What is Data Science?

CMSC320 Spring 2016
Hector Corrada Bravo
University of Maryland

For today

- What is data science?
- One use case

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)

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

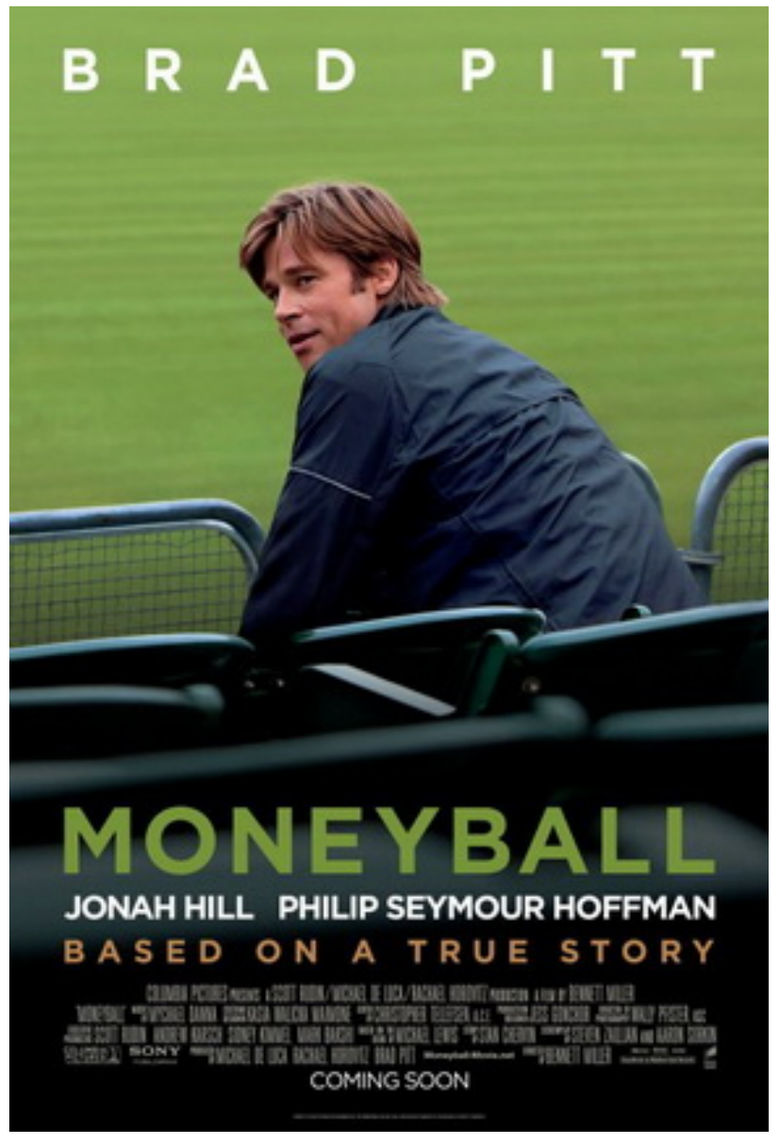
  - (http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/innovation/hal_varian_on_how_the_web_challenges_managers)

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)

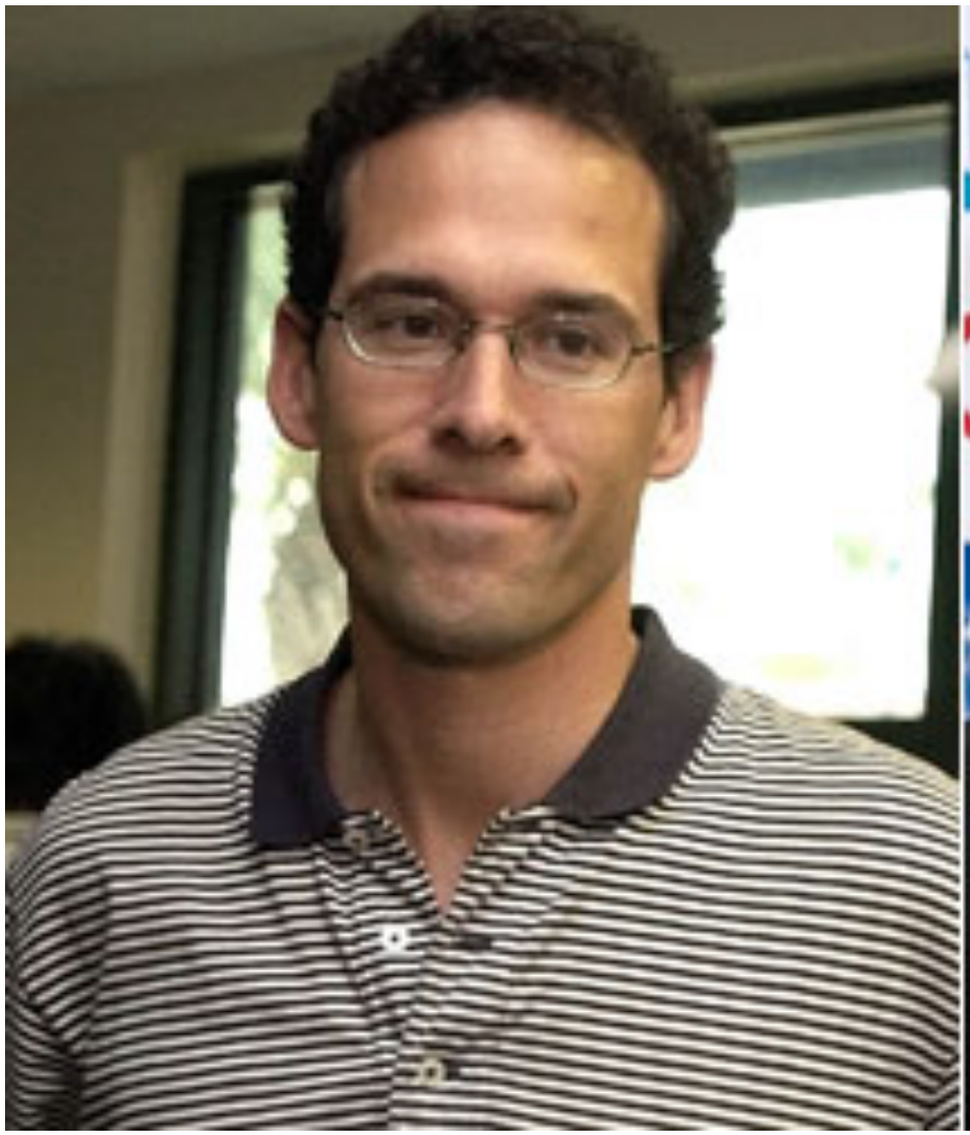
Data Science Success Stories

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

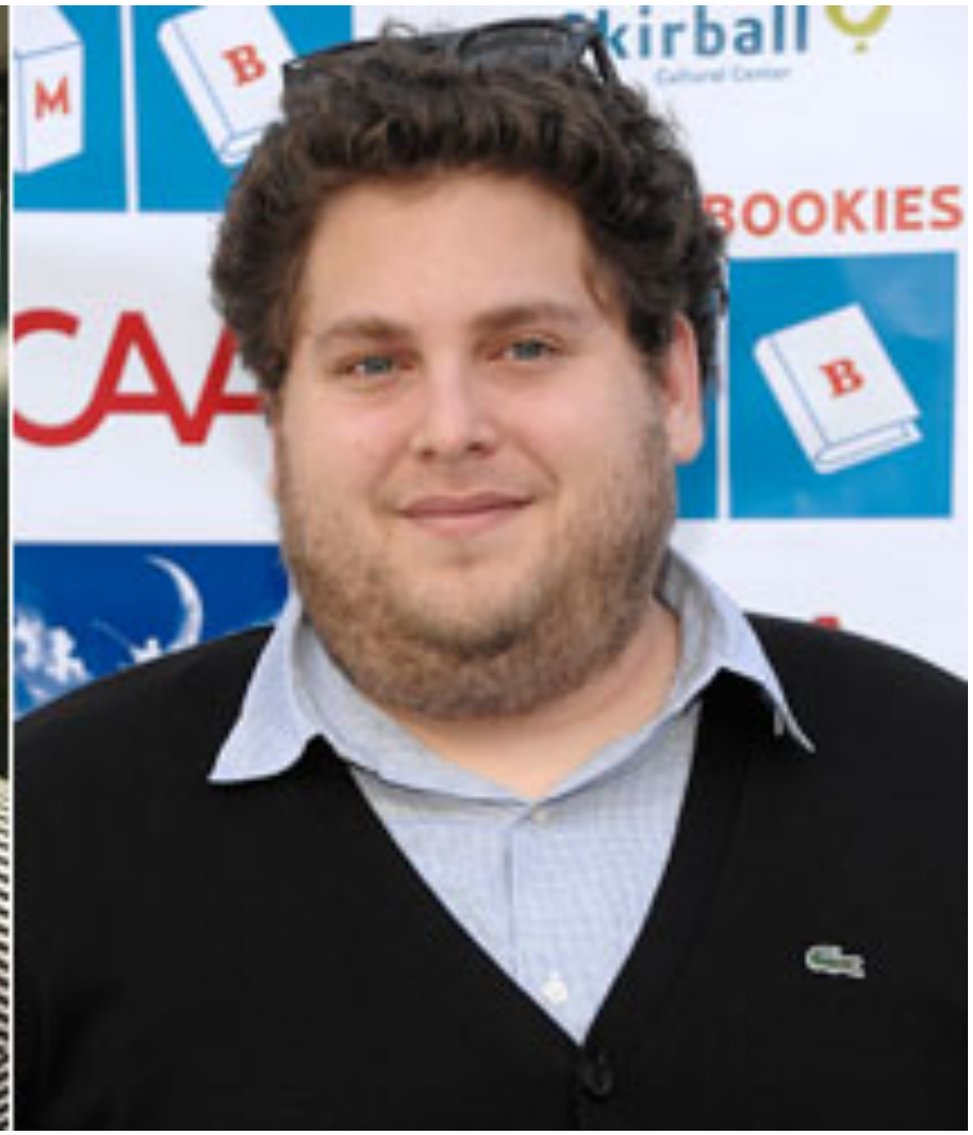

BRAD PITT
MONEYBALL
JONAH HILL PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
COMING SOON

The Data Scientist

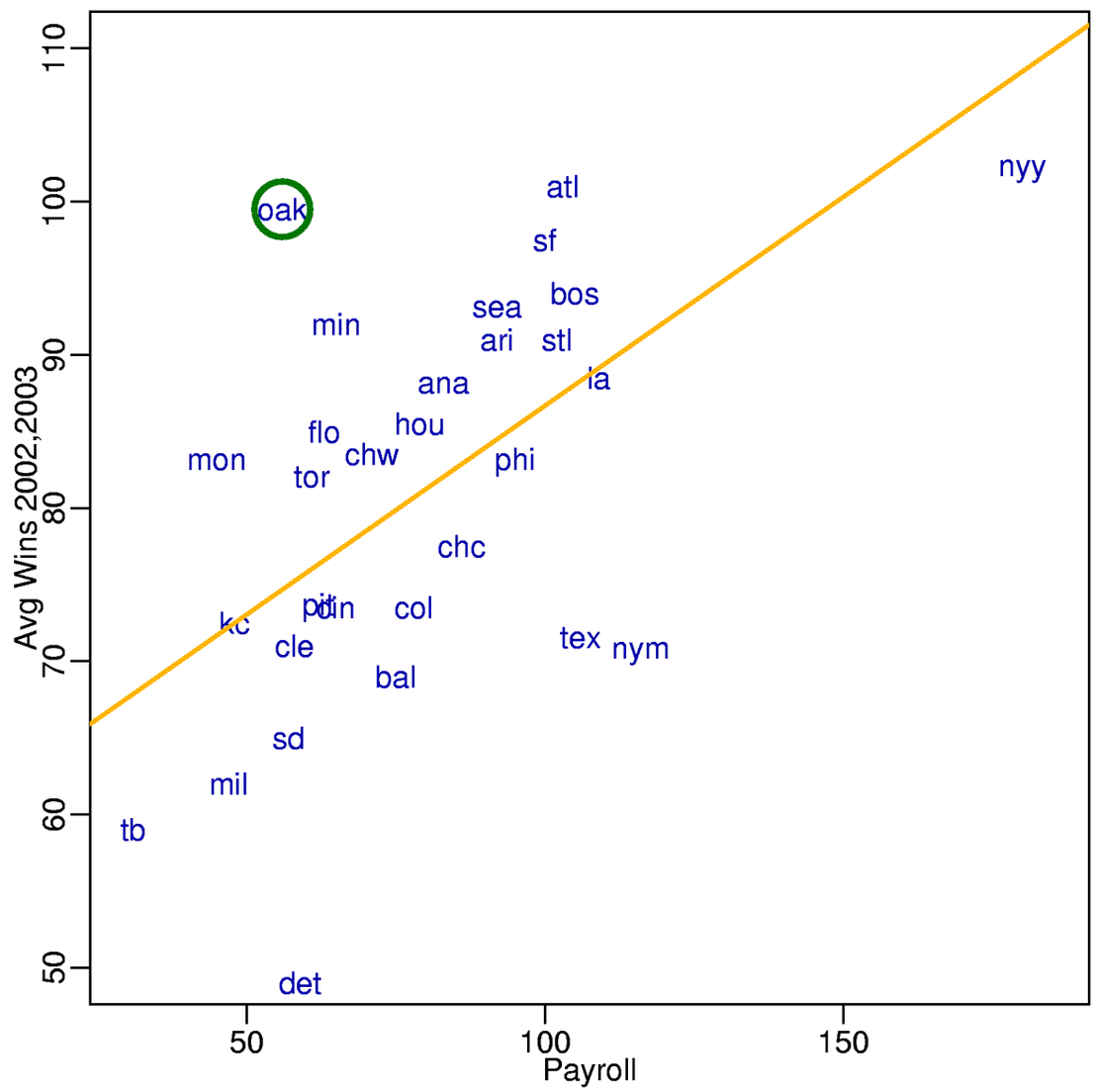
Actual



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

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11.04.2008

Today's Polls and Final Election Projection: Obama 349, McCain 189

by Nate Silver @ 1:16 PM

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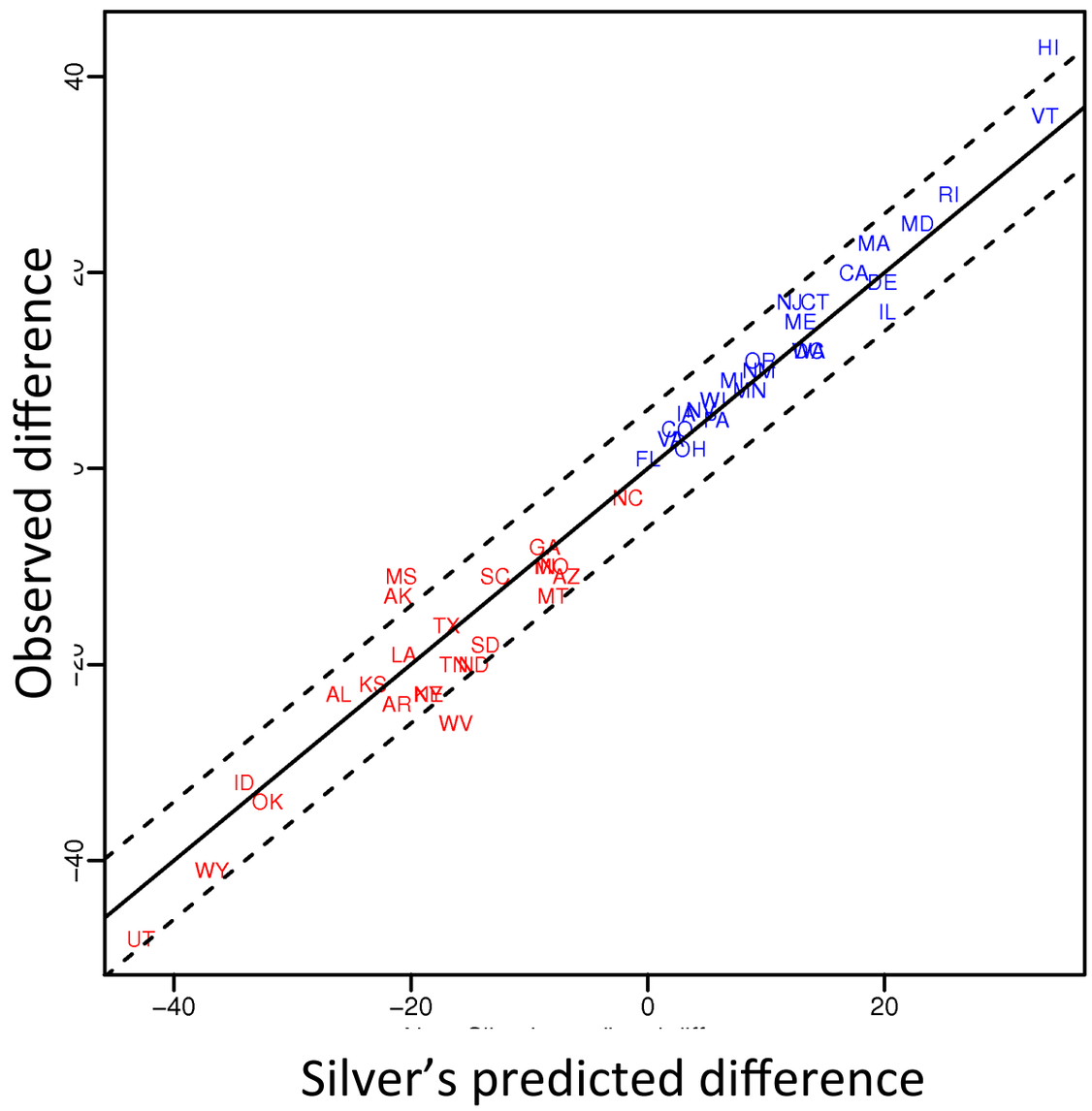
It's Tuesday, November 4th, 2008, Election Day in America. The last polls have straggled in, and show little sign of mercy for John McCain. Barack Obama appears poised for a decisive electoral victory.

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.

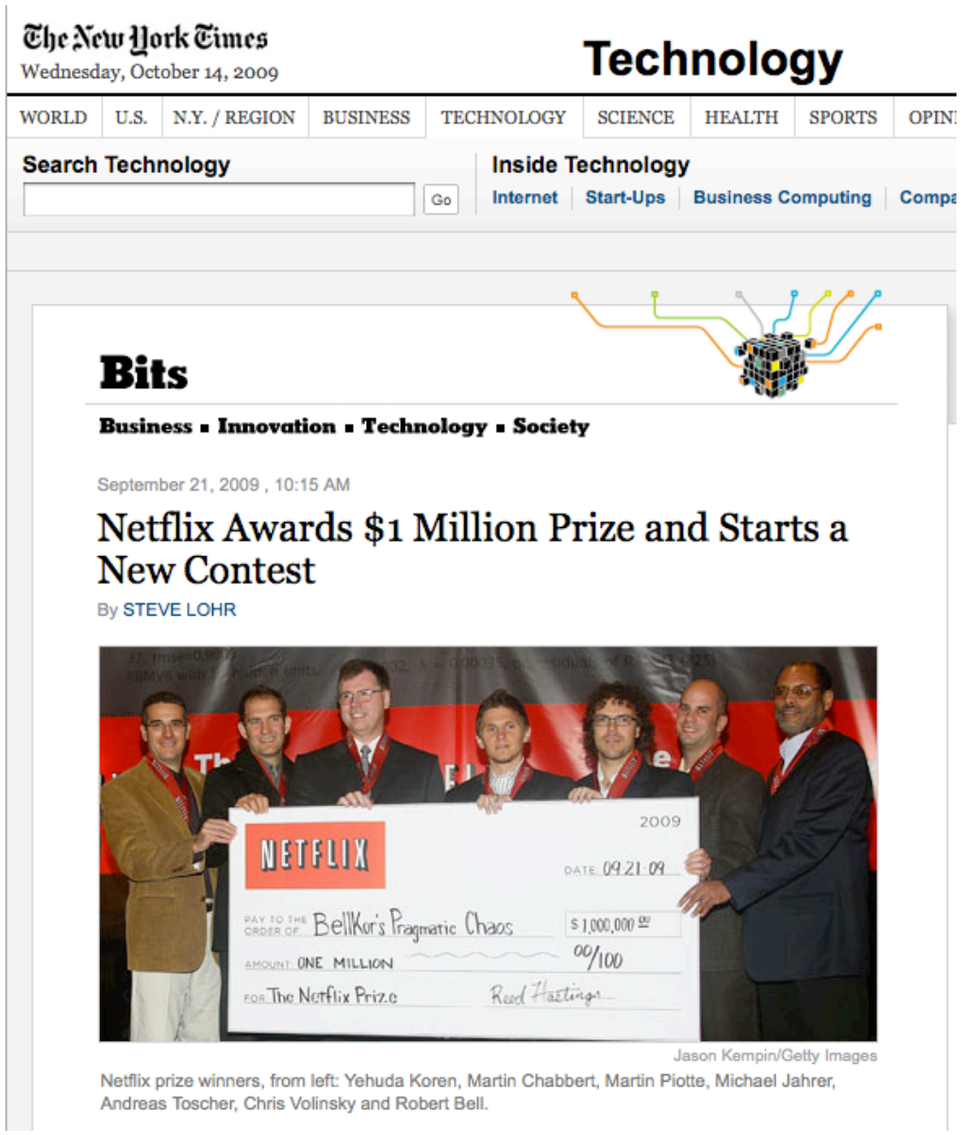
We also project Obama to win the popular vote by 6.1 points; his lead is slightly larger than that in the polls now, but our model accounts for the fact that candidates with large leads in the polls typically underperform their numbers by a small margin on Election Day.

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

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September 21, 2009 , 10:15 AM

Netflix Awards $1 Million Prize and Starts a New Contest

By STEVE LOHR

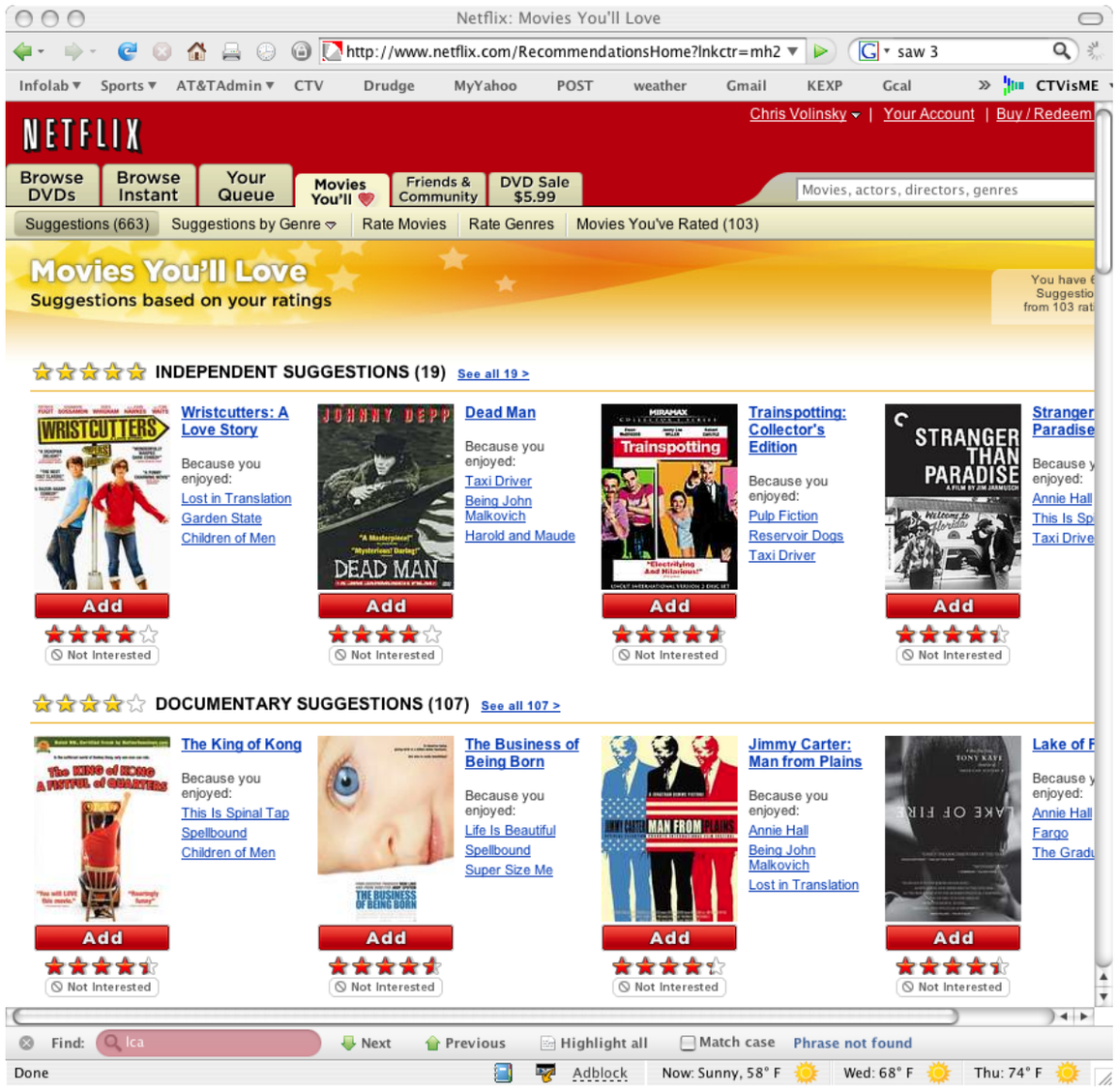
Jason Kempin/Getty Images

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

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

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

- 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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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

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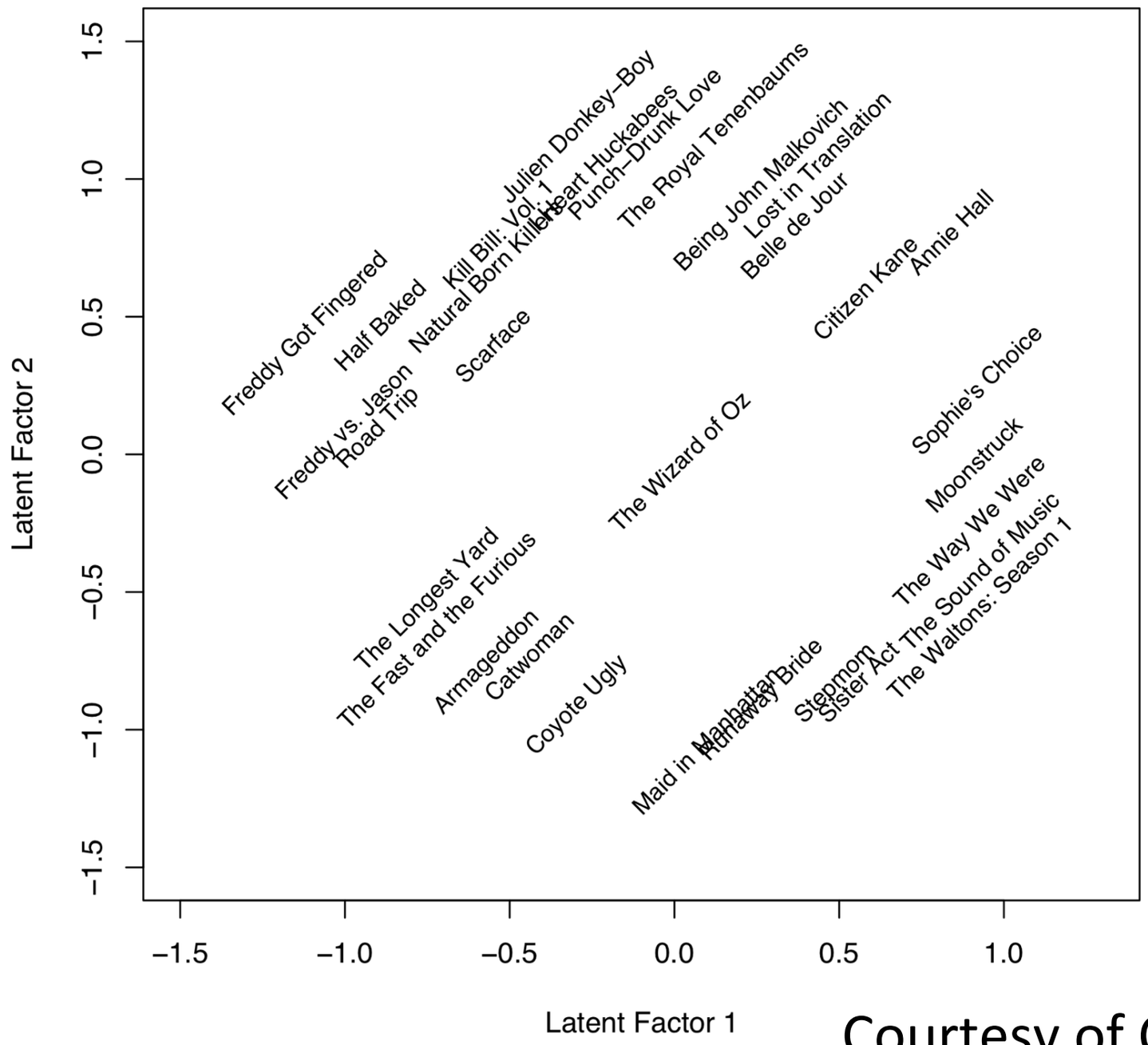
Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

Latent Factors Model

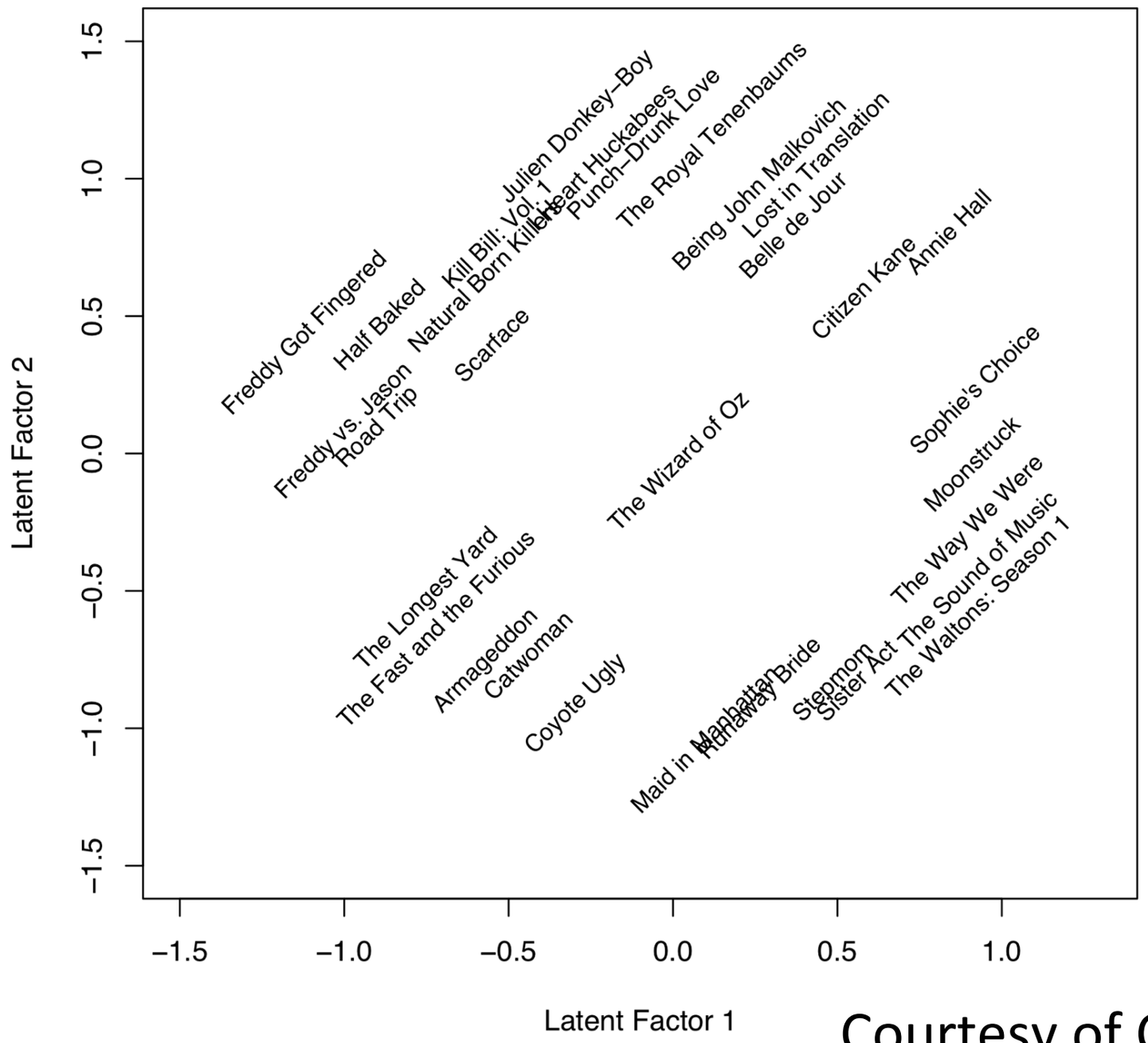


A **latent factors** model identifies factors with maximum discrimination between movies

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

Latent Factors Model

Frat-house, gross-out comedies ⟷ Critically – acclaimed/ Strong female leads



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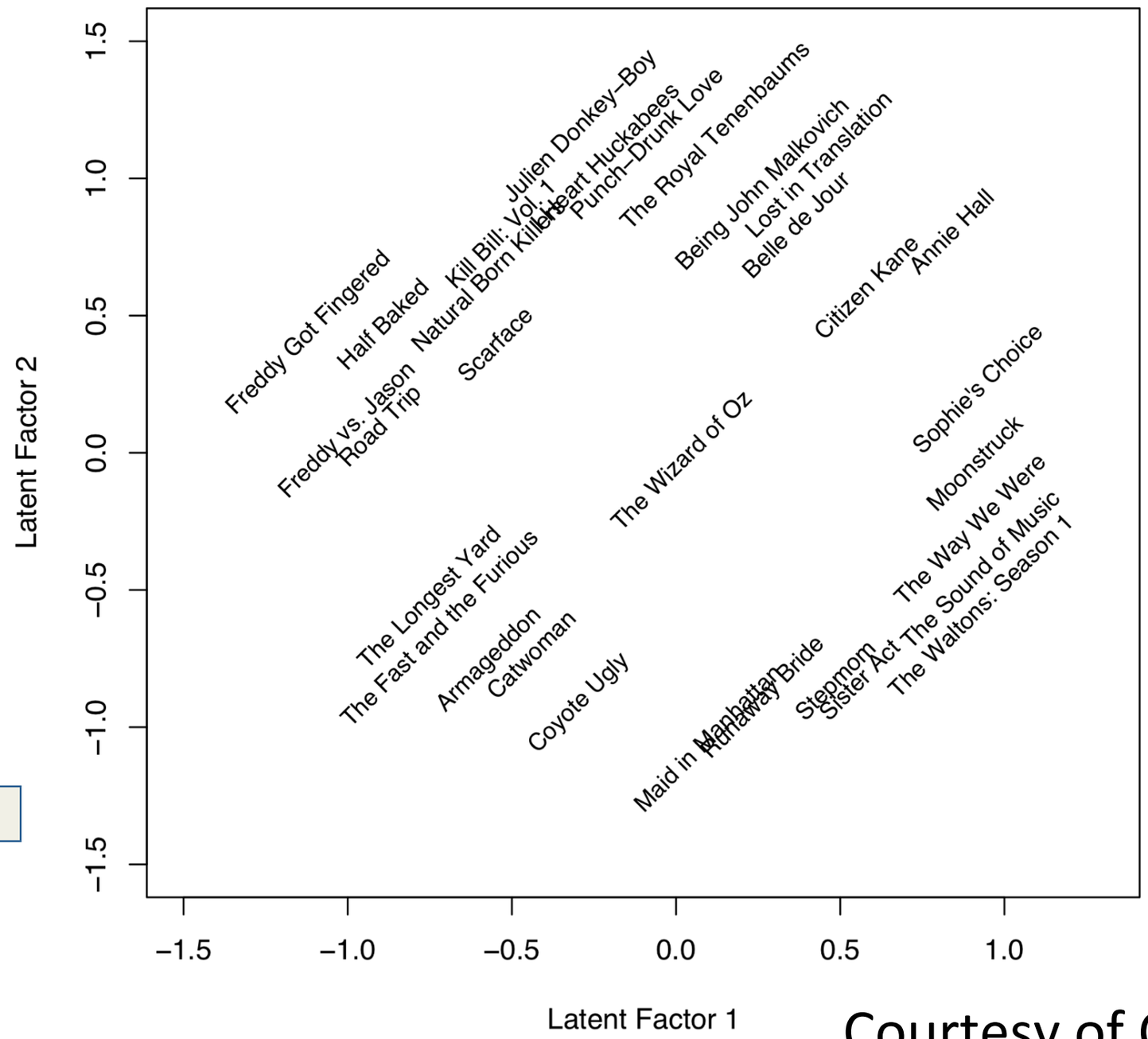
Latent Factors Model

Frat-house, gross-out comedies ⟷ Critically – acclaimed/ Strong female leads

Artsy, edgy, movies

Hollywood Big budget



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

Courtesy of Chris Volinsky

Learning to Play GO

Bits

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Alphabet Program Beats the European Human Go Champion

By JOHN MARKOFF JANUARY 27, 2016 2:28 PM 2 Comments

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Artificial intelligence researchers are clos ber con

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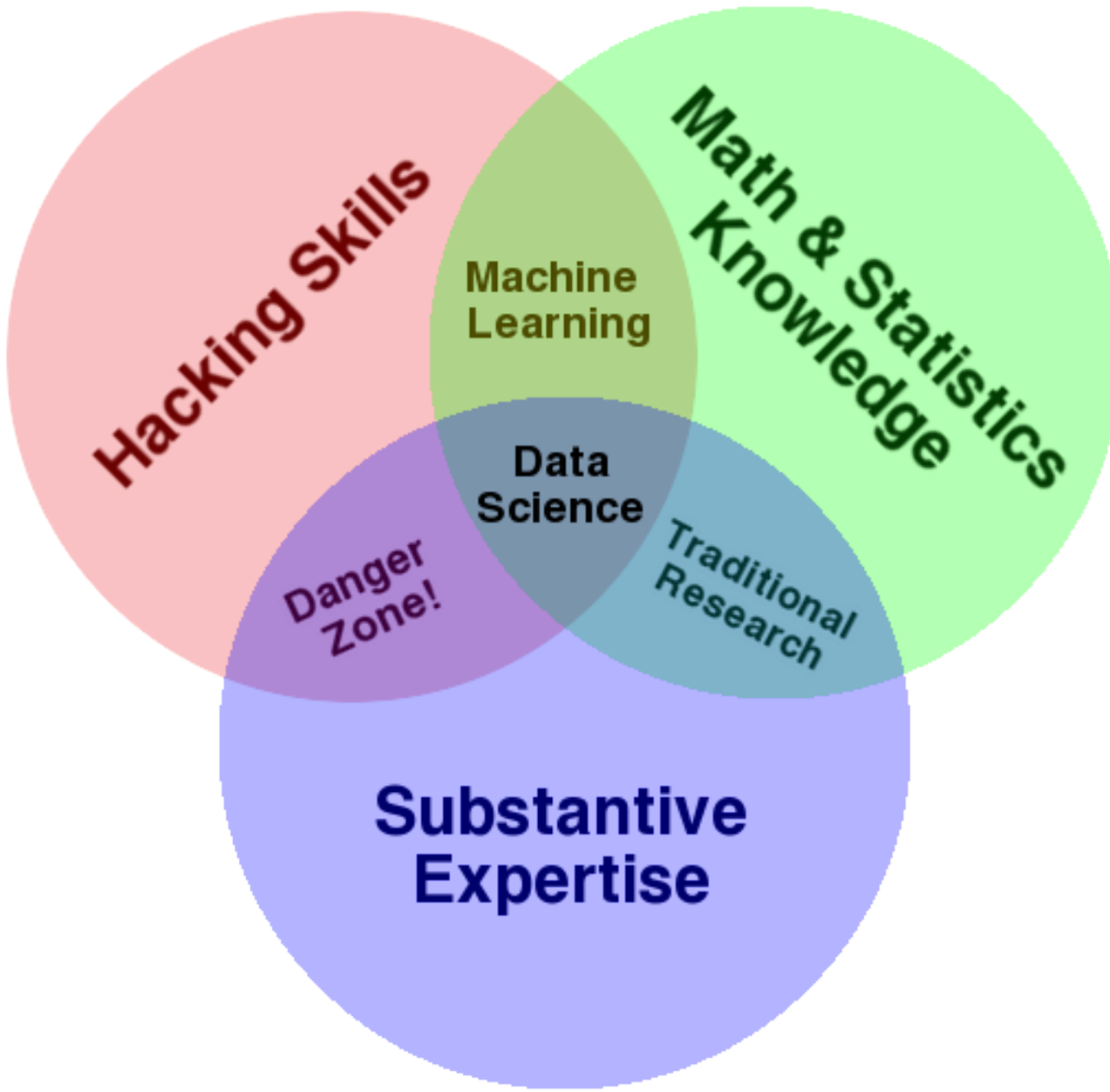
doi:10.1038/nature16961

Mastering the game of Go with deep neural networks and tree search

David Silver[1]*, Aja Huang[1]*, Chris J. Maddison[1], Arthur Guez[1], Laurent Sifre[1], George van den Driessche[1], Julian Schrittwieser[1], Ioannis Antonoglou[1], Veda Panneershelvam[1], Marc Lanctot[1], Sander Dieleman[1], Dominik Grewe[1], John Nham[2], Nal Kalchbrenner[1], Ilya Sutskever[2], Timothy Lillicrap[1], Madeleine Leach[1], Koray Kavukcuoglu[1], Thore Graepel[1] & Demis Hassabis[1]

The Ingredients



[Drew Conway]

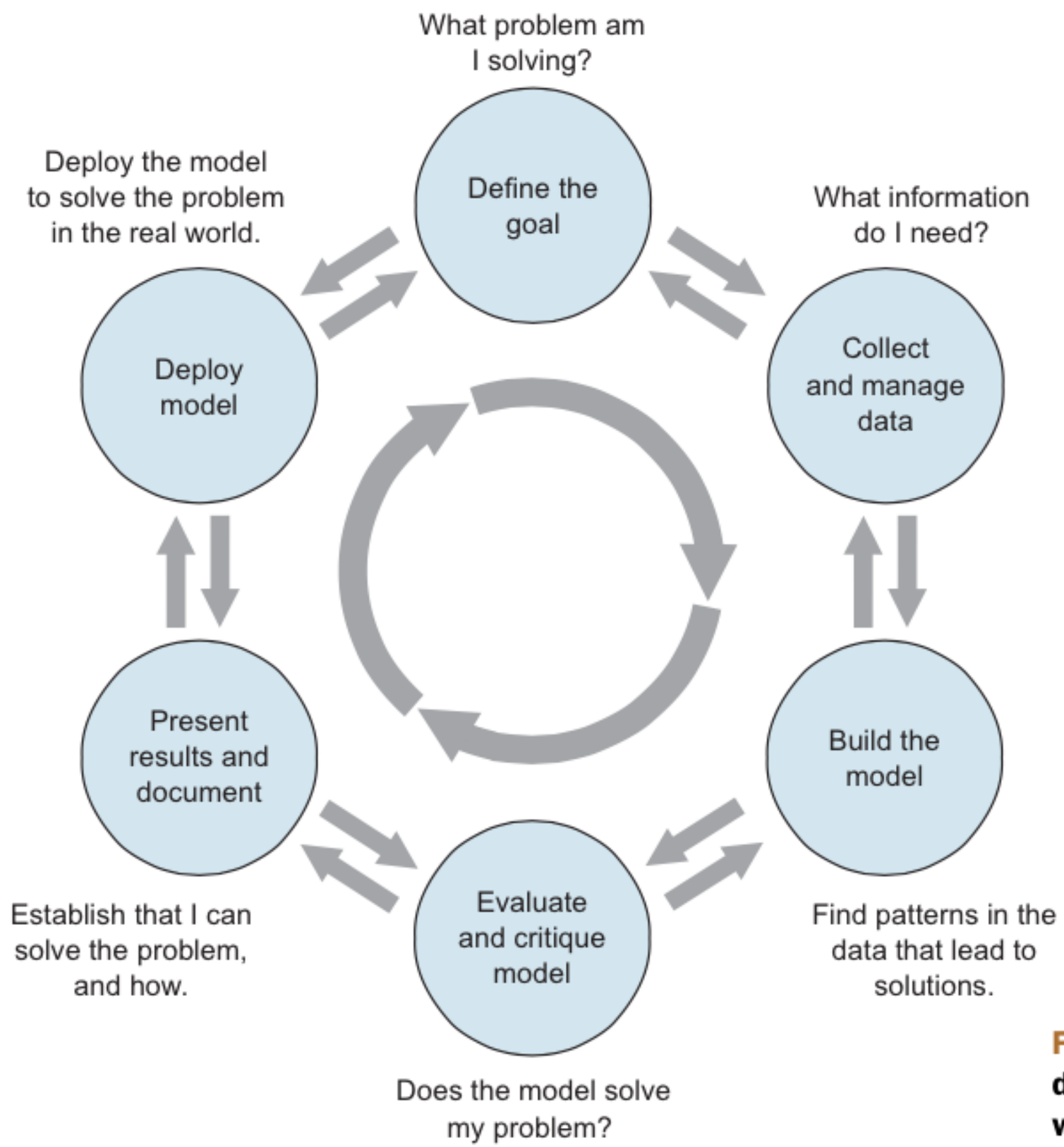


Figure 1.1 The lifecycle of a data science project: loops within loops

[Zumel and Mount]

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* or *features* 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?

Network analysis shows the ‘decline’ of pop music in the 21st century.

Talukder H., Corrada Bravo H.

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

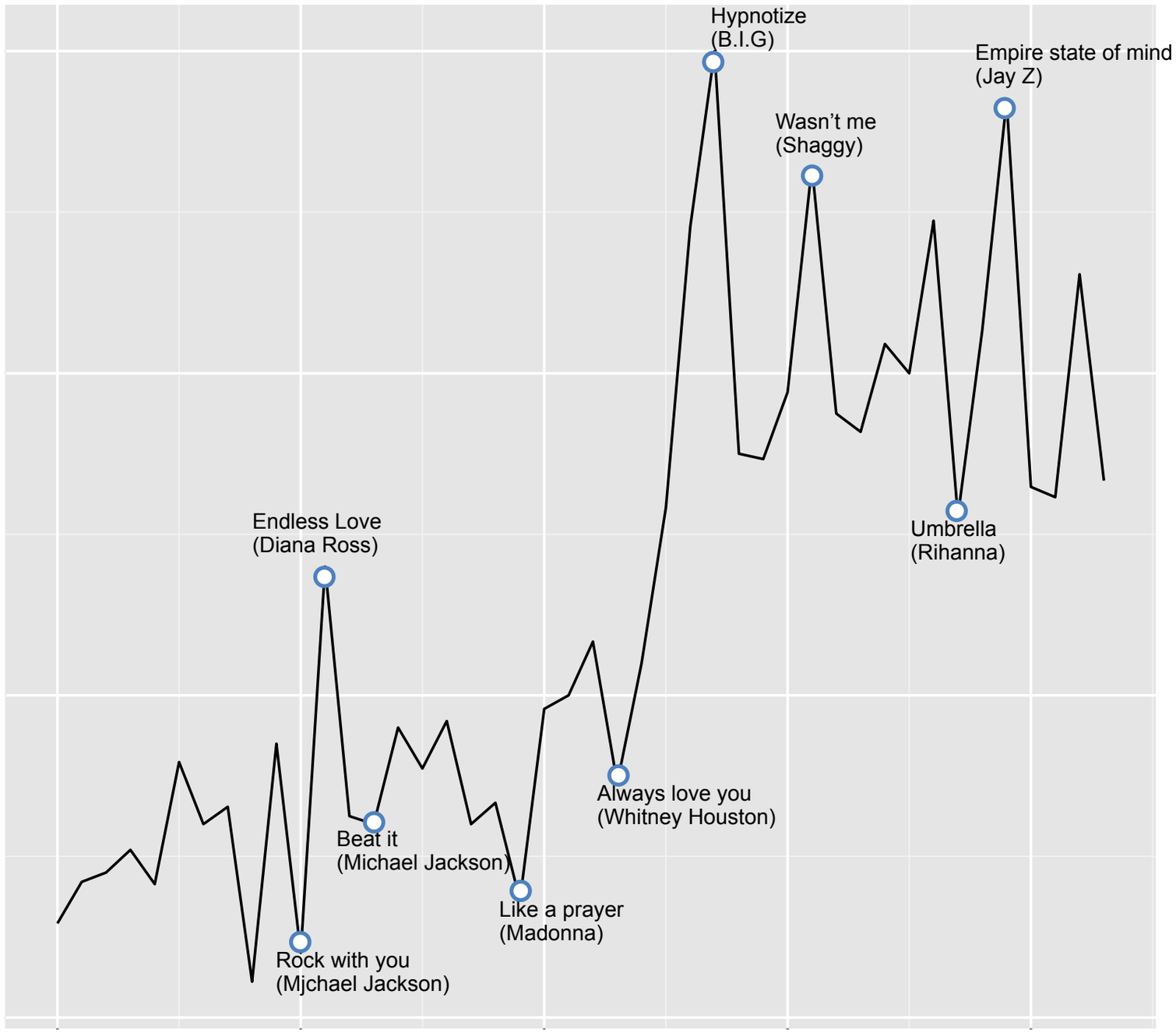
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE / PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)
50	59	73	4	YOU CAME R.WILDE,T.SWAIN (R.WILDE, K.
51	61	85	3	GIVING YOU THE BES M.POWELL (A.BAKER, S.SCAR
52	67	—	2	WALK ON WATER R.ZITO,E.MONEY (J.HARMS)
53	41	33	19	I DON'T WANNA LIVE R.NEVISON (D.WARREN, A.HA
54	39	29	19	FAST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

http://www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100

Average writer of songs per year



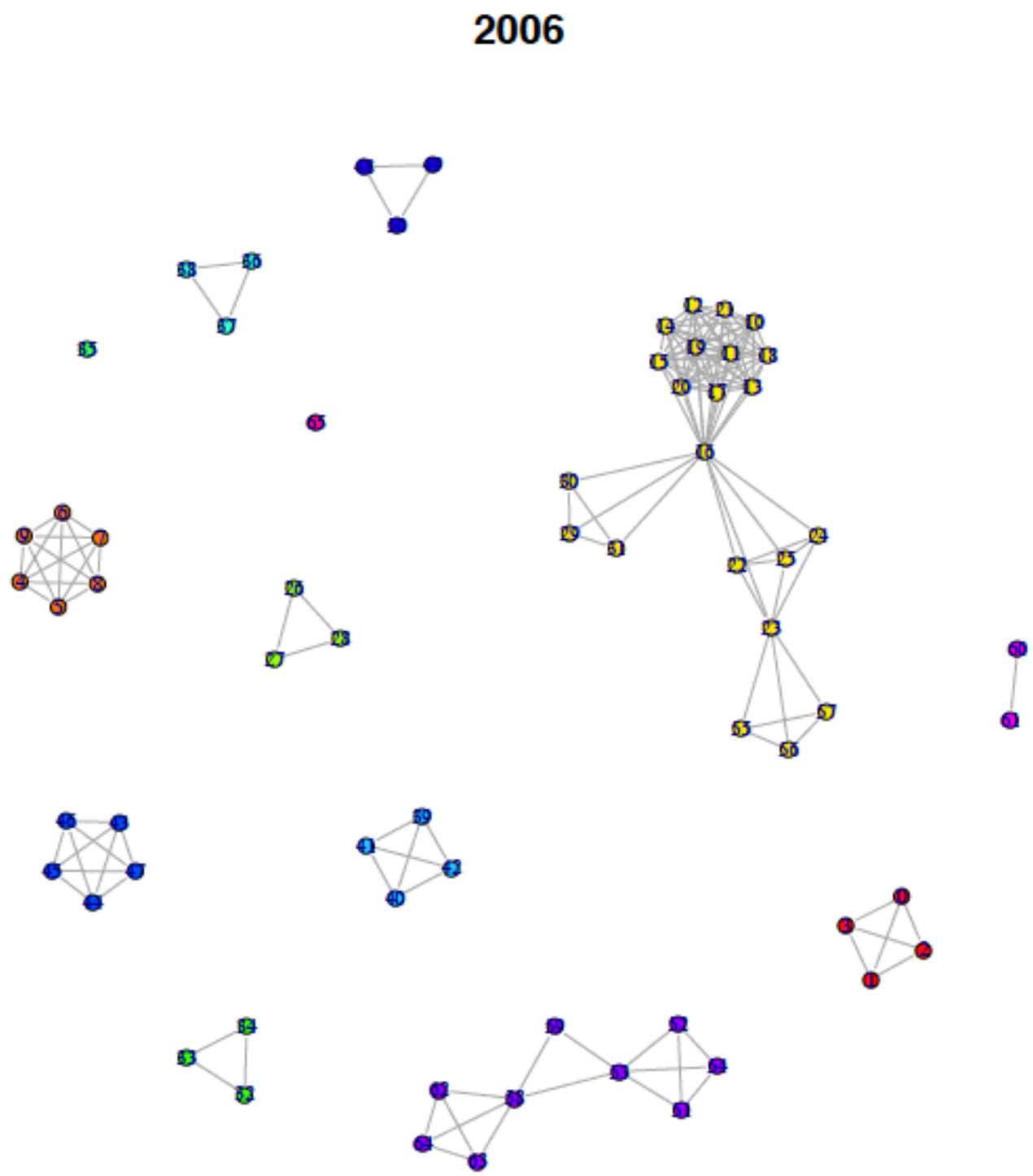
Number of writers per songs people are listening to over time is increasing.

Building Networks

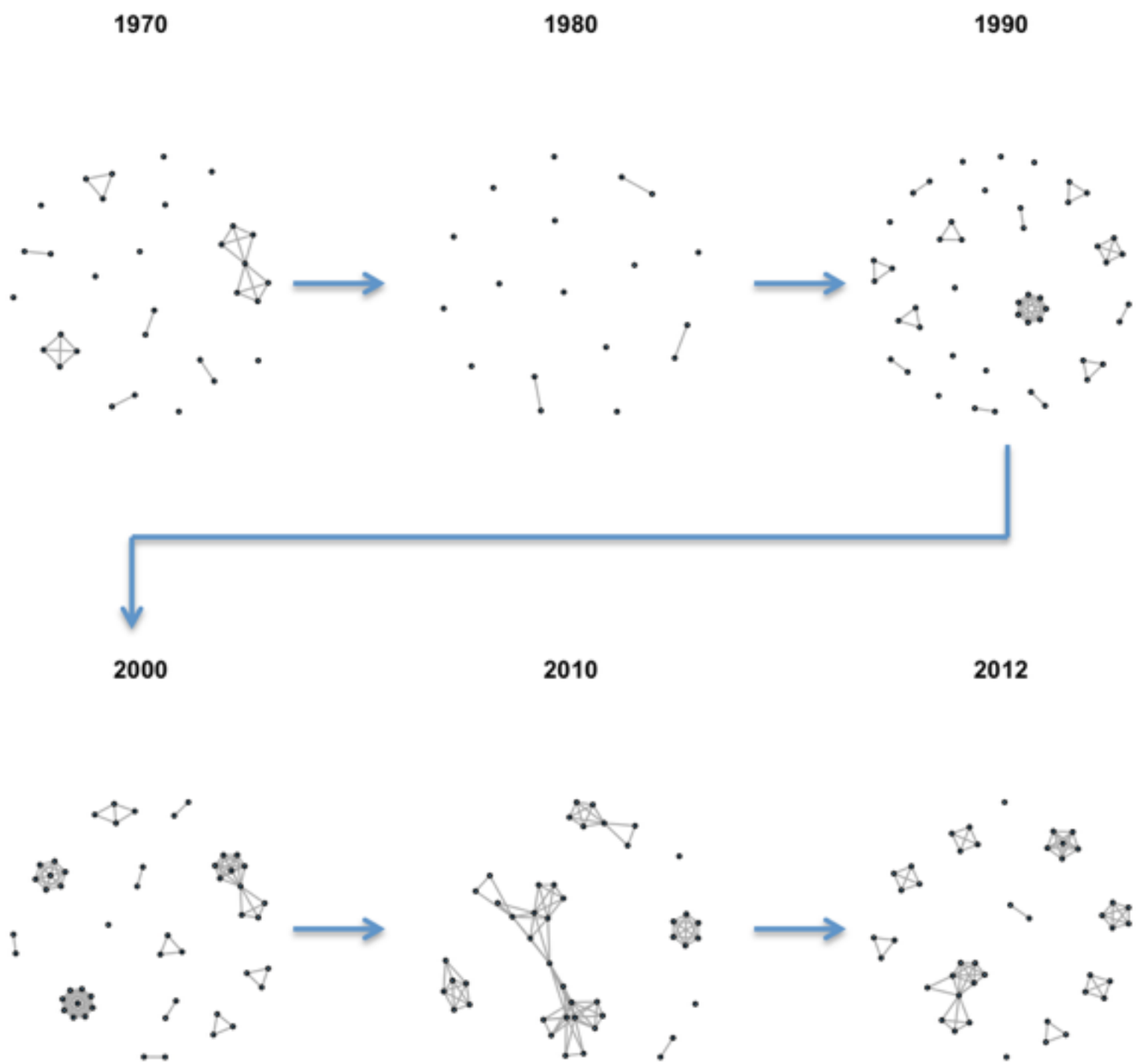
- Network of music writers for top hits from 1970 to 2013.
  - Nodes: writers
  - Edges: collaboration in a top hit song

- 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



Network of Writers



R-Shiny

https://github.com/htalukder/musicwriters