Winter 2023 Incubator
Today

• Introduction to the eScience Institute
• Overview of the Incubator Program
• Example Projects
• Your questions....
Our Mission

The eScience Institute empowers researchers and students in all fields to answer fundamental questions through the use of large, complex, and/or noisy data.

As the hub of data-intensive discovery on campus, we lead a community of innovators in the techniques, technologies, and best practices of data science and the fields that depend on them.
eScience Institute Role at the U of Washington and Beyond

• **Education**
  – Disseminate Data Science Expertise and Best Practices
  – Lead Data Science Education at UW

• **Research**
  – Advance the State of the Art in Data Science
  – Use Data Science for Social Good

• **Community**
  – Hub of data science community
  – Partnerships
Data Science Incubator Program - *Scalable Research Impact*

Move from “accidental” encounters to engineered quarter-long+ partnerships

Identify emerging opportunities around campus

Provide a shared environment where researchers can learn from our team *and each other*

55 projects over the past 8 years, 30 departments represented

5-7 projects per year
Each team will consist of...

• 1 Project Lead
  – domain expertise, overall project responsibility
  – faculty, postdoc, graduate student, research staff
  – from any discipline or department/unit

• 1 Data Science Lead
  – technical expertise, technology support

• (in some cases) Stakeholder(s)
  – faculty advisor, industry sponsor, government subject matter expert, etc.
Program Logistics

Project proposals due online: by 11:59 p.m. PT on Nov. 15th
Notification: Dec. 9th
Kickoff meeting: Tuesday Jan. 3rd

Project Leads and Data Science Leads commit to ~16 hours/week
  – Flexible scheduling in coordination with data scientist lead
  – Weekly full group meeting
  – Other weekly events TBD: tutorials, social activities
  – Final Presentation

Program will be hybrid with both in-person and remote work via Zoom & Slack
Areas of Interest

• No Limits!
• Strong local expertise in Astronomy, Neuroscience, Applied Math, Physics, Earth Science, Finance, Education, Ecology
• Strong expertise in image processing and analytics, machine learning, Python, cloud computing, and big data systems
• Extracting knowledge from large, heterogeneous, and/or noisy datasets

![Logos](jupyter, astroML, scikit-learn, SQLSHARE, NiPy, Amazon Web Services)
Cloud Computing

In collaboration with UW research computing, this year we are excited to be able to offer cloud computing support for the incubator projects.

Using cloud computing is not a requirement for incubator projects but it can help accelerate some projects.
Project desirables

• strong research, strong methods
• new directions, new questions
• availability, engagement, commitment
• “do only what we can do together”
• clarity and shovel-readiness
• capacity for measurable outcomes and sustained engagement
We expect you to...

• Summarize findings in a brief report on our website
• Publicly present findings in a final presentation
• Host all code on github
• Include eScience data scientist(s) as authors on all papers resulting from the project. Acknowledge eScience Incubator program on all presentations, publications, etc. related to this work.
• Stay in touch!!
Proposals

https://escience.washington.edu/get-involved/incubator-programs/overview/

• Lightweight! Short answer questions and 1-2 page project summary

• Questions focus on data details, what expertise you think would be helpful and the desired outcomes.

• Hybrid assumed, we ask about comfort with remote and in-person work. This will NOT affect project selection.

• ** Please use our office hours to help decide if the program is a good fit and to help scope projects! **

Data and Research Scientist Office hours

https://escience.washington.edu/office-hours/#eScienceDataScientists
The program is state-of-the-art with respect to mentoring, programming instruction, and machine learning didactic training... The combination of these regular one-on-one meetings and a weekly group meeting with other incubator mentees and mentors provided a rich environment where I could ask a programming or data science question and obtain an answer immediately... The UW eScience incubator has my full endorsement and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is starting out in programming or anyone who has intermediate experience in programming and data science.”

- Charles Zhou, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine, Winter Incubator 2020
Past Projects

http://escience.washington.edu/get-involved/incubator-programs/
Example projects from Winter 2022 Incubator

- Machine-learning-based detection of offshore earthquakes — Oceanography
- User-friendly Tools for Oceanic Plankton Image Analysis (UTOPIA) — Applied Physics Lab
- Climate Refuge in Urban Areas: Using Spatial Data to Identify Risk and Benefit Tradeoffs — Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Geometry of Color: Connecting spectral topography of the central cone photoreceptor mosaic to functional limits of the human trichromatic visual system — Neuroscience
- Patterns of COVID-19-related mis/disinformation on Twitter: themes of mis/disinformation and data visualisations — School of International Studies
Example projects from Winter 2021 Incubator

- Using Gliders to Observe Submesoscale Flows – Oceanography
- The Universe of International Treaties – Political Science
- Dry Thunderstorm Forecast Using Machine Learning Techniques – Atmospheric Sciences
- Learning to See the Forest and the Trees: Using Computer Vision to Make Forest Stewardship More Accessible – Environmental and Forest Sciences
- Climate Adaptation for Future Maize – Novel Plant Traits and New Management – Biology
- Detecting Wildflowers in Spectral Imagery – Biology
- Using Social Media to Model Backcountry Use in Rainier National Park – Environmental and Forest Sciences
This program brings together students and researchers with data science and domain expertise to work on focused, collaborative projects for societal benefit.
Schedule

• 11/15: Project proposals due
• 12/9: Notification
• 1/3: Kickoff meeting

• Questions?
  – sstone3@uw.edu
  – brynah@uw.edu