

# Lecture 1: The Revolution is here!

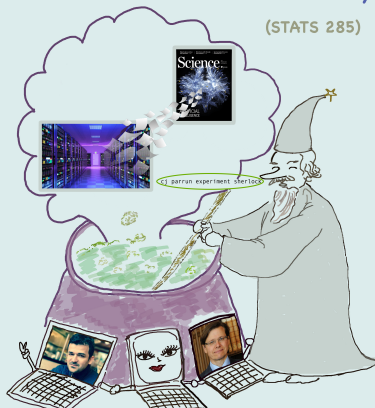
D Donoho/ H Monajemi  
Stats 285 Stanford

20180925

# Stats 285 Fall 2018

## Massive Computational Experiments, Painlessly

(STATS 285)



# Outline

## The Computing Discontinuity

- Mobile is Eating the world
- Mobile Drives IT Revolution
- AWS is Eating the World
- New AWS Services are Proliferating

## The Revolution in Computational Science

### Case Study: Deep Learning

- The Sudden Emergence of Deep Learning
- Emergence of Prediction Challenges
- The Slow Emergence of the Common Task Framework
- CTF Goes Mainstream
- Lessons from Case Study
- Framework Wars

### Resistance

- Intellectual impoverishment
- Solution: The Great Enrichment

## Painless Computational Experiments

## Disclaimer

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The Computing Discontinuity  
The Revolution in Computational Science  
Case Study: Deep Learning  
Resistance  
Painless Computational Experiments

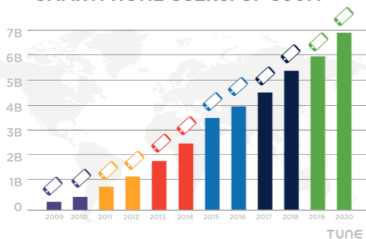
Mobile is Eating the world  
Mobile Drives IT Revolution  
AWS is Eating the World  
New AWS Services are Proliferating

# The Mobile Revolution



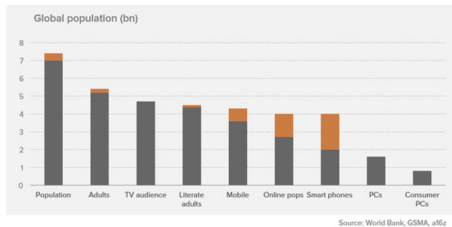
# Smartphones are Spreading Everywhere

## SMARTPHONE USERS: UP 800M



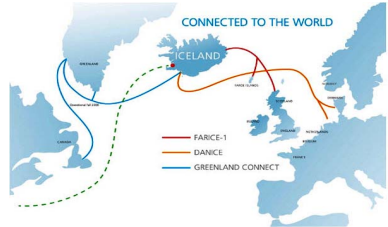
## The world in 2020

By 2020 80% of the adults on earth will have a smartphone



Source: World Bank, GSMA, eBiz

# 24/7 Deluge Spawns Global Computational Services



## Cloud Paradigm

Cloud Paradigm:

- ▶ Billions of smart devices each drive queries to cloud servers
- ▶ Millions of business relying on cloud for all needs

Symbiosis of cloud and economy is *lasting* and *disruptive*.



# AWS is Eating the world: Stock Market



## TECH

[TECH](#) | [MOBILE](#) | [SOCIAL MEDIA](#) | [ENTERPRISE](#) | [CYBERSECURITY](#) | [TECH G](#)

### Amazon shares soar after massive earnings beat

- Amazon reported its third quarter results Thursday after the bell.
- It was a huge beat across the board.
- Amazon shares jumped over 7 percent in after hours trading.

Eugene Kim | [@eugenekim222](#)

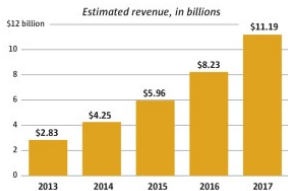
Published 3:24 PM ET Thu, 26 Oct 2017 | Updated 6:55 PM ET Thu, 26 Oct 2017



# AWS is Eating the World, II

## Amazon Web Services sales

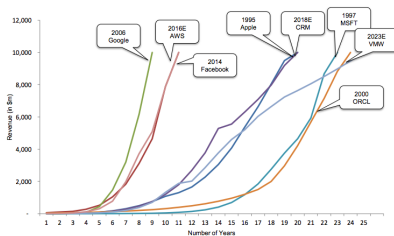
Amazon will break out specific sales data for AWS on Thursday for the first time. Here's Robert W. Baird & Co. analyst Colin Sebastian estimates.



Source: Robert W. Baird & Co.

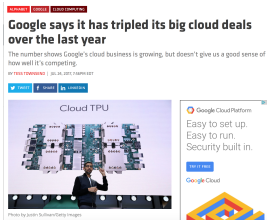
KELLY SHEA / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Figure 9: AWS is the Fastest-Growing Enterprise Technology Company Ever



Source: Deutsche Bank Estimates, Public Company Filings

# AWS is Eating the World: III

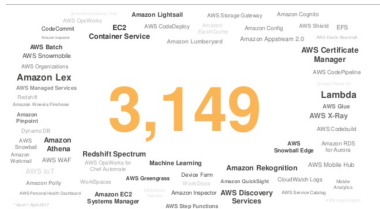


The Computing Discontinuity  
The Revolution in Computational Science  
Case Study: Deep Learning  
Resistance  
Painless Computational Experiments

Mobile is Eating the world  
Mobile Drives IT Revolution  
AWS is Eating the World  
New AWS Services are Proliferating

# AWS Services Are Ubiquitous

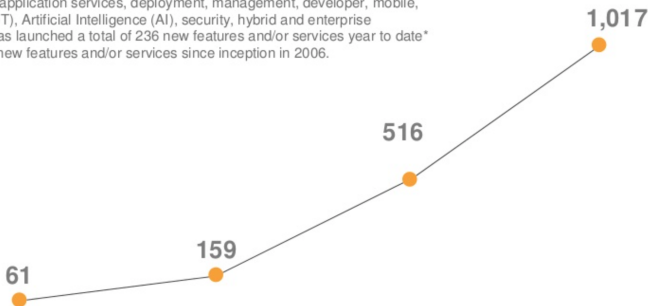
## The AWS Platform



# AWS Services are Proliferating

## AWS Pace of Innovation

AWS has been continually expanding its services to support virtually any cloud workload, and it now has more than 90 services that range from compute, storage, networking, database, analytics, application services, deployment, management, developer, mobile, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), security, hybrid and enterprise applications. AWS has launched a total of 236 new features and/or services year to date\* - for a total of 3,149 new features and/or services since inception in 2006.



# Stack Paradigm I

## Stack Paradigm:

- ▶ Organizations combine software components from other providers in a stack
- ▶ Massive new capabilities emerge by hybridizing components

## Examples:

- ▶ Uber (next slide)
- ▶ Netflix relies on AWS
- ▶ Snap, Dropbox etc. small teams

## Stack Paradigm II



Uber doesn't own their cars. They also don't directly employ their own drivers. So, one might ask, what do they own exactly as a core asset? The core application and ecosystem around the Uber experience is their primary asset and differentiator. But to deliver that experience, they apply rigorous focus.

At the practical level, when you look at the technology components of Uber's world-renowned app, they decided to rely on other core platforms and technologies to power many of the key elements.

Jeetu Patel, *Software is still eating the world*, TechCrunch, Jan 2016

## Explosion of Computational Resources

Cloud Paradigm:

- ▶ Billions of smart devices each drive queries to cloud servers
- ▶ Millions of business relying on cloud for all needs

Symbiosis of cloud and economy is *lasting* and *disruptive*.

Cloud provides *any user* **same-day** delivery:

- ▶ Tens to hundreds of thousands of hours of CPU
- ▶ Pennies per CPU hour

Any user can consume *1 Million CPU hours* over a few days for a few \$10K's.



# Massive Computational Power Will Transform *Science*

## Traditionally:

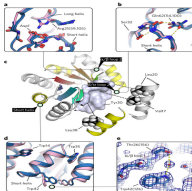
- ▶ Deduction (in math)
- ▶ Induction (in physical sciences)

## Emerging new approach:

- ▶ Massive computational experiments

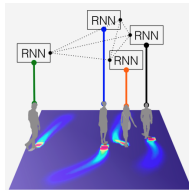
# Massive Computations in Science

## Traditionally computational fields



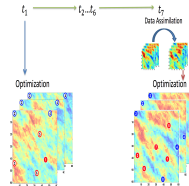
Protein Design

(Huang et al. 2016)



AI

(Alahi et al. 2016)

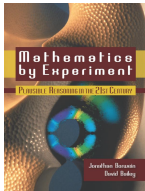


Oil Field Devel.

(Shirangi et al. 2015)

# Massive Computations in Science

Traditionally **non-** computational field – Mathematics



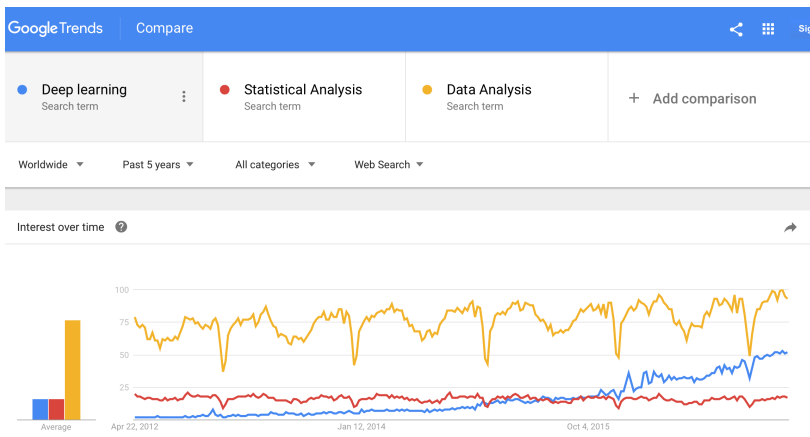
Borwein/Bailey



Borwein/Devlin



Individual Articles

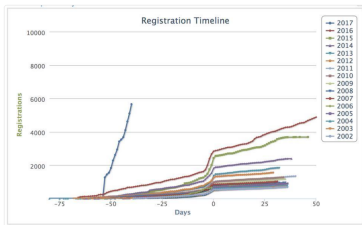




Alex Lebrun  
@bxbrun

Follow

Deep learning hype in one picture  
(NIPS conference registrations, 2002 through  
2017) #nips2017



8:20 AM - 15 Sep 2017

758 Retweets 1,005 Likes



20 758 1.0K



**Andrej Karpathy**

@karpathy

Follow

Came to visit first class of [@cs231n](#) at Stanford. 2015: 150 students, 2016: 350, this year: 750. [#aiinterestsingularity](#)



12:11 PM - 4 Apr 2017

155 Retweets 623 Likes



19 155 623



**michael\_nielsen** @michael\_nielsen · Apr 4

Replying to [@karpathy](#) [@cs231n](#)

Faster than Moore's Law. At this rate - doubling each year - in 24 years everyone on Earth will be enrolled :-)

# Synchronies, 1

Over same timeframe – 2010-2014

- ▶ Instagram, Snapchat emerge to global prominence
- ▶ Deep Learning catapults to global attention

Coincides with emergence of

- ▶ Smartphone photography
- ▶ Cloud computing
- ▶ Cloud storage of selfie/smartphone photography

## Synchronies, 2

*"Six decades into the computer revolution, four decades since the invention of the microprocessor, and two decades into the rise of the modern Internet, all of the technology required to transform industries through software finally works and can be widely delivered at global scale."*

Marc Andreessen - WSJ - 2011



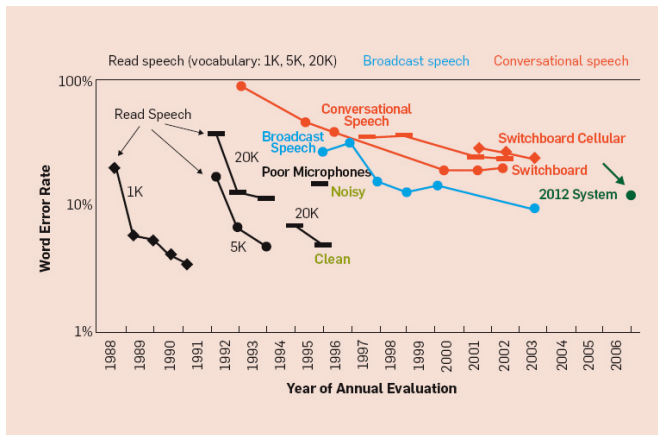
## Common Task Framework (1980's)

Under CTF we have the following ingredients

- (a) A **publicly available training dataset** involving, for each observation, a list of (possibly many) feature measurements, and a class label for that observation.
- (b) A set of **enrolled competitors** whose **common task** is to **infer a class prediction rule from the training data**.
- (c) A **scoring referee**, to which competitors can submit their prediction rule. The referee runs the prediction rule against a testing dataset which is sequestered behind a Chinese wall. The referee objectively and automatically reports the score achieved by the submitted rule.

See Mark Liberman's description (Liberman, 2009).

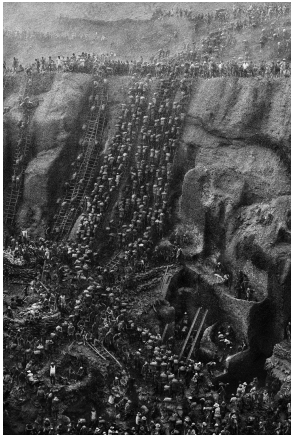
## CTF *Really* Works!



## CTF Lifestyle – 1

1. Researchers set up local copies of Challenge
  - ▶ Data – Training, Test carved out of public dataset
  - ▶ Scoring – same as challenge scoring rule
2. Researcher's job: *'tuning models'*
  - ▶ Think up a family of model variations – *'tweak's*
  - ▶ Run a full *'experiment'* – suite of tweaks – *'grid'*
  - ▶ Score each tweak
  - ▶ Submit best-scoring result to central authority
3. Successful researchers perpetually motivated by *Game-ification*: tweaking, scoring, winning.
4. Researchers who tweak more often, win more often!.
5. If easier to implement tweaks and faster to evaluate them, more likely to win!.

## CTF Lifestyle – 2



Sebastiao Salgado *Work*

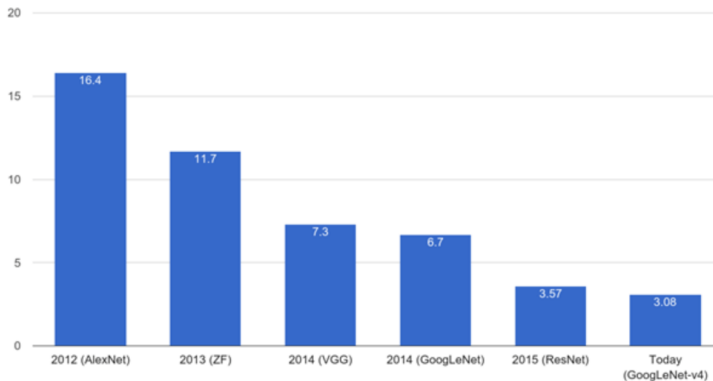
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Lecture 1: The Revolution is here!

## CTF Goes Mainstream

1. Netflix Challenge (2009)  
\$1 Million Prize
2. Kaggle (2010)  
1 Million'th competitor expected Sept. 2017
3. Fei-Fei Li masterminds ImageNet 2008-2010
4. Hinton's Deep Learning Team wins ImageNet 2012

## ImageNet Classification Error (Top 5)





**Andrej Karpathy** ✓

@karpathy

Follow



You can now understand state of the art AI with before high school math. You forward a neural net and repeat guess&check. works well enough.

12:53 PM - 14 Mar 2017

50 Retweets 207 Likes

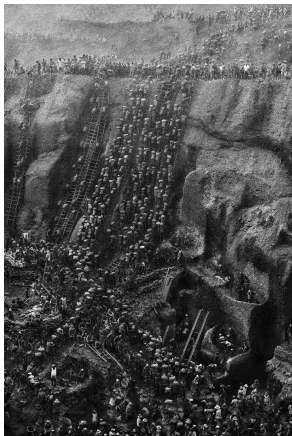


12

50

207

## Researchers Preparing for NIPS 2017



Sebastiao Salgado *Work*

D Donoho/ H Monajemi Stats 285 Stanford

Lecture 1: The Revolution is here!



## Lessons from Deep Learning Case Study

1. *Researchers who tweak more often, win more often!*
2. *If easier to implement tweaks and faster to evaluate them, more likely to win!*
3. Successful Research Environment
  - ▶ Easy to tweak models
  - ▶ Easy to score tweaks
  - ▶ Fast to score tweaks
4. Successful researchers perpetually motivated by *Game-ification*: tweaking, scoring, winning.
5. Easier to stay motivated when easier and more comfortable to play the game.
  - ▶ Elegant expression of tweaks
  - ▶ Rapid turn-around for scoring

# Framework Wars – 1

## Influential Frameworks for Deep Learning

- ▶ **Matlab**
  - pre-framework
- ▶ **TensorFlow**
  - open source (Originally by Google Brain)
- ▶ **Torch**
  - scientific computing framework written in Lua
- ▶ **PyTorch**
  - Python package for scientific computing (310 contributors)
- ▶ **Keras**
  - A Python wrapper around TensorFlow, CNTK and Theano

## Framework Wars – 2



**Andrej Karpathy** @karpathy

Matlab is so 2012. Caffe is so 2013. Theano is so 2014. Torch is so 2015. TensorFlow is so 2016. :D

12:08 PM - 8 Feb 2017

248 Retweets 618 Likes

47 248 618

**Sergio** @sguada · Feb 8  
Replying to @karpathy  
what's your bet for 2017?

1 1

**Andrej Karpathy** @karpathy · Feb 8  
PyTorch! But I'm quite sure TensorFlow will do just fine too :)

1 4 35



**Yann LeCun** @ylecun

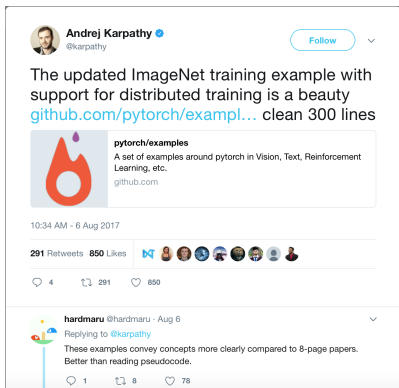
Fast.ai has switched from Keras+TensorFlow to PyTorch for their deep learning course. They tell us why in great...  
[fb.me/17FW41uyw](https://fb.me/17FW41uyw)

7:44 PM - 9 Sep 2017

386 Retweets 937 Likes

7 386 937

## Framework Wars – 3



A screenshot of a tweet from Andrej Karpathy (@karpathy) posted on August 6, 2017, at 10:34 AM. The tweet text reads: "The updated ImageNet training example with support for distributed training is a beauty [github.com/pytorch/exampl...](https://github.com/pytorch/examples) clean 300 lines". Below the text is a link to a GitHub repository named "pytorch/examples" with a description: "A set of examples around pytorch in Vision, Text, Reinforcement Learning, etc." and the URL "github.com". The tweet has 291 retweets and 850 likes. A reply from user "hardmaru" (@hardmaru) on August 6 says: "Replying to @karpathy These examples convey concepts more clearly compared to 8-page papers. Better than reading pseudocode." and has 1 retweet and 8 likes.



A screenshot of a tweet from Andrej Karpathy (@karpathy) posted on August 18, 2017, at 9:13 PM. The tweet text reads: "Pretty good list. Except the article makes it sound like there's a contest." Below the text is a quote tweet from Awni Hannun (@awnihannun) that says: "PyTorch or TensorFlow? Write up some of my thoughts on the question - [awni.github.io/pytorch-tensoror...](https://awni.github.io/pytorch-tensoror...)". The tweet has 71 retweets and 276 likes. A reply from Andrej Karpathy (@karpathy) on August 18 says: "Replying to @karpathy :) would add few categories, esp profiling, size/interpretability of lib code base, distributed training, community/support, ..." and has 1 retweet and 52 likes. Another reply from Anmol Jawandha (@anmoljs) on August 18 asks: "Is there any reason one should use Tensorflow over PyTorch for research purposes (given pytorch now supports distributed training)?"

## Framework Wars - 4

The real action is all in frameworks

1. Dream up, test, and publish better ...
  - ▶ Types of models
  - ▶ Types of tweaks
  - ▶ Properties for evaluation
2. Implement better *frameworks* ...
  - ▶ More elegant expression of models, tweaks
  - ▶ Distributed Learning across clusters
  - ▶ Smoother collection and analysis of results

## Resistance – 1

*We are at a university!*

1. Q: *Where's the intellectual activity in tuning?*
2. Q: *I didn't come here to do hard manual labor!*
3. Q: *I didn't come here to compete as mindless drones!*

## Resistance – 2

*We are at a university!*

1. Q: *Where's the intellectual activity in tuning?*
2. Q: *I didn't come here to do hard manual labor!*
3. Q: *I didn't come here to compete as mindless drones!*

What we see:



Sebastiao Salgado, *Work*

## Resistance 3

*We are at a university!*

1. Q: *Where's the intellectual activity in tuning?*
2. Q: *I didn't come here to do hard manual labor!*
3. Q: *I didn't come here to compete as mindless drones!*

What we **imagine**:





## Metaphor: Computers as Slavery

Traditionally, 'using computers' involves interactively running programs (Excel, Point-and-click)

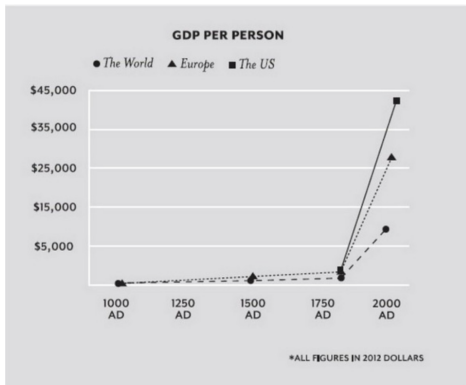
Claerbout's Dictum: "... dependence on an interactive program can be a form of slavery"

<http://sepwww.stanford.edu/sep/jon/reproducible.html>

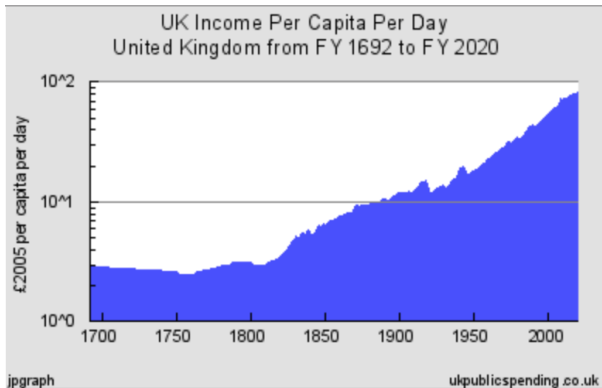


Photo: Jon Claerbout    Cartoon: <http://fritsAhlefeldt.com>

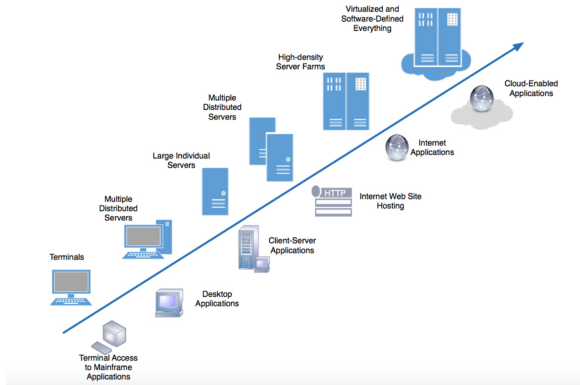
# Digression: The Great Enrichment (Deidre McKloskey) 1



## Digression: The Great Enrichment (Deidre McKloskey) 2



# The Great IT Enrichment – 1



## The Great IT Enrichment - 2

Our vision.

*The intellectual poverty of the old interactive 'Excel'-era paradigm was real, but will be transcended.*

*New and better and more powerful abstractions will lift us out of the mud and out of slavery.*

## Coming Soon to a Scientific field near you

In the near future,

- ▶ Scientific research will be transformed
  - ▶ *1 million CPU Hours* behind research papers and theses
  - ▶ *Widespread acceptance* of empirical/simulation evidence
- ▶ 1 million-hour hurdle manageable through *new frameworks*.
- ▶ Frameworks offer Convenient and Efficient
  - ▶ ... definition of experiments
  - ▶ ... management of jobs
  - ▶ ... gathering of results
  - ▶ ... analysis and presentation
- ▶ Output:
  - ▶ Better science
  - ▶ Better math

# Course Focus: Frameworks for Massive Experiments, 1

- ▶ Traditional issues
  - ▶ Experiments implicitly defined by executing unorganized code
  - ▶ Hard to understand what the baseline is, what variations are
  - ▶ Code dependencies unclear
  - ▶ Ordeal to get all the jobs to run, maybe gave up early
  - ▶ Tedious to harvest all the data, maybe missing some data
  - ▶ Confusing manual compilation and reporting
- ▶ Modern Frameworks
  - ▶ Systematic structure to coding
  - ▶ Base experiment clearly defined
  - ▶ Tweaks clearly defined
  - ▶ Code dependencies explicit
  - ▶ Grid of Jobs run systematically
  - ▶ Automatic transparent access of (cluster, AWS,...)
  - ▶ Data Harvested automatically to central data repository
  - ▶ Data analyzed automatically using defined tools

## Course Focus: Frameworks for Massive Experiments, 2

- ▶ Example Frameworks
  - ▶ By individual research teams:
    - ▶ ClusterJob – Hatef Monajemi
    - ▶ CodaLab – Percy Liang
  - ▶ By startups:
    - ▶ Databricks
    - ▶ Civis Analytics
    - ▶ Domino Data Labs



A Look Ahead: <https://stats285.github.io>

### Guest Lectures



Tue, 10/02/2018  
Mark Piercy  
Stanford (SRCC)



Tue, 10/16/2018  
Gregory Kurtzer  
Sylabs



Tue, 10/23/2018  
Ali Zaidi  
Microsoft



Tue, 11/13/2018  
Riccardo Murri  
University of Zurich



Tue, 11/20/2018  
Wes McKinney  
Ursa Labs

Mark Piercy	SRCC
Gregory Kurtzer	Sylabs
Ali Zaidi	Microsoft
Riccardo Murri	University of Zuerich
Wes McKinney	Ursa Labs

# Global Economy → Computing → Science

