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The Data Science revolution in scientific research

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The use of big data methods in science has curious roots, from bioinformatics and paranormal psychology, to particle physics and social economics. These methods took a strange detour via advertising, social media and playing Go, but are now finding applications in research across the breadth of science and the humanities. We will look at a range of projects where AI is transforming research practice, and the role the Alan Turing Institute is playing in this revolution. We will then consider a number of challenges this approach presents, in which some traditional philosophical questions gain unexpected practical applications.

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