Robert J. Brunner is a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Illinois with additional appointments in Informatics, Physics, and Statistics. He also is a faculty affiliate at the Beckman Institute and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Robert received his Ph.D. in 1997 from the Johns Hopkins University where he worked with Alex Szalay on the development of the archive for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey and the development of the virtual observatory concept. Before moving to Illinois in 2002, He completed a postdoctoral position at the California Institute of Technology where he led the development of new tools and services to obtain scientific insights from massive data sets. He currently focuses on the development of data science as a new discipline, and specifically on the application of statistical and machine learning to extract new insights from data by using HPC and cloud computing technologies.