

# What is Data Science?

CMSC498T Spring 2015  
Hector Corrada Bravo  
University of Maryland

# For today

- What is data science?
- One use case
- Check on R installation

# Why Data Science?

- “I keep saying that the sexy job in the next 10 years will be statisticians”
- Hal Varian, Chief Economist at Google
- ([http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/06/technology/06stats.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/06/technology/06stats.html?_r=0))

# Why data science?

- “The ability to take data—to be able to **understand** it, to **process** it, to **extract value** from it, to **visualize** it, to **communicate** it—that’s going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades, not only at the professional level but even at the educational level for elementary school kids, for high school kids, for college kids.”
- Hal Varian
  - ([http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/innovation/hal\\_varian\\_on\\_how\\_the\\_web\\_challenges\\_managers](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/innovation/hal_varian_on_how_the_web_challenges_managers))

# Why Data Science

- “Because now we really do have essentially free and ubiquitous data. So the complimentary scarce factor is the ability to understand that data and extract value from it.”
- Hal Varian
  - ([http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/innovation/hal\\_varian\\_on\\_how\\_the\\_web\\_challenges\\_managers](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/innovation/hal_varian_on_how_the_web_challenges_managers))

# Data Science Success Stories

Rafael Irizarry, <http://cs109.github.io/2014/>



# The Data Scientist

Actual

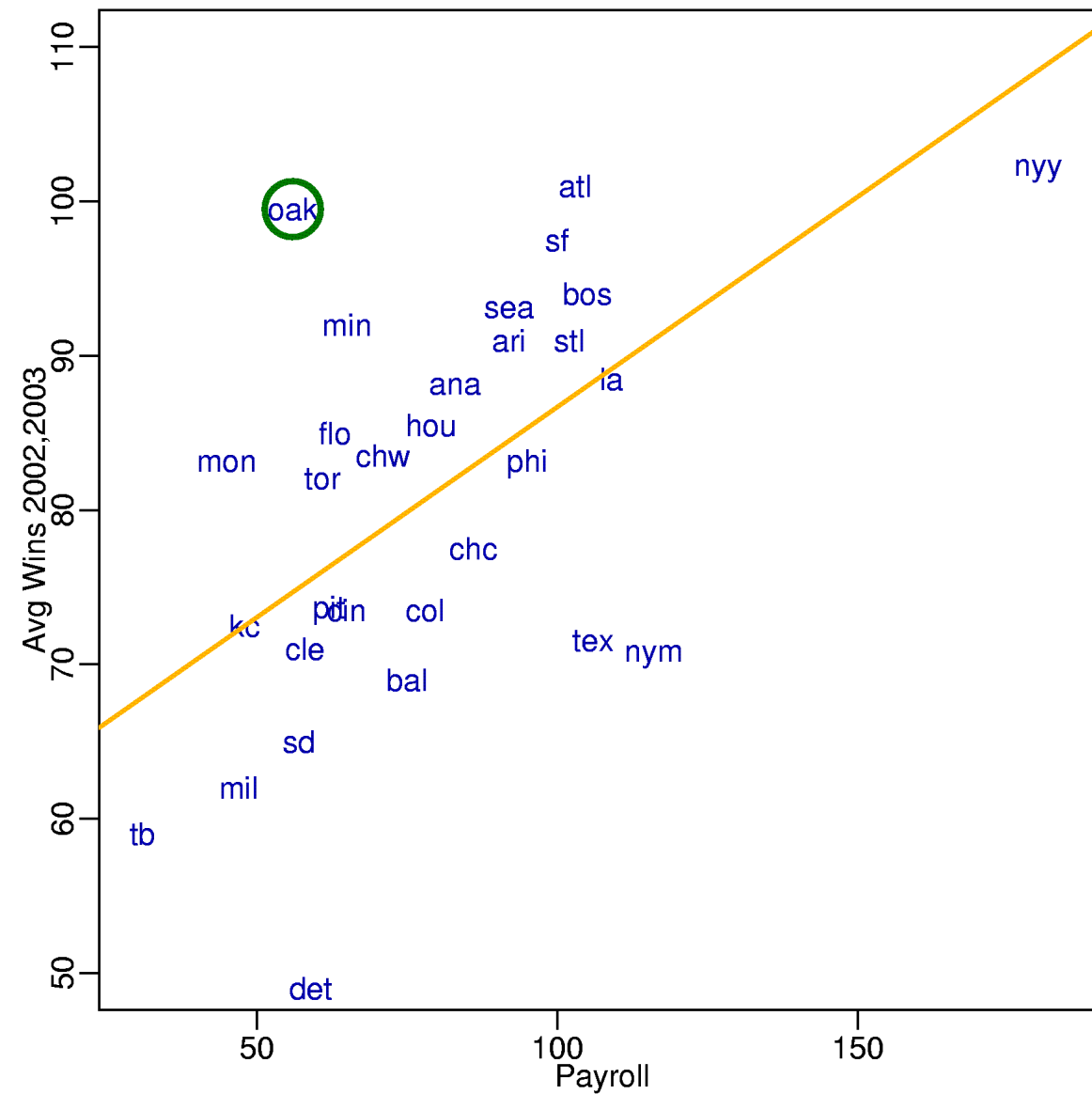


Hollywood





# Money Ball



Starting around 2001, the Oakland A's picked players that scouts thought were no good but data said otherwise

# “Nate Silver won the election” – Harvard Business Review

[FAQ](#) [Today's Polls](#) [Pollster Ratings](#) [Contact](#) [Electoral History](#)

**FiveThirtyEight** Politics Done Right

2010 SENATE RANKINGS		
1	Missouri	Open
2	Nevada ▲	Reid
3	Ohio	Open
4	Connecticut ▼	Dodd
5	Colorado ▲	Bennet
6	New Hampshire ▼	Open
7	Kentucky	Open
8	Arkansas ▲	Lincoln
9	Illinois	Burris
10	North Carolina	Burr
11	Delaware ▼	Open
12	Pennsylvania ▼	Specter
13	Texas	Open?
14	Louisiana	Vitter
15	Iowa ▲	Grassley

11.04.2008

**Today's Polls and Final Election Projection: Obama 349, McCain 189**  
by Nate Silver @ 1:16 PM

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It's Tuesday, November 4th, 2008, Election Day in America. The last polls have straggled in, and show little sign of mercy for John McCain. Barack Obama appears poised for a decisive electoral victory.

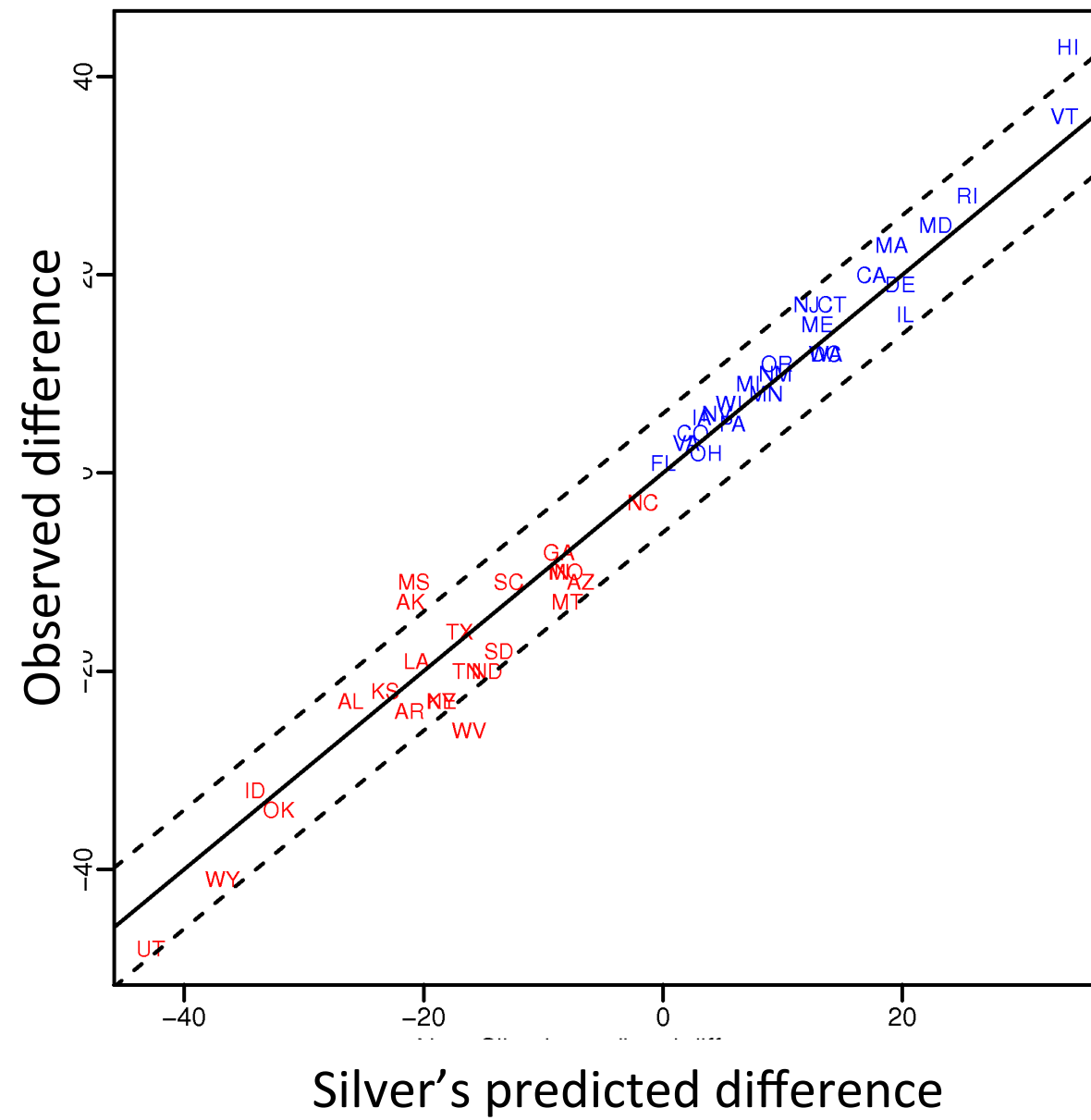
Our model projects that Obama will win all states won by John Kerry in 2004, in addition to Iowa, New Mexico, Colorado, Ohio, Virginia, Nevada, Florida and North Carolina, while narrowly losing Missouri and Indiana. These states total 353 electoral votes. Our official projection, which looks at these outcomes probabilistically – for instance, assigns North Carolina's 15 electoral votes to Obama 59 percent of the time – comes up with an incrementally more conservative projection of 348.6 electoral votes.

We also project Obama to win the popular vote by 6.1 points; his lead is slightly larger than that in the polls now, but our model accounts for the fact that candidates with large leads in the polls typically underperform their numbers by a small margin on Election Day.

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Prediction: 349 to 189, 6.1% difference.  
Actual: 365 to 173, 7.2% difference

# 2012 results



# Netflix Challenge

**The New York Times**  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

**Technology**

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**Bits**

Business ■ Innovation ■ Technology ■ Society

September 21, 2009, 10:15 AM

## Netflix Awards \$1 Million Prize and Starts a New Contest

By [STEVE LOHR](#)



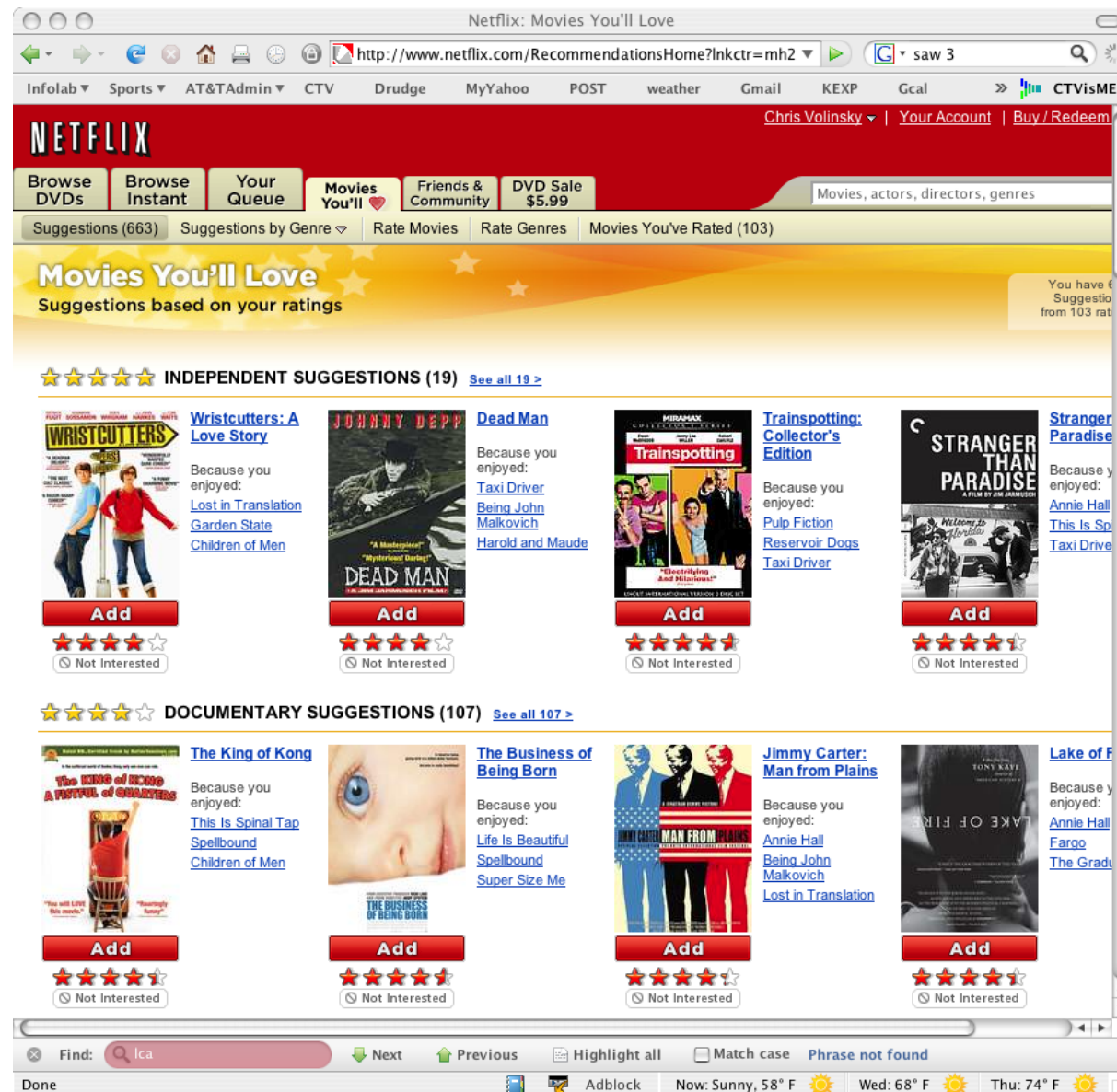
Jason Kempin/Getty Images

Netflix prize winners, from left: Yehuda Koren, Martin Chabbert, Martin Piotte, Michael Jahrer, Andreas Toscher, Chris Volinsky and Robert Bell.

In Sept 2009 a team lead by Chris Volinsky from Statistics Research AT&T Research was announced as winner!

# Netflix

- A US-based DVD rental-by mail company
- >10M customers, 100K titles, ships 1.9M DVDs per day



Good recommendations = happy customers

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

# Netflix Prize

- October, 2006:
  - Offers **\$1,000,000** for an improved recommender algorithm

- Training data

- 100 million ratings
- 480,000 users
- 17,770 movies
- 6 years of data: 2000-2005

- Test data

- Last few ratings of each user (2.8 million)
- Evaluation via RMSE: root mean squared error
- Netflix Cinematch RMSE: 0.9514

user	movie	score	date
1	21	1	2002-01-03
1	213	5	2002-04-04
2	345	4	2002-05-05
2	123	4	2002-05-05
2	768	3	2003-05-03
3	76	5	2003-10-10
4	45	4	2004-10-11
5	568	1	2004-10-11
5	342	2	2004-10-11
5	234	2	2004-12-12
6	76	5	2005-01-02
6	56	4	2005-01-31

- Competition

- **\$1 million** grand prize for **10% improvement**
- If 10% not met, \$50,000 annual “Progress Prize” for best improvement

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

# Netflix Prize

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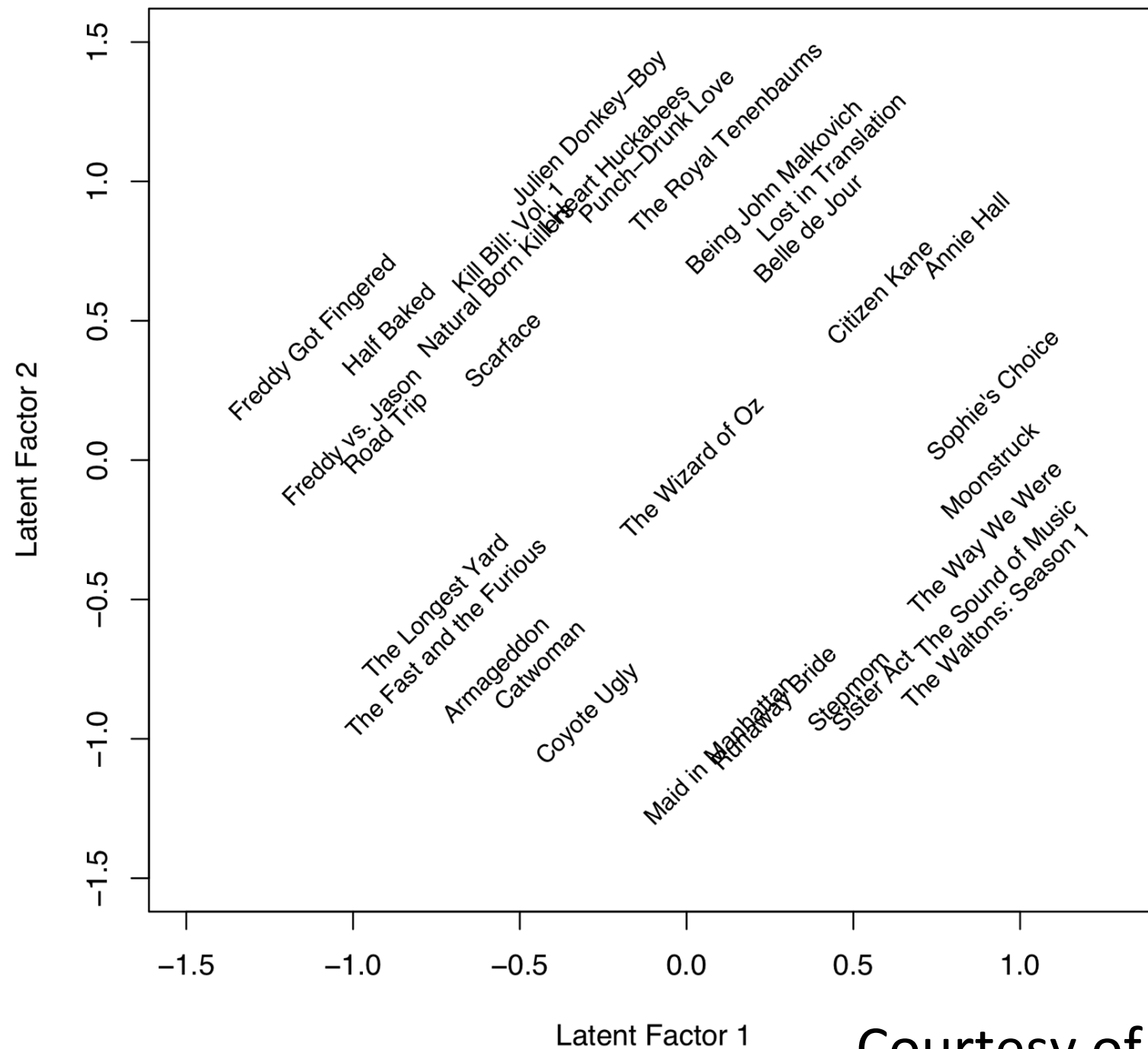
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user	movie	score	date
1	21	1	2002-01-03
user	movie	score	date
1	212	?	2003-01-03
1	1123	?	2002-05-04
2	25	?	2002-07-05
2	8773	?	2002-09-05
2	98	?	2004-05-03
3	16	?	2003-10-10
4	2450	?	2004-10-11
5	2032	?	2004-10-11
5	9098	?	2004-10-11
5	11012	?	2004-12-12
6	664	?	2005-01-02
6	1526	?	2005-01-31

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky



# Latent Factors Model

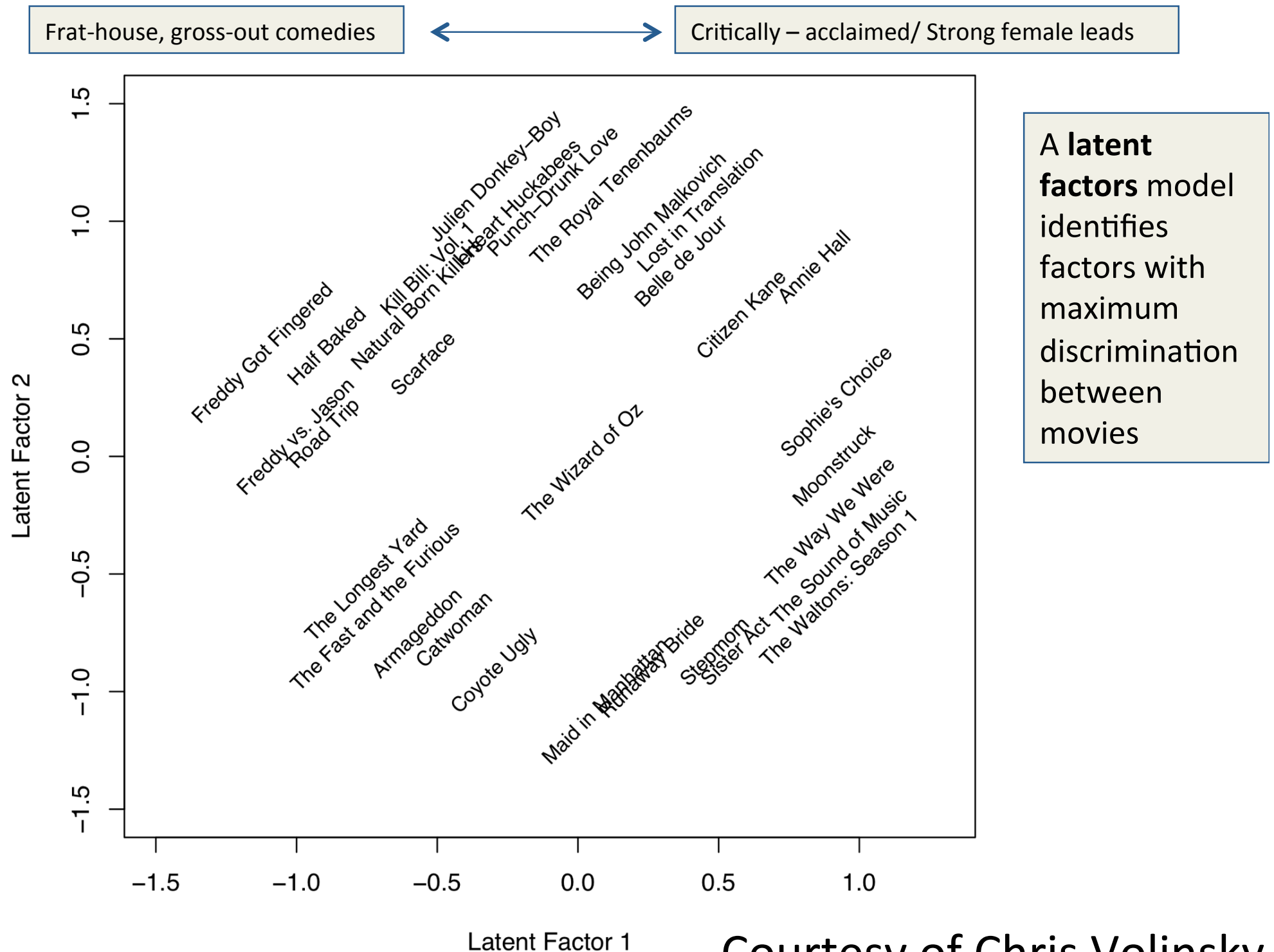


A **latent factors** model identifies factors with maximum discrimination between movies

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

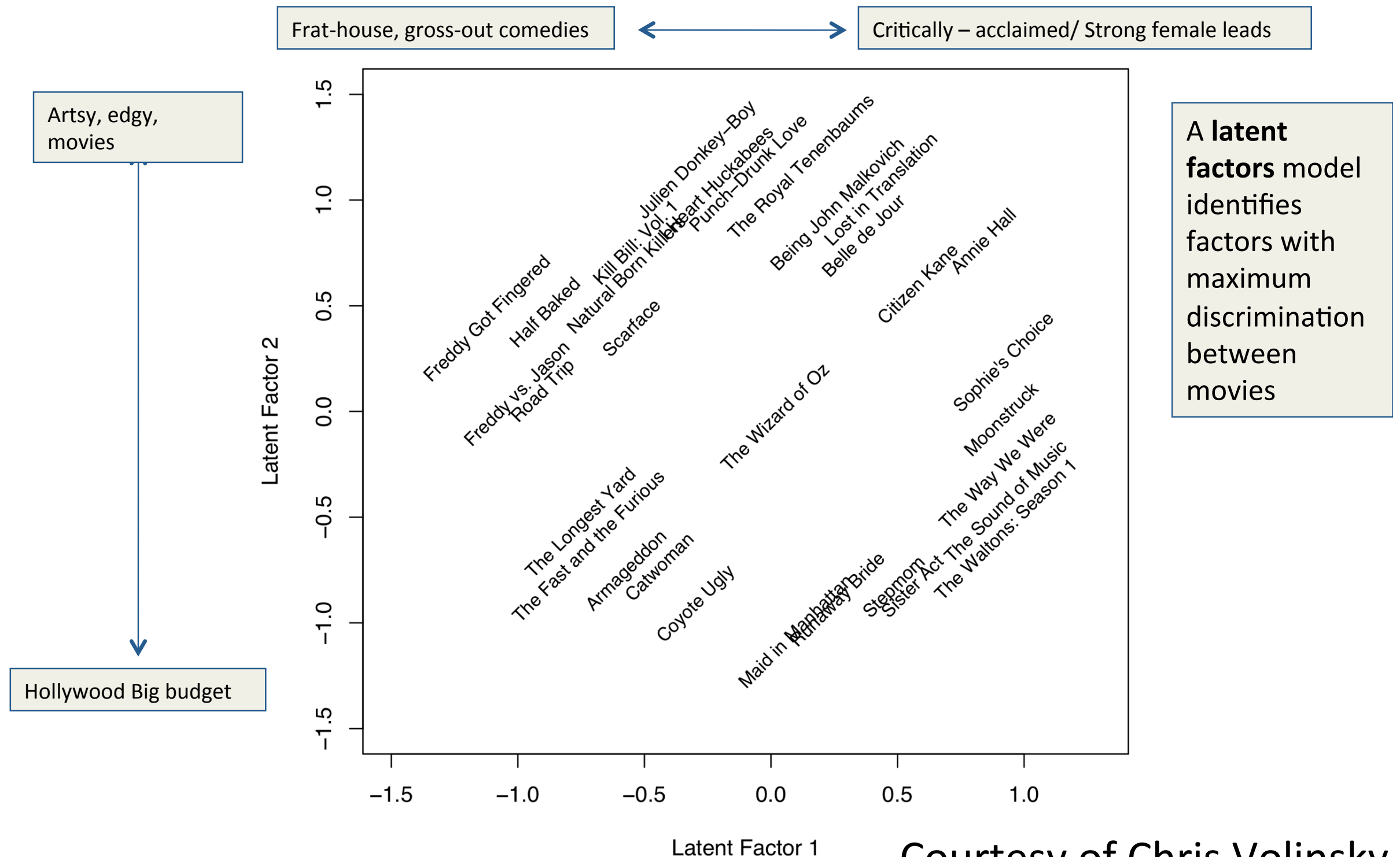


# Latent Factors Model



Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

# Latent Factors Model



Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

# Ad-targeting

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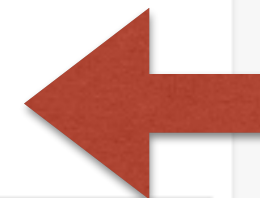
# wp SPORTS



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(Jonathan Newton / The Washington Post)

## RGIII: Last season 'sucked'

Scott Allen

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III called his benching a coach's decision and also "an unfortunate decision."

- Redskins hire Matt Cavanaugh as quarterbacks coach
- Terry Shea: RGIII, Cavanaugh will work well together
- Chad Grimm joins Washington coaching staff

## Gassed Wizards stumble

Jorge Castillo

On the second night of a back-to-back to close out a four-game western road trip, Washington can't muster the energy to close out a comeback in Phoenix.

- Irving's 55 points propel Cavaliers

## Super Bowl or birth of first child?

Des Bieler

A chance to be a repeat champion or the birth of your first kid? Richard Sherman may face that difficult decision this week.

- Jenkins: A scandal that's losing air
- Watch Super Bowl commercials

## Capitals end their skid

Alex Prewitt

Alex Ovechkin scores twice and feisty Washington releases its frustration in a fight-filled affair to snap a four-game losing streak.

- Shutout a 'good reminder'

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## Most Read: Sports

1

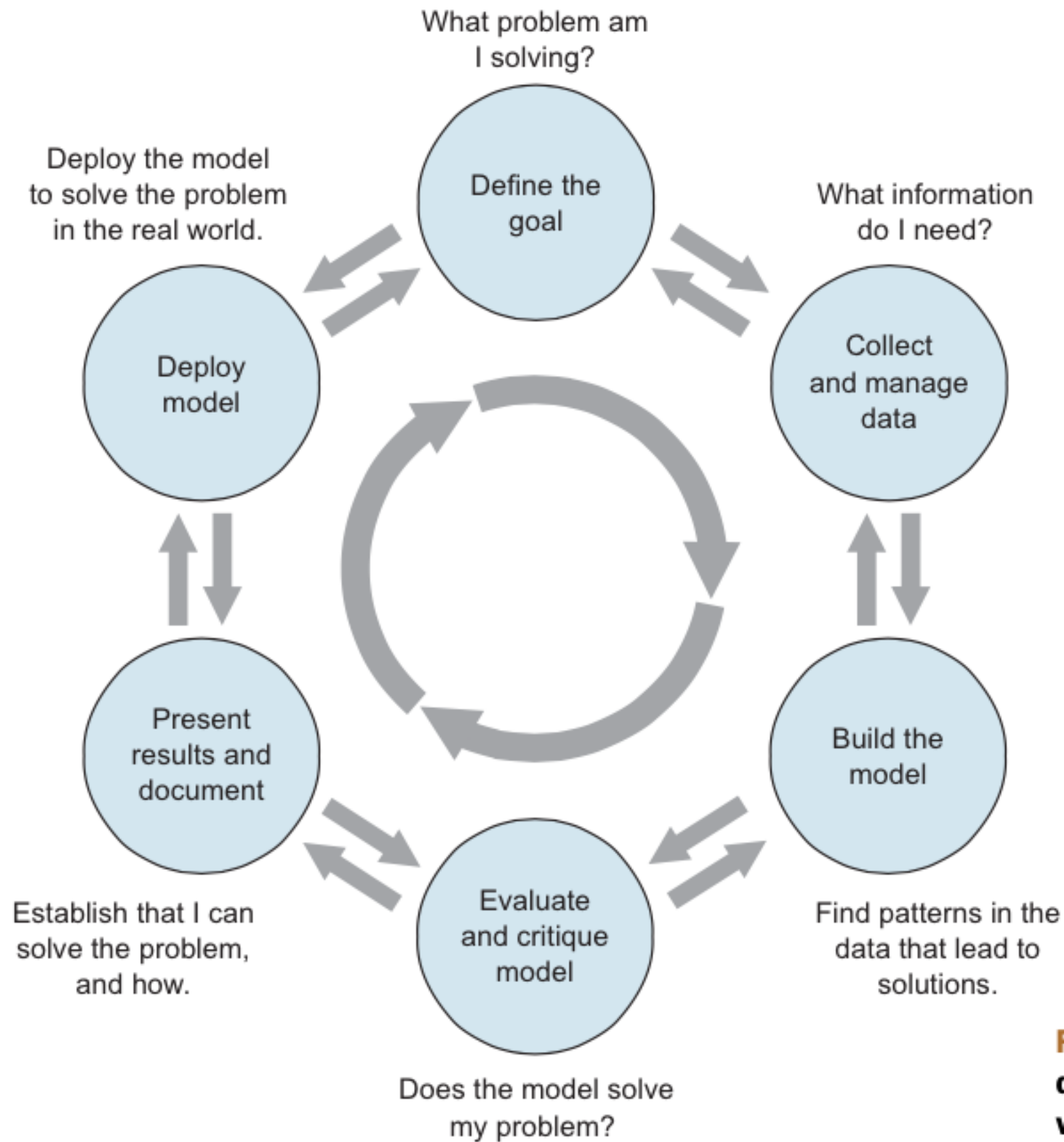
Deflate-gate, despite history of Patriots and NFL, is a scandal that's losing air



2

Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch will linger in spotlight long after Super Bowl





**Figure 1.1** The lifecycle of a data science project: loops within loops



# Defining the goal

- What is the question/problem?
  - Who wants to answer/solve it?
  - What do they know/do now?
- How well can we *expect* to answer/solve it?
  - How well do they *want* us to answer/solve it?

# Data collection and Management

- What data is available?
  - Is it good enough?
  - Is it enough?
- What are sensible *measurements* to derive from this data?
  - Units, transformations, rates, ratios, etc.

# Modeling

- What kind of problem is it?
  - E.g., *classification, clustering, regression, etc.*
- What kind of model should I use?
  - Do I have enough data for it?
  - Does it really answer the question?



# Model evaluation

- Did it work? How well?
- Can I interpret the model?
- What have I learned?

# Presentation

- Again, what are the *measurements* that tell the real story?
- How can I describe and visualize them effectively?

# Deployment

- Where will it be hosted?
- Who will use it?
- Who will maintain it?

**Longitudinal network analysis shows the decline of pop music in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

Talukder H., Corrada Bravo H. In preparation.



# Who are the writers of our favorite songs?

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 1988

Billboard® **HOT 100** SINGLES™

Compiled from a national sample of retail store and one-stop sales reports and radio playlists.

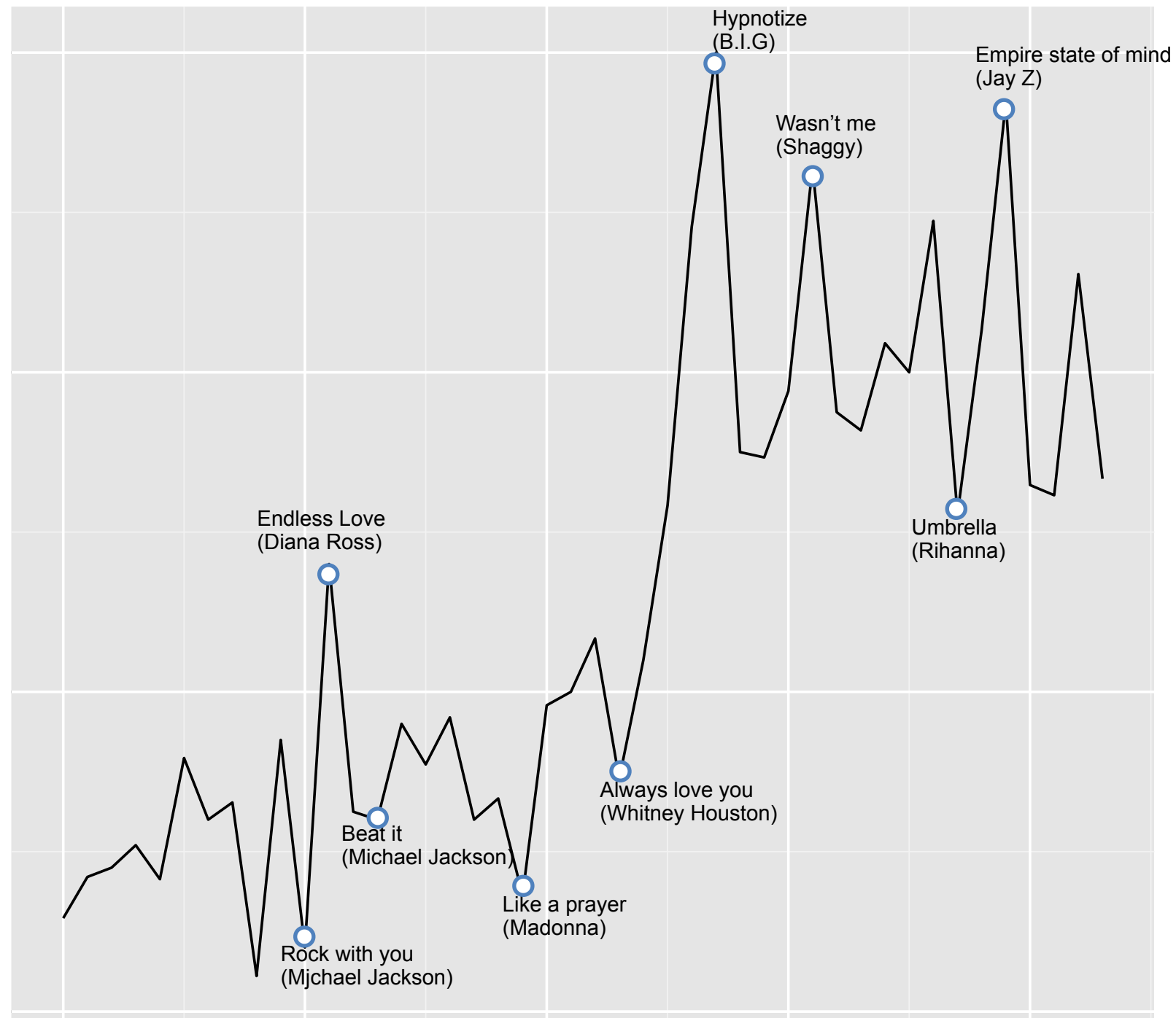
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
①	2	5	9	<b>LOVE BITES</b> R. LANGE (CLARK, COLLEN, ELLIOTT, LANGE, SAVAGE)	★ ★ <b>No. 1</b> ★ ★ 1 week at No. One ◆ DEF LEPPARD (C) MERCURY 870 402-7/POLYGRAM
②	5	13	24	<b>RED RED WINE</b> UB40/R. FALCONE (N. DIAMOND)	◆ UB40 (C) A&M 1244
3	1	1	11	<b>DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY (FROM "COCKTAIL")</b> L. GOLDSTEIN (B. MCFERRIN)	◆ BOBBY MCFERRIN (C) EMI-MANHATTAN 50146
④	6	10	11	<b>DON'T BE CRUEL</b> R. ZITO (D. BLACKWELL, E. PRESLEY)	◆ CHEAP TRICK (C) EPIC 34-07965/E.P.A.
5	4	7	12	<b>ONE GOOD WOMAN</b> P. LEONARD, P. CETERA (P. CETERA, P. LEONARD)	◆ PETER CETERA (C) (CD) FULL MOON 7-27824/WARNER BROS.
⑥	14	21	6	<b>GROOVY KIND OF LOVE</b> P. COLLINS, A. DUDLEY (T. WINE, C. BAYER BACHARACH)	◆ PHIL COLLINS (T) (C) ATLANTIC 7-89017
7	1	1	10	<b>I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU</b>	◆ TAYLOR DAYNE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)
⑤0	59	73	4	<b>YOU CAME</b> R. WILDE, T. SWAIN (R. WILDE, K.)
⑤1	61	85	3	<b>GIVING YOU THE BEST</b> M. POWELL (A. BAKER, S. SCARF)
⑤2	67	—	2	<b>WALK ON WATER</b> R. ZITO, E. MONEY (J. HARMS)
53	41	33	19	<b>I DON'T WANNA LIVE</b> R. NEVISON (D. WARREN, A. HALL)
54	39	29	19	<b>FAST CAR</b> D. KERSHENBAUM (T. CHAPMAN)
⑤5	58	69	11	<b>STRANGE LOVE</b> DEPECHE MODE, D. BASCOMB
56	54	49	14	<b>SPRING LOVE (COME)</b> STEVIE B., T. KATAS (S. HILL)

## Billboard Hot 100 list

- Released weekly.
- Song is ranked by number of records sold, number of downloads, number of radio play and some other measures.
- Look at songs that hit number 1 in this list
  - At most 52 songs per year.

# Average writer of songs per year



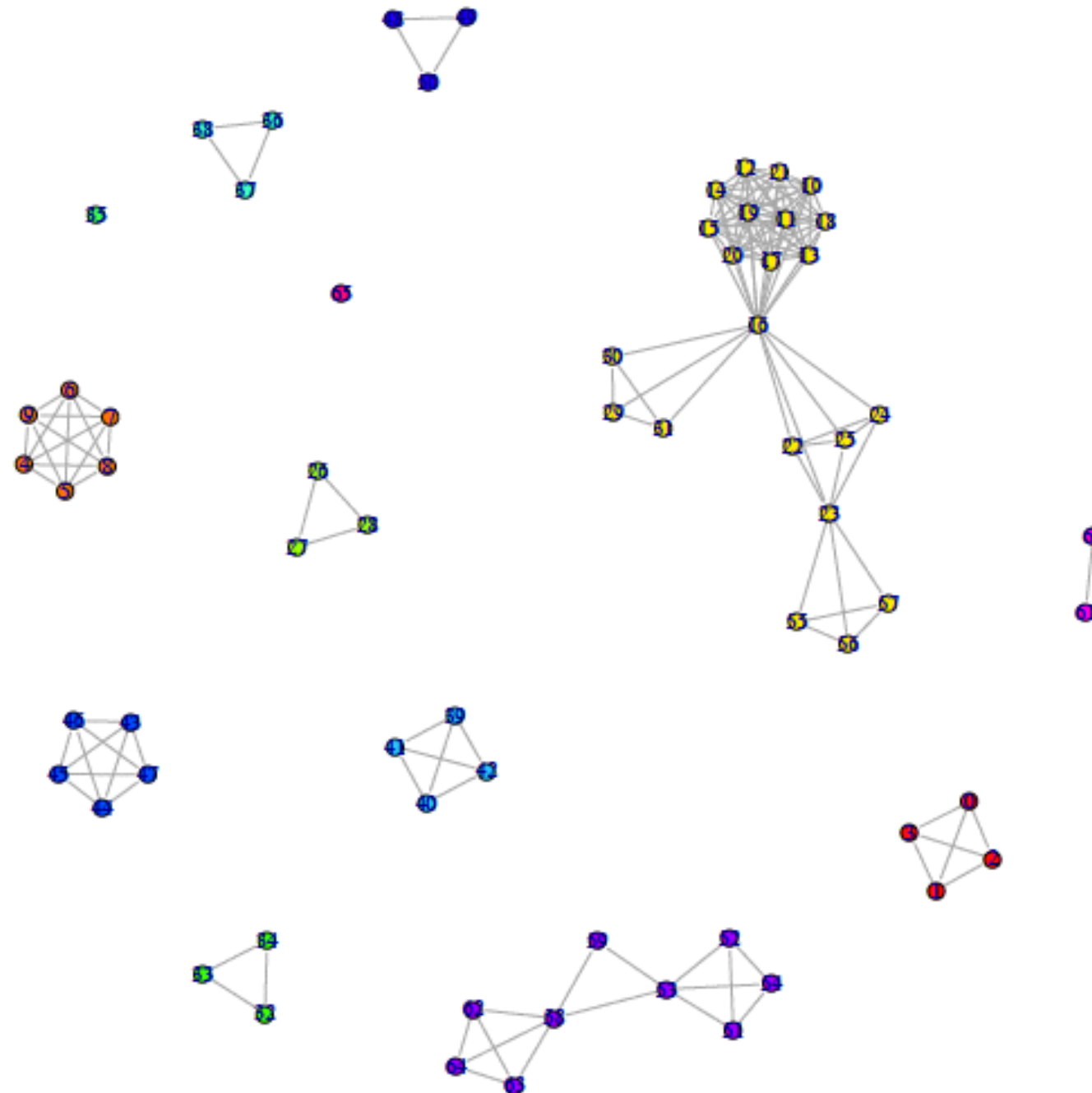
Number of writers per songs people are listening to over time is increasing.

# Building Networks

- Network of music writers for top hits from 1970 to 2013.
  - Nodes: writers
  - Edges: collaboration in a top hit song
- Goals:
  - How are network characteristics changing over time?
    - Node Degree: Number of collaborators for each writer.
    - Network density: Measure of how many writers are working on a given song on average.
  - Can we predict these changes with other covariates?

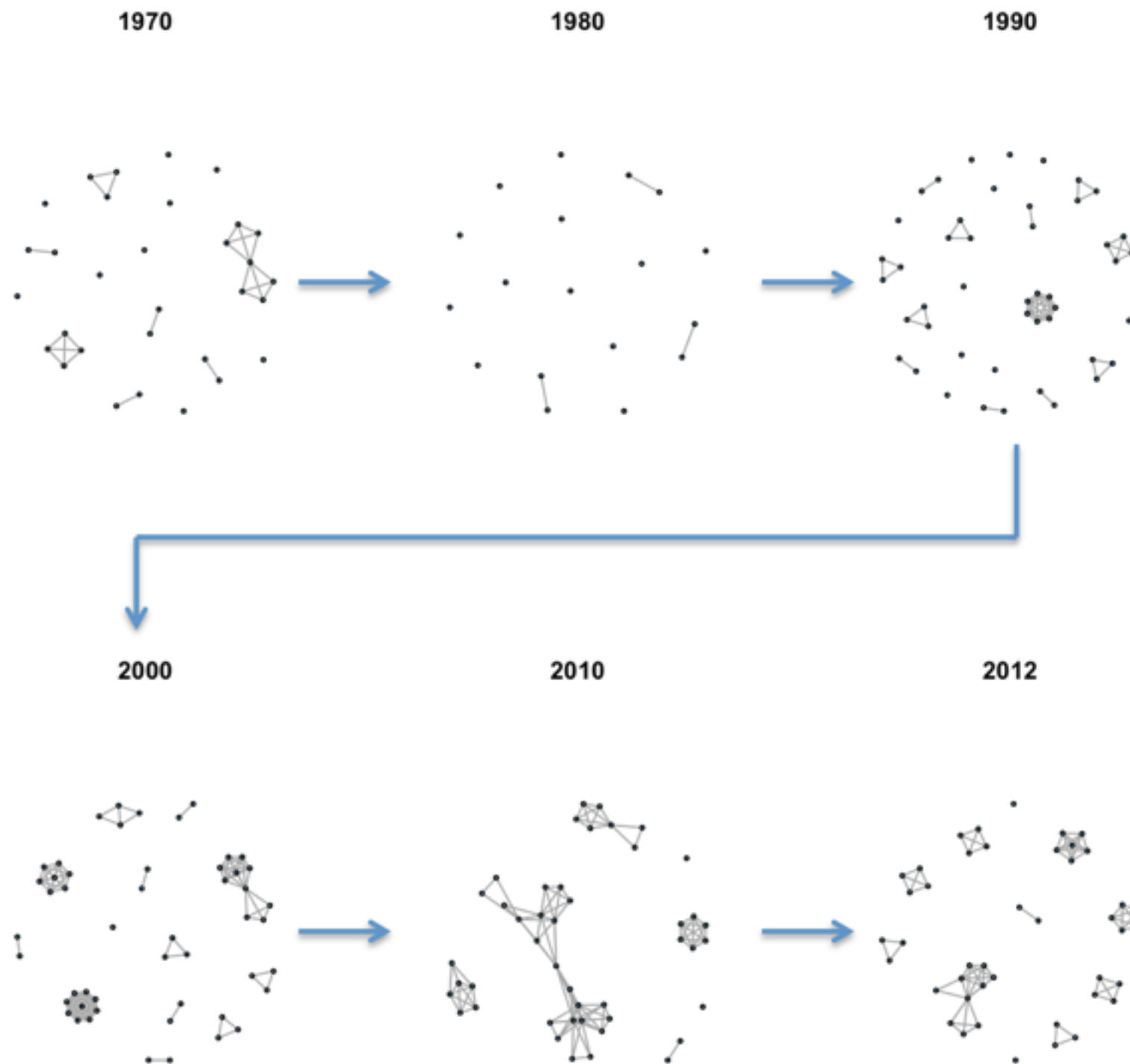
# Example of a music writer network

2006





# Network of Writers



# R-Shiny

<https://github.com/htalukder/musicwriters>