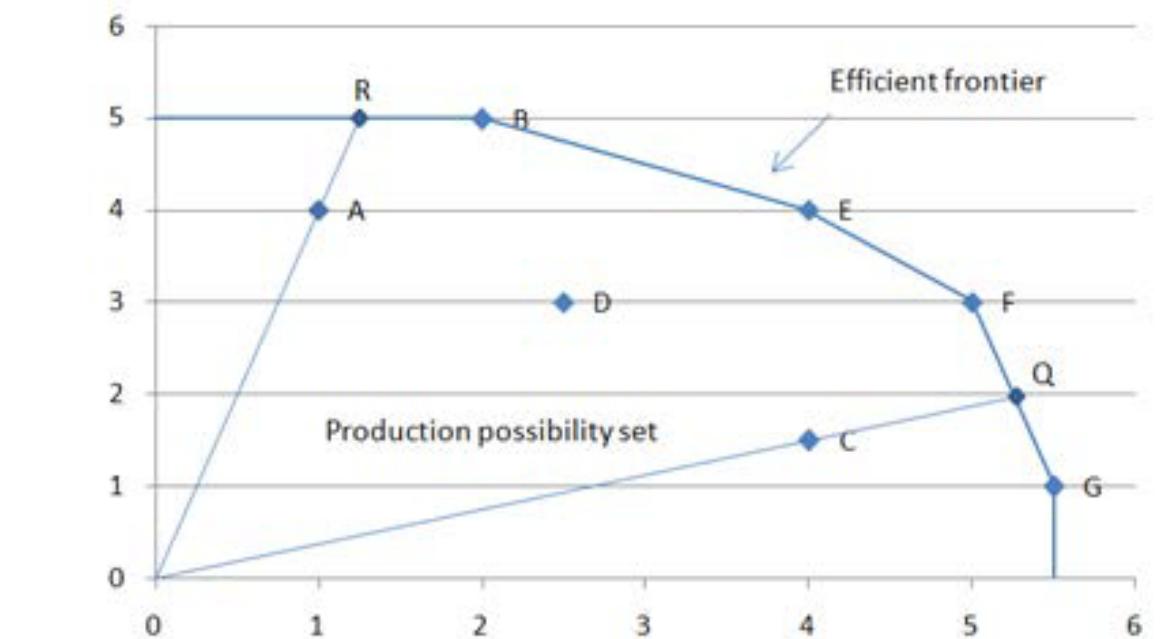
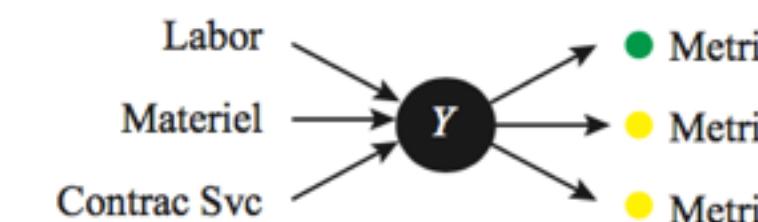
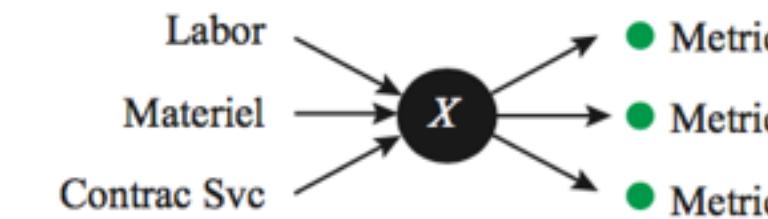
## GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Results



### Key Data Science Components

#### Data Envelopment Analysis



### Insights

- I. Measured the efficiency of bases across the enterprise

# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Objective

Improve the performance assessment process for installation support activities:

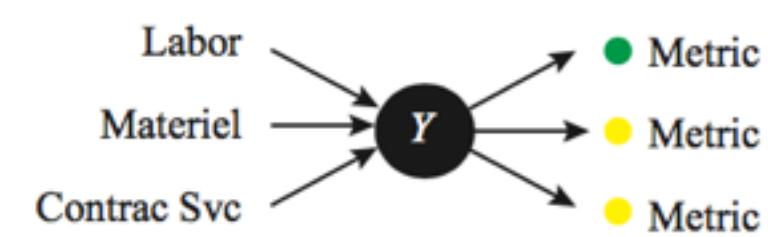
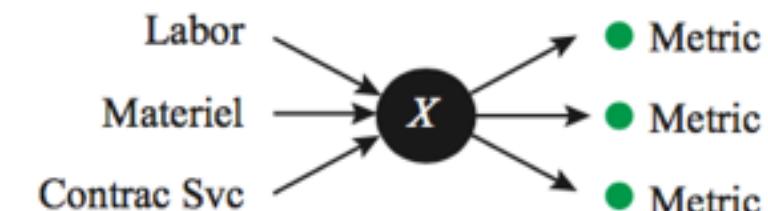
- Benchmark performance
- Identify potential cost savings
- Identify potential performance improvements

### Results

Performance	SBM	CRS	VRS	Potential Slack Range
Installations achieving a “Green” risk rating:				
$S_{Labor}^-$	\$18.83	\$1.03	\$0.48	\$0.48-18.83 (1-8%)
$S_{CS}^-$	\$7.65	\$4.42	\$0.00	\$0.00-7.65 (0-5%)
$S_{M\&R}^-$	\$26.38	\$8.54	\$4.04	\$4.04-26.38 (1-3%)
$S_{Supply}^-$	\$10.04	\$1.98	\$1.85	\$1.85-10.01 (2-12%)
Total	\$62.90	\$15.97	\$6.37	\$6.37-62.90 (1-5%)
minus M&R	\$36.52	\$7.43	\$2.33	\$2.33-36.52 (1-7%)

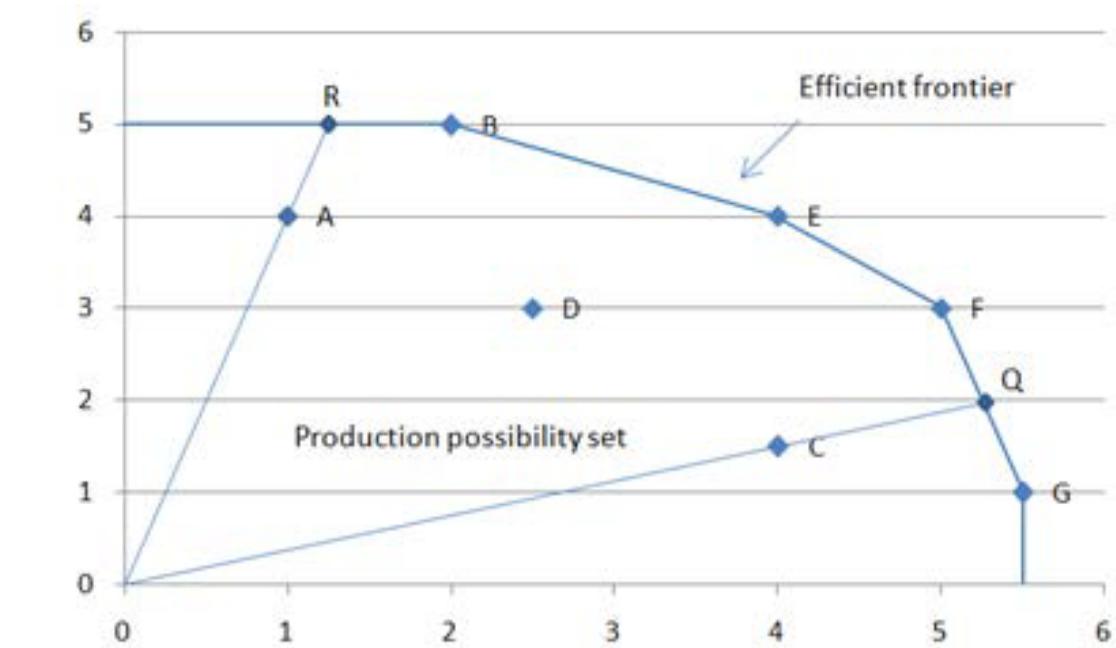
### Key Data Science Components

Data Envelopment Analysis



### Insights

1. Measured the efficiency of bases across the enterprise
2. Identifies potential cost savings across the enterprise



# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Objective

Improve the performance assessment process for installation support activities:

- Benchmark performance
- Identify potential cost savings
- Identify potential performance improvements

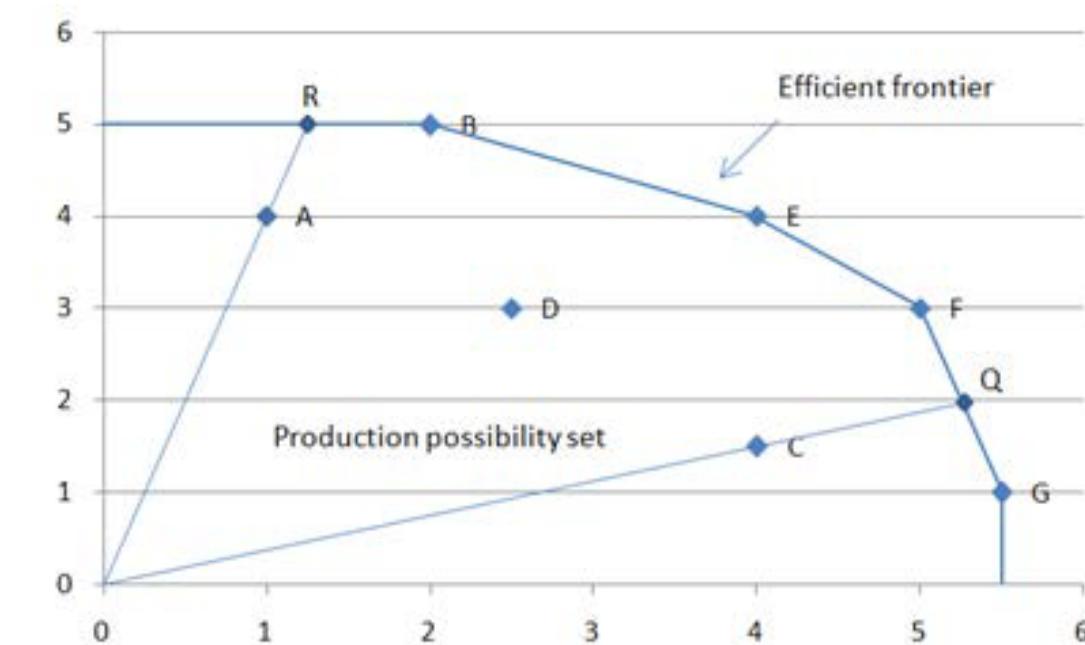
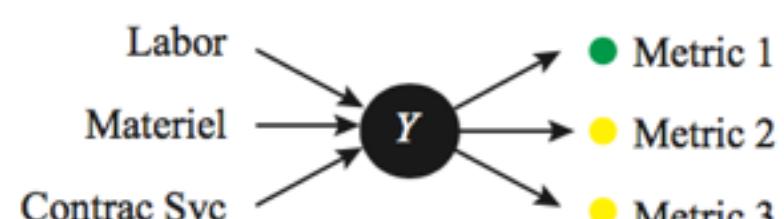
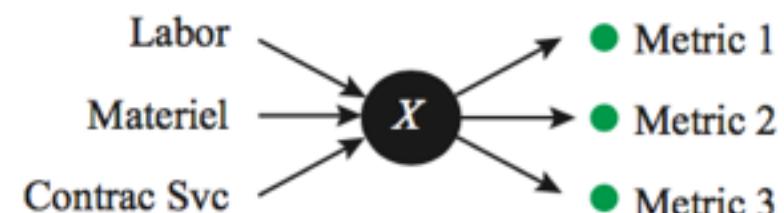
### Results

Performance	SBM	CRS	VRS	Efficient Performance Range
Installations achieving a “Yellow” risk rating:				
$S_{EM}^+$	99% (+6pp)	108% (+16pp)	99% (+6pp)	● 99-100% (+6-7pp)
$S_{HP}^+$	88% (+8pp)	96% (+17pp)	87% (+7pp)	● 87-96% (+8-17pp)
$S_{LP}^+$	78% (+5pp)	79% (+6pp)	79% (+6pp)	● 78-79% (+5-6pp)
$S_{PM}^+$	91% (+9pp)	95% (+12pp)	90% (+7pp)	● 90-95% (+7-12pp)
Installations achieving a “Red” or “Yellow” risk rating:				
$S_{EM}^+$	98% (+9pp)	102% (+12pp)	98% (+9pp)	● 98-100% (+9-12pp)
$S_{HP}^+$	85% (+10pp)	89% (+14pp)	84% (+9pp)	● 84-89% (+9-14pp)
$S_{LP}^+$	80% (+7pp)	81% (+9pp)	81% (+8pp)	● 80-81% (+7-9pp)
$S_{PM}^+$	86% (+7pp)	92% (+14pp)	85% (+6pp)	● 85-92% (+6-14pp)

\*pp values listed represent the percentage point(s) increase gained if the installations would have operated efficiently.

### Key Data Science Components

Data Envelopment Analysis



### Insights

1. Measured the efficiency of bases across the enterprise
2. Identifies potential cost savings across the enterprise
3. Identifies potential performance improvements

# PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

## MEASURING EFFICIENCY TO GUIDE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Objective

Improve the performance assessment process for installation support activities:

- Benchmark performance
- Identify potential cost savings
- Identify potential performance improvements

### Results

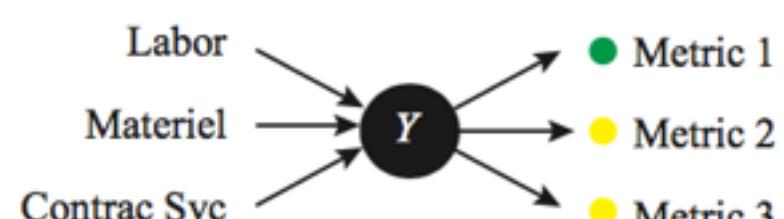
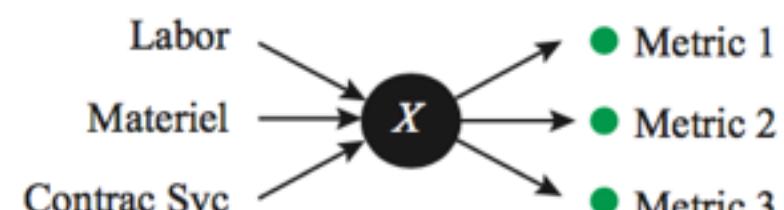
	Subject Base		Benchmark Bases	
	McConnell AFB	Travis AFB	USAF Academy	USAF Academy
Efficiency:	0.43	1.00	1.00	
Weights:		0.64	0.36	
Inputs*:				
$x_{Labor}$	0.0050	0.0031	0.0004	
$x_{CS}$	0.0025	0.0008	0.0016	
$x_{M\&R}$	0.0313	0.0055	0.0125	
$x_{Supply}$	0.0043	0.0010	0.0001	
Outputs:				
$y_{EM}$	● 100%	● 100%	● 100%	
$y_{HP}$	● 100%	● 100%	● 100%	
$y_{LP}$	● 91%	● 87%	● 100%	
$y_{PM}$	● 95%	● 97%	● 100%	
Slacks:				
$S_{M\&R}^-$	\$4.04M			
$S_{Supply}^-$	\$0.83M			

\*Inputs are presented as cost per plant replacement value

\*Slacks are presented in FY14 \$M

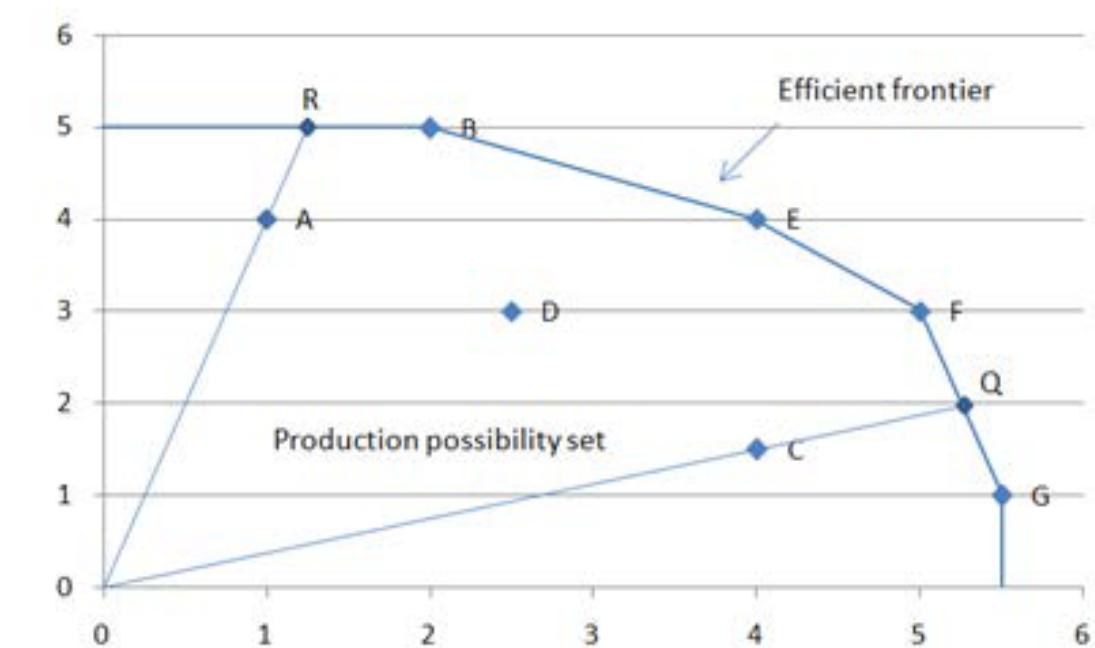
### Key Data Science Components

Data Envelopment Analysis



### Insights

1. Measured the efficiency of bases across the enterprise
2. Identifies potential cost savings across the enterprise
3. Identifies potential performance improvements
4. Provides base-level resource tradeoffs



# CATEGORY MANAGEMENT

## GREATER FIDELITY FOR STRATEGIC SOURCING

### Resource Problem

We don't track lower levels of procurement; therefore, we cannot benchmark and improve product sourcing across the Air Force.

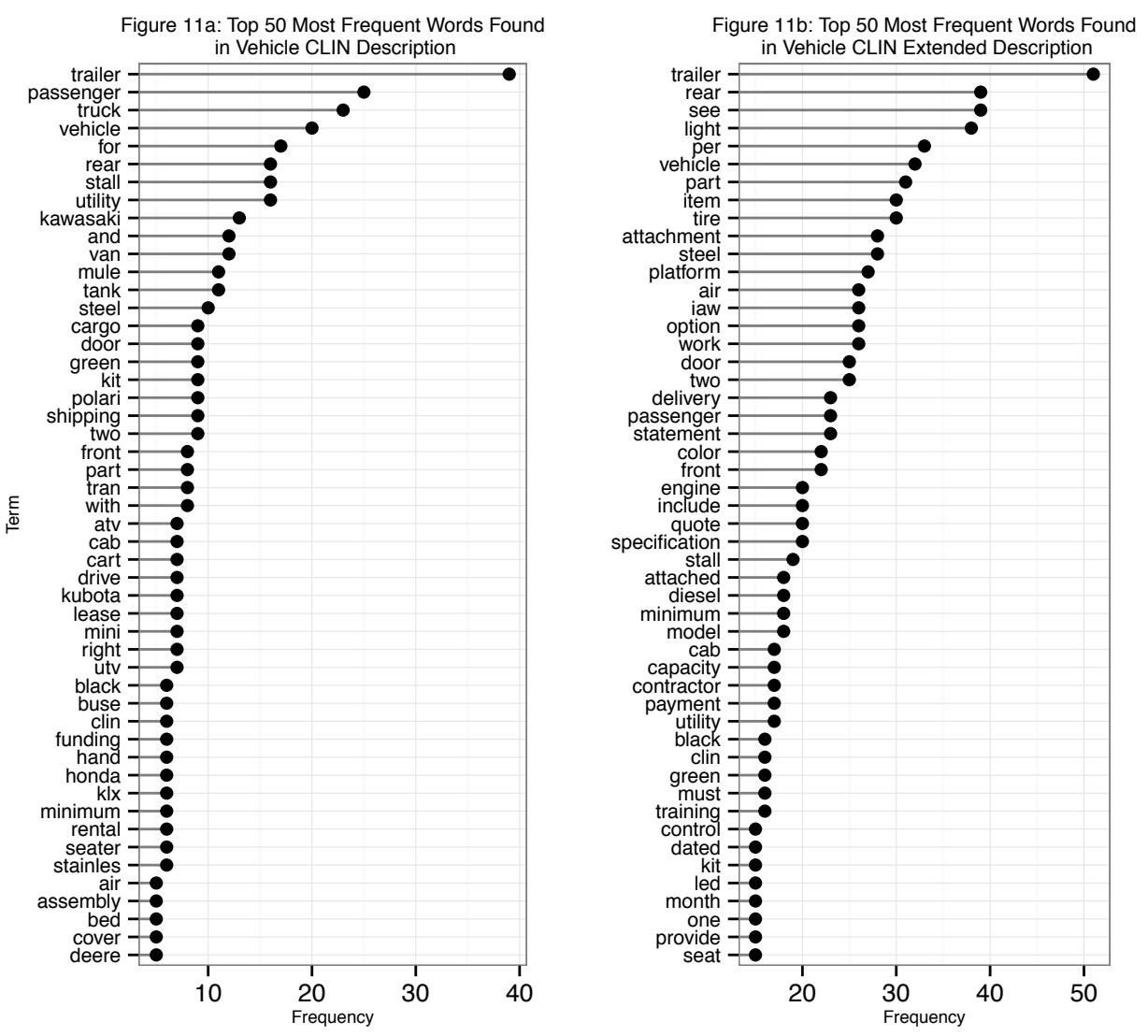
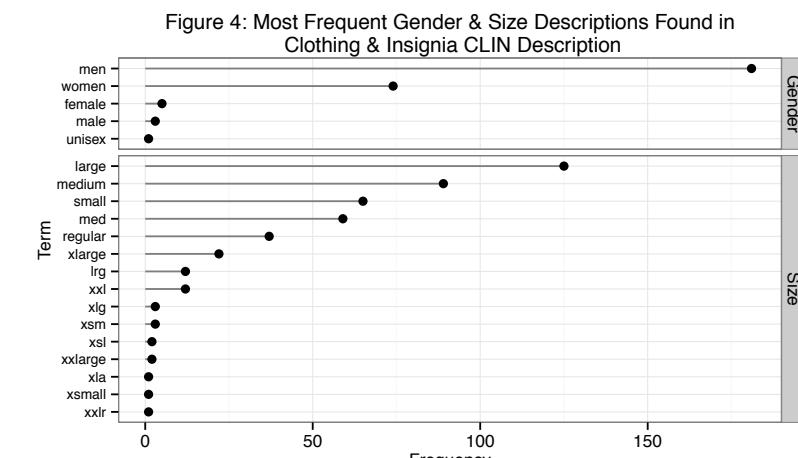
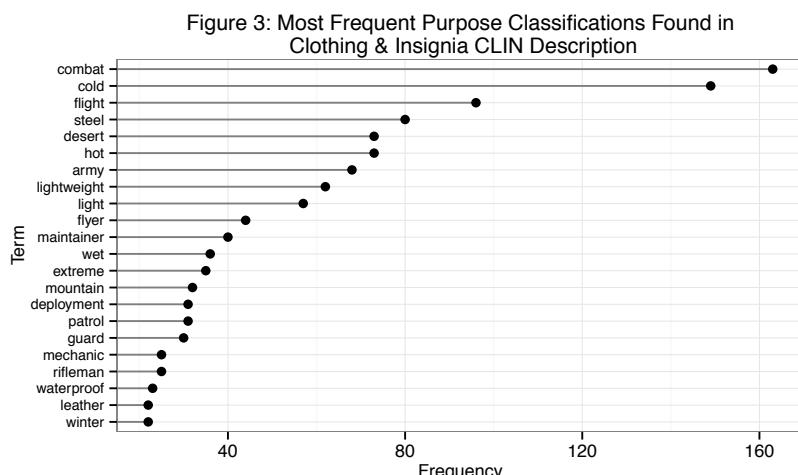
# CATEGORY MANAGEMENT

## GREATER FIDELITY FOR STRATEGIC SOURCING

### Objective

1. Improve understanding of what is being procured
2. Improve visibility of what is being procured

### Results



### Key Data Science Components

Applied text analytics



### Insights

1. Identified most common clothing characteristics: items, purposes, sizes and gender
2. Identified most common types of vehicles

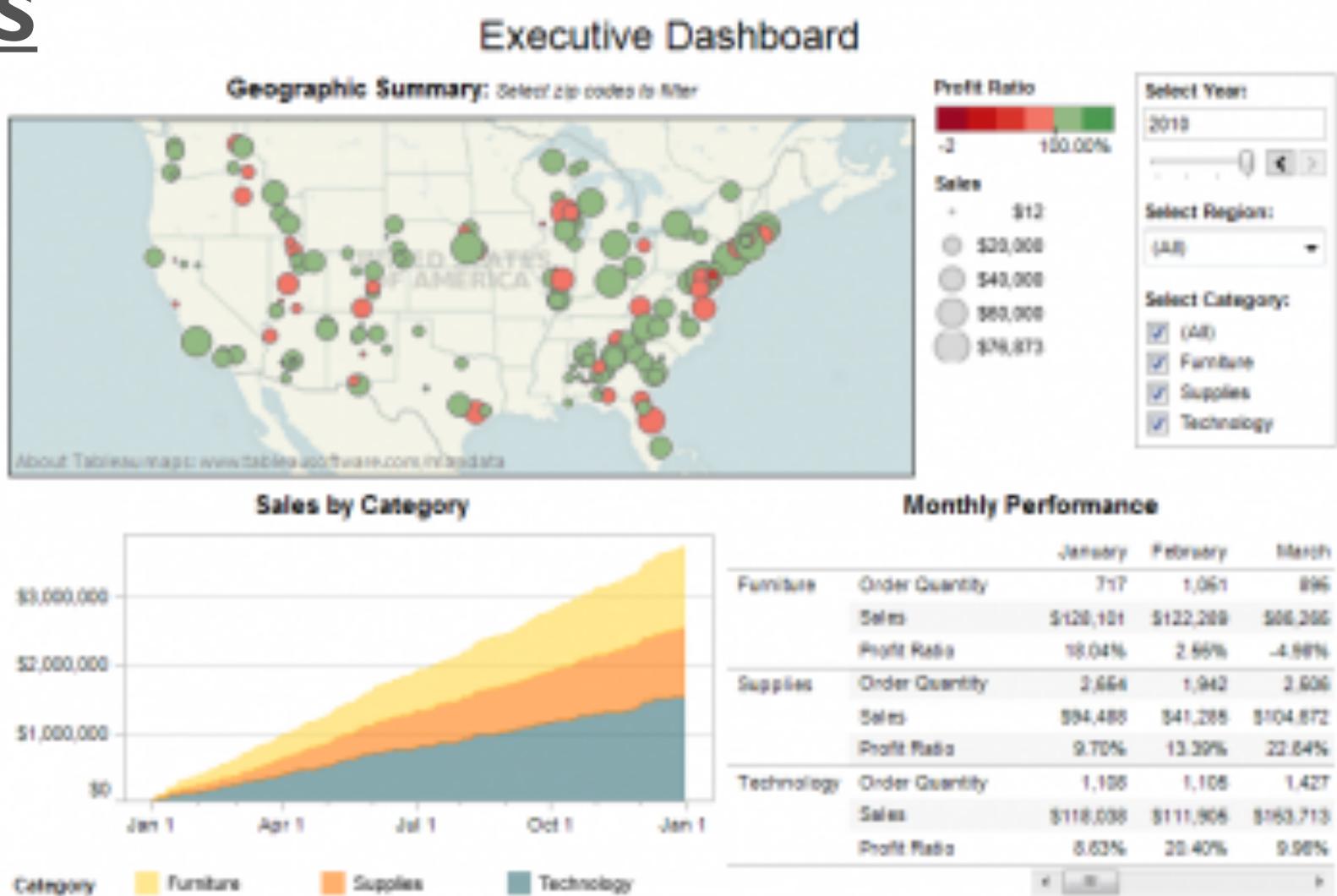
# CATEGORY MANAGEMENT

## GREATER FIDELITY FOR STRATEGIC SOURCING

### Objective

1. Improve understanding of what is being procured
2. Improve visibility of what is being procured

### Results



### Key Data Science Components

Created interactive dashboard for AF-wide consumption

### Insights

1. Identified most common clothing characteristics: items, purposes, sizes and gender
2. Identified most common types of vehicles
3. Provides insights regarding sourcing trends to all installations creating common understanding.

# AIR FORCE “REQUIREMENTS”

## AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY AND THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE

### **Resource Problem**

Aircraft availability is the Air Force’s primary metric for aircraft performance. Although the conceptual linkage is clear the evidence is not.

# AIR FORCE “REQUIREMENTS”

## AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY AND THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE

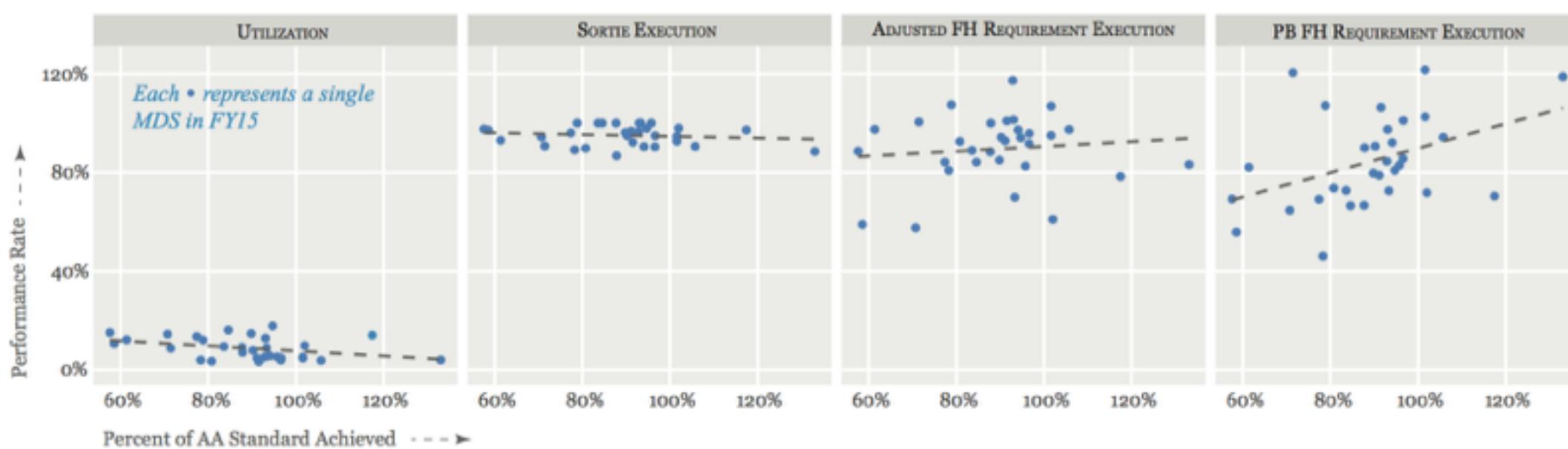
### Objective

Understand the relationship between AA and aircraft performance

### Results

**Figure: Association Between AA and Mission Performance**

The relationships between AA and near-term mission performance attributes are nominal at best. A weapon system's utilization, sortie execution, and adjusted flying hour requirement execution rate are not influenced by the weapon system's percent of AA standard achieved. The only statistically significant relationship observed is the relationship between AA and the President's Budget flying hour requirement execution. However, this relationship is weak with a correlation of .42, which suggests about 15% of the variance in executing the PB flying hour requirement is explained by a weapon system's ability to achieve its AA standard.



### Key Data Science Components

Data quality and disorganization



### Insights

1. Illustrated the apparent lack of relationship between AA and near-term aircraft performance
2. Suggests that AA may not be appropriate for near-term, programmatic and enterprise decisions

# FINDING \$2B IN ERRORS... AND \$4.4B IN REDUCTIONS!

## Resource Problem

In 2014, Air Force leaders expressed concern over the rising cost of Weapon System Sustainment (WSS) and the co-occurring increase of WSS requirements.

# FINDING \$2B IN ERRORS... AND \$4.4B IN REDUCTIONS!

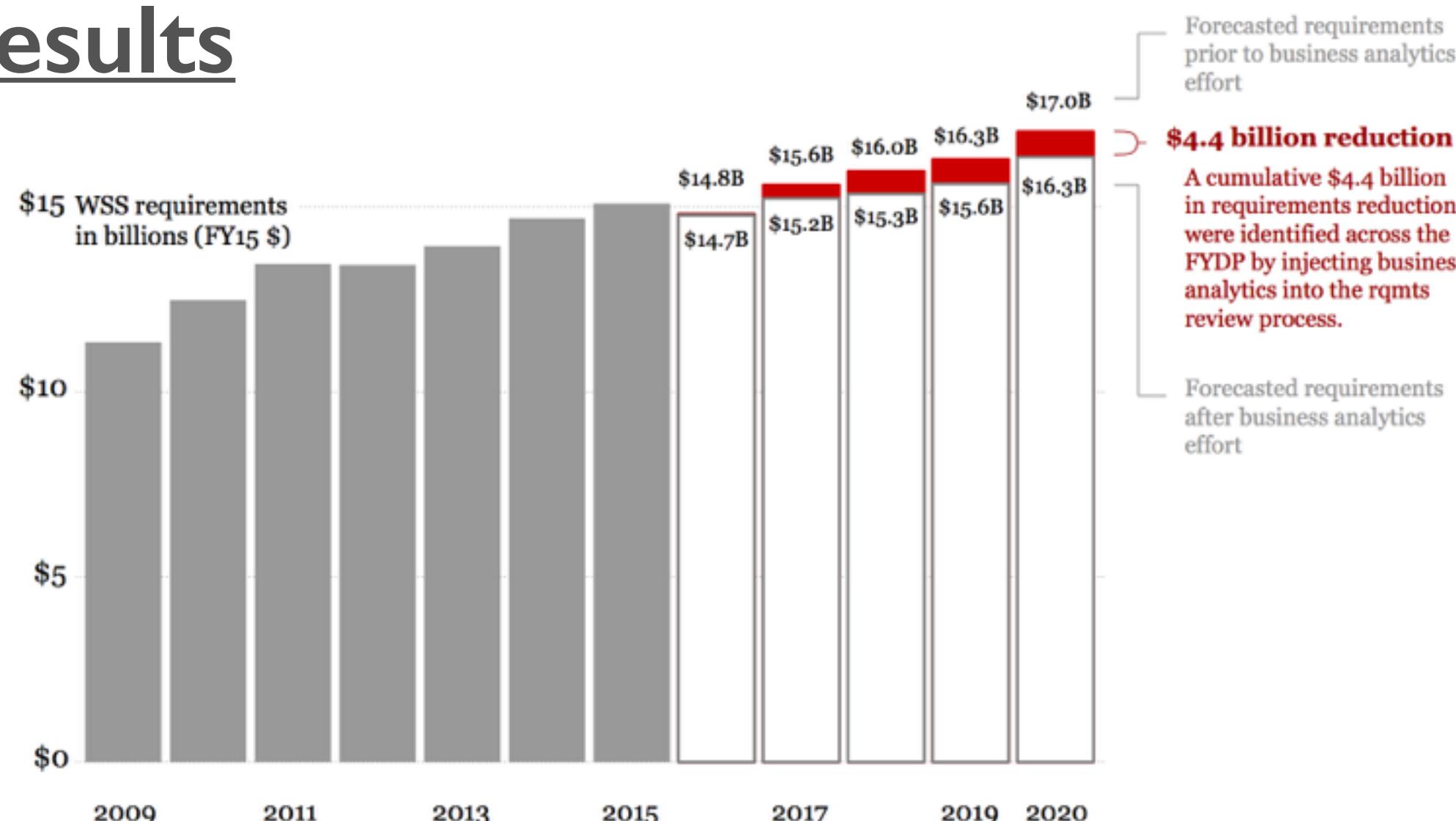
## Objective

1. Improve visibility into WSS requirements and cost increases
2. Help speed up the validation process

## Key Data Science Components

1. Applied data mining techniques
2. Integrated interactive visualization capabilities so CAM leadership could “cut-n-slice” as needed

## Results



## Insights

1. Identified a \$2.2B requirement error after it had been overlooked by CAM's normal validation process
2. Identified a total of \$4.4B in reductions over the FYDP

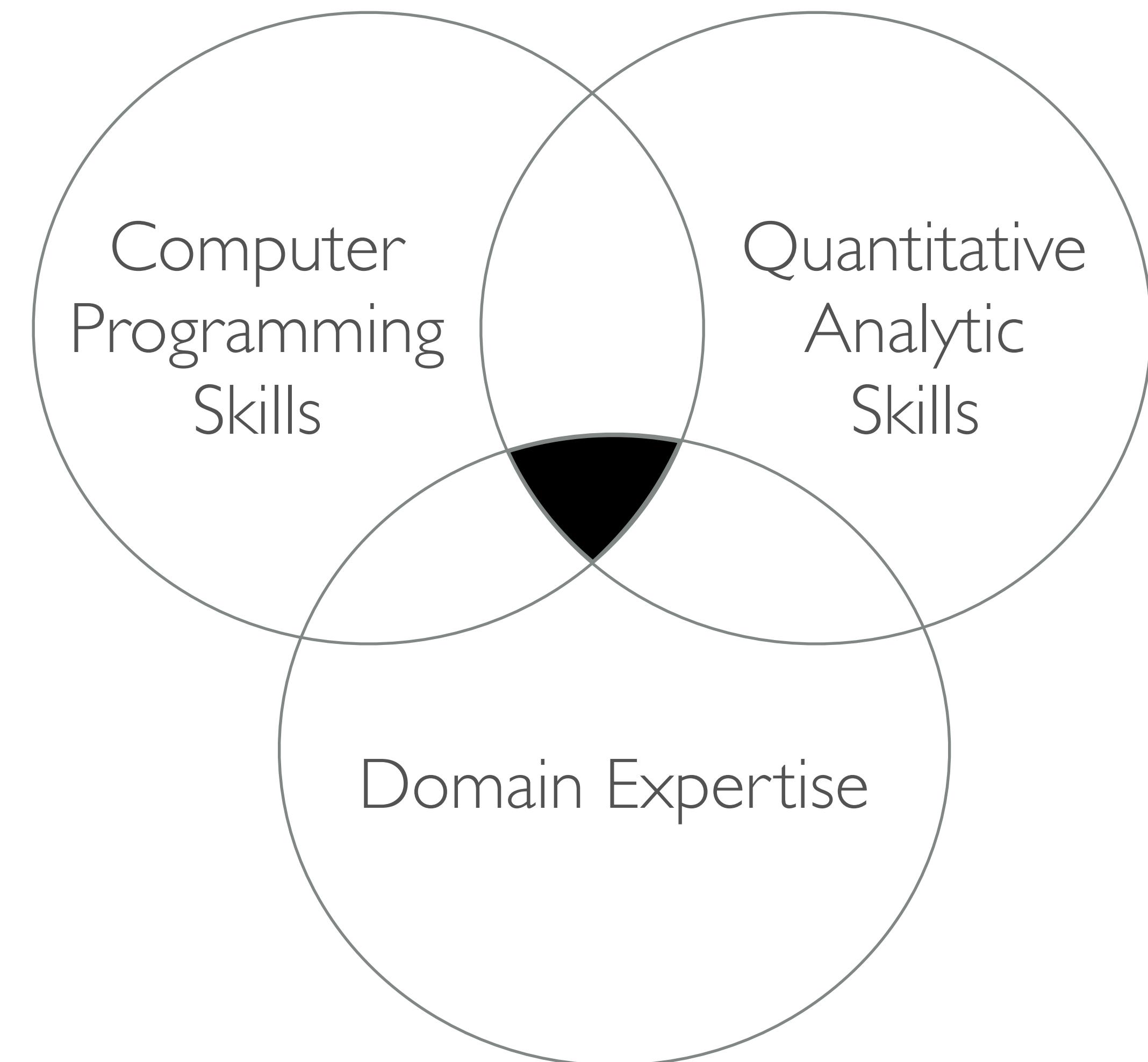
# DATA SCIENCE

*How do we grow this capability?*

# PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS

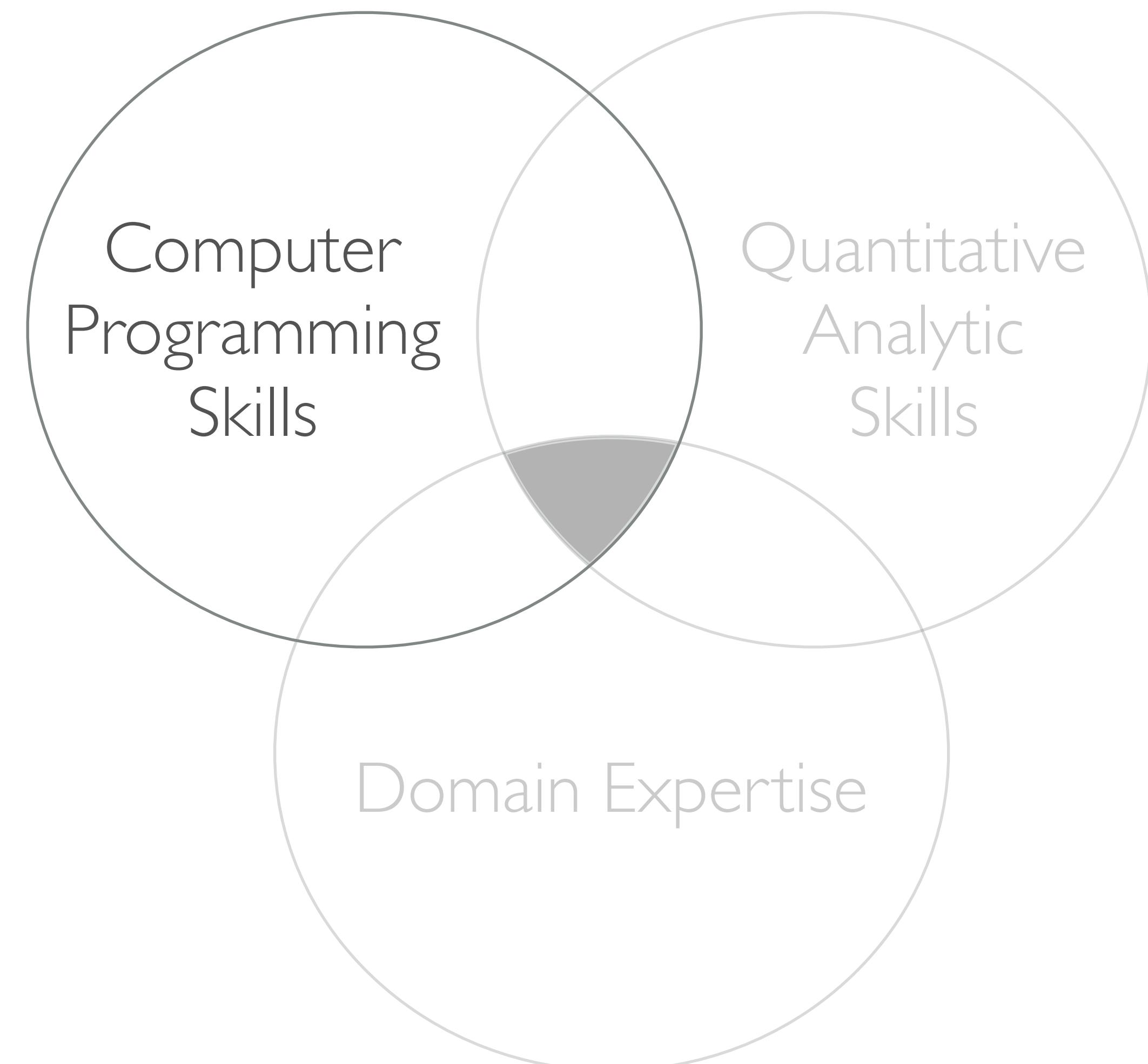


# PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS

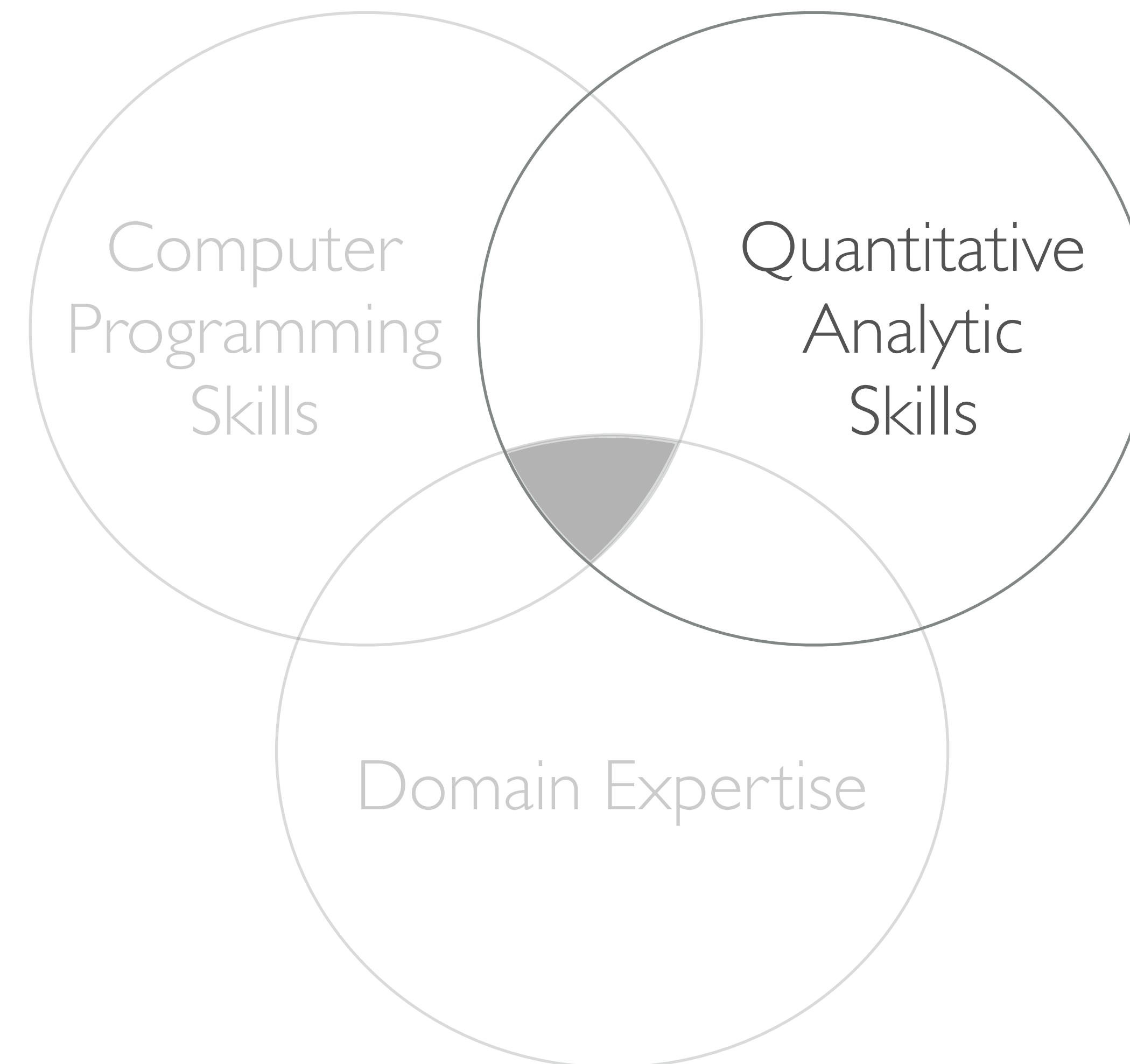


# PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS

- Computer science basics
- Hacker mindset
- Statistical computing
- Data base

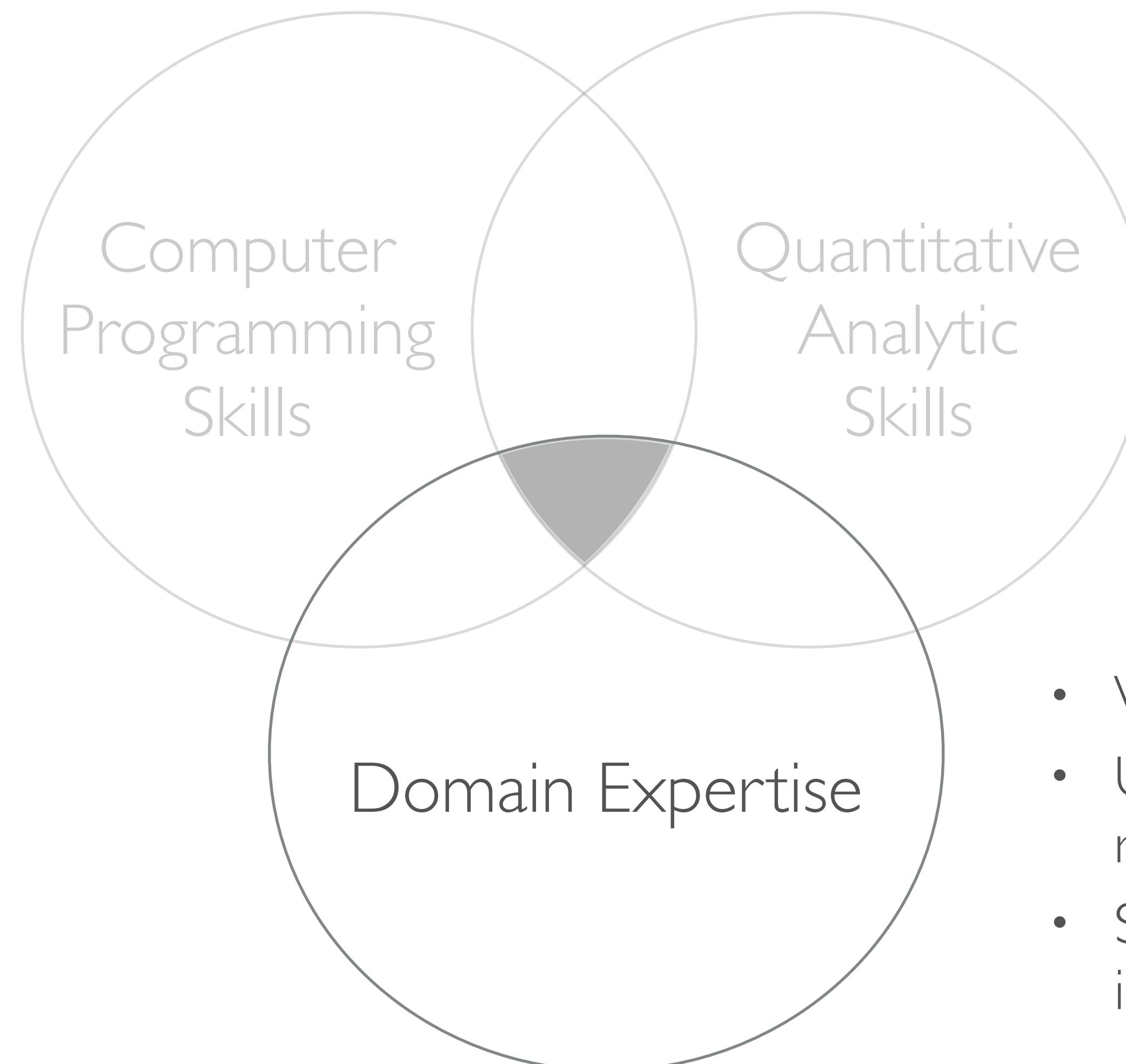


# PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS



- Statistical modeling
- Decision analysis
- Experimental design
- Machine learning
- Text analysis
- Optimization techniques

# PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS



- Willing to learn the AF business
- Understand supply chain relationships & implications
- Strategic, proactive, creative, innovative and collaborative

# PROVIDE THE RIGHT TOOL SET



# PROVIDE THE RIGHT TOOL SET

R

Python

Tableau

SQL

ARENA

Mathematica

DesignExpert

Analytica

VBA

Solver

JMP

Crystal Ball



PRE-DECISIONAL // AF/A9 WORKING PAPER  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

(Date)

MEMORANDUM FOR AIR FORCE ANALYTIC COMMUNITY

FROM: HQ USAF/A9  
1570 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1570

SUBJECT: Baseline Software Suite for Operations Research Analysis

In order to minimize costs, increase productivity, and foster a more productive environment for Operations Research (OR) in the Air Force, all OR analysts (AFSC 61A, civilian occupational series 1515, and others practicing OR in support of the Air Force mission) in the Air Force should have access to a baseline suite of software. After careful study, AF/A9 compiled the list of software for this suite, detailed in Appendix I. AF/A9 will review this software suite annually to ensure its currency.

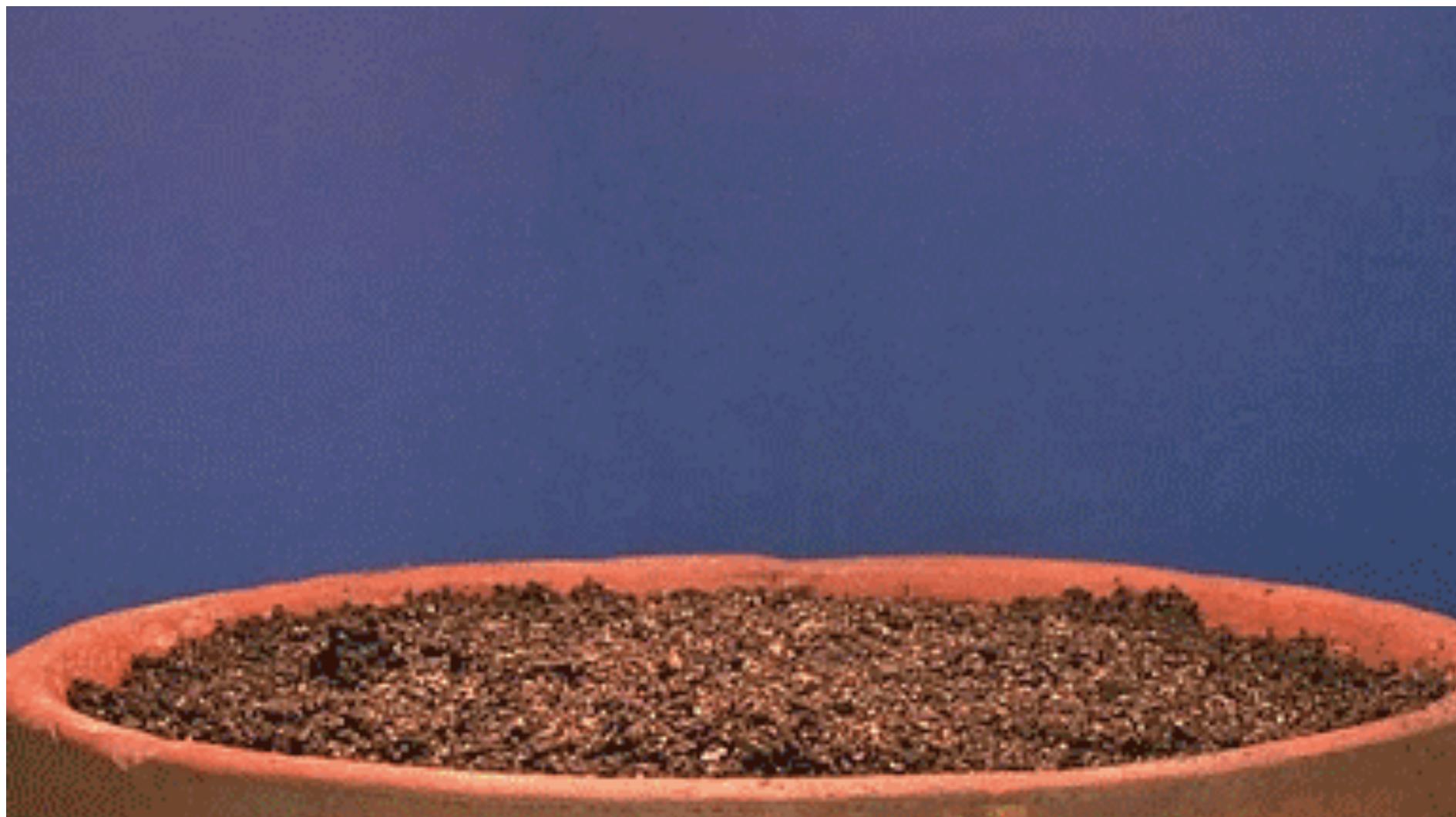
Institutions responsible for training and educating 61As or 1515s shall ensure their curriculums prepare analysts to use these software tools effectively in order to produce gold-standard analyses for the Air Force.

Currently not all of the products or latest product versions on this list are on the Air Force Evaluated Products List (EPL). AF/A9 is working on a longer term solution with the Air Force and Space Authorizing Official to gain accessibility of these products to all AFAC members. In the meantime, units are encouraged to pursue procurement of these tools through their local communications process.

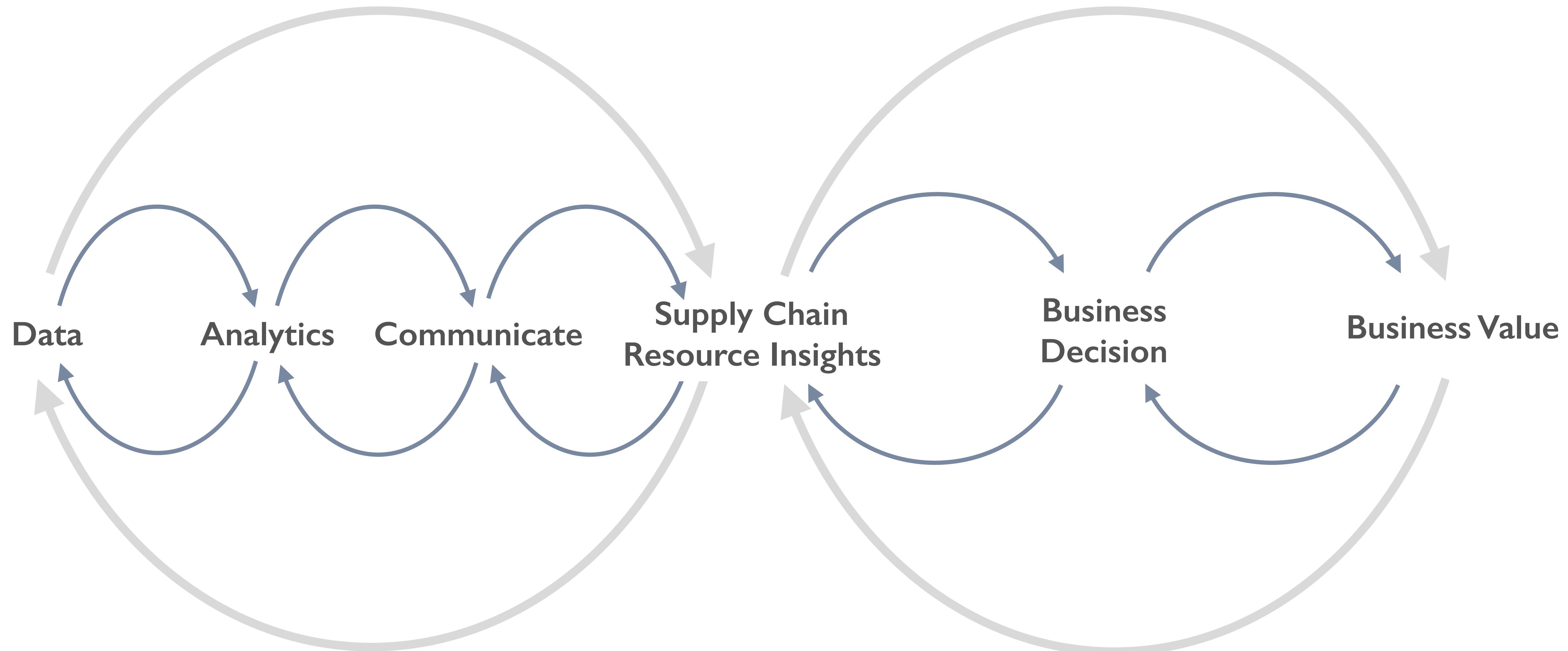
This policy does not prohibit analysts from using software outside of Appendix I. However, analysts are encouraged to use this suite as much as possible in order to reap the benefits of standardization.

KEVIN E. WILLIAMS, SES, DAF  
Director, Studies, Analyses and Assessments

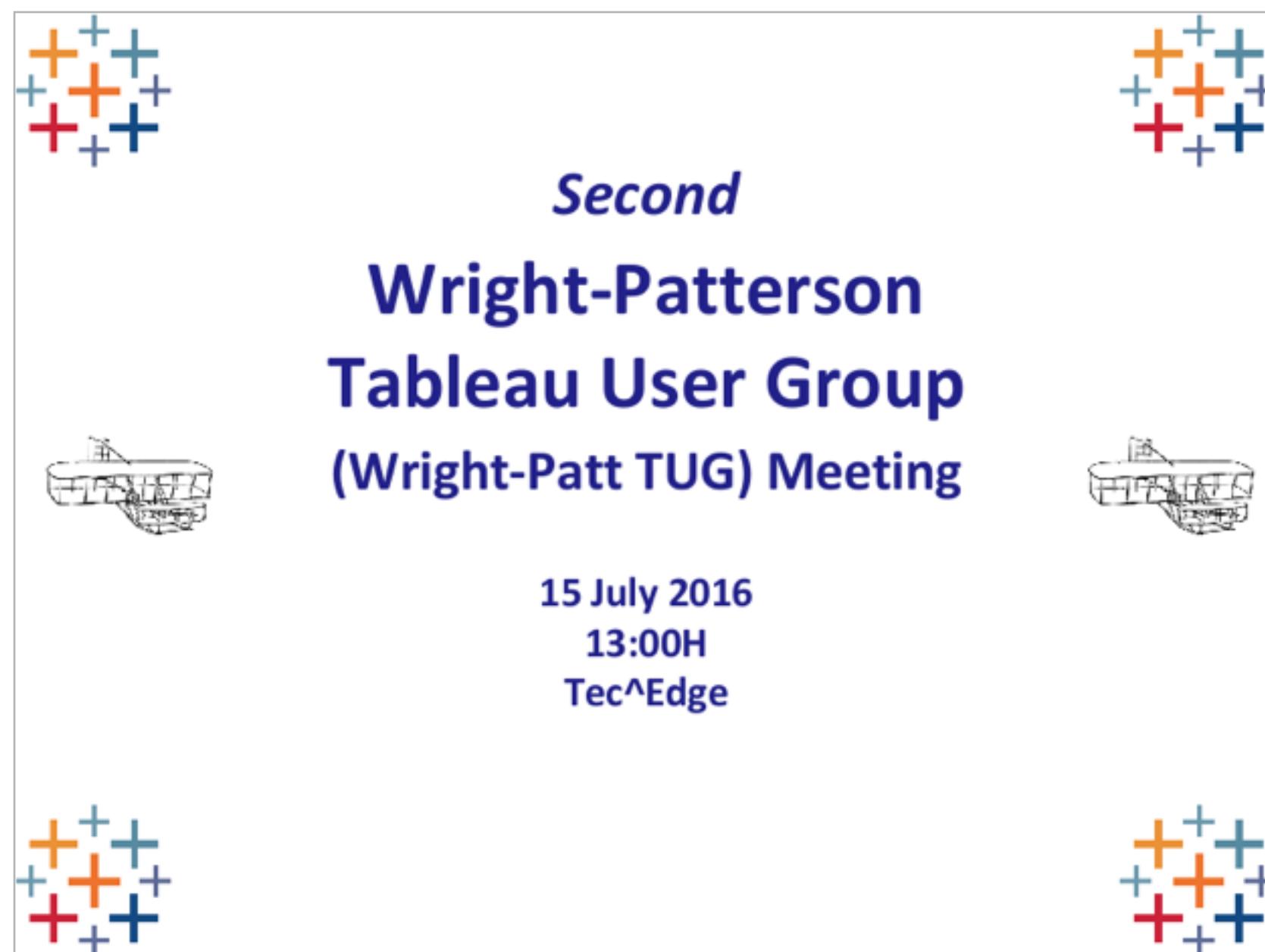
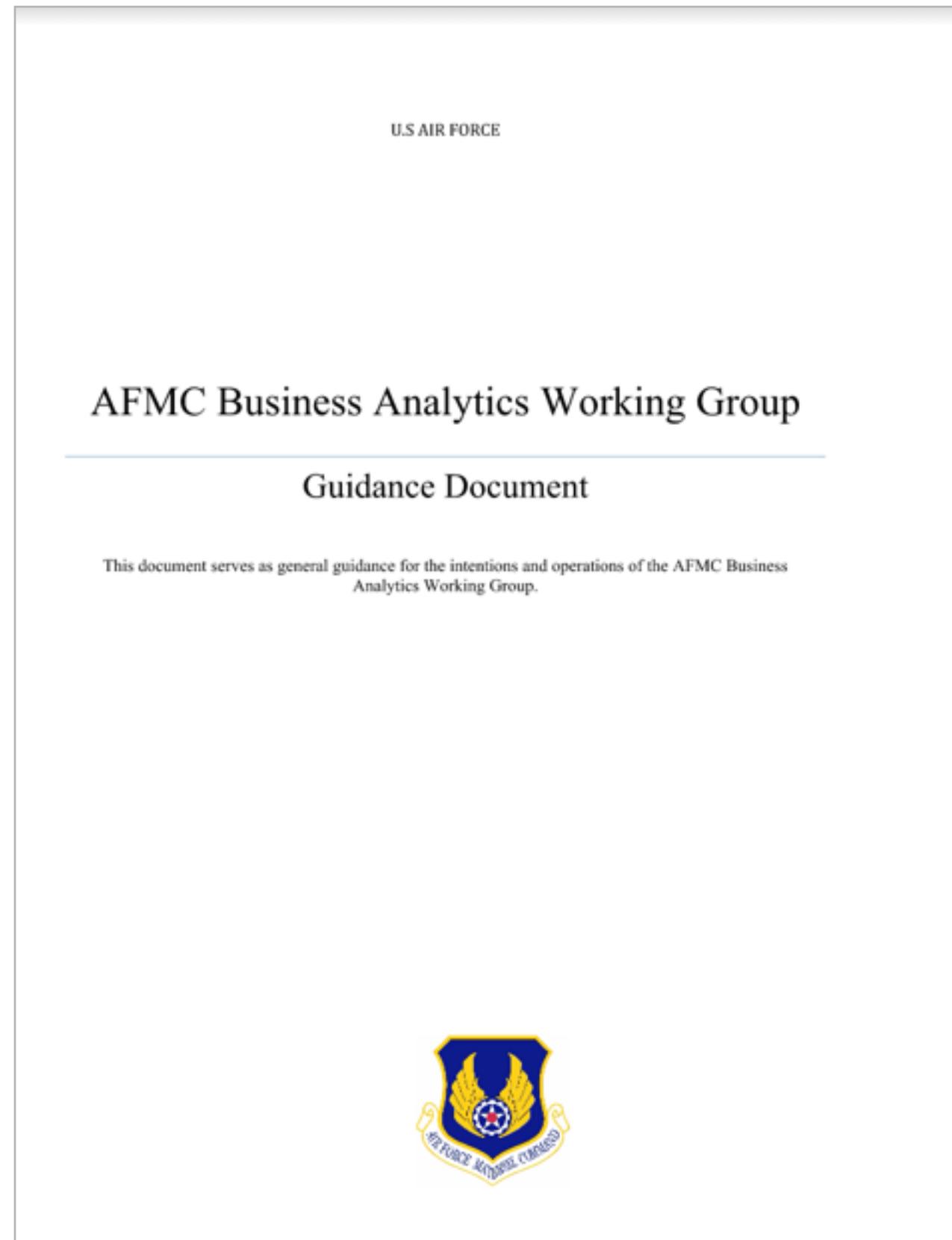
# PROVIDE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT



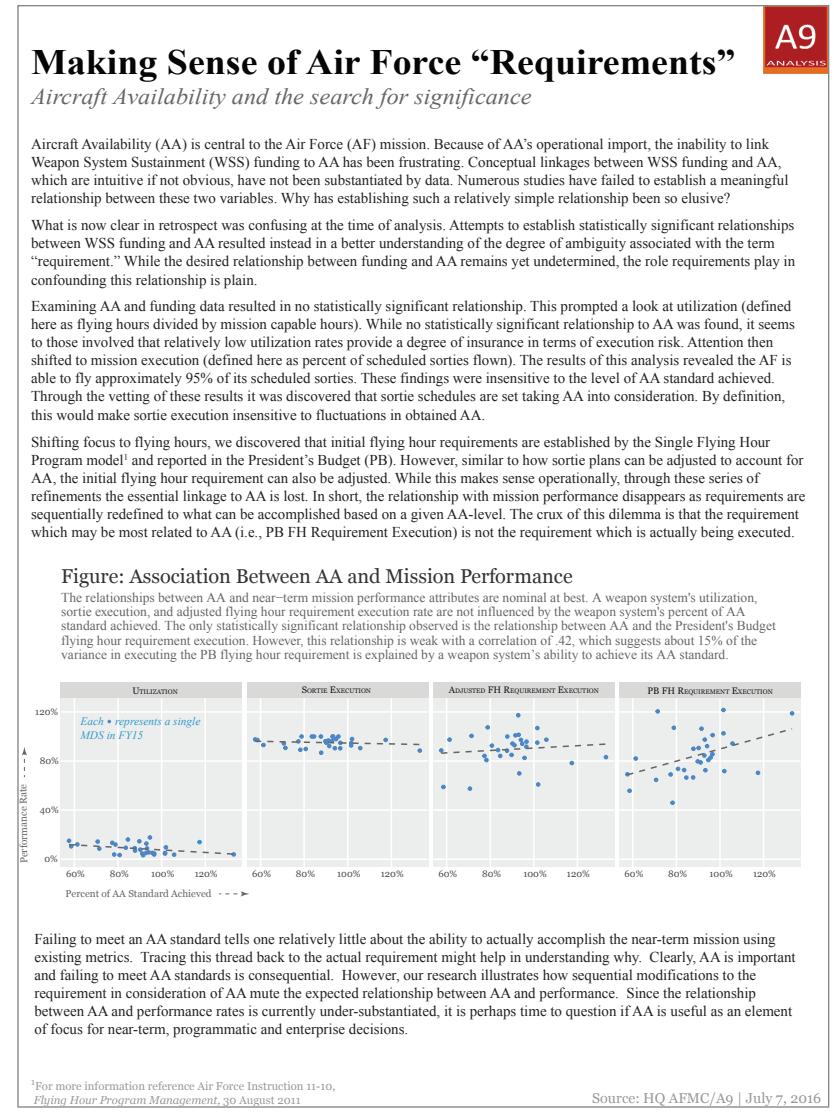
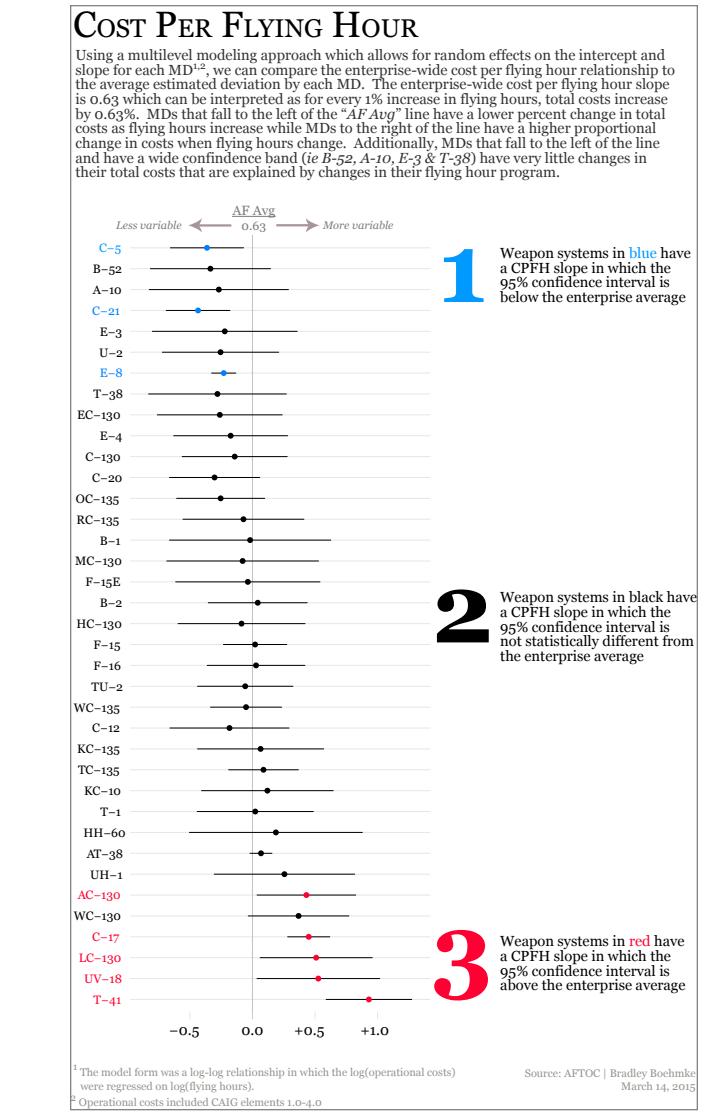
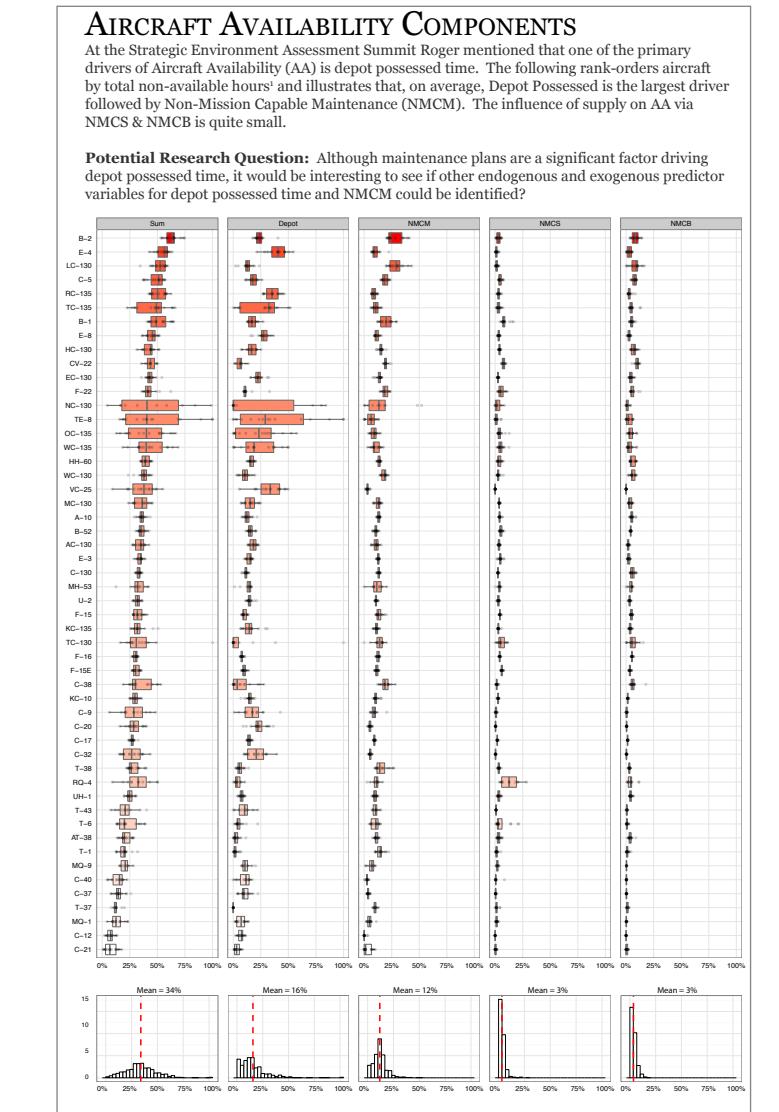
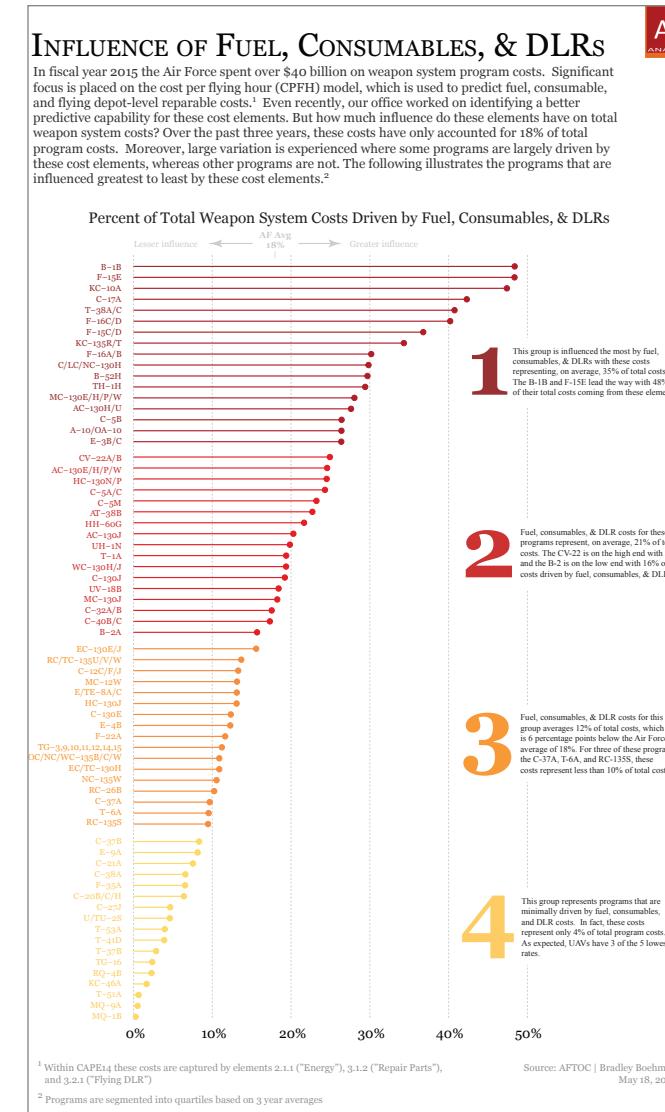
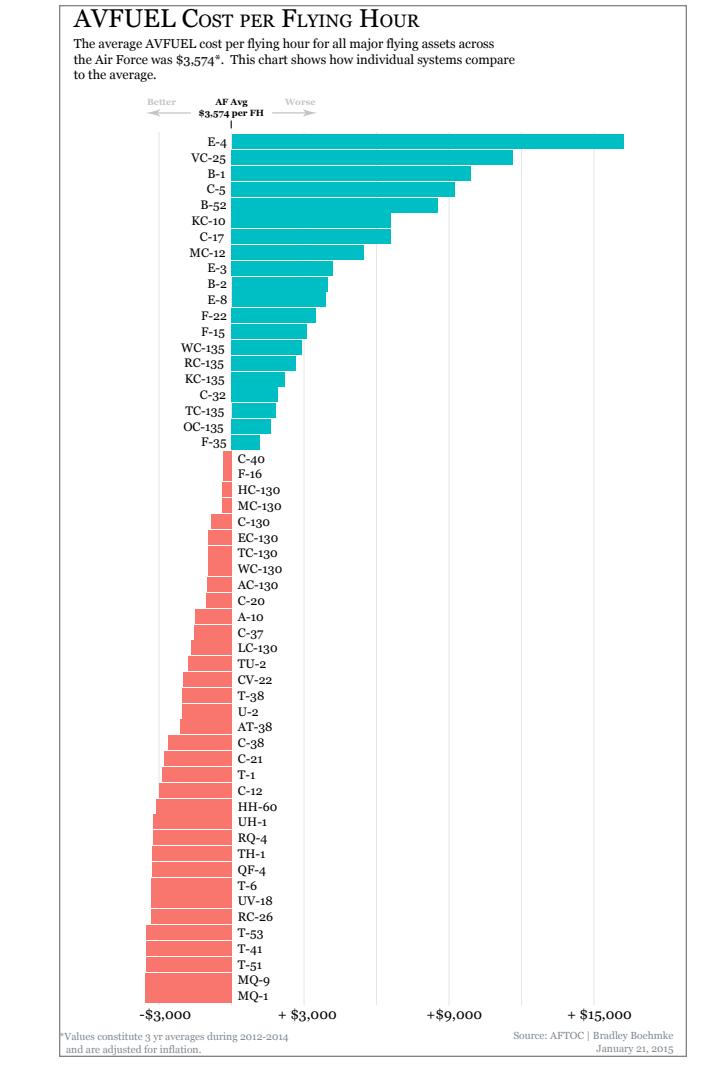
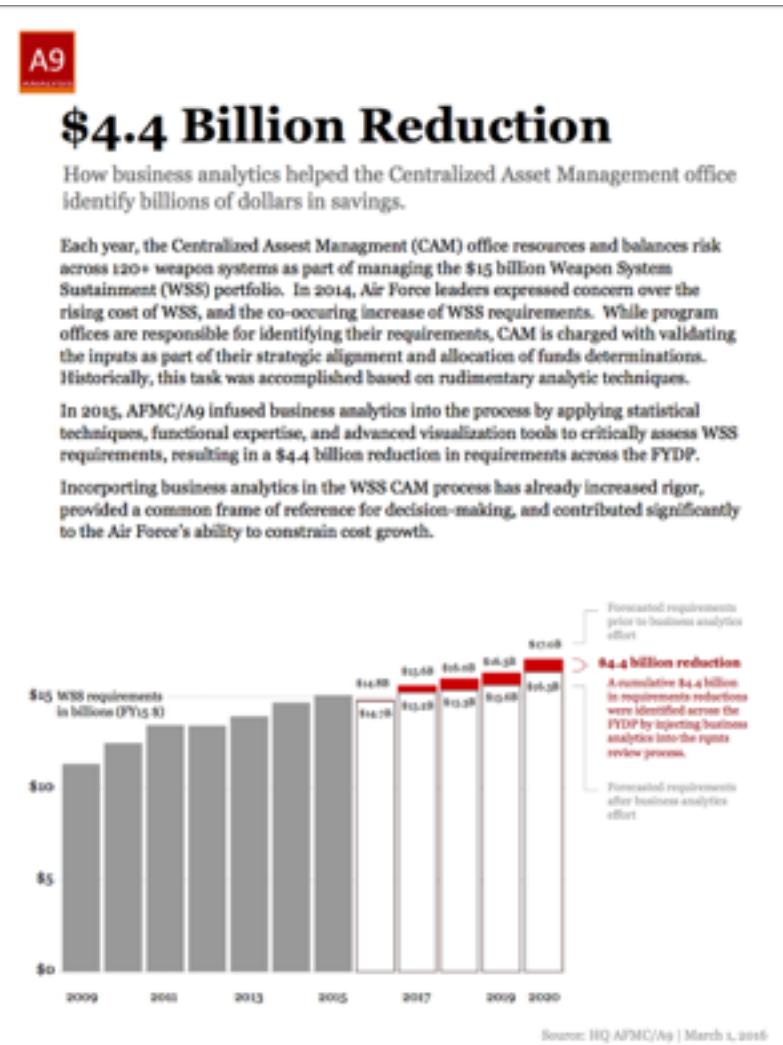
# PROVIDE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT



# PROVIDE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT



# PROVIDE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT



\*For more information reference: Air Force Instruction 11-10, Flying Hour Program Management, 20 August 2011

**A9 ANALYSIS**

Aircraft Availability (AA) is central to the Air Force (AF) mission. Because of AA's operational import, the inability to link Weapon System Sustainment (WSS) funding to AA has been frustrating. Conceptual linkages between WSS funding and AA, which are intuitive if not obvious, have not been substantiated by data. Numerous studies have failed to establish a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Why has establishing such a relatively simple relationship been so elusive?

What is now clear in retrospect was confusing at the time of analysis. Attempts to establish statistically significant relationships between WSS funding and AA resulted instead in a better understanding of the degree of ambiguity associated with the term "requirement." While the desired relationship between funding and AA remains yet undetermined, the role requirements play in confounding this relationship is plain.

Examining AA and funding data resulted in this statistically significant relationship. This prompted a look at utilization (defined here as flying hours divided by mission capable hours). While no statistically significant relationship to AA was found, it seems to those involved that relatively low utilization rates provide a degree of insurance in terms of execution risk. Attention then shifted to the association between utilization and mission performance (the AF's core mission).

The results of this analysis revealed the AF is able to fly approximately 95% of its scheduled sorties. These findings were insensitive to the level of AA standard achieved. Through the vetting of these results it was discovered that sortie schedules are set taking AA into consideration. This would make sortie execution insensitive to fluctuations in obtained AA.

Shifting focus to flying hours, we discovered that initial flying hour requirements are established by the Single Flying Hour Program model and reported in the President's Budget (PB). However, similar to how sortie plans can be adjusted to account for AA, the initial flying hour requirement can also be adjusted. While this makes sense operationally, through these series of refinements the essential linkage to AA is lost. In short, the relationship with mission performance disappears as requirements are sequentially redefined to what can be accomplished based on an AA-level. The crux of this dilemma is that the requirement which may be most related to AA (i.e., PB FH Requirement Execution) is not the requirement which is actually being executed.

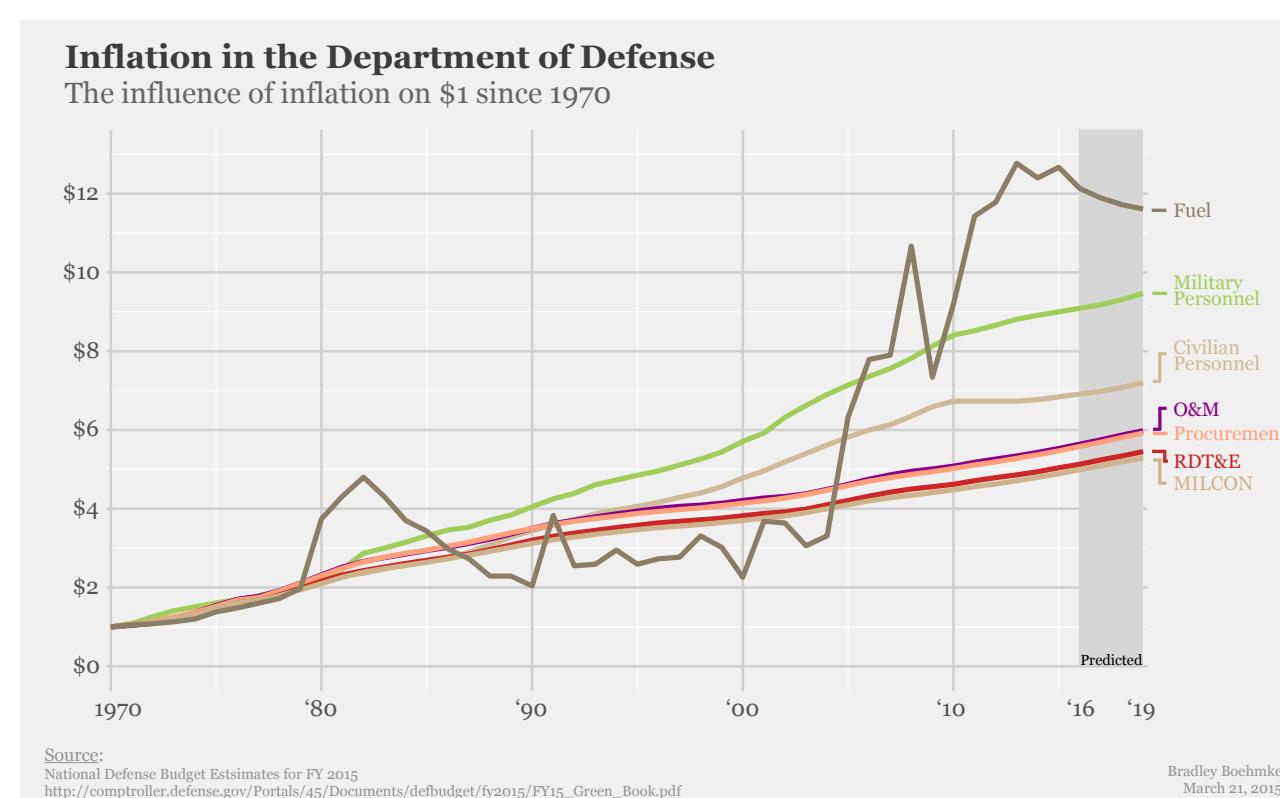
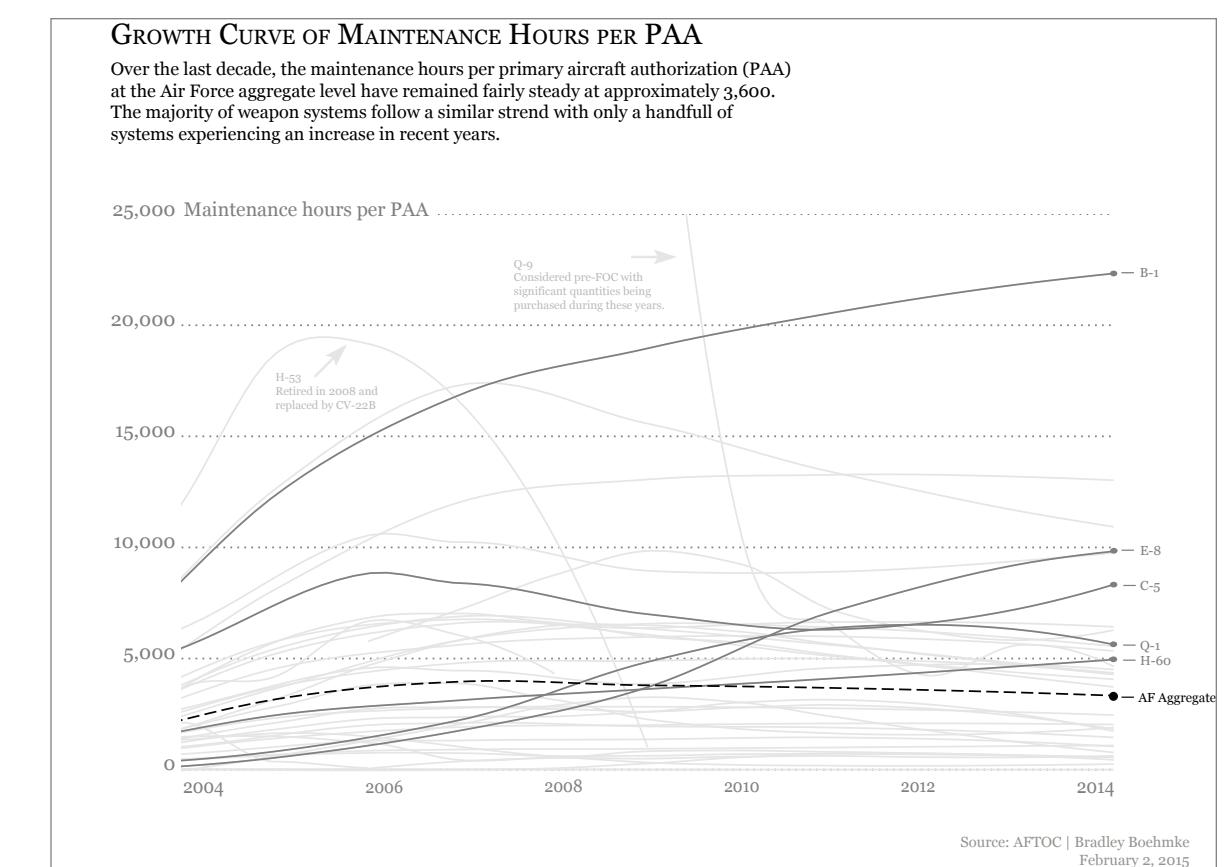
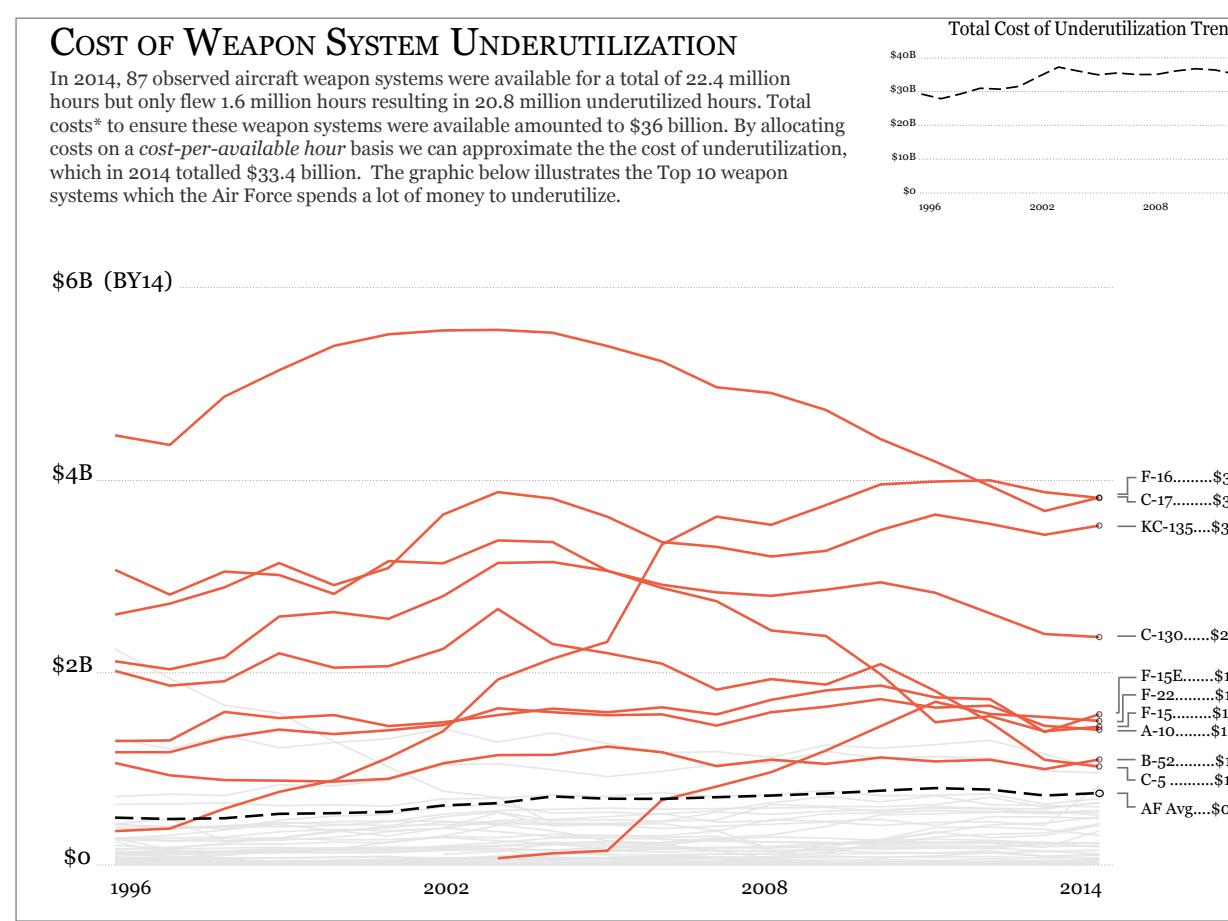
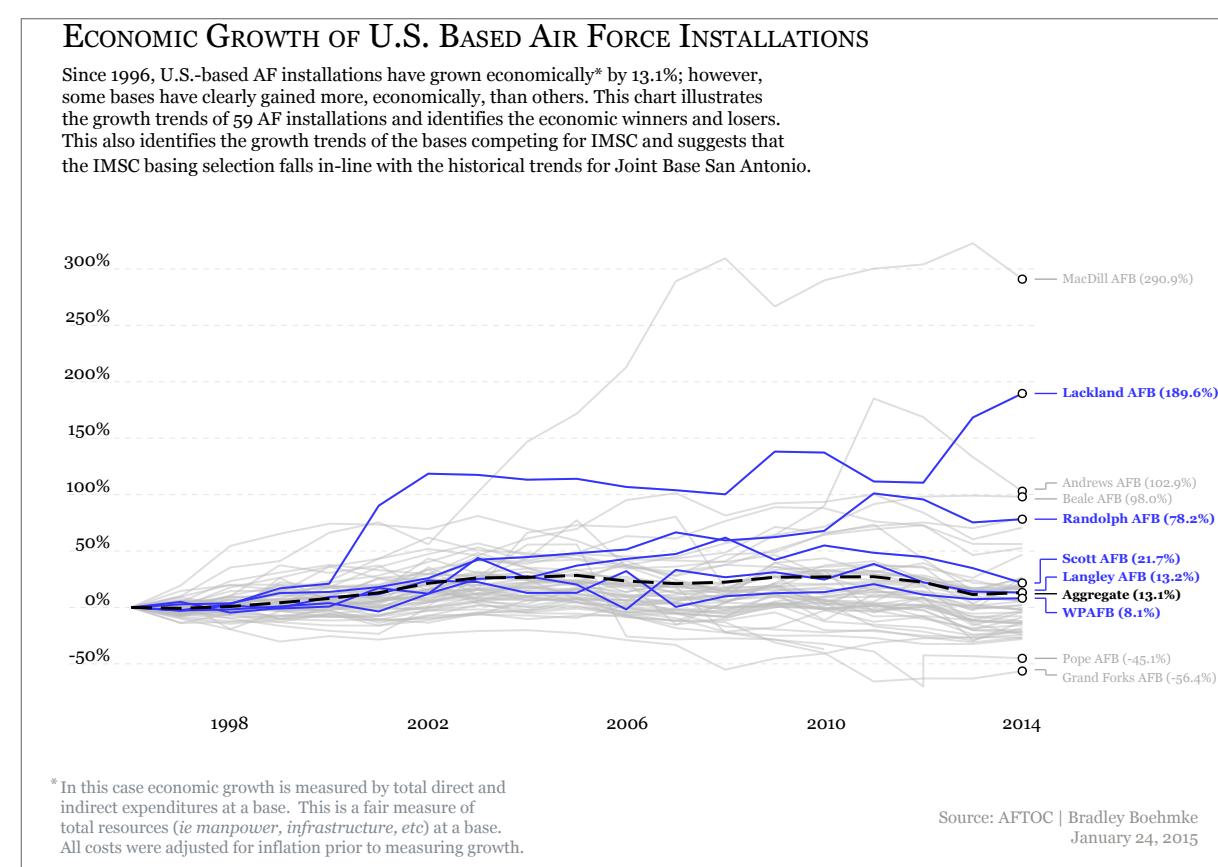
**Figure: Association Between AA and Mission Performance**

The relationships between AA and mission performance attributes are nominal at best. A weapon system's utilization, sorties, and flying hours are all additive factors toward mission performance. The crux of this dilemma is that the requirement which may be most related to AA (i.e., PB FH Requirement Execution) is not the requirement which is actually being executed.

Source: APTOC | Bradley Boehmke March 14, 2015

\*For more information reference: Air Force Instruction 11-10, Flying Hour Program Management, 20 August 2011

Source: HQ AFM/C/A9 | July 7, 2016

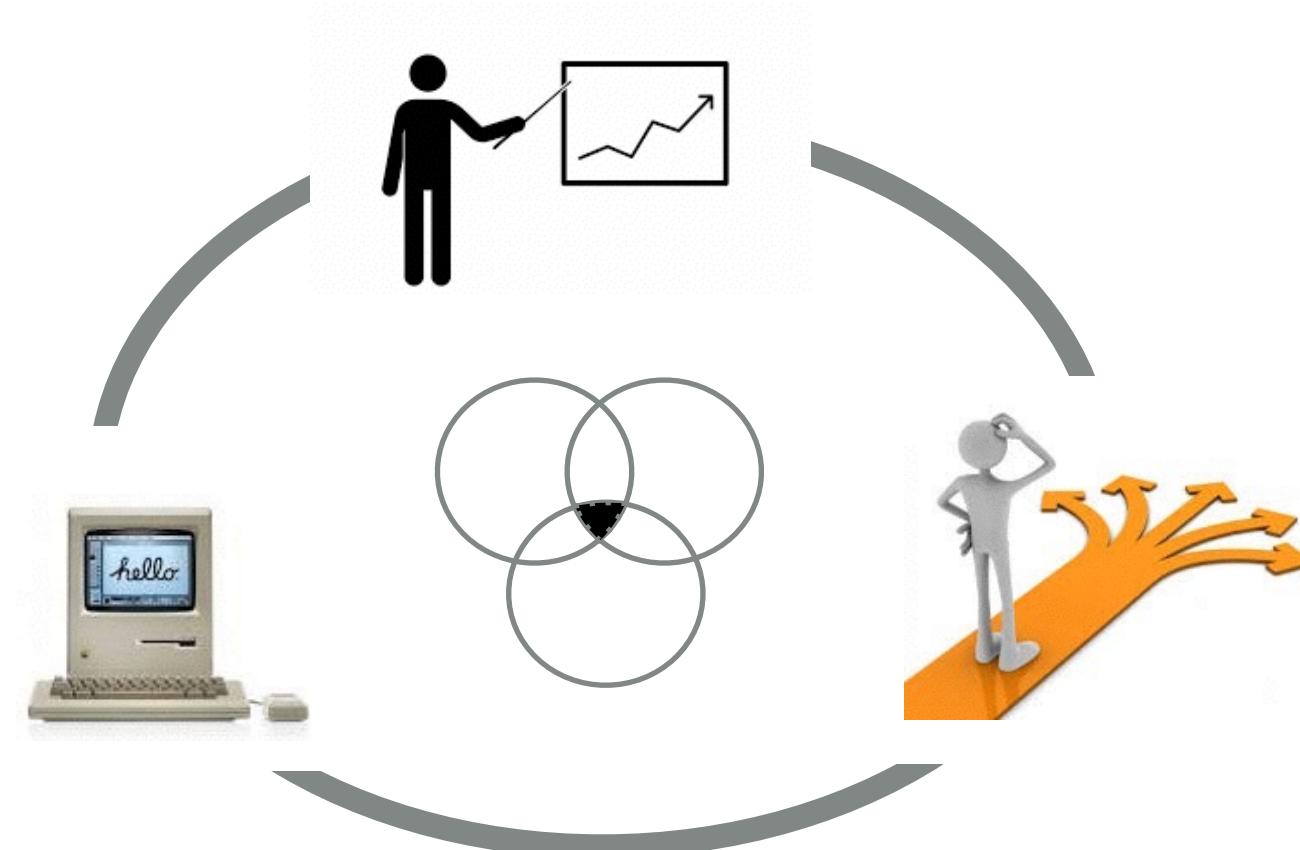


# CONCLUDING REMARKS

*Go forth and conquer*

# THEIR RELATION TO YOU

data scientist



you



# CONCLUDING REMARKS



QUESTIONS?

# BRADLEY C. BOEHMKE

 bradley.boehmke.4@us.af.mil

 bradleyboehmke@gmail.com

 LinkedIn

 @bradleyboehmke