

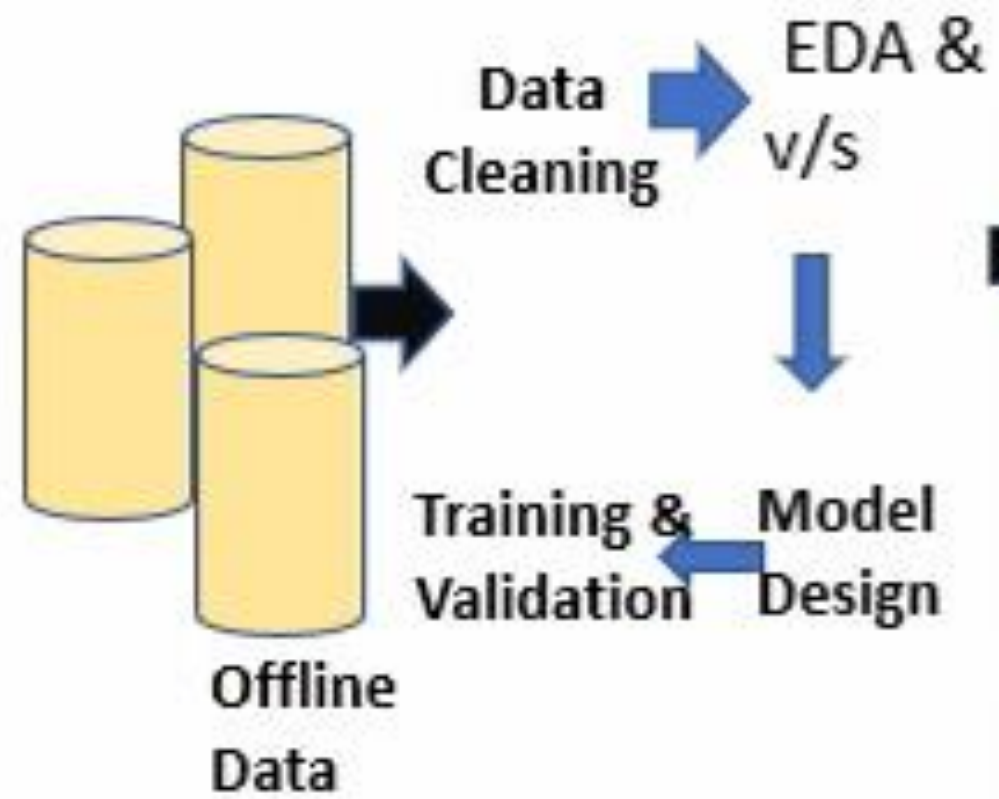


Reality check & tips for thriving in Data Science & Machine Learning jobs landscape

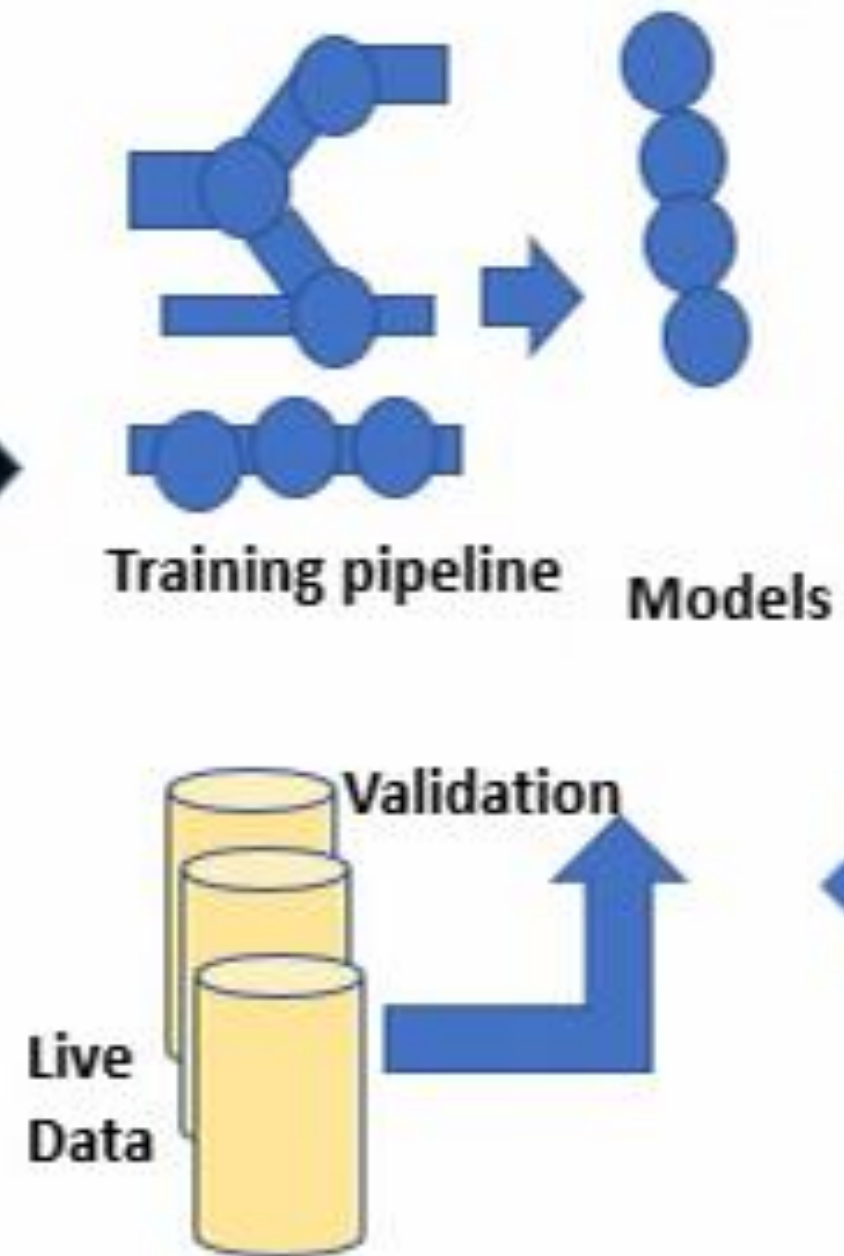
Realist or idealist?

- Are you okay with **any** internship/software job?
 - Adamant on Data science/ ML job?
-
- What is your understanding of data science/ ML job?

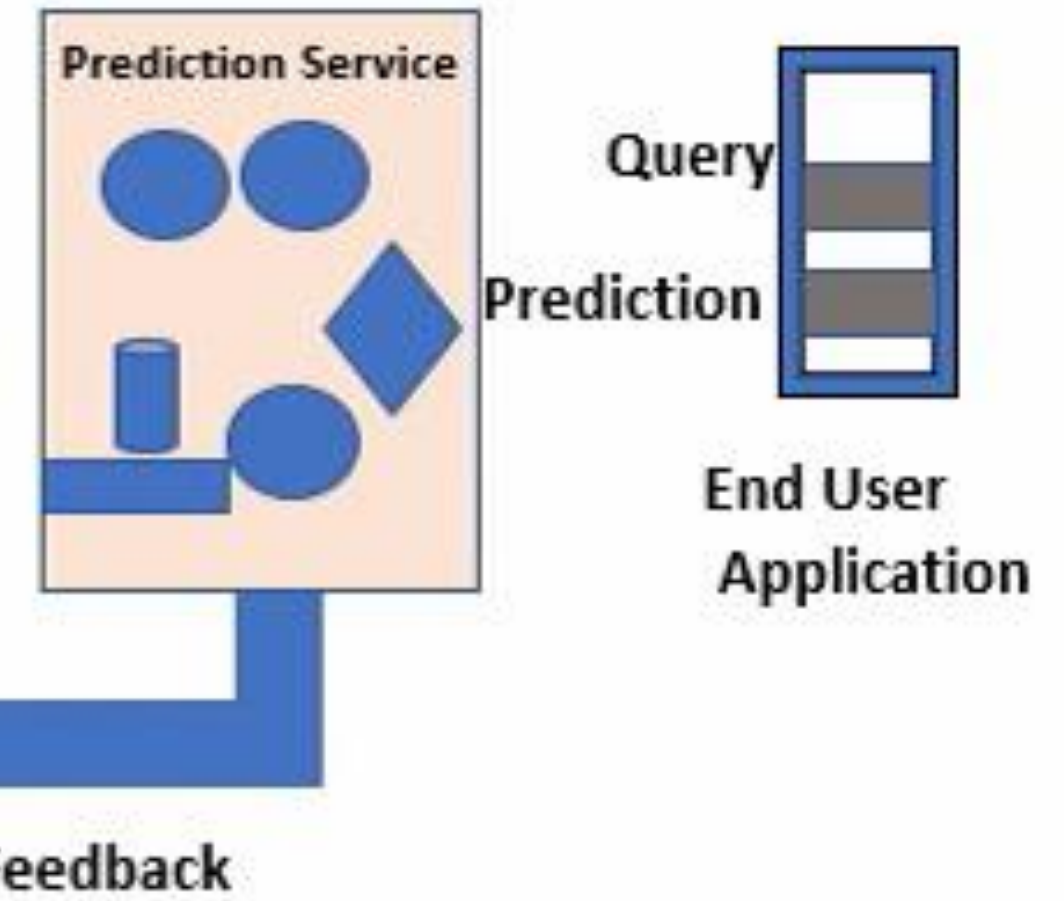
Pipeline Development



Training



Inference



Data Engineer



Data Scientist



ML Engineer



Data Analyst



- Real jobs are a mixture of all these plus
- Other must do things – can be interesting or just laborious

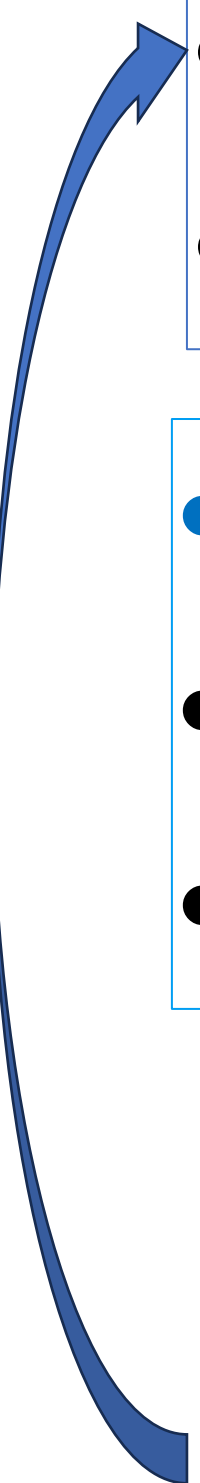
Employability Statistics

- Sad state of affairs 😞
 - Only 7% of engineering graduates are employable
 - Only 3% qualify for startup tech role
- What is the root cause?

How companies work?

- Hire based on THEIR requirements
- Hires should be able to produce results
- Results should benefit organization
- No guarantee of work in DS/ML. Could be any of:
 - Data fetching, cleaning, loading (ETL)
 - Data visualization
 - Development in some other language or UI
 - Full stack
 - Testing

Realist or idealist?

- 
- Are you okay with **any** internship?
 - Or Adamant on Data science/ ML role?
-
- **Placement facts**
 - VLSI first, SDE next, DS and ML may be at the end
 - Some DS and ML companies may not show up at all
-
- Are you willing to give up on earlier SDE roles?
 - What if “that” DS or ML company didn’t show up?
 - Desperation when friends class/roommates placed

Moral of the story

Nature of Internship/job is ALSO a matter of luck



Question to ponder

- Suppose you got 2 jobs – SDE & Data science
- Will you pick Data Science role even if SDE role paid higher?



Harsh truth

Companies have freedom to renege on their good faith agreement of data science role.

Job offer is not a contract binding the company.

No budget for data science role. Take SDE role instead.



Given same pay,
which company will you choose?
Big company or a startup

**You'd think
the answer is
a no brainer**



**I've got news
for you**

Future is gloomy

Why should I study?

**ChatGPT is going
to take a lot of
jobs away**



Lessons from history

- How did people react when calculator first came?
- How did people react when computer first came?

- Commodity jobs go away. Value adding jobs stay
 - E.g. those treating sklearn, keras as api go away
- Your way out -
 - Interdisciplinary - domain + technical expertise
 - Deep technical expertise alone
- You have an advantage

Study smart & practice

- Get your basics and concepts straight
- Don't pour all efforts into just "remembering"
- 80% of "remembered" stuff is forgotten in months
- Understanding & applying is important than memorization
- Key for career success – Intuition, problem solving
- Intuition -> Maths -> Programming

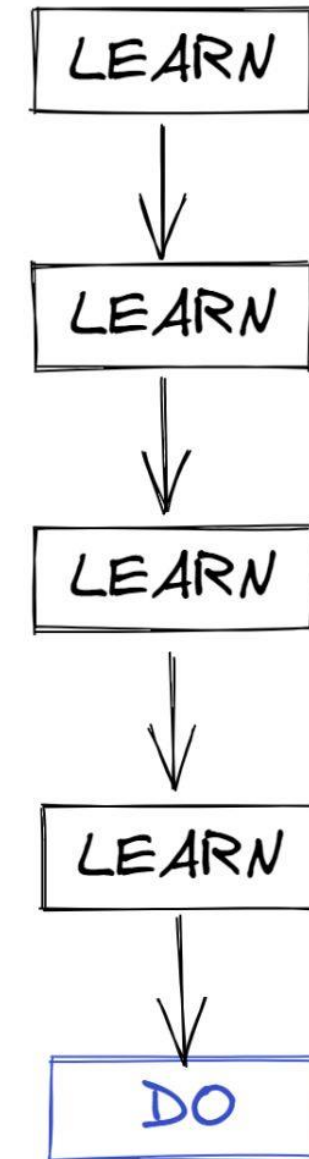
Learning philosophy



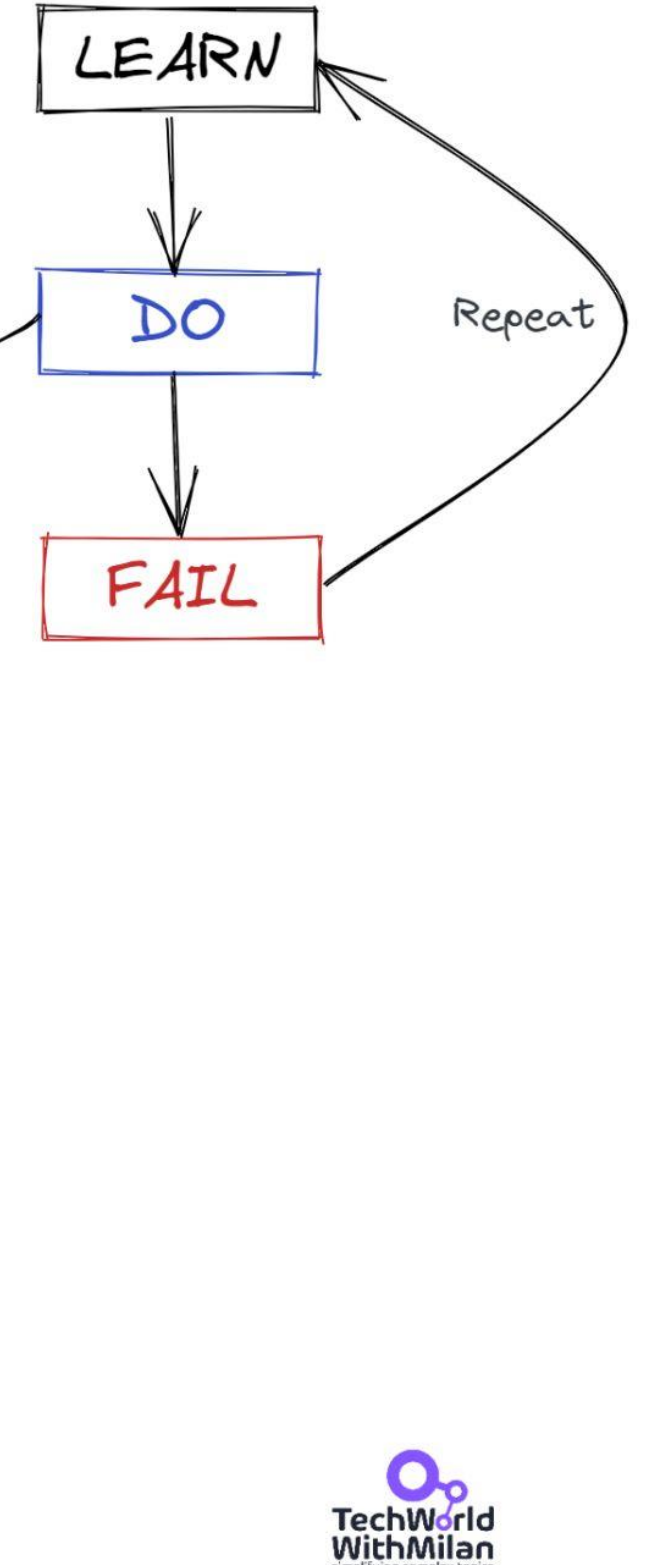
Understanding is more important
than **memorization**.

—Richard Feynman

CLASSIC LEARNER



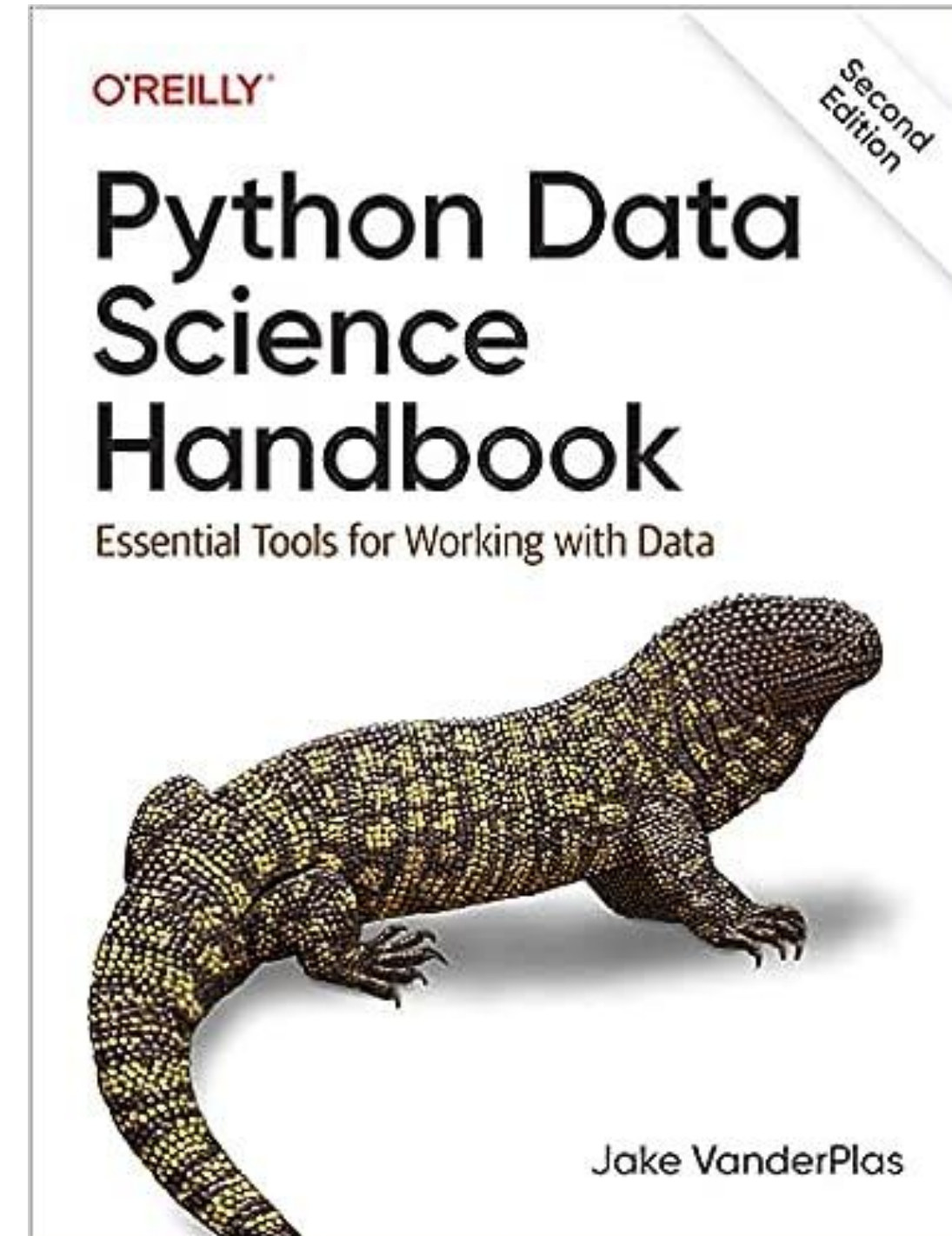
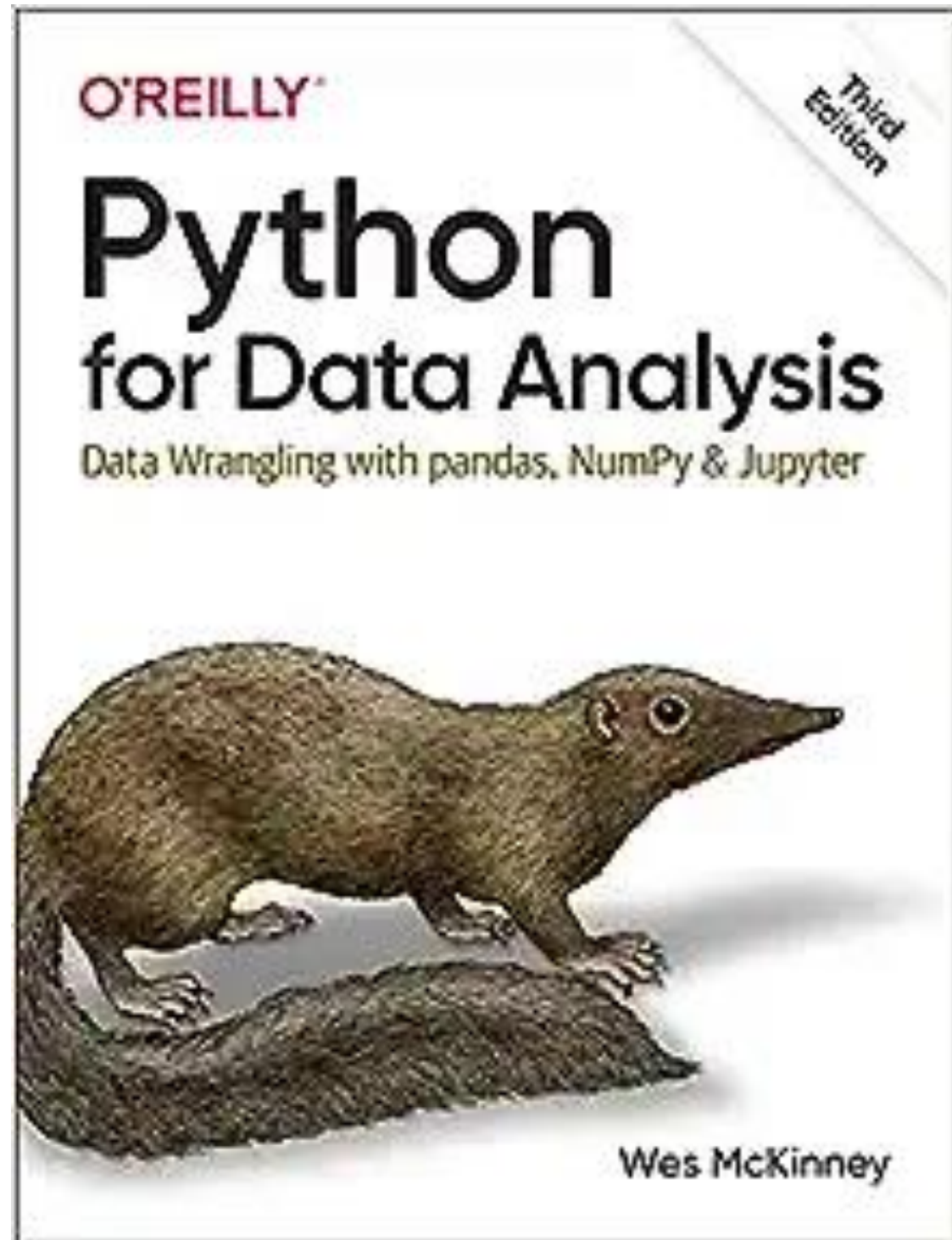
SMART LEARNER



Tips for placement prep

- Build github profile, keep updating throughout sem
- Put in your CV
- Keep coding - Practice Practice practice
- Set goals – Finish Numpy, Pandas in first 10-20 days
- Do a lot of hands-on EDA
- Don't copy somebody else's work or fork and claim as yours
- Get comfortable in using product documentation

Pick any



- My preference – Second book
- Be systematic, annotate, revise

Tips for placement prep

- Stress and showcase important skills
- For e.g. if you showcase a lot of visualization, you will get Data Analyst jobs
- Use Copilot, ChatGPT while coding
- Follow this:
 - Understand object oriented programming well
 - Learn to understand existing code from others
 - E.g. Look at scikit-learn repo on best practices
 - Rinse and repeat

Tips for placement prep

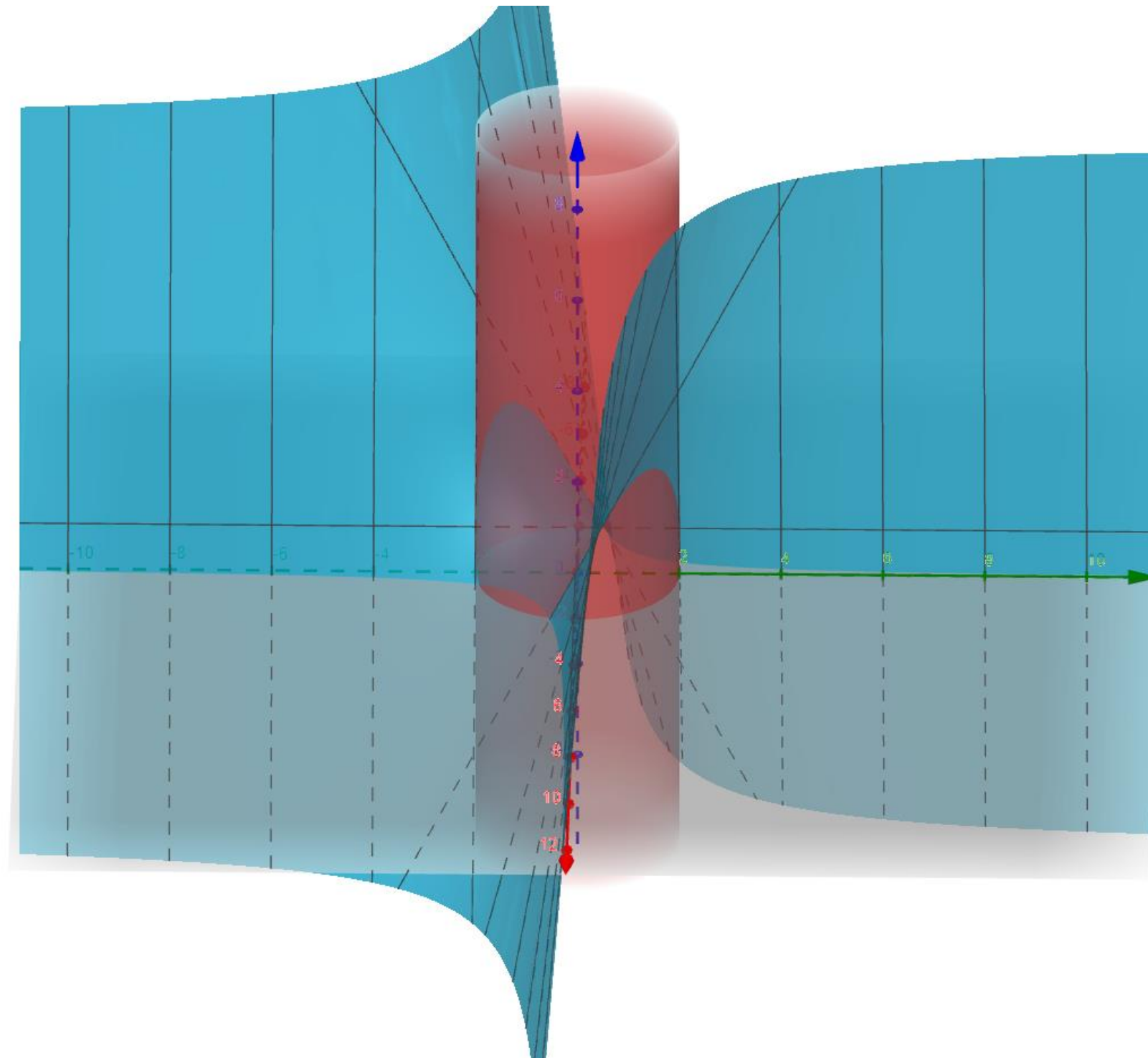
- C, Python
- Linux - scripting
- SQL
- Nice to haves
 - Containerization (after everything else)
- Mental aptitude, reasoning

Sample interview questions for EDA role

- Pandas join merge resampling grouping windowing
- Pandas 1.x versus 2.x
- Polars
- Have you encountered PyArrow?
- Have you tried to execute numpy ops using GPU?
- Sklearn is slow, How will you make it faster?
- Can sklearn run in GPU?

Mantras for the semester

- Failing to plan = planning to fail
- Learn to learn – SQ3R, Feynman technique
- Having fun is an exercise in constrained optimization





QUESTIONS



Thank You!