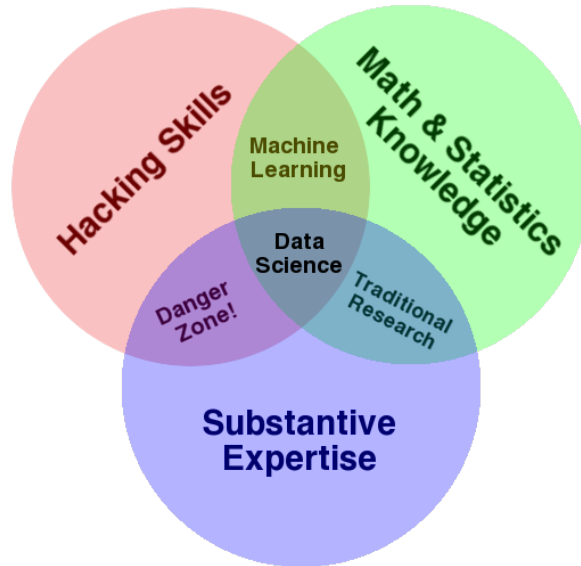# Finding answers

**Jeffrey Leek**
**Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**

# One of the key data science traits



[Drew Conway](#)

# Key characteristics of hackers

· Willing to find answers on their own

· Knowledgeable about where to find answers on their own

· Unintimidated by new data types or packages

· Unafriad to say they don't know the answer

· *Polite but relentless*

Google knows it too

# Where to look for different types of questions

- R programming (see also: http://bit.ly/Ufaadn)

  - Search the archive of the class forums

  - Read the manual/help files

  - Search on the web

  - Ask a skilled friend

  - Post to the class forums

  - Post to the R mailing list or Stackoverflow

- Data Analysis/Statistics

  - Search the archive of the class forums

  - Search on the web

  - Ask a skilled friend

  - Post to the class forums

# A note on Googling data science questions

- The best place to start for general questions is the forums

- Stackoverflow (use the tag "[r]"),R mailing list for software questions, CrossValidated for more general questions

- Otherwise Google "[data type] data analysis" or "[data type] R package"

- Try to identify what data analysis is called for your data type

    - Biostatistics for medical data

    - Data Science for data from web analytics

    - Machine learning for data in computer science/computer vision

    - Natural language processing for data from texts

    - Signal processing for data from electrical signals

    - Business analytics for data on customers

    - Econometrics for economic data

    - Statistical process control for data about industrial processes

# Credits

- Roger's Getting Help Video

- Inspired by Eric Raymond's "How to ask questions the smart way"