Unit 5 Pre-Class Warm-up

Joanna Yu, W203 Tuesday 4pm

What's a Model?

Please read "The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete" by Chris Anderson, which is discussed in the async.

http://archive.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-07/pb_theory

Answer the following question (just one paragraph please):

1. Compare the computer science algorithms that Anderson focuses on to the parametric statistics models in our class. How do the goals of these approaches differ?

   The computer science algorithms that Anderson focuses on emphasize that correlation is enough. The algorithms can extract relevant information without understanding the data. But parametric statistics models in our class attempts to understand the story behind the data. Looking for causation is not necessary to the computer science algorithms as long as enough information, such as correlation, can be obtained to answer the question. But understanding causation is important in parametric statistic models.