

# Crafting with Data

Reality, Illusions, Truth & the Future

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Instructor: Rob Faludi

# Plan for Today

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- Class blog
- Some polls
- Discuss readings
- Present data gathered
- Exercise One: Mastermind
- Readings & Assignments

# Class Blog

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- <http://itp.nyu.edu/craftingwithdata/>

- Data

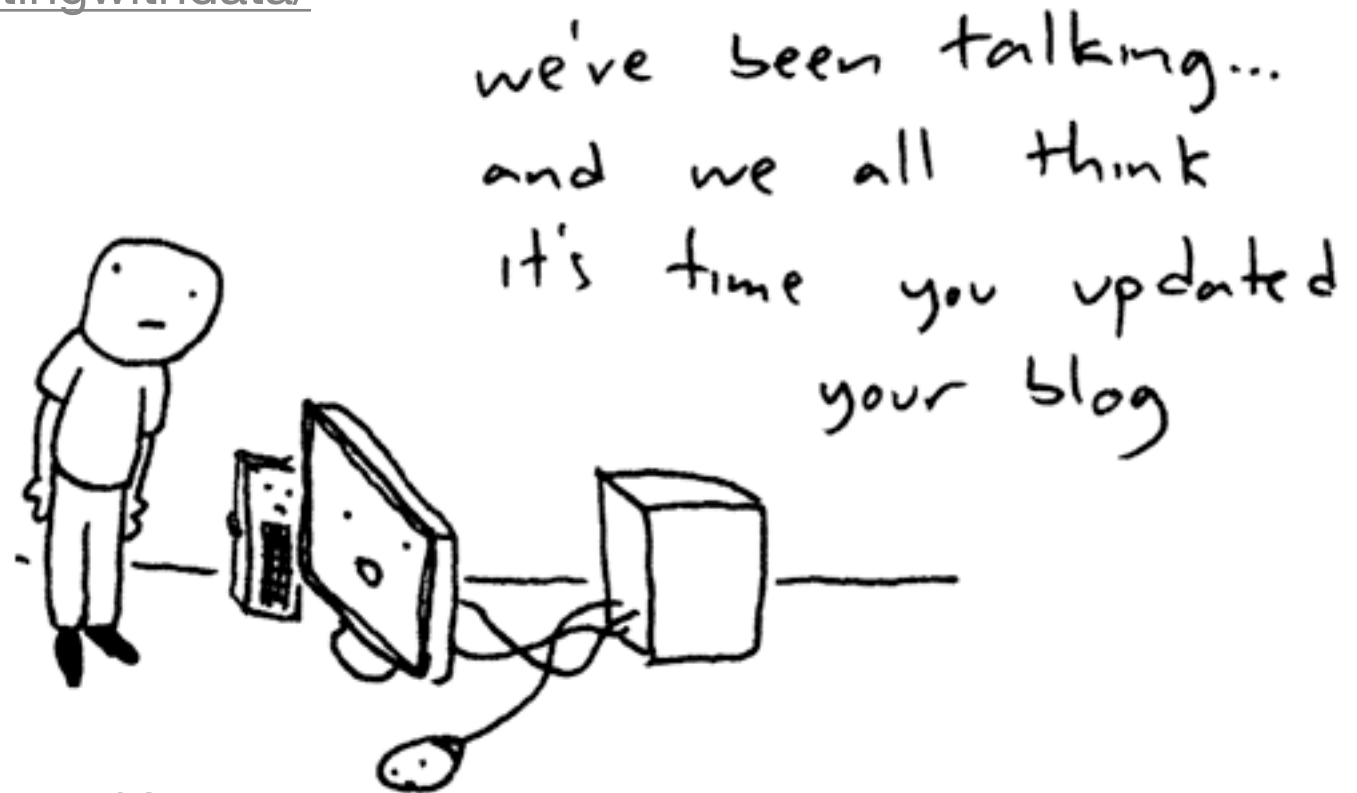
- Article review

- Reading reactions

- Other found items

- Post at least once per week!

- Martin, Sue and Matt: <http://itp.nyu.edu/blogs/wp-login.php>



# Summaries of Polls

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- Real Clear Politics:

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008/president/us/general\\_election\\_mccain\\_vs\\_obama-225.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008/president/us/general_election_mccain_vs_obama-225.html)

## General Election: McCain vs. Obama

[RCP Electoral Map](#) | [Changes in Electoral Count](#) | [Map With No Toss Ups](#) | [No Toss Up Changes](#)

Polling Data					
Poll	Date	Sample	Obama (D)	McCain (R)	Spread
<b>RCP Average</b>	<b>09/09 - 09/21</b>	--	47.6	45.6	<b>Obama +2.0</b>
Rasmussen Tracking	09/19 - 09/21	3000 LV	48	47	Obama +1
Gallup Tracking	09/18 - 09/20	2720 RV	49	45	Obama +4
Hotline/FD Tracking	09/18 - 09/20	922 RV	45	44	Obama +1
Battleground Tracking	09/14 - 09/21	800 LV	47	48	McCain +1
CBS News/NY Times	09/12 - 09/16	LV	49	44	Obama +5
Quinnipiac	09/11 - 09/16	987 LV	49	45	Obama +4
Pew Research	09/09 - 09/14	2307 LV	46	46	Tie

[See All General Election: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data](#)

### Intrade Market Prices for General Election: McCain vs. Obama

	Obama	McCain	
Intrade Real Time Quotes	51.4	47.5	<a href="#">(See More Data)</a>

- Criticism:

<http://www.nolanchart.com/article903.html>

- Wall Street Journal:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120303346890469991.html>

# Another Poll

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- <http://thepage.time.com/more-from-the-ap-yahoo-news-poll-on-race/>
- <http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/2008/09/on-race-based-voting.html>



## More from the AP-Yahoo News Poll on Race

–40 percent of all white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks, and that includes many Democrats and independents.

–More than a third of all white Democrats and independents agreed with at least one negative adjective about blacks and they are significantly less likely to vote for Obama than those who don't have such views.

–While about 20 percent of independent voters called blacks “intelligent” or “smart,” more than one third latched on the adjective “complaining” and 24 percent said blacks were “violent.”

–Nearly four in 10 white independents agreed that blacks would be better off if they “try harder.”

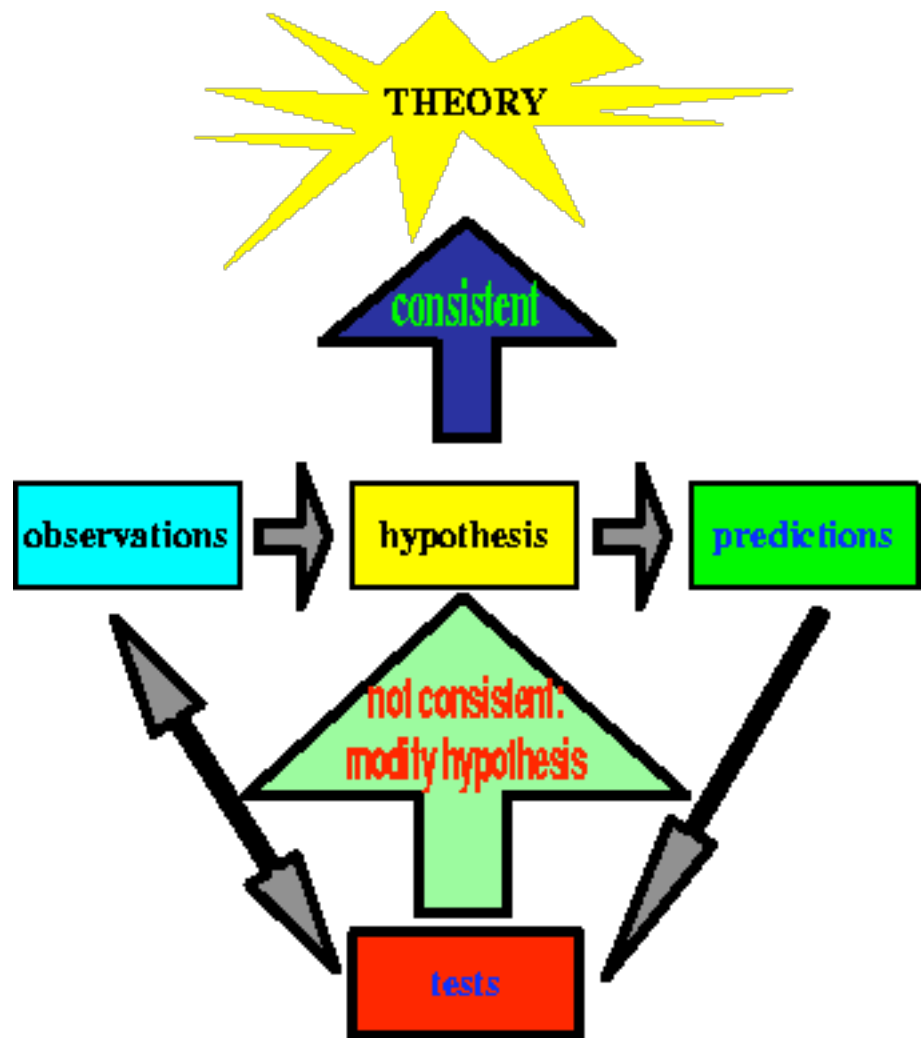
–Just 59 percent of her white Democratic supporters said they wanted Obama to be

# Scientific Method

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1. Observation
2. Hypothesis
3. Predictions
4. Experimental Testing
5. ...repeat as necessary

- results can be replicated
- hypotheses can be falsified



# Scientific Method...also

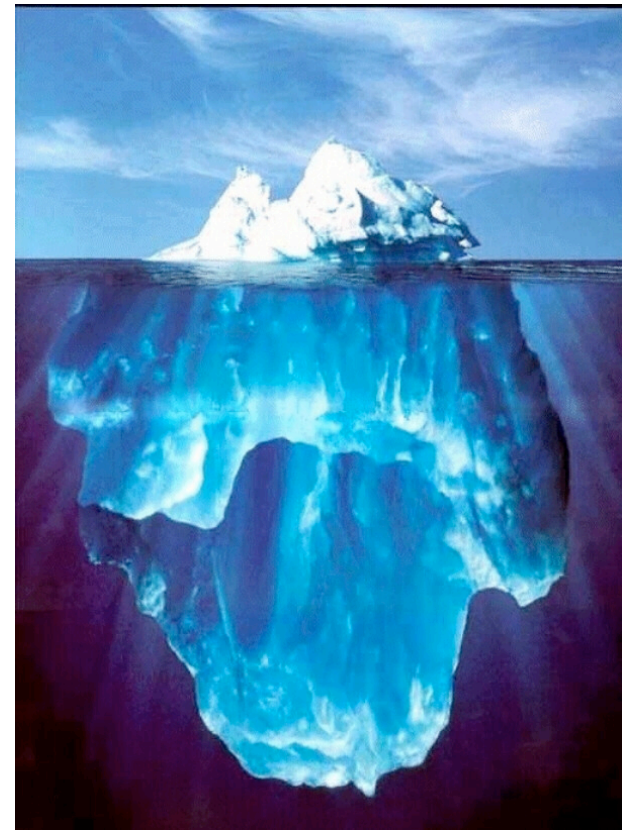
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- document your methods
- randomize your sample
- try some pilot studies
- get some experts to review your work
- get some peers to review your findings
- disclose your methods
- share your critical thinking about projects (but never people)

# Arduino Data Gathering

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- Reports from each group
  - What data did you choose? Observations, hypotheses.
  - How did you gather? Methods.
  - Show us your data and discuss your reactions.
  - Findings?



# The Canon: Thinking Scientifically

# Exercise One

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- Mastermind
  - <http://www.irt.org/games/js/mind/>
- Play some games
  - try guessing, isolating variable, formal hypothesis

# Readings and Assignments

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- Readings

- The Lady Tasting Tea, by David Salsburg — Chapters 1 & 2
- The Function of Measurement in Modern Physical Science, Thomas Kuhn — <http://www.compilerpress.atfreeweb.com/Anno%20Kuhn%20Function%20of%20Measurement.htm>

- Assignments

- Self-Portrait: Data is factual information; science finds its story. But data isn't only about science so we can turn that on its head. Find data for your own story. Create a self-portrait, using data.
- Re-do data gathering assignment. Another iteration with improvements.

