Welcome to DataFirst midterm event
Fall 2023
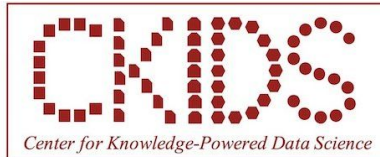
We hope that you are all having fun and learning more about **data science, teamwork** and the **domain you get to work on** this semester!

90 students
18 projects

Manu Sharma, Medium

USC CKIDS
Center for Knowledge-Powered Data Science

GRIDS @ USC

Midterm: How does it work?

- After our presentation, students will present their results on a poster
- Navigate through the rooms to talk to your fellow DataFirst participants
- Get to know other projects and don't be shy!

Progress is built on failure

Success

Success

what people think
it looks like

what it really
looks like
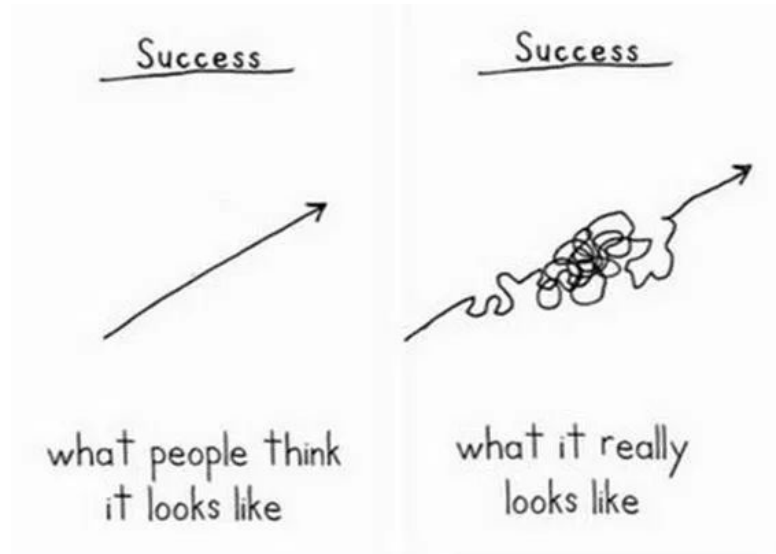
Success

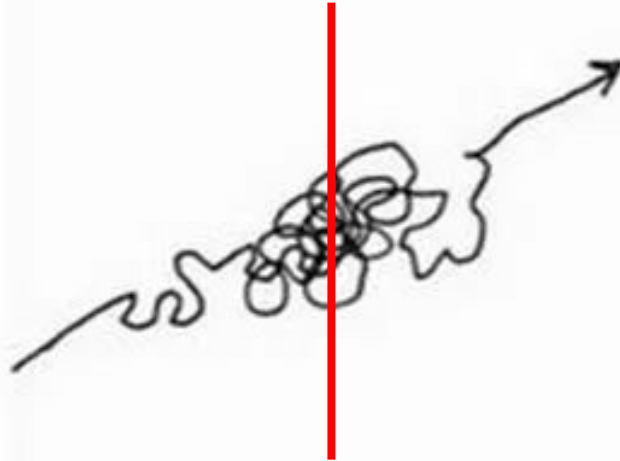Midterm (you are here)   Final

                                          Also...
                                          Papers you've read
                                          Talks you've heard
                                          etc.

what it really
looks like

State of your DataFirst project

- Hopefully, everything is going fine. Likely, that isn't the case.
- Missing or flawed data
- Problems need to be more refined
- Initial approach didn't work
- Initial hypotheses invalidated

- Don't worry! We've all been there.
- Some tips for moving forward.

Debugging the problem

- List all the components involved. Think about where the weak link might be.
- Design a logical and simple troubleshooting process to find the problem.
- Ask for help. Ask the internet, ask colleagues, ask other labs. There's no shame in being stuck, even on a basic technique.
- **Read. Think, and read again.**
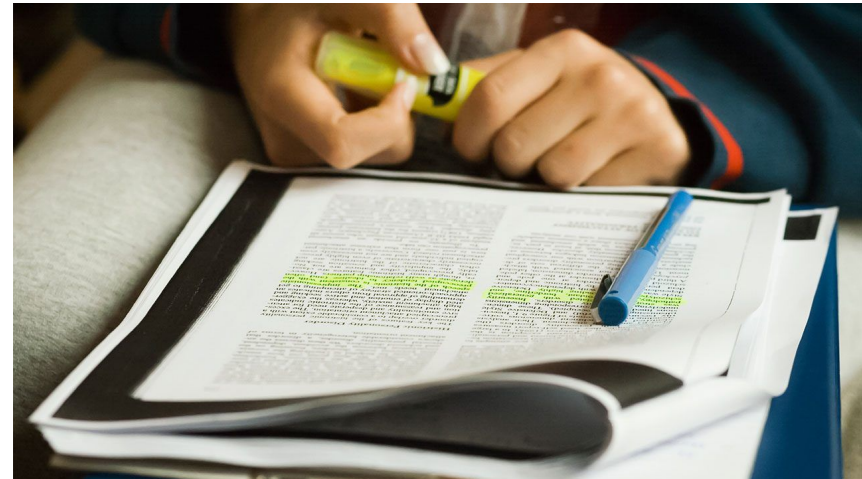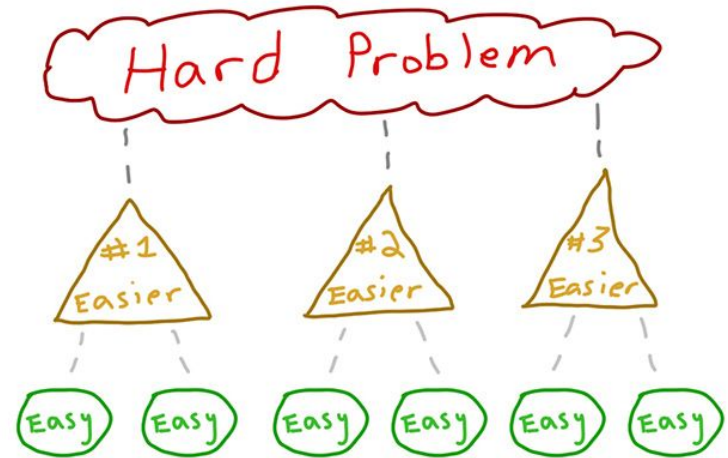
Tip: It could be the data

Know your data!

- Some projects have dataset provided.
  - Ensure that this data is actually representative of the problem.
  - Labels, too!
- Check data collection process for:
  - bias
  - sufficient size
  - variety
- All data needs cleaning before being usable!

Work with your teammates

- Figure out how best to work with your diverse team -- who can you collaborate with and learn from
- Tip: Find someone who can help/collaborate. Working with other students in small sub-groups (2-3 students) can help to foster teamwork
- Communicate with fellow team mates, to figure out how you can help them and viceversa
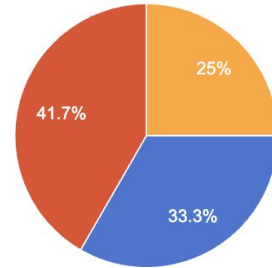
Rethinking the problem.

- Make sure your role is clearly scoped -- what do you want to accomplish?
- Tip: blend ideas. Try multiple, different, new approaches.
- Put yourself into an environment where you can be exposed to new ideas.
- Read, experiment

Everything is a Remix Remastered

Get feedback from outsiders!

- You don't have all of the answers.
- Your mentors probably don't either.
- Use this midterm as an opportunity to get feedback!
- Use today to ask questions to *other* groups. They may be working on a different problem but their solution could work for yours.

Looking Forward

Save the Date: Final Presentations

Friday, December 1, 2023, 5-7 pm

- ~5 minute presentation / per group
- Award Ceremony

What to include in presentation:
- Motivation and research question
- Outline of the research
- Major findings
- Overall conclusion

Create a project website before Final Presentation!

Why create a website?

- Create a digital and visual archive for your project
- Share your project's findings with a broad community
- Add project website to your CV
- Enter to win "Best Website" Award!

Information to include:

- Project motivation
- Specific problem you are addressing
- Data and methods
- Results and some fancy visualizations
- What you've learned
- About (mentor and student information)

Example project websites

Homeless Encampments in Los Angeles
https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/homeless-encampments-in-la
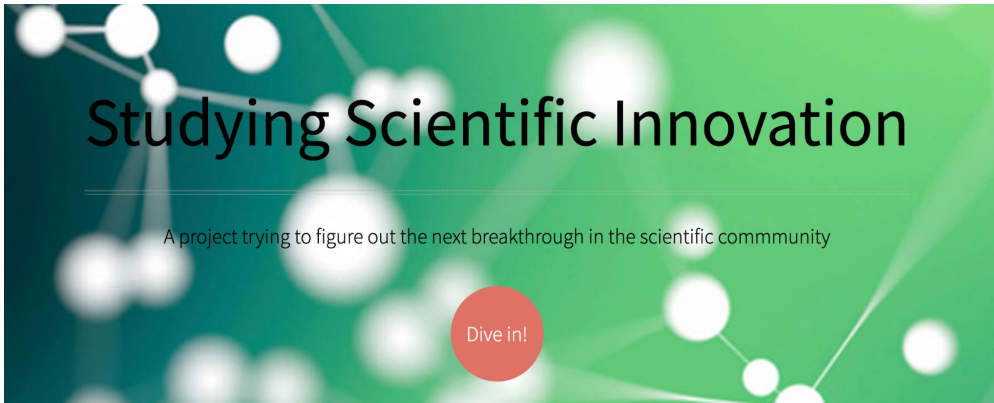
Award for Best Project Website Spring 2022:
https://vineet-agarwa11.github.io/
studying-scientific-innovation.github.io/index.html
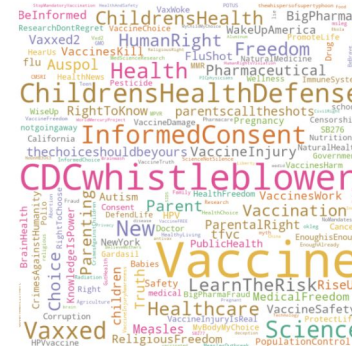
Anti-vaxxer pre-covid
hashtag wordcloud
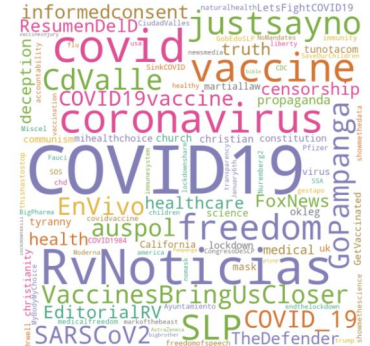
Anti-vaxxer post-covid
hashtag wordcloud

Covid Vaccine Misinformation
https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/covidvaccinemisinfo

Incentives for Participation: Awards!

- At the end of the semester, faculty mentors nominate their students for awards
- There are 9 types of awards, for individuals and for groups (including for project website)
- Awards are provided when there are ties as well
- Each award receives an **$100 Amazon gift card**
- Something else to add to your CV!
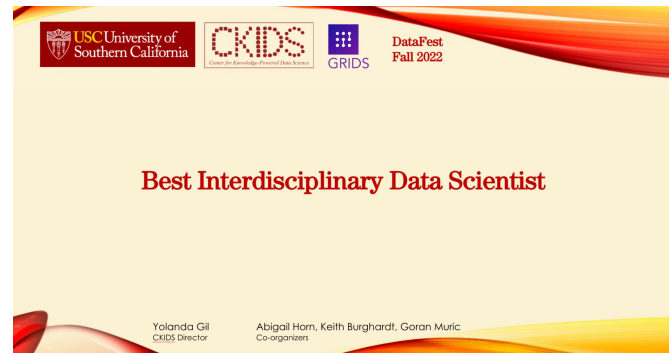
Next Steps

Share your mid-term feedback!

Sharing your experience will help us to help you!

This is an anonymous form.

USC GRIDS CKIDS DataFest Midterm Feedback

https://forms.gle/TiDbnne7i4YA7nCLA

Upload your slides onto GitHub

Send us links to these uploaded slides

DataFirst   Home   Advisors   Students   Fall 2023 ▾

Midterm DataFirst 2023

- Date: Friday, October 20, 5-7pm
- Location: SAL 101

Presentations

Paleoclimatology

We will upload these presentations to the website