Transitioning to industry

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Caveat Emptor

- Some trajectories atypical
- Initial conditions vary
- YMMV

About me

- BSc, MSc Math (SFU)
- PhD Comp Sci (UBC)
- 2 Post-Docs (Fields, Western)
- Faculty member for 11 years (UOIT)
- Anaconda (since 2015)

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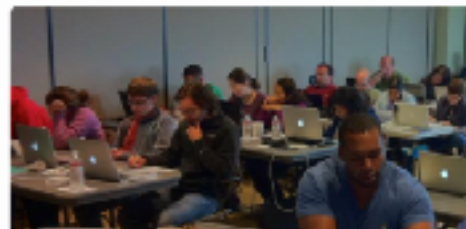
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Open Data Science is…

an inclusive movement that makes
open source tools of data science
–data, analytics, & computation–
easily work together
as a connected ecosystem

Academia to Industry: Lessons learned

- **Differences:** time scales, availability of money

- **Similarities:** types of responsibilities, required skills

- **Obstacles:** preconceptions of academics

- **Challenges:** personal preconceptions, comfort with uncertainty

Academia to Industry: Words of advice

- **Cultivate habits:** tracking time, setting/achieving goals

- **Show, don't tell:** build public record of work (e.g., GitHub)

- **Engage widely:** meet-ups, conferences, Software Carpentry, etc.

- **Know thyself:** honestly assess strengths/weaknesses

- **Soft skills matter**: communication, empathy vital

- **Be resilient:** rejection is inevitable; learn to accept it

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Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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