

Name: _____

DATA 420 — Spring 2024

Reading check #1

– Silver: Preface & Intro

Jan. 23, 2024

1. True or false?

	True	False
We face danger whenever information growth outpaces our understanding of how to process it.		
Silver agrees with Chris Anderson of <i>Wired</i> magazine, who wrote that the sheer volume of ‘Big Data’ will soon obviate the need for theory and even the scientific method.		
Silver believes that we can never make perfectly objective predictions. They will always be tainted by our subjective point of view.		

2. What 18th-century **historical period** does Silver emphasize, which was a tipping point in which civilization suddenly went from having made almost no scientific or economic progress for most of its existence to the exponential rates of growth and change that are familiar to us today?
3. What important **invention** was a spark for the historical period mentioned in the previous question?
4. What do human beings have a strong need to “find,” more so than other animals, so much so that we often think we see them when they aren’t actually there?
5. What play does the following quote come from:

*“...men may construe things after their fashion
Clean from the purpose of the things themselves.”*