Wrapup: What Next?

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At UMD

- Next courses (dive deeper): Machine Learning (422) Databases (424)
- Other relevant courses:
  - Computational Methods (460, for optimization)
  - Bioinformatics (423, application of things we saw in class)
  - HCI (434, communication and interaction)

At UMD

There is a Data Science specialization that include these and other courses:

http://undergrad.cs.umd.edu/degree-requirements-cs-major

At UMD

Start thinking of research opportunities

- If you plan on going to grad school, it makes a big difference in applications
- If you don't plan on going to grad school, it gives you experience thinking about data-centric problems and applications

For data science, in general, it is important to show qualifaction academically, and productively.

Have a portfolio! Github can be very useful.

Outside UMD

Get busy!

- Kaggle competitions: https://www.kaggle.com/
- Get involved in open source projects. If there was something you wished existed while doing class work, build it!
- Join the local DS community: http://www.datacommunitydc.org/

Outside UMD

Learn new things

- Python has a lot of useful stuff for data science http://www.amazon.com/Python-Data-Analysis-Wrangling-IPython/dp/1449319793
- Tutorials on Kaggle are pretty good, their new kernels_ area is fun to look at: https://www.kaggle.com/kernels
- Hector's Data Science corner: http://www.hcbravo.org/IntroDataSci/datasci_corner/
- Many resources available online

Outside UMD

Stay informed

- Lots of interesting articles and posts, from many different perspectives: https://www.oreilly.com/topics/data
- There's even podcasts!:
  - Data Skeptic
  - Data Stories
  - Talking Machines
  - Not so standard deviations
  - More

Outside UMD

Remember, Data Science affords opportunities beyond the mathematical and the technical.

These are skills that can make significant impact outside the technical realm: journalism, health, civics, etc.

E.g., https://medium.com/@dpatil

Think about what motivates **you** first, and then figure out how to dive in.