



# Answering the Question, and Vice Versa

Experts are adept at answering questions in their fields, but even the most knowledgeable authority can't be expected to keep up with all the data generated today. Computers can

handle data, but until now, they were inept at understanding questions posed in conversational language. Watson, the IBM computer that won the *Jeopardy!* Challenge, is an example of a computer that can answer questions using informal, nuanced, even pun-filled, phrases. Graph theory, formal logic, and

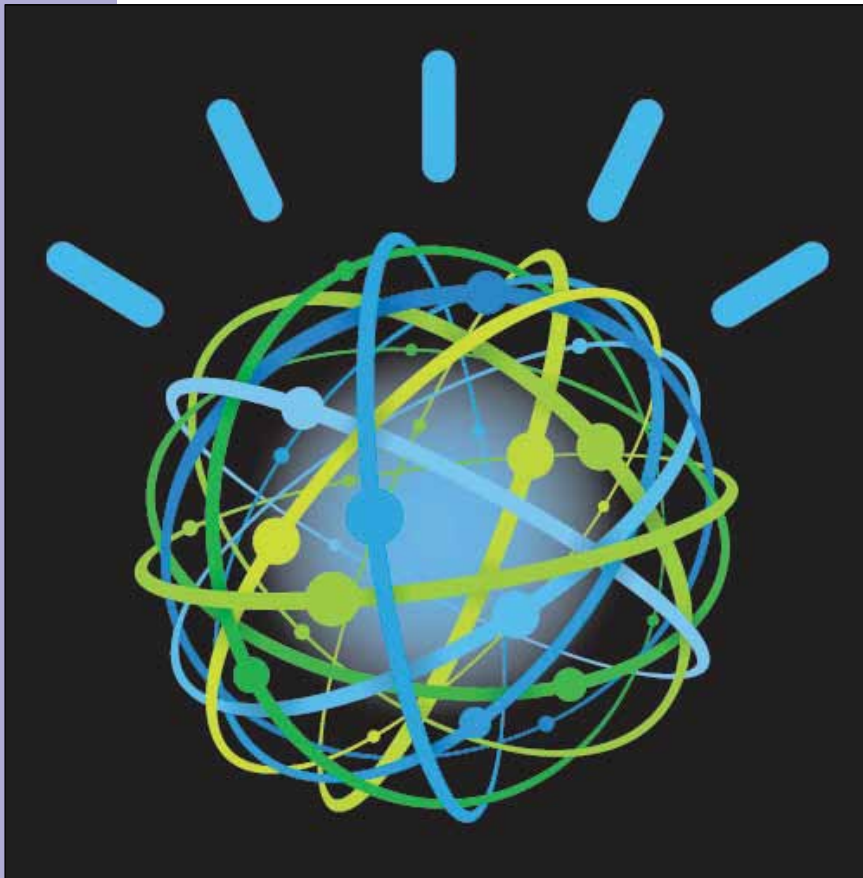


Image courtesy of IBM.

statistics help create the algorithms used for answering questions in a timely manner—not at all elementary.



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