Supercharge your R practice with pair programming

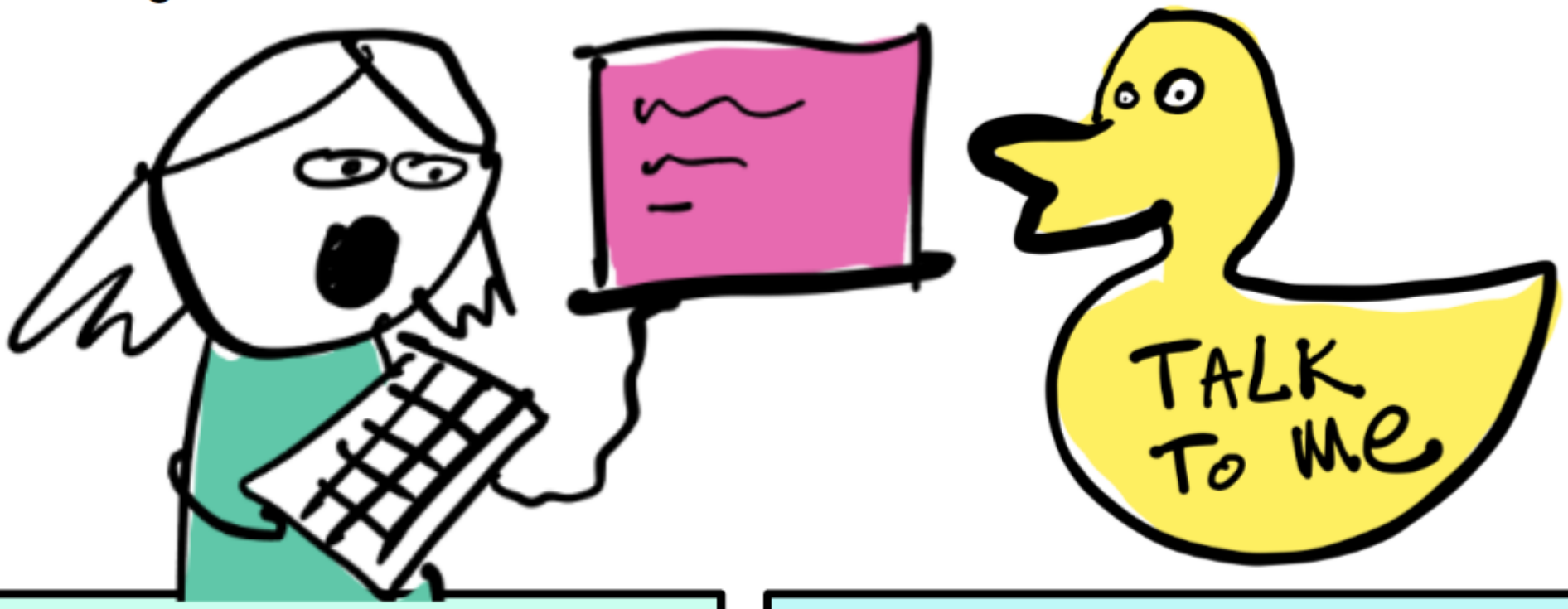
EdinbR | 23 February 2024

Dr Brittany Blankinship & Dr Kasia Banas

https://pairprogramming.ed.ac.uk/

What is pair programming?

Pair programming:



the Driver = active person, problem-solving, thinking out loud

the Navigator = reflective person, looks out for bugs, is a Rubber-Duck*

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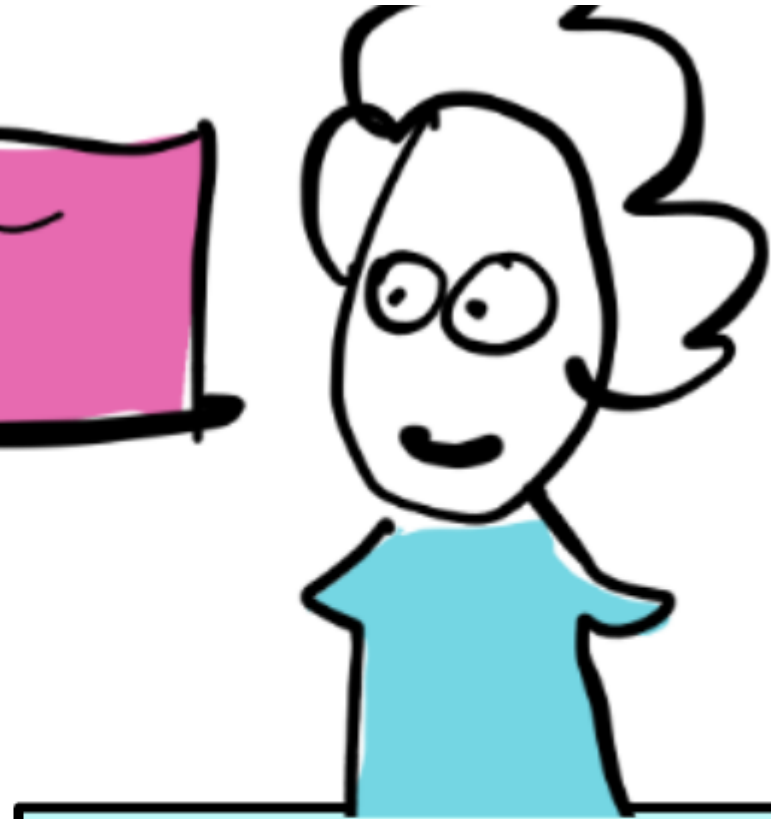

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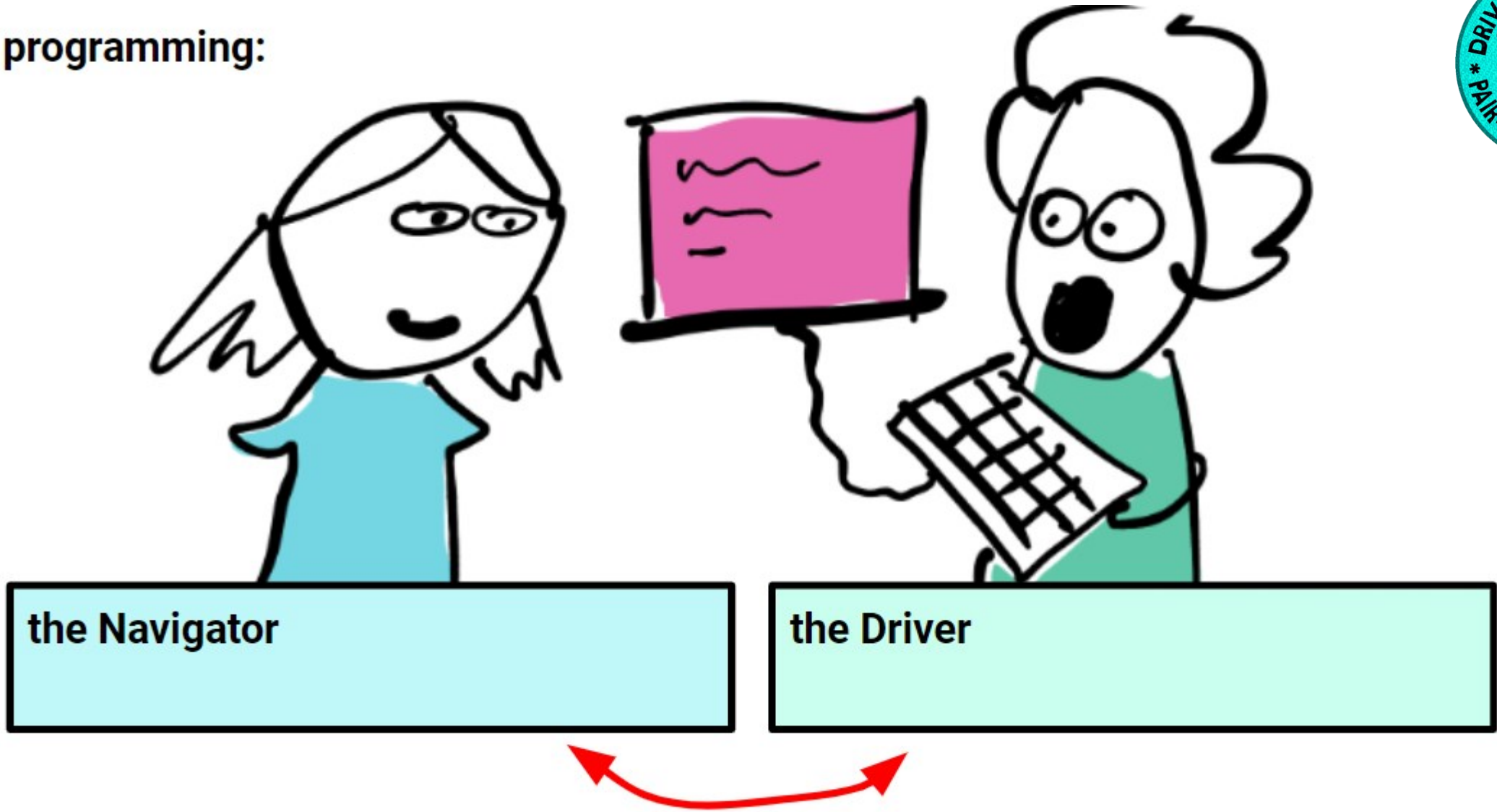

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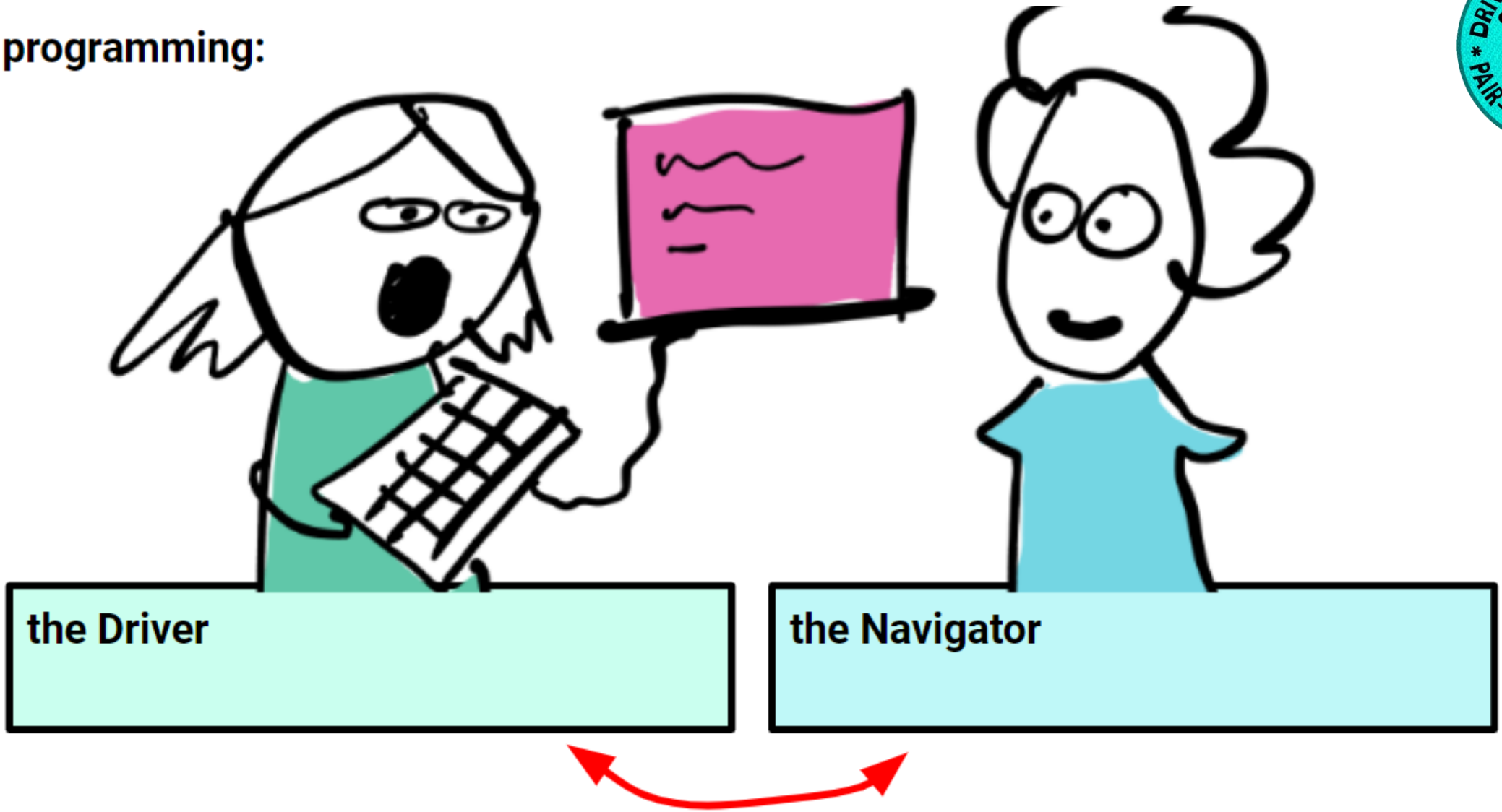
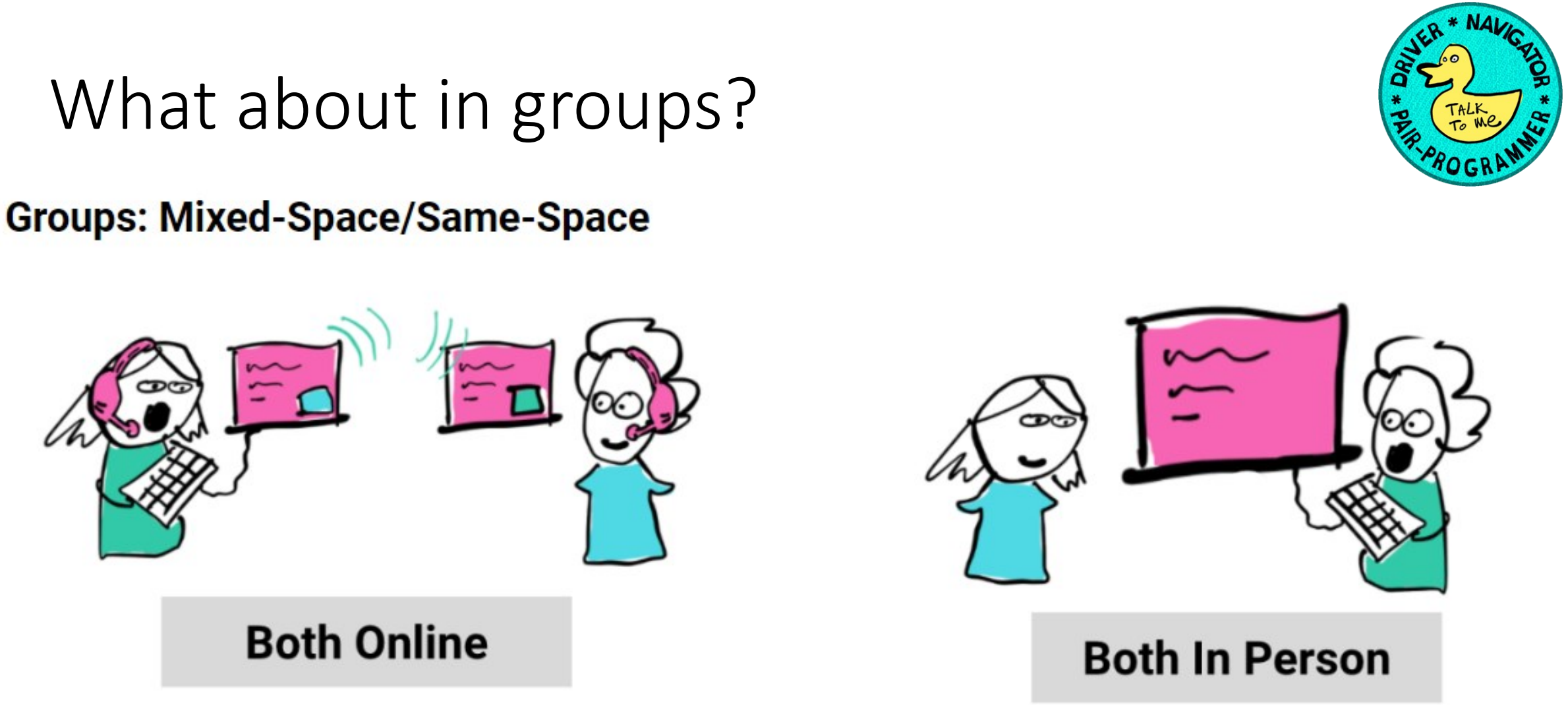
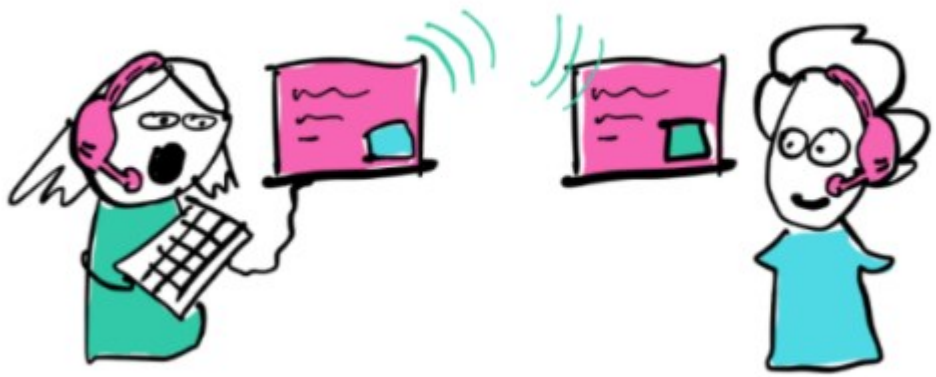


What about in groups?

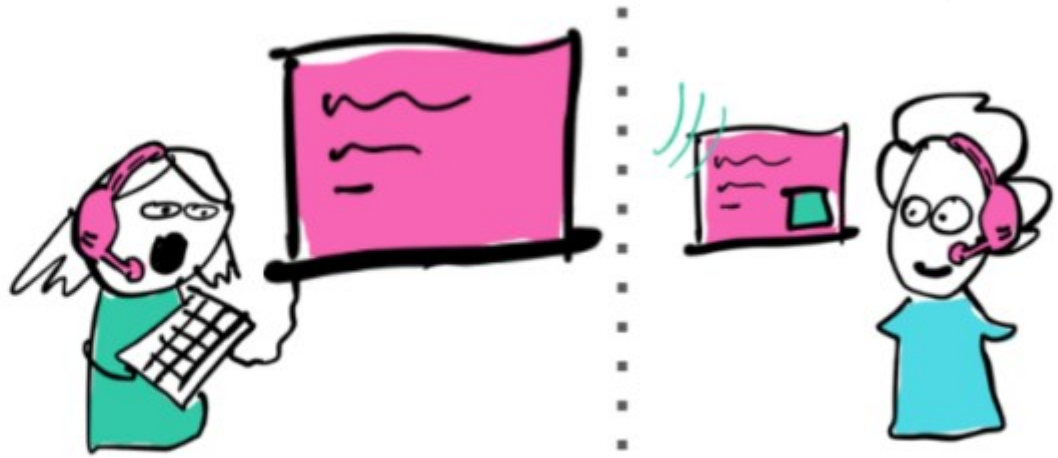


Groups: Mixed-Space/Same-Space



Both Online

Both In Person



One Online - One in Person

Benefits:

💬 teaches to describe code in your own words

❓incentifies asking and answering questions well

🐝 in mixed-level groups cross-pollination of ideas and skills

❤️ builds cohort identity, e.g. changing partners every week

✅ creates accountability (important in flipped classroom)

Benefits to you as a R-user

✅ Code that is cleaner, less buggy, and more efficient

💬 Improved communication skills

💡 Improved understanding of your code and the task you are trying to accomplish

🐛 Faster debugging

🏆 Making coding more accessible

🥳 More fun!

Now to you!

How to start:

- Find a pair programming partner in the room
- Go to **https://github.com/bblankinship/EdinbRTalk-2024-02-23**
- Select one of the practice documents:
  - madrid-pollution-tasks.rmd *or*
  - plastic-waste-tasks.rmd

During the task:

- As you work on the tasks, talk about what you are doing, the navigator is helping the driver out
- Change who drives **after every task**

How to switch the driver?

- Just pass the laptop over

Thank you!

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