

# Getting Data Done with a Pragmatic Data Team

Alan Schussman  
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The first Western  
expedition to  
climb Annapurna  
didn't know how  
to reach the  
mountain



# Are we *data scientists*, tho?

“When we get to be data scientists, will we be able to ...?”

“Can we do data science without [tool, method, application, pandas]?”

“Am I really doing data science work when [I spent the whole week figuring out an infrastructure thing]?”

# Yes, we're *data scientists*

“...even when some of the work may not  
**look like data science...**”

“...although I know you want to do  
more machine learning, AI, PROC  
LIFEREG...”

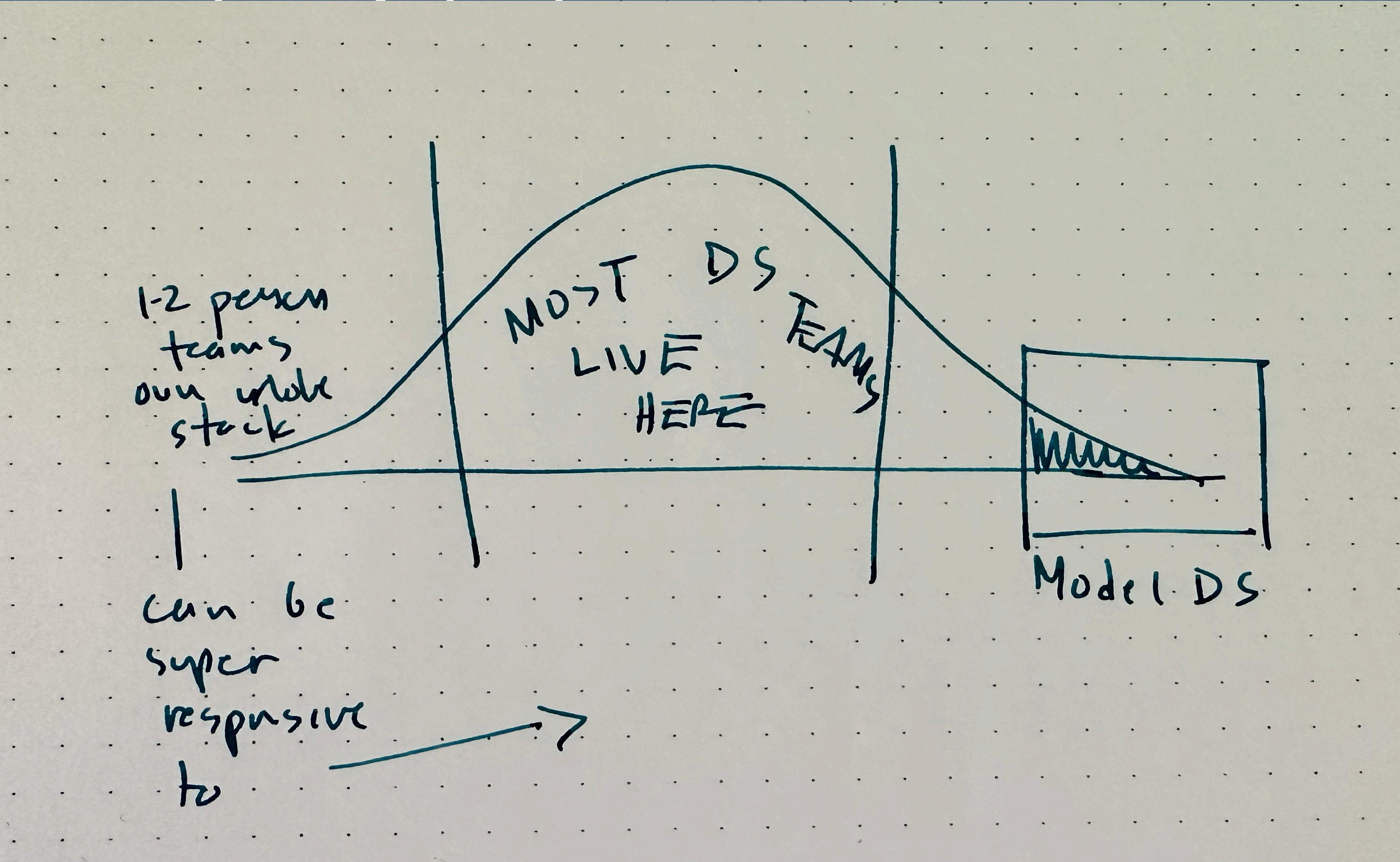


“...although I know you want to do  
more machine learning, AI, PROC  
LIFEREG...”

# Pragmatic data teams...

- Some strategy
- Ad-hoc solving with available tools
- Tons of variety

# Principles



*How do we make data science jobs more  
healthy for more data scientists?*

# Set expectations carefully and honestly

| “develop and build new data assets and models”

AND

| “become an SME for needed businesses processes and data domains”

AND

| “build and support analytics capability such as data pipelines and integrations”

Mis-match is high risk!

# Hold the frame between the what and the how

**What** our businesses and functions need us to do

**How** we approach the work and what we want to learn

🔥 It's dangerous to  
fill missing capabilities 🔥

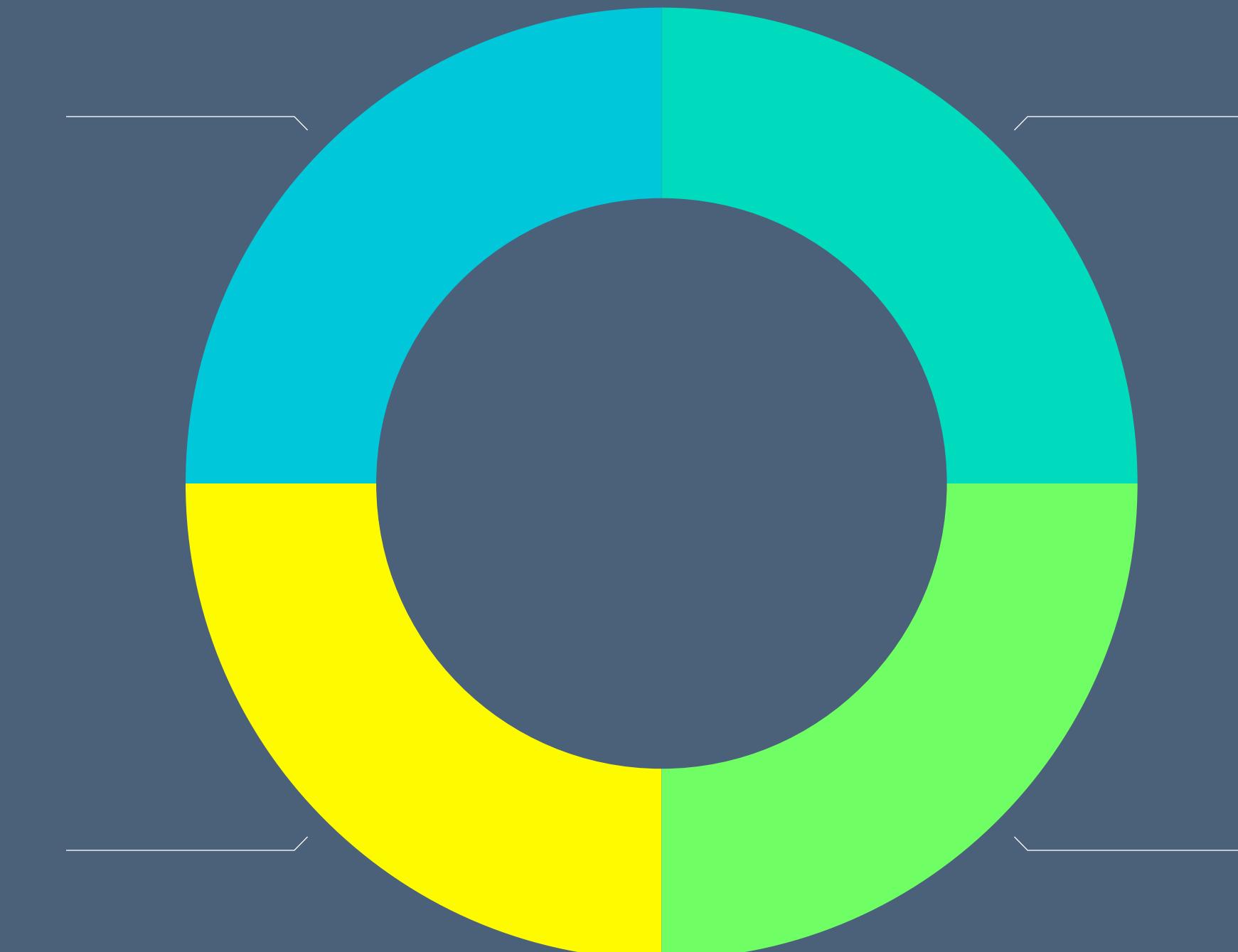
~~say yes to  
everything~~



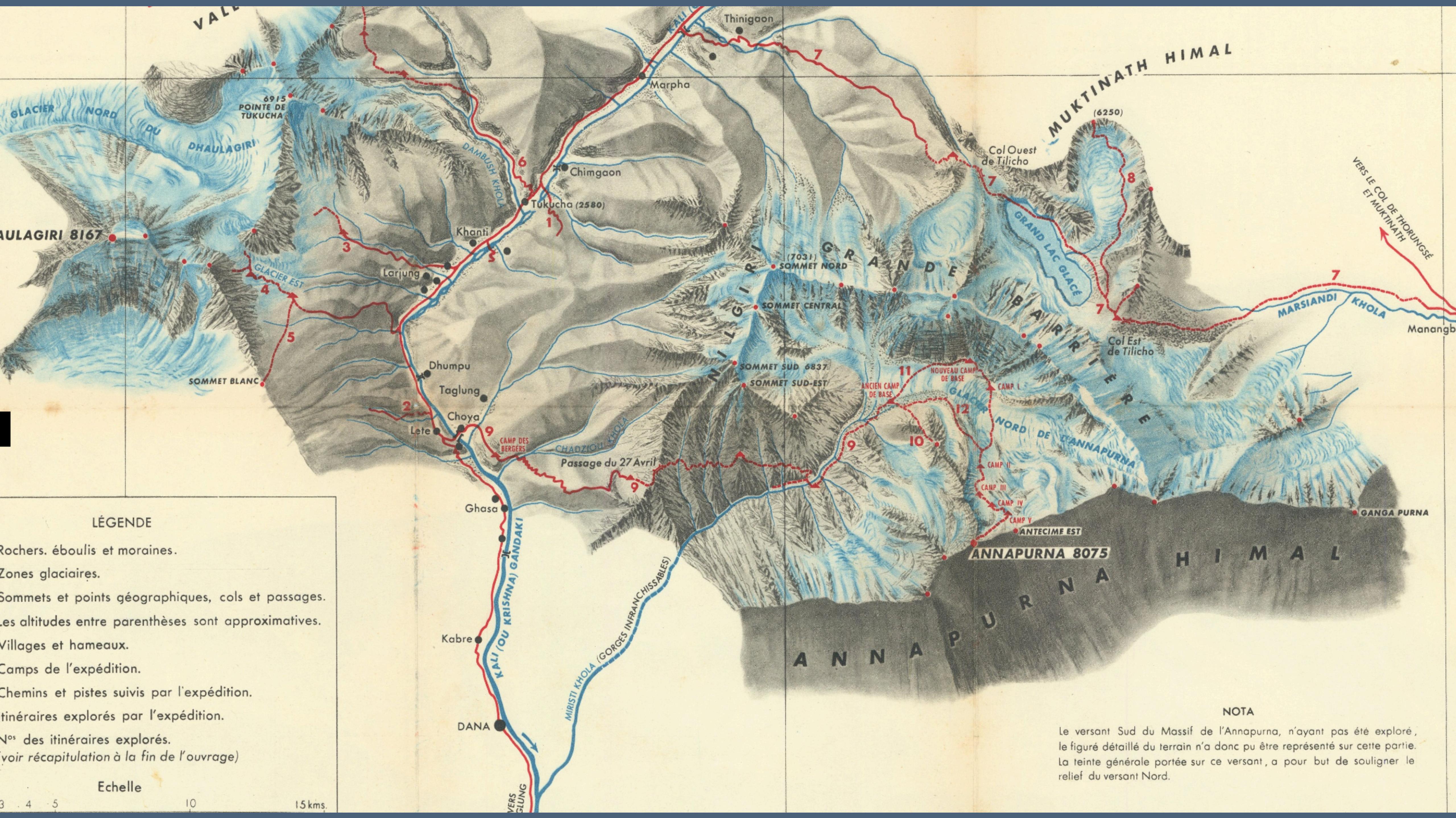
~~You built it, you own it~~

~~make heroic sacrifices~~

# Data scientists make their own fate



“You've earned the opportunity...”



I propose that work to find the  
mountain is still mountaineering

# thanks



[alanschussman.com](http://alanschussman.com)

Annapurna photo CC BY-NC 2.0 b3nmaclean

Annapurna map, Lucien Dubresson, 1951