**NYU Data Science Community Newsletter** features journalism, research papers, events, tools/software, and jobs for May 15, 2015.

Please Let us (Laura Noren, Brad Stenger) know if you have something to add to the newsletter. We are grateful for the generous financial support from the Moore-Sloan Data Science Environment and NYU’s Center for Data Science.

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**Data Science News**

**As you get older, you listen to less hot music: the "Coolness Spiral of Death"**

*Boing Boing* from May 12, 2015

Data from *Spotify* appear to confirm why your parents are so out of it: As people get older, they listen to less hot music of the moment, and instead just queue up the oldies.

This statistical crunch comes via Ajay Kalia, who calculated a popularity score for all songs that we streamed in 2014, and then examined who listened to them, and how old they were.

**Paul Allen’s Artificial Intelligence Institute launches startup incubator with top minds in AI**

*GeekWire* from May 12, 2015

The *Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence* has established a new startup incubator at its offices in Seattle, recruiting two high-level researchers who will try to develop technologies in the emerging field.

Joining the Institute’s new incubator program are *Prismatic* co-founder Aria Haghighi and *Johns Hopkins University* PhD graduate Xuchen Yao.

“We are quickly building an element of the Seattle tech ecosystem, and we’ve identified cutting-edge folks who are startup minded,” said Oren Etzioni, the former *University of Washington* computer science professor who now leads the *Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence*.

**Wolfram Language Artificial Intelligence: The Image Identification Project**

*Stephen Wolfram* blog from May 13, 2015

“What is this a picture of?” Humans can usually answer such questions instantly, but in the past it’s always seemed out of reach for computers to do this. For nearly 40 years I’ve been sure computers would eventually get there—but I’ve wondered when.

I’ve built systems that give computers all sorts of intelligence, much of it far beyond the human level. And for a long time we’ve been integrating all that intelligence into the Wolfram Language.

Now I’m excited to be able to say that we’ve reached a milestone: there’s finally a function called ImageIdentify built into the Wolfram Language that lets you ask, “What is this a picture of?”—and get an answer.

**Python 3 in Science: the great migration has begun!**

*.py in the sky* blog from May 09, 2015
Back in 2012, I carried out a survey to find out which Python, NumPy, and SciPy versions scientists are currently using for their daily work, in order to better understand which versions should be supported. The main finding was that a large fraction of people have reasonably up-to-date Python installations, although virtually no-one was using Python 3 for daily work.

This year, I decided to repeat the experiment: last January I advertised a survey which asked users to provide information about their Python installation(s) for research/production work, as well as more general information about their Python experience, which packages they used regularly, why they are not using Python 3 if they were still using Python 2, and so on.

**Polls are dead, long live markets**

*Hypermind Gazette* from May 08, 2015

The polling fiasco in the 2015 UK general election is just the latest in a string of high-profile failures over the last few months. This contrasts with the good performance of prediction markets, and Hypermind in particular.

**Making decisions using big data**

*Medium, Notes from a Computational Social Scientist* from May 09, 2015

What happens when a nuclear missile hits Washington, D.C.?

Chris Barrett, Executive Director of *Virginia Bioinformatics Institute* and Professor *Virginia Tech* came to speak at the Computational Social Science department of the *Krasnow Institute* about how big data plays a role in massively interactive systems on April 17 in a talk titled ‘Massively Interactive Systems: Thinking and Deciding in the Age of Big Data’.

**Recognition: Build a reputation**

*Naturejobs* from May 06, 2015

To get respect in a field, scientists need to consider not just their work, but also their interactions with others.

**Some Schools Embrace Demands for Education Data**


... Data has become a dirty word in some education circles, seen as a proxy for an obsessive focus on tracking standardized test scores. But some school districts, taking a cue from the business world, are fully embracing metrics, recording and analyzing every scrap of information related to school operations. Their goal is to help improve everything from school bus routes and classroom cleanliness to reading comprehension and knowledge of algebraic equations.

**The Mind of Marc Andreessen**

*The New Yorker* from May 11, 2015

... [Suhail] Doshi, lean and quizzical in a maroon T-shirt and jeans, began his pitch by declaring, “Most of the world will make decisions by either guessing or using their gut. They will be either lucky or wrong.” Far better to apply Mixpanel’s analytics, which enable mobile-based companies to know exactly who their customers are and how they use their apps. Doshi rapidly escalated to rhetoric—“We want to do data science for every single market in the world”—that would sound bumptious anywhere but on Sand Hill Road, where the young guy in jeans is obligated to astound the middle-aged guys in cashmere V-necks. “Mediocre
V.C.s want to see that your company has traction,” Doshi told me. “The top V.C.s want you to show them you can invent the future.”

Data Science VS. Computer Science As A Career - Long-Term Job Prospects & Salary Predictions : datascience
reddit.com/r/DataScience from May 10, 2015
Data Scientists will be around for at least the next 10 - 20 years, but will salaries fall once expectations could be downwardly adjusted for these positions?

Events

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Seminar Series -- Climate Networks and Extreme Events
Dr. Juergen Kurths from Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany and King’s College, University of Aberdeen, UK

We analyse climate dynamics from a complex network approach. This leads to an inverse problem: Is there a backbone-like structure underlying the climate system? For this we propose a method to reconstruct and analyze a complex network from data generated by a spatio-temporal dynamical system.

Friday, May 15, at 12 noon, 15 MetroTech 19th floor Exhibition Space

LDV Vision Summit: Innovation & Trends in Video and Digital Imaging
Over 70 international expert speakers, 40 sessions, and 2 competitions. We bring together top technologists, visionaries, startups, media/brand executives and investors with the purpose of exploring, understanding and shaping the future of imaging and video in human communication.

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 19-20, at SVA Theatre, NYC

In this discussion, we will consider how surveillance impacts communities and public discourse, and the way that dissent can thrive in a world under watch. We will talk about the human lives affected by surveillance and policing, focusing on communities in NYC and elsewhere. In this panel we will discuss strategies and tactics for activists and offer critical perspectives on solutions.

Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m., Eyebeam

1st Annual NYU Postdocs Interdisciplinary Symposium (PoIntS)
It is our pleasure to invite you to the 1st Annual NYU Postdocs Interdisciplinary Symposium (PoIntS), an initiative from the postdoc community to build synergy. It will include selected talks from members of the postdoctoral NYU community as well as keynote speakers and panels focusing on postdoctoral life and alternative careers.

Thursday, May 21 at the Hemmerdinger Hall, NYU Washington Square Campus

2015 World Science Festival Programs
The World Science Festival brings together great minds in science and the arts to produce live and digital content that presents the wonders of science and the drama of scientific discovery to a broad general audience.

Wednesday-Sunday, May 27-31, at venues in Manhattan and Brooklyn including NYU

**Deadlines**

**CFP: Media Cloud Data Challenge! | Media Cloud**

Why head to the beach when you could spend this summer investigating a novel data set and doing online media research? Media Cloud is pleased to announce “Summer of Data,” a contest providing support for three teams (or individuals) to do original research using Media Cloud data and tools. Each team whose proposal is chosen will receive stipends totaling $8,000, plus travel support to come to Cambridge, MA at the beginning and end of the program. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method researchers are all invited to submit proposals.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, May 19

**MOORE-SLOAN DATA SCIENCE ENVIRONMENT CALL FOR DATA SCIENCE PROJECTS**

Under the umbrella of the Moore-Sloan Data Science Environment Software Working Group (SWG), the NYU Center for Data Science (CDS) will launch its new Data Science Incubator program Summer 2015. The program aims to connect domain scientists across fields with data scientists and software engineers at CDS to solve data-driven research problems.

We invite proposals (2 pages maximum) for a term-long exploratory data-intensive science projects requiring collaboration in all areas of data science, involving exploration, data management, visualization, statistics and machine learning.

Deadline: Friday, May 29

**Bayesian Modeling for Socio-Environmental Data**

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) will host a nine-day short course August 19–28, 2015 covering basic principles of using Bayesian models to gain insight from data.

Application Deadline: May 29

**New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports at Harvard on Saturday, September 26**

The 2015 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports will be a meeting of statisticians and quantitative analysts connected with sports teams, sports media, and universities to discuss common problems of interest in statistical modeling and analysis of sports data. The symposium format will be a mixture of invited talks, a poster session, and a panel discussion.

Abstracts Deadline: June 15
CDS News
Leaders or Followers? Measuring Political Responsiveness in the U.S. Congress Using Social Media Data.
SMaPP NYU from May 11, 2015
Topic 26: Student Loans

FRE Department Announces New Assistant Professor
NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering from May 08, 2015
The Department of Finance and Risk Engineering is delighted to announce the addition of Dr. Andrew Papanicolaou to our faculty starting Fall 2015.

Click here to receive the NYU Data Science Community Newsletter OR to have us follow your twitter feed so that our data science twitter bot can easily grab links from your tweets.

To send us an announcement for the newsletter, please email laura.noren@nyu.edu and brad.stenger@nyu.edu by 9 pm Eastern time on Thursday evenings for inclusion in Friday's newsletter. We retain curatorial discretion.

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