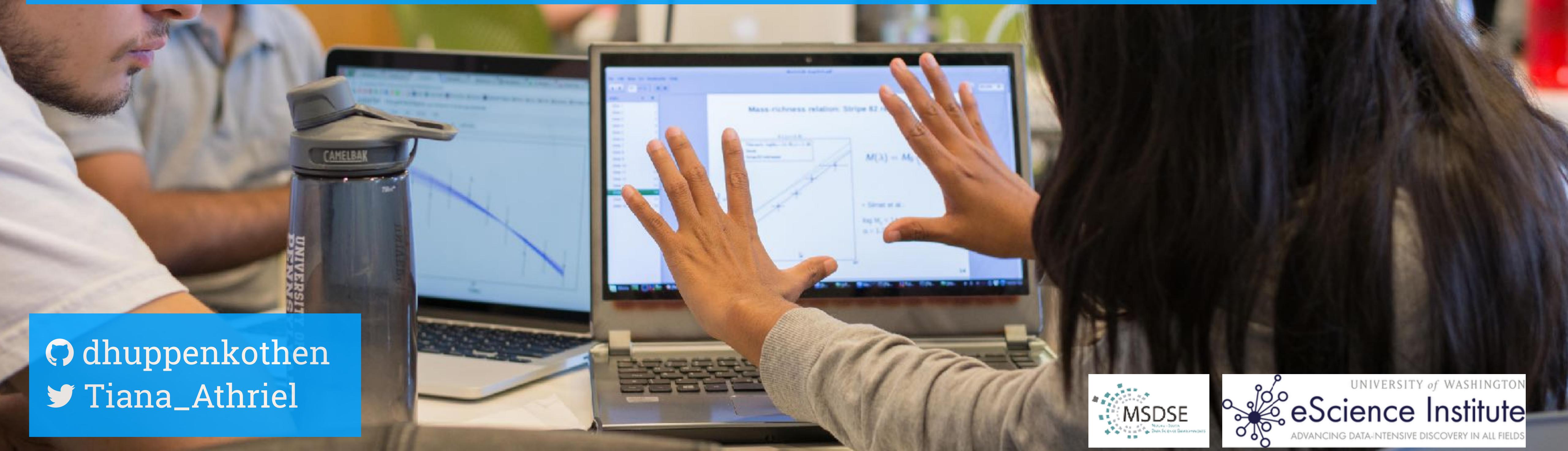


Hack Weeks As A Model for Data Science Education and Collaboration

Daniela Huppenkothen, UW Astronomy



[dhuppenkothen](#)
 [Tiana_Athriel](#)



American Astronomical Society (2018)



credit: AAS/CorporateEventImages/Phil McCarten

“The best thing about this
meeting is the coffee breaks!”

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- exchange ideas
- collaboration
- networking

Can we organize a workshop
that is all coffee breaks?



- How do we improve the exchange of knowledge?
- How do we remove barriers and stop fields reinventing the wheel?

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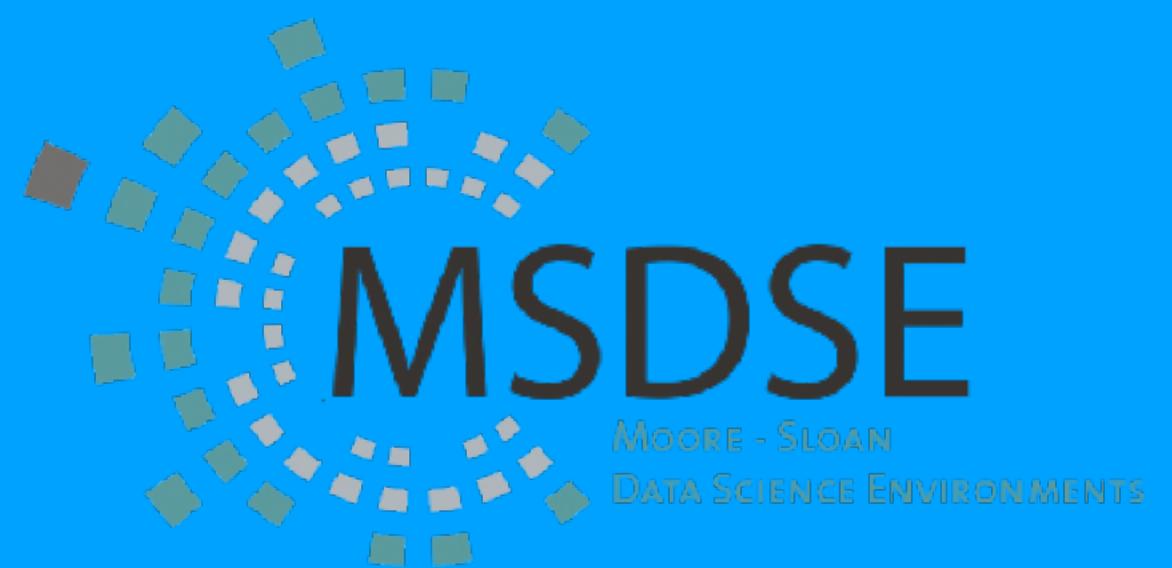
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<http://astrohackweek.org>

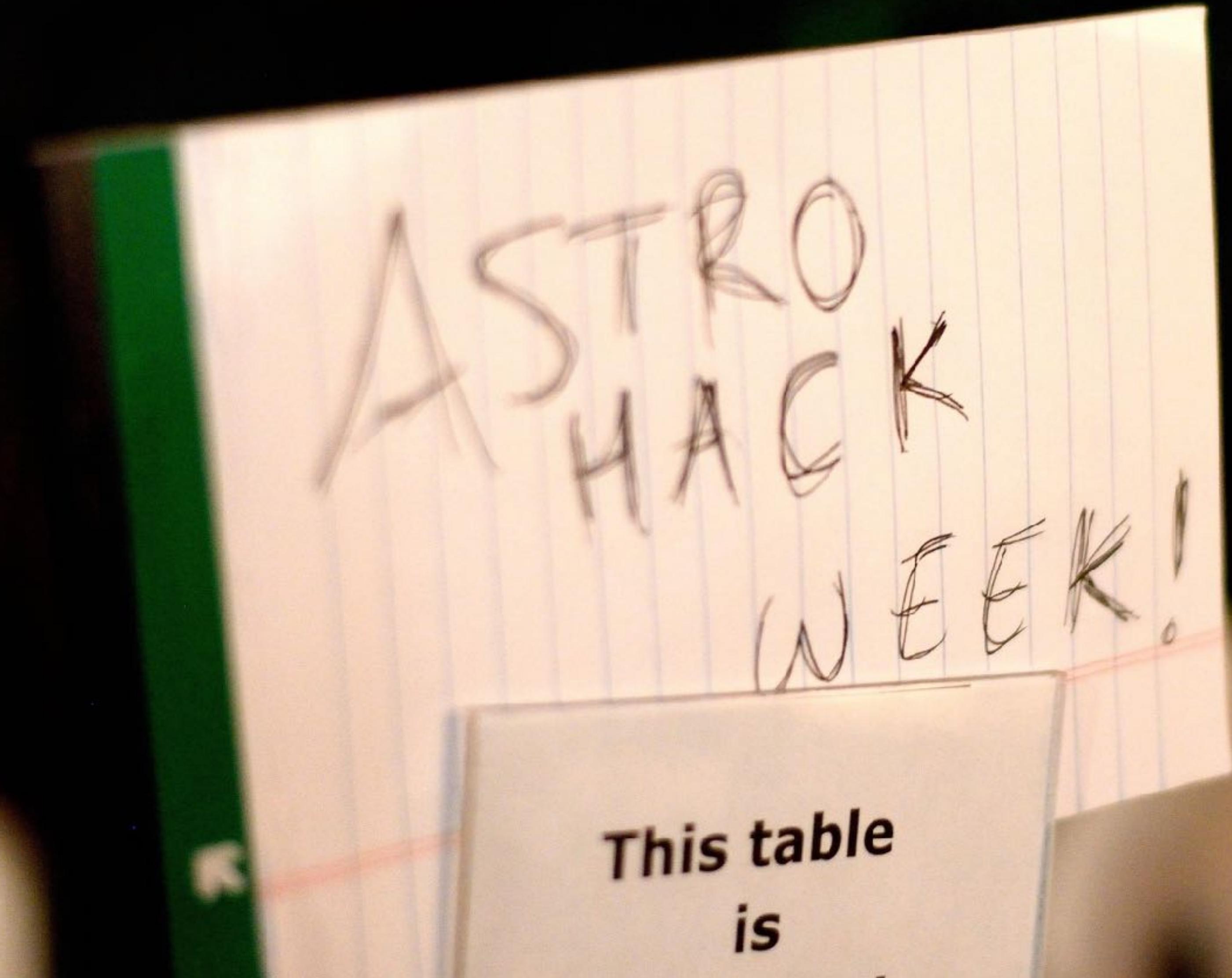
ASTRO
HACK
WEEK!

This table
is

<http://astrohackweek.org>



Jake VanderPlas



What is a hack week?

#AstroHackWeek

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- 5-day workshop

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- 5-day workshop
- ~50 participants

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- participant-driven

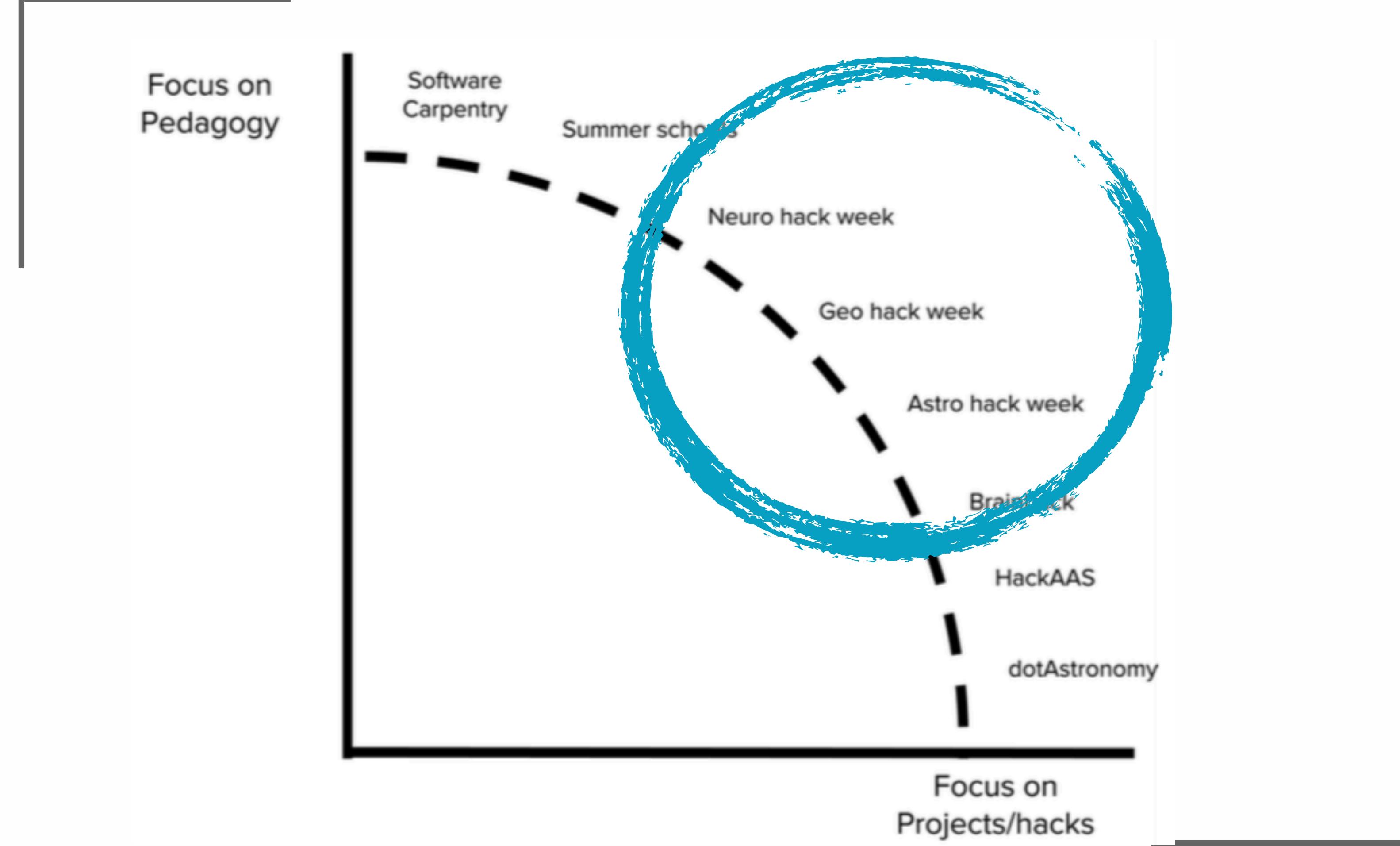
#AstroHackWeek

- 5-day workshop
- ~50 participants
- tutorials and break-out sessions
- project work
- Lots of ☕ and 🍪
- participant-driven
- experimental

Hackweek Mission

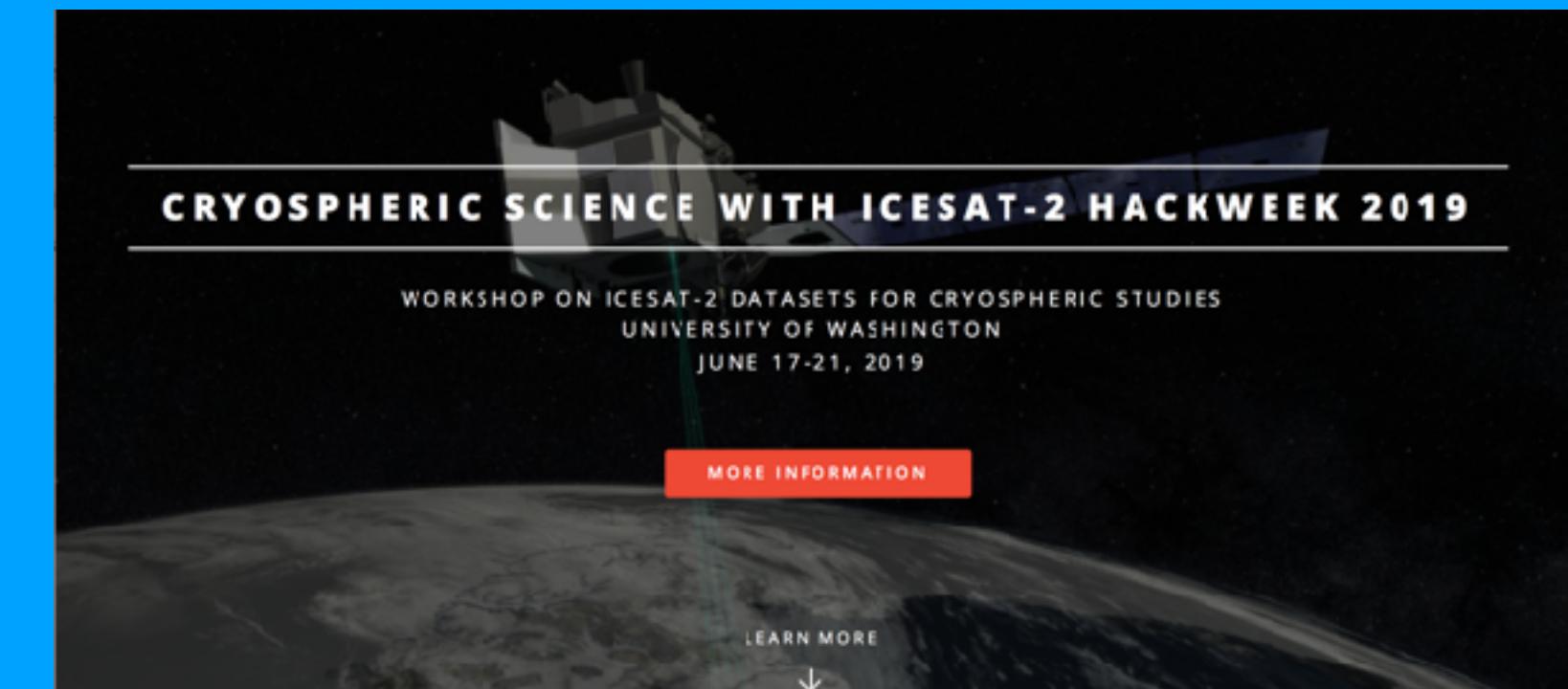






A toolbox for
organizing
interactive,
collaborative
events





<https://geohackweek.github.io>

<https://neurohackweek.github.io> <https://icesat-2hackweek.github.io>



<https://oceanhackweek.github.io>

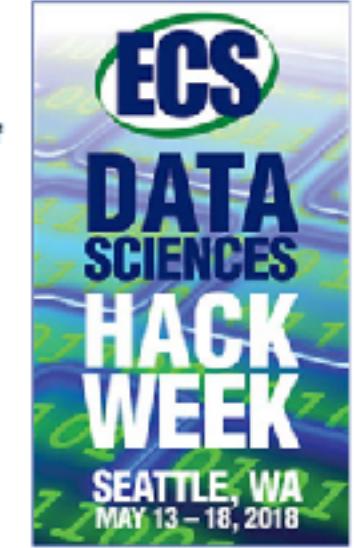
Hack Week

ECS Data Sciences Hack Week
May 14-19, 2018
Seattle, WA

Application Deadline: March 30, 2018

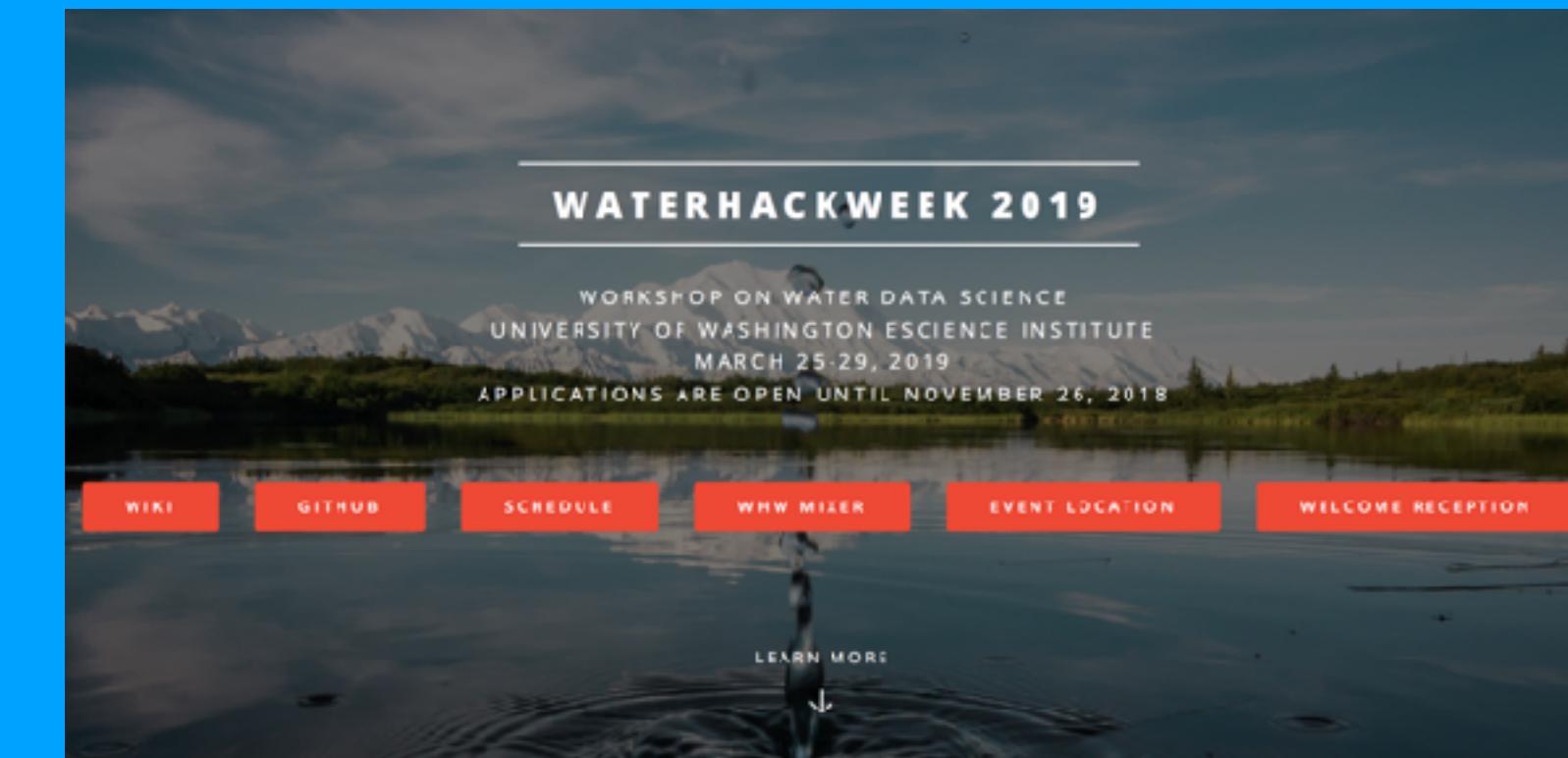
Building on the success of the first ECS Data Sciences Hack Day (October 2017), ECS is pleased to offer another opportunity at the ECS spring meeting in Seattle. In May 2018, the program will be expanded to an entire week as the next stage in ECS supporting a growing electrochemical data science and open source community. The goal of this event is to increase awareness and impact of data science tools, open source software, and shared datasets in electrochemistry and solid state science and technology, by bringing together people from different backgrounds to collaborate.

Hack Week will again be led by the very capable and engaging team from University of Washington: Dan Schwartz, David Beck, and Matt Murbach. The program will kick off on Monday, May 14 and have sessions all day Wednesday through Friday, as well as optional software training tutorials during the week. The activities will culminate with project presentations and an optional clamming expedition on Saturday, a traditional activity in the Puget Sound area.



The logo for the ECS Data Sciences Hack Week features the letters "ECS" in a green circle at the top, followed by "DATA SCIENCES" in large blue letters, "HACK WEEK" in large yellow letters, and "SEATTLE, WA MAY 13 - 18, 2018" in smaller text below.

<https://www.electrochem.org/233/hack-week>



<https://waterhackweek.github.io>

Participant-driven
workshops

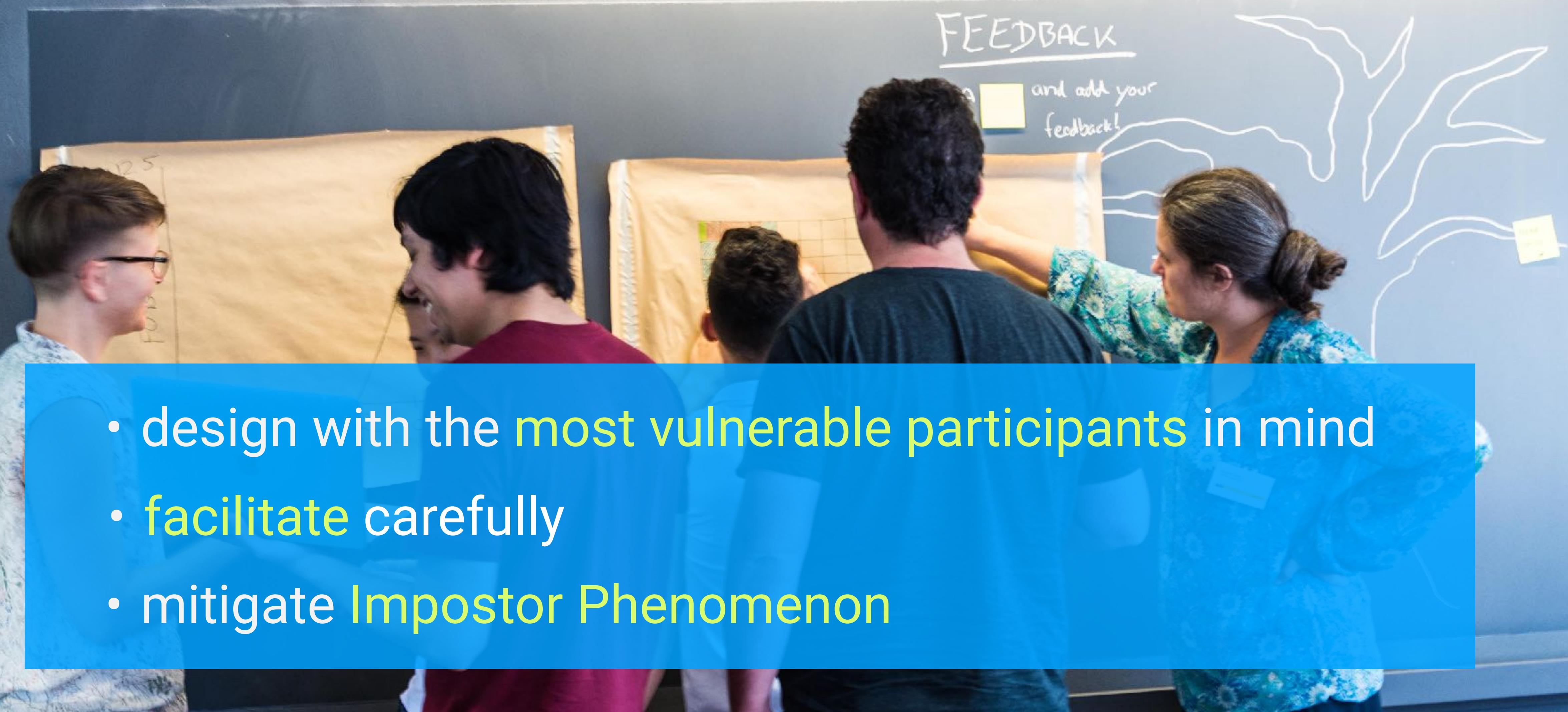
diversity is excellence



participant-driven != unstructured



participant-driven != unstructured



- design with the most vulnerable participants in mind
- facilitate carefully
- mitigate Impostor Phenomenon

“At a summer school, the young learn from the old.
At a hack week, the old learn from the young.”

— David W. Hogg



“At a summer school, the young learn from the old.
At a hack week, the **everyone** learns from **everyone else**.”

— Daniela Huppenkothen



Tutorials

- practically oriented
- interactive
- make use of participants' expertise



MORE BREAKOUTS
(HULP)

Julia
Kepler

Packaging (Python) ~~|||||~~ ||||

Bayesian model comparison |||

BREAKOUTS

DATABASE

TEAM 18

STOCHASTIC GRADIENT ~~|||||~~

GAIADR1 ~~||||~~

PAM |||

Learning through hacking



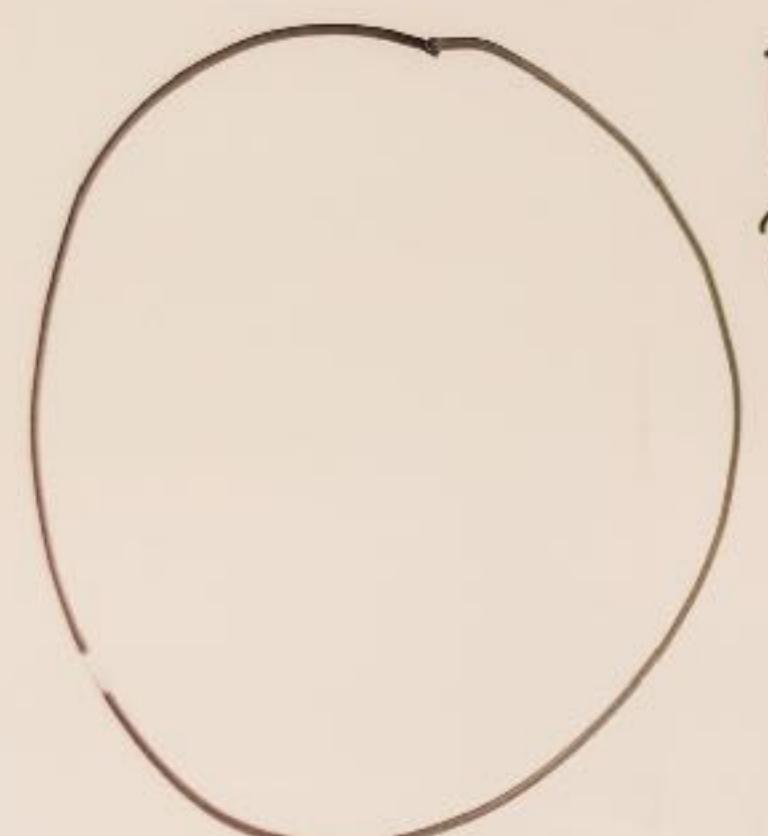
Häck Atlas - let others know
what you're working on

Door

Projector Screen

Participant Selection

Podium



BREAKAWAY

ML

Collaboration

hack (n):

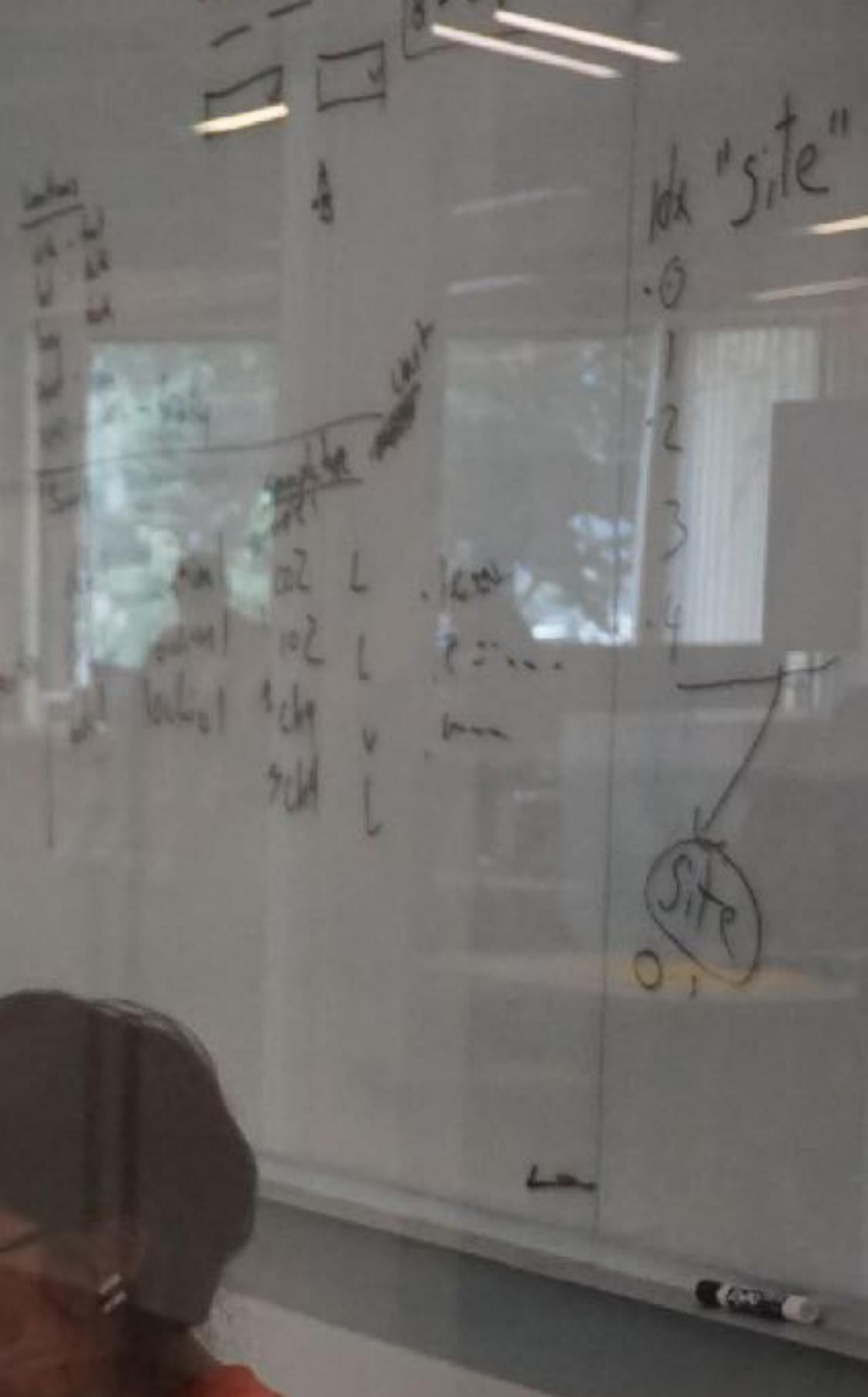
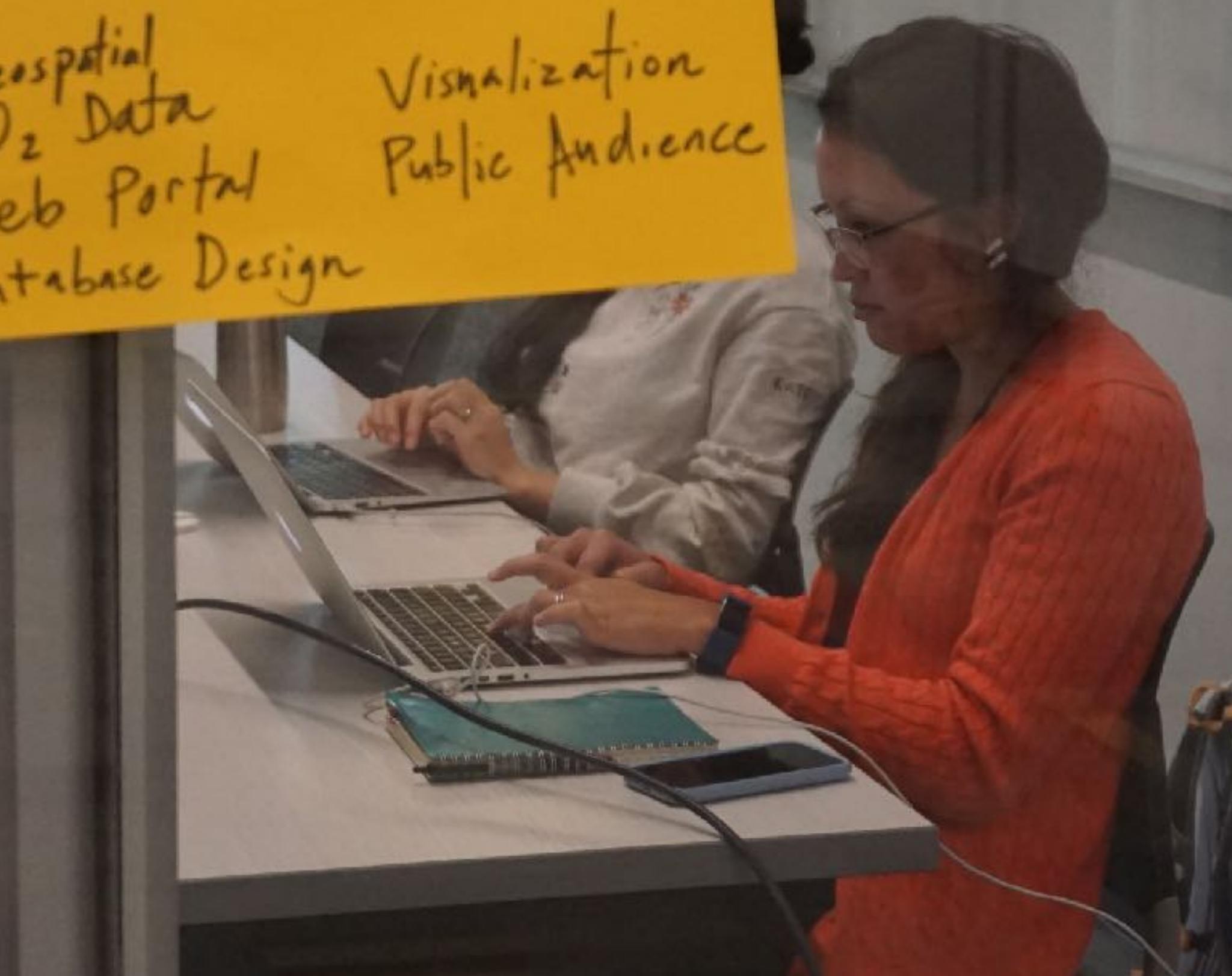
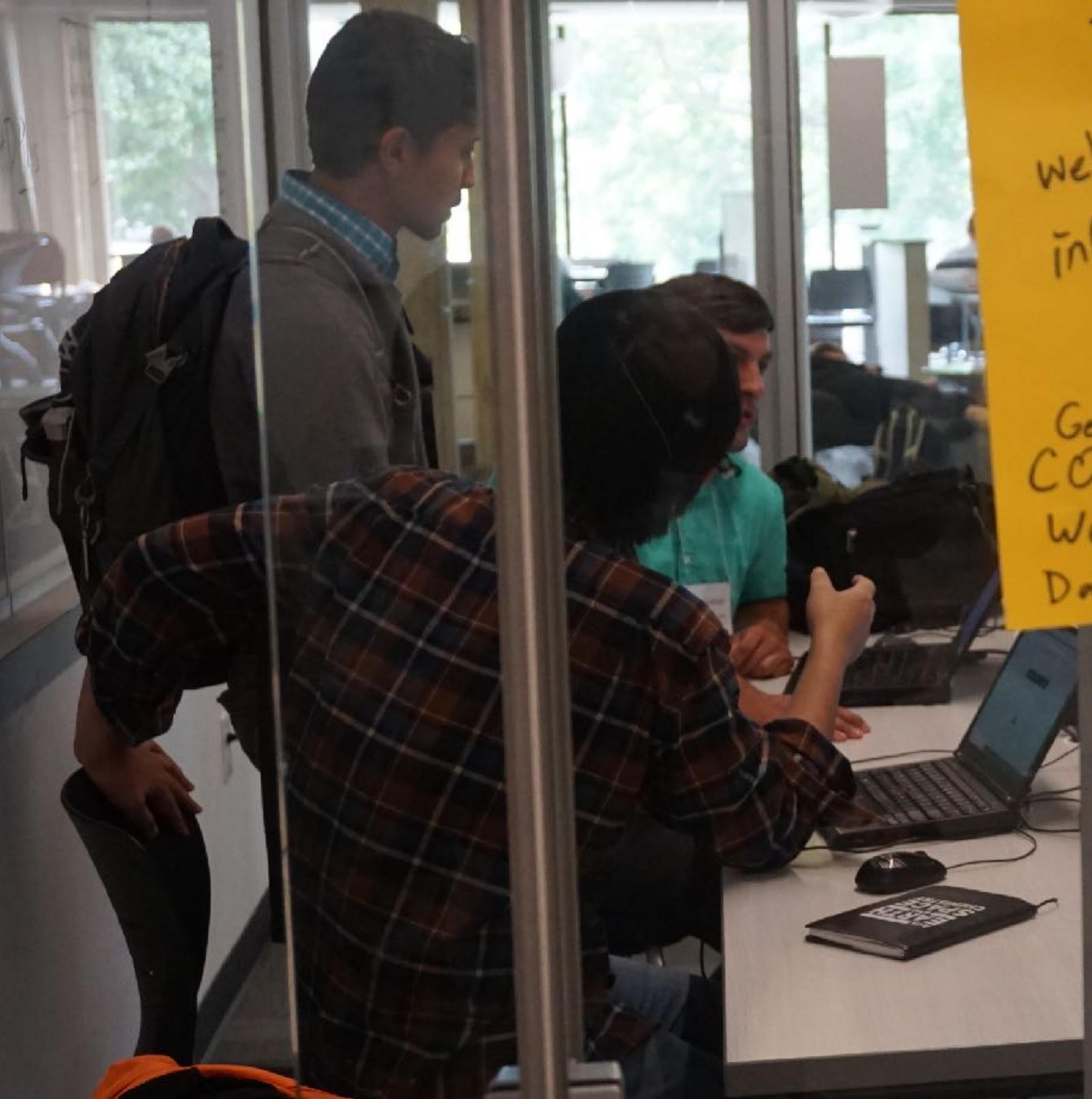
A hack is a small project with a very clear goal, which should be completed by the end of the time initially allocated to it

#CO2WEB

web-portal for CO₂ in
inland waters

Geospatial
CO₂ Data
Web Portal
Database Design

Visualization
Public Audience



Does it work?

- track long-term outcomes (papers, software, ...)
- evaluation via post-attendance surveys
- ethnographic work
- case studies
- team photos
- regular discussions across hack weeks

Astro Hack Week 2018

Wrap Up Slides
August 6-10, 2018

Astro Grad Admissions Optimization: questionnaire and output

(Carrie, Malavika, Pearce, Ricardo, Rodrigo, Sean, Stane, Tarun)

Evaluation Criteria: Super Application Stage Interview Stage Offer Stage

	Super Application Stage	Interview Stage	Offer Stage
Physics Preparation	35	35	35
Computational Skills	35	35	35
Character Values	30	30	30

How important are the following attributes for graduate students in your program?

1 = Not at all important
5 = Average importance
9 = Very important
10 = Top priority

Physics background: Candidate has demonstrated aptitude in physics classes or exams

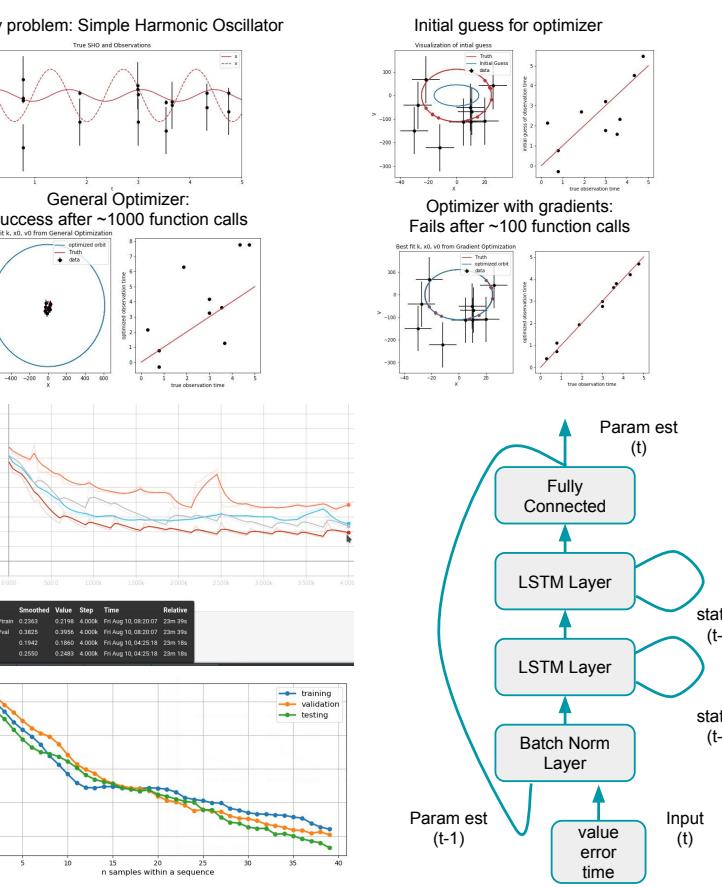
Demonstration of Initiative: Candidate has demonstrated seeking opportunities to collaborate and work independently, or taking on tasks on their own.

Not at all important
1 2 3 4 5
Top priority

Link to questionnaire: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJy2A-NHY3pgZJ3DHZvwhtkelXZq2UIMoYQ>

Lauren Anderson, Adrian Price-Whelan, Dan Foreman-Mackey, Iain Murray

Gradients of likelihood model to use HMC samplers, or various optimization stuff



Pearse Murphy, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Challenge: Compute 512 FFTs on ~2 million points without killing my computer

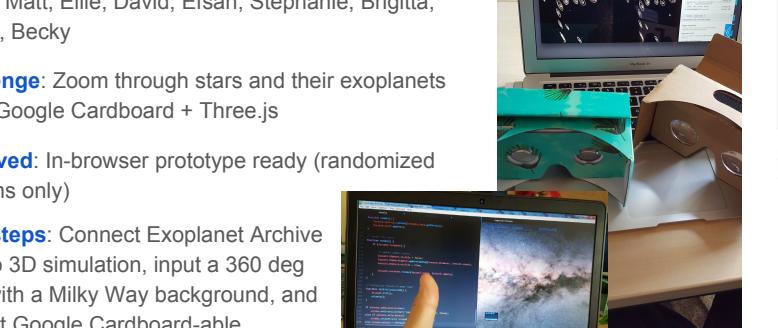
What did we achieve: Found a python wrapper for the FFTW library and implemented it. Unfortunately there was no significant speed up.

Concrete outcome: A "lazy" solution is to do 512/N FFTs on N computers at the same time and collect data at the end

Thoughts: I might join a different hack - feature recognition with machine learning type of thing.

Cardboard Universe: tinyurl.com/3dexoplanets

https://github.com/beckysteele/cardboard_universe



Team: Matt, Ellie, David, Efsan, Stephanie, Brigitta, Yanett, Becky

Challenge: Zoom through stars and their exoplanets using Google Cardboard + Three.js

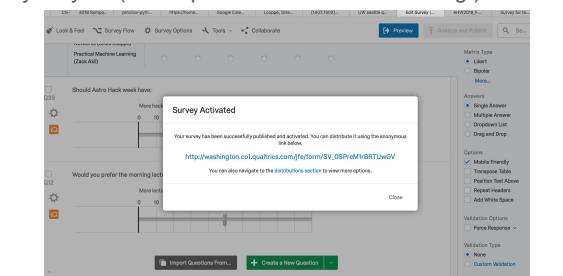
Achieved: In-browser prototype ready (randomized systems only)

Next steps: Connect Exoplanet Archive data to 3D simulation, input a 360 deg view with a Milky Way background, and make it Google Cardboard-able

AHW 2018 Survey

(Daniela Huppenkothen + Antonia Rowlinson)

... is ready for you! (Link + password tomorrow morning!)



Tutorials for formulating problems in a Bayesian way

Leon Trapman, Mohammadavad Vakili, Iain Murray, Andrei Igoshev, Daniel Mortlock

(community hack; 2018-08-09; IBM & Astro Hack Week)

1. Inferring distance to a star from a parallax measurement [A.I.]: DONE
2. Inferring cosmological parameters from power spectrum (with emulsion) [M.V.]
3. Inferring luminosity of a star from parallax and flux measurements [A.I.]: EXTENSION OF 1.]
4. Inferring the Solar System potential from a snapshot of planets kinematics [I.M.]: PUBLISHED]
5. Inferring the mass of the Galactic halo from Magellanic clouds [I.M.]: PUBLISHED]
6. Inferring the age of neutron stars from Galactic position, parallax and proper motion [A.I.]
7. Inferring dust content of a protoplanetary disk from an ALMA image [L.T.]: SORT-OF-DONE]
8. Inferring whether an asteroid will hit the Earth [I.M., D.M.]
9. Inferring the properties of a merger from gravitational wave observations [A.I.]
10. Inferring which card is showing of white-white, white-black, black-black [I.M., D.M.]
11. Inferring the number density of galaxies from a survey [D.M.]

11 responses

SUMMARY INDIVIDUAL

Accepting responses

And YOU!

11 responses

What's your field of research?

Operational 7 (63.6%)

Theoretical 2 (18.2%)

Simulations 4 (36.4%)

Experiments 1 (9.1%)

None 6 (54.5%)

Other 1 (9.1%)

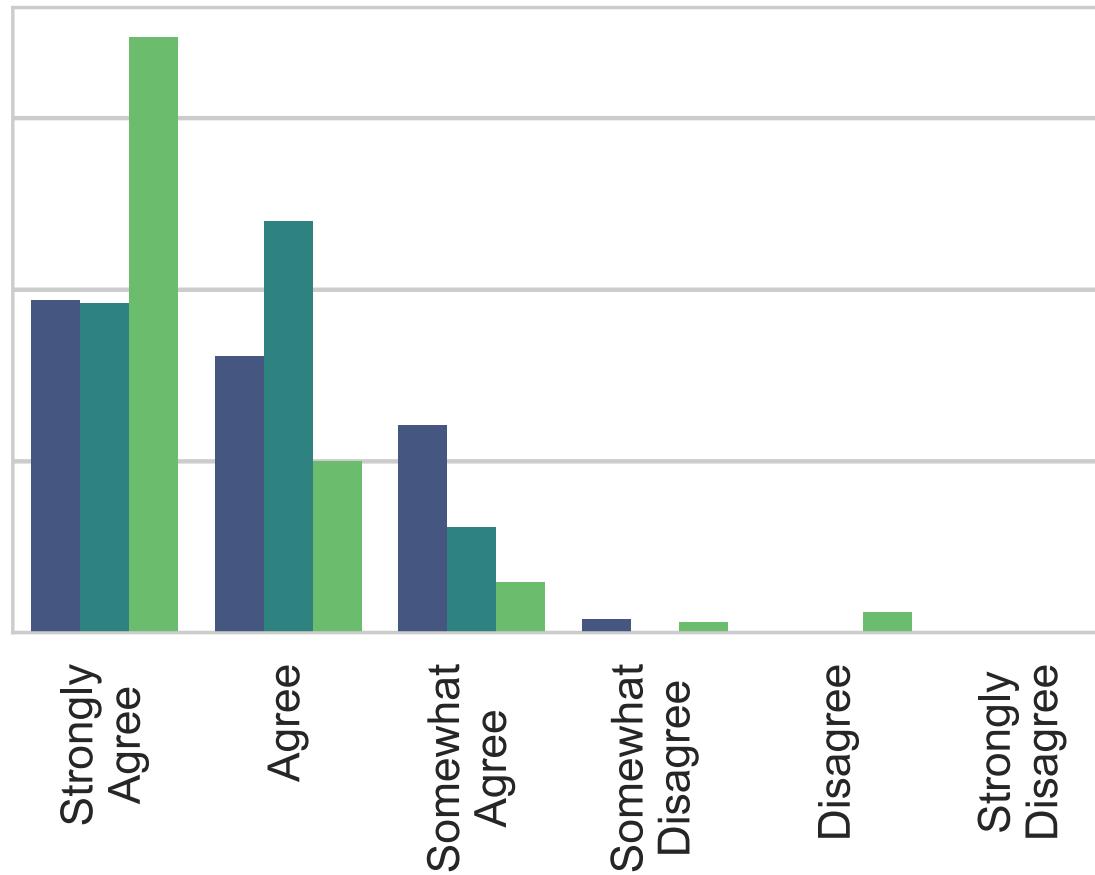
Survey 1 (9.1%)

None 1 (9.1%)

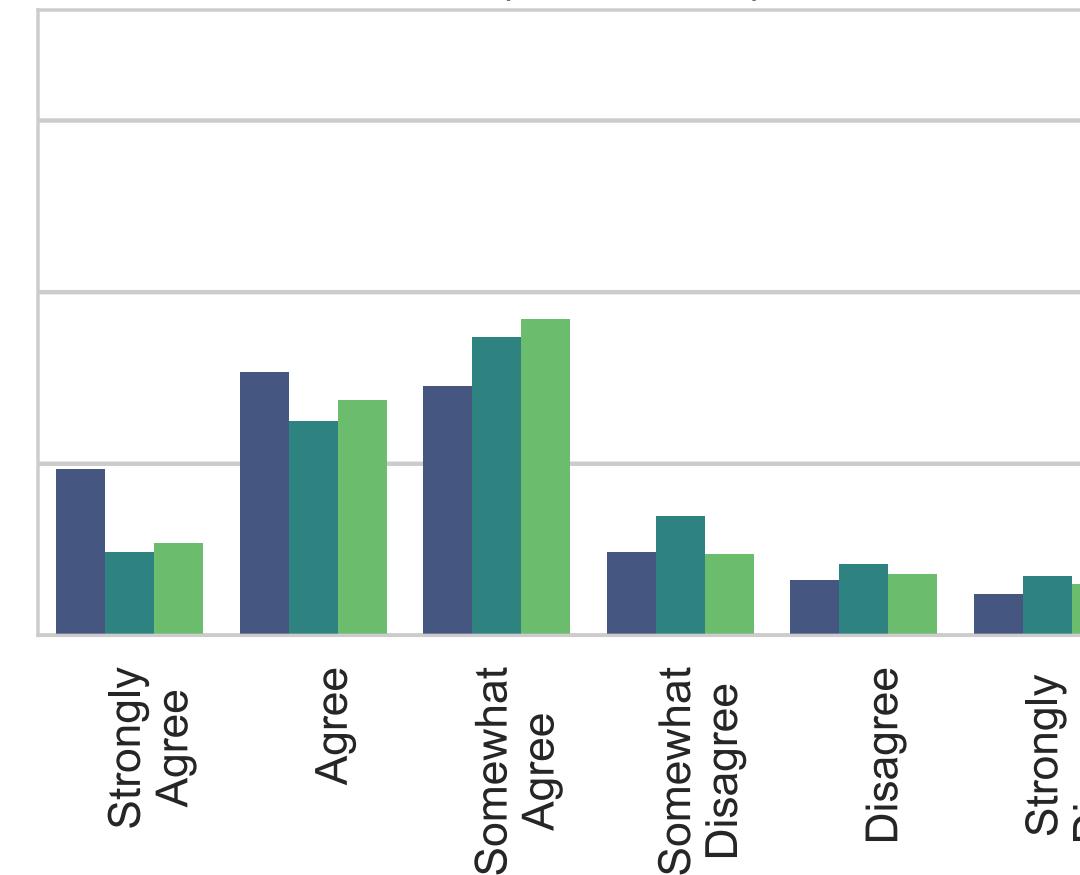
Other 1 (9.1%)

Survey Results

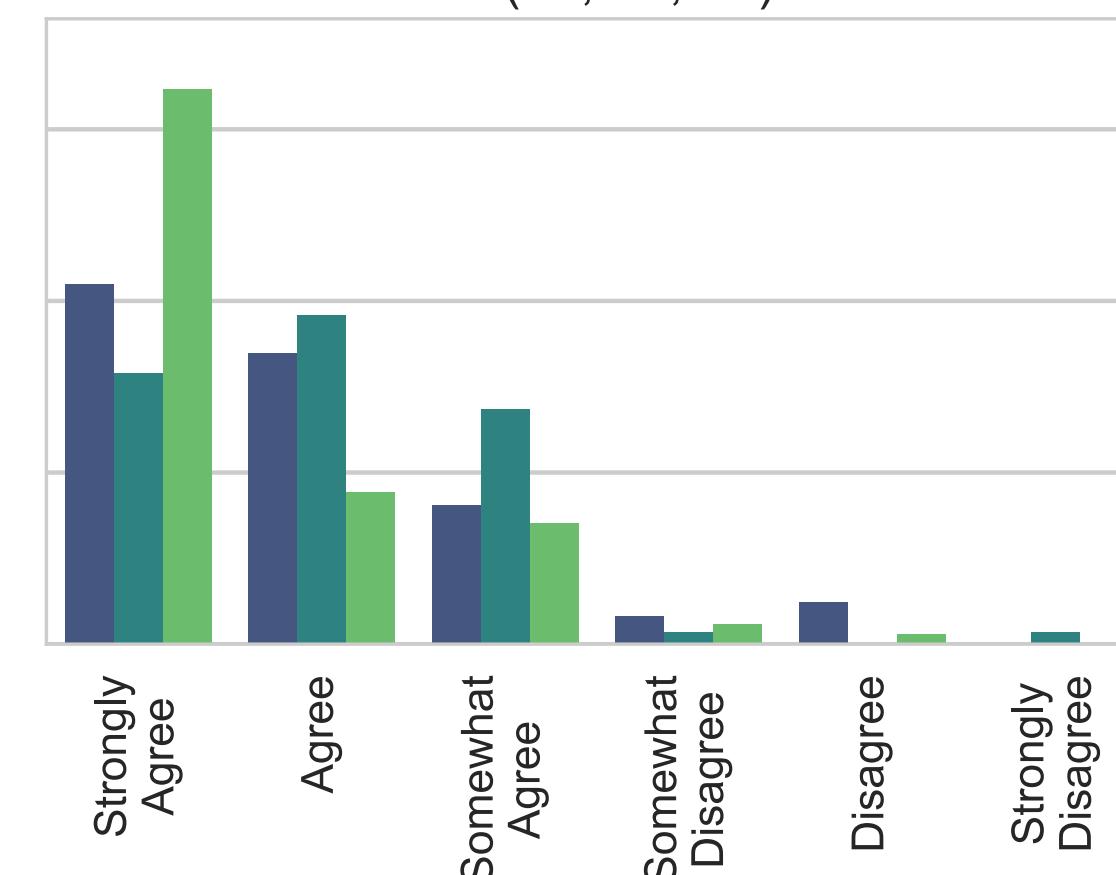
(b) I feel like I learned things which improve my day-to-day research;
N=(62, 73, 85)



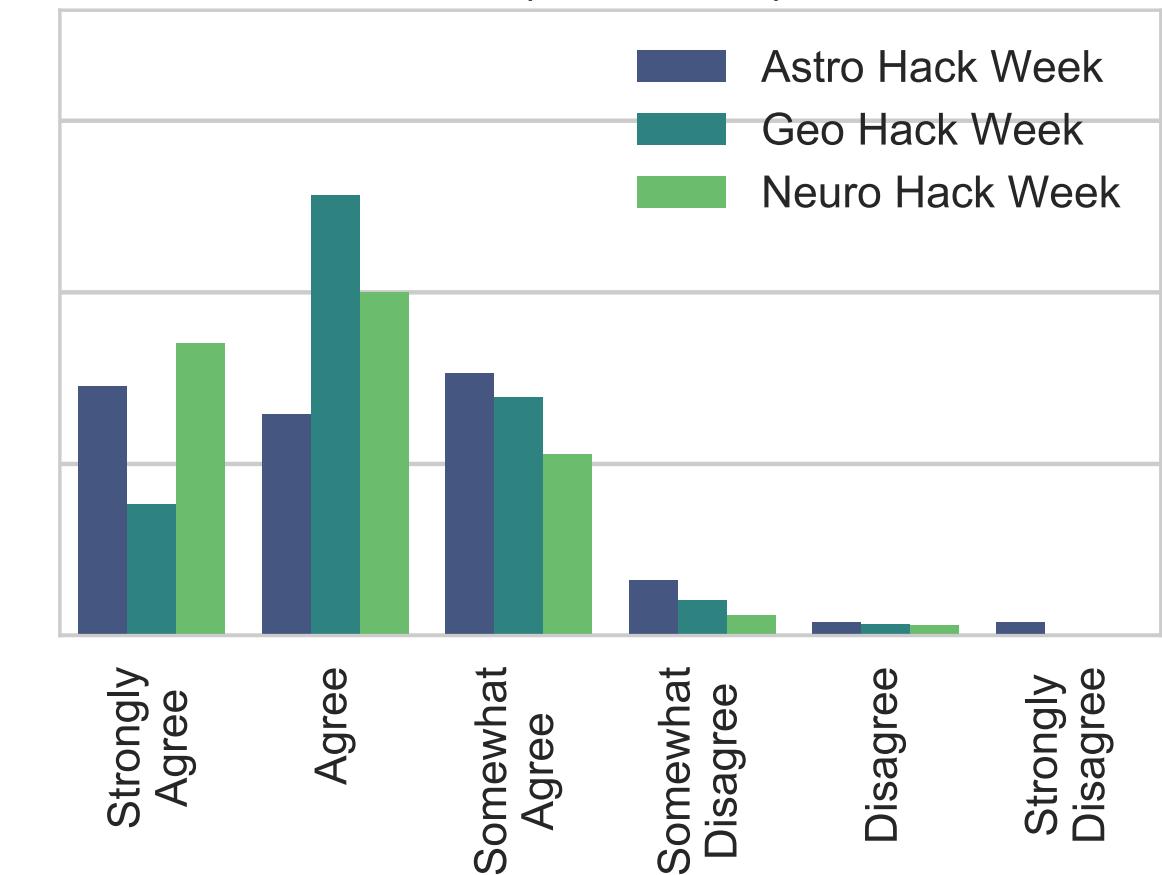
(d) I ended up teaching things to other people;
N=(62, 72, 84)



(e) I felt like I built valuable connections at X Hack Week;
N=(62, 73, 85)



(h) I feel like X Hack Week has made me more comfortable with doing open science;
N=(62, 72, 85)



Astro Hack Week
Geo Hack Week
Neuro Hack Week

Take-Away Lessons

build a community first





build a culture that **empowers** people to
ask fundamental (and trivial) questions

Adapt concepts
and ideas to your
community's
needs



Experiment



Evaluate

The word cloud is composed of various words related to people and their interactions. The central word is 'people'. Other prominent words include 'ideas', 'questions', 'opportunities', 'participants', 'contribute', 'introduce', 'create', 'expertise', 'different', 'encourage', 'Evaluate', 'idea', 'allow', 'feel', 'skill', 'work', 'experience', 'less', 'speak', 'assess', 'please', 'task', 'online', 'groups', 'possibility', 'synergy', 'constant', 'perspective', 'defined', 'for', 'action', 'activity', 'participants', 'times', 'participate', 'conversations', 'bonding', 'recognize', 'in', 'the', 'blue', 'background', 'area', 'is', 'the', 'word', 'Evaluate', 'which', 'is', 'the', 'final', 'step', 'in', 'the', 'process', 'of', 'facilitating', 'a', 'productive', 'team', 'meeting'. Smaller words surrounding the center include 'respect', 'environment', 'find', 'interest', 'share', 'Help', 'Others', 'time', 'ask', 'space', 'coffee', 'good', 'different', 'encourage', 'Evaluate', 'idea', 'allow', 'feel', 'skill', 'work', 'experience', 'less', 'speak', 'assess', 'please', 'task', 'online', 'groups', 'possibility', 'synergy', 'constant', 'perspective', 'defined', 'for', 'action', 'activity', 'participants', 'times', 'participate', 'conversations', 'bonding', 'recognize', 'in', 'the', 'blue', 'background', 'area', 'is', 'the', 'final', 'step', 'in', 'the', 'process', 'of', 'facilitating', 'a', 'productive', 'team', 'meeting'. The word 'Evaluate' is highlighted in a large, bold, white font within a blue rectangular box at the bottom right.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/08/17/1717196115>

¹	Hack Weeks as a model for Data Science	63
²		64
³	Education and Collaboration	65
⁴		66
⁵	Daniela Huppenkothen^{a,b,c,1}, Anthony Arendt^{d,e}, David W. Hogg^{b,a,f,g}, Karthik Ram^h, Jake VanderPlas^e, and Ariel Rokem^e	67
⁶		68
⁷		69

+ extensive supplementary materials

+ this talk: <https://github.com/dhuppenkothen/sdss-talk>

+ living checklist: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PKcb7J3Xx3fjAoHeKtvLdcvWmA3tCqs8T2CXAsv0U8/edit?usp=sharing>

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Come and chat with us!

