

Data Science and Startups

My commentary on getting a job, and working
as a “data guy” at a startup in the Bay area.

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Overview

Timeline

- 1/2014 started at Wizeline
- "Sr. Analyst - Data Services"
- Work, work, work
- Learn, learn, learn

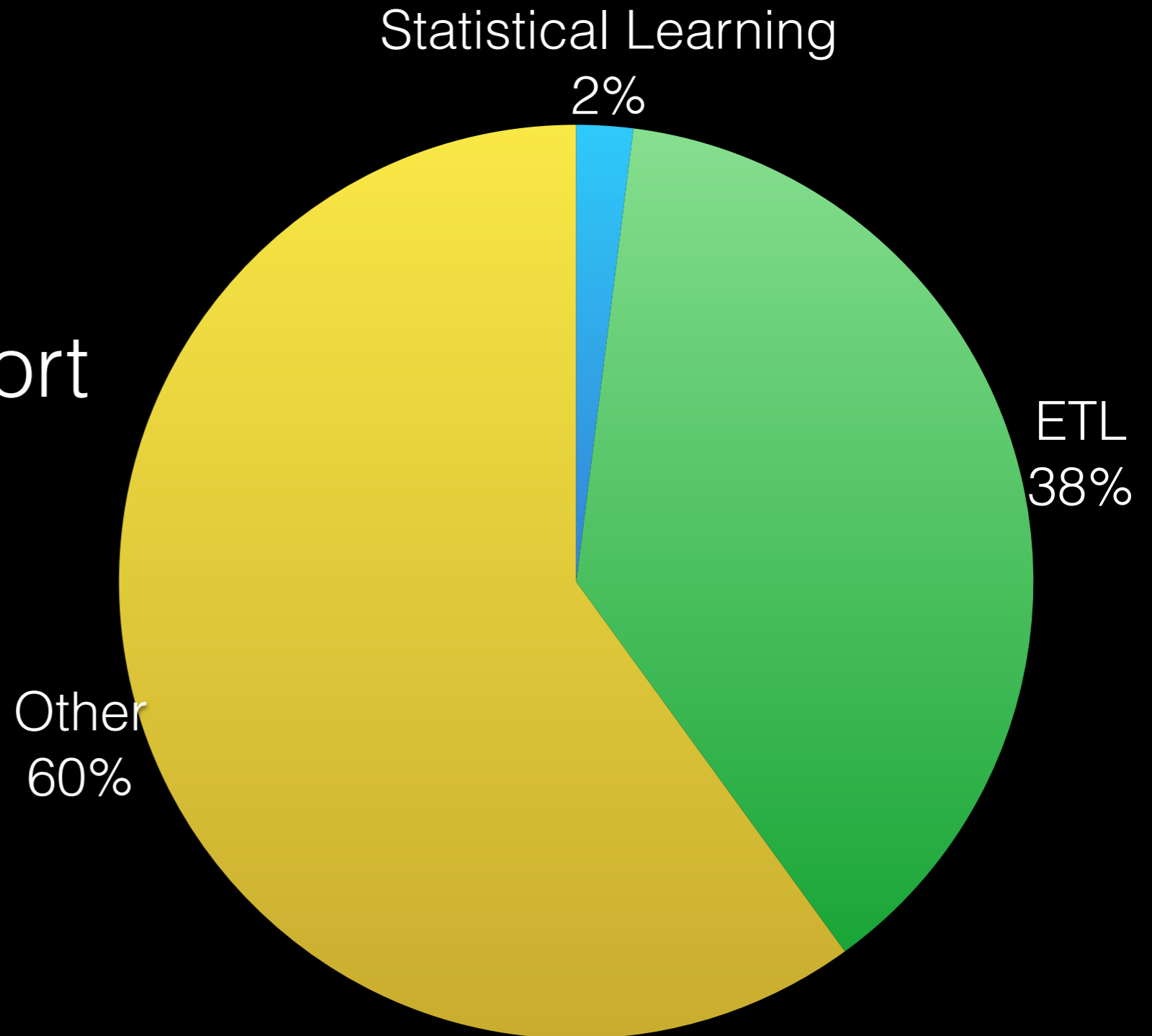
What is “Data Science” ???

- Different everywhere you ask
- Engineering
 - Data structures/algorithms
 - Best practices
- "Big data"
 - Libraries
 - Statistics
- ETL - mostly munging data
- Grunt work

What Kind of Data Scientist Am I?

Other:

- Engineering
- QA (debugging)
- “BI”
- Post-sales support
- Sales support



Essential Skills - Abstract

Learn Fast, Work Hard, Exceed Expectations

- Understand algorithms
 - High level knowledge of all techniques
 - Detailed knowledge of key techniques
- Understand data flow through the pipeline
- Physical intuition for interesting results
- Visualization and communication skills
- ABL - Always Be Learning

Essential Skills - Concrete

- Scripting language
 - Python/Ruby/Julia/...
- Stats language
 - R/...
- Statistical learning algorithms
 - Supervised - SVM, Random Forests, ...
 - Unsupervised - NN
- Natural Language Processing
 - Latent Dirichlet, Naive Bayes
- Databases
- Data structures, algorithms
 - 100-200 level CS
- Engineering best practices
- “Standard” libraries
 - Hadoop/Hive/Pig
 - Spark/Shark/...
- Git, bash, linux, ...

Not exhaustive, Requirements vary

I have a list of these I send to people,
Ping me with an email, I'll forward it to you

Finding a Job

Start a search

1. Find your job sector
2. Find your company list
3. Talk to hiring manager/ recruiter

- Move to SF
- Talk to Recruiters
- LinkedIn
- Fellowships
 - Insight, Zipf, many others
- NETWORK!!!

Interviewing for Jobs

- Prepare for it - don't be surprised
- Read coding interview books
- Check out their site
- Look on [glassdoor.com](https://www.glassdoor.com)
- Don't interview at your first choice first

Life at a Start-up

- Less money, more equity
- Learn fast, work hard - 4x
- More responsibility
- 1-2 year window - success or failure
- Network effects
- Less access to mentors
- Company culture varies

Resources

Build your network

- Github
- Hackernews
- Quora
- LinkedIn
- Blogs
- Meetups
- Take Classes
- Coursera
- Insight and other fellowship
- Project with friends

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Questions?