# CSE 519: Data Science Steven Skiena Stony Brook University

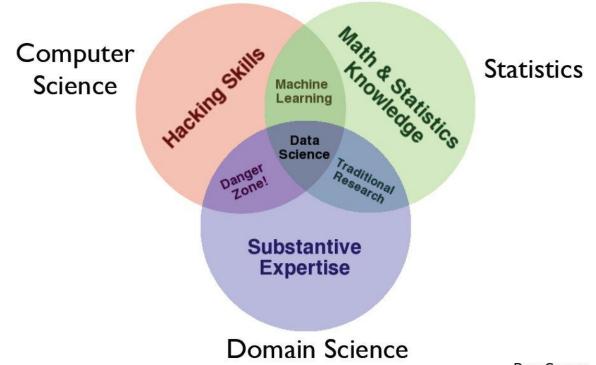
Lecture 1: Introduction to Data Science

#### What is Data Science?

Like any emerging field, it isn't yet well defined, but incorporates elements of:

- Exploratory Data Analysis and Visualization
- Machine Learning and Statistics
- High-Performance Computing technologies for dealing with scale.

#### **Skill Sets for Data Science**



**Drew Conway** 

# **Appreciating Data**

Computer Scientists do not naturally appreciate data: it's just stuff to run through a program.

The usual way to test algorithm performance is to run the implementation on "random data".

But interesting data sets are a scarce resource, which requires hard work and imagination to obtain.

## Computer vs. Real Scientists (1)

- Scientists strive to understand the complicated and messy natural world, while computer scientists build their own clean and organized virtual worlds. Thus:
- Nothing is ever completely true or false in science, while everything is either true or false in Computer Science / Mathematics.

### Computer vs. Real Scientists (2)

- Scientists are data-driven, while computer scientists are algorithm-driven.
- Scientists obsess about discovering things, which computer scientists invent rather than discover.
- Scientists are comfortable with the idea that data has errors; computer scientists are not.

#### Genius vs. Wisdom

Software developers are hired to produce code. Data Scientists are hired to produce insights. Genius shows in finding the right answer!!! Wisdom shows in avoiding the wrong answers. Data science (like most things) benefits more from wisdom than from genius.

#### **Developing Wisdom**

- Wisdom comes from experience.
- Wisdom comes from general knowledge.
- Wisdom comes from listening to others.
- Wisdom comes from humility, observing how often you have been wrong and why/how.

I seek pass on wisdom, by providing experience on the difficulty of making good predictions.

### **Developing Curiosity**

- The good data scientist develops a curiosity about the domain/application they are working in.
- They talk shop with the people whose data they are working on.
- They read the newspaper every day, to get a broader perspective on the world.

### **Asking Good Questions**

Software developers are not encouraged to ask questions, but data scientists are:

- What exciting things might you be able to learn from a given data set?
- What things do you/your people really want to know?
- What data sets might get you there?

# Let's Practice Asking Questions!

Who, What, Where, When, and Why on the following datasets:

- Baseball-reference.com
- International Movie Database (IMBb)
- Google ngrams
- NYC taxi cab records

#### Baseball-Reference.com: biosketch



**Transactions** 

S-R: M

July 9, 1914: Purchased with Ernie Shore and Ben Egan by the Boston Red Sox from Baltimore (International) for more than \$25000. more than \$25000 December 26, 1919: Purchased by the New York Yankees from the Boston Red Sox for \$100,000.

February 26, 1935: Released by the New York Yankees.

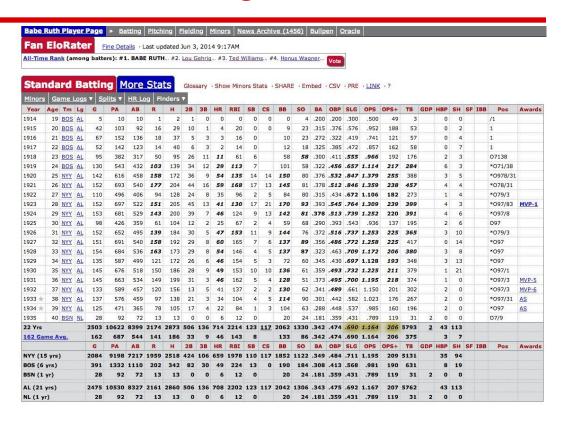
February 26, 1935: Signed as a Free Agent with the Boston Braves.

The transaction information used here was obtained free of charge from and is copyrighted by RetroSheet. We attempt to update transactions throughout the season.

Year	Age	Team	Salary	ServTm(OpnDay)	Sources	Notes/Other Sources
914	19	Boston Red Sox	\$2,500	?	Bill James Historical Abstract	Annualized rate; came up late in season
915	20	Boston Red Sox	\$3,500	?	Bill James Historical Abstract	
916	21	Boston Red Sox	\$3,500	?	Contract at HOF	
917	22	Boston Red Sox	\$3,500	?	Contract at HOF	BJHA: \$5,000; Baseball Timeline \$7,000
918	23	Boston Red Sox	\$9,000	?	Allan Wood, 1918, at 183	Includes \$1,000 midseason raise, \$1,000 WS bonus
919	24	New York Yankees	\$10,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Contract at HOF: 10000.00,
920	25	New York Yankees	\$20,000*	7	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 20000.00,
921	26	New York Yankees	\$20,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 30000.00, Plus \$5K for '20 and '21 exhibitions, \$50/HR (59)m
922	27	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 52000.00,
923	28	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 52000.00,
924	29	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	7	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 52000.00,
925	30	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 52000.00,
926	31	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 52000.00,
927	32	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	5/23/27 AL letter:70000.00,
928	33	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	5/23/27 AL letter:70000.00,
929	34	New York Yankees	\$52,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	5/23/27 AL letter:70000.00,
930	35	New York Yankees	\$70,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 80000.00,
931	36	New York Yankees	\$70,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 80000.00,
932	37	New York Yankees	\$70,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	M. Smelser, Life That Ruth Built, p. 441:75000.00,Plus 25% of all exhibition-game profits
933	38	New York Yankees	\$80,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	M. Smelser, Life That Ruth Built, p. 456:52000.00,Plus 25% of revenue from in-season exhibition
934	39	New York Yankees	\$80,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	1/16/36 TSN, per government report: 36696.00,\$35,000 salary plus 25% of exhibition profits
935	40	New York Yankees	\$75,000*	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	Bill James Historical Abstract: 35000.00, Annualized rate; retired early in season
936	41	New York Yankees	\$52,000	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	
937	42	New York Yankees	\$35,000	?	Michael Haupert research of HOF contracts	
		te (may be incomplete)	** 020 000			

### Statistical Record of Play

Summary statistics of each years batting, pitching, and fielding record, with teams and awards.



#### **Baseball Questions**

- How to best measure individual player's skill, value or performance?
- How fair do trades between teams work out?
- What is the trajectory of player's performances as they mature and age?
- To what extent does batting performance correlate with the position played?

#### **Demographic Questions**

- Do left-handed people have shorter lifespans than right-handers?
- How often do people return to where they were born?
- Do player salaries reflect past, present, or future performance?
- Are heights and weights increasing in the population?

#### **IMDb: Movie Data**





#### **IMDb: Actor Data**



James Stewart (I) (1908-1997)

Top 5000

Actor | Soundtrack | Director

James Maitland Stewart was born on 20 May 1908 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where his father owned a hardware store. He was educated at a local prep school, Mercersburg Academy, where he was a keen athlete (football and track), musician (singing and accordion playing), and sometime actor. In 1929 he won a place at Princeton, where he studied ... See full bio »

Born: James Maitland Stewart

May 20, 1908 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, USA

Died: July 2, 1997 (age 89) in Los Angeles, California,

USA













230 photos | 42 videos | 1180 news articles »

Won 1 Oscar, Another 25 wins & 19 nominations. See more awards »

Cas	t			Ed
Cast	overview, first billed only:			
9	James Stewart	***	George Bailey	
P	Donna Reed	***	Mary Hatch	
	Lionel Barrymore	***	Mr. Potter	
	Thomas Mitchell	***	Uncle Billy	
	Henry Travers	***	Clarence	
6	Beulah Bondi		Mrs. Bailey	
R	Frank Faylen	***	Ernie	
2	Ward Bond	110	Bert	
-	Gloria Grahame	***	Violet	
A	H.B. Warner	***	Mr. Gower	

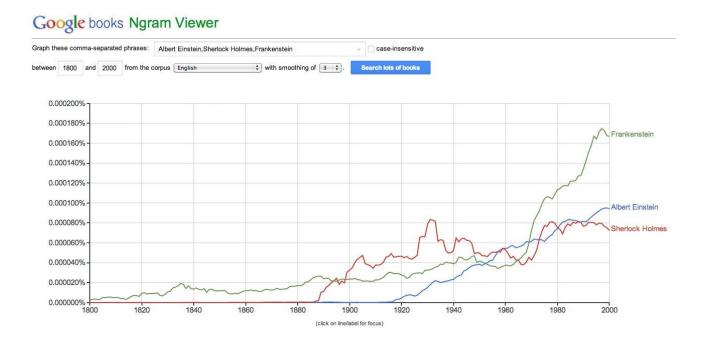
#### **Movie Questions**

- Can we predict how well people will like a movie? What about its gross?
- What does the social network of actors look like? (Six degrees of Kevin Bacon)
- What is the age distribution of actors and actresses in film?
- Do stars live longer or shorter lives than the bit players or public?

### **Google Ngrams**

- Presents an annual time series of the frequency of every "popular" word/phrase with 1 to 5 words occurs in scanned books.
- Popular' means appears >40 times in total.
- Google has scanned about 15% of all books ever published, making this resource quite comprehensive.

# **Google Ngram Viewer**



Run your own experiment! Raw data is available for download here.

### **Ngram Questions**

- How has the amount of cursing changed over time?
- What is the lifespan of fame and technologies? Is it increasing/decreasing?
- How often do new words emerge? Do they stay in common usage?
- What words are associated with other words,
  i.e. can you build a language model?

#### **NYC Taxi Cab Data**

- Gives driver/owner, pickup/dropoff location, and fare data for every taxi trip taken.
- Data obtained from NYC via Freedom of Information Act Request (FOA)

4													
5	Trip data, 2013 ->												
6													
7	medallion	hack_license	vendor_id	rate_code	pickup_datetime	dropoff_datetim	passenger_	trip_time	trip_distance	pickup_longitud	pickup_latitude	dropoff_longitude	dropoff_latitude
8	89D227B655E5C82AEC	BA96DE419E7116	CMT	1	1/1/13 15:11	1/1/13 15:18	4	382	1	-73.978165	40.757977	-73.989838	40.751171
9	OBD7C8F5BA12B88E0B	9FD8F69F0804BD8	CMT	1	1/6/13 0:18	1/6/13 0:22	1	259	1.5	-74.006683	40.731781	-73.994499	40.75066
10	OBD7C8F5BA12B88E0B	9FD8F69F0804BDI	CMT	1	1/5/13 18:49	1/5/13 18:54	1	282	1.1	-74.004707	40.73777	-74.009834	40.726002
11													
12													
13													
14	Fare data, 2013 ->												
15													
16	medallion	hack_license	vendor_id	pickup_datetime	fare_amount	surcharge	mta_tax	tip_amou	tolls_amount	total_amount			
17	89D227B655E5C82AEC BA96DE419E7116: CMT			1/1/13 15:11	6.5	0	0.5	0	0	7			
18	0BD7C8F5BA12B88E0B 9FD8F69F0804BD( CMT			1/6/13 0:18 6		0.5	0.5	0	0	7			
19	OBD7C8F5BA12B88E0B	9FD8F69F0804BD8	CMT	1/5/13 18:49	5.5	1	0.5	0	0	7			

#### **Taxicab Questions**

- How much do drivers make each night?
- How far do they travel?
- How much slower is traffic during rush hour?
- Where are people traveling to/from at different times of the day?
- Do faster drivers get tipped better?
- Where should drivers go to pick up their next fare?