Summary of A Very Short History Of Data Science

“A Very Short History Of Data Science” attempts to define data science by giving an overview of the history and development of the field in a timeline format. A number of definitions are suggested from a variety of sources. More than one source notes how nebulous and imprecise these definitions are, but the consensus of opinion seems to be that data science involves mathematical and statistical analysis of large amounts of data with the aid of computer science to extract value and information. The proposed definitions, like most things, evolved over time, especially as computer science matured as a field from the early 1960s to the present. In short, what was possible for computing to accomplish changed so expectations, desires, and norms changed too. Many people made similar points over the timeline in this article, but what I found interesting was where these points were made changed as the industry evolved. In the beginning of this timeline, 1962, data science was an esoteric academic discussion happening in mathematical/statistical and computer science associations and journals, but as the field grew over time, the conversation became more concrete. The conversation moved from academia to business circles including *Business Week* to blogs and popular media. As the data science industry developed and matured into its own discipline, new societies and journals specific to data science were created. Data science started as an academic notion, grew into a concrete and useful subdiscipline, and matured into its own arena of academia over the 60 years covered in this article.