

Data Scientist and Business Intelligence Analyst A Comparison

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A data scientist is a person who has more knowledge of programming than a Statistician or Business Intelligence person but lesser than a Software developer while on the other side he has more Data knowledge like algorithms, stats, mathematics, etc than a software developer but lesser than a Statistician.

Lets look at their commonalities

Both data scientists and BI analysts do visualizations.

Both data scientists and BI analysts work with data sources.

Both data scientists and BI analysts do programming.

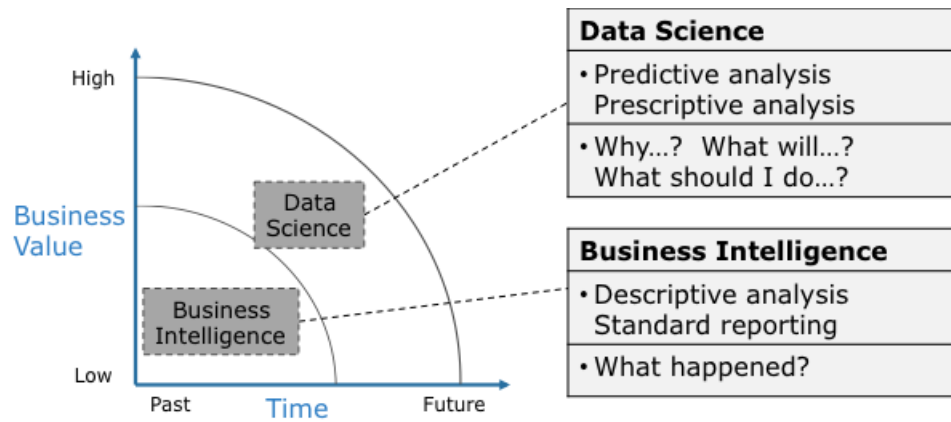
But in addition to that, *data scientists are expected to be statistically literate, run experiments, interpret data with a mind on causation and - most often - do data modelling.*

	Business Intelligence	Data Science
Data	Complete Data Quality Absolute Structured Data	Missing Data Quantity Approximate Structured and Unstructured Data
Tools	Decision Support System Lineage Relational Data Centric Reporting Focus ETL/OLAP Mostly Proprietary Tools	Statistical Science Lineage NoSQL, Grid Computing and Cloud Centric Stores Statistics and Experiments Focus Data Munging and Machine Learning Mostly Open Source Tools
Business	IT Owned Division of Labour More Governance Well Defined Role	Analytics-Owned Jack of all Trades Less Governance Role Not Defined Well

Bottom line:

Business Intelligence analyst: More of Computer science - Less of Maths Data

Scientist: More of Maths - Less of Computer science



I feel that the skills required for both the roles overlap a lot. However Data Scientists ask questions, build products out of data while BI engineers just try to communicate what the underlying data is trying to tell via Dashboards and Visualisations.

References

Chart ¹

Quora ²

Image ³

¹<http://www.thisisthegreenroom.com/2011/data-science-vs-business-intelligence/>

²<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-a-data-scientist-and-a-business-intelligence-analyst>

³<https://infocus.emc.com/william-schmarzo/dynamic-duo-analytic-power-business-intelligence-analyst-plus-data-scientist/>