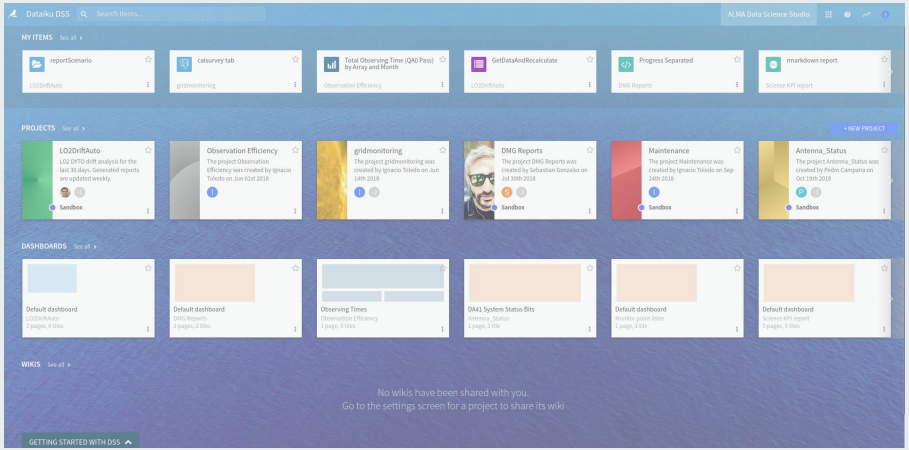
Data Science, not Software Engineering.

Exploring a workflow for ALMA operations.



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Abstract

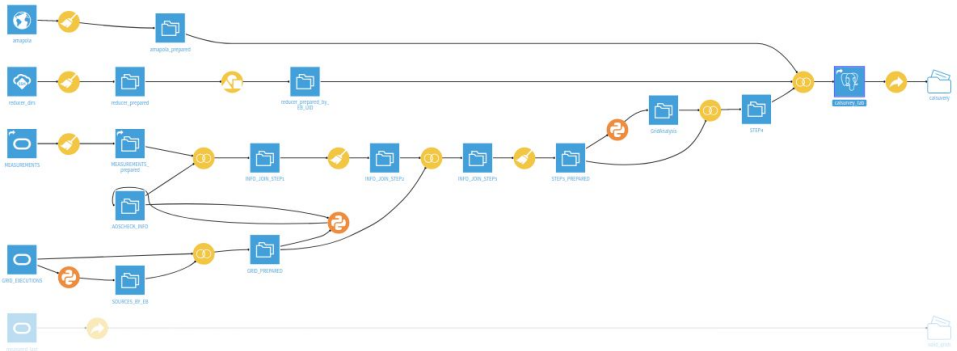
In the last few years Data science has emerged as a discipline of its own to address problems where data is usually heterogeneous, complex and abundant. In a nutshell, data science allows to provide answers to situations where a hypothesis can be formulated and later can be either confirmed or rejected following standard scientific methodology using data as raw material.

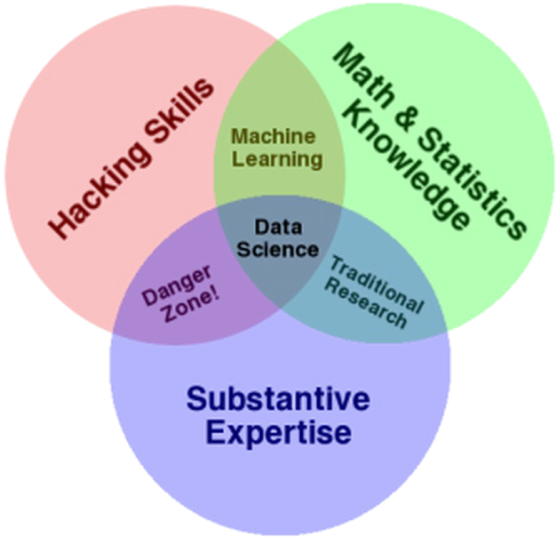
Data science has been called differently depending of the domain (business intelligence, operational management, astroinformatics) and it has been recently in the center of a hype related to artificial intelligence and machine learning. It has been quickly adopted by the digital industry as the tool to distill information of massive operational data sets. Among the many tools data science requires (mathematics, statistics, domain knowledge of the data sets, …), IT infrastructure and software is by far the most visible and there is at present a whole ecosystem available as open source projects. The downside of this is data science is commonly confused with IT and software development, which creates conflicts between engineering- and scientific- mindsets, and leads to wrongly applying software development methodologies to it neglecting the experimental nature of the problem. In summary, creating the data lab becomes more important than answering questions with it. In the domain of ALMA operations, there are many instances that can be identified and described as data science cases or projects ranging from monitoring array elements to understand performances and predict faults for engineering operations to routine monitoring of calibrators for science operations purposes.

We have identified already around 30 different initial questions (or data science cases) and found that several of them have been addressed through individual efforts. In parallel, several enabling platforms or frameworks have appear in the ecosystem that provides data scientists with both the “laboratory equipment” to conduct their “experiments” as well as enabling tools for collaboration, versioning control, and deploying results in production with a quick turnaround. This talk aims to summarize the results of our exploration to apply data science workflows to resolve ALMA operations issues, identify suitable platforms that are already in use by the industry, share our experience in addressing specific ALMA operations data cases, and discuss the technical and sociological challenges we encountered along the way.

Overview

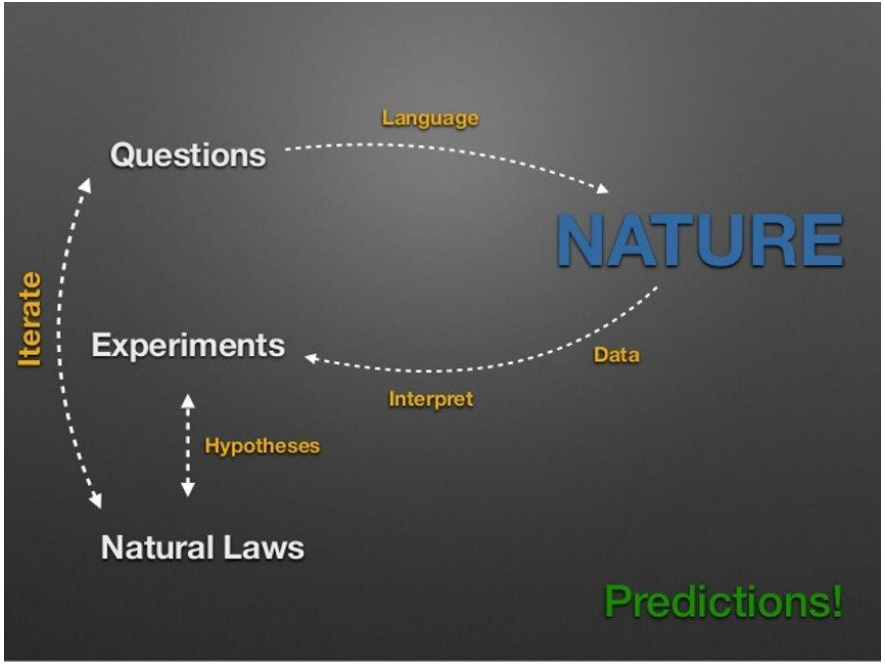
- What is Data Science (at least for the next 10 minutes)
- Why focusing in the differences with Software Engineering?
- ALMA - Data iku Experience:
  - Don’t reinvent the wheel
  - Take advantage of your strengths
  - Socialize, communicate, collaborate
  - Our challenge: Data Engineering!

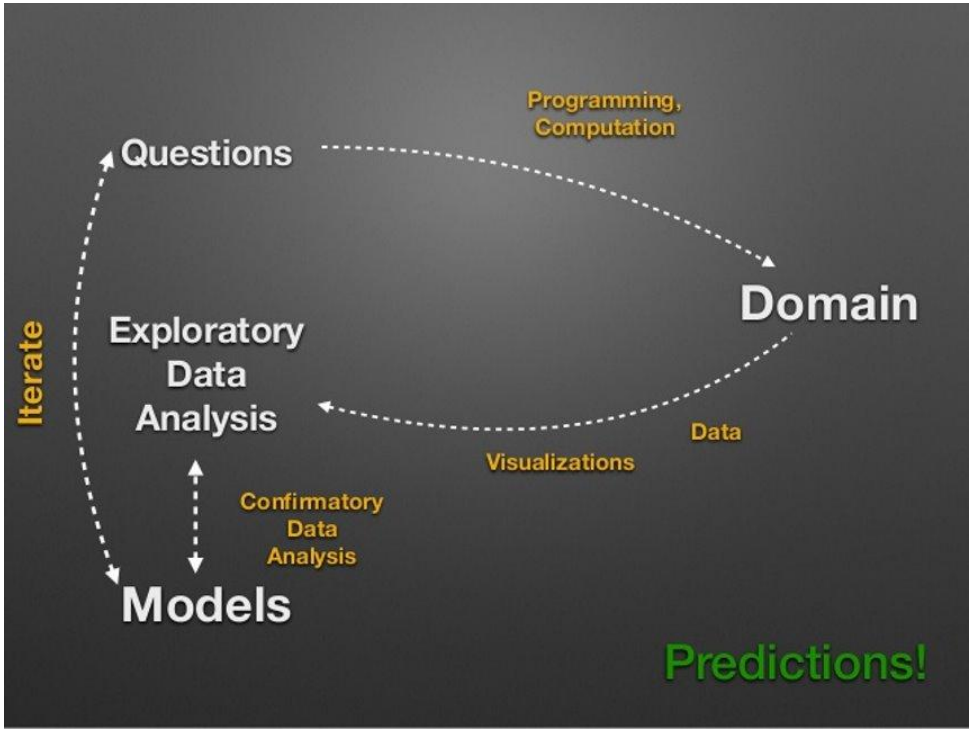




"Data science is the discipline of making data useful."

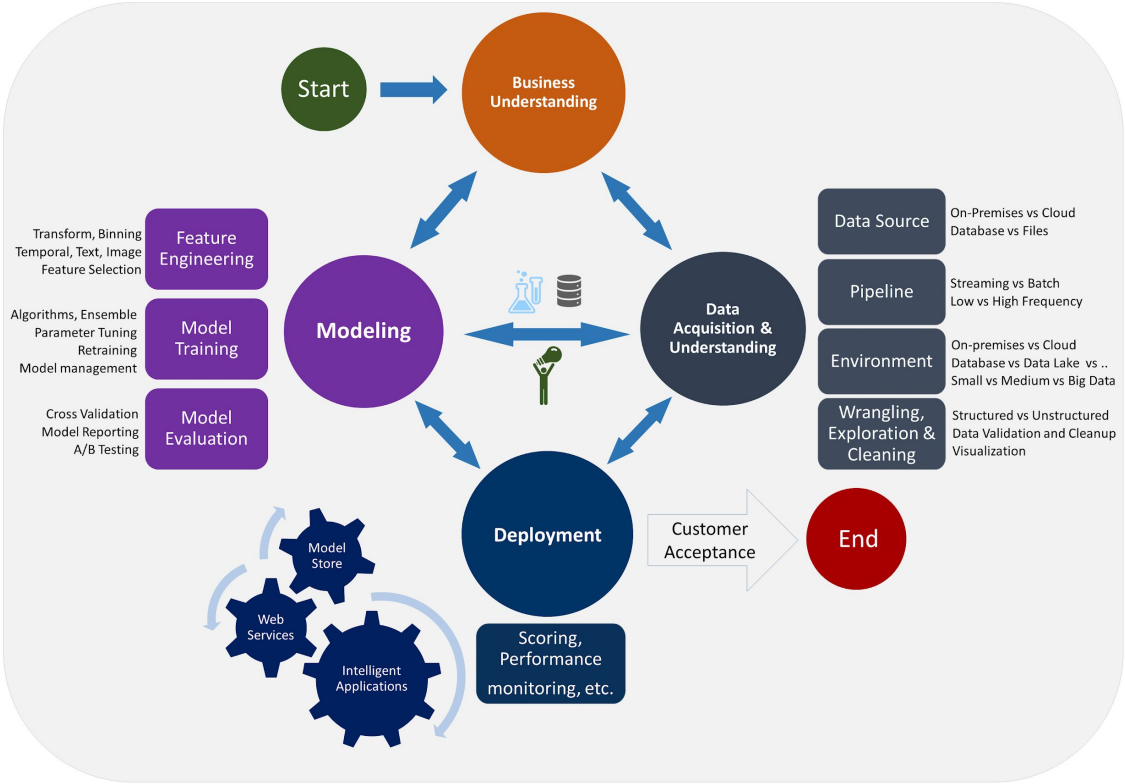
"Data science is science… it just starts with raw data exploration instead of physical observation"

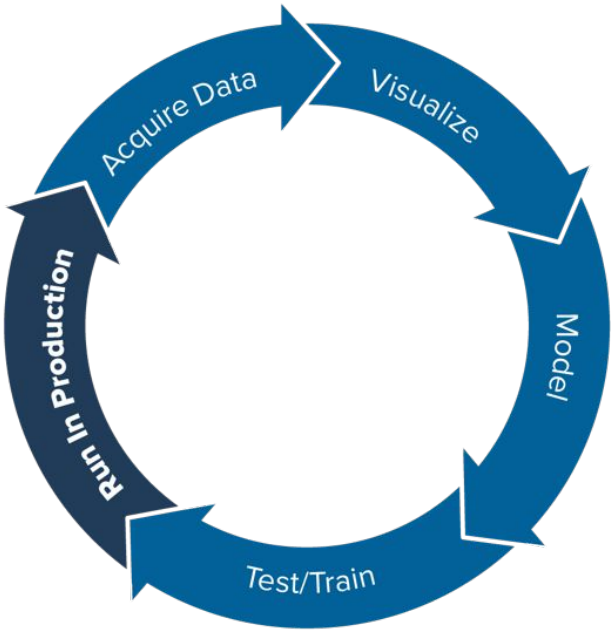




A new methodology for an old process

Data Science Lifecycle





A different methodology

How is the observatory time distributed among the different executives?

Can we automate early detection or prediction of hardware failures leading to observation downtime or degradation? Can we automate diagnosis?

There is a need for a general set of tools to explore relationships between disparate arbitrary data streams as a support for problem investigation.

Hardware malfunction fault detection and diagnosis (FDD)

Given the current configuration and the forthcoming, how much pressure do we have of Science Projects, by band and LST?

Template: experiment name

ALMA Stakeholder: ALMA (department/team/manager). Executed by: Team member(s)

1 | What was(is) the question or thesis?	2 | What data was(is) needed and what science was done?	3 | What was find out? How was it shared? Any gains?

Detect and diagnose IFPs amplifiers degradations on any antenna on 2 polarizations each, 4 basebands each polarization. Degradation leads to TP detectors readings calibration drift.

Quantify the dependency of photonic reference failure rate as a function of various factors to identify strategies for improvement

Track Needed Grid Executions, reduction & Ingestions: Observing Log of Grid data. Which sources need to be observed? Which sources/datasets need to be reduced/ingested ? Who is reducing the data ?

Are these software engineering or data science problems? Hint: check the outcome.

What are we doing at ALMA?

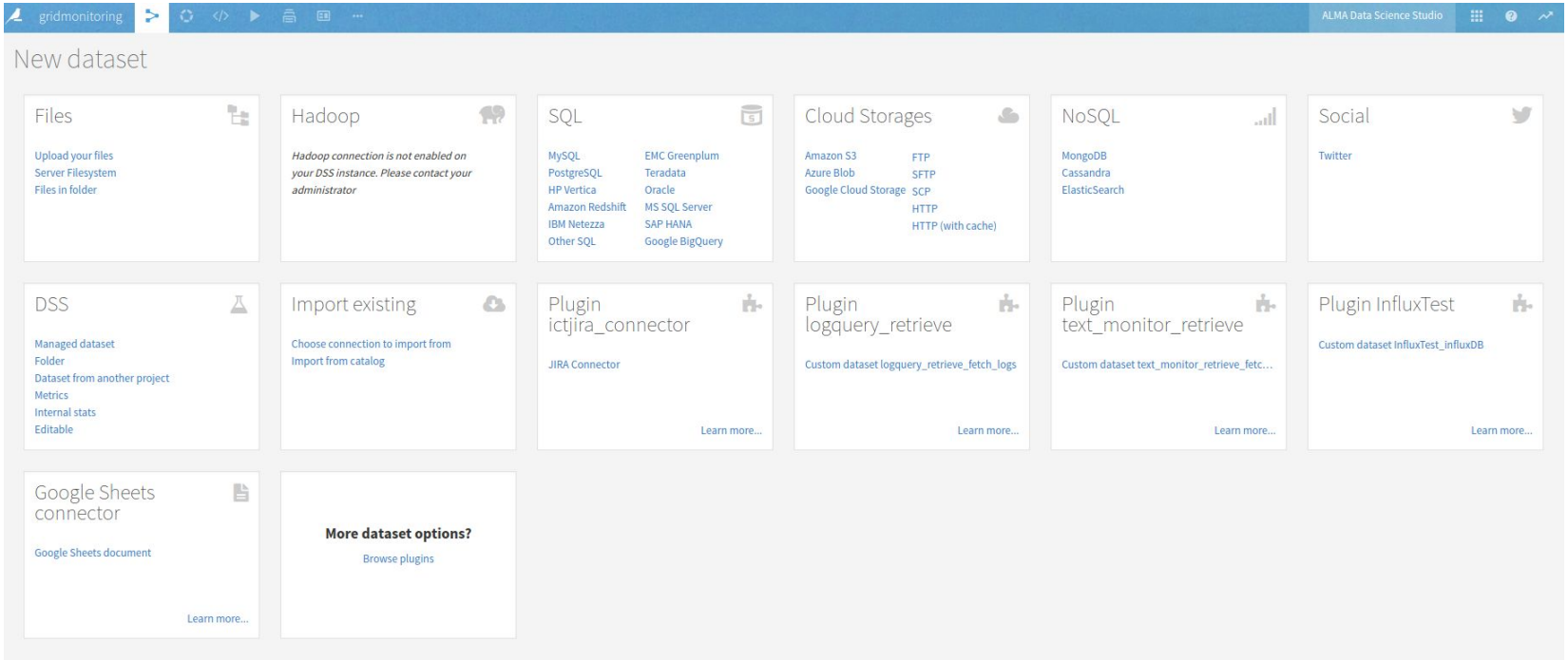
The Data Science initiative

- Not much resources: do not reinvent the wheel!
- Astronomers and engineers with statistical, mathematical, domain knowledge and coding skills. Work with them!
- Collaborate, socialize, communicate!
- Show results.

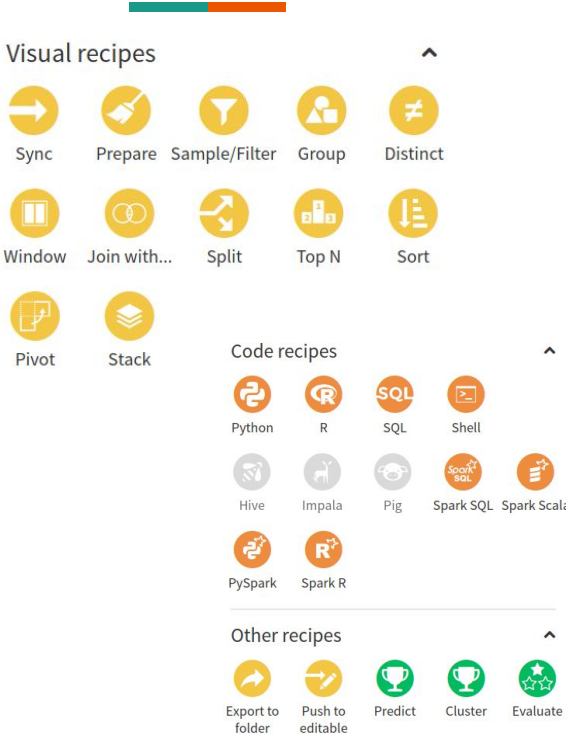
A data science platform collaboration

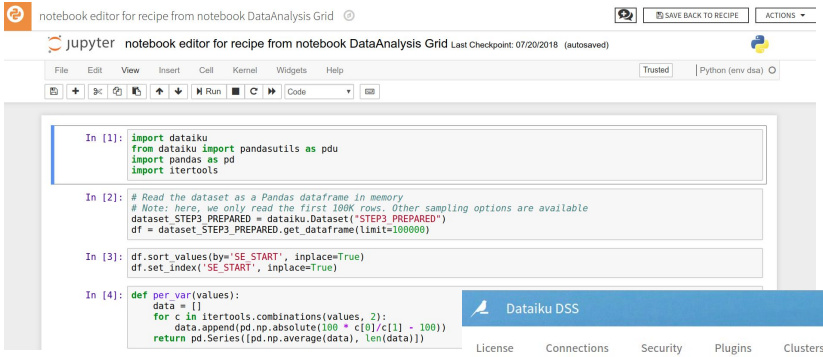
data iku

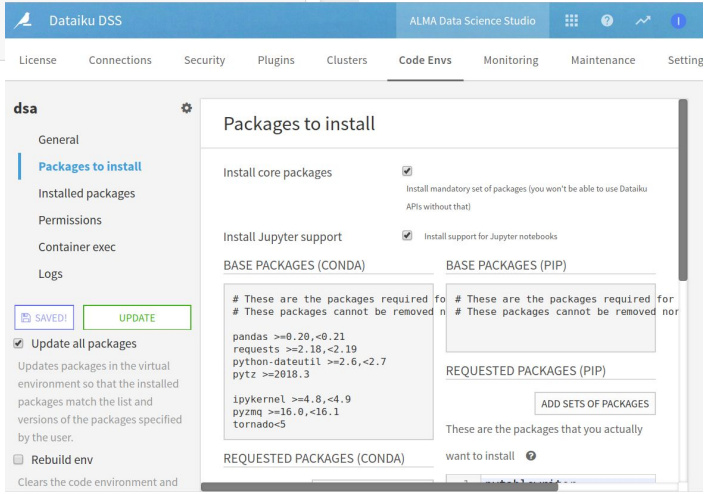
Make data accessible



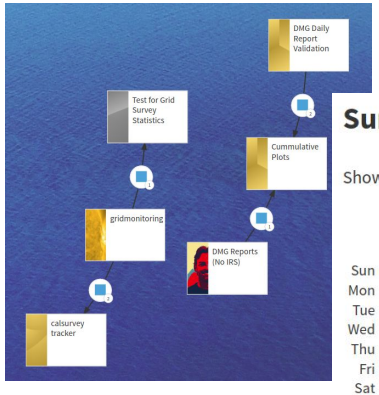
Create a laboratory with the tools needed

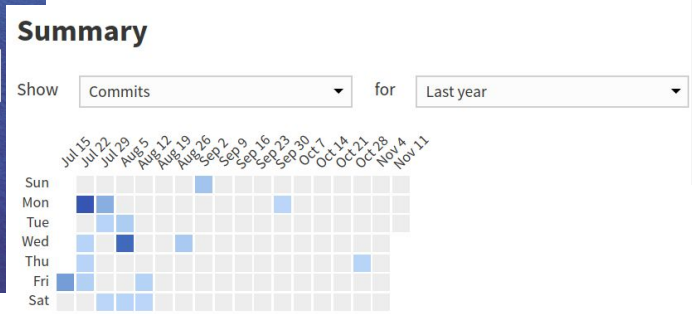


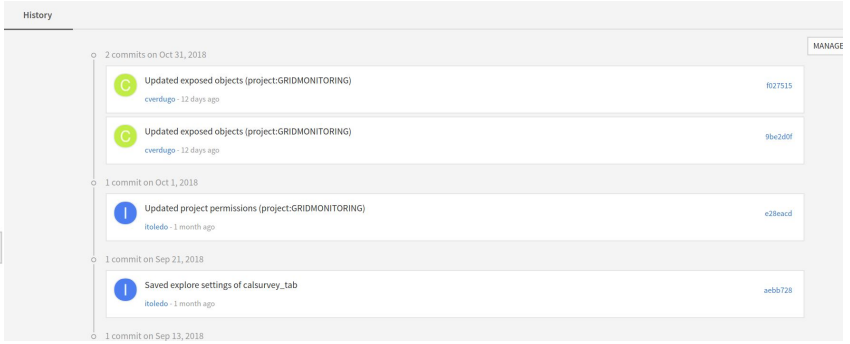


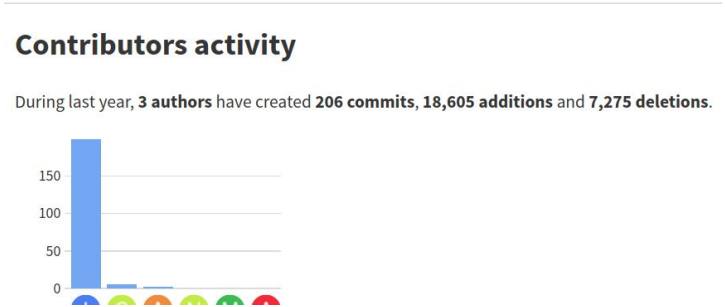


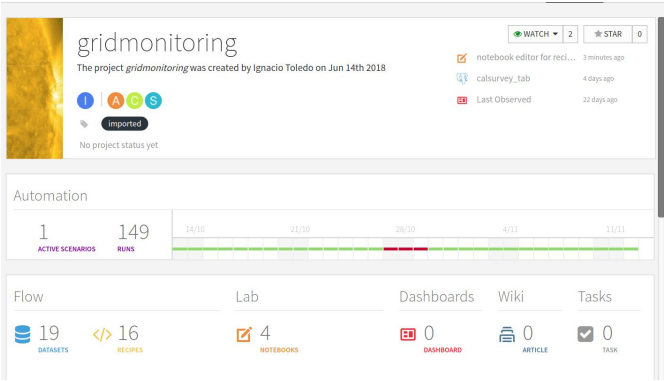
Collaborate and socialize











Show the results!

Days since last observation in Bands 3 and 7 on calsurvey_tab

	B3	B7	
J0006-0623	3	4	3
J0237+2848	2	3	2
J0238+1636	2	3	2
J0319+4130	2	3	2
J0334-4008	0	2	0
J0423-0120	2	3	2
J0510+1800	0	2	0
J0519-4546	0	2	0
J0522-3627	0	2	0
J0538-4405	0	2	0
J0635-7516	0	2	0
J0725-0054	0	2	0
J0750+1231	0	2	0
J0854+2006	21	2	2
J0904-5735	0	2	0
J1037-2934	0	2	0
J1058+0133	0	2	0

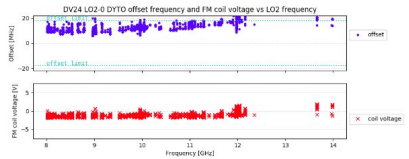
Default dashboard

LO2 replacement candidates - Top 5 priorities from frequency offset analysis

Antenna	BBpr	Frequency offset count	Analysis date
DV24	0	2339	2018-11-12 04:37:25
DA56	3	1100	2018-11-12 04:37:25
CM09	1	774	2018-11-12 04:37:25
DV09	3	674	2018-11-12 04:37:25
DV12	0	543	2018-11-12 04:37:25

Default dashboard

priority_0



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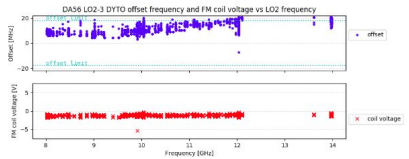

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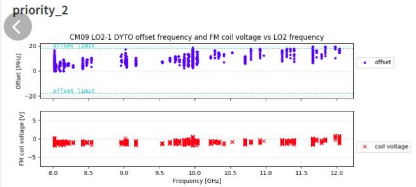

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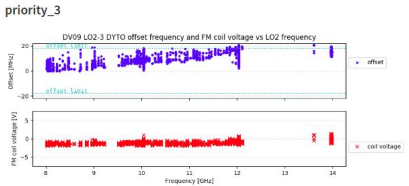

What is Next? A new challenge.

Framework to use modern Big Data Software Tools to improve operations at the Paranal Observatory

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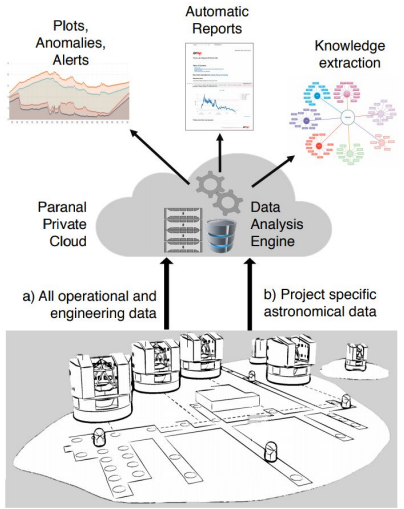

Questions?