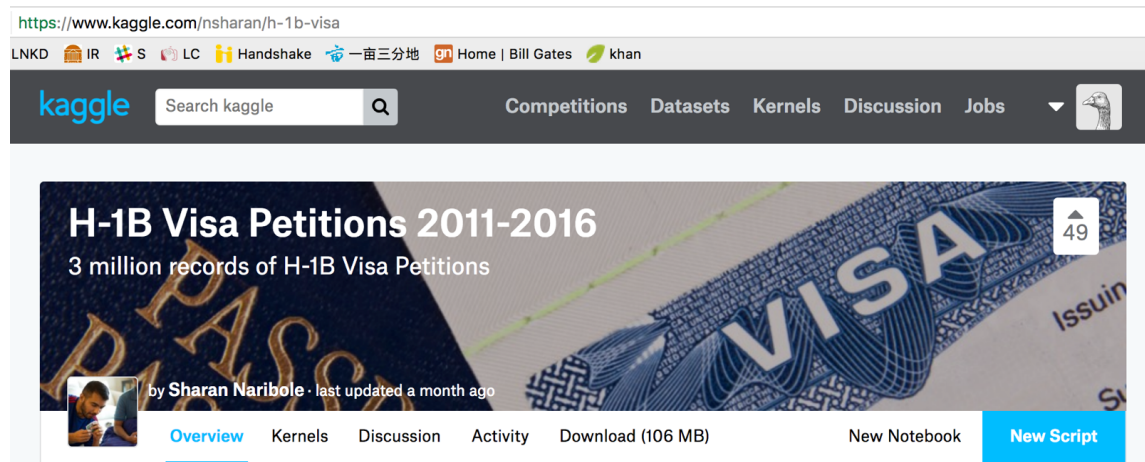


# Is the H1B really being misused?

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Immigration has been a heated topic recently. Many argue H1B visa has been misused, with some further suggest H1B visa has enabled giants in the computer science industry to hire cheap foreign workforce. They say foreign workers are willing to work more for less, hence led to a loss of competitiveness of American born workers. Is this really the case? Is the H1B visa really being misused?

This project looks at H1B visa petitions over the year 2011 – 2015. The data, scraped by Sharon of Kaggle.com, is preprocessed in R. The visualization is coded up using Javascript's D3 library and some CSS. Multiple decisions are made during data-preprocessing, and numerous challenges are encountered during the coding. This project owes special thanks to the author of "population pyramid" (<https://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/4062085>), which provided elegant code guiding this project. The static version of the visualization is displayed below.



The results are interesting. There are two main points illustrated: 1. CS petitioners earn more and 2. Proportion distribution of CS vs Non-CS related jobs across income groups have stayed constant over the years. These observations speak one thing: proportion wise, foreign CS workers have **not** increased and they **earn more**. Thus, it is **unfair** to say that foreign workers are flooding into the US economy with low wages to steal Americans' jobs.

There are multiple limitations to this project. First, to tell a better, more comprehensive story, it needs to include situation for American workers in the CS industry. Second, the project took out data for 2016 due to what seemed like a policy change. It needs to put 2016 data back. Third, many assumptions were made during the pre-processing of the dataset. This means there are numerous other ways to look at the data with different sets of assumptions. Thus, numerous other possible visualization projects can be done using the same dataset.

Overall, this project aims to take a fair look at what is really happening with the H1B petitions over recent years. It has done so in a rather simplistic, yet revealing way. Some questions are answered, but there are always more to ask.