

Conroy Group Hack Week in Wolbach Library Collaboration Space

This is a place to share your experience of the Hack Week (Dec 12-16, 2016) that we spent in the library collaboration space.

Aaron Dotter: I spent the week adding individual stellar rotational broadening to integrated light spectra of simple stellar populations. This effect has always been neglected in the past.

The use of the collaboration space, and having the group members whose input I needed to undertake the project at the same table with me, was extremely beneficial to the project. For me it was a complete success.

Phil Rosenfield: I spent the week teaching myself aperture photometry and astrometry reductions of UV HST data.

Having a collaboration space allowed immediate feedback from group members on finding and using relevant open source software packages and applying different background subtraction techniques to the data. I was able to do relative astrometry, but ran out of time tying the astrometric solution to other observations of the same region.

Ben Johnson: I spent the week building a hierarchical Bayesian model for star cluster properties inferred from the properties of individual stars that our group has already inferred.

The add-on effect of having many people of like mind all working in the same place was great, and made me even more productive. It was also useful to be able to chat and get quick advice from a larger crowd by just calling down the table. The multi-day nature was especially conducive to focusing on and finishing my project.