Informational Interviews

Lisa Analytics Manager at a large tech company, Lisa is a highly experienced Analytics Manager we discussed her day-to-day roles in her company and the wealth of knowledge needed for her role. As far as Math goes, she believes you need a good understanding of basic statistical metrics such as mean, median, calculating ratios and percentages. A good understanding of hypothesis testing (a/b). Best tools to have for her role were Excel, SQL then Tableau or PowerBI but Python, R and other programming languages are a plus but not mandatory. Her day-to-day is spend 25% of the time going to meetings and doing presentations with bosses or stakeholders to understand what type of questions she can provide a solution for or explain. 25%-50% is spend writing SQL queries or understanding how data is collected. And the rest is spent on analysis using Excel or Tableau and even exploring models using Python.

David is a Data Engineer at IBM, David explains a Data Engineer is like a plumber making sure pipelines are working clean and have usable data to analysts, data scientist and other engineers. His jobs are to optimize performance for his team/company pipeline, create data monitors (abnormalities sin the data, data leakage, data completeness), reprocessing, pipeline migrations, cleaning and sorting data, and various other tasks. Majority of his day-to-day is spent making sure the integrity of the data his company uses is kept in check. As well as cleaning data and optimizing the usage of data for his company.

Jamie from Facebook is a Data Scientist, and his key takeaways were not all data scientists do the same tasks, and his day-to-day is spend mostly on research, coding, communicating his results to his peers and management, and discussing further research to study or how to make use of the research that has been done to deploy into a real-world product/idea. As far as tools required, he says it's not quite simply as its not the tools needed but rather the mindset and approach to his work. Its not about knowing a specific programming language or knowing how to implement specific visualization but rather solving a specific problem and using whatever is available to achieve a solution to the problem. Essentially problem solving, and how to model is more important to his job rather and hard software skills.