



Week 2

Impostor Syndrome, Office Hours

DSC 95, Spring 2025 at UC San Diego

Agenda

- Impostor syndrome.
- Office hours.

Announcements:

- This week's homework:
 1. [Submit](#) at least two questions for next week's experienced tutor panel.
 2. During Week 3, you will need to shadow an experienced tutor for your course during 1 hour of their office hours. This week, **make a plan for who you will shadow and when.** Ask the tutor if you can shadow them at this time.

Impostor syndrome

Impostor syndrome, also known as impostor phenomenon or impostorism, is a psychological occurrence in which an individual doubts their skills, talents, or accomplishments and has a persistent internalized fear of being exposed as a fraud.



Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_syndrome ⋮

[Impostor syndrome - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_syndrome)

I don't deserve
to be here.



I should trust the
judgment of those
who invited me



I'm here because I
Earned It.



Impostor syndrome in data science

Reasons why impostor syndrome may be more common in data science:

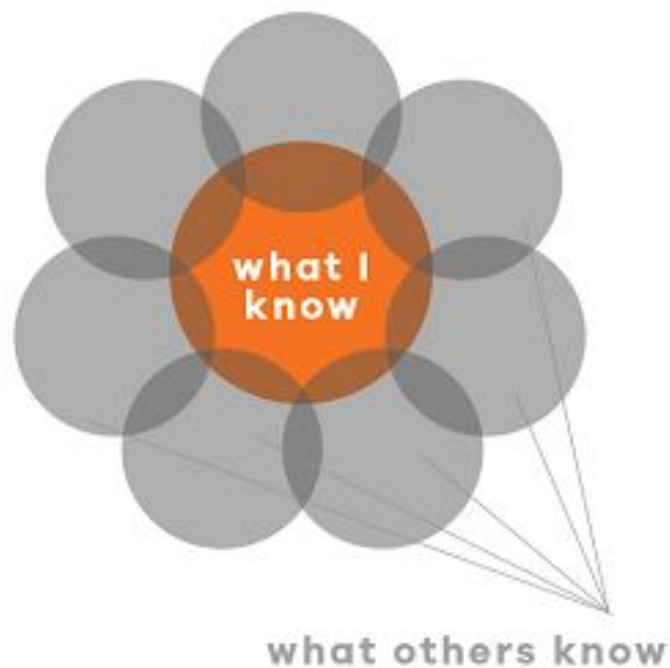
- Data science is a new field, and not well defined.
- Data science is a combination of many other fields.
- Data science is constantly expanding with new technologies.

I face it, too!

IMPOSTOR SYNDROME



REALITY



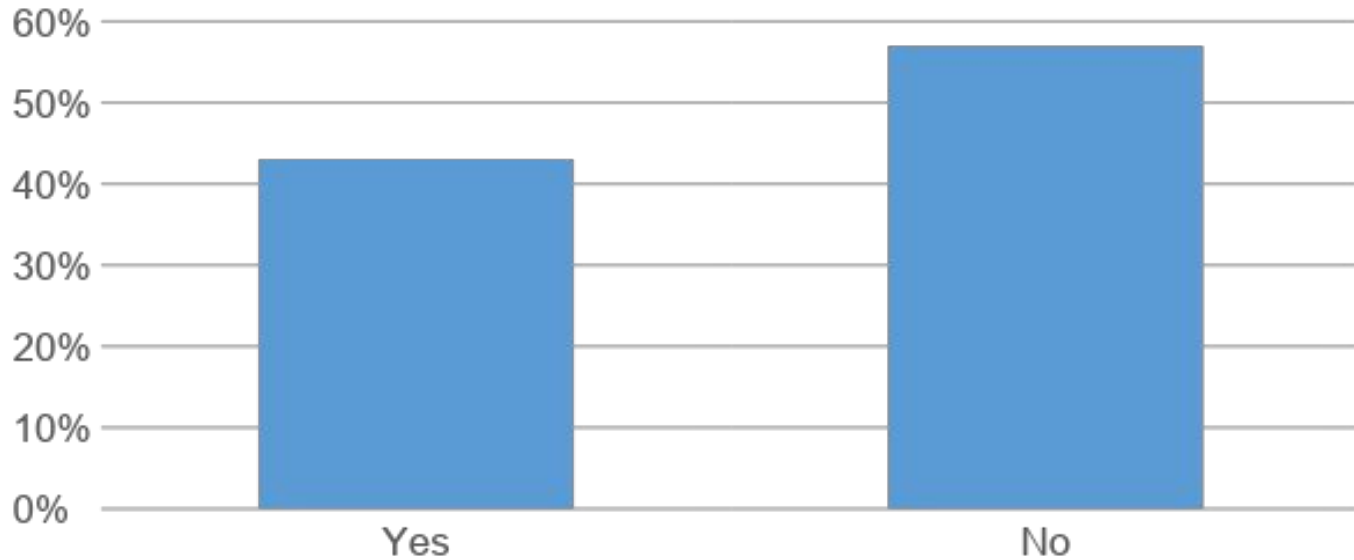
So now what?

- Studies show that just acknowledging the existence of impostor syndrome is helpful in helping alleviate some of its fears.
- **While it's true that luck and privilege play big roles in your life, paralyzing fear isn't helpful.**
- Patiently develop the skills you need to do your job well. **You'll grow every day!**
- Get comfortable with saying “I don't know”, and ask questions – but when you do figure things out, **share it with other tutors!**
 - Never shame others for not knowing something.

What about our students?

- You may feel some degree of impostor syndrome in your role as a tutor.
- But at the same time, your students may feel some degree of impostor syndrome in class.
 - They may think to themselves, but never say aloud, “Do I belong in data science?”
 - In all of your interactions with students, make sure the answer to that question is “Yes.”
 - That is, **behave in a way that is welcoming to students of all backgrounds.**

Have you ever felt/been made to feel that you don't belong in CS or in this class because of the way you look, how you act, your background, your values, your gender, your race, your culture, your ability or any other personal characteristic?



From a prior offering of CSE 8A at UCSD.

Office hours

What is your role as a tutor in office hours?

- **Not as someone who just gives out the answer!**
- Help students gain confidence in the material.
- Figure out how to approach problems themselves.
- Help them figure out what's wrong with their approach.

What is your role as a tutor in office hours?

Rubber duck debugging

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In [software engineering](#), **rubber duck debugging** (or **rubberducking**) is a method of [debugging](#) code by articulating a problem in spoken or written [natural language](#). The name is a reference to a story in the book *The Pragmatic Programmer* in which a programmer would carry around a [rubber duck](#) and debug their code by forcing themselves to explain it, line by line, to the duck.^[1] Many other terms exist for this technique, often involving different (usually) inanimate objects, or pets such as a dog or a cat. [Teddy bears](#) are also widely used.^[2]



What is your role as a tutor in office hours?

- Help mentor students overall.
 - Help them come up with a schedule for getting work done!
 - Show them how to approach exam studying.
 - Help them build the skills to succeed in the course.
- Cheer them on!
 - Encourage them to keep going in the major.
 - Remind them that it's normal to be struggling.

What is your role as a tutor in office hours?

- Help them realize other approaches.
 - Students' code is often not as efficient as it could be.
 - Perhaps a function only needs 2-3 lines to work but they take 10 lines.
- Help with other questions they didn't ask about?
 - "You might want to look at ___ again."
 - "Have you tested your Question 4 yet?"
 - Be a little ambiguous about specific answers.
- What if they just ask if their answer is right?
 - "Seems like you're on the right track – but check ___ case."
 - "What makes you doubt your answer?"
 - **Never confirm that their answer is correct.**

Managing time in office hours

- How much time should you spend with each student in your office hours?
- How can you make sure you are handling time well during office hours?

Skits

- In each of the following skits, take notes on what is done well and what could be improved.

Scenarios 1 and 2 involve code

- Takeaways:

Scenario 3

If you roll a fair six sided die twice, what's the probability that you get the same number both times?

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6
2	2,1	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,6
3	3,1	3,2	3,3	3,4	3,5	3,6
4	4,1	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,5	4,6
5	5,1	5,2	5,3	5,4	5,5	5,6
6	6,1	6,2	6,3	6,4	6,5	6,6

Scenario 3

- Takeaways: