

# Motivation and pre-requisites

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### **About this course**

- · This course covers the basic ideas behind machine learning/prediction
  - Study design training vs. test sets
  - Conceptual issues out of sample error, ROC curves
  - Practical implementation the caret package
- · What this course depends on
  - The Data Scientist's Toolbox
  - R Programming
- · What would be useful
  - Exploratory analysis
  - Reporting Data and Reproducible Research
  - Regression models

### Who predicts?

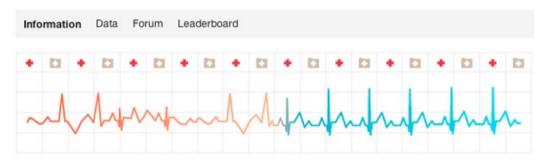
- · Local governments -> pension payments
- · Google -> whether you will click on an ad
- · Amazon -> what movies you will watch
- · Insurance companies -> what your risk of death is
- · Johns Hopkins -> who will succeed in their programs

## Why predict? Glory!



http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Chris+Volinsky

## Why predict? Riches!



# Improve Healthcare, Win \$3,000,000.

COMPETITION GOAL

Identify patients who will be admitted to a hospital within the next year, using historical claims data.

http://www.heritagehealthprize.com/c/hhp

## Why predict? For sport!

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### What's in your data?

#### Participate in competitions

Kaggle is an arena where you can match your data science skills against a global cadre of experts in statistics, mathematics, and machine learning. Whether you're a world-class algorithm wizard competing for prize money or a novice looking to learn from the best, here's your chance to jump in and geek out, for fame, fortune, or fun.

Join as a participant

(Need convincing?)

#### Create a competition

Kaggle is a platform for data prediction competitions that allows organizations to post their data and have it scrutinized by the world's best data scientists. In exchange for a prize, winning competitors provide the algorithms that beat all other methods of solving a data crunching problem. Most data problems can be framed as a competition.

Learn more about hosting

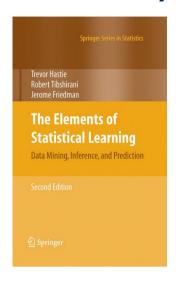
http://www.kaggle.com/

### Why predict? To save lives!



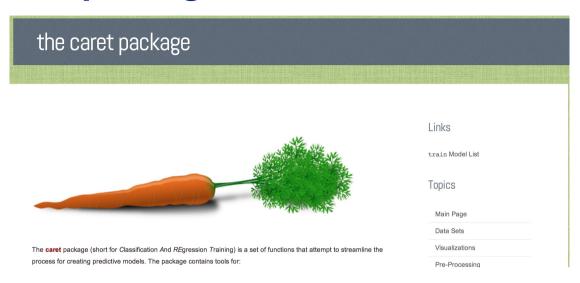
http://www.oncotypedx.com/en-US/Home

### A useful (if a bit advanced) book



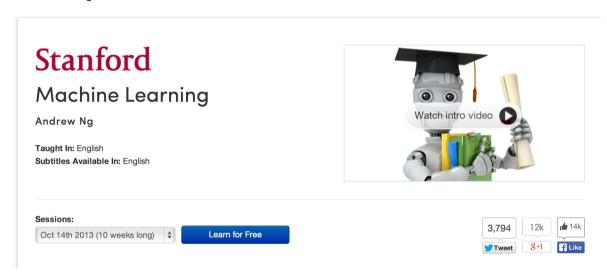
The elements of statistical learning

## A useful package



http://caret.r-forge.r-project.org/

# Machine learning (more advanced material)



https://www.coursera.org/course/ml

### **Even more resources**

- List of machine learning resources on Quora
- List of machine learning resources from Science
- Advanced notes from MIT open courseware
- Advanced notes from CMU
- Kaggle machine learning competitions