

The Story Behind the Creation of the University Certificate Junior Data Analyst

Christian Ritter

Statistical Methods and Computing Service SMCS

And Louvain School of Statistics, Biostatistics and Actuarial Sciences LSBA

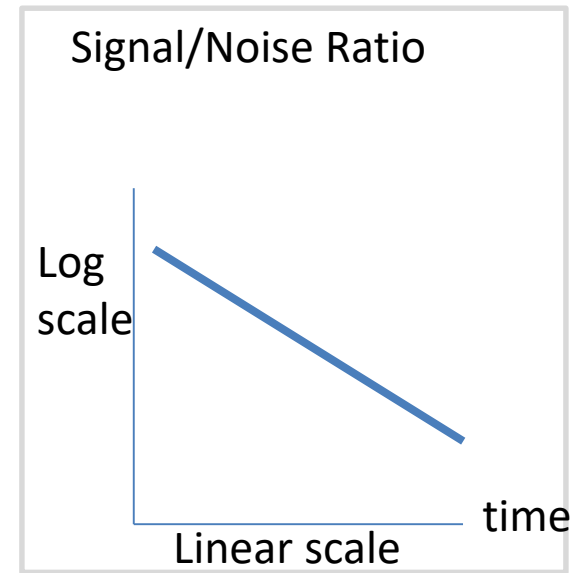
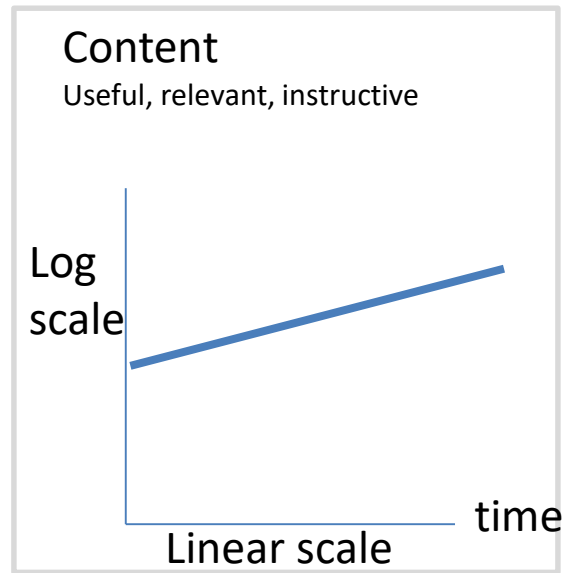
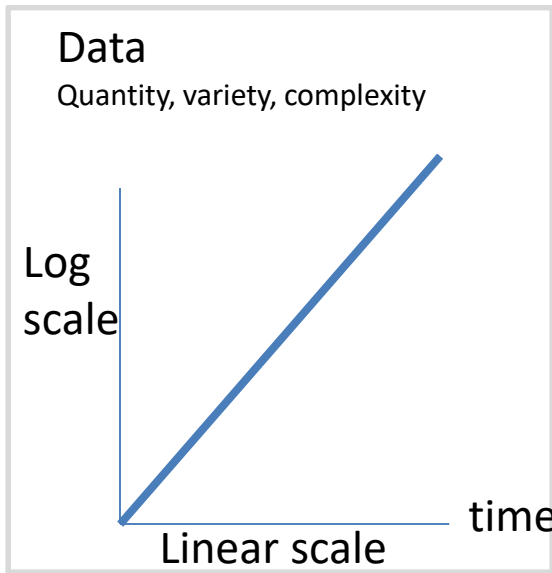
Université Catholique de Louvain

Is There Still a Place for Humans in Data Science?



Autonomous trap 001, James Bridle

Trends



Who is Affected By Data Society?

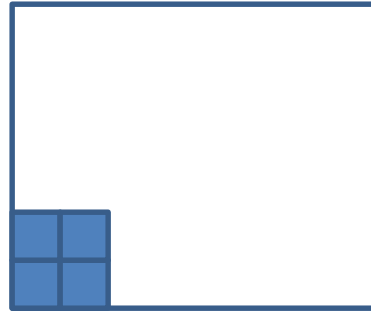
1970



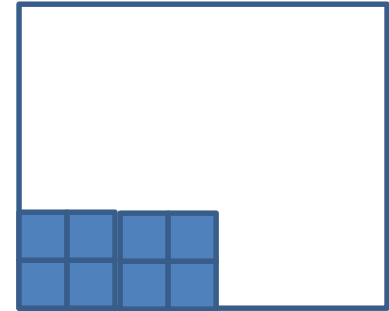
1980



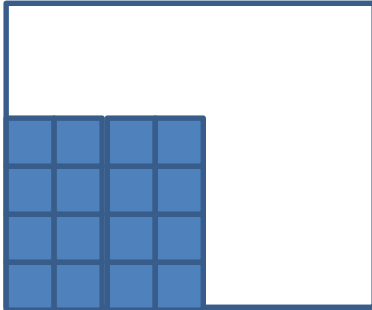
1990



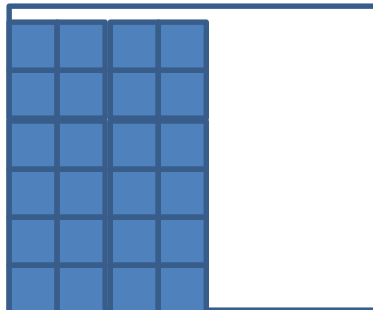
2000



2010



2020



We Need PEOPLE

To build automatic methods to purify data

-> technical, analytic ability

To assess, judge, decide

-> critical reasoning, analytic ability

University graduates with a degree in humanities who have technical abilities at the same time are **VERY VALUABLE** (and will become more so)

History of the JDA

Involvement in other training activities aiming at a better job potential (FOREM biostatistics, BioWin, etc.)

Transfer of idea to graduates from humanities

Seed money: ESF/FSE

Application/definition process started in 2014

Definition Process

General outline of elements judged useful for the target public:

- Coding with data
- Basic statistical concepts and modeling
- A glimpse of modern data science
- Communication, professionalism, ethics
- Use of self-learning tools

Interviews With Enterprises and Organizations Who Might Become Employers

Yes, we NEED data scientists

But your people will probably be too junior

But we can't afford sending people for long
trainings

Disconnect

What organizations need

What we can provide/train

What organizations are willing to invest

Adjustments to Program

- More practical content
- Involvement of external trainers who are practicing data scientists

Result

21 days in classroom over 10 weeks (2-3 days per week)

Topics: data management, probability, basic statistical thinking, regression, PCA+clustering, glimpse of machine learning, social networks, text mining, construction of dashboards, communication, professional issues (including data privacy)

Encouragement to work on data projects between classroom days

Final project, computer exam, written basic statistics exam.

Experience With First Cohort

About 50 applicants, accepted 20, 16 started the training, same 16 were there at the last day

14 applicants took exam in December, 11 passed, 4 are signed up in June

At least three found new jobs, many others improved their skills in their existing position, some are still looking

Remaining barriers: Fluency in English, coding

Plan for Next Edition

More coding exercises, more self learning

Improved data analysis examples

Better selection and preparation of candidates
prior to training

What's in For You

Good candidates with a rare mix of talent

Go for them!!

From Jurassic Park

Dr Ian Malcolm: Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PLvdmifDSk>

Other entertaining links:

<http://cloudindx.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HxPzutkNYw>