



Métodos cuantitativos y estadísticos en las ciencias del lenguaje: panorama, predicciones y recomendaciones



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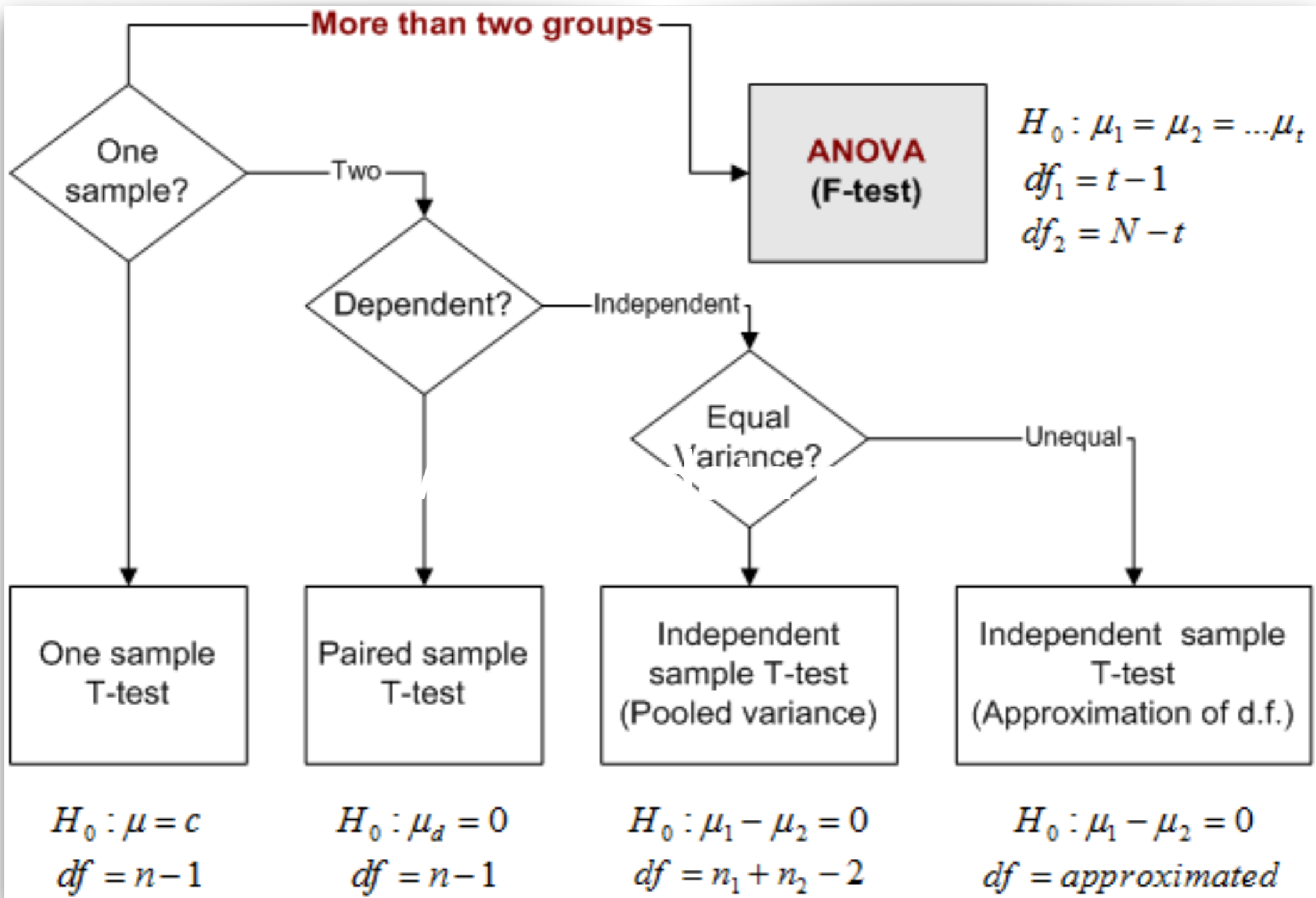
Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution,
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Human Relation Area Files,
Yale University



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft





Cancer and Smoking

THE curious associations with lung cancer found in relation to smoking habits do not, in the minds of some of us, lend themselves easily to the simple conclusion that the products of combustion reaching the surface of the bronchus induce, though after a long interval, the development of a cancer. If, for example, it were possible to infer that smoking cigarettes is a cause of this disease, it would equally be possible to infer on exactly similar grounds that inhaling cigarette smoke was a practice of considerable prophylactic value in preventing the disease, for the practice of inhaling is rarer among patients with cancer of the lung than with others.

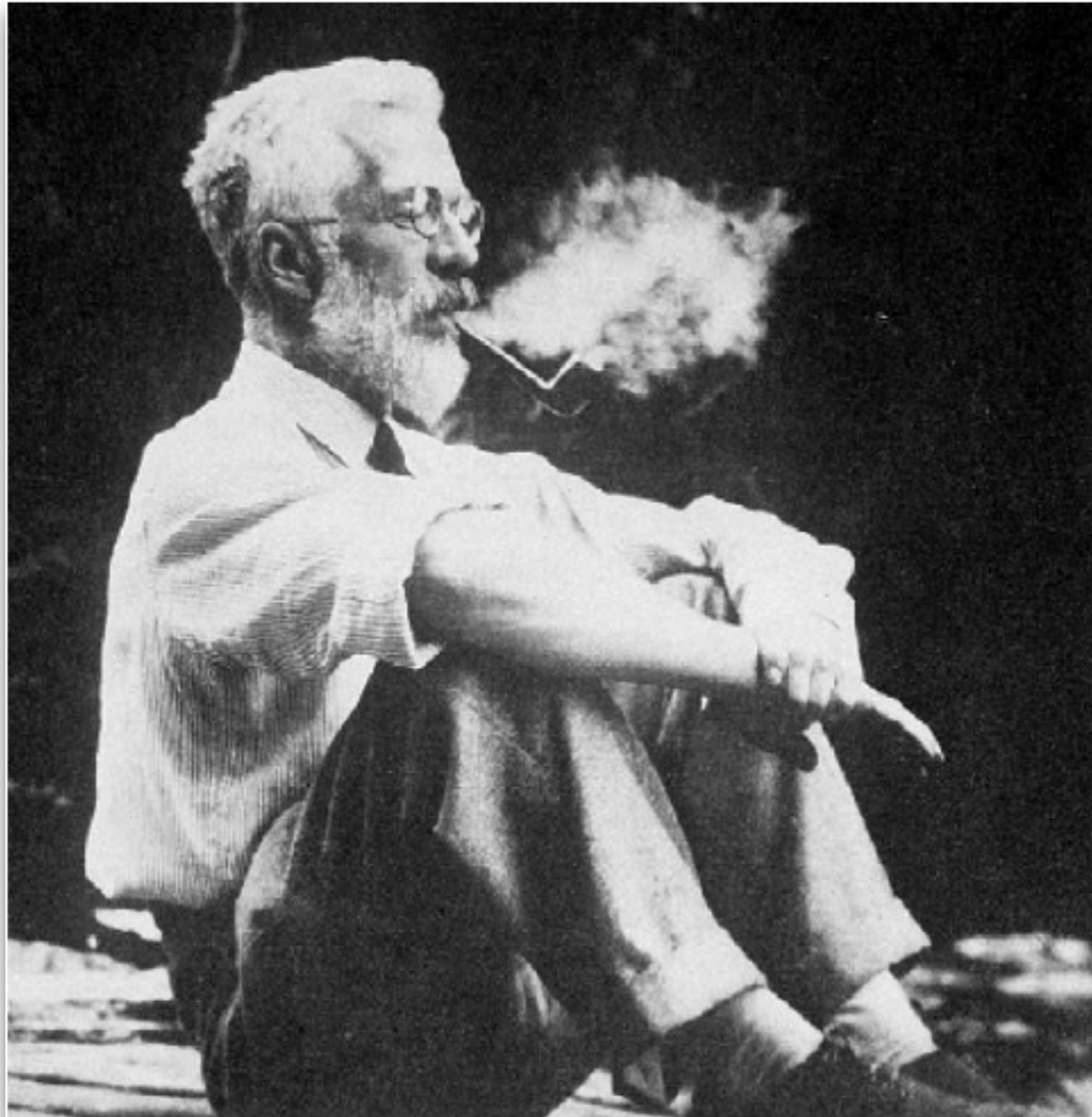
Nature (1950)

What is data science?



Ronald Fisher

What is data science?



Sometimes the assumptions
and the statements of
statistical methods look *way*
too complex to have anything
to do with the real world.

E.g. assumptions behind a basic linear

regression:

homoskedastic,

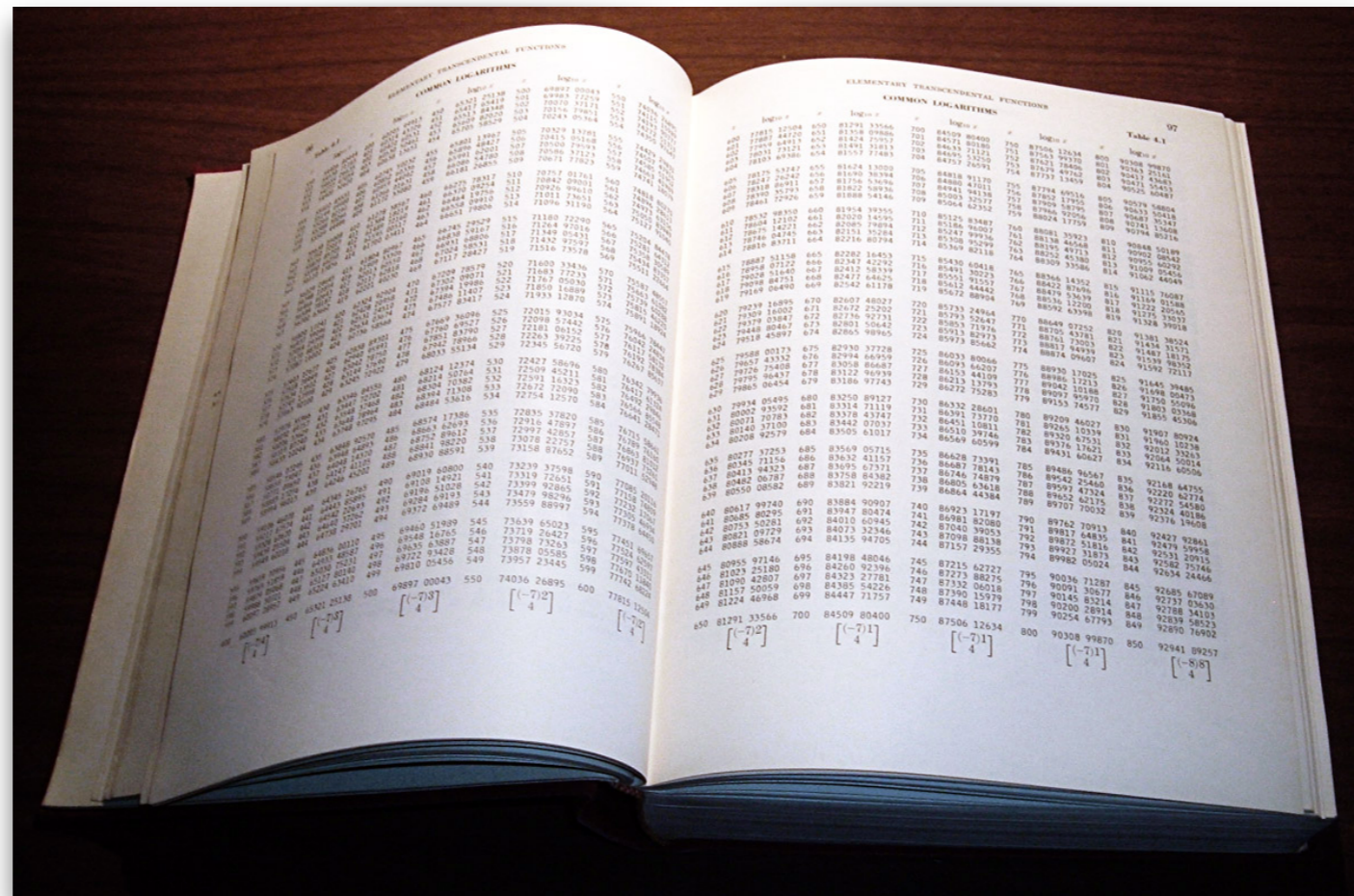
independent,

normally distributed data

*No data I know in linguistics/
anthropology/cognitive sciences
satisfy this!*



These assumptions were motivated by sheer convenience

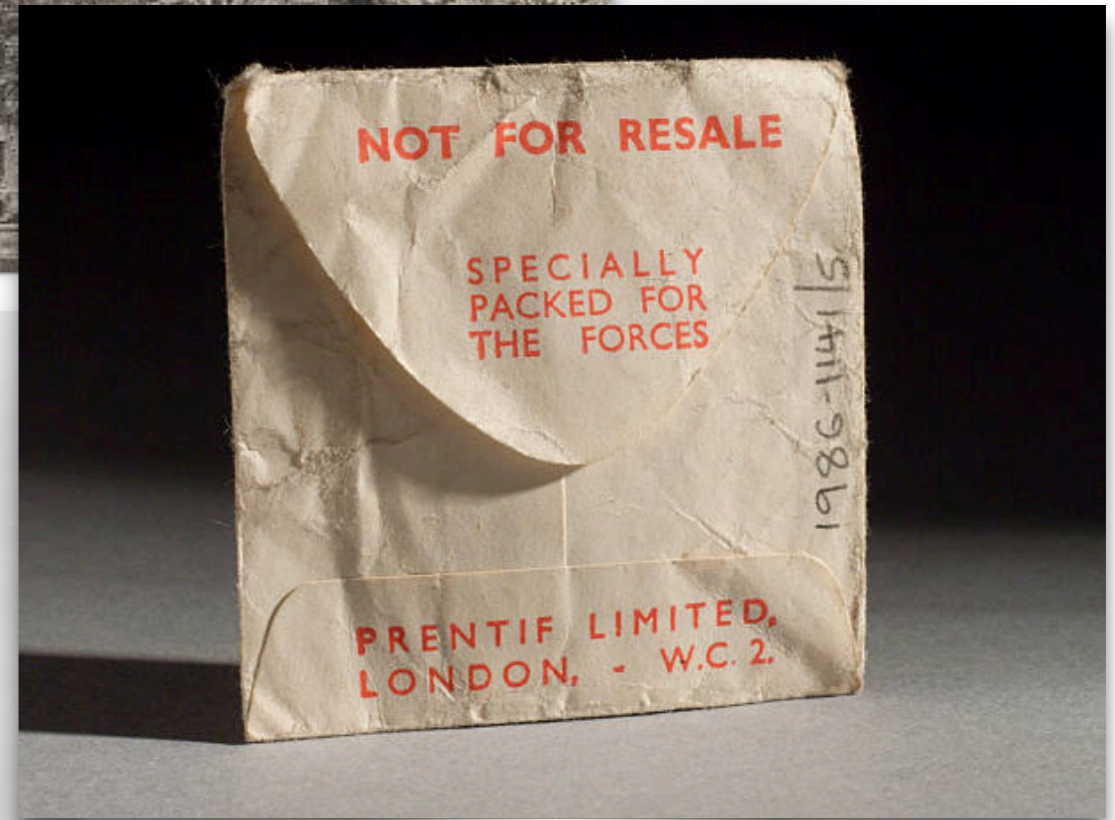
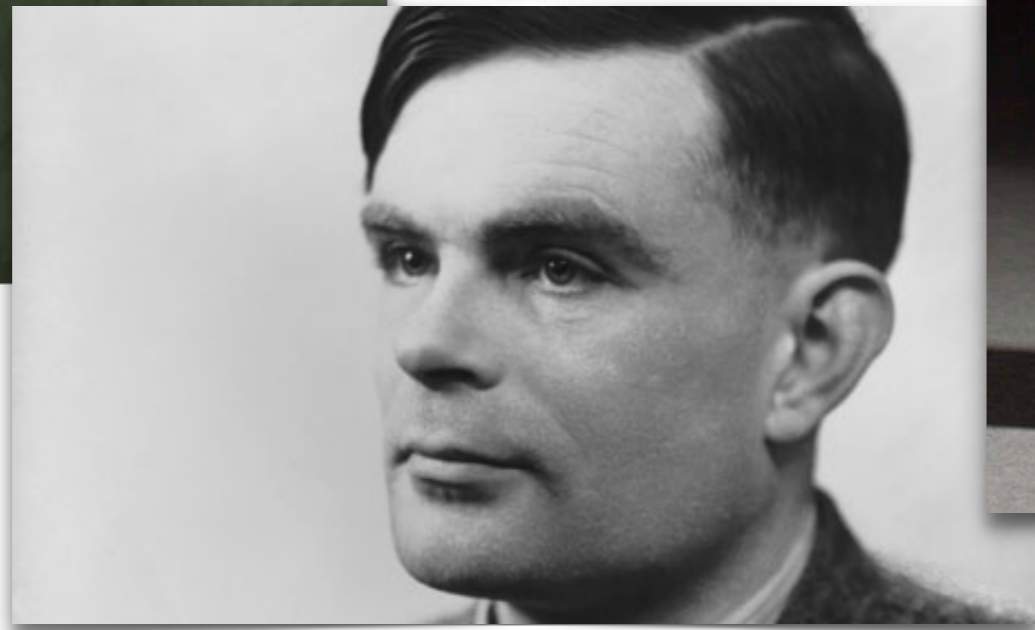


That explains the quirky math, but what about the recipe-like flavor of stats?



George Barnard

The
development
of early
methods was
strongly
practically
oriented





The usual statistics course in the social and health sciences results from the need of making standardized decisions

Computers have partially
solved for us the first issue -
we don't require Procrustean
assumptions anymore

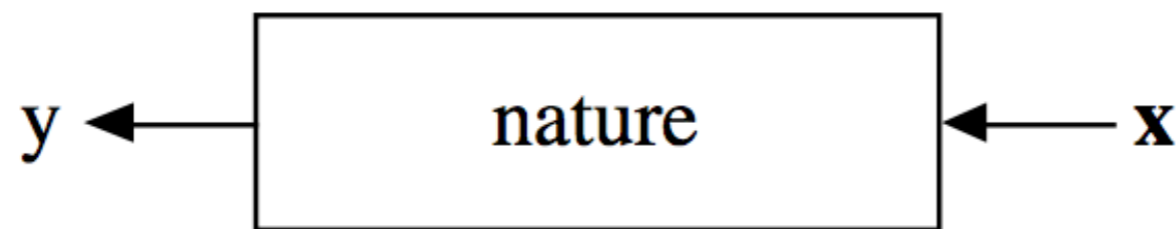


Statistical Science
2001, Vol. 16, No. 3, 199–231

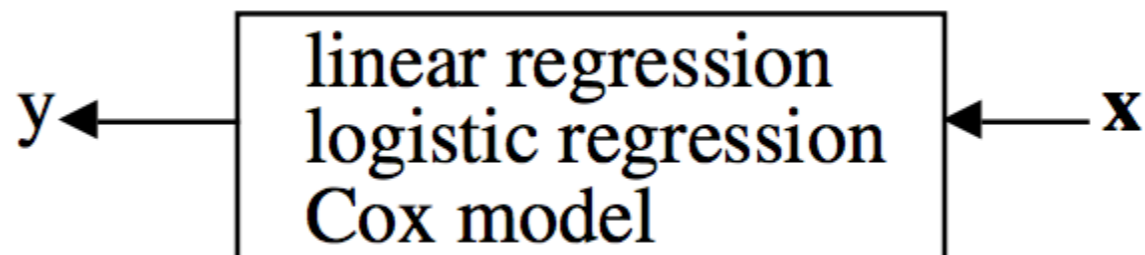
Statistical Modeling: The Two Cultures

Leo Breiman

Statistics starts with data. Think of the data as being generated by a black box in which a vector of input variables \mathbf{x} (independent variables) go in one side, and on the other side the response variables \mathbf{y} come out. Inside the black box, nature functions to associate the predictor variables with the response variables, so the picture is like this:



The values of the parameters are estimated from the data and the model then used for information and/or prediction. Thus the black box is filled in like this:

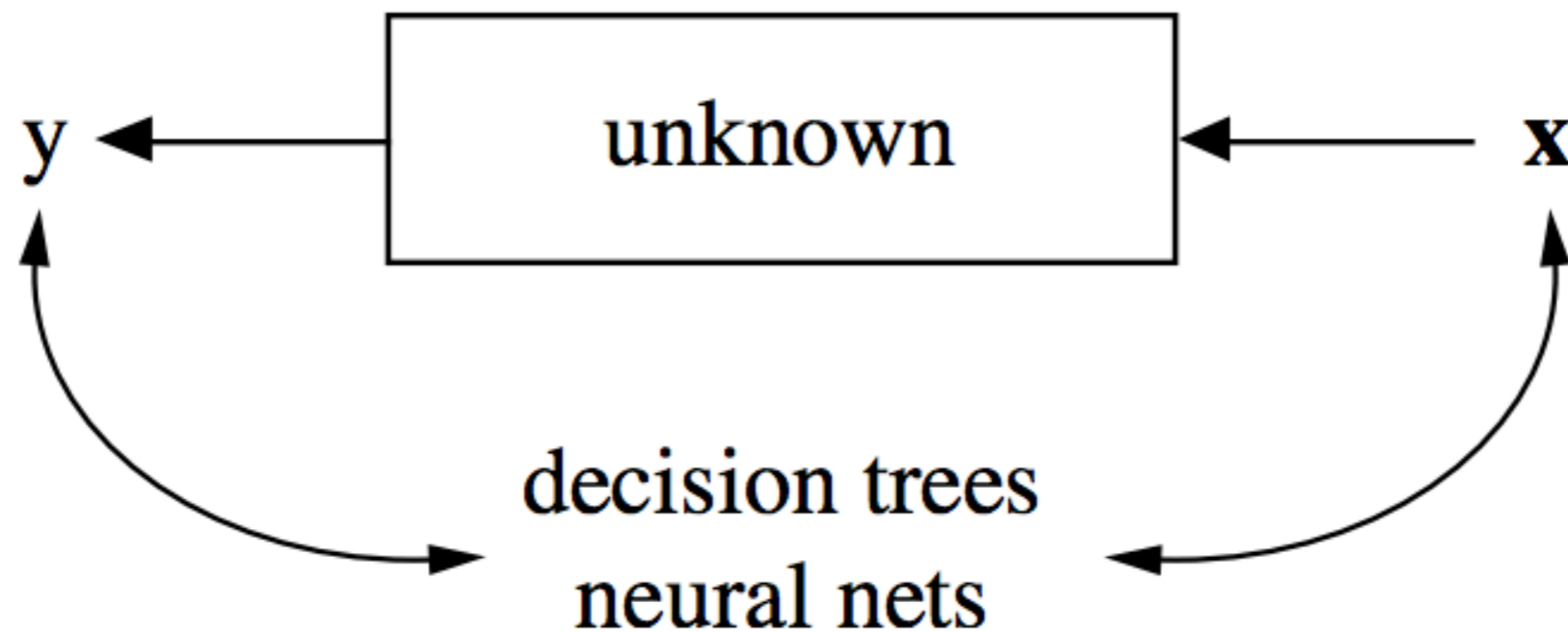


- The conclusions are about the model's mechanism, and not about nature's mechanism.

It follows that:

- If the model is a poor emulation of nature, the conclusions may be wrong.

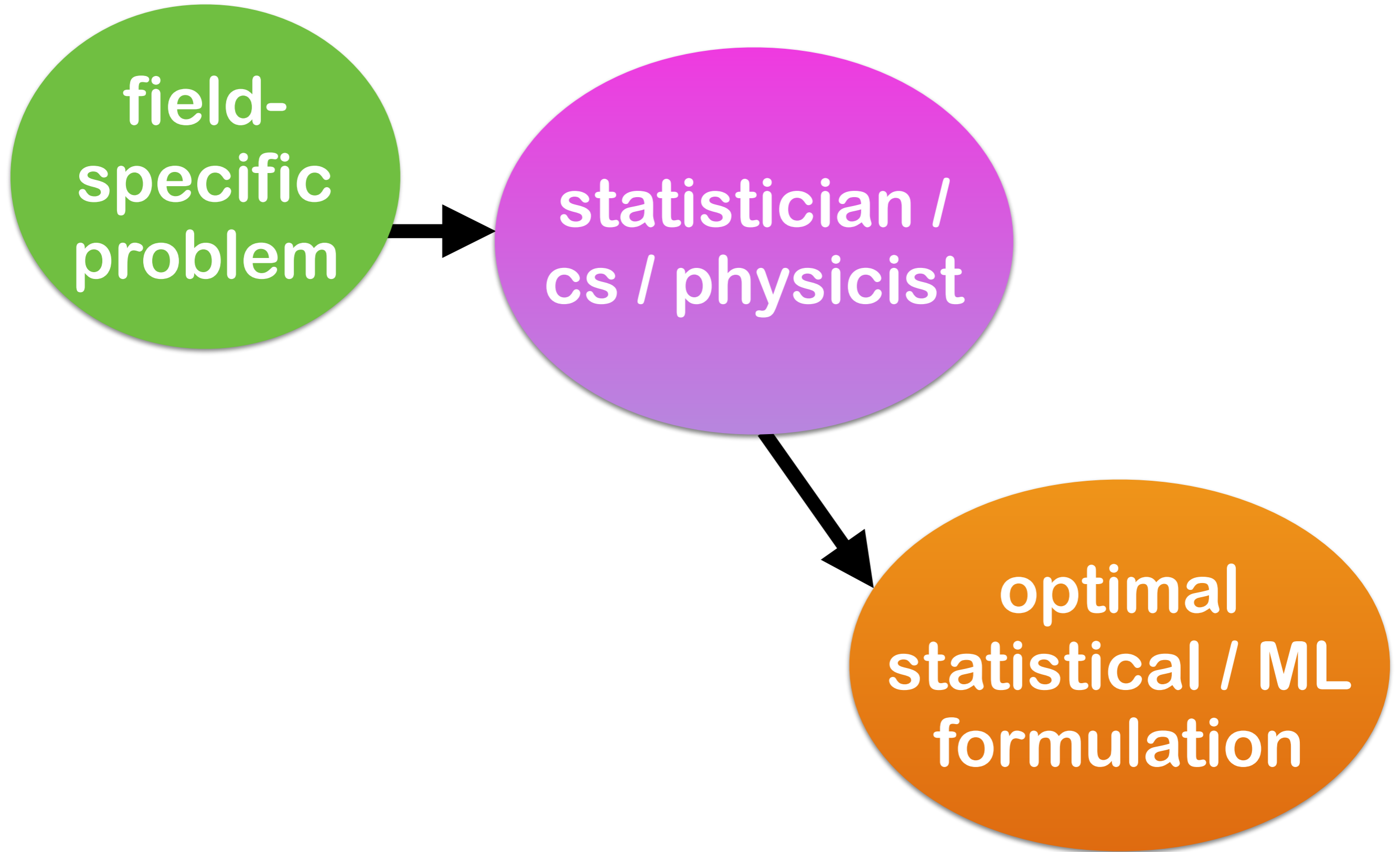
The analysis in this culture considers the inside of the box complex and unknown. Their approach is to find a function $f(\mathbf{x})$ —an algorithm that operates on \mathbf{x} to predict the responses \mathbf{y} . Their black box looks like this:



So now we have very
powerful models that are
able to describe (and predict)
subtle associations in data
without yielding an explicit
mechanistic pathway

field-
specific
problem

optimal
statistical/ML
formulation



YOU'RE TRYING TO PREDICT THE BEHAVIOR
OF <COMPLICATED SYSTEM>? JUST MODEL
IT AS A <SIMPLE OBJECT>, AND THEN ADD
SOME SECONDARY TERMS TO ACCOUNT FOR
<COMPLICATIONS I JUST THOUGHT OF>.

EASY, RIGHT?

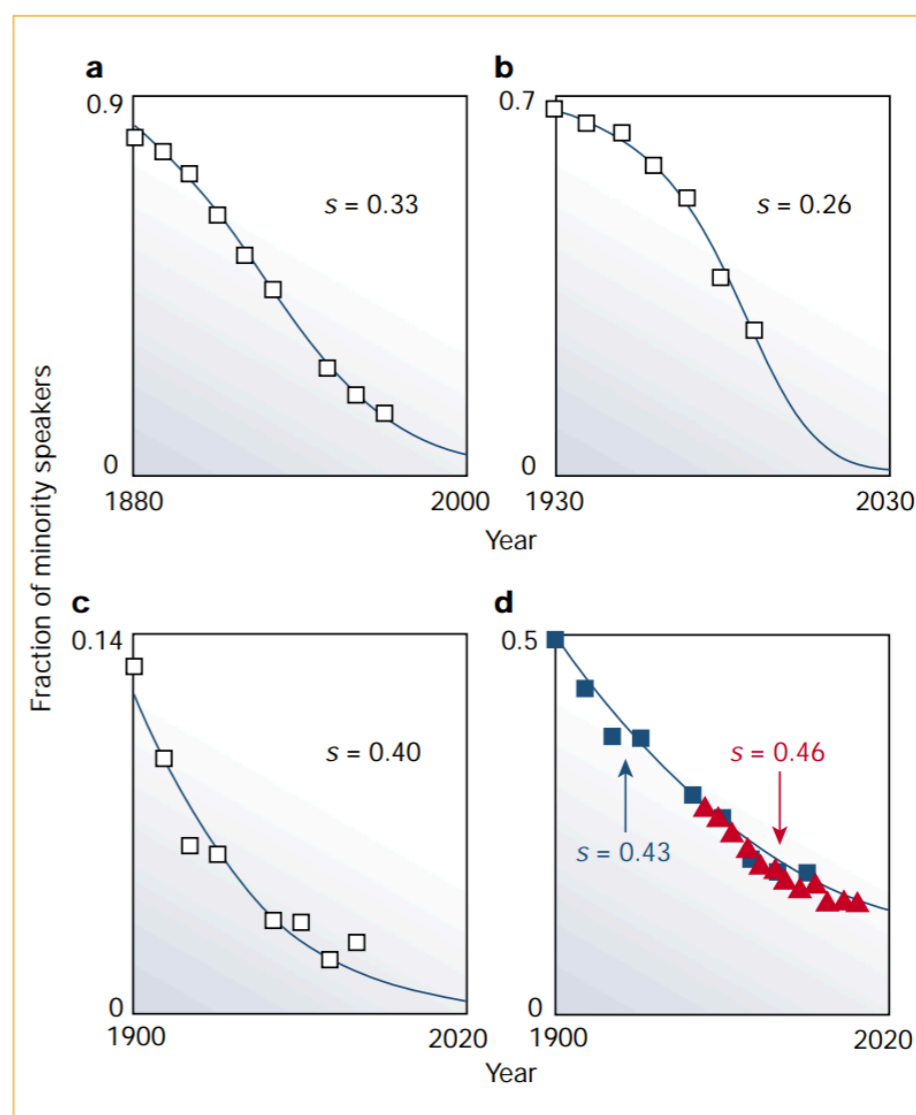
SO, WHY DOES <YOUR FIELD> NEED
A WHOLE JOURNAL, ANYWAY?



LIBERAL-ARTS MAJORS MAY BE ANNOYING SOMETIMES,
BUT THERE'S *NOTHING* MORE OBNOXIOUS THAN
A PHYSICIST FIRST ENCOUNTERING A NEW SUBJECT.

Modelling the dynamics of language death

Figure 1 The dynamics of language death. Symbols show the proportions of speakers over time of: **a**, Scottish Gaelic in Sutherland, Scotland⁹; **b**, Quechua in Huanuco, Peru; **c**, Welsh in Monmouthshire, Wales¹⁰; **d**, Welsh in all of Wales, from historical data¹⁰ (blue) and a single modern census¹¹ (red). Fitted curves show solutions of the model in equation (1), with parameters c , s , a and $x(0)$ estimated by least absolute-values regression. Where possible, data were obtained from several population censuses collected over a long timespan; otherwise, a single recent census with age-structured data was used (although errors are introduced, the size of which are reflected in the differing fits in **d**). Using the fraction of Catholic masses offered in Quechua in Peru as an indicator, we reconstructed an approximate history of the language's decline.



Linguistics: Modelling the dynamics of language death

[DM Abrams](#), [SH Strogatz](#) - Nature, 2003 - nature.com

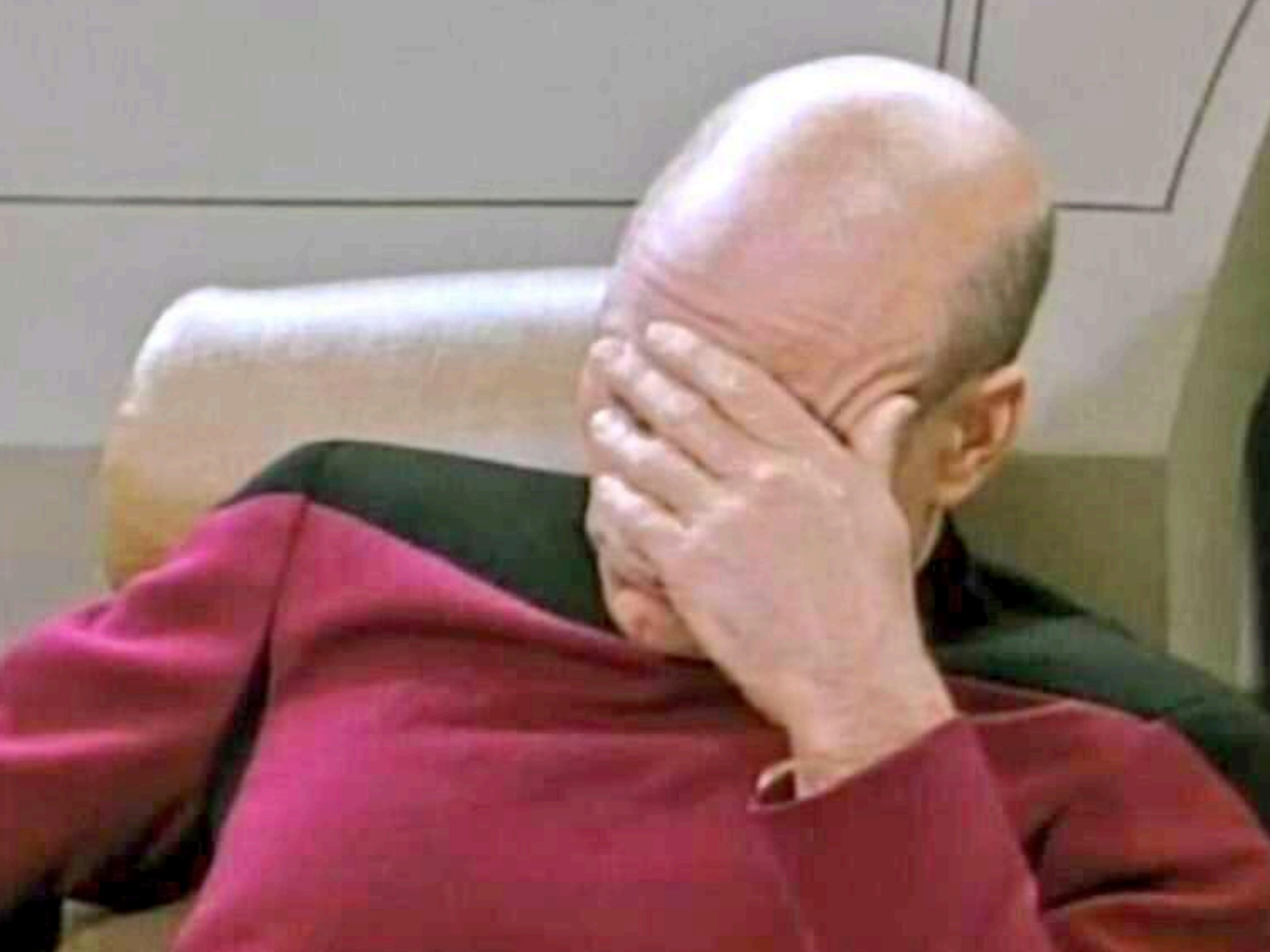
Abstract Thousands of the world's languages are vanishing at an alarming rate, with 90% of them being expected to disappear with the current generation 1. Here we develop a simple model of language competition that explains historical data on the decline of Welsh, Scottish

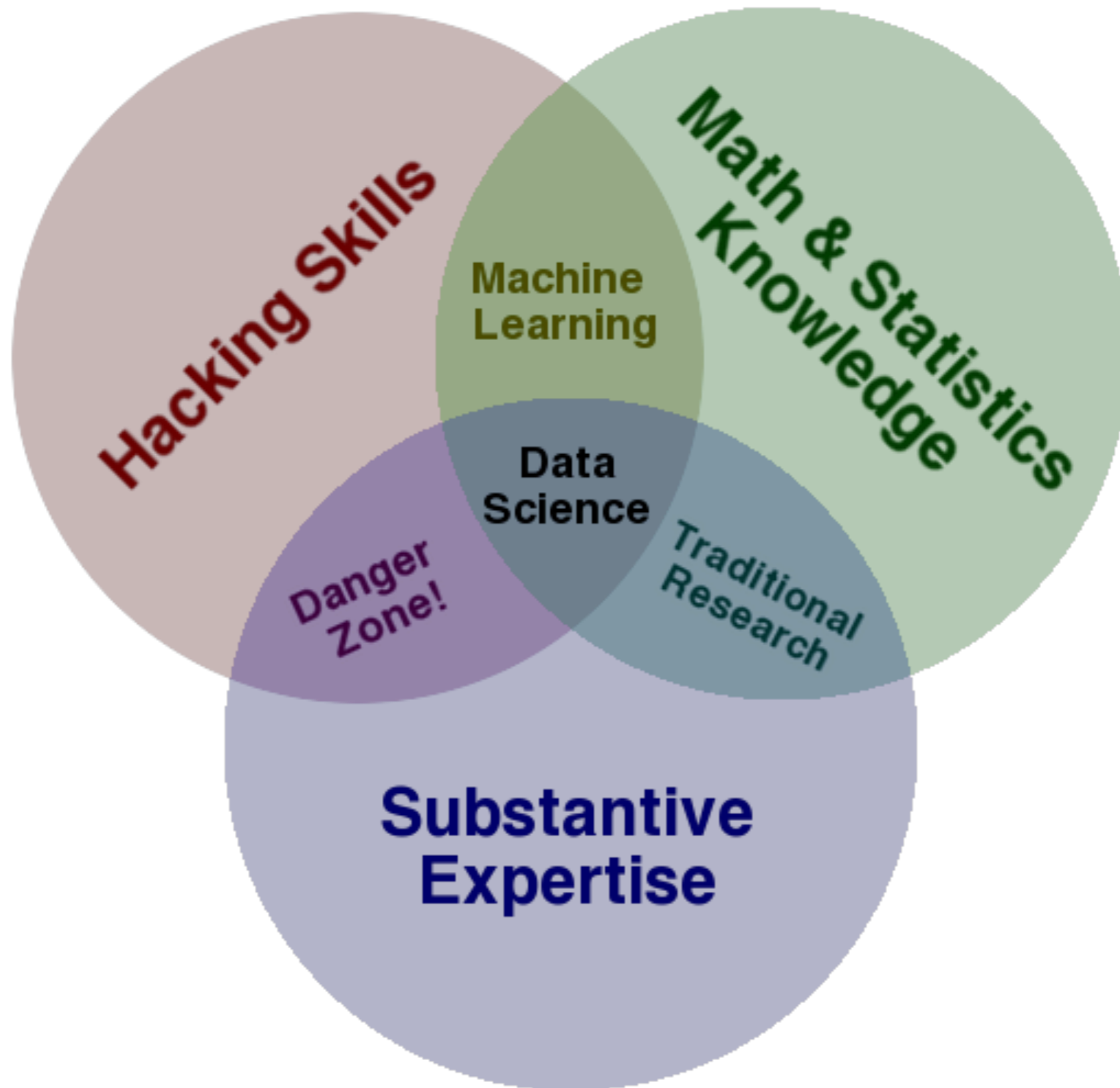
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Of the remaining parameters, status, s , is the most relevant linguistically; it could serve as a useful measure of the threat to a given language. Quechua, for example, still has many speakers in Huanuco, Peru, but its low status is driving a rapid shift to Spanish, which leads to an unfortunate situation in which a child cannot communicate with his or her grandparents.

Contrary to the model's stark prediction, bilingual societies do, in fact, exist. But the

Contrary to the model's stark prediction, bilingual societies do, in fact, exist.





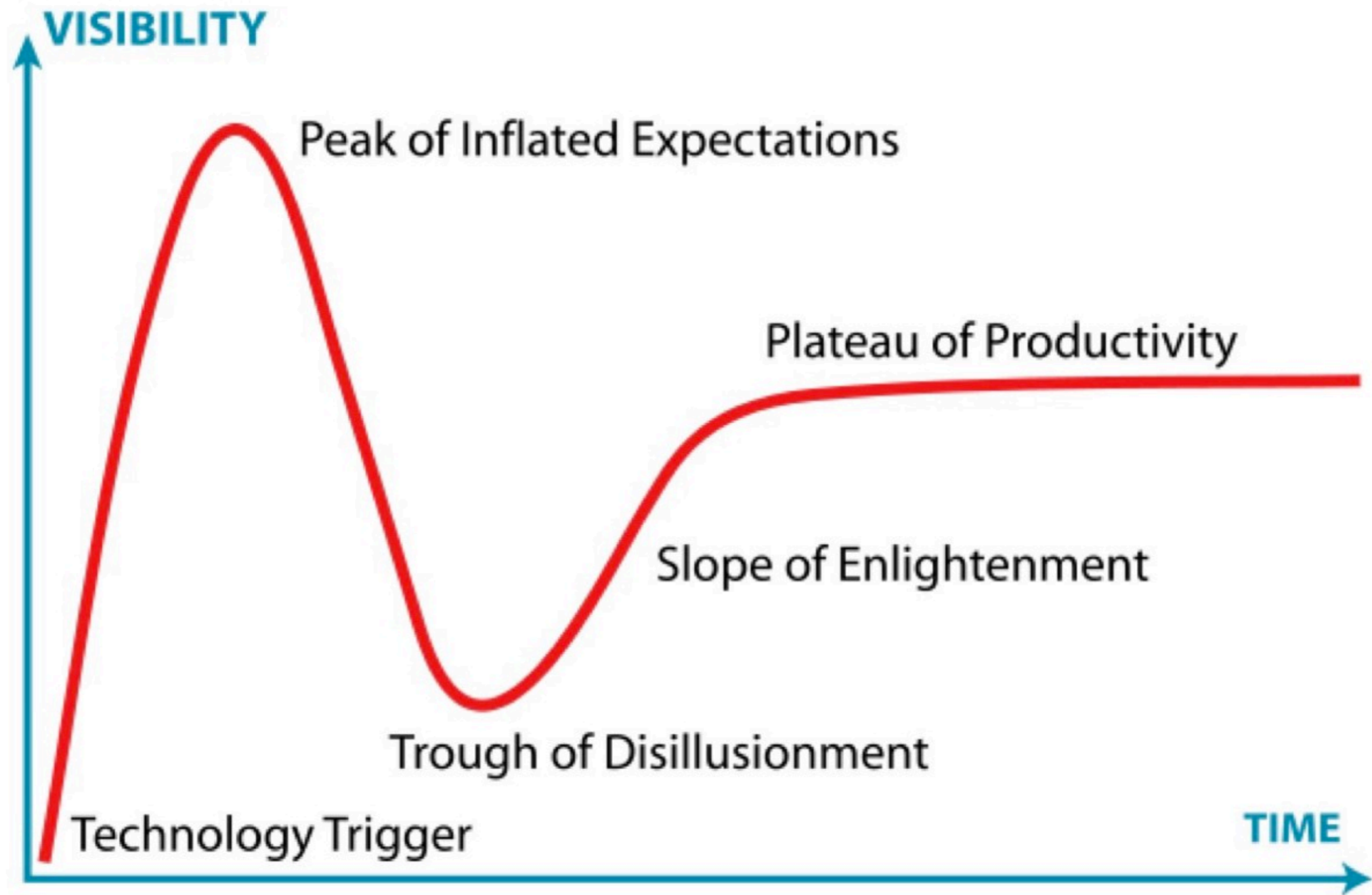
There is a blossoming data science of language that is *not* restricted to traditionally quantitative areas (such as e.g. psycholx, computational linguistics, phonetics, etc)

Importantly, more
and more
methods are
informed by the
special structure
of the problem at
hand



*So, where are we ***not***
going from here?*

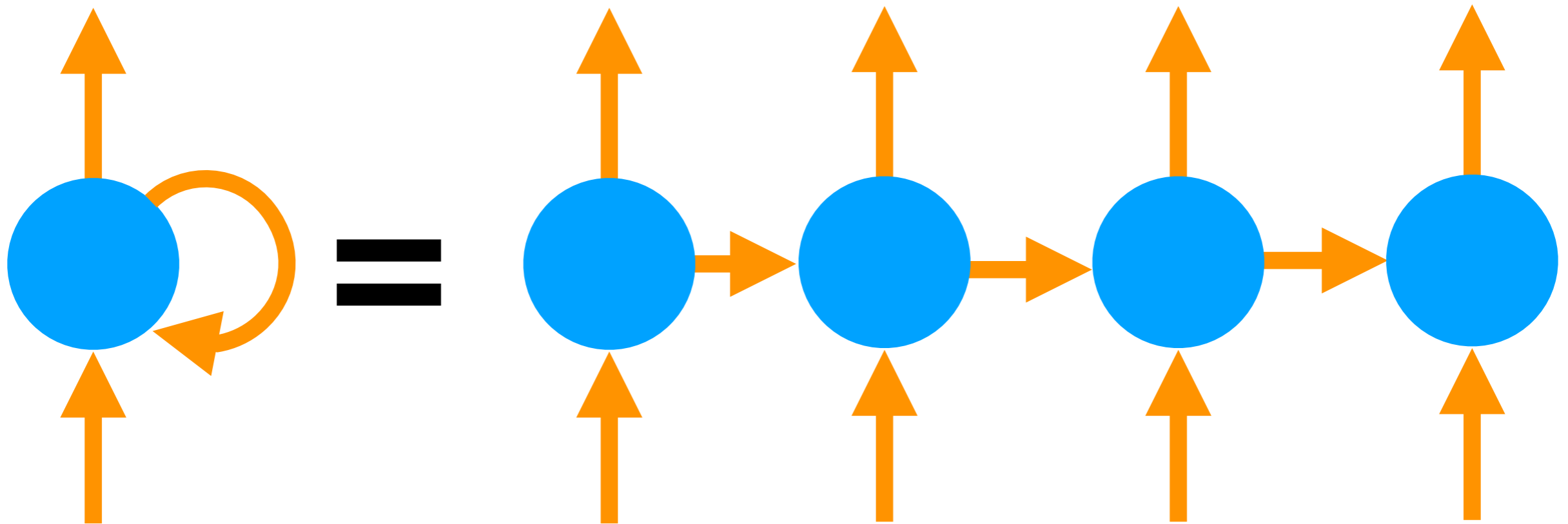
Gartner Hype Cycle



Finding Structure in Time

JEFFREY L. ELMAN

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Explaining Character-Aware Neural Networks for Word-Level Prediction: Do They Discover Linguistic Rules?

Frédéric Godin, Kris Demuynck, Joni Dambre, Wesley De Neve and Thomas Demeester

IDLab, Ghent University -
firstname.lastname

Under the Hood: Using Diagnostic Classifiers to Investigate and Improve how Language Models Track Agreement Information

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Representation of Linguistic Form and Function in Recurrent Neural Networks

Ákos Kádár, Grzegorz Chrupała and John A. Gold

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Revisiting the poverty of the stimulus: hierarchical generalization without a hierarchical bias in recurrent neural networks

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big data

social sciences
and humanities

Fin