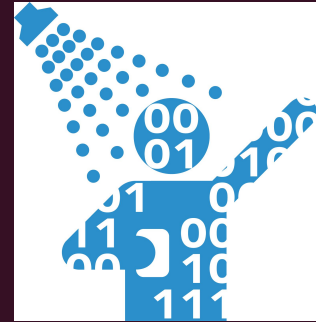


# Demystifying Digital Scholarship

## An Introduction to Data Wrangling



	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
2	drapes	1	=countif(A2:A6,"drapes")
3	grapes	1	=countif(A2:A6,A2)
4	grapeshot	2	=countif(A2:A6,"?rapes")
5	grapefruit	3	=countif(A2:A6,"?rapes*")
6	grapevine	4	=countif(A2:A6,"grape*")
7	100	1	=countif(A7:A10,"100")
8	1,000	1	=countif(A7:A10,A7)
9	10,000	2	=countif(A7:A10,"<=1000")
10	100,000	3	=countif(B7:B10,"<="&C12)
11		4	=countif(B7:B10,"<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000



Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship  
12-February, 2016

# Outline and Objectives

## Topics

Let's talk about data

What is data 'wrangling'?

Why you should 'wrangle'?

How to 'wrangle'?

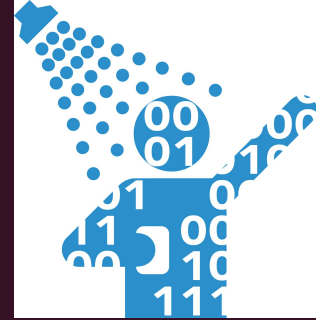
## Objectives

Present and discuss strategies for structuring data

# Data & Data Wrangling

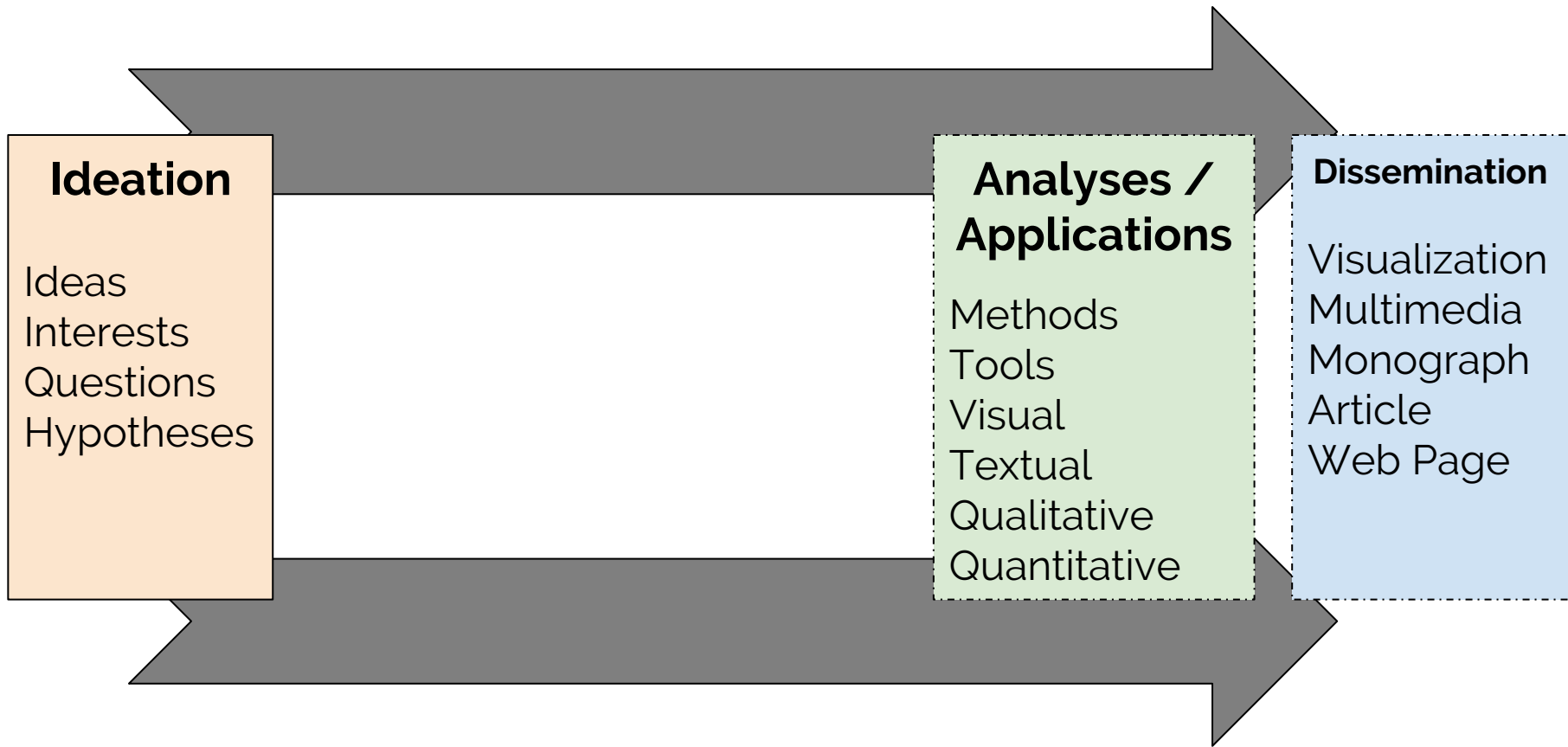


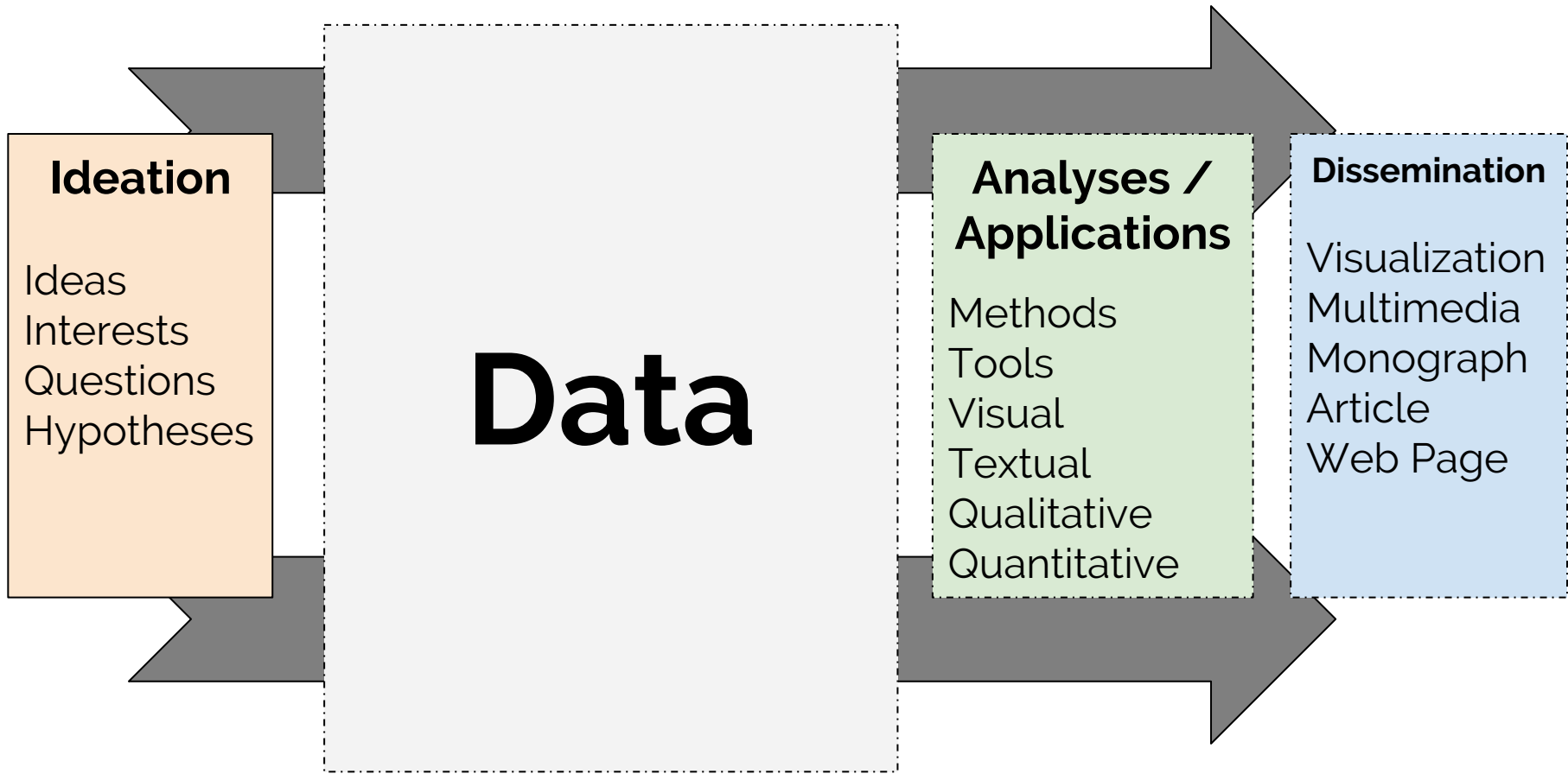
	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
2	drapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, "drapes")
3	grapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, A2)
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11		4	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000

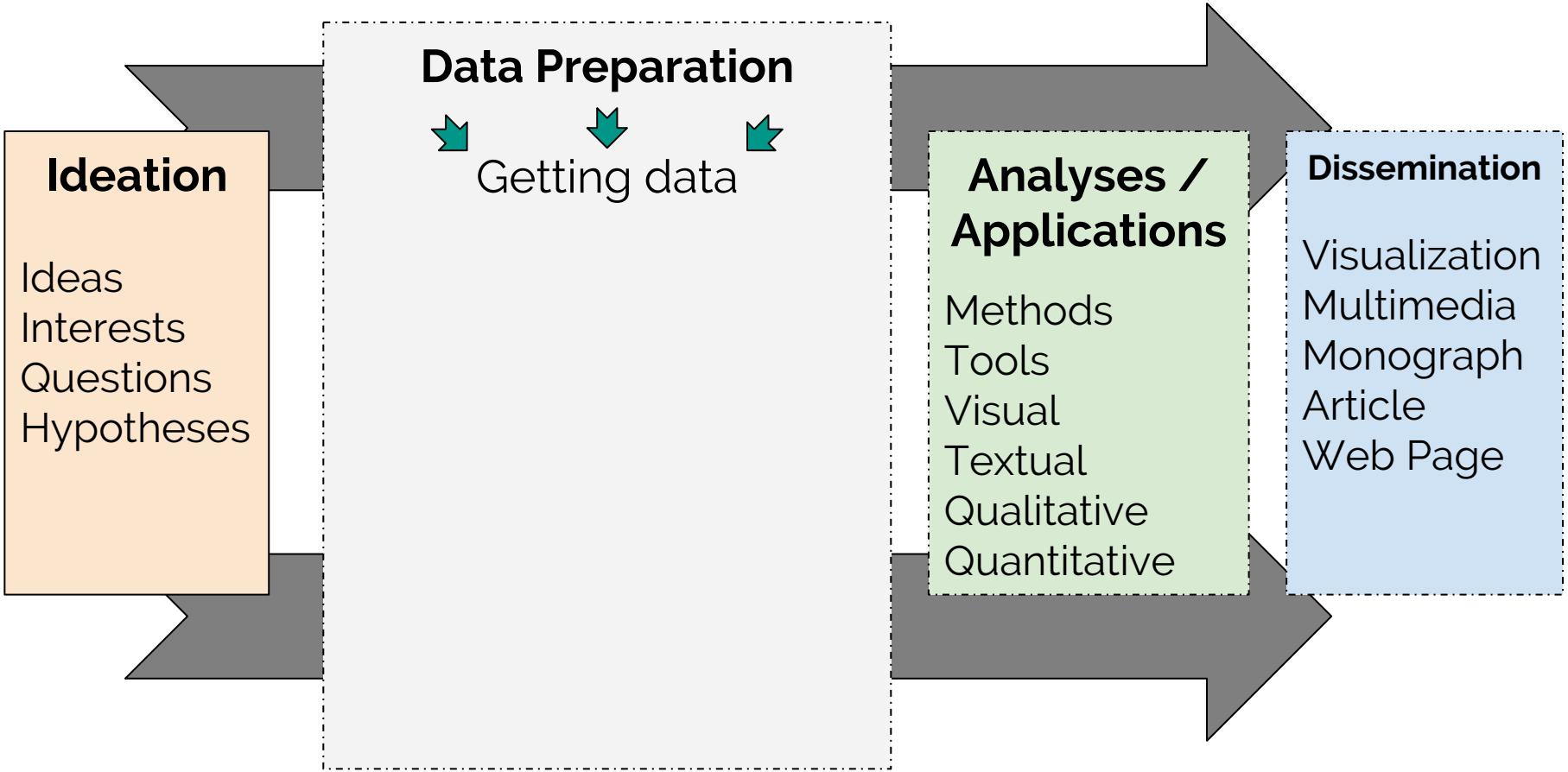


# Every Project Has Data!

- Chances are that your project contains at least one (and likely more) data types:
  - Text, images, tags, geographical coordinates, categorical items, records, metadata, multimedia, etc.
- Understanding your data and your intended actions is a critical part of developing a DS/DH project
  - It guides your data activities
  - It helps inform you of the ways in which your data can be used
    - by you, your collaborators and others in your research community







## Ideation

Ideas  
Interests  
Questions  
Hypotheses

## Data Preparation

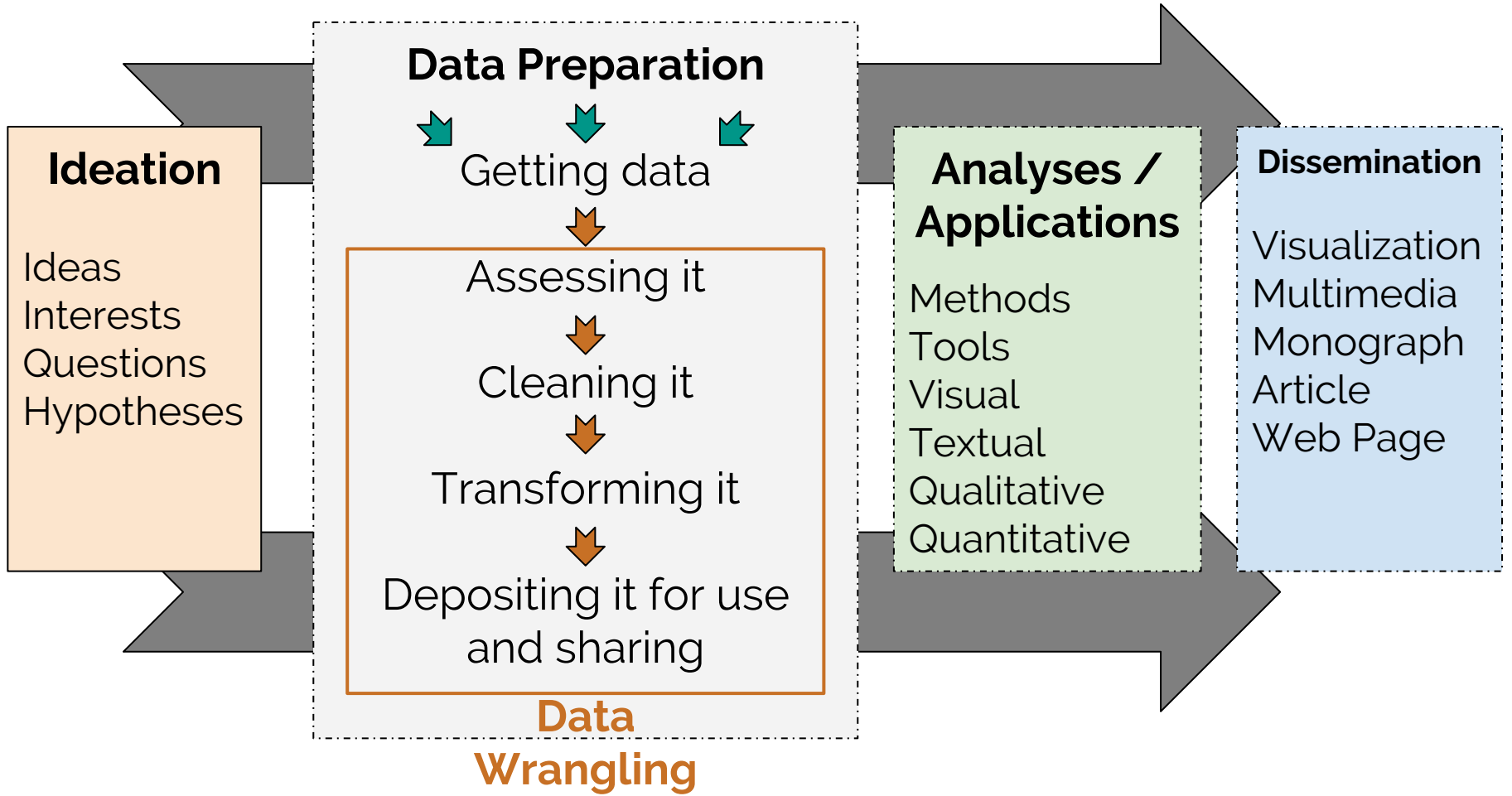
↓ ↓ ↓  
Getting data

## Analyses / Applications

Methods  
Tools  
Visual  
Textual  
Qualitative  
Quantitative

## Dissemination

Visualization  
Multimedia  
Monograph  
Article  
Web Page





# Defining data wrangling

**wran·gle** *v.tr*

- To manage or herd
- To manage or control
- To grasp and maneuver (something); wrestle
- To win or obtain by argument

# Defining data wrangling

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- To attempt to deal with or understand something; contend or struggle

# Defining data wrangling

## **wran·gle** *v.tr*

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- To manage or control
- To grasp and maneuver (something); wrestle
- To win or obtain by argument

## **wran·gle** *v.intr*

- To attempt to deal with or understand something; contend or struggle

## **wran·gle** *n.*

- An angry, noisy argument or dispute.

# Defining data wrangling

## In the context of data, DATA WRANGLING:

- Is the process of cleaning and conditioning data into a usable format
- May be a manual, semi-automated or automated process
- Produces data that connects to tools, collaborators and communities

# Why wrangle?

- Even if you understand and work well with your data, it doesn't mean that a computer will be able to use it to the same extent.
- Computers (like people) are only as flexible/adaptable as far as they have been trained or instructed.
- Therefore, it often takes work to structure your information/data in a way that can be used in a computing environment.

# Why wrangle?

Because this happens →

Data
Your data
Your data
Your data
Your Data

, and this can be a problem

From School of Data's Data Cleaning Module:

“the Invisible Man is in your spreadsheet, messing with your data”

<http://schoolofdata.org/handbook/courses/data-cleaning-invisible-man-in-spreadsheets/>

# Activity: Why wrangle?

All workshop materials are available in the following Google Drive folder:

<https://goo.gl/u53tkz>

Check out **Sample Copy - Crowdsourcing Exercise**

(‘pop out’ into a new window; Make a copy and play with it, if you want)

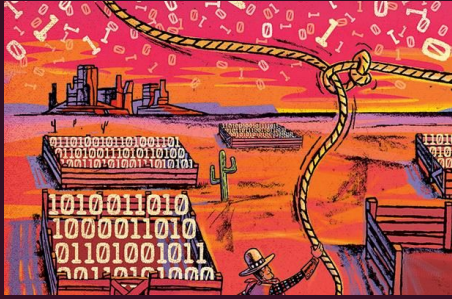
- What’s not quite right?
- What could possibly go wrong?
- What needs to be cleaned?
- How best to clean this data?

What if it had 30000 rows? What if it amassed 30000 rows / day?

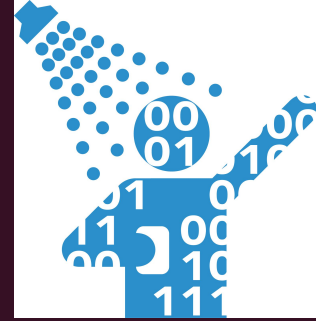
[Secret Location](#)

[Eva’s Map](#)

# Understanding your needs



	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
2	drapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, "drapes")
3	grapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, A2)
4	grapeshot	2	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes")
5	grapefruit	3	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes*")
6	grapevine	4	=countif(A2:A6, "grape*")
7	100	1	=countif(A7:A10, "100")
8	1,000	1	=countif(A7:A10, A7)
9	10,000	2	=countif(A7:A10, "<=1000")
10	100,000	3	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&C12)
11		4	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000





What is your 'data'?

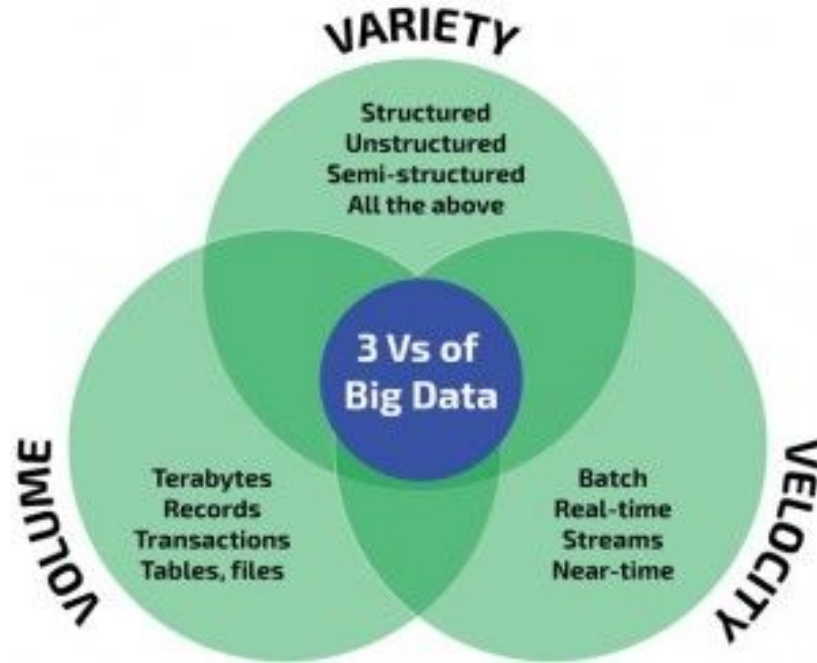
What kind of 'wrangling' is required?

# Data wrangling: BIG impact, even for small data

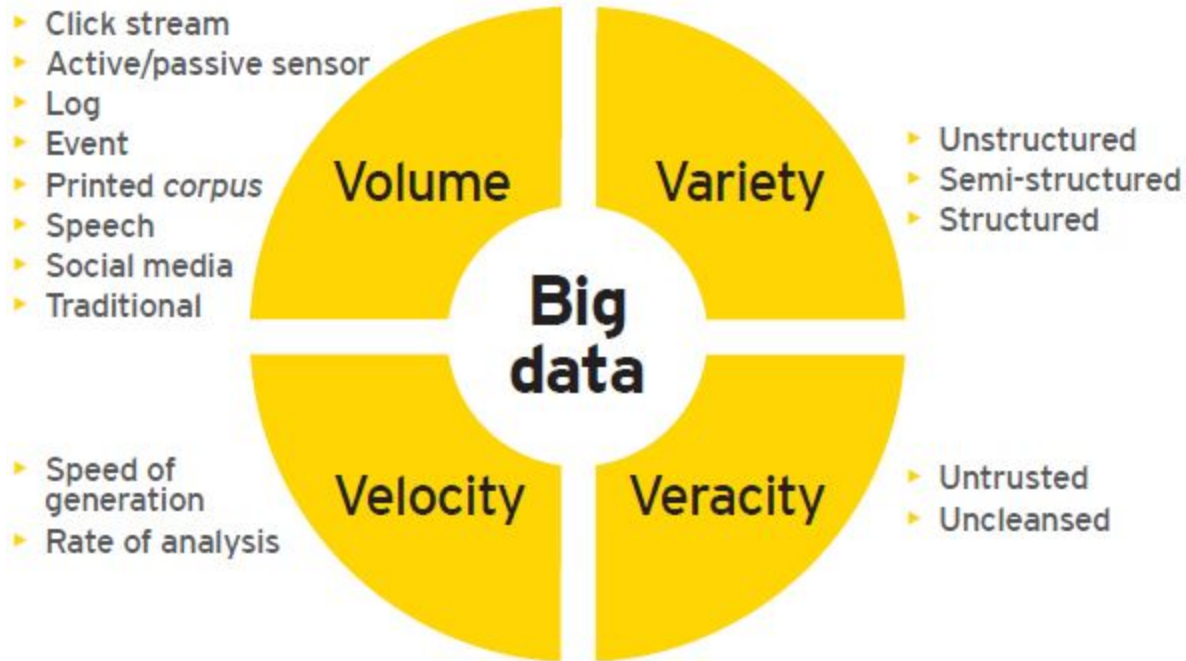
Whether your data is small or “BIG”, conditioning it is critical.

---

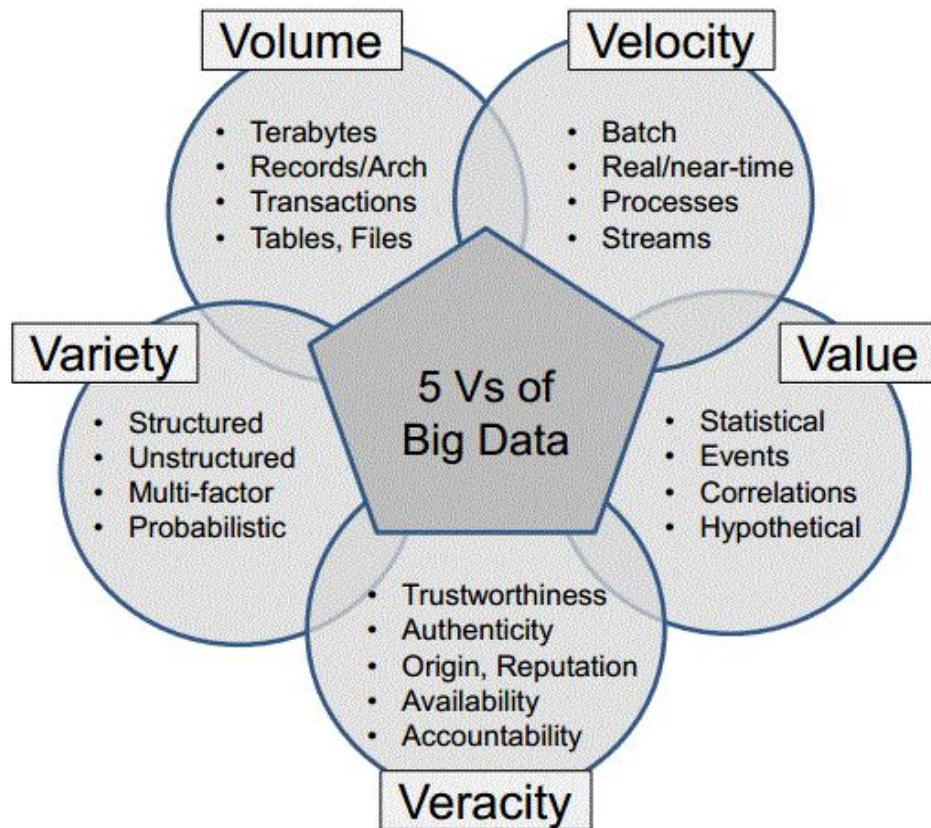
# Big data is defined by the 3 “V”s



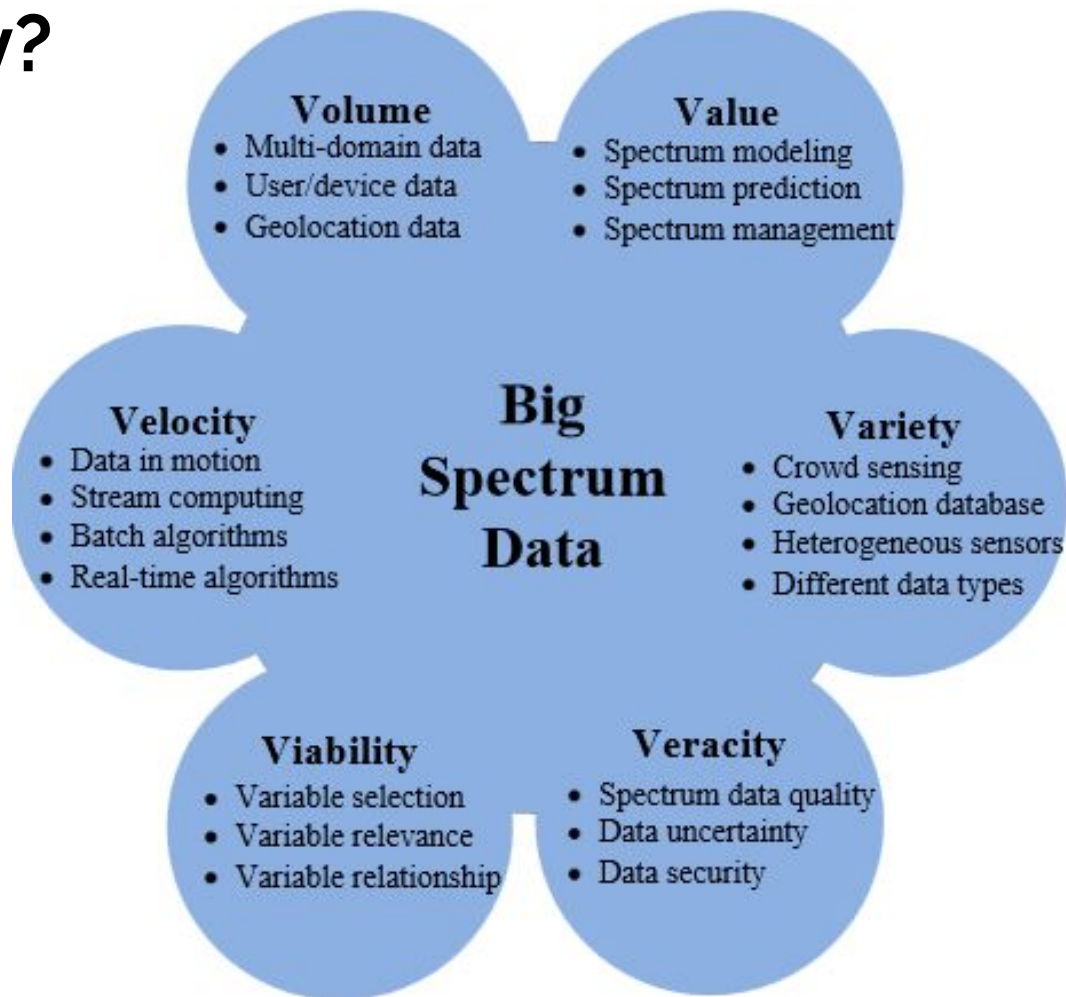
# ...or the 4 “V”s



# ...or 5?



# 6? Really?



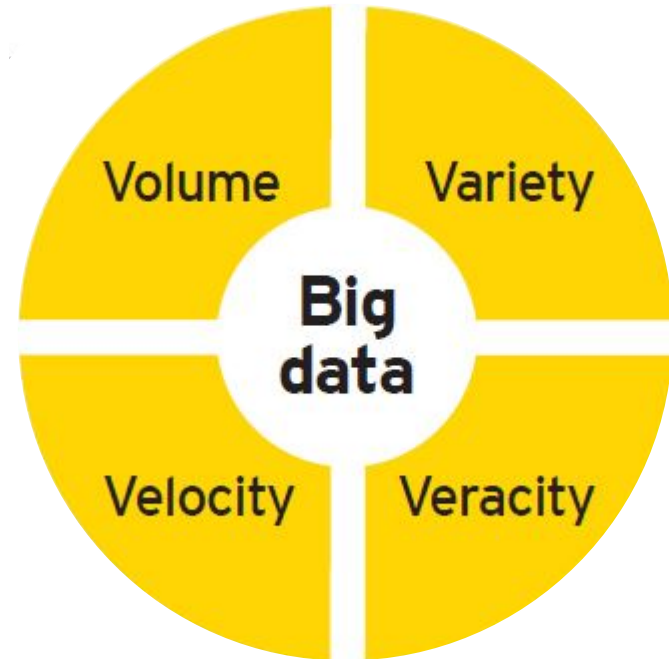
# Factors Influencing Your Wrangling Needs

## Your data might...

- be voluminous and dynamic
- come from very diverse sources in a variety of formats and structures
- vary considerably in quality and consistency (i.e. may require heavy scrutiny)

Or it might not be...

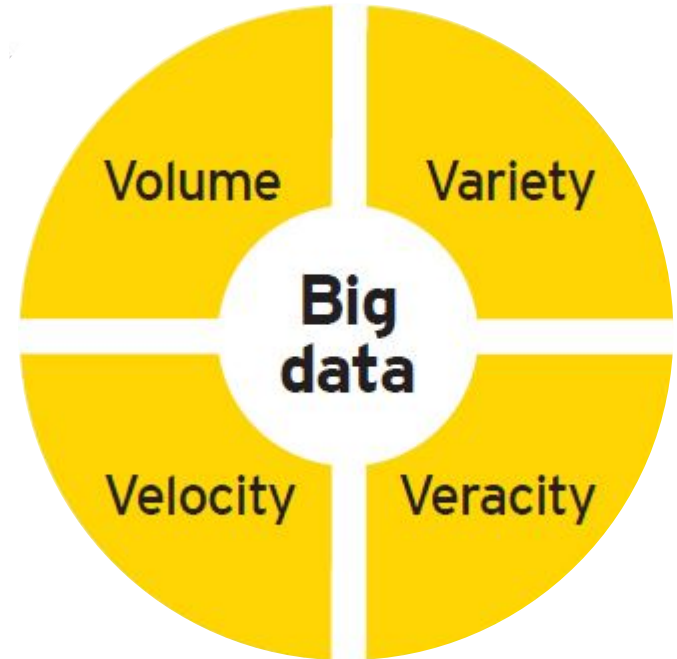
**All of these factors influence your data wrangling needs and potential solutions!**



# What else matters?

**Other factors that will affect the the nature of your wrangling activities:**

- What tools are you using?
- Are automated approaches available?
- What formats are required for later analyses?
- How tolerant are you to errors?

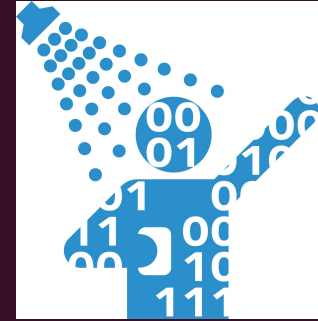




# Getting & Assessing Your Data



	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
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4	grapeshot	2	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes")
5	grapefruit	3	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes*")
6	grapevine	4	=countif(A2:A6, "grape*")
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9	10,000	2	=countif(A7:A10, "<=1000")
10	100,000	3	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&C12)
11		4	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000



- Downloading Files
- API access
- Web-scraping

# Bulk Downloads

## Common data formats

- ASCII text
- Delimited ASCII (.csv, .tsv)
- PDF
- JSON (<https://goo.gl/632RGb>)
- Markup languages (TEI, HTML, XML)
- Multimedia (.wav, .ogg, .mp4, .mkv)
- Other, program-specific and ad-hoc file formats (fixed width, SAS, xls)

```
{  
  "name": "ballparks",  
  "type": "FeatureCollection",  
  "features": [{  
    "type": "Feature",  
    "geometry": {  
      "type": "Point",  
      "coordinates": [-112.066564, 33.445081]  
    },  
    "properties": {  
      "Class": "Majors",  
      "League": "Major League Baseball",  
      "Team": "Arizona Diamondbacks",  
      "Ballpark": "Chase Field",  
      "Lat": "33.445081",  
      "Long": "-112.066564"  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
<typeOfResource>cartographic</typeOfResource>  
<genre authority="lctgm">Aerial photographs</genre>  
<originInfo>  
<publisher>Air Photo Division, Energy Mines + Resources</publisher>  
<place>  
<placeTerm type="text">[Place of publication unknown]</placeTerm>  
</place>  
<dateCreated>1966</dateCreated>  
<dateOther>1966</dateOther>  
</originInfo>  
<language>  
<languageTerm type="code" authority="iso639-2b">eng</languageTerm>  
</language>  
<physicalDescription>  
<extent>[1:37,000 approximately]</extent>
```

# API Access

API = Application program interface

- set of protocols/tools for building software applications
- governs how software should interact with each other and user interfaces



Reddit API: <https://www.reddit.com/dev/api>

New York Times API: <http://developer.nytimes.com/docs>

# Web Scraping

Scraping vs. Parsing:

- Parsing: data being extracted is intended as input to another program
- Scraping: data being extracted is intended for display to an end user

e.g. > `wget https://www.reddit.com/r/sandersforpresident`

- Scrapes web page html to file →

```
<!doctype html><html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en"
xml:lang="en"><head><title>Bernie Sanders For President - 2016</title><meta
name="keywords" content=" reddit, reddit.com, vote, comment, submit " /><meta
name="description" content="reddit: the front page of the internet" /><meta
name="referrer" content="always"><meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" /><link rel="alternate" media="only screen
and (max-width: 640px)" href="https://m.reddit.com/r/sandersforpresident"
/><meta name="viewport" content="width=1024"><meta property="og:image"
content="https://www.redditstatic.com/icon.png"><meta property="og:site_name"
content="reddit"><meta property="og:description" content="/r/SandersForPresident
is the reddit branch of Grassroots For Sanders—a digital organization designed
to raise support and awareness for Bernie..."><meta property="og:title"
content="Bernie Sanders For President - 2016 * /r/SandersForPresident"><meta
property="twitter:site" content="reddit"><meta property="twitter:card"
content="summary"><meta property="twitter:title" content="Bernie Sanders For
President - 2016 * /r/SandersForPresident"><link rel="icon"
href="/www.redditstatic.com/icon.png" sizes="256x256" type="image/png" /><link
rel="shortcut icon" href="/www.redditstatic.com/favicon.ico"
type="image/x-icon" /><link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed"
href="/www.redditstatic.com/icon-touch.png" /><link rel="alternate"
type="application/atom+xml" title="RSS"
href="https://www.reddit.com/r/SandersForPresident/.rss" /><link
rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
href="/www.redditstatic.com/reddit.k60W-xa90lg.css" media="all"><!--[if gte IE
8]><!--><link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://a.thumbs.redditmedia.com/4MArB5rFk3273t4E0FtRE9cK0f_Iw1wlx1-
ugYVHx20.css" title="applied subreddit stylesheet"
type="text/css"><!--<![endif]><!--<!--[if gte IE 9]><!--><script
type="text/javascript">
```

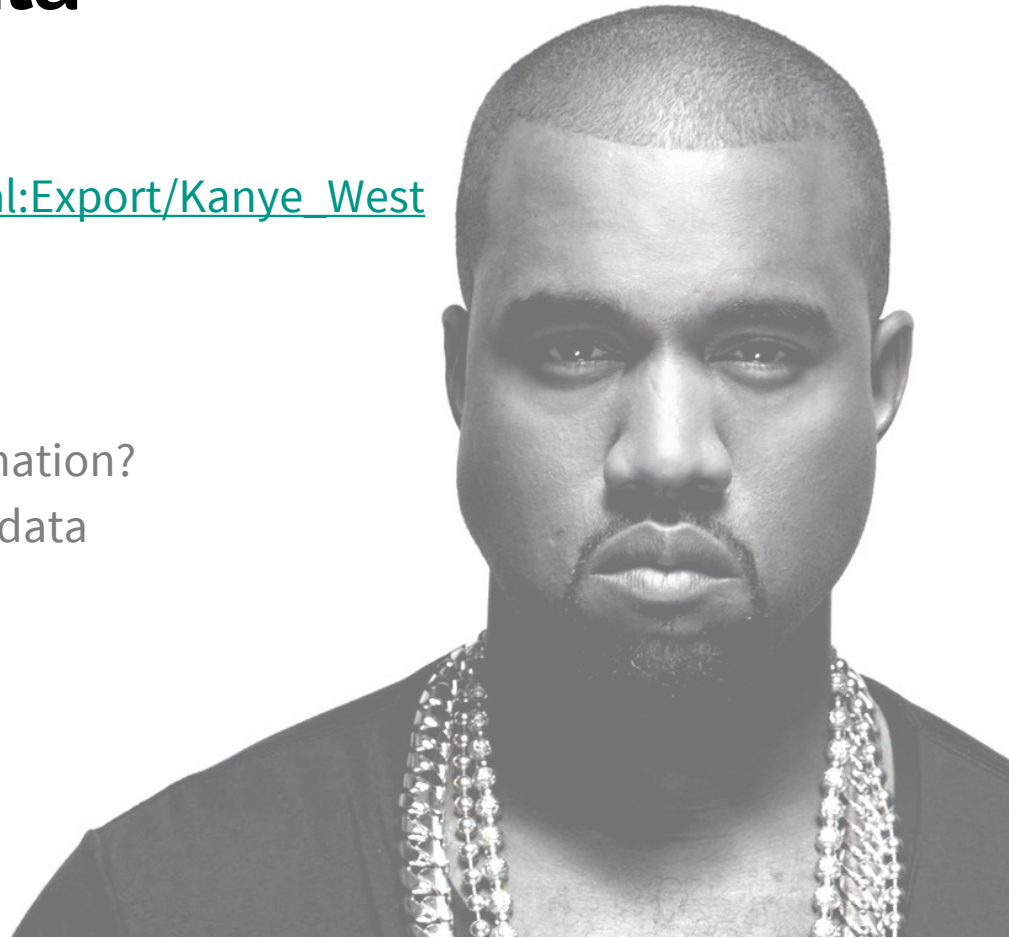
# Activity: Assessing Data

Wikipedia page exported to XML:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Export/Kanye\\_West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Export/Kanye_West)
- <https://goo.gl/pCDg30>

Goal: Explore which wikipedia articles are linked to Kanye?

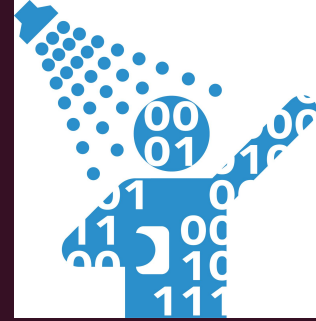
- Can you extract the necessary information?
- Are there patterns/landmarks in the data that you can take advantage of?
- What is the consistency of the information?



# Cleaning & Transforming Your Data



	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
2	drapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, "drapes")
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12	More Data:	1,000	100,000



# Data Cleaning: Goal & Activities

Goal: Create data sets that are **consistent** and **interoperable** with other data of interest

Data cleaning (scrubbing) may include:

- Detecting and remediating corrupt/inaccurate records
- Removing typographical errors
- Validating against a known list of possibilities (e.g. verify a string as a postal code)
- Eliminating duplicate entries
- Harmonizing and standardizing (e.g. represent 'St', 'St.', 'Street' as 'street')

Cleaning may be carried out

- Manually (interactive)
- Semi-automatically (guided)
- Automatically (scripted)

# Approaches For Cleaning & Transformation

- Spreadsheets are often a good place to start
  - <http://schoolofdata.org/courses/#IntroDataCleaning>
- Text Editors - Find and replace
- Command line - regular expressions (<http://pythex.org/>; <http://www.regular-expressions.info/>)
- Customized applications
  - Stanford data wrangler: <http://vis.stanford.edu/wrangler/>
  - Trifacta: <https://www.trifacta.com/>
  - Open (Google) Refine: <http://openrefine.org/>
- Fully-automated scripts



SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND DELEGATES,

WITH THEIR HOME POST-OFFICES AND RESIDENCES IN WASHINGTON.

The 8 members for Representatives, and the 10 for Delegates.

The 8 members whose wives accompany them, the 10 members whose daughters accompany them, the 10 members whose daughters accompany them.

View-President, LEVI F. MORTON, 1800 Rhode Island ave.

SENATORS.

Table with columns: Name, Home post-office, Washington address, Page. Lists names like Aldrich, N. W., Allen, John B., Allison, William B., etc.

Congressional Directory.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND DELEGATES,

WITH THEIR HOME POST-OFFICES AND RESIDENCES IN WASHINGTON. The \* designates those whose wives accompany them; the I designates those whose daughters accompany them; the C designates those having other ladies with them.

Table with columns: Name, Home post-office, Washington address, Bi. Lists names like Aldrich, N. W., Allison, William B., Bates, William, etc.

W.F. FINDLAY, E.C.A. ACCOUNTANT.

Table with columns: CITY OF HAMILTON, listing names and addresses in Hamilton, Ontario.

FEDERAL LIFE Head Office, Surplus to Policy-holders, \$704,148.88

Table with columns: STREET DIRECTORY, listing names and addresses in various cities.

ACCOUNTANT, AUDITOR AND ADJUSTER.

CITY OF HAMILTON

- q6 Jas Ramage, laborer
96 Sand Garrity
98 Geo Lake, granite cutter
too Alex Martin, laborer
too Godfrey Auld, laborer
too6 Jas Flynn, laborer
110 Jas Furlong, laborer
112 11 A Broadbent, brakinn
to Henry N'ernon, directory
pulisher
16 Matthew Hunter, carpar
118 Herbert Dixon

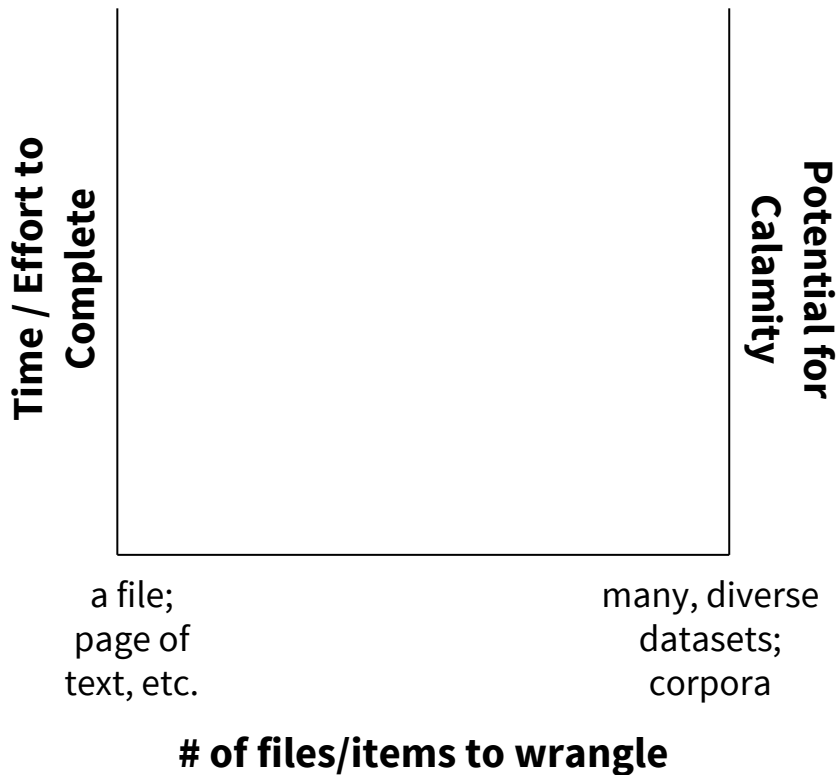
Yoik 11 intersect()

- 36 A H McKeown, merchant
40 Thos 11 Jermvn. bookpr
42 Jas Mclaugrain, machist

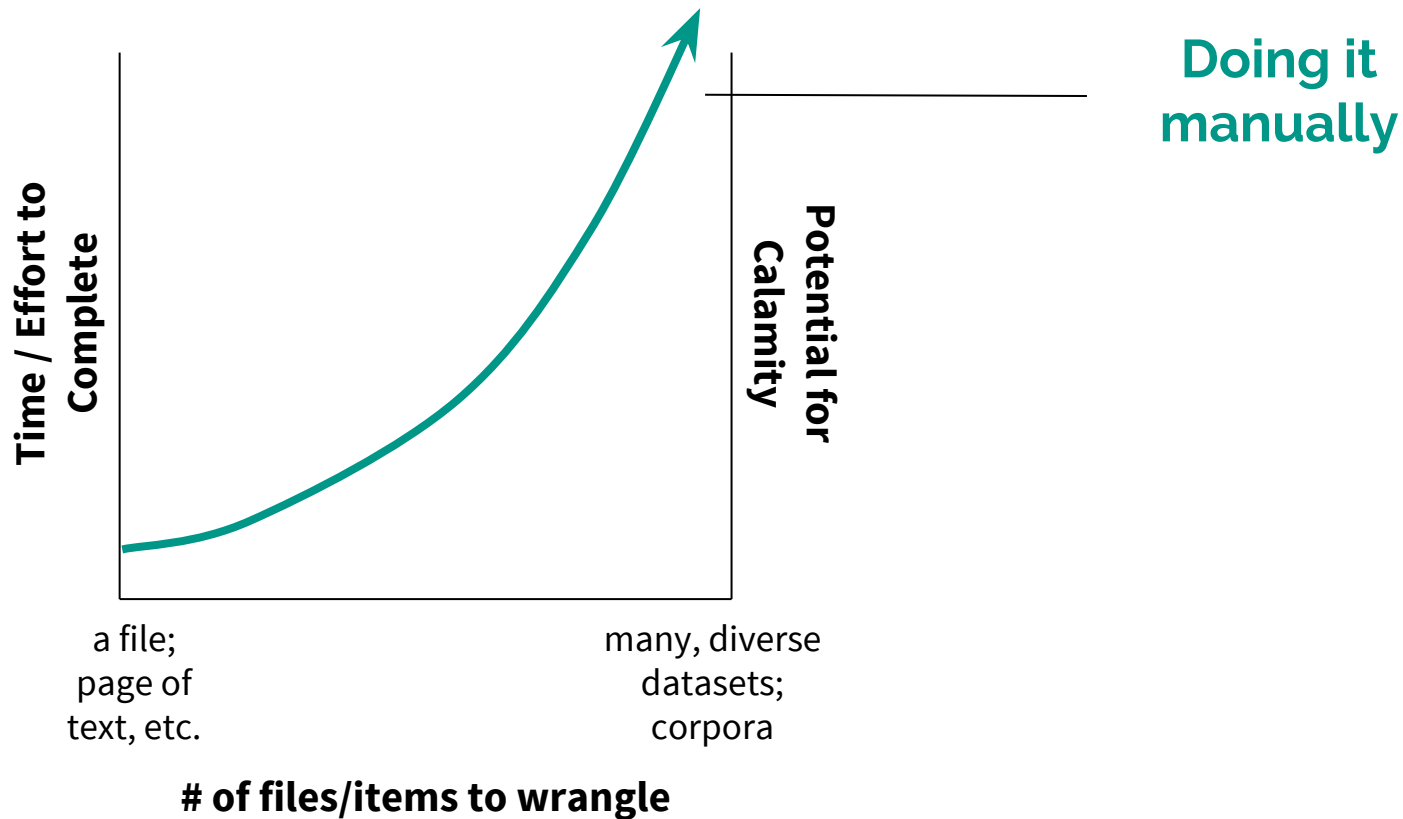
Main st Intersects
68 Mrs Mary Liven

# So, when to let the computer take over?

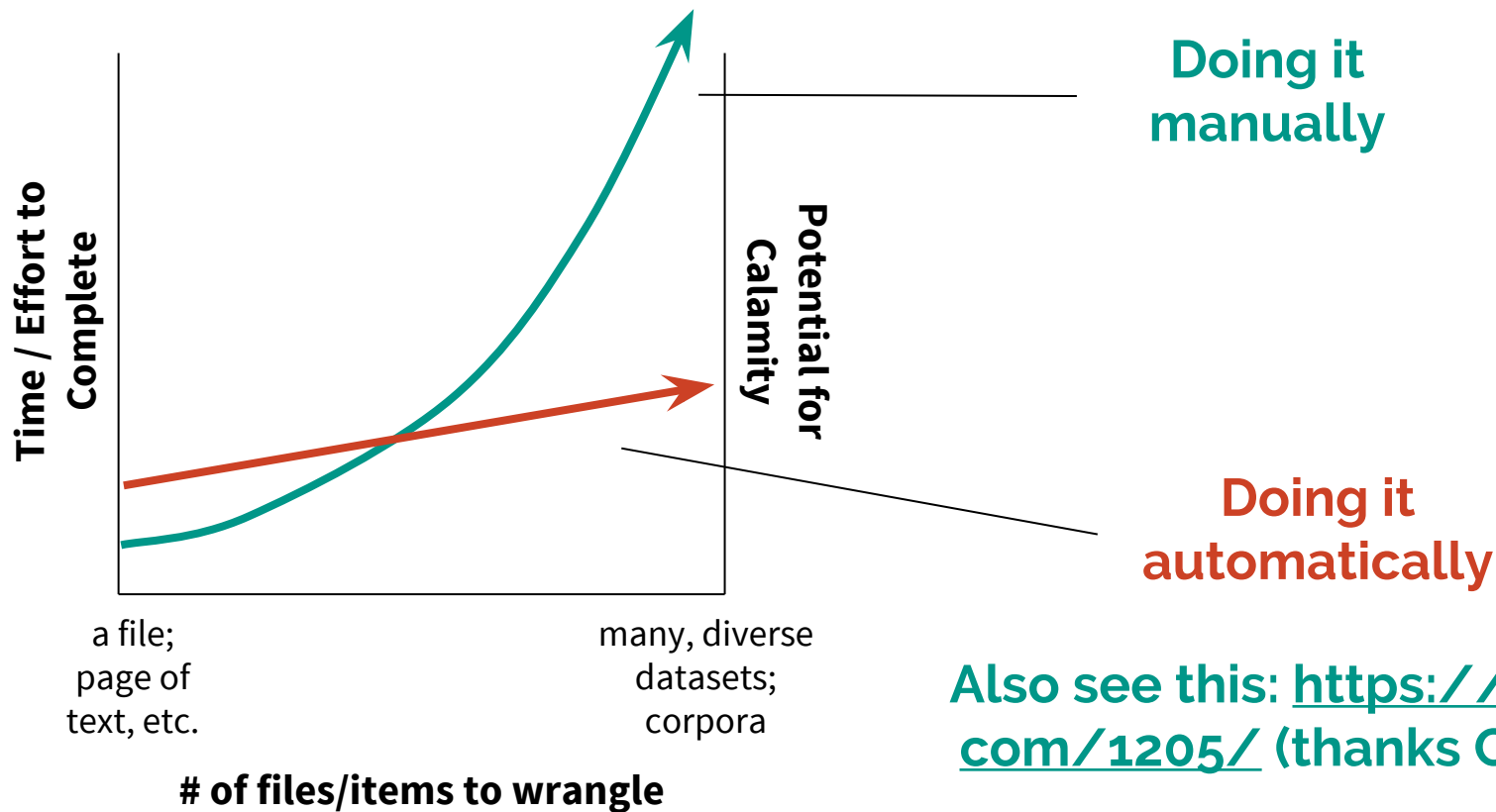
Whenever it works and will save you time!



# Spreadsheets: The frenemy of research



# Spreadsheets: The frenemy of research



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🔑 Russia Submits  
Syria Cease-Fire Plan  
to U.S.



🔑 NATO Deploys  
Ships to Help in  
Migrant Crisis



EUROPE

# Flaws Found in Study Favored by Backers of Austerity

By [MATTHEW DALTON](#) and GEOFFREY T. SMITH

April 18, 2013 4:29 p.m. ET



But a study published this week by three economists at the University of Massachusetts says the Reinhart-Rogoff findings contain basic errors, including one involving their spreadsheets that omitted five countries from the result.

Correcting for these errors largely causes the Reinhart-Rogoff finding to disappear, according to the new study by the economists Thomas Herndon, Michael Ash and Robert Pollin.



Identifier: FH1217  
Title: 1,791 voters inflated to 4,870  
Source: [http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/ortiz-scales-down-inactive-voter-count/article\\_abcb94c0-06a4-11e1-8668-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/ortiz-scales-down-inactive-voter-count/article_abcb94c0-06a4-11e1-8668-001cc4c03286.html)  
Organization: Pueblo County  
Region: USA  
Release Date: 04 November 2011  
Risk: False Elections  
Tags: Government

Thursday, Ortiz ultimately agreed with Gessler that the state database showed 1,791 inactive ballots were returned in Pueblo County. Ortiz blamed simple counting errors in his office for his inaccurate number. The state computer data is cumbersome to read, so Ortiz's office converted its display to a different form of spreadsheet. That's where the counting error occurred, the clerk said. Anytime there is a dispute over tallying votes, it always raises suspicions about possible voter fraud.

Identifier: FH1210  
Title: \$1M went missing as staff managed "monstrous spreadsheets."  
Source: [http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top\\_stories/x1876834739/Framingham-discovers-1-5-million-error](http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top_stories/x1876834739/Framingham-discovers-1-5-million-error)  
Organization: Town of Framingham (municipality)  
Region: USA  
Release Date: 15 October 2011  
Discrepancies: 12,000,000  
Risk: Money Loss  
Tags: Government

The town mistakenly reckoned it had \$1.5 million more in this year's budget than it actually has and must now use \$600,000 in unexpected state aid to help fill that gap, officials said yesterday.

Chief Financial Officer Mary Ellen Kelley said she takes responsibility for the mistake, which she found Wednesday night on the debt services line item in the \$208.6 million fiscal 2012 operating budget. She said a figure went missing as staff managed "monstrous spreadsheets."

"It's frustrating," Kelley said yesterday. "I hate when we make mistakes. People are human and they do make mistakes, but I hate it."

# Activity: Why wrangle?

All workshop materials are available in the following Google Drive folder: <https://goo.gl/u53tkz>

Open one of the folders in the Google Drive; explore the contents

- Scraped reddit subreddit pages in JSON and HTML
  - Google sheet, transformed from html page (import-reddit-xxxxxx) - created with [www.import.io/](http://www.import.io/)
- Google sheet of structured twitter data (#xxxxxxxx) - created with <https://tags.hawksey.info/>

Devise a plan of how you might use these data to explore a research question.

- How will you analyze the data?
- In what ways will you need to clean | transform the data?
- What tools might work for this?

## **Trump:**

#Trump2016

[https://www.reddit.com/r/the\\_donald](https://www.reddit.com/r/the_donald)

## **Bernie:**

#FeelTheBern

<https://www.reddit.com/r/sandersforpresident>

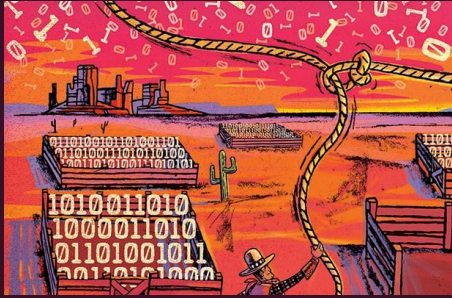
## **Hillary:**

#ImWithHer

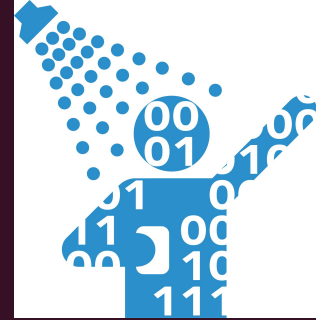
<https://www.reddit.com/r/hillaryclinton/>



# Depositing for Use & Sharing



	A	B	C
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9	10,000	2	=countif(A7:A10, "<=1000")
10	100,000	3	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&C12)
11		4	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000



# Depositing for Use & Sharing

Your data can (and should!?) outlive your research project

Consider how you can make your data more:

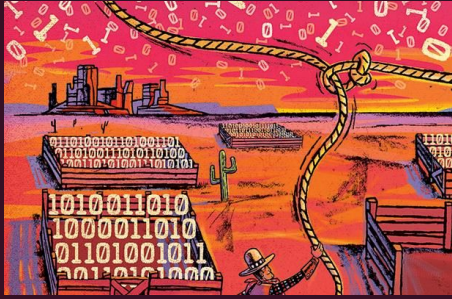
- adaptable, flexible, extensible to other uses
- secure and sustainable
- collaborative / social

# Depositing for Use & Sharing

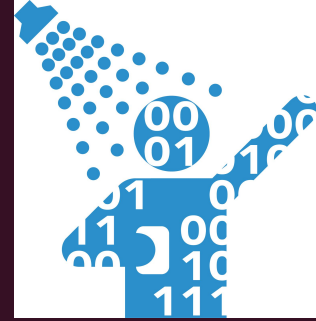
How might you need to package/adjust your data in order to:

- be better able to show (demonstrate) it to people?
- make it work with different tools?
  - Keep data in translatable formats (or formats that work well with visualization)
  - Explore formatting requirements/compatibility for other community tools
- have it be discoverable and understandable to others?
- maximize its lifespan?
  - Document it!
  - Organize it.
  - Archive it to an appropriate repository (IR, data repository)

# Final Thoughts and Strategies



	A	B	C
1	Data	Results	Formula
2	drapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, "drapes")
3	grapes	1	=countif(A2:A6, A2)
4	grapeshot	2	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes")
5	grapefruit	3	=countif(A2:A6, "?rapes*")
6	grapevine	4	=countif(A2:A6, "grape*")
7	100	1	=countif(A7:A10, "100")
8	1,000	1	=countif(A7:A10, A7)
9	10,000	2	=countif(A7:A10, "<=1000")
10	100,000	3	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&C12)
11		4	=countif(B7:B10, "<="&D12)
12	More Data:	1,000	100,000



# Experimentation and Documentation

Often, experimentation and iteration are important in establishing the best way to get your data into 'shape'.

Starting with a sample of data is a good approach.

It's important to document your outcomes **and** your process

# How to save time in the long run...

- Look for tools that exist to help you wrangle your data
  - automated or semi-automated (guided) cleaning
  - data transformation
  - converting between data formats
- Seek out tutorials / instruction for the tools you're using
- Control your data at the point of collection - refine your process to reduce 'garbage in'
  - e.g. when crowdsourcing data -- use controlled fields and vocabularies; insert data validation processes