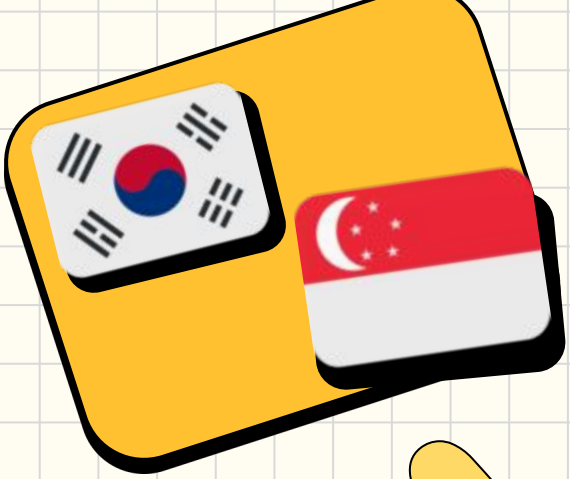
AN UNCONVENTIONAL START:

HOW OPEN SOURCE OPENED MY OPPORTUNITIES

Mars Lee, 14 September 2022

RSE Asia Australia Unconference

Early Career Keynote



MARS LEE

Technical Illustrator at Quansight

NumPy

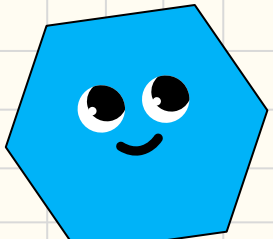
Open Source Design

MARS LEE

Open Source Contributor

WOAAAAAAAHH

Who is this mysterious person?



Why are they giving a keynote?

What’s a Technical Illustrator?

WOAAAAAAAHH

Who am I?

Am I qualified to give a keynote?

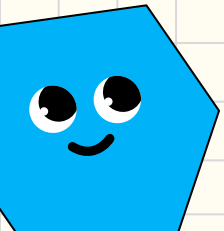
Yeah...What *is* a Technical Illustrator?

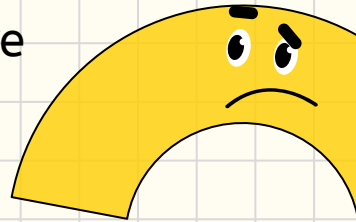
PURPOSE OF AN EARLY CAREER KEYNOTE

Be ~ *inspirational* ~

Explain how you got here

Give advice so others can get where you are



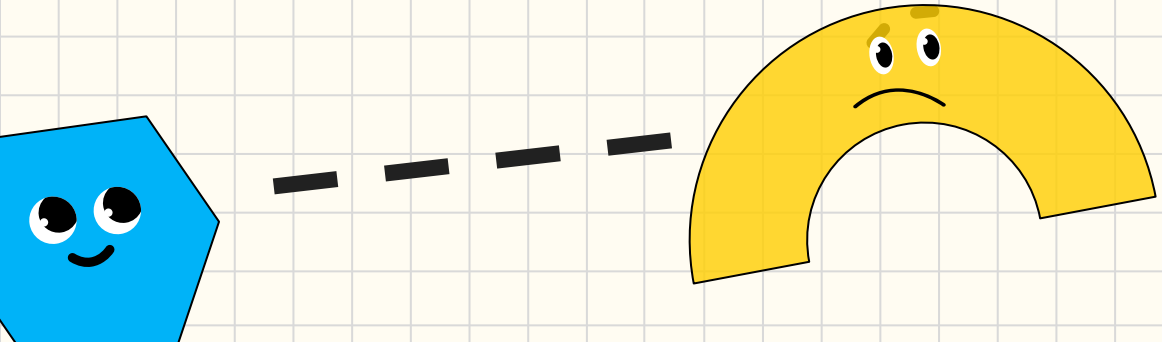


PURPOSE OF AN EARLY CAREER KEYNOTE

What inspired me?

How did I get here?

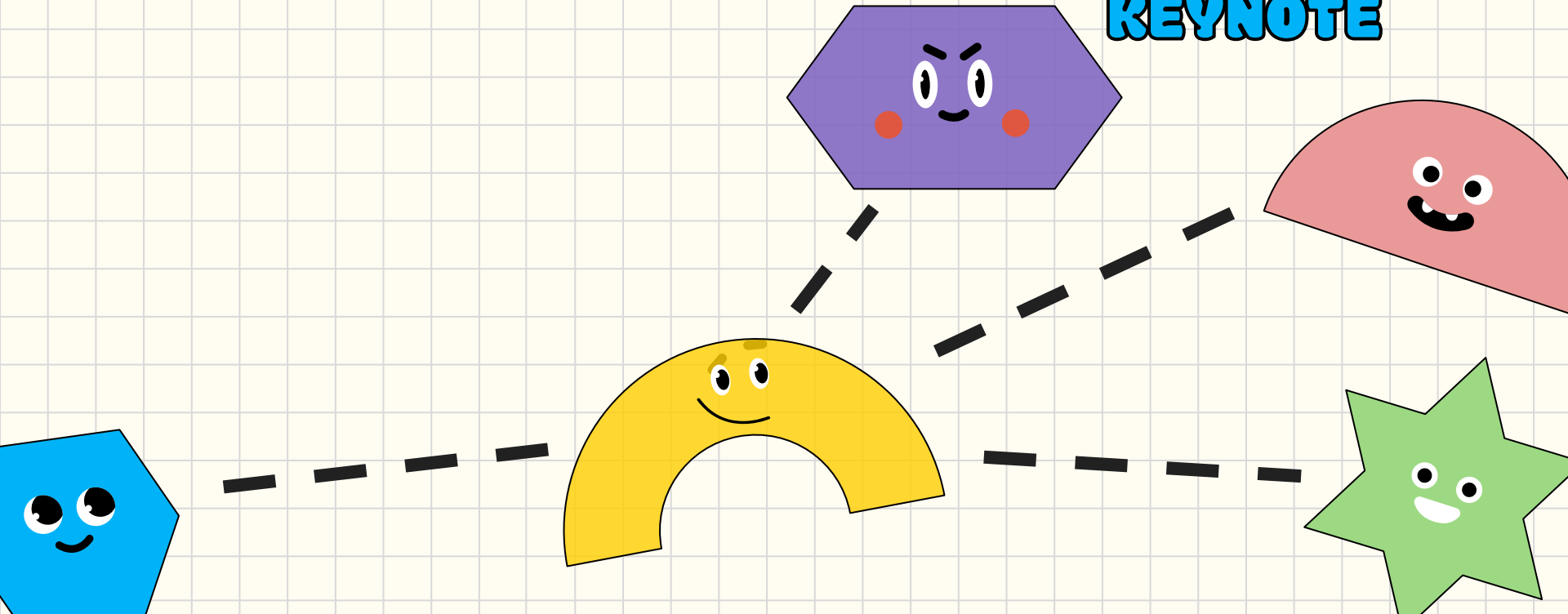
Who helped me?



PURPOSE OF AN

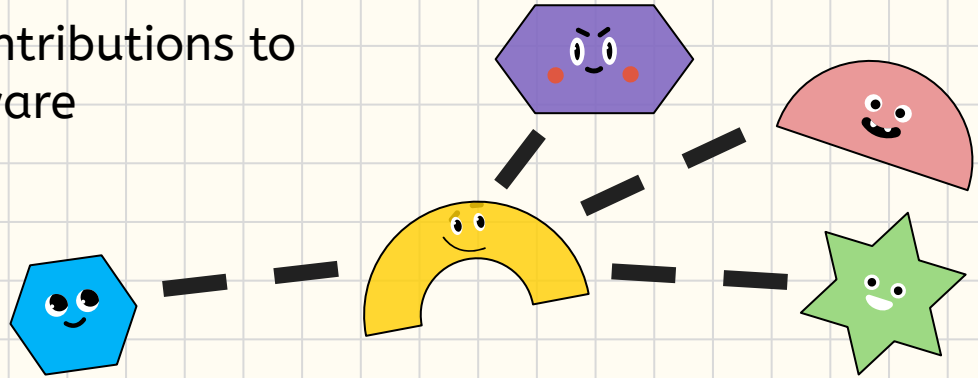
EARLY CAREER

KEYNOTE



PURPOSE OF AN EARLY CAREER KEYNOTE

- Recognize community and mentorship as foundational to where I am today
- Connect newcomers to wonderful open source projects
- Encourage more diverse contributions to open source research software



OVERVIEW

01

MY UNCONVENTIONAL START

College drop-out. I have *0* PhDs!

02

OVERCOMING INSECURITIES

... what is an *artist* doing *here*?

03

FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

Understanding processes and getting comfortable!

04

MY UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

‘How to Write Alt Text’ Comics, NumPy Comics,
‘Your Contributor Adventure’ and more!

OVERVIEW

05 **HOW YOU CAN START**
Whether you have a Bachelor, Masters, PhD or none of the above!

06 **OVERCOMING YOUR INSECURITIES**
The secret: We're all figuring it out!

07 **FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT**
Connect with fellow newcomers and mentors

08 **YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
How can you contribute to open source *differently*?

01 MY UNCONVENTIONAL START

	EXPECTED PROFILE	ME
Software Engineer		
In academia		
Knows the ins and out of their favorite open source software before becoming a contributor		

01 MY UNCONVENTIONAL START

EXPECTED PROFILE

Software Engineer

In academia

Knows the ins and out of their favorite open source software before becoming a contributor

01 MY UNCONVENTIONAL START

- ✗
- ✗
- ✗

01 MY UNCONVENTIONAL START

ME

Artist ✓

College drop-out ✓

Google searched “free alternative to photoshop please?” ✓

02 OVERCOMING INSECURITIES

ME

Artist

College drop-out

Google searched “free alternative to photoshop please?”

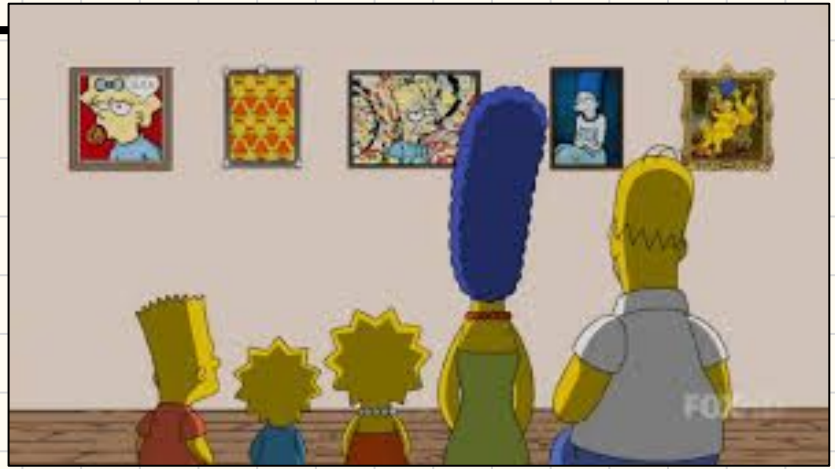
02 OVERCOMING INSECURITIES

ME

Different and equally valuable skill-set

Not letting arbitrary measures of success determine what I can do

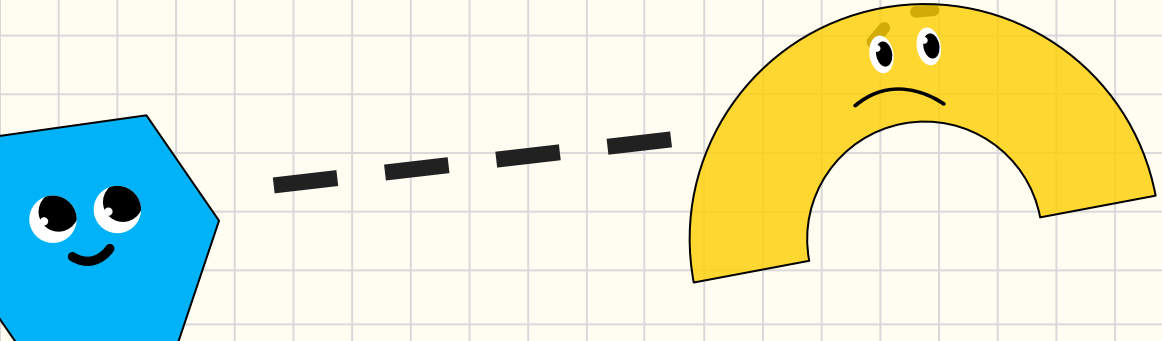
Everyday user of open source software



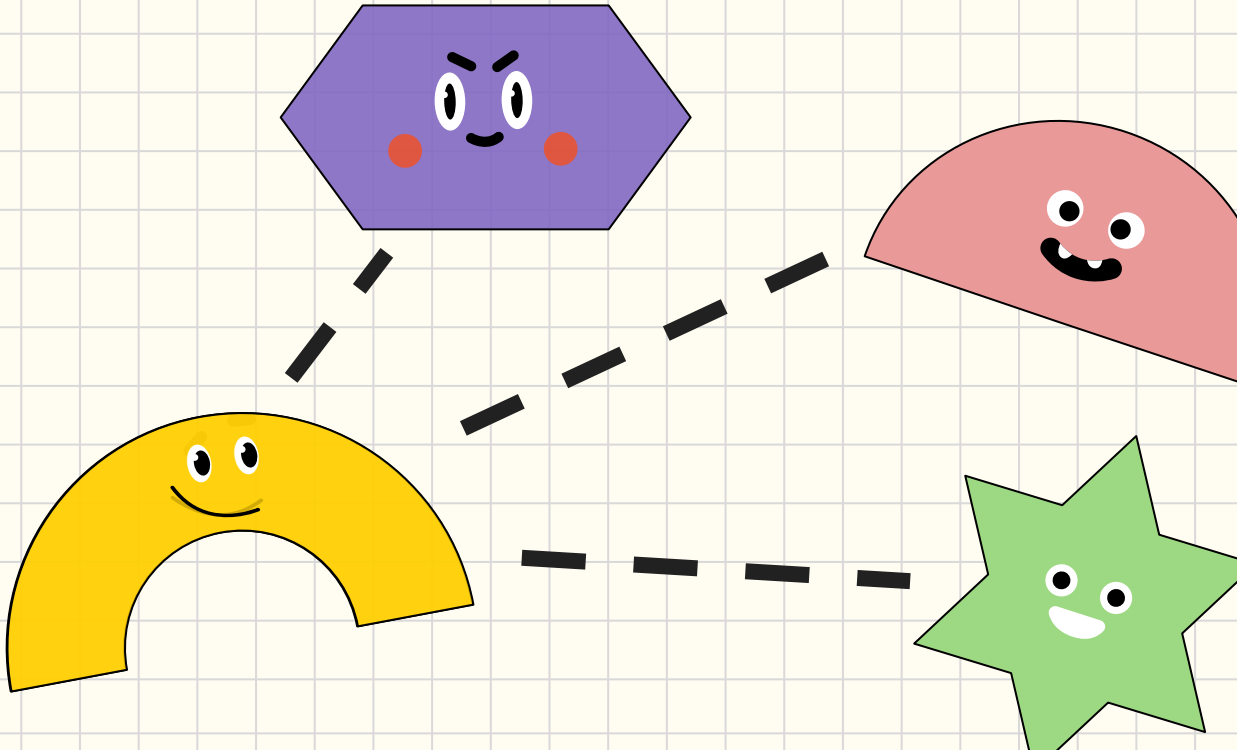
02 OVERCOMING INSECURITIES

My Unexpected Dive into Open-Source Python
1 February 2020

03 FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

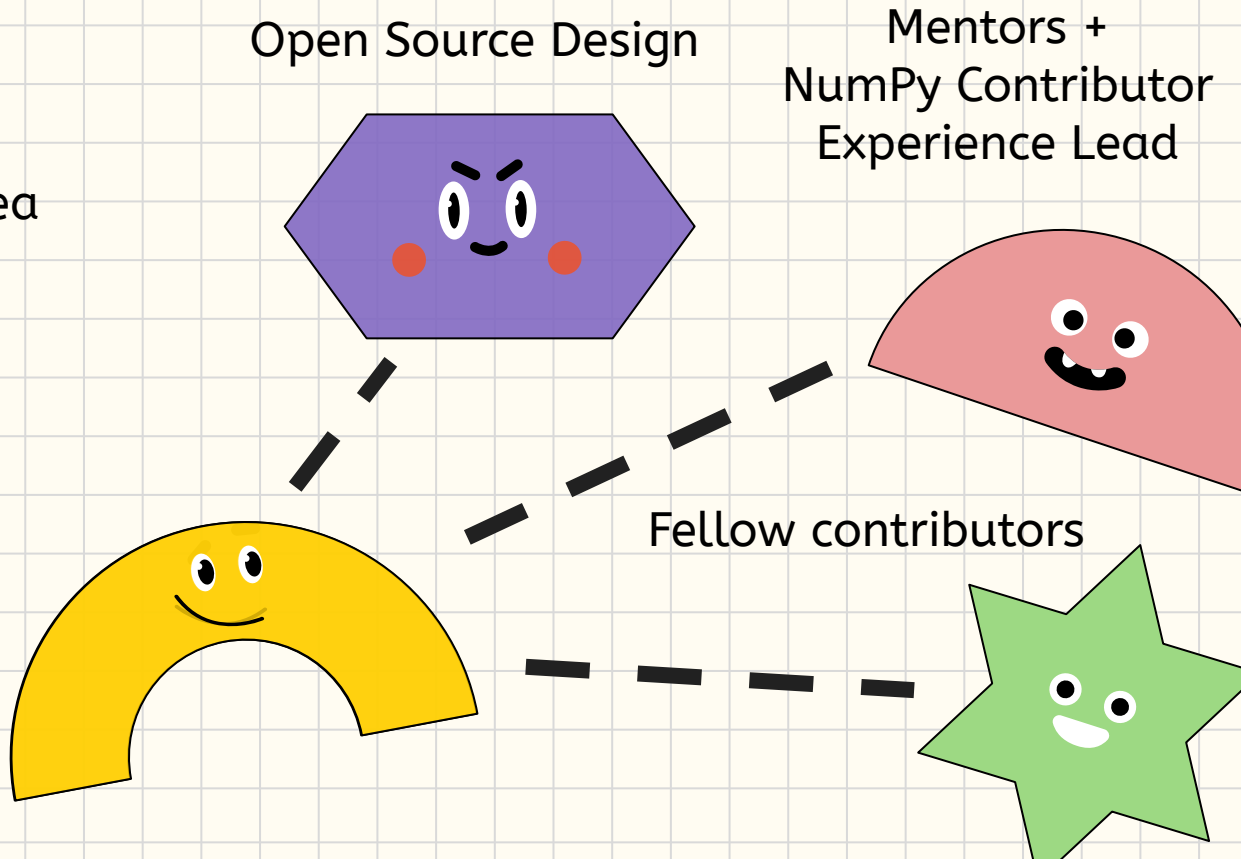


03 FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT



03 FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

- Going to community calls (even when absolutely had no idea what was going on)
- Trying- and failing- and trying again to make my first contribution
- Asking for help



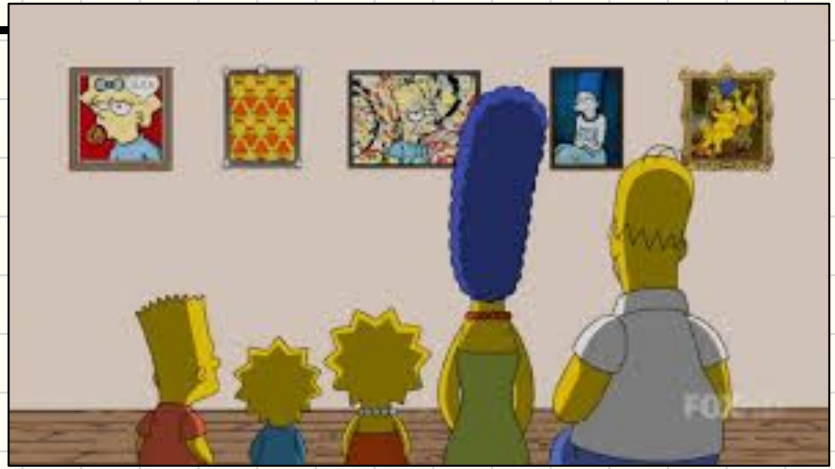
04 MY UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ME

Different and equally valuable skill-set

Not letting arbitrary measures of success determine what I can do

Everyday user of open source software



04 MY UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ME

Using art to communicate what text or code cannot

Pushing open source outside of academia-public science

Expanding beyond the ‘super-user-to-developer’ profile

04 MY STRANGE CONTRIBUTIONS

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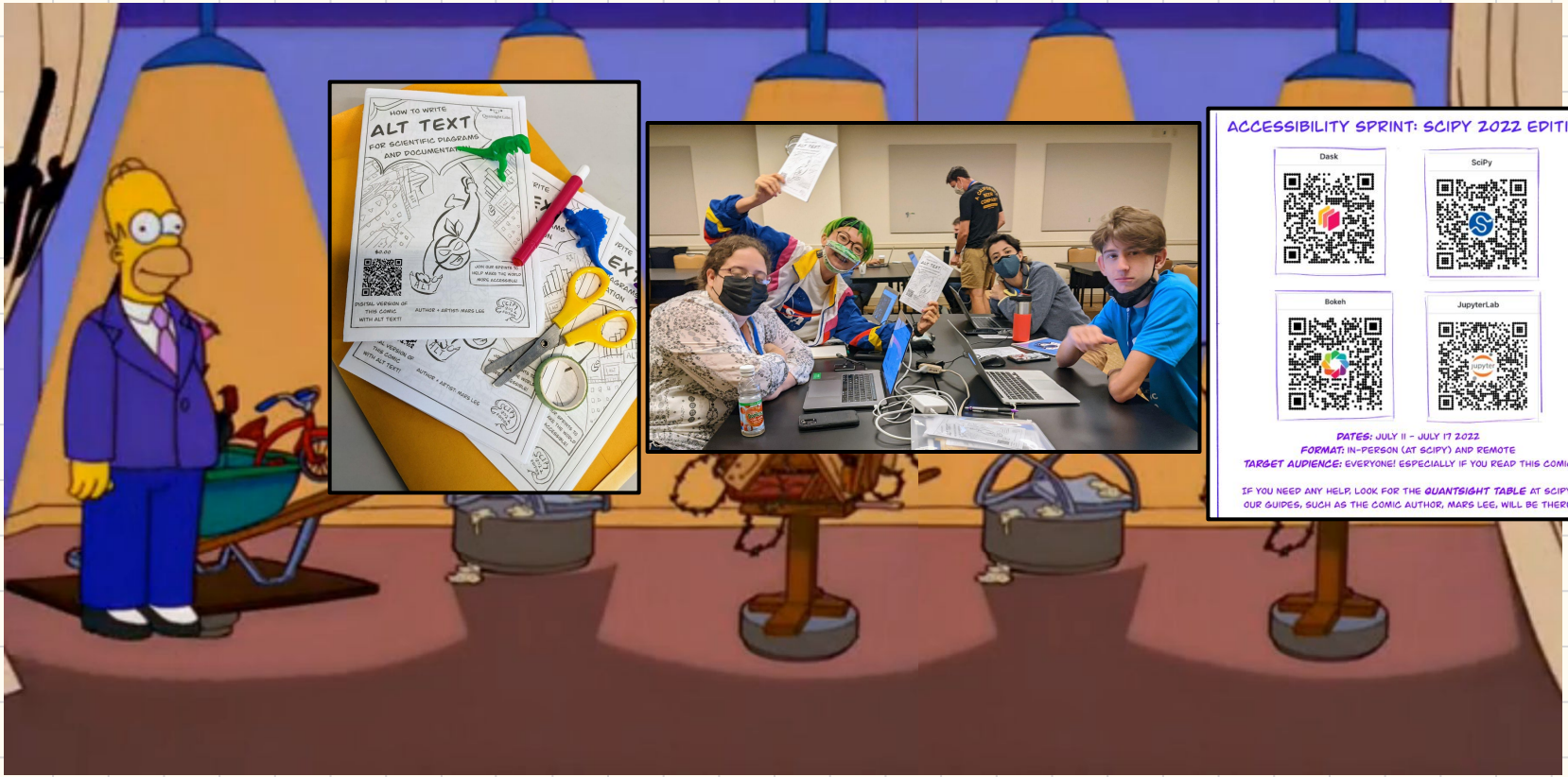

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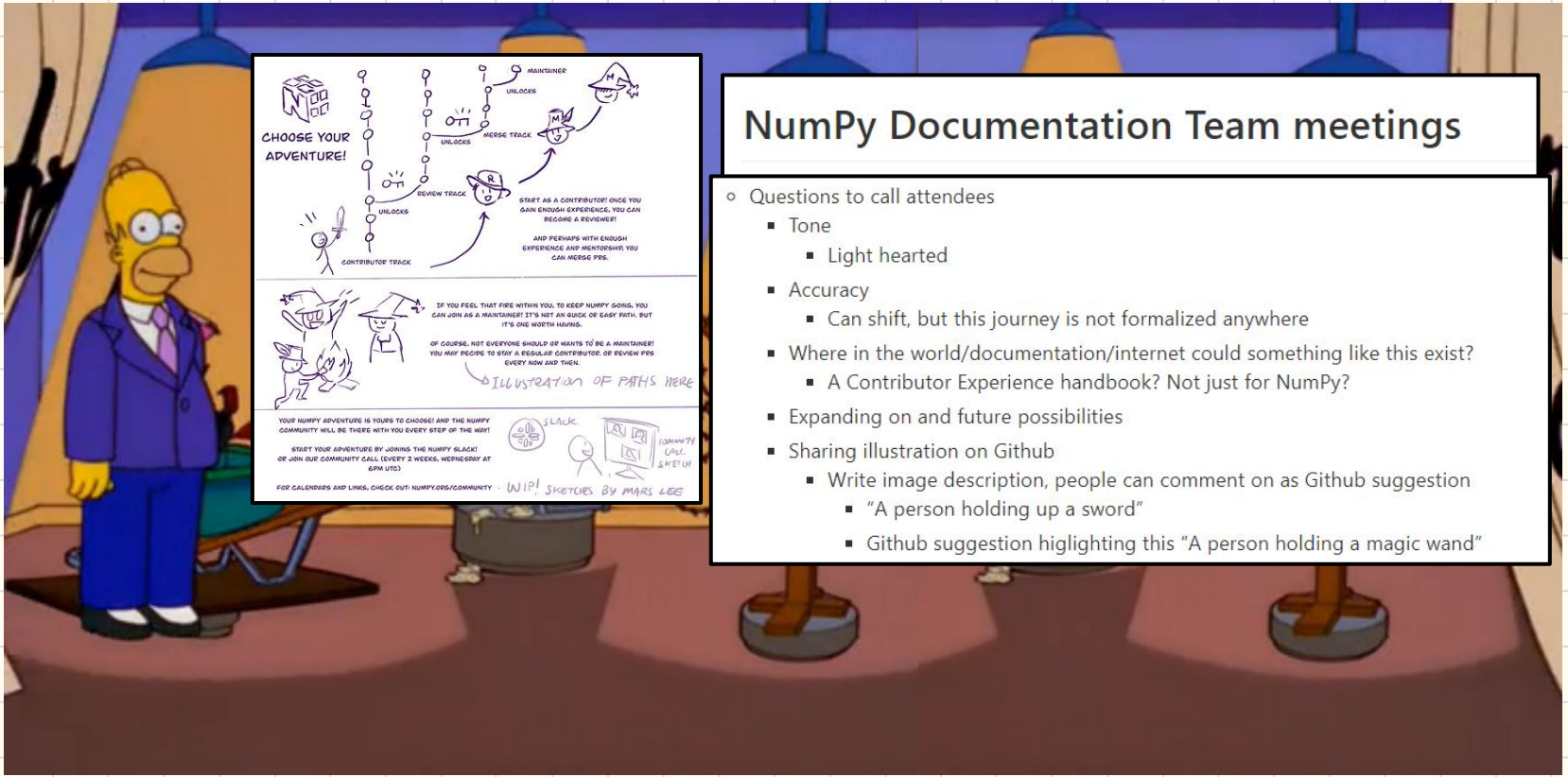
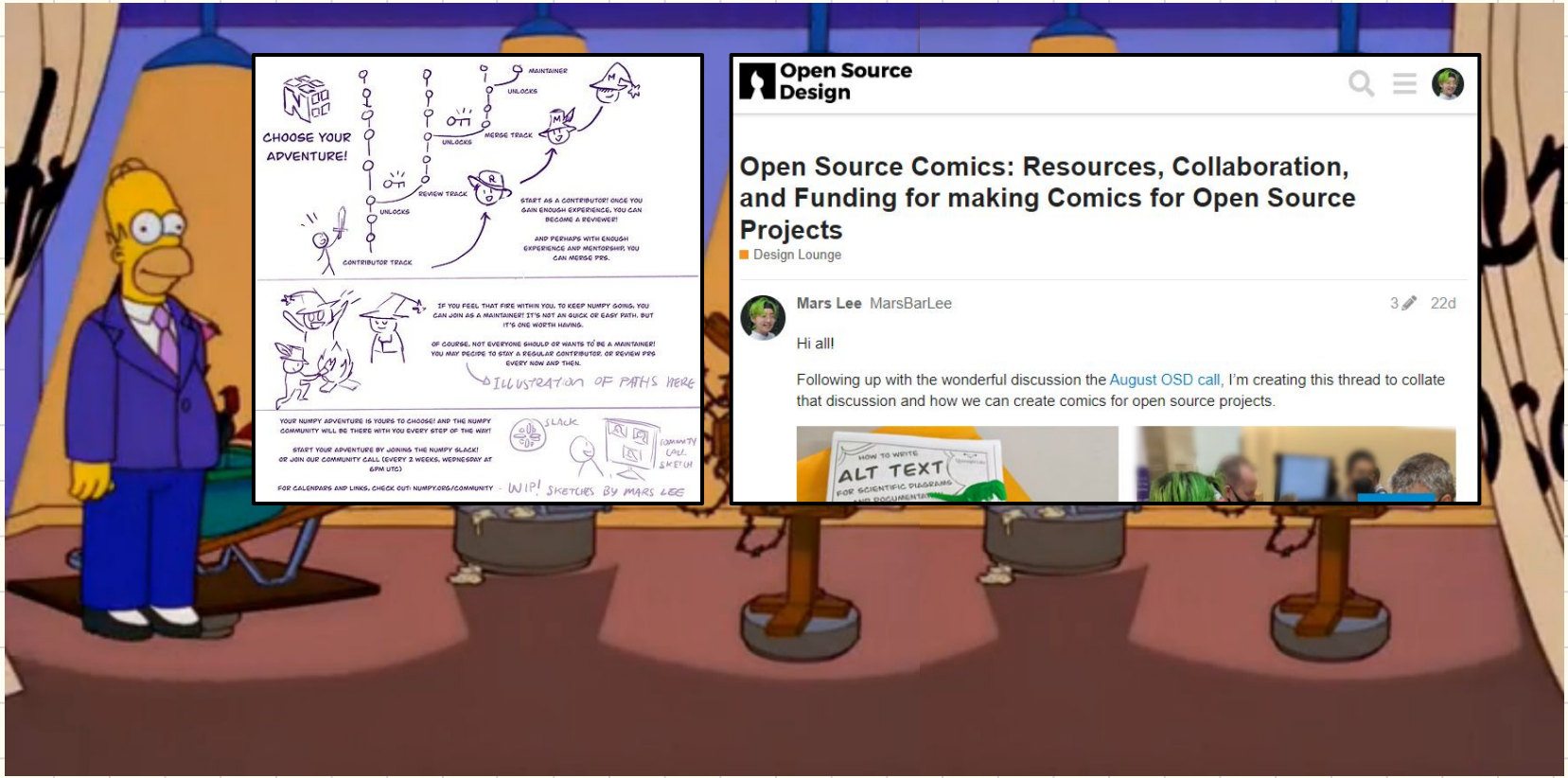


NumPy Documentation Team meetings

- Questions to call attendees
  - Tone
    - Light hearted
  - Accuracy
    - Can shift, but this journey is not formalized anywhere
  - Where in the world/documentation/internet could something like this exist?
    - A Contributor Experience handbook? Not just for NumPy?
  - Expanding on and future possibilities
  - Sharing illustration on Github
    - Write image description, people can comment on as Github suggestion
      - "A person holding up a sword"
      - Github suggestion higlighting this "A person holding a magic wand"

04 MY STRANGE CONTRIBUTIONS



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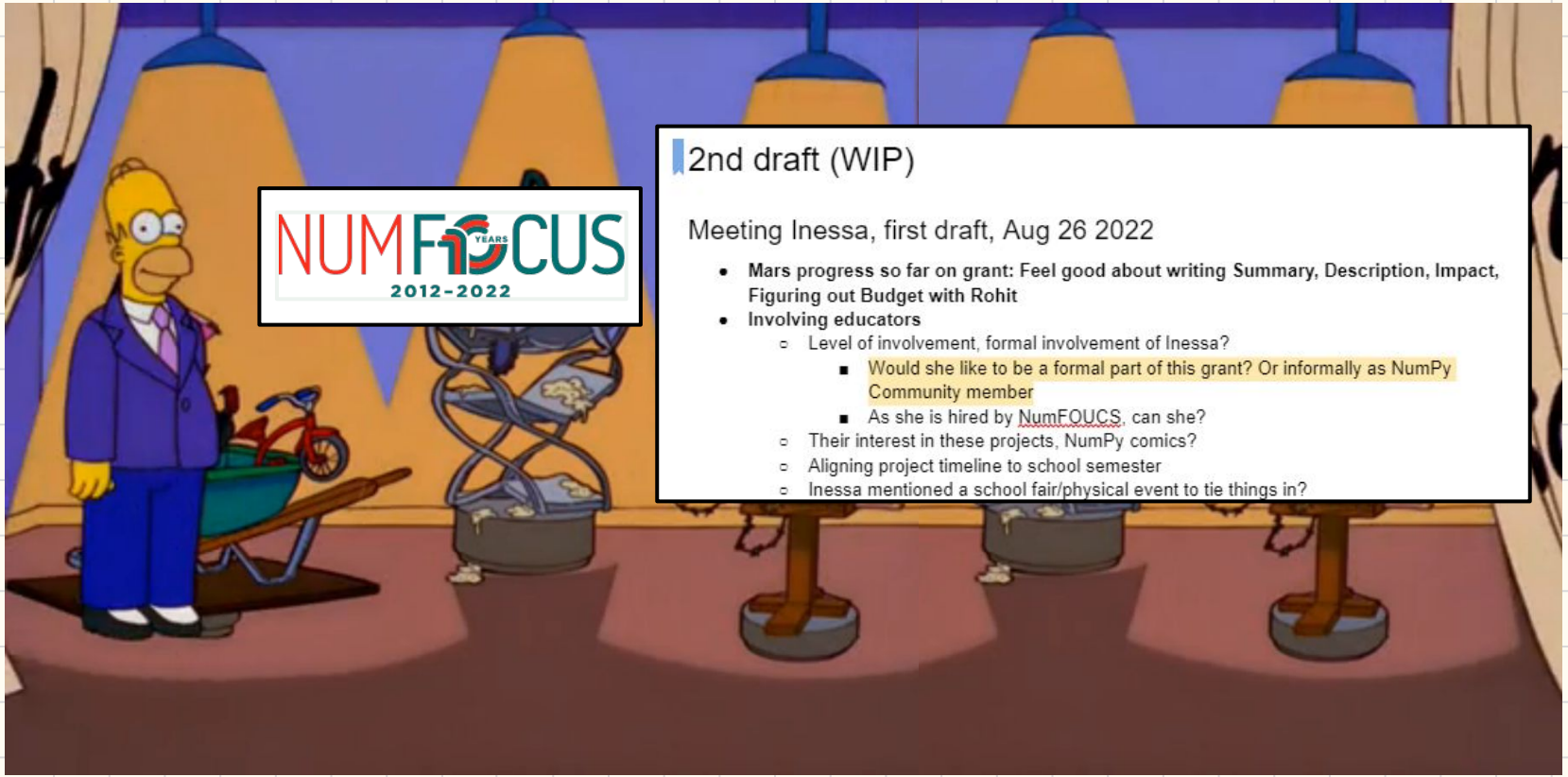
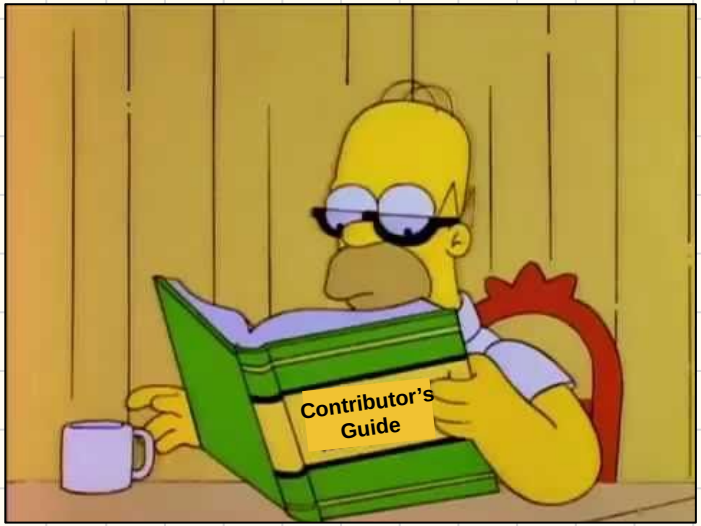


05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you already are a user of open source research software
  - **Think:**
    - How could this be better?
    - Could *I* make it better?

05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you already are a user of open source research software
  - **Check out:**
    - The project's contributor's guide
    - 'Good first issues' tag on Github



05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you want to start but don't have a project in mind...
  - Join **NumPy Newcomer Hour**!
  - Every other Thursday, 2pm UTC
  - Alternates between hang out sessions and host talks
    - Talks on the NumPy Youtube Channel

05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you want to start but don't have a project in mind...
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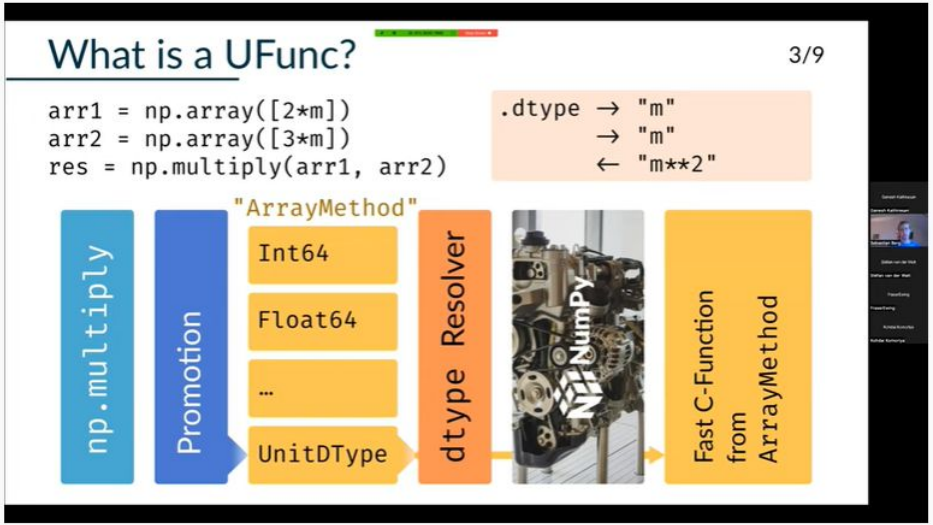
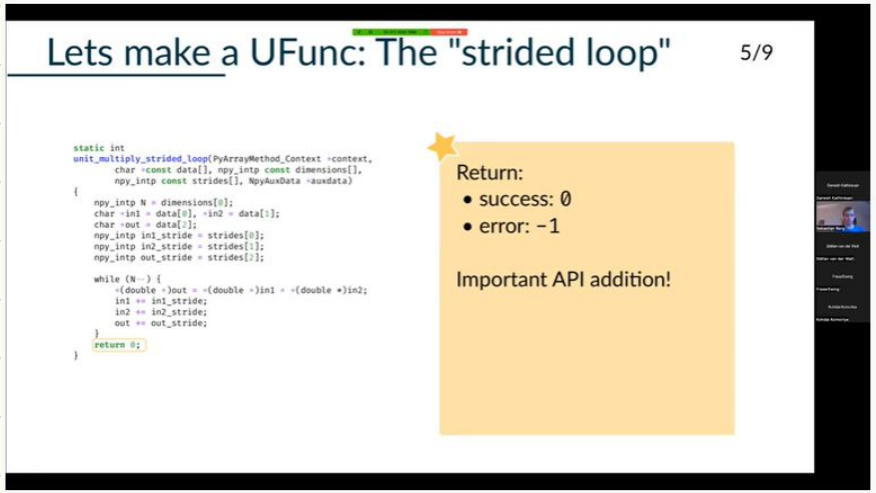
    - **Ufuncs and dtypes: new possibilities in NumPy**



Ufuncs and dtypes: New possibilities in NumPy :: Sebastian Berg



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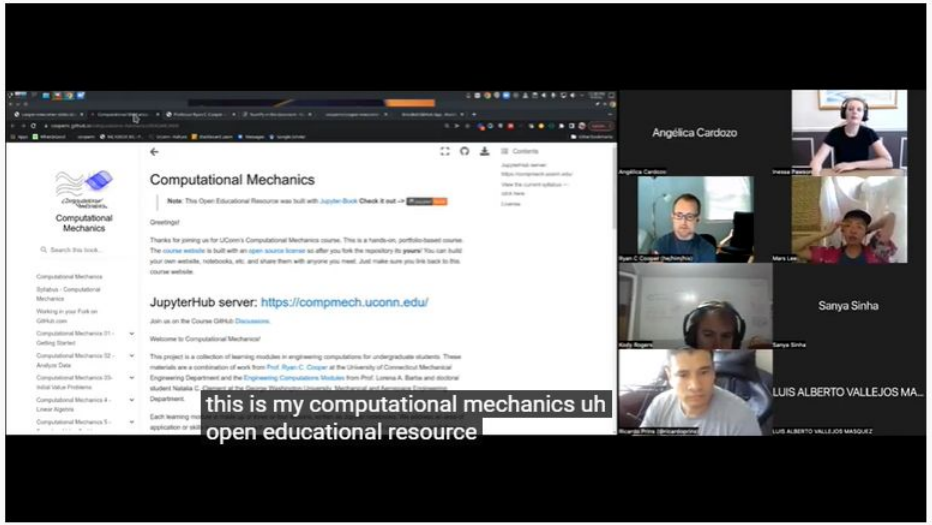
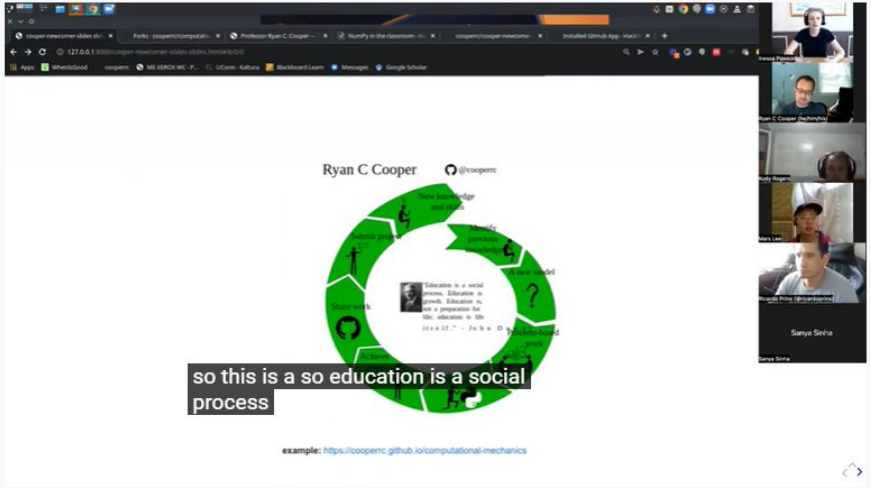
  - Join NumPy Newcomer Hour!
    - **NumPy in the classroom: Open Curriculum for Universities**



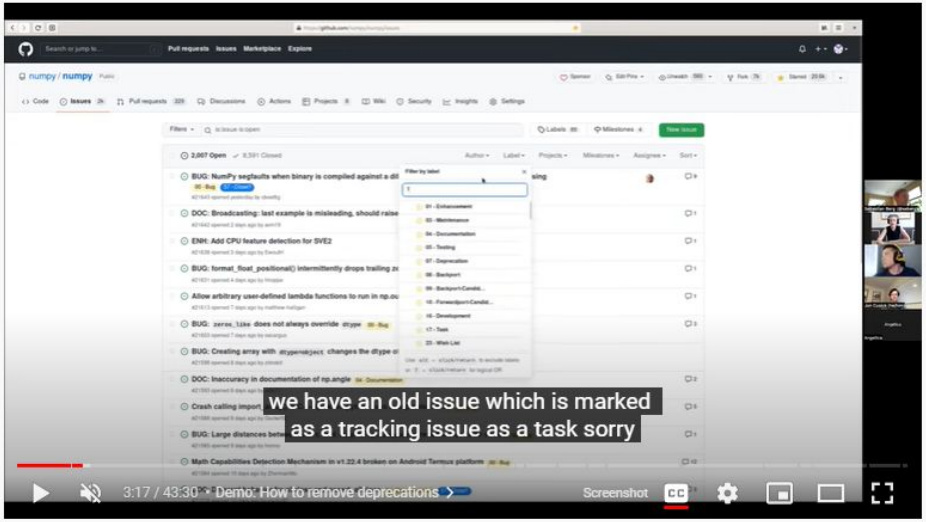
NumPy in the classroom :: Ryan C. Cooper



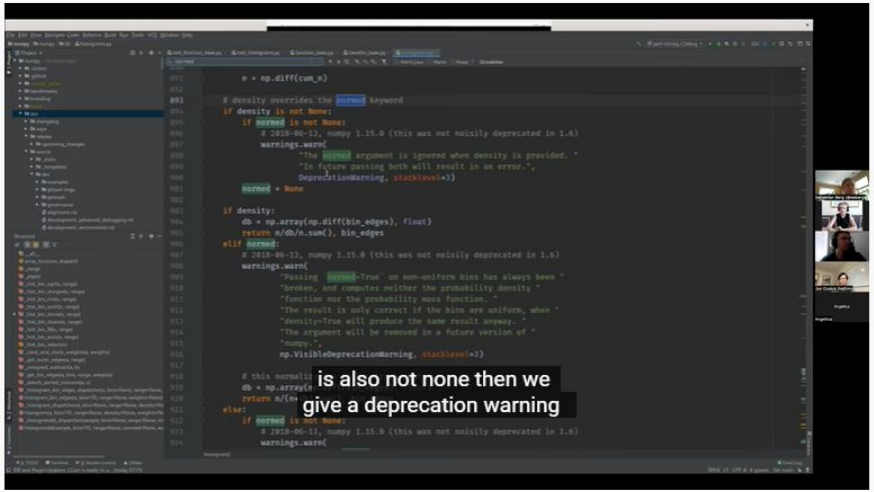
NumPy in the classroom :: Ryan C. Cooper

05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you want to start but don't have a project in mind...
  - Join NumPy Newcomer Hour!
    - **Maintaining NumPy: Deprecations**



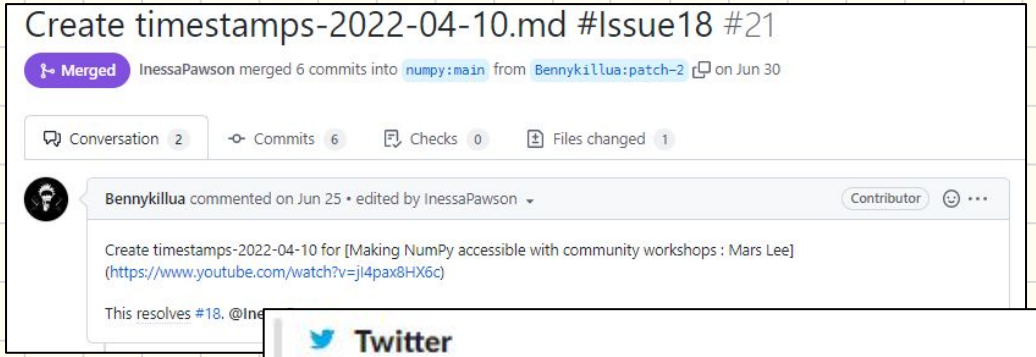
Maintaining NumPy: Deprecations :: Sebastian Berg

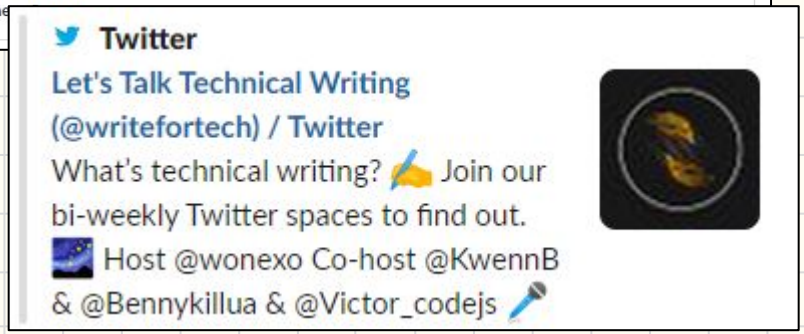


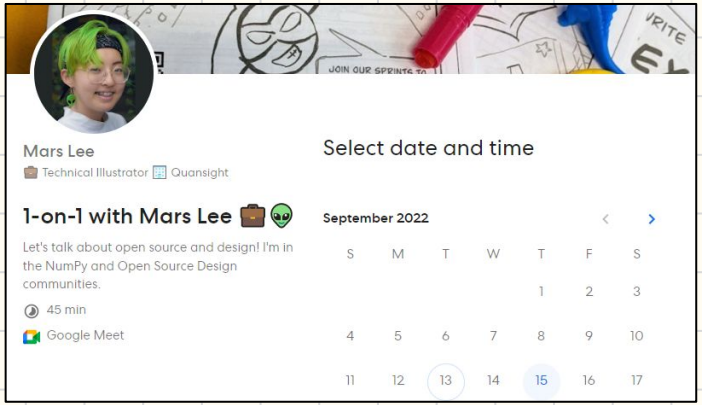
Maintaining NumPy: Deprecations :: Sebastian Berg

05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you want to start but don't have a project in mind...
  - Creating **Timestamps for NumPy's videos**
    - @Bennykillua!





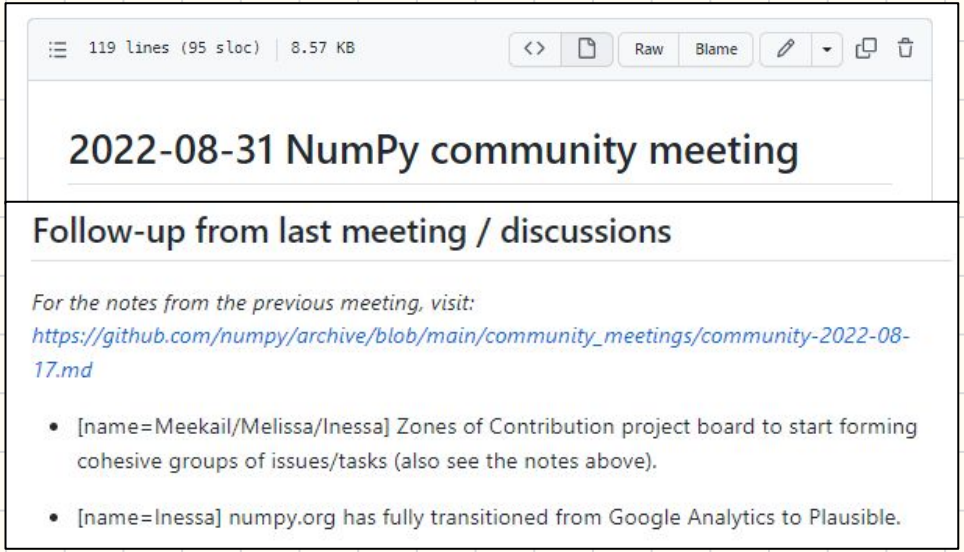


My future blog post: How Technical Illustrators can work hand-in-hand with Technical Writers

- I'll message you once I start writing this

05 HOW YOU CAN START

- If you want to start but don't have a project in mind...
-
  - Write **Meeting Notes** for the NumPy Community Call
-
  - Currently, that's me!
-
  - Soak up like a sponge: Get to know the contributor workflow, reviewers and maintainers before making your first contribution

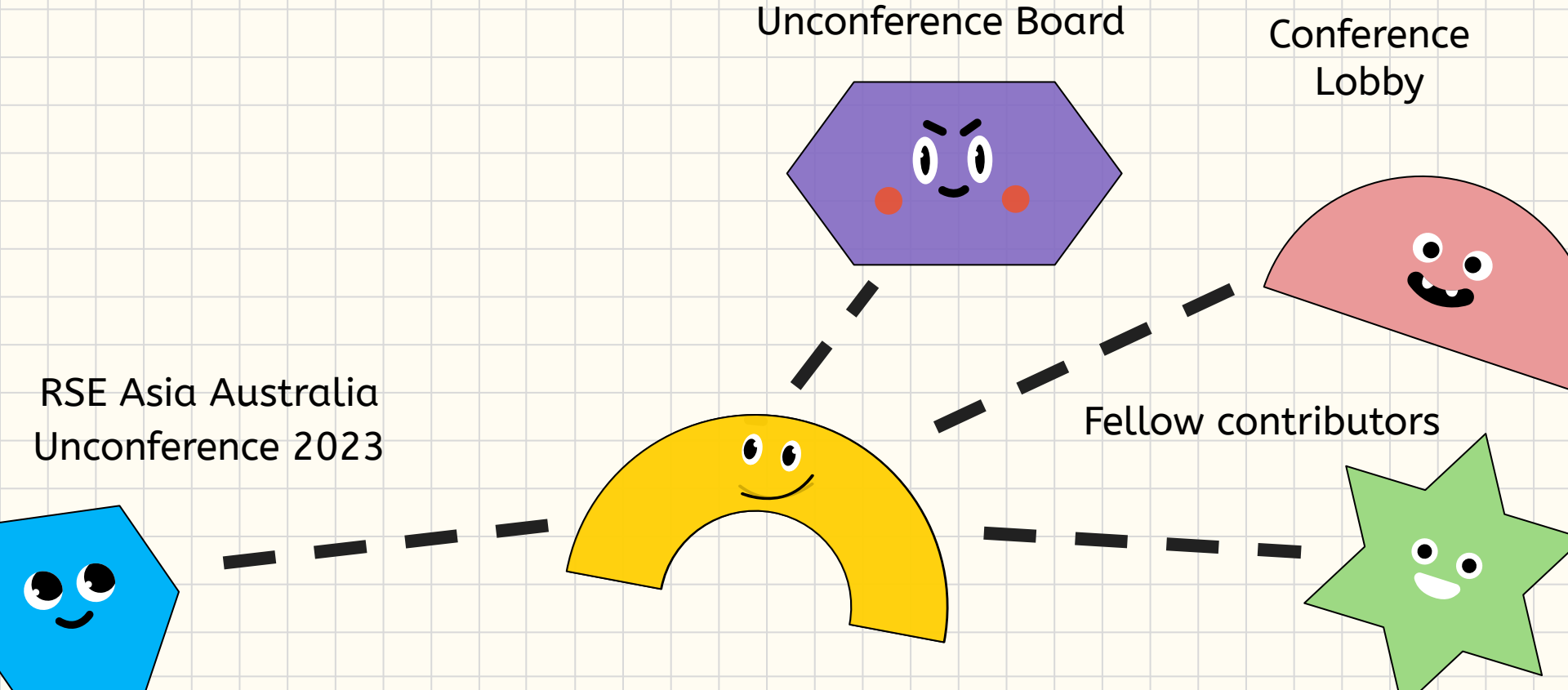


06 OVERCOMING YOUR INSECURITIES

ME

Github account	✓
Social media accounts	✓
Personal website	✗

07 FINDING STRENGTH AND SUPPORT



08 YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

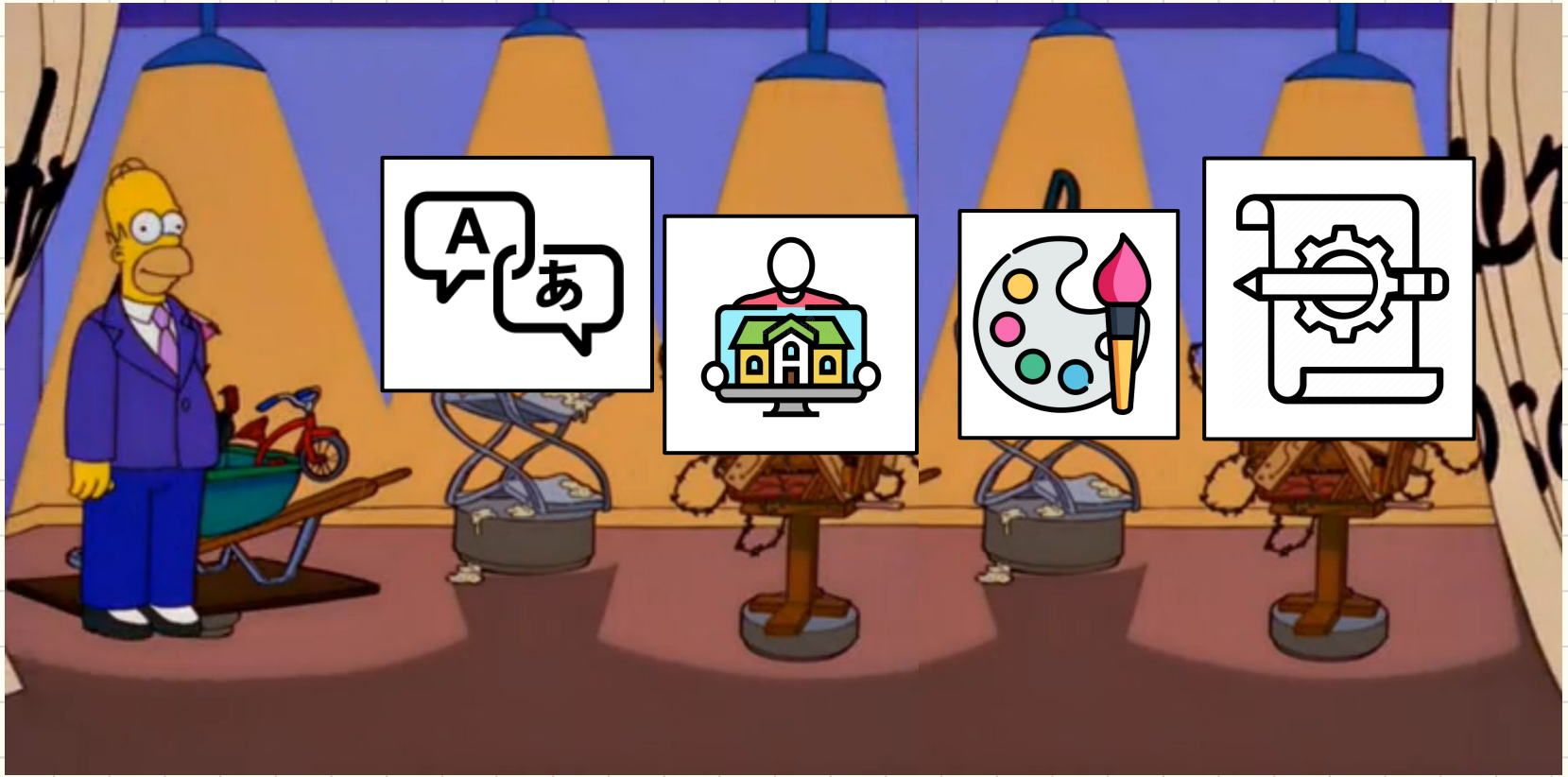
YOU

Your current skills + the skills you want to grow

The research and research software you want to see in the world

Connecting with open source community

08 YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS



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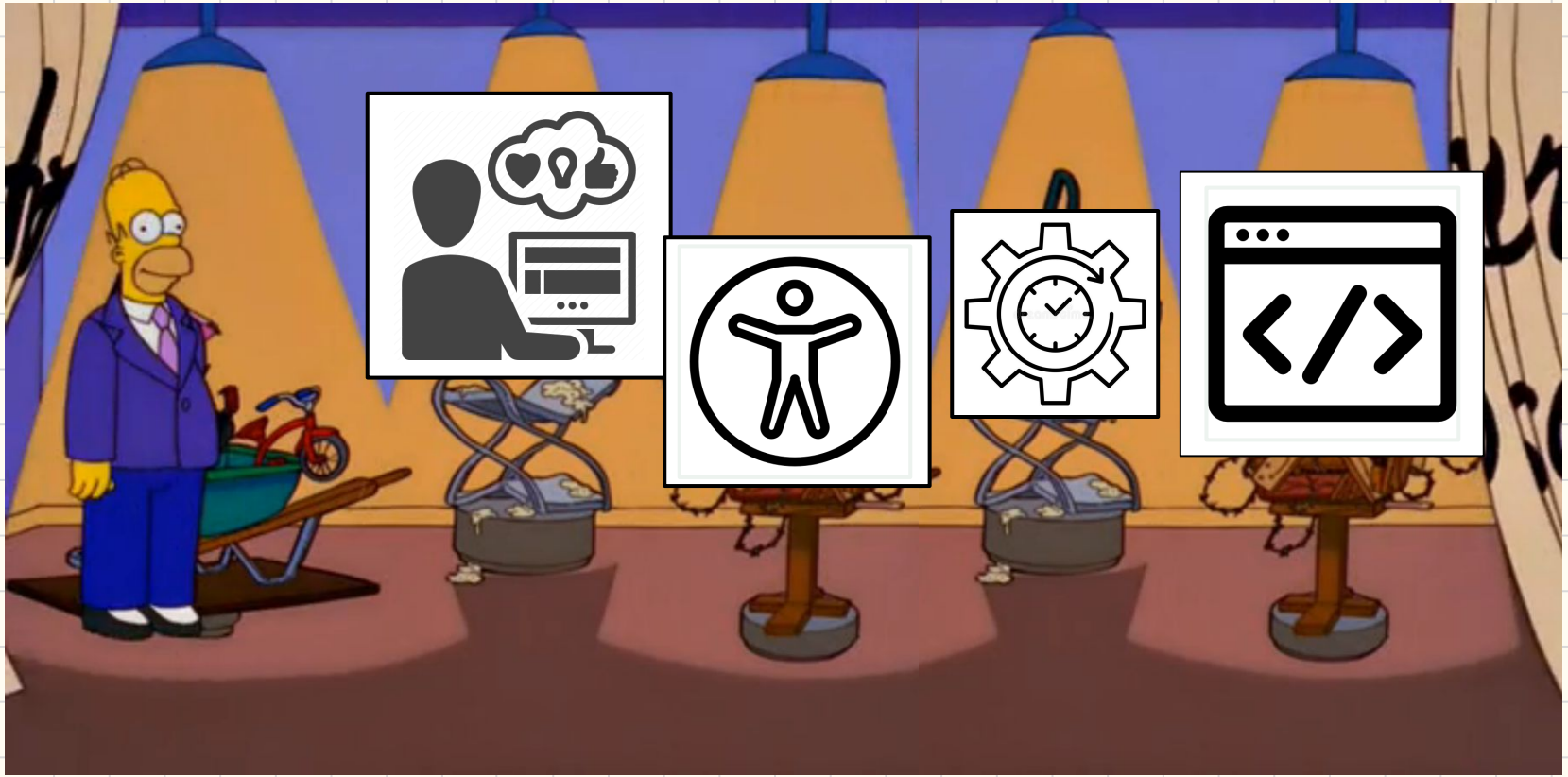
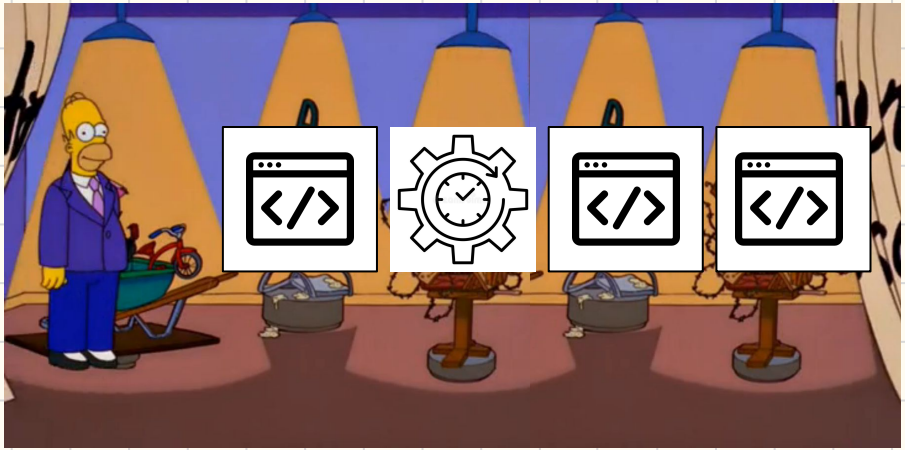


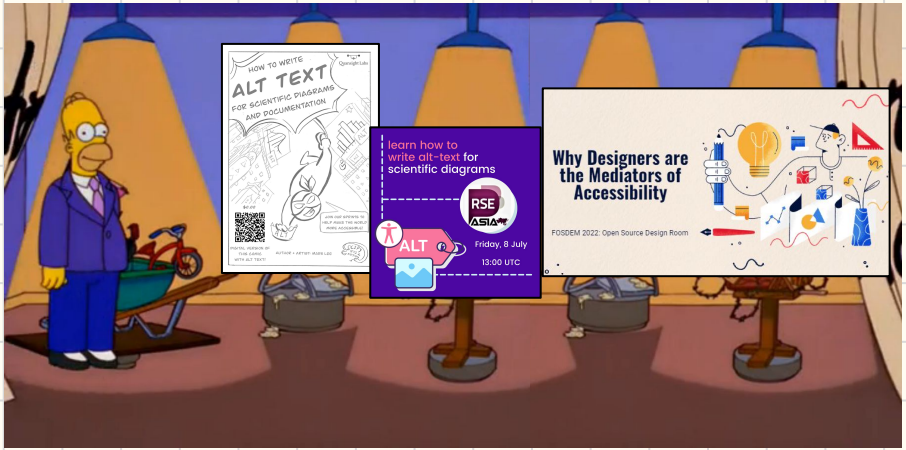
08 YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Recognize my privileges:

- Compensated for my open source work
- Live in North America, part of the Global North
- No dependents

08 YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS





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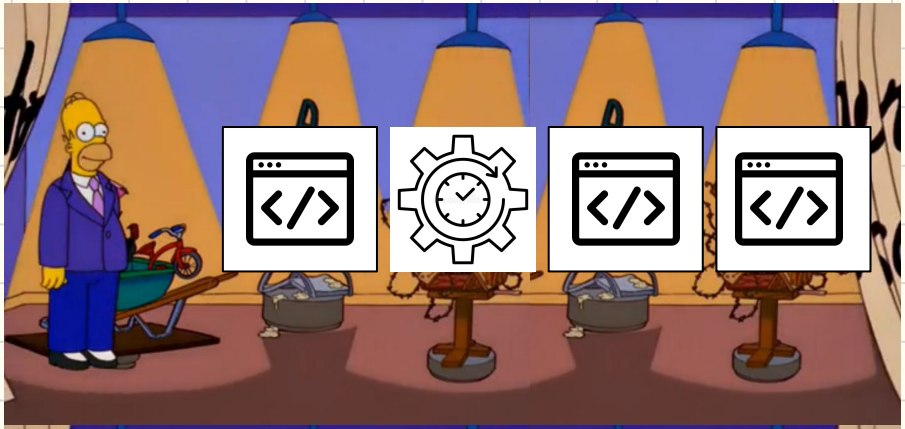

AN UNCONVENTIONAL START:

HOW OPEN SOURCE WILL OPEN YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

THANK YOU!

Thank you to:

RSE Asia Australia Unconference Organizers

- Saranjeet Kaur
- Paula Martinez

NumPy Community

- Melissa Weber Mendonça
- Inessa Pawson

Open Source Design community

- Belén Barros Pena
- Eriol Fox, Bernard Tyers, Jan Dittrich, Juhan Sonin and more!

LET'S CONNECT!

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mlee@quansight.com

- Email me if you like to book a short meeting with me!