SUSTAINERS OF THE

tidyverse

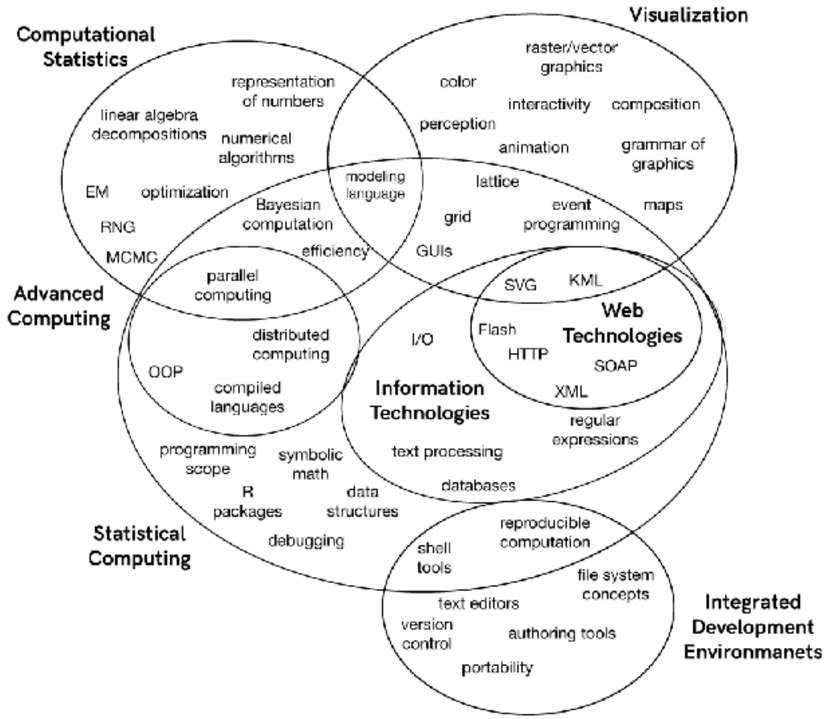
Mara Averick (@dataandme)

Tidyverse Developer Advocate,

Not a Real Data Scientist™

Mara Averick

TIDYVERSE DEV ADVOCATE, RSTUDIO



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SCIENCE & SOCIETY

Studying scientists...

> “Like many social groups that do not reproduce themselves biologically, the experimental particle physics community renews itself by training novices.”
>
> — Sharon Traweek, *Pilgrim's Progress: Male Tales Told During a Life in Physics*, 1988

In Beamtimes and Lifetimes: The World of High Energy Physics. (1988). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

RStudio®

OPEN SOURCE TOOLS
Create demand

Enterprise Products
Invest in

Strategy

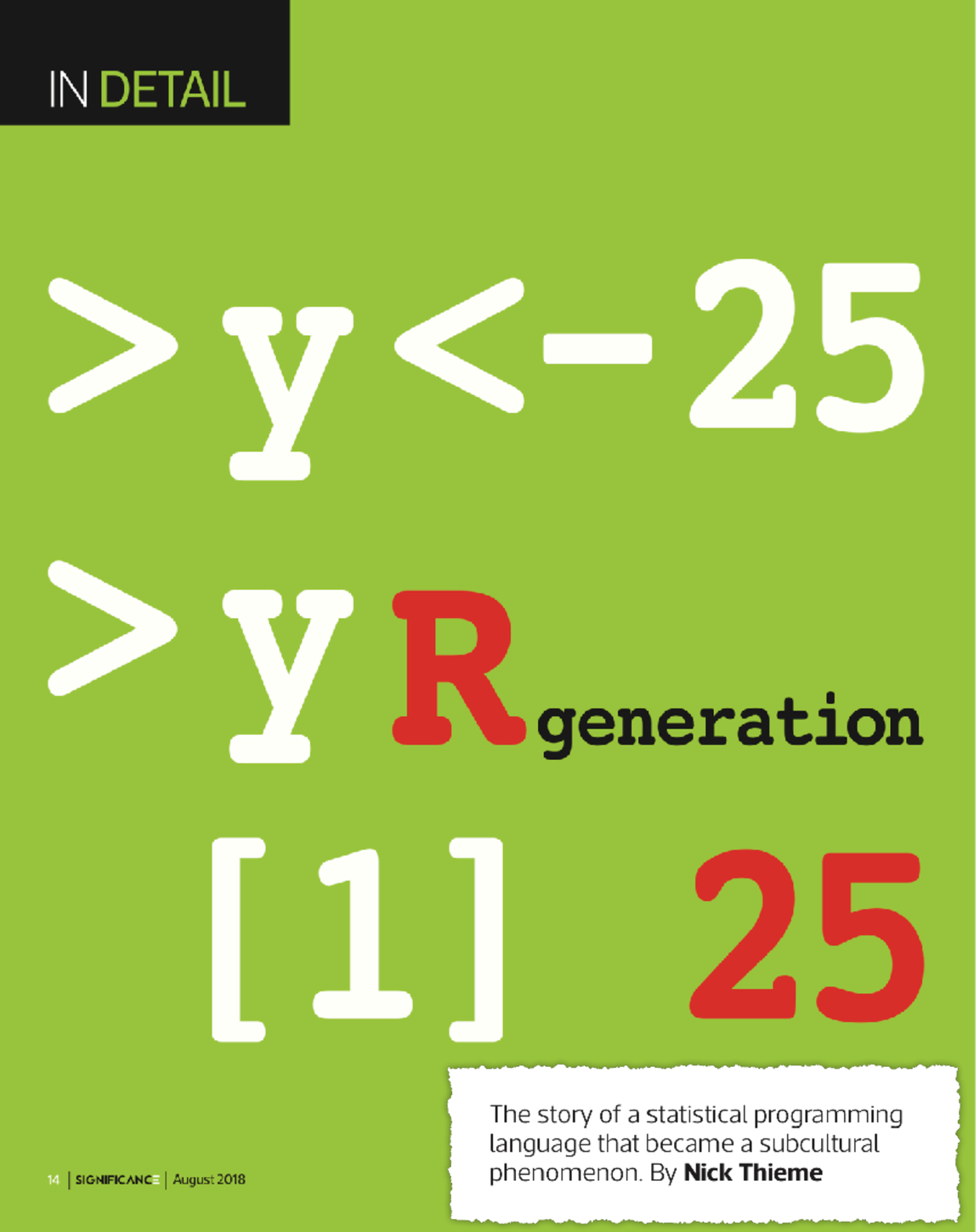
58%

of company is Engineering

60%

of engineering is open source

RStudio



25 years of R

- 1992 Robert Gentleman and Ross Ihaka (S)
- Statistical programming language
- Maintained by R Core
- 2000 R version 1.0.0
- Over 16,000 packages on CRAN

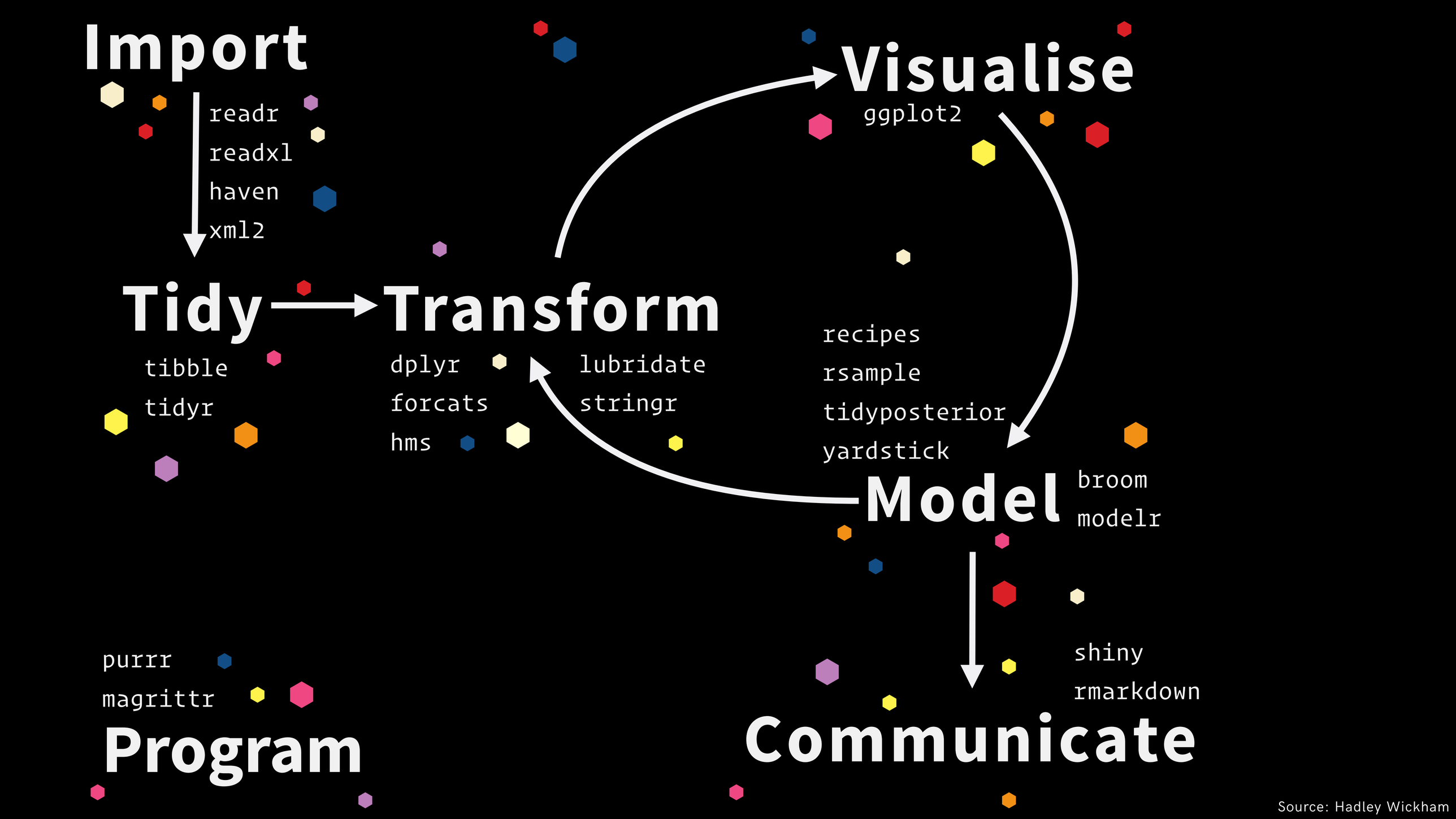
Thieme, N. (2018). R generation. Significance, 15(4), 14–19. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1740-9713.2018.01169.x

What is the tidyverse?

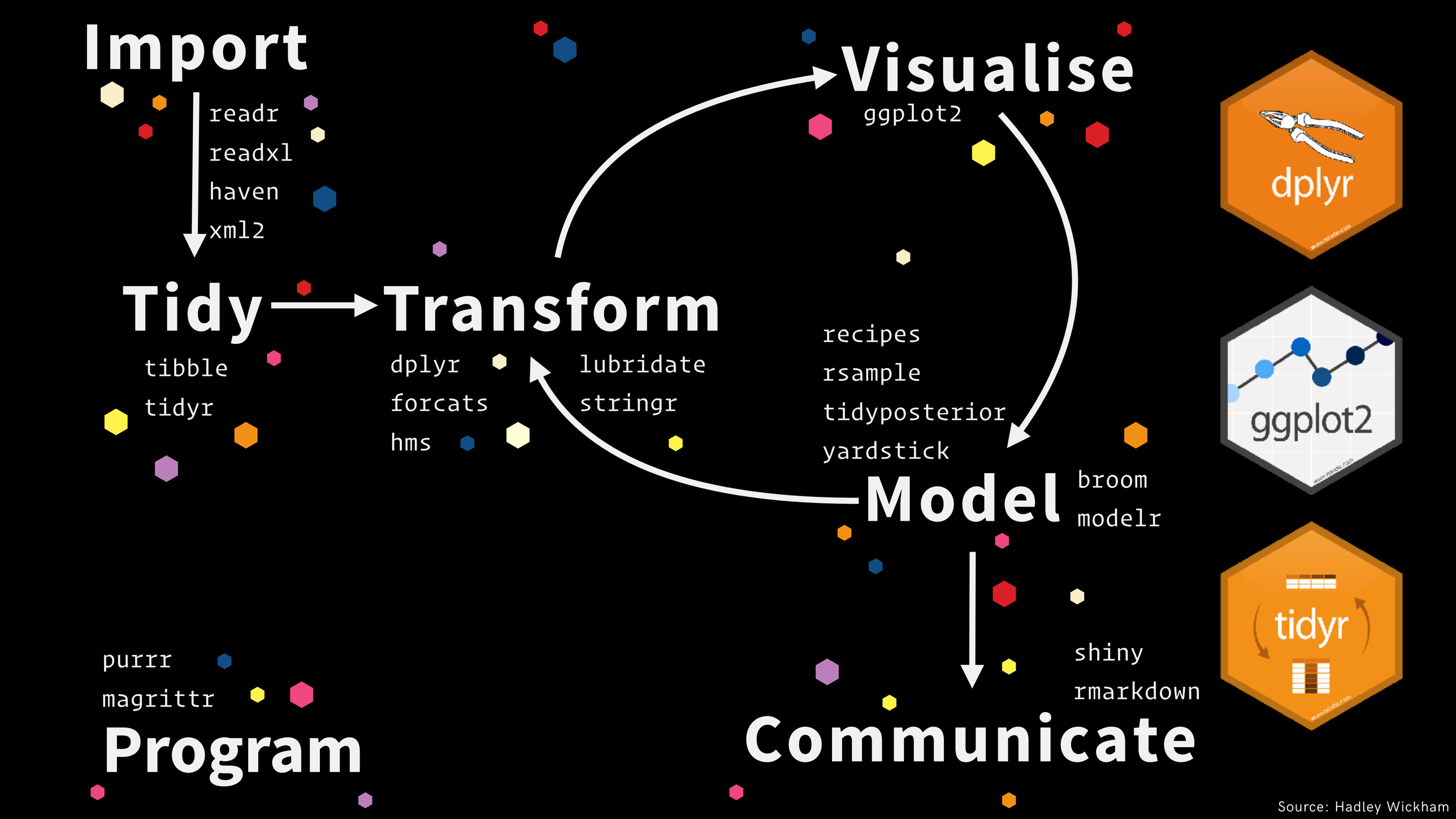
The tidyverse is an opinionated collection of R packages designed for data science.

All packages share an underlying design philosophy, grammar, and data structures.

source: https://www.tidyverse.org/



Source: Hadley Wickham



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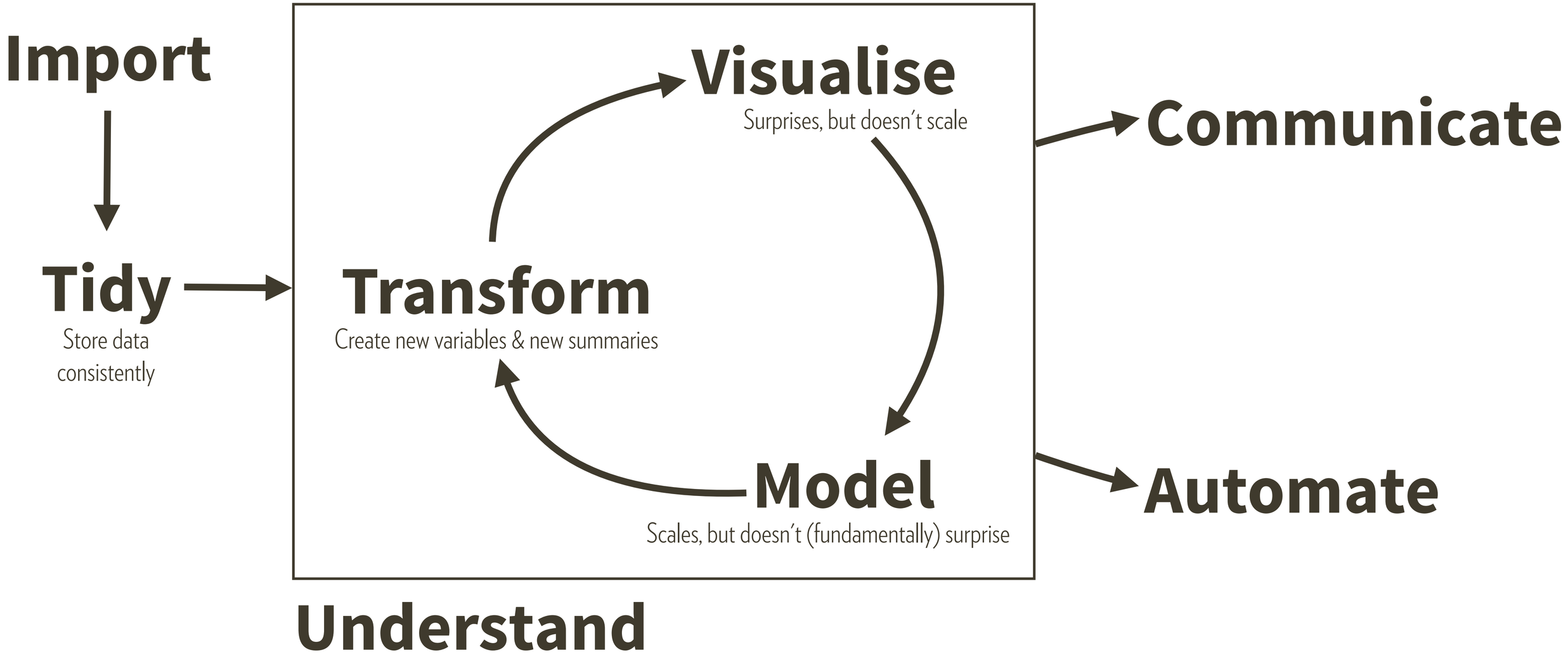


src: Hadley Wickham

TIDY TOOLS

Functions should be...

SIMPLE

Do one thing and do it well.

COMPOSABLE

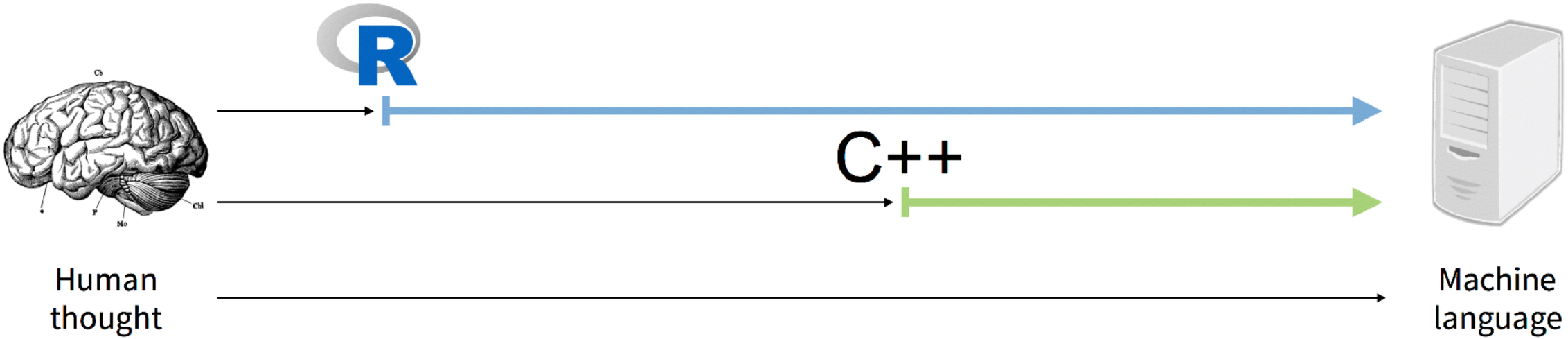
Combine with other functions for multi-step operations.

DESIGNED FOR HUMANS

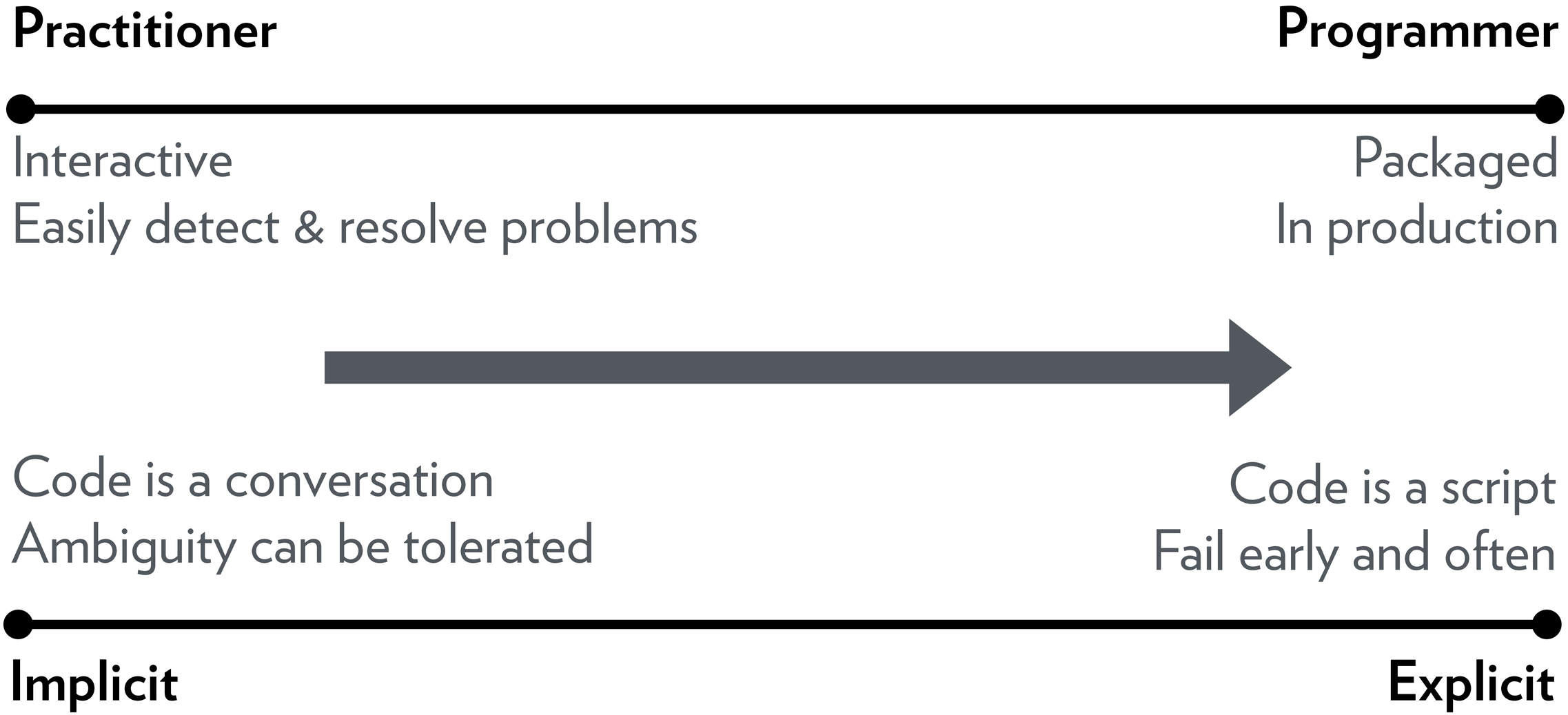
Use evocative verb names, making them easy to remember.

Source: Wickham, Hadley. 2017-11-13. "The tidy tools manifesto." https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/tidyverse/vignettes/manifesto.html

A computer language for scientists



via Garrett Grolemund



source: Hadley Wickham

What does this mean for contribution and sustainability?

Key FOSS actors

- maintainers
- contributors
- consumers/users
- sustainers

Report team: Ben Nickolis, Pia Mancini, Justin Dorfman, Robert Gibb <https://sustainoss.org/>

“When we talk about sustainability, we are talking both and equally about the sustainability of resources and the sustainability of its people.”

THE REPORT

Report team: Ben Nickolis, Pia Mancini, Justin Dorfman, Robert Gibb <https://sustainoss.org/>

Sustain: key recommendations

- ✓ Create sustainable communities
- ✓ Free the maintainer
- ✓ Raise the value of non-code contributions

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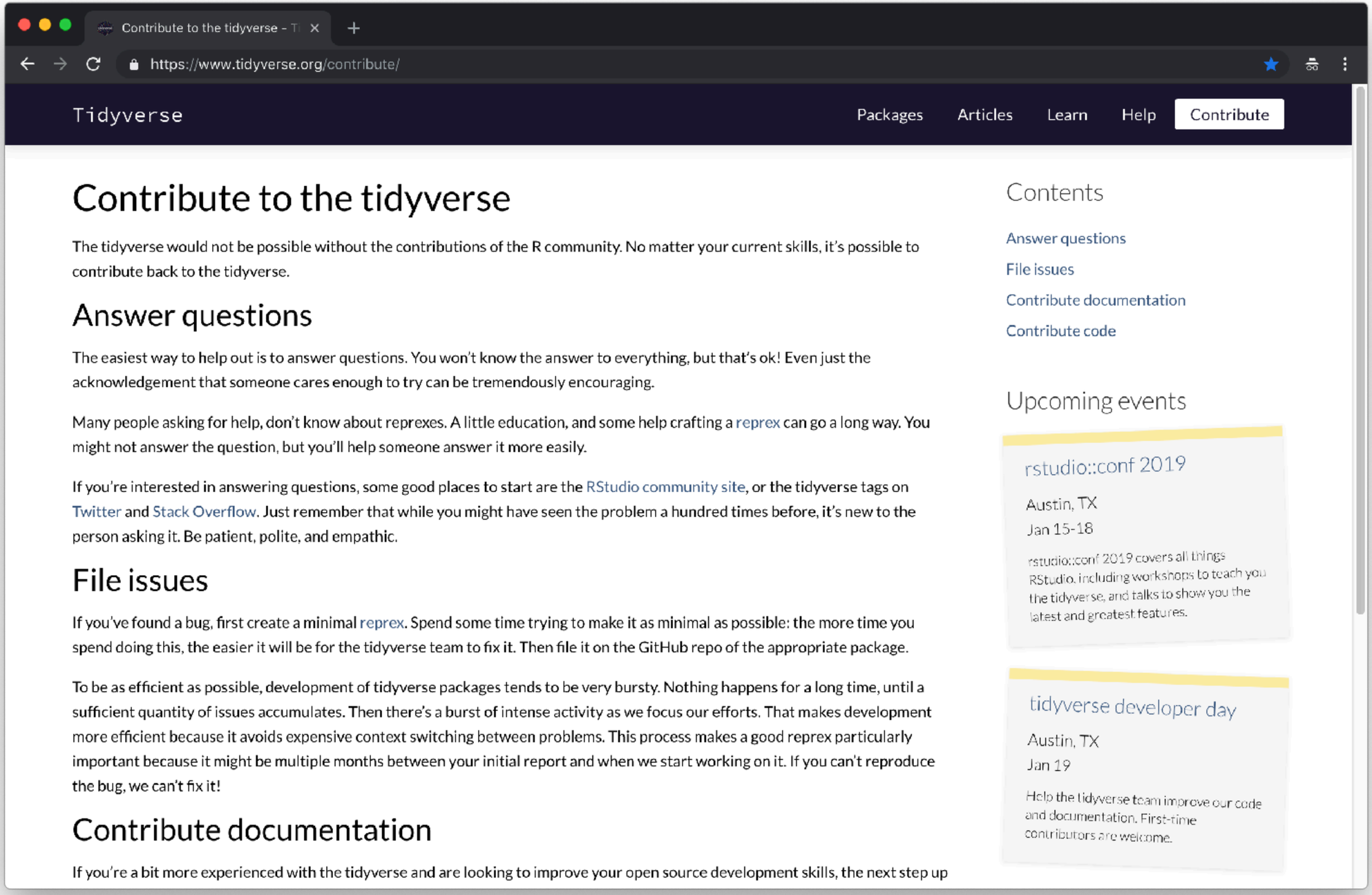
Sustaining the tidyverse…

- virtual spaces
- technical tools
- social norms

Sustaining the tidyverse…

- virtual spaces
- technical tools
- social norms

spoiler alert:
they're interrelated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Many people asking for help, don't know about reprexes. A little education, and some help crafting a reprex can go a long way. You might not answer the question, but you'll help someone answer it more easily.
If you're interested in answering questions, some good places to start are the RStudio community site, or the tidyverse tags on Twitter and Stack Overflow. Just remember that while you might have seen the problem a hundred times before, it's new to the person asking it. Be patient, polite, and empathic.
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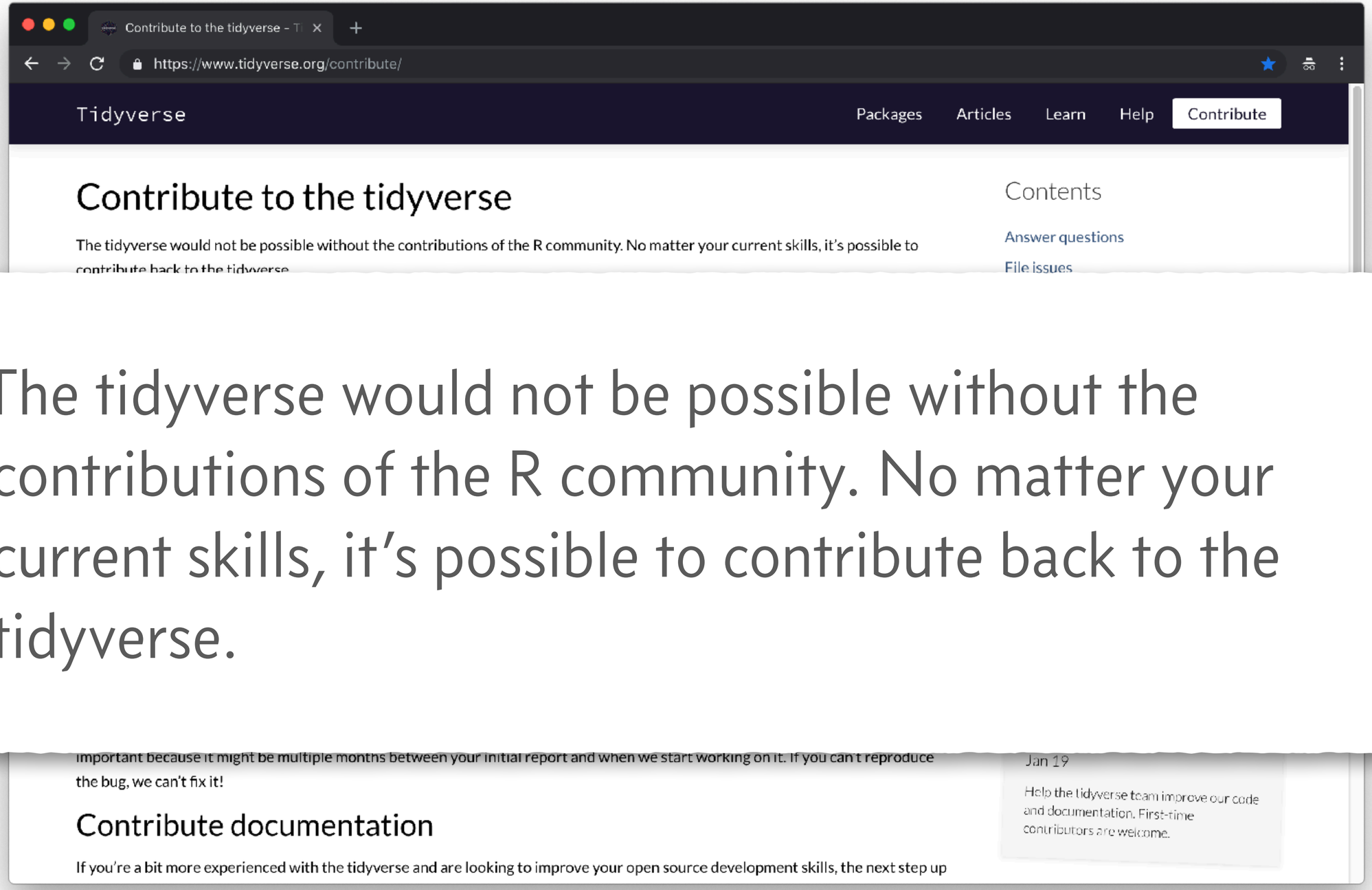
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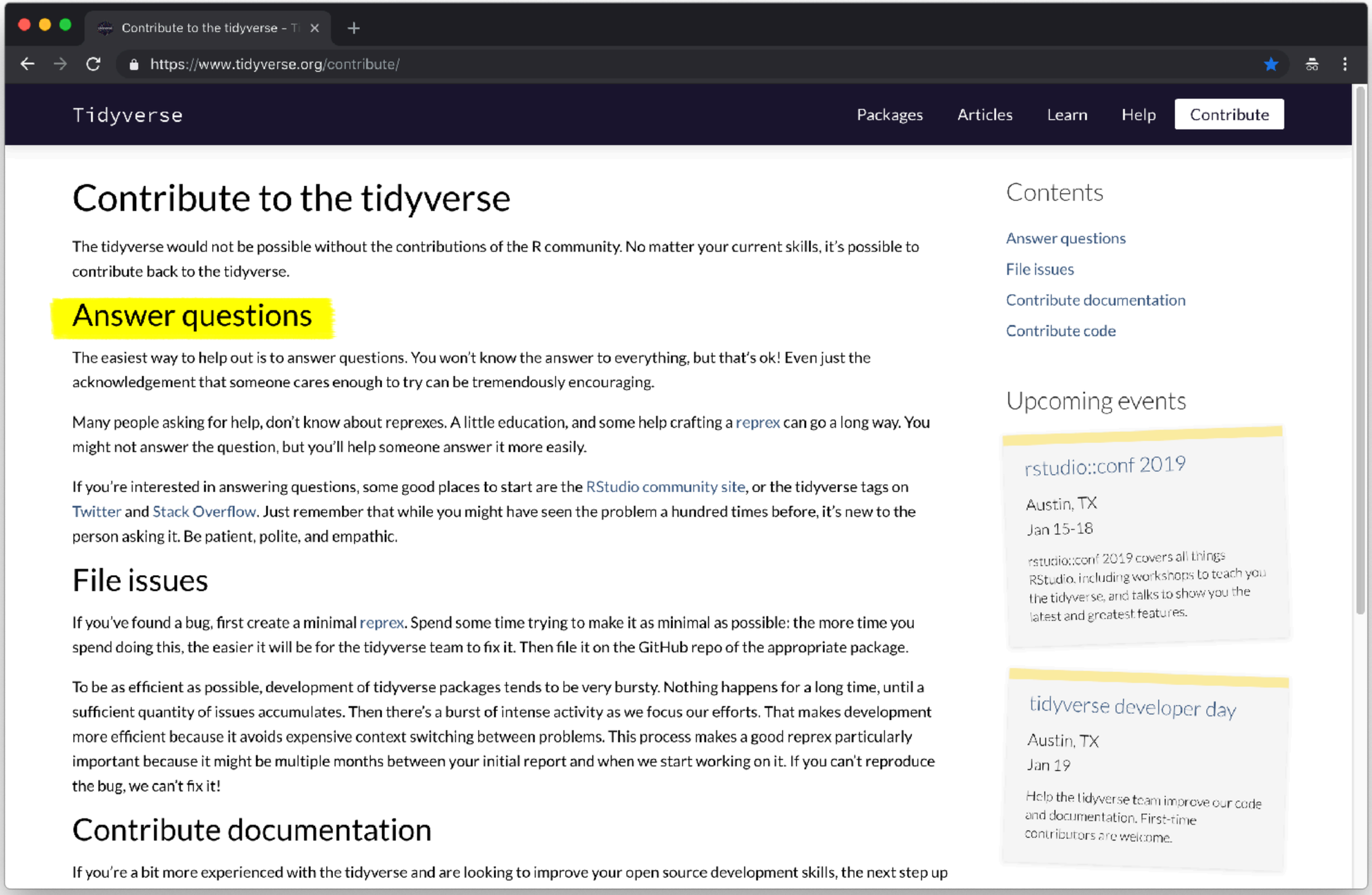
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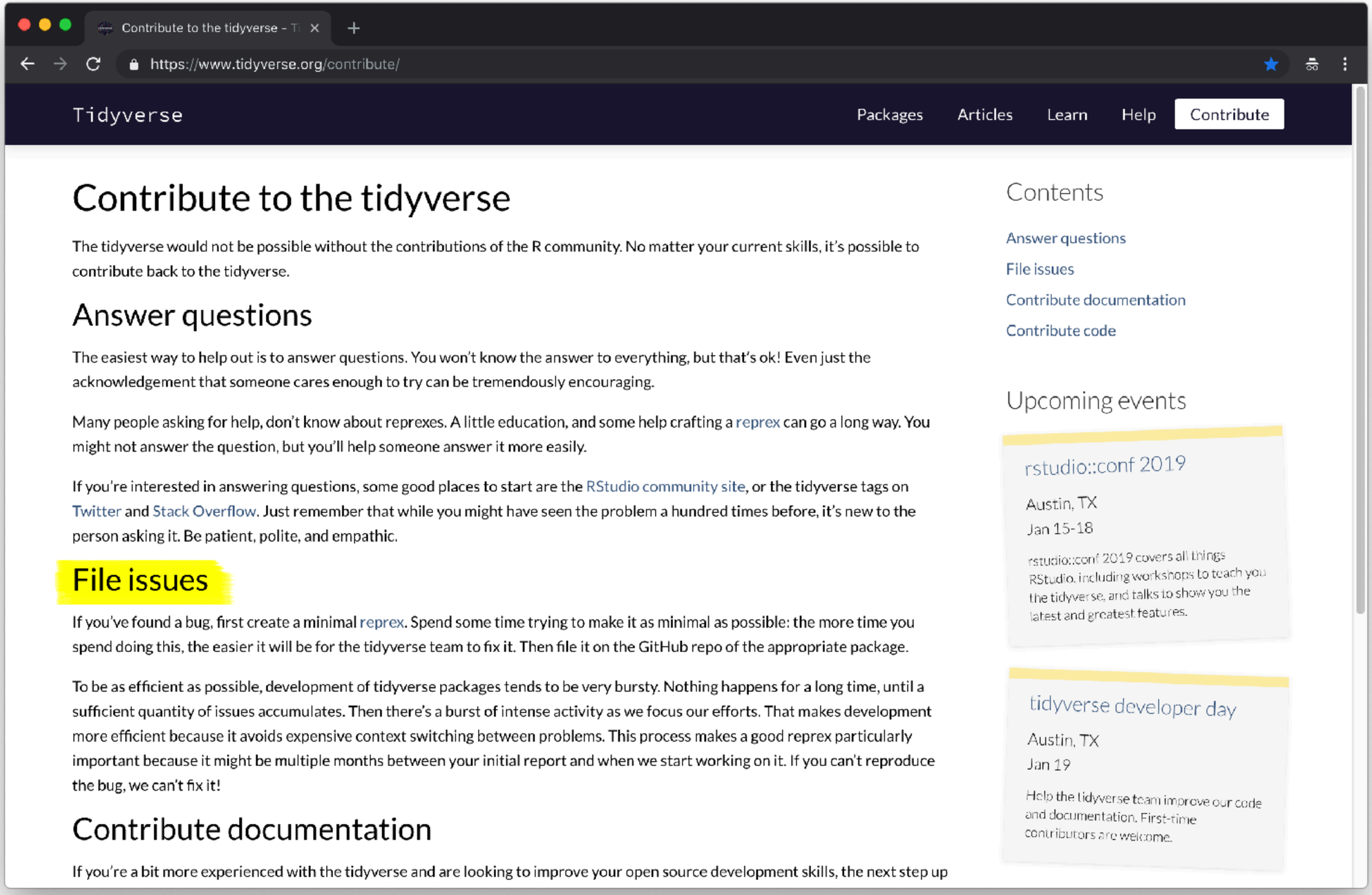
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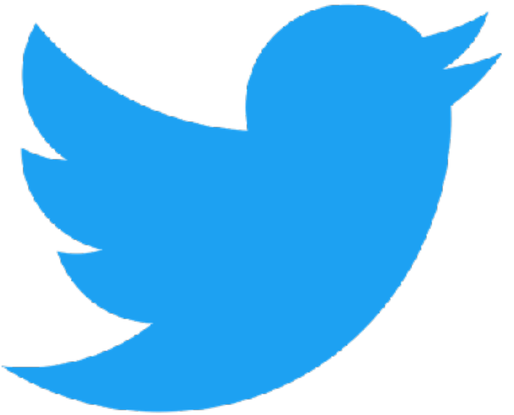
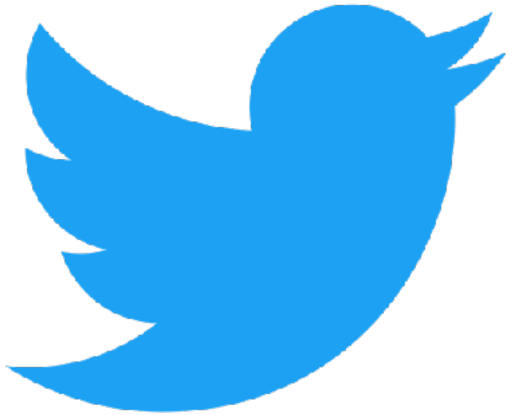
Where do people go to contribute?




ROpenSci



stackoverflow

Cross Validated

ROpenSci

and a bunch of other places…

RLadies

R4DS Online Learning Community

rOpenSci

Considerations

- Visibility

* Ford, D., Smith, J., Guo, P. J., & Parnin, C. (2016). Paradise unplugged: identifying barriers for female participation on stack overflow. 24th ACM SIGSOFT - FSE 2016, 846-857. http://doi.org/10.1145/2950290.2950331

Considerations

- Visibility
- Permanence

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Considerations

- Visibility
- Permanence
- Authority

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Considerations

- Visibility
- Permanence
- Authority
- Speed

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Considerations

- Visibility
- Permanence
- Authority
- Speed
- Peer parity (Ford et al. 2016)

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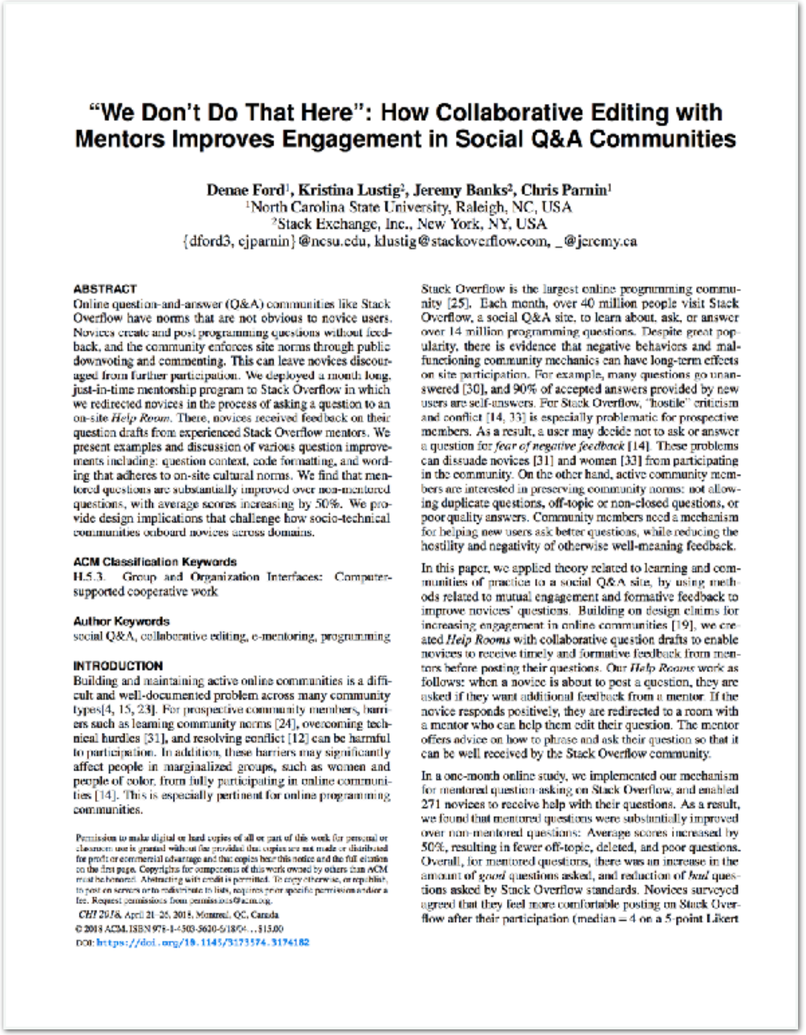
Considerations

- Visibility
- Permanence
- Authority
- Speed
- Peer parity*
- Prior social links (Casalnuovo et al. 2015)

* Casalnuovo, C., Vasilescu, B., Devanbu, P., & Filkov, V. (2015). Developer onboarding in GitHub: the role of prior social links and language experience. Proceedings of the 2015 10th Joint Meeting on Foundations of Software Engineering - ESEC/FSE 2015, 817-828. http://doi.org/10.1145/2786805.2786854

"We don't do that here"

- Question phrasing
- Formatting posts
- Community triage
- Question framing
- Community culture of asking



"We Don't Do That Here": How Collaborative Editing with Mentors Improves Engagement in Social Q&A Communities

Denae Ford[1], Kristina Lustig[2], Jeremy Banks[2], Chris Parnin[1]
[1]North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
[2]Stack Exchange, Inc., New York, NY, USA
{dford3, cjparnin}@ncsu.edu, klustig@stackoverflow.com, _@jeremy.ca

ABSTRACT
Online question-and-answer (Q&A) communities like Stack Overflow have norms that are not obvious to novice users. Novices create and post programming questions without feedback, and the community enforces site norms through public downvoting and commenting. This can leave novices discouraged from further participation. We deployed a month long, just-in-time mentorship program to Stack Overflow in which we redirected novices in the process of asking a question to an on-site *Help Room*. There, novices received feedback on their question drafts from experienced Stack Overflow mentors. We present examples and discussion of various question improvements including: question context, code formatting, and wording that adheres to on-site cultural norms. We find that mentored questions are substantially improved over non-mentored questions, with average scores increasing by 50%. We provide design implications that challenge how socio-technical communities onboard novices across domains.

ACM Classification Keywords
H.5.3. Group and Organization Interfaces: Computer-supported cooperative work

Author Keywords
social Q&A, collaborative editing, e-mentoring, programming

INTRODUCTION
Building and maintaining active online communities is a difficult and well-documented problem across many community types[4, 15, 23]. For prospective community members, barriers such as learning community norms [24], overcoming technical hurdles [31], and resolving conflict [12] can be harmful to participation. In addition, these barriers may significantly affect people in marginalized groups, such as women and people of color, from fully participating in online communities [14]. This is especially pertinent for online programming communities.

CHI 2018, April 21–26, 2018, Montreal, QC, Canada

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3174182

Stack Overflow is the largest online programming community [25]. Each month, over 40 million people visit Stack Overflow, a social Q&A site, to learn about, ask, or answer over 14 million programming questions. Despite great popularity, there is evidence that negative behaviors and malfunctioning community mechanics can have long-term effects on site participation. For example, many questions go unanswered [30], and 90% of accepted answers provided by new users are self-answers. For Stack Overflow, "hostile" criticism and conflict [14, 33] is especially problematic for prospective members. As a result, a user may decide not to ask or answer a question for *fear of negative feedback* [14]. These problems can dissuade novices [31] and women [33] from participating in the community. On the other hand, active community members are interested in preserving community norms: not allowing duplicate questions, off-topic or non-closed questions, or poor quality answers. Community members need a mechanism for helping new users ask better questions, while reducing the hostility and negativity of otherwise well-meaning feedback.

In this paper, we applied theory related to learning and communities of practice to a social Q&A site, by using methods related to mutual engagement and formative feedback to improve novices' questions. Building on design claims for increasing engagement in online communities [19], we created *Help Rooms* with collaborative question drafts to enable novices to receive timely and formative feedback from mentors before posting their questions. Our *Help Rooms* work as follows: when a novice is about to post a question, they are asked if they want additional feedback from a mentor. If the novice responds positively, they are redirected to a room with a mentor who can help them edit their question. The mentor offers advice on how to phrase and ask their question so that it can be well received by the Stack Overflow community.

In a one-month online study, we implemented our mechanism for mentored question-asking on Stack Overflow, and enabled 271 novices to receive help with their questions. As a result, we found that mentored questions were substantially improved over non-mentored questions: Average scores increased by 50%, resulting in fewer off-topic, deleted, and poor questions. Overall, for mentored questions, there was an increase in the amount of *good* questions asked, and reduction of *bad* questions asked by Stack Overflow standards. Novices surveyed agreed that they feel more comfortable posting on Stack Overflow after their participation (median = 4 on a 5-point Likert

Ford, Denae, Kristina Lustig, Jeremy Banks, Chris Parnin, and North Carolina. 2018. "'We Don't Do That Here': How Collaborative Editing with Mentors Improves Engagement in Social Q & A Communities." In CHI 2018. Montreal, QC, Canada: ACM. doi:10.1145/3173574.3174182.

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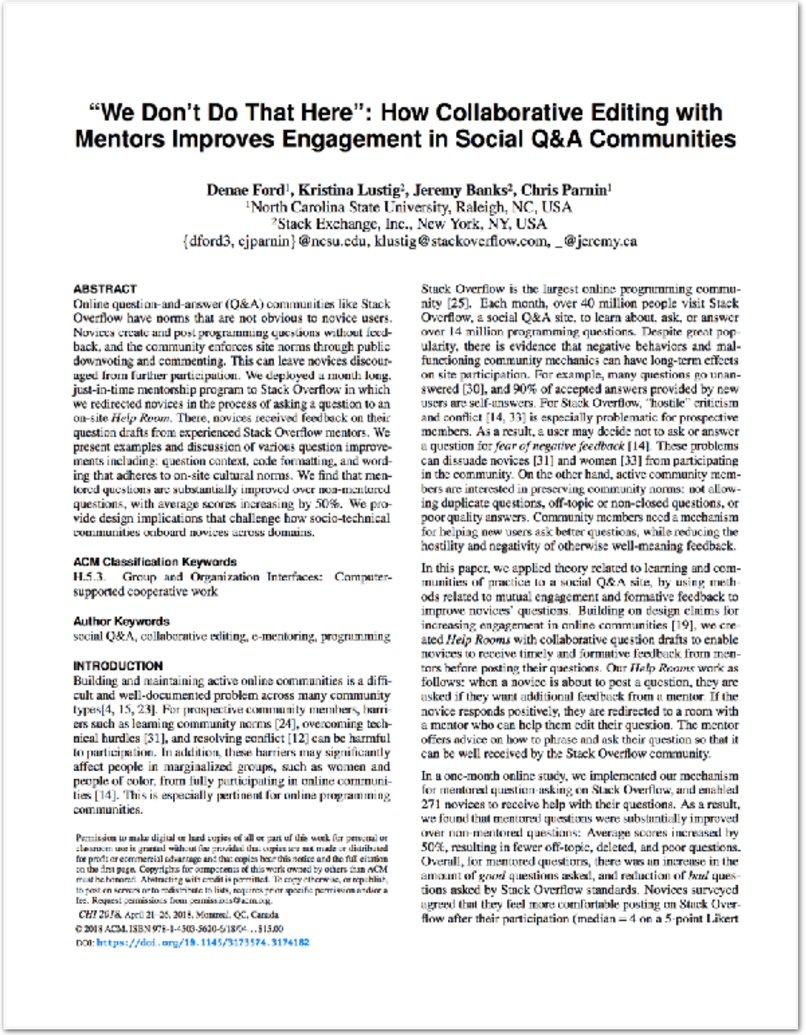
format code as code



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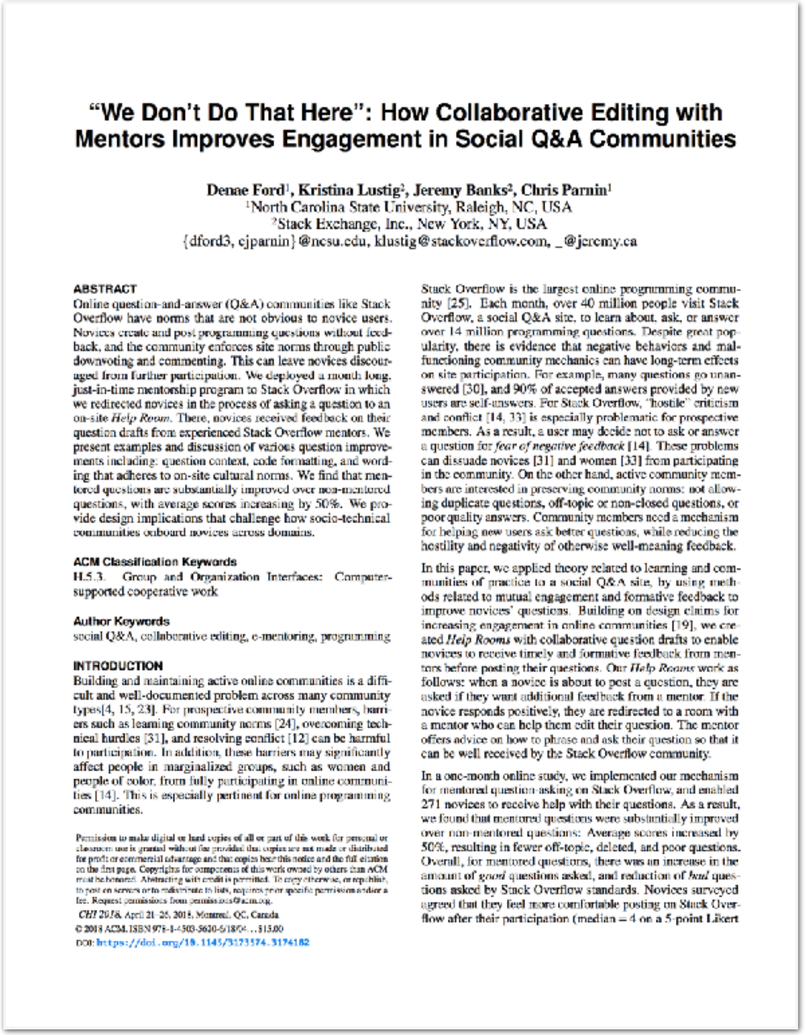
- Community culture of asking

is this an appropriate place for your Q?



"We Don't Do That Here": How Collaborative Editing with Mentors Improves Engagement in Social Q&A Communities

Denae Ford[1], Kristina Lustig[2], Jeremy Banks[2], Chris Parnin[1]
[1]North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
[2]Stack Exchange, Inc., New York, NY, USA
{dford3, cjparnin}@ncsu.edu, klustig@stackoverflow.com, _@jeremy.ca

ABSTRACT
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ACM Classification Keywords
H.5.3. Group and Organization Interfaces: Computer-supported cooperative work

Author Keywords
social Q&A, collaborative editing, e-mentoring, programming

INTRODUCTION
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Stack Overflow is the largest online programming community [25]. Each month, over 40 million people visit Stack Overflow, a social Q&A site, to learn about, ask, or answer over 14 million programming questions. Despite great popularity, there is evidence that negative behaviors and malfunctioning community mechanics can have long-term effects on site participation. For example, many questions go unanswered [30], and 90% of accepted answers provided by new users are self-answers. For Stack Overflow, "hostile" criticism and conflict [14, 33] is especially problematic for prospective members. As a result, a user may decide not to ask or answer a question for *fear of negative feedback* [14]. These problems can dissuade novices [31] and women [33] from participating in the community. On the other hand, active community members are interested in preserving community norms: not allowing duplicate questions, off-topic or non-closed questions, or poor quality answers. Community members need a mechanism for helping new users ask better questions, while reducing the hostility and negativity of otherwise well-meaning feedback.

In this paper, we applied theory related to learning and communities of practice to a social Q&A site, by using methods related to mutual engagement and formative feedback to improve novices' questions. Building on design claims for increasing engagement in online communities [19], we created *Help Rooms* with collaborative question drafts to enable novices to receive timely and formative feedback from mentors before posting their questions. Our *Help Rooms* work as follows: when a novice is about to post a question, they are asked if they want additional feedback from a mentor. If the novice responds positively, they are redirected to a room with a mentor who can help them edit their question. The mentor offers advice on how to phrase and ask their question so that it can be well received by the Stack Overflow community.

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CHI 2018, April 21–26, 2018, Montreal, QC, Canada

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3174182

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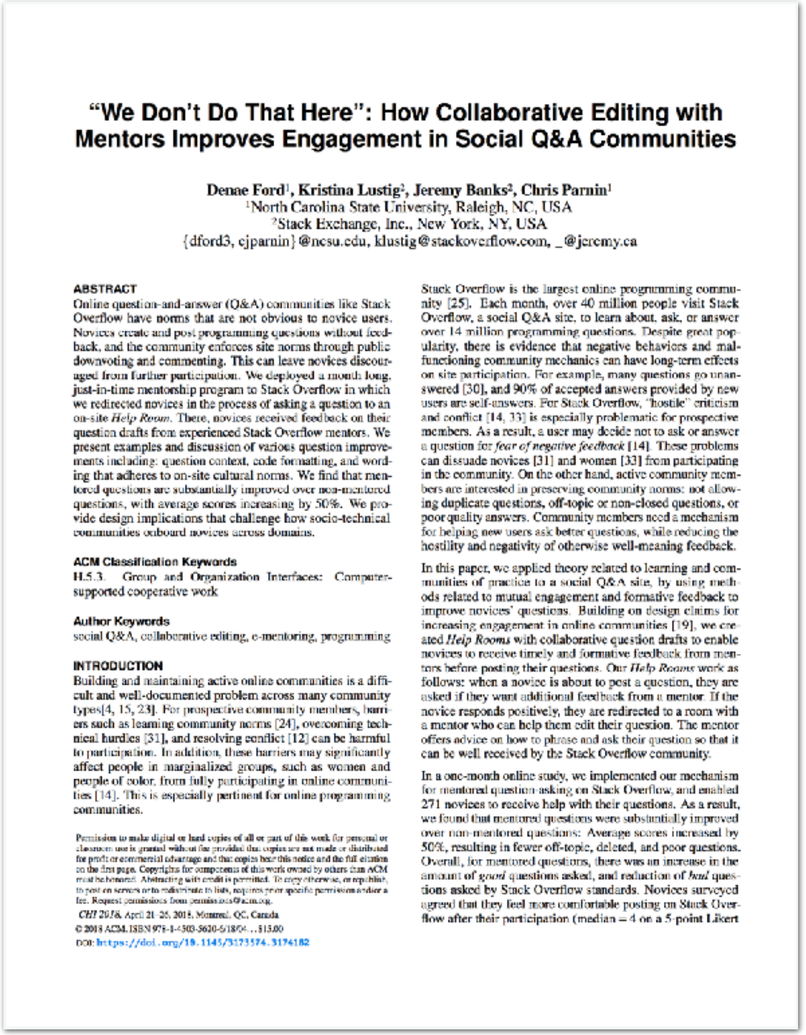
"We don't do that here"

- Question phrasing
- Formatting posts
- Community triage
- Question framing
- Community culture of asking

clarity, research of problem, context



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- Question phrasing
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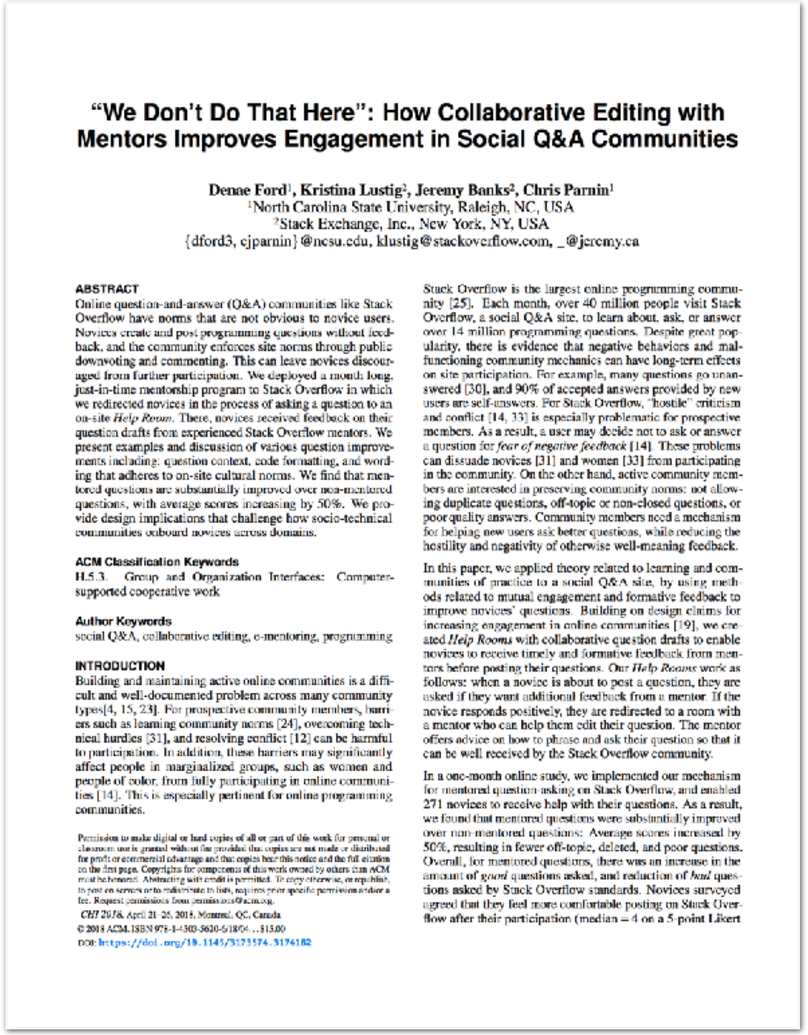
> *You also might want to edit out the "Thank you!" at the end. I know it seems polite, but people object to it on Stack Overflow.*



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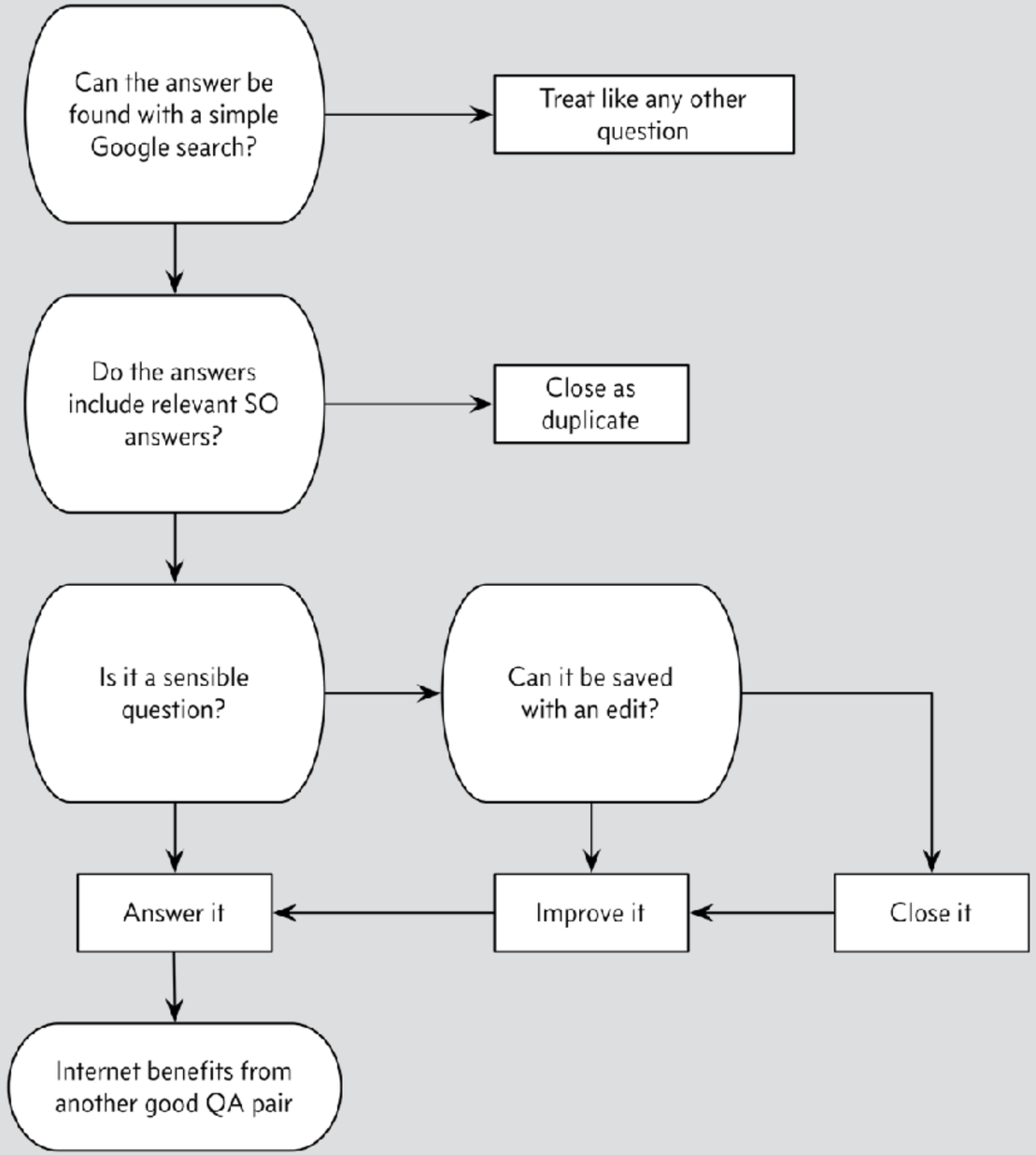
How should you respond to RTFM questions?

goal = good QA pair



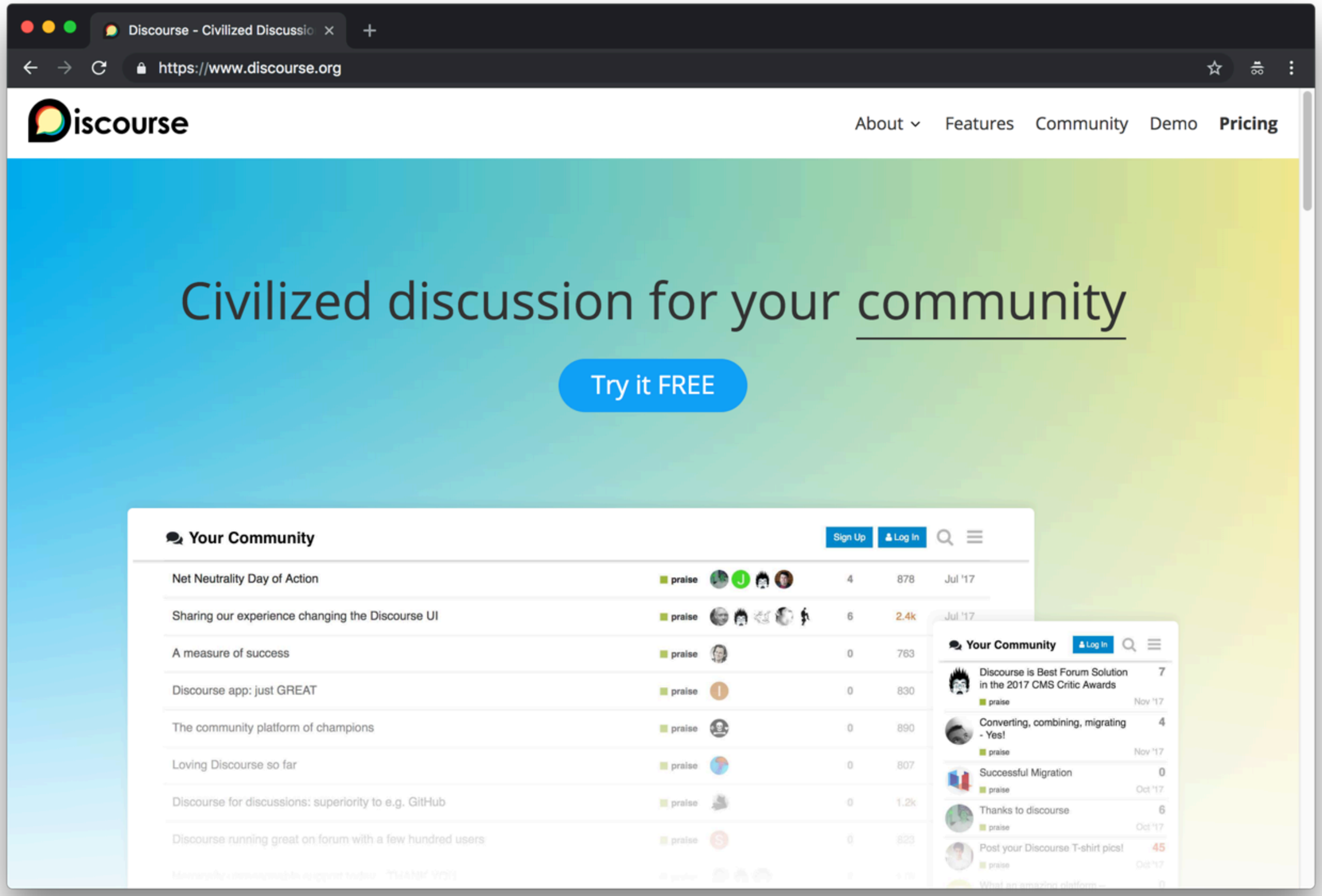
Source: Shawn Chin https://meta.stackexchange.com/a/161346/213022

10 simple rules for getting help from online scientific communities

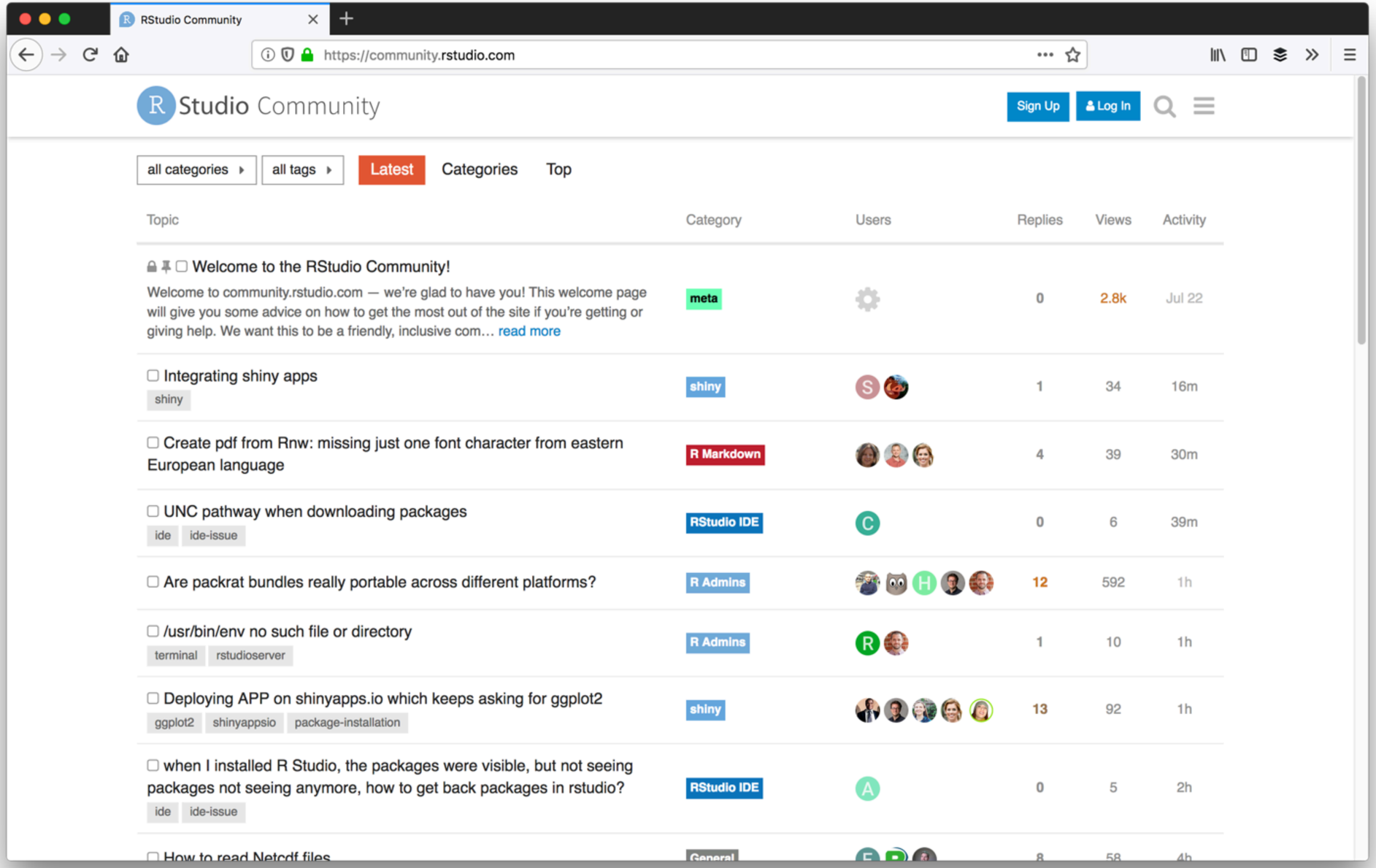
1. Do not be afraid to ask a question
2. State the question clearly
3. New to a mailing list? Learn the established customs before posting
4. Do not ask what has already been answered
5. Always use a good title
6. Do your homework before posting
7. Proofread your post and write in correct English
8. Be courteous to other forum members
9. Remember that the archive of your discussion can be useful to other people
10. Give back to the community

Dall'Olio, Giovanni M., Jacopo Marino, Michael Schubert, Kevin L. Keys, Melanie I. Stefan, Colin S. Gillespie, Pierre Poulain, et al. 2011. *"Ten Simple Rules for Getting Help from Online Scientific Communities." PLoS Computational Biology 7 (9): 10–12. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002202.*


R Studio Community



https://www.discourse.org/



https://community.rstudio.com

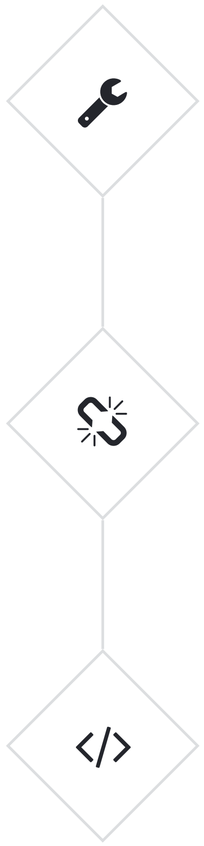
The art of the question

The most useless problem statement that one can face is "it doesn't work", yet we seem to get it far too often.

– Thiago Maciera

Maciera, Thiago. 2012. "The Art of Problem Solving." In Open Advice: FOSS: What We Wish We Had Known When We Started, edited by Lydia Pintscher, 55-61.

the anatomy of an issue

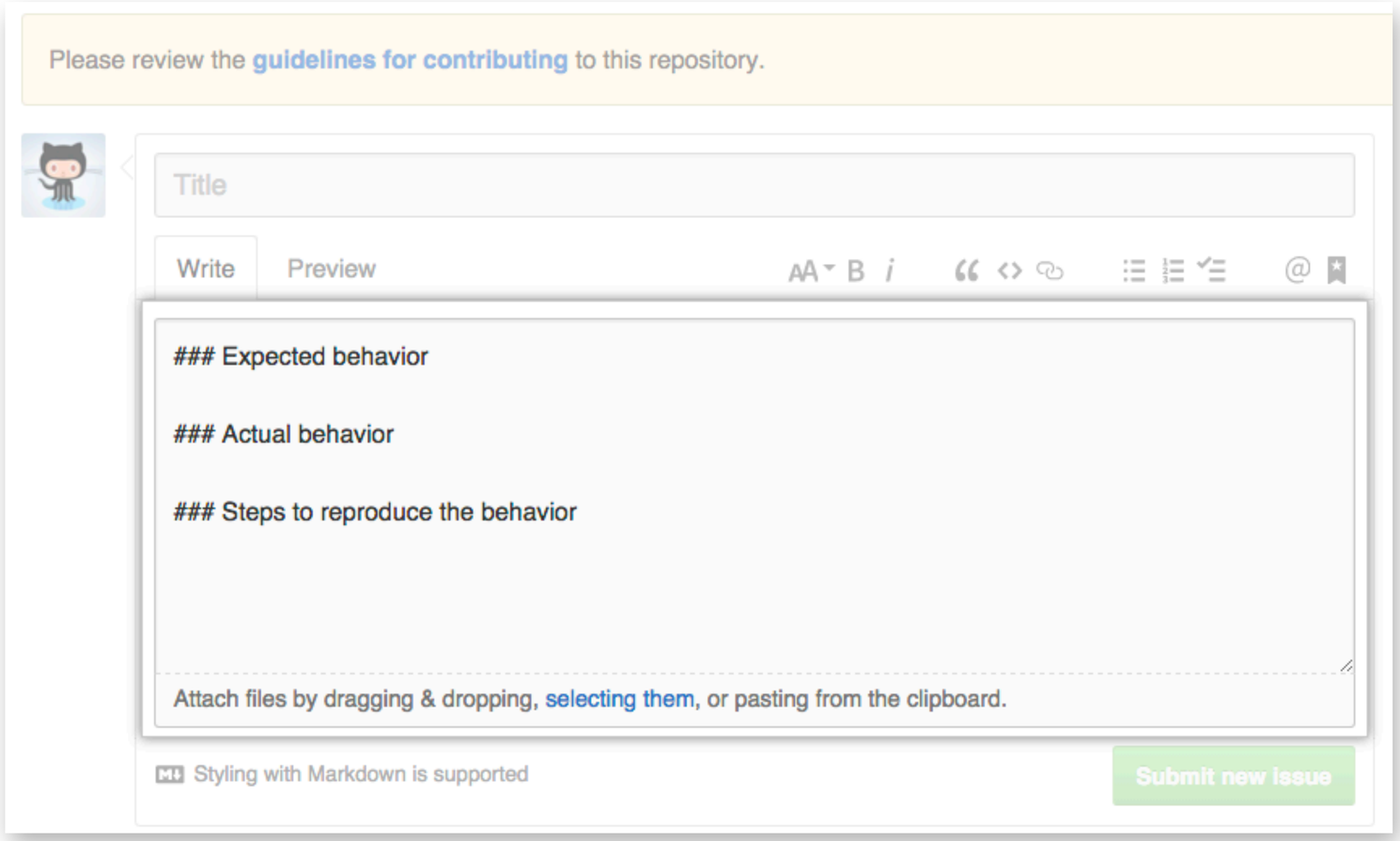


PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR

MINIMAL REPRODUCIBLE EXAMPLE

the anatomy of an issue



"Creating an issue template for your repository" - GitHub Help < https://help.github.com/articles/creating-an-issue-template-for-your-repository/>

Error Information: Packages missing

Description of issue -

Steps taken so far - i tried and tried..

System Information:

- RStudio Edition: (Desktop or Server)
- RStudio Version:
- OS Version:
- R Version:

Also:

- RStudio diagnostics report:
- Your `sessionInfo()`:
- RStudio crash report:
- RStudio application log files:

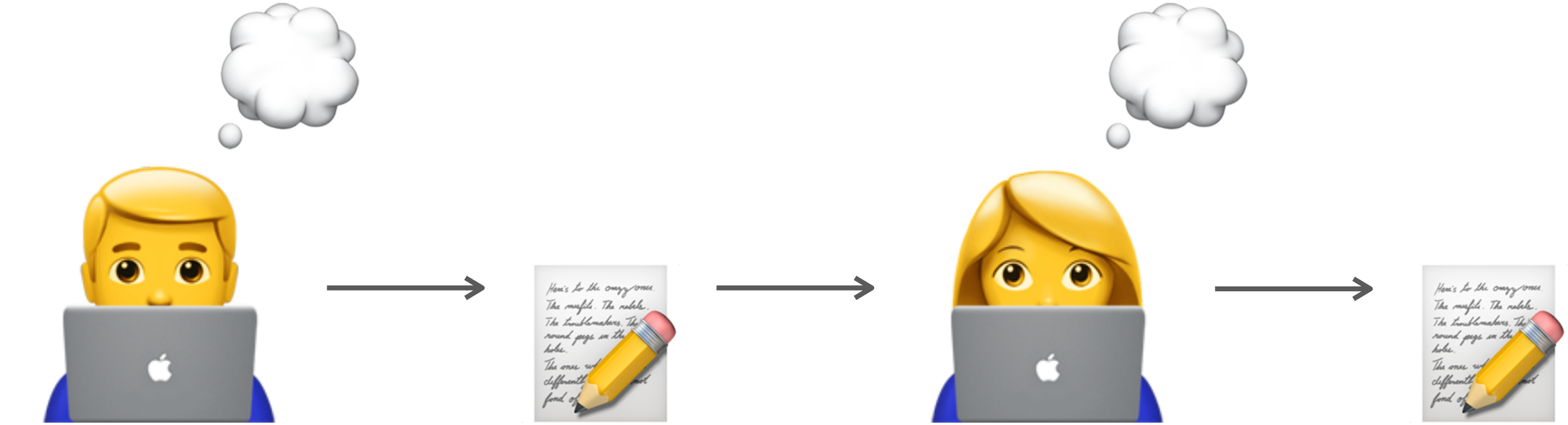
From Troubleshooting Guide: Using RStudio

They're not *wrong*

“It is impossible to speak in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood.”

— Karl Popper

Writing prose about code...



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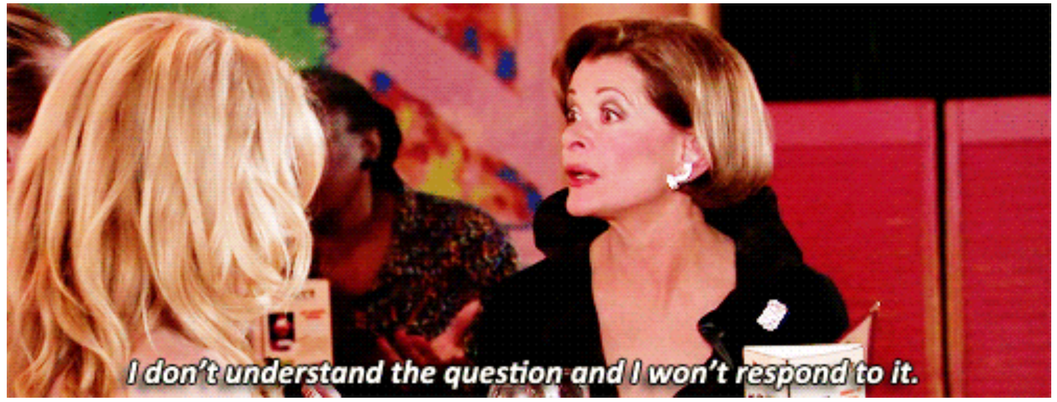
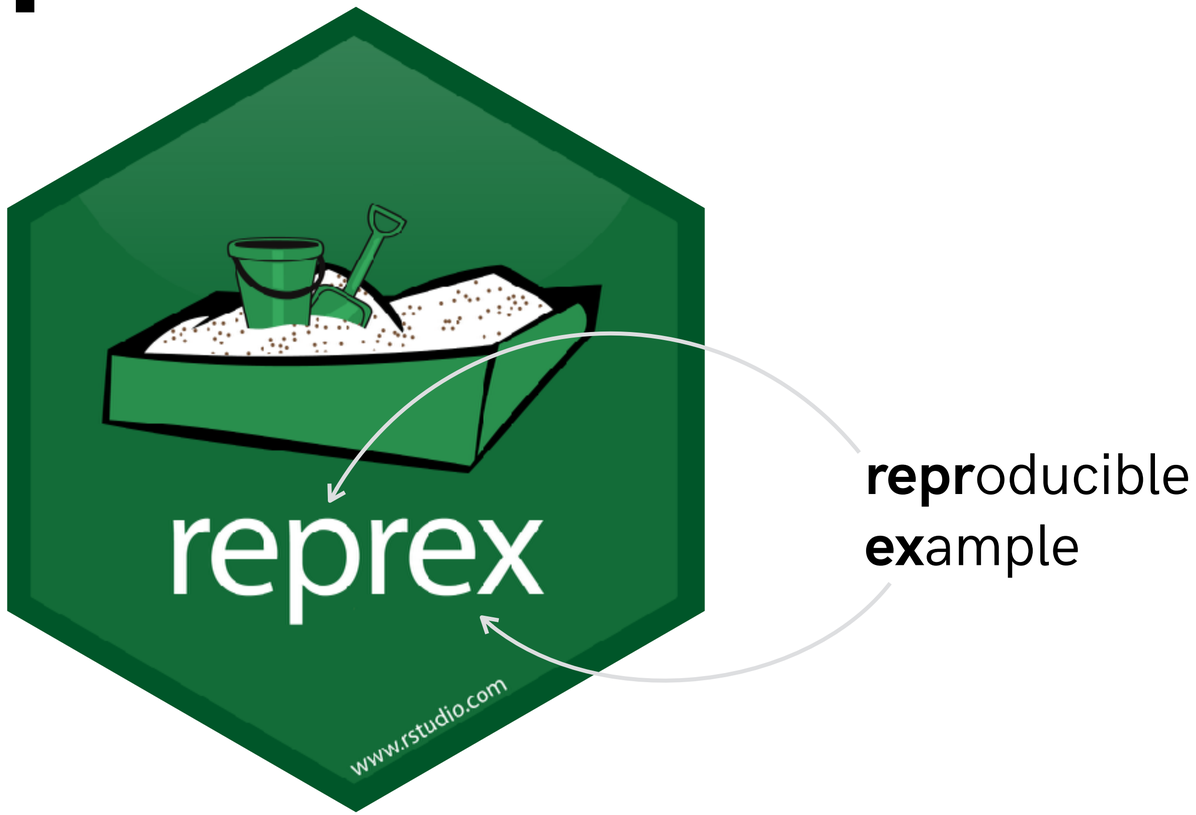


the magic of reprex



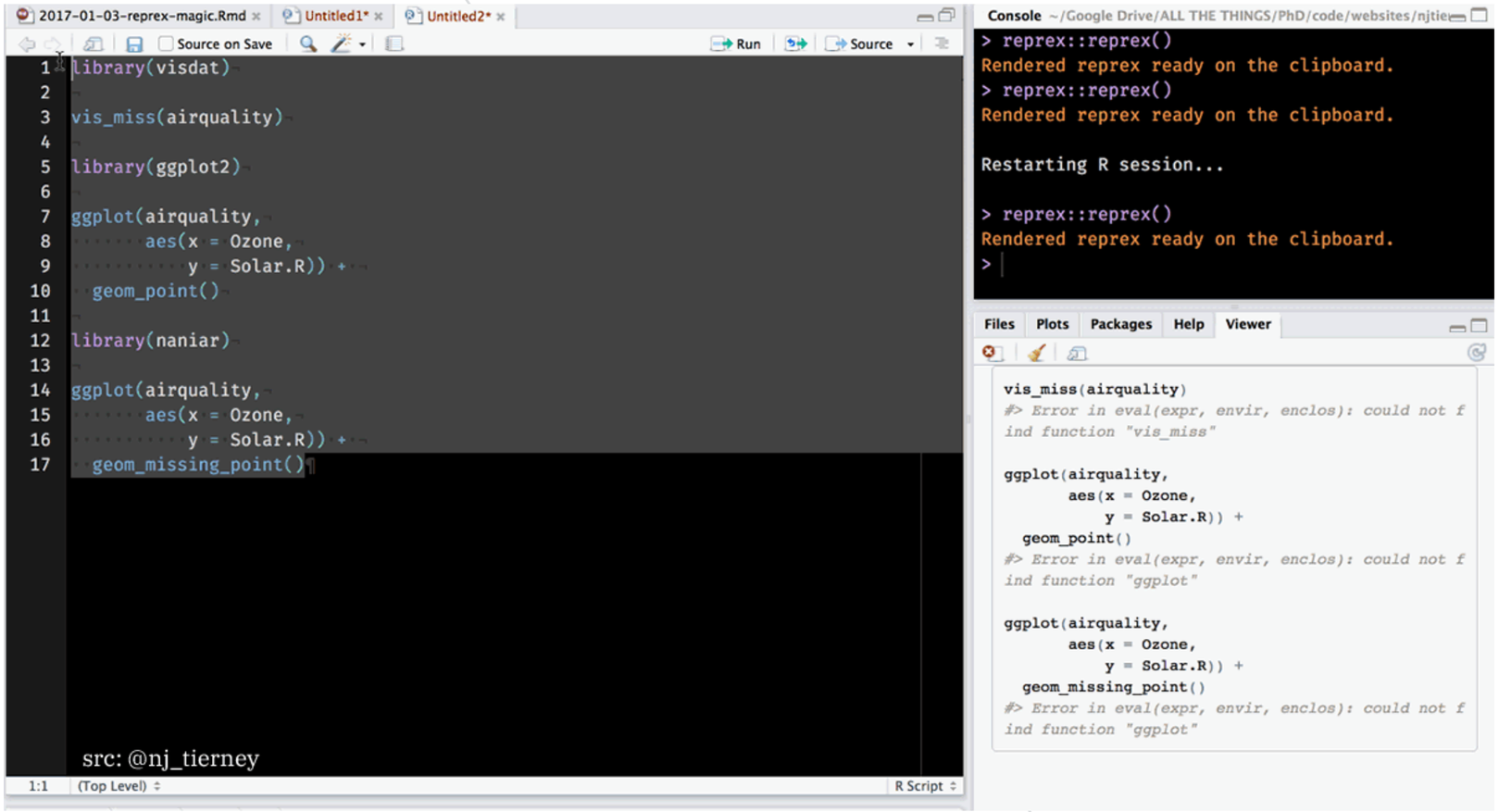
reproducible
example

reprex raison d’être

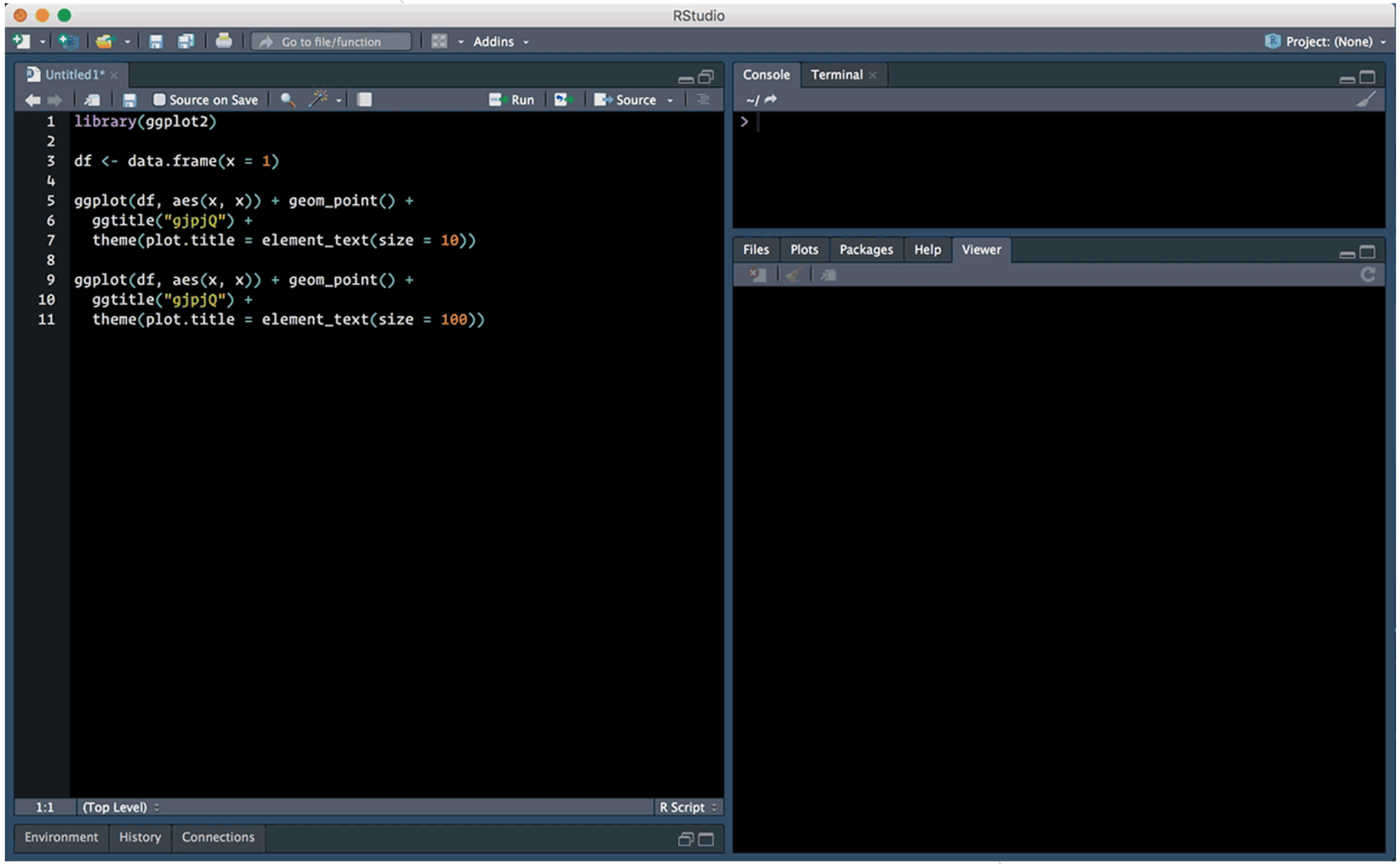
Keys to reprex-cellence

- ✓ Code that **actually runs**
- ✓ Code that **doesn't have to be run**
- ✓ Code that **can be easily run**

Source: Jenny Bryan, 2017. "reprex: the package, the point." https://speakerdeck.com/jennybc/reprex-help-me-help-you



Source: Nick Tierney. "Magic reprex." 2017-01-11 <http://www.njtierney.com/post/2017/01/11/magic-reprex/>



https://maraaverick.rbind.io/2018/06/reprexcellence/

The reprex request trifecta

WHAT I'M ASKING YOU TO DO

Make a reproducible example

WHY I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IT

Help me help you — I need your data to do so

HOW YOU CAN DO THE THING

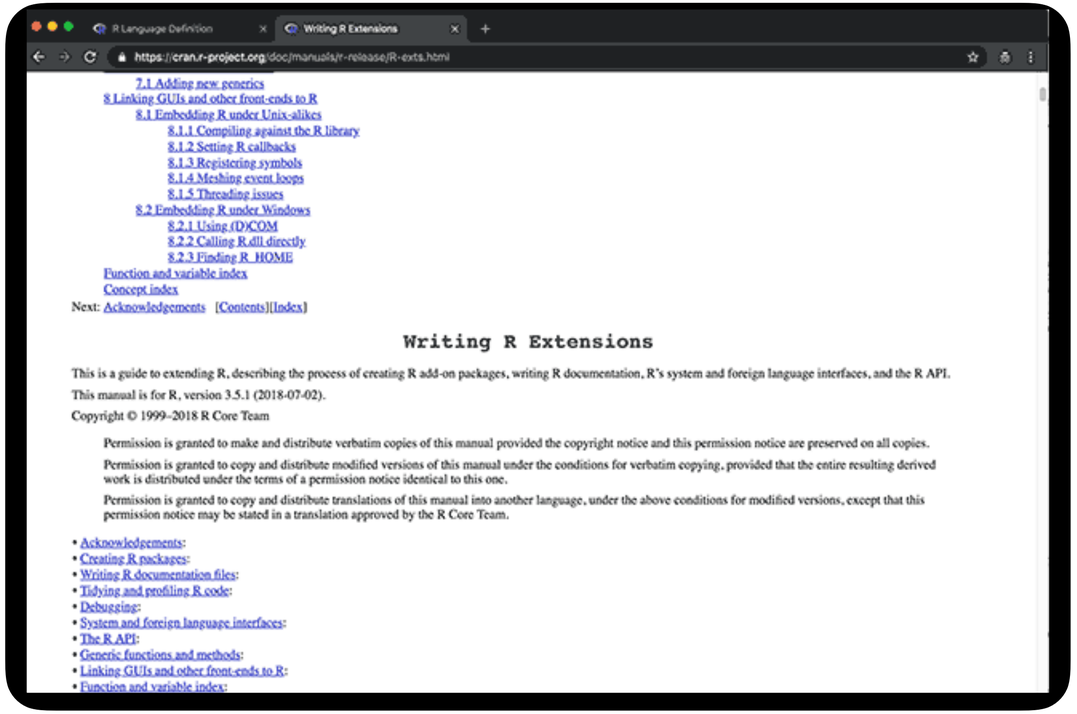
Resources, videos, we've got it all...

RTFM

The R Core Team "Writing R Extensions." R, version 3.5.1 (2018-07-02). https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-exts.html Copyright © 1999-2018 R Core Team

RTFM

TFM



The R Core Team "Writing R Extensions." R, version 3.5.1 (2018-07-02). https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-exts.html Copyright © 1999-2018 R Core Team

Guide them through the docs

Tidyr::separate() at second/last occurence of character

tidyverse tidyr regex

mara Sustainer May 20

As you guessed, a regular expression is your best bet here. From the tidyr `separate()` function reference 8

> Given either regular expression or a vector of character positions, `separate()` turns a single character column into multiple columns.

RegExr.com 21 has been my go-to for regular expression testing for a while, but Garrick Aden-Buie recently made an RStudio add-in inspired by the very same, RegExplain, which is a great option for keeping your workflow all in one place:
https://www.garrickadenbuie.com/project/regexplain/ 30

Here's how I would do it (which is hacky, but it works); you want to split at the underscore that precedes the day, which is numerical. So, I would use a stringr look around 18 to say, in effect, "*split at the underscore that is followed by a digit.*"

```
suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(tidyverse))
example_data <- data.frame(subject_ID = 1:5,
                           daily_measure_1 = 6:10,
                           daily_measure_2 = 11:15,
                           daily_measure_3 = 16:20,
                           daily_measure_4 = 21:25,
                           daily_measure_5 = 26:30)
example_data %>%
  gather(key = "full_name", value = "value", starts_with("daily_")) %>%
  separate(full_name, c("variable", "day"), sep = "_(?=[:digit:])")
#>    subject_ID      variable day value
#> 1           1 daily_measure   1     6
#> 2           2 daily_measure   1     7
#> 3           3 daily_measure   1     8
#> 4           4 daily_measure   1     9
#> 5           5 daily_measure   1    10
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Contributing to FOSS

WHAT HOLDS PEOPLE BACK?

Pintscher, Lydia, Ed. 2012. *Open Advice: Foss: What We Wish We Had Known When We Started.*

photo cred: Sail Fish Scuba https://sailfishscuba.com/manowar/

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- *“I'm not really good at this.”*

Pintscher, Lydia, Ed. 2012. *Open Advice: Foss: What We Wish We Had Known When We Started.*

photo cred: Sail Fish Scuba https://sailfishscuba.com/manowar/

Contributing to FOSS

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- *“They already have enough people smarter than me.”*

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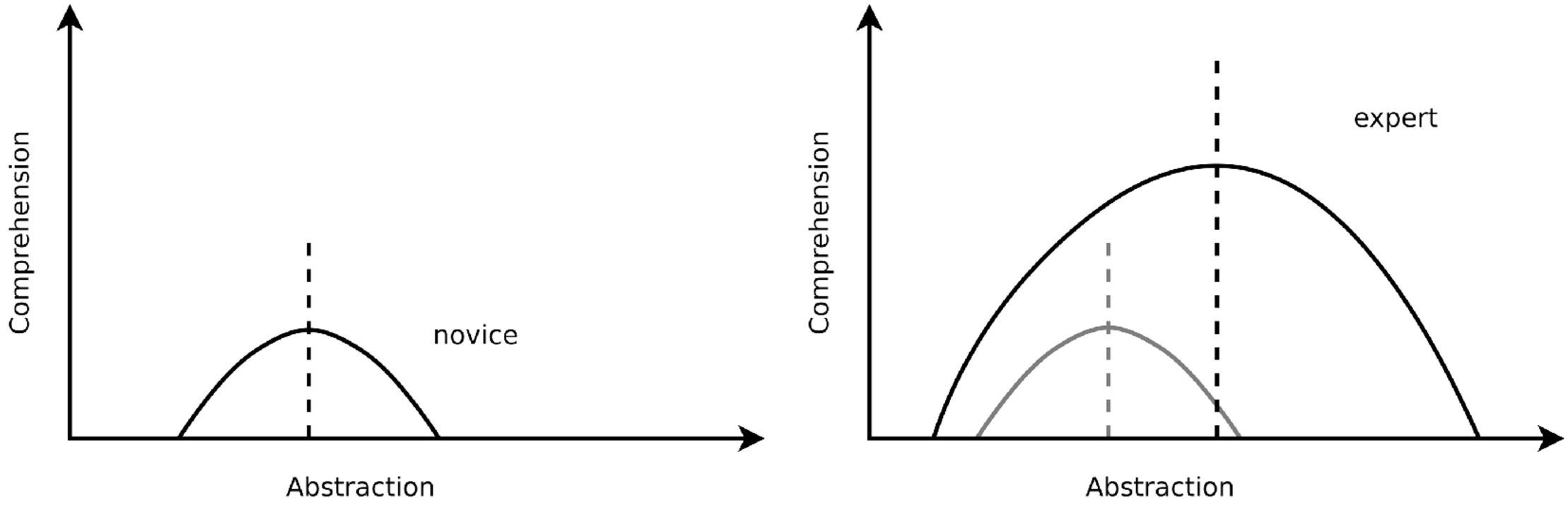
The newcomer's paradox…

When you ask for help, some friendly soul will no doubt tell you that "it's easy, just do **foo**, **bar** and **baz**." *Except for you, it is not easy, there may be no documentation for foo, bar is not doing what it is supposed to be doing and what is this baz thing anyway with its eight disambiguation entries on Wikipedia?*

— Leslie Hawthorne

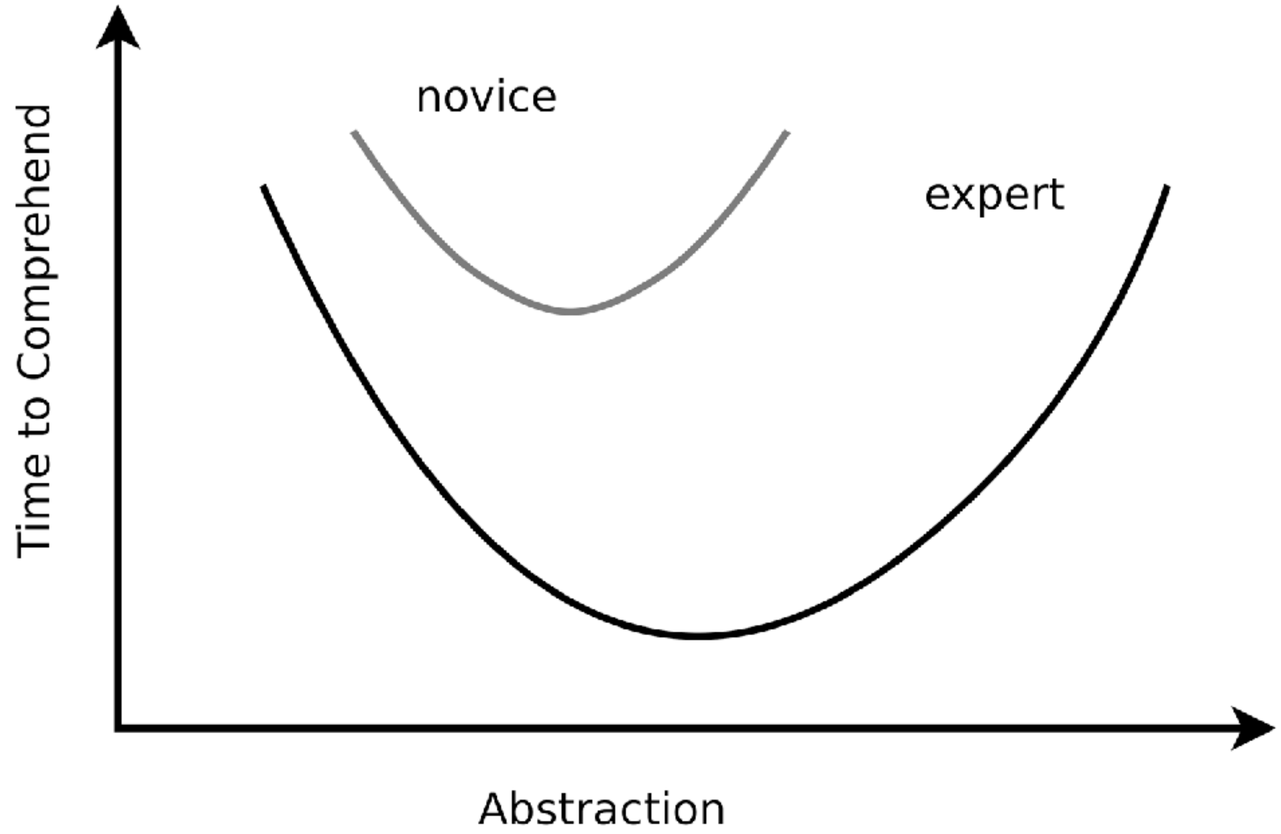
"You'll Eventually Know Everything They've Forgotten." In Open Advice: FOSS*: What We Wish We Had Known When We Started*, edited by Lydia Pintscher, 29–32.

The comprehension comfort curve



"Abstraction and Comprehension." Greg Wilson. <http://third-bit.com/2018/11/03/abstraction-comprehension.html> 2018-11-03.

Abstraction & comprehension



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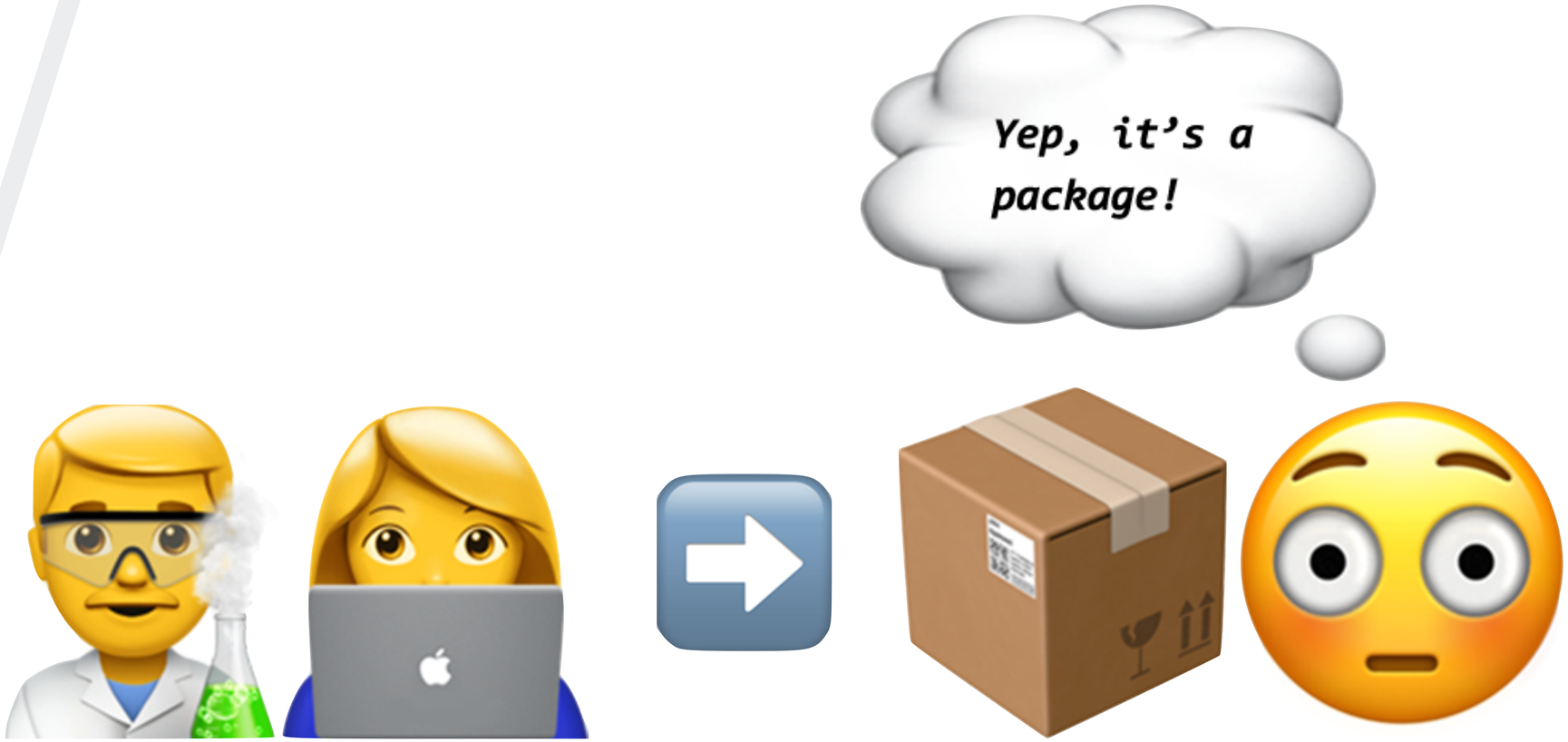


"How rOpenSci uses Code Review to Promote reproducible Science." Noam Ross, Scott Chamberlain, Karthik Ram, Maëlle Salmon. <https://ropensci.org/blog/2017/09/01/nf-softwarereview/> 2017-09-01.

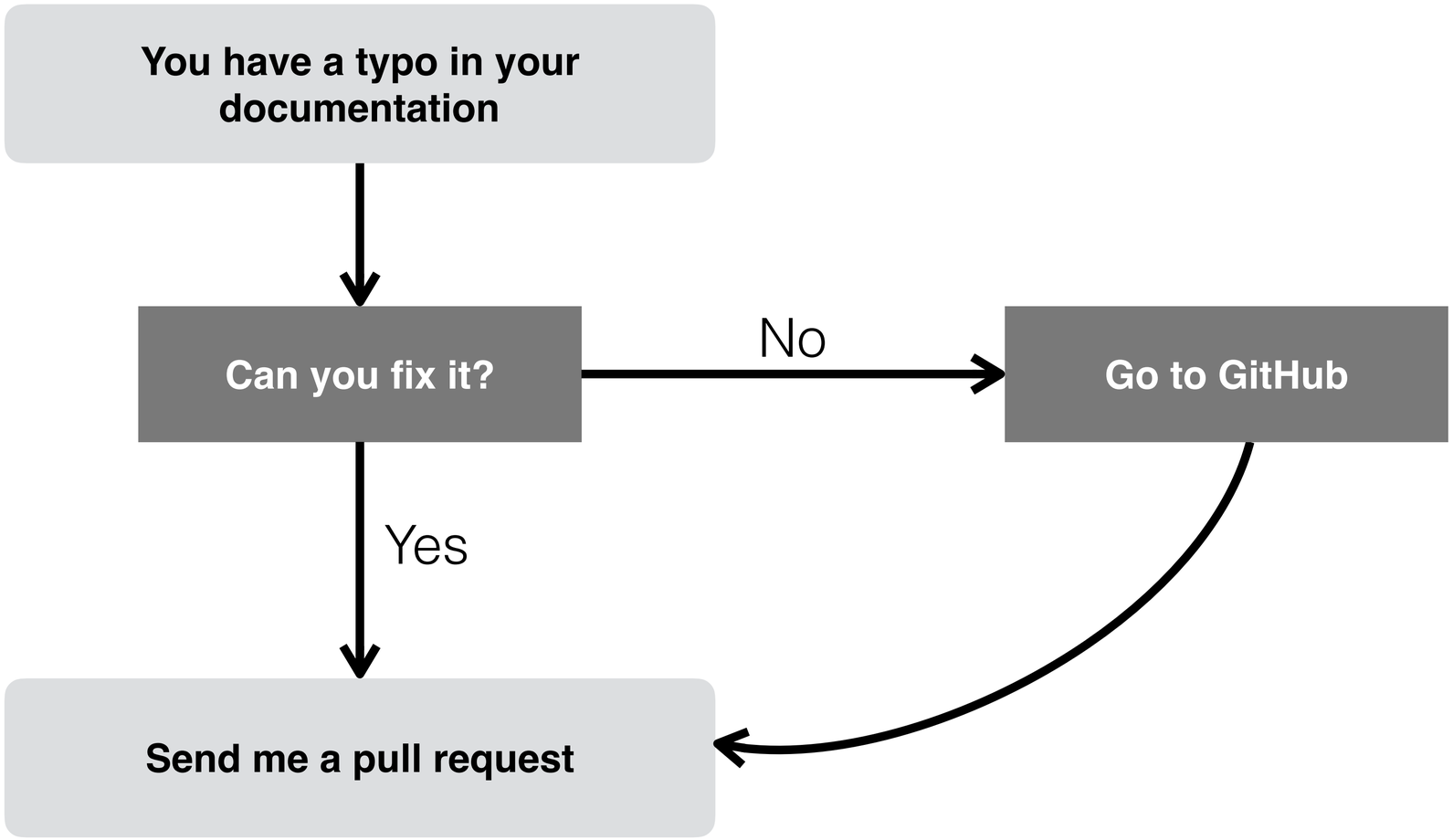
require(n00bs)

When assigning reviewers to a submission, we aim to pair experienced reviewers with new ones, or reviewers with expertise on a package's programming methods with those experienced in its field of application.

How rOpenSci uses Code Review to Promote Reproducible Science
ropensci.org highlighted with Highly

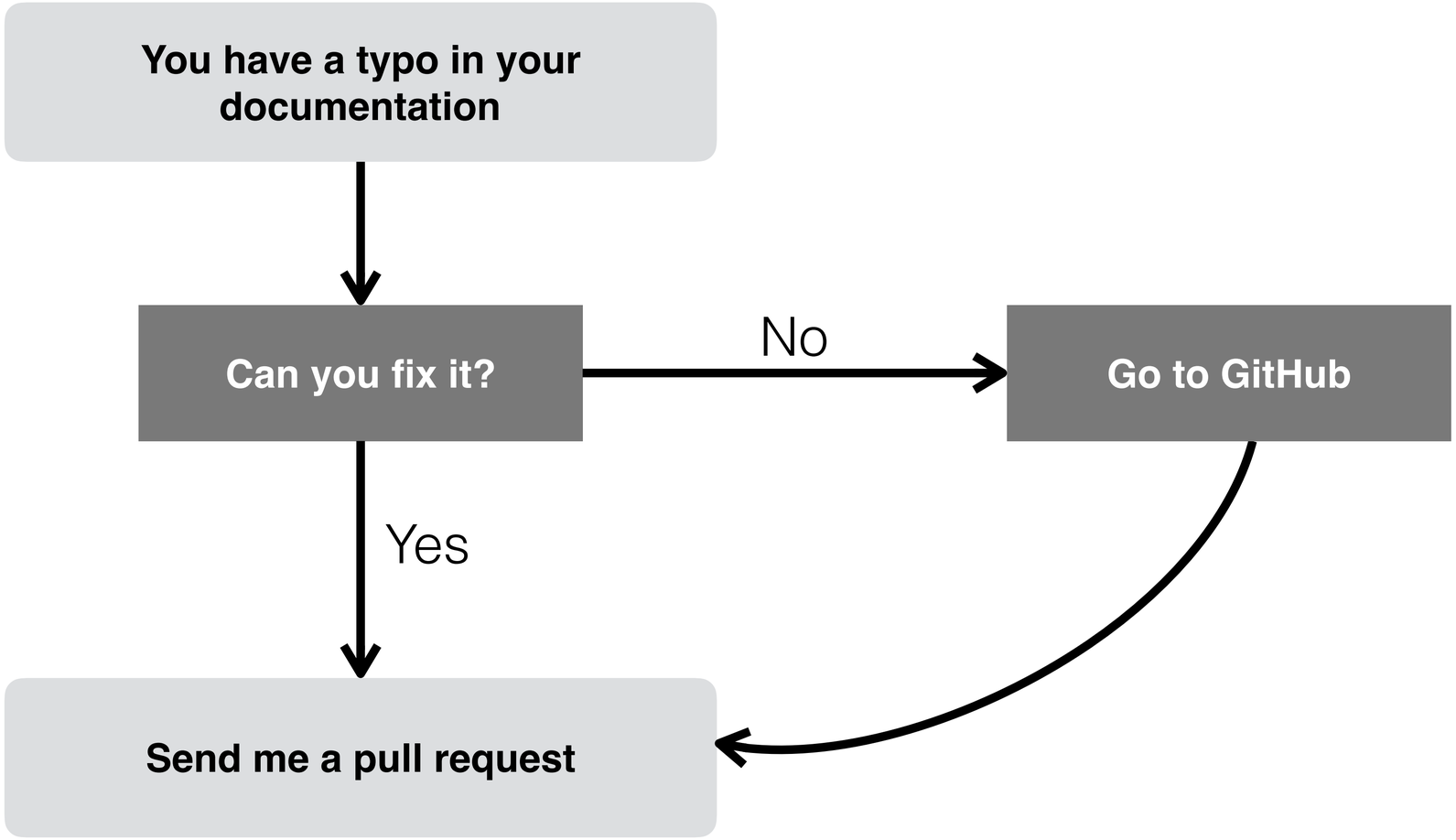
"How rOpenSci uses Code Review to Promote reproducible Science." Noam Ross, Scott Chamberlain, Karthik Ram, Maëlle Salmon. <https://ropensci.org/blog/2017/09/01/nf-softwarereview/> 2017-09-01.

tpyos



Adapted from: You Do Not Need to Tell Me I Have A Typo in My Documentation by Yihui Xie

typos



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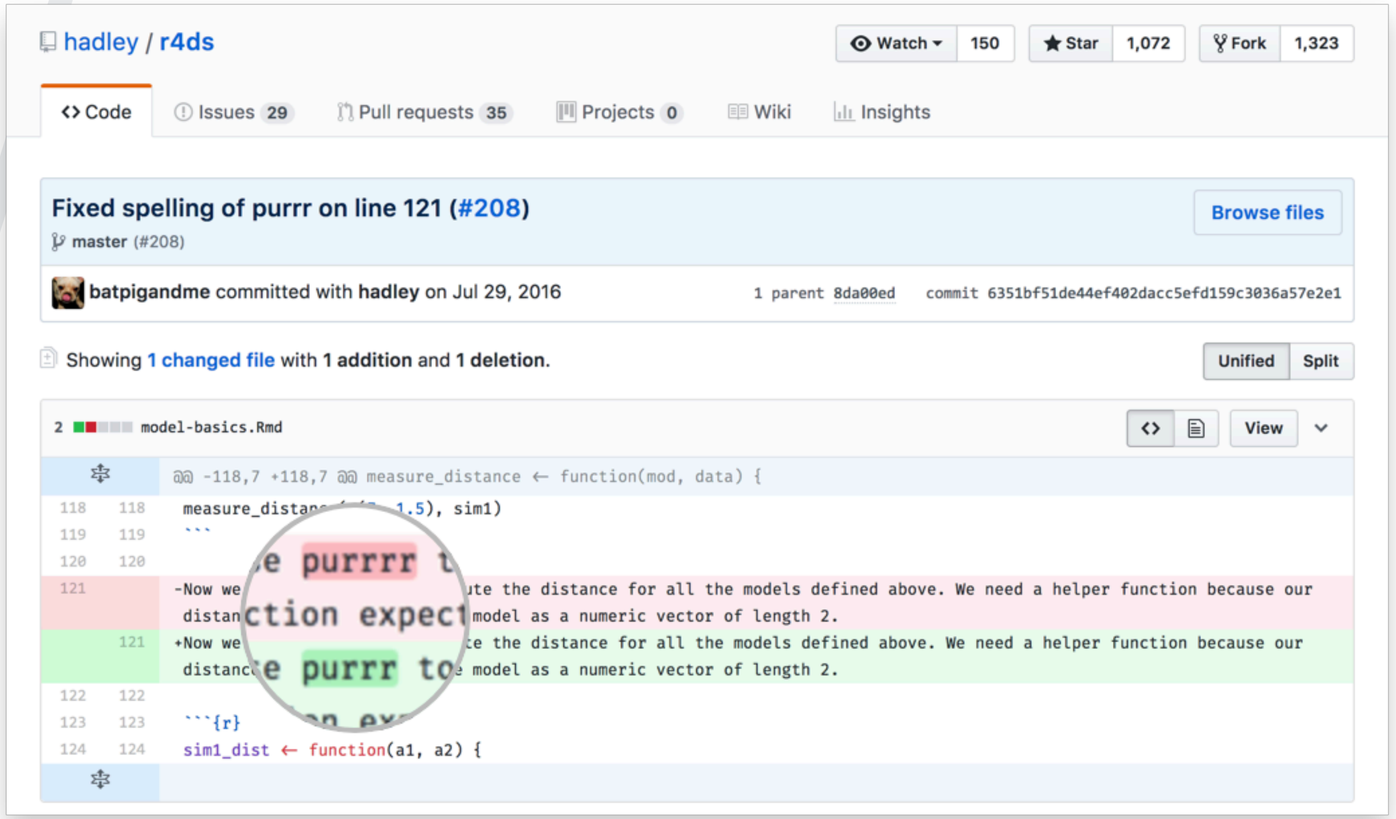
My first "contribution"



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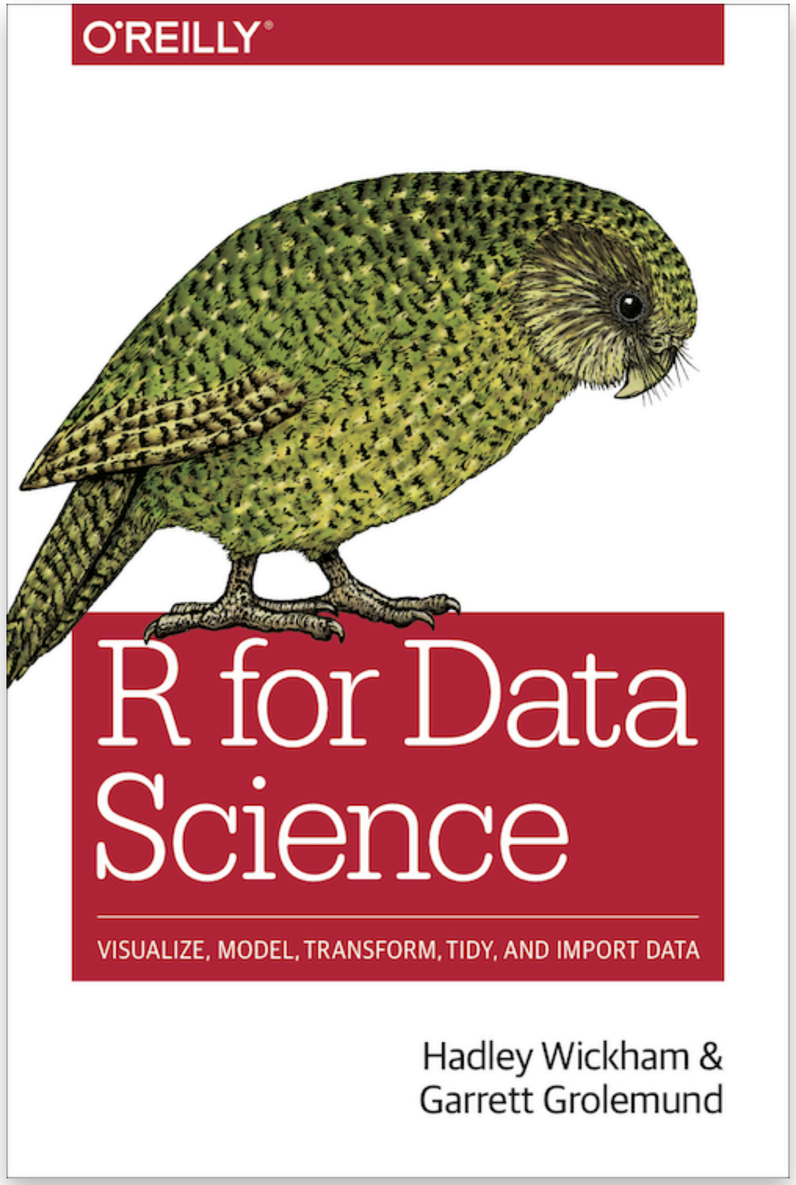


Ways to contribute

PULL REQUESTS

Contributing code/making fixes.

ISSUES

Identifying a problem, trying your best to isolate its source.

COMMENTS

Help maintainers answer questions, triage issues. Help newcomers learn how to ask better questions (e.g. the art of the reprex).

need help getting started?

Save the date: tidyverse developer day

Photo by rawpixel

Save the date 📆

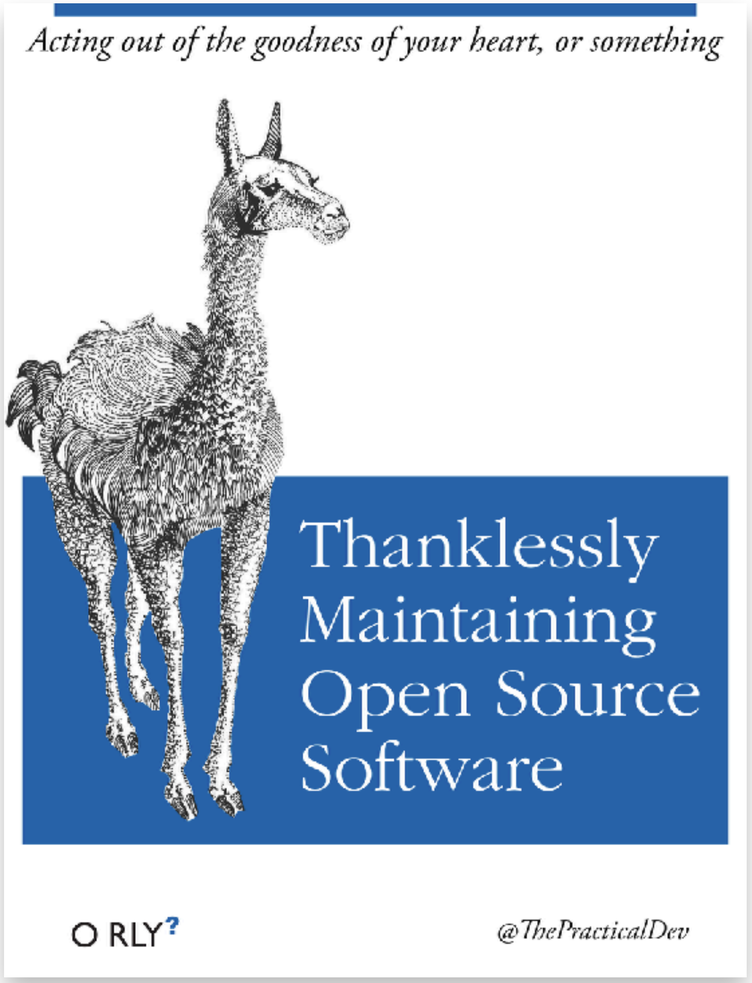
On the Saturday following rstudio::conf, we'll be holding our first ever **tidyverse developer day**, and you're invited! So, if you're interested, plan on being in Austin on the 19th of January. The venue is not settled yet, but the intent is to make it convenient for people who've chosen lodging based on the rstudio::conf location.

Squad goals 🎯

There will be more details to come, but the idea is to have a day where we can work together on anything ranging from submitting your first pull request, to working on your own package. The tidyverse team will be there, so we can help you hit the ground running and/or get over any stumbling blocks that you encounter. Don't have any ideas for something to work on? No problem! We'll be tagging issues in advance to make sure there's lots to do for any- and everyone, regardless of level of expertise.

and a bunch of other places…

giving back


Acting out of the goodness of your heart, or something
Thanklessly Maintaining Open Source Software
O RLY?
@ThePracticalDev

tidyverse team

Thank You

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