

Human Centric Machine Learning Infrastructure

@

NETFLIX

Ville Tuulos

QCon SF, November 2018

Caveman Cupcakes



Caveman Cupcakes

Meet Alex, a new chief data scientist at Caveman Cupcakes



You are hired!

Caveman Cupcakes



**We need a
dynamic pricing
model.**

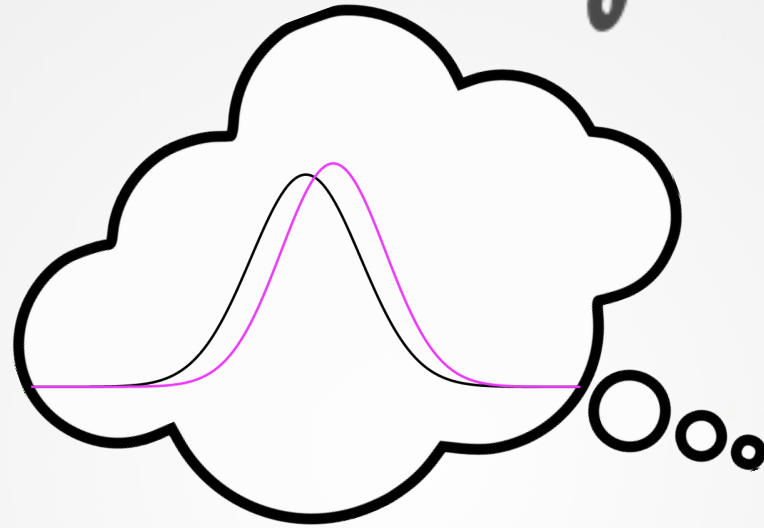
Caveman Cupcakes



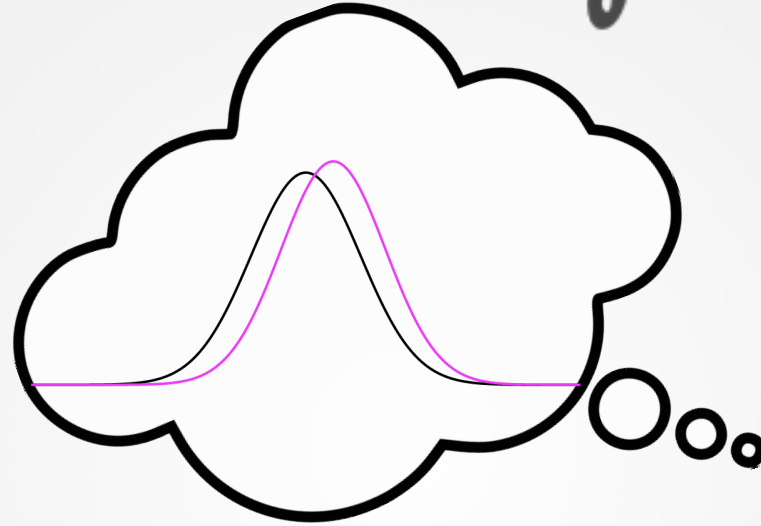
**We need a
dynamic pricing
model.**

Optimal pricing model

Caveman Cupcakes



Caveman Cupcakes



```
#include "main.h"

template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& m)
{
    typedef typename VectorType::Index Index;
    typedef typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar;

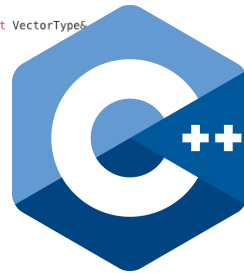
    Index size = m.size();

    VectorType v = VectorType::Random(size);

    Index arraysize = 3*size;

    Scalar* a_array = internal::aligned_new<Scalar>(arraysize+1);
    Scalar* array = a_array;
    if(Alignment!=Aligned)
        array = (Scalar*)(internal::IntPtr(a_array) + (internal::packet_traits<Scalar>::AlignedOnScalar?sizeof(Scalar):sizeof(type

{
    Map<VectorType, Alignment, InnerStride<3> > map(array, size);
    map = v;
    for(int i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        VERIFY(array[3*i] == v[i]);
        VERIFY(map[i] == v[i]);
    }
}
```



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**Great job!
The model works
perfectly!**



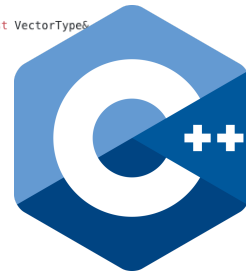
```
#include "main.h"

template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& v,
    typename VectorType::Index Index,
    typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar,
    int size = v.size());

VectorType v = VectorType::Random(size);
Index arraysize = 3*size;

Scalar* a_array = internal::aligned_new<Scalar>(arraysize+1);
Scalar* array = a_array;
if(Alignment!=Aligned)
    array = (Scalar*)(internal::IntPtr(a_array) + (internal::packet_traits<Scalar>::AlignedOnScalar?sizeof(Scalar):sizeof(type

{
    Map<VectorType, Alignment, InnerStride<3>> map(array, size);
    map = v;
    for(int i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        VERIFY(array[3*i] == v[i]);
        VERIFY(map[i] == v[i]);
    }
}
```



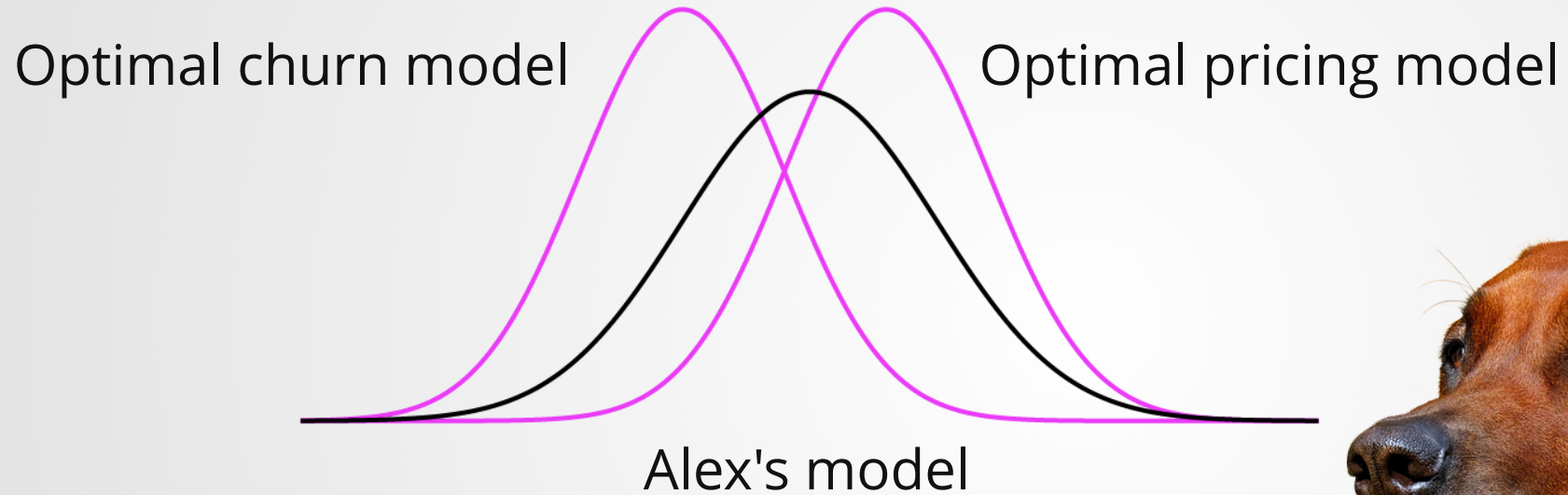
Caveman Cupcakes



Could you
predict churn
too?



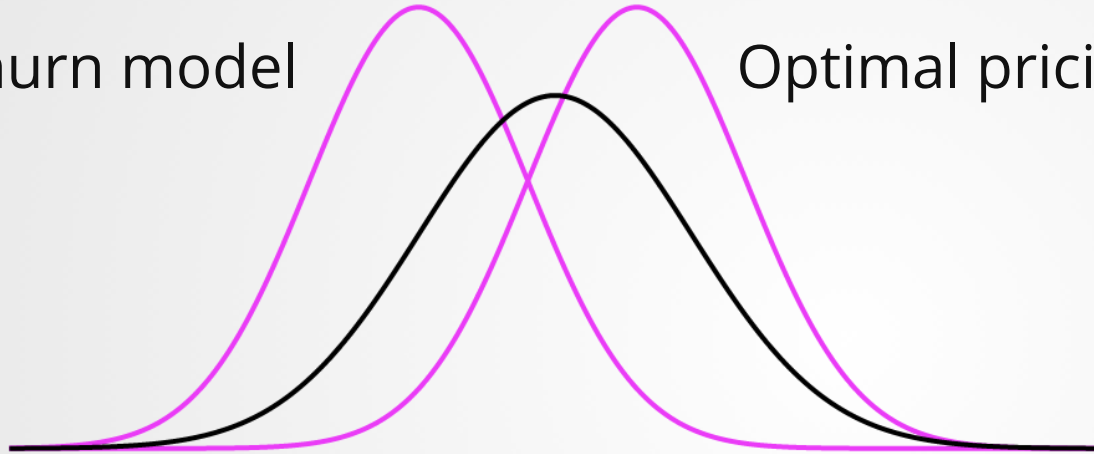
Caveman Cupcakes



Caveman Cupcakes

Optimal churn model

Optimal pricing model



Alex's model

```
#include "main.h"

template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& m)
{
    typedef typename VectorType::Index Index;
    typedef typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar;

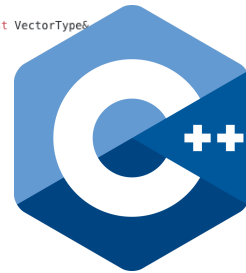
    Index size = m.size();

    VectorType v = VectorType::Random(size);

    Index arraysize = 3*size;

    Scalar* a_array = internal::aligned_new<Scalar>(arraysize+1);
    Scalar* array = a_array;
    if(Alignment!=Aligned)
        array = (Scalar*)(internal::IntPtr(a_array) + (internal::packet_traits<Scalar>::AlignedOnScalar?sizeof(Scalar):sizeof(type

{
    Map<VectorType, Alignment, InnerStride<3>> map(array, size);
    map = v;
    for(int i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        VERIFY(array[3*i] == v[i]);
        VERIFY(map[i] == v[i]);
    }
}
```



Caveman Cupcakes

**Good job again!
Promising
results!**



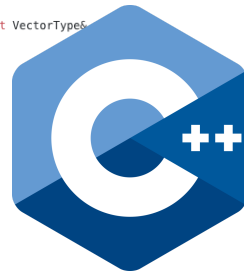
```
#include "main.h"

template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& m,
    typename VectorType::Index Index,
    typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar,
    int size = m.size());

VectorType v = VectorType::Random(size);
Index arraysize = 3*size;

Scalar* a_array = internal::aligned_new<Scalar>(arraysize+1);
Scalar* array = a_array;
if(Alignment!=Aligned)
    array = (Scalar*)(internal::IntPtr(a_array) + (internal::packet_traits<Scalar>::AlignedOnScalar?sizeof(Scalar):sizeof(type

{
    Map<VectorType, Alignment, InnerStride<3>> map(array, size);
    map = v;
    for(int i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        VERIFY(array[3*i] == v[i]);
        VERIFY(map[i] == v[i]);
    }
}
```

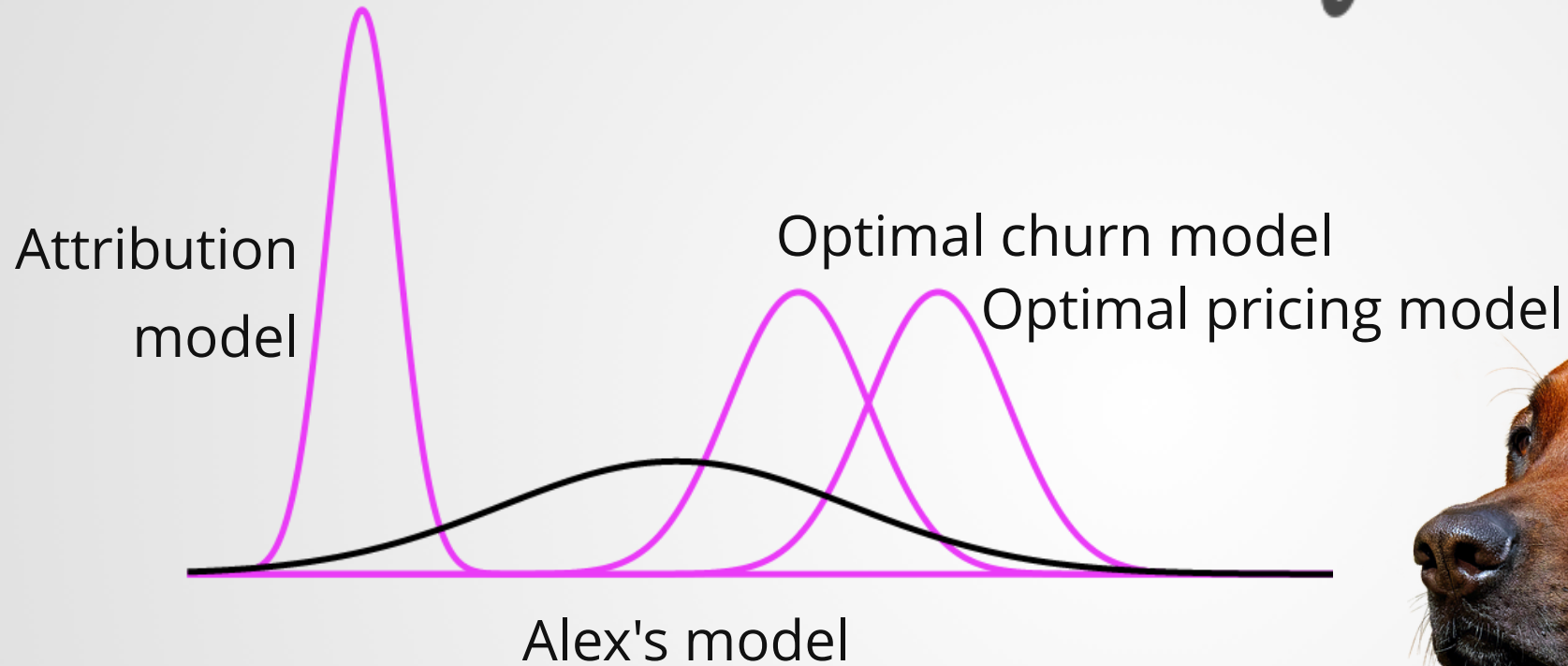


Caveman Cupcakes

**Can you include
a causal attribution
model for
marketing?**



Caveman Cupcakes



Caveman Cupcakes

Are you sure
these results
make sense?

```
#include "main.h"

template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& v,
    typename VectorType::Index Index,
    typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar,
    int size = v.size());

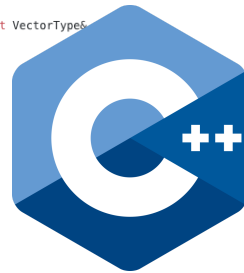
template<int Alignment, typename VectorType> void map_class_vector(const VectorType& v,
    typename VectorType::Index Index,
    typename VectorType::Scalar Scalar,
    int size = v.size());

VectorType v = VectorType::Random(size);

Index arraysize = 3*size;

Scalar* a_array = internal::aligned_new<Scalar>(arraysize+1);
Scalar* array = a_array;
if(Alignment!=Aligned)
    array = (Scalar*)(internal::IntPtr(a_array) + (internal::packet_traits<Scalar>::AlignedOnScalar?sizeof(Scalar):sizeof(type

{
    Map<VectorType, Alignment, InnerStride<3>> map(array, size);
    map = v;
    for(int i = 0; i < size; ++i)
    {
        VERIFY(array[3*i] == v[i]);
        VERIFY(map[i] == v[i]);
    }
}
```



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Take two



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Meet the new data science team at Caveman Cupcakes

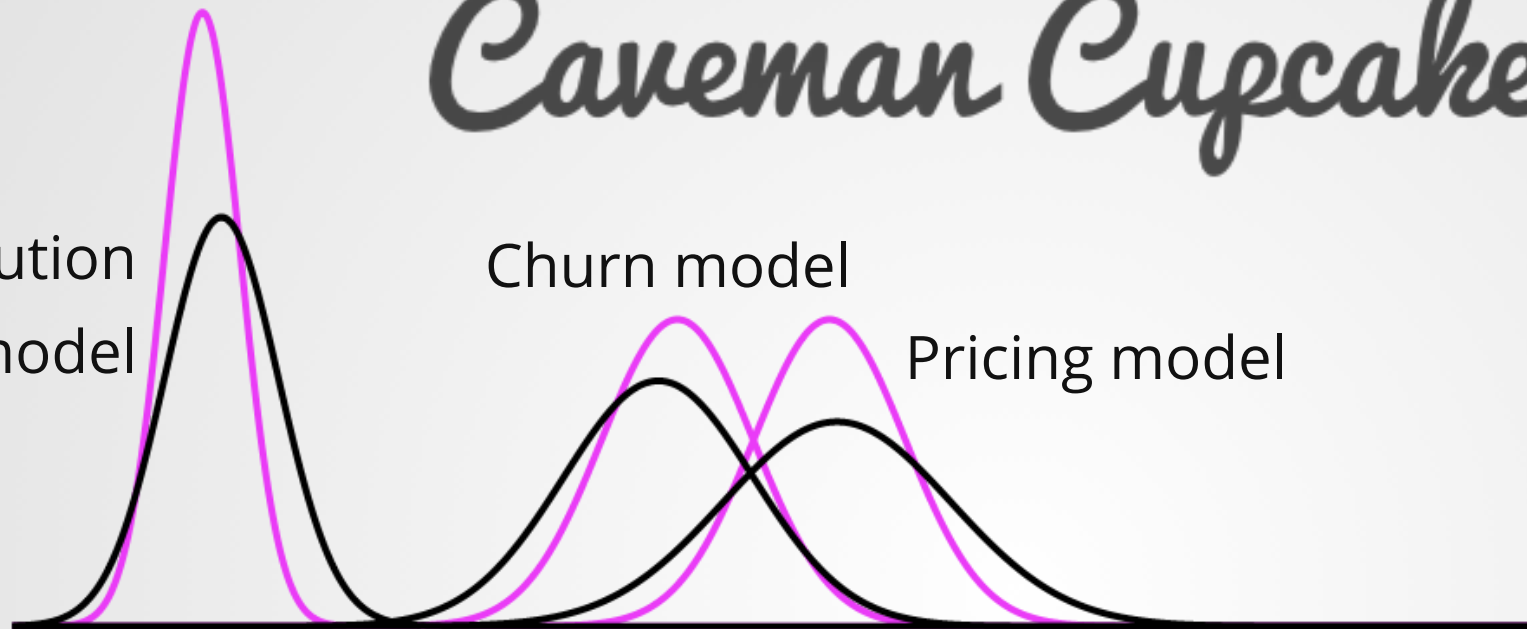


Caveman Cupcakes

Attribution
model

Churn model

Pricing model



```
@step
def train_simple_gbrt(self):
    """
    Train a GBRt model with your best guess parameters
    """
    from sklearn import ensemble
    from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

    x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(
        self.features, self.labels, test_size = 0.20, random_state
    )
    self.x_test = x_test
    self.y_test = y_test

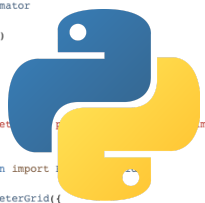
    estimator = ensemble.GradientBoostingRegressor(
        n_estimators = 300, max_depth = 4, min_samples_split = 2, learn

    estimator.fit(x_train, y_train)
    self.first_estimator = estimator

    self.next(self.param_search)

@step
def param_search(self):
    """
    Enumerate the list of parameter combinations
    """
    from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV

    self.parameter_grid = ParameterGrid({
        'n_estimators': [400, 500],
        'learning_rate': [0.1, 0.05],
        'max_depth': [6, 4],
    })
    self.next(self.fit_gbrt_for_given_param, foreach='parameter_grid')
```



```
clean_data_set <- function(self) {
  suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(data.table))
  data <- self$data %>%
    py_to_r() %>%
    data.table()
  data[, c("date", "id") := NULL]
  char_cols <- names(data)[!(sapply(data, class) == "character")]
  for (col in char_cols) set(data, j = col, value = factor(data[[col]]))
  self$labels <- data[, price] %>%
    r_to_py()
  self$features <- data[, !"price", with = FALSE] %>%
    r_to_py()
}

parameter_grid <- function(self) {
  parameters <- list(
    n.trees = 100 * 1:3,
    shrinkage = .01,
    interaction.depth = c(5, 10),
    n.minobsinnode = 1:3
  )
  parameter_grid <- expand.grid(parameters) %>%
    split(1:nrow(.))
  names(parameter_grid) <- NULL
  self$parameters <- parameter_grid
}
```



VS



VS

the human is the bottleneck



VS

the human is the bottleneck



the human is the bottleneck





Build





Build

Data Warehouse



Build

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



Build

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



Build

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



Collaboration Tools

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



Model Deployment

Collaboration Tools

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



Feature Engineering

Model Deployment

Collaboration Tools

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



ML Libraries

Feature Engineering

Model Deployment

Collaboration Tools

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



How much
data scientist
cares

ML Libraries

Feature Engineering

Model Deployment

Collaboration Tools

Versioning

Job Scheduler

Compute Resources

Data Warehouse



How much
data scientist
cares

- ML Libraries
- Feature Engineering
- Model Deployment
- Collaboration Tools
- Versioning
- Job Scheduler
- Compute Resources
- Data Warehouse

How much
infrastructure
is needed

Deploy



Deploy

No plan survives contact with enemy



Deploy

No plan survives contact with enemy

No model survives contact with reality

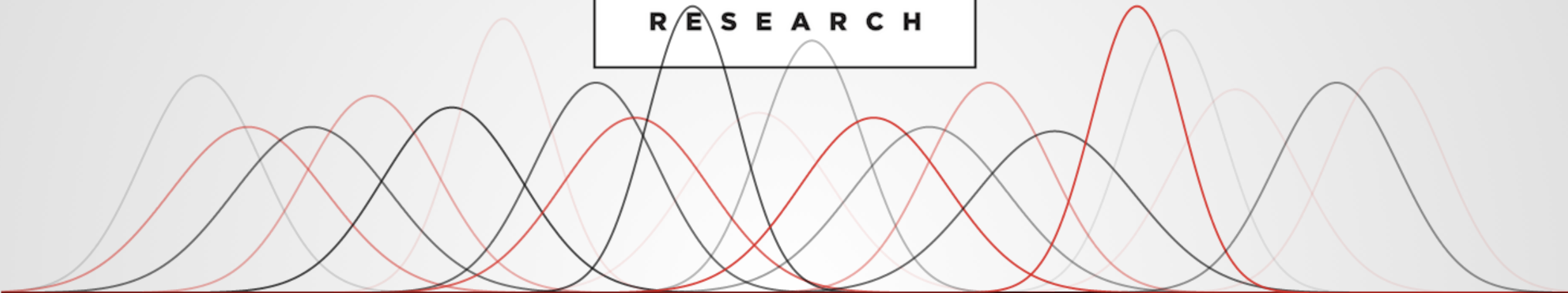


our ML infra supports
two **human** activities:

building and **deploying**

data science workflows.

NETFLIX



Content Valuation

Optimize Production Schedules

Screenplay Analysis Using NLP

Predict Quality of Network

Intelligent Infrastructure

Machine Translation

Predict Churn

Classify Support Tickets

Fraud Detection

Content Tagging

Incremental Impact of Marketing

Title Portfolio Optimization

Cluster Tweets

Estimate Word-of-Mouth Effects

Optimal CDN Caching

ML Libraries: R, XGBoost, TF etc.

Notebooks: **Nteract**



Job Scheduler: **Meson**



Compute Resources: **Titus**



Query Engine: **Spark**



Data Lake: **S3**



ML Libraries: R, XGBoost, TF etc.

Notebooks: **Nteract**



Job Scheduler: **Meson**



Compute Resources: **Titus**

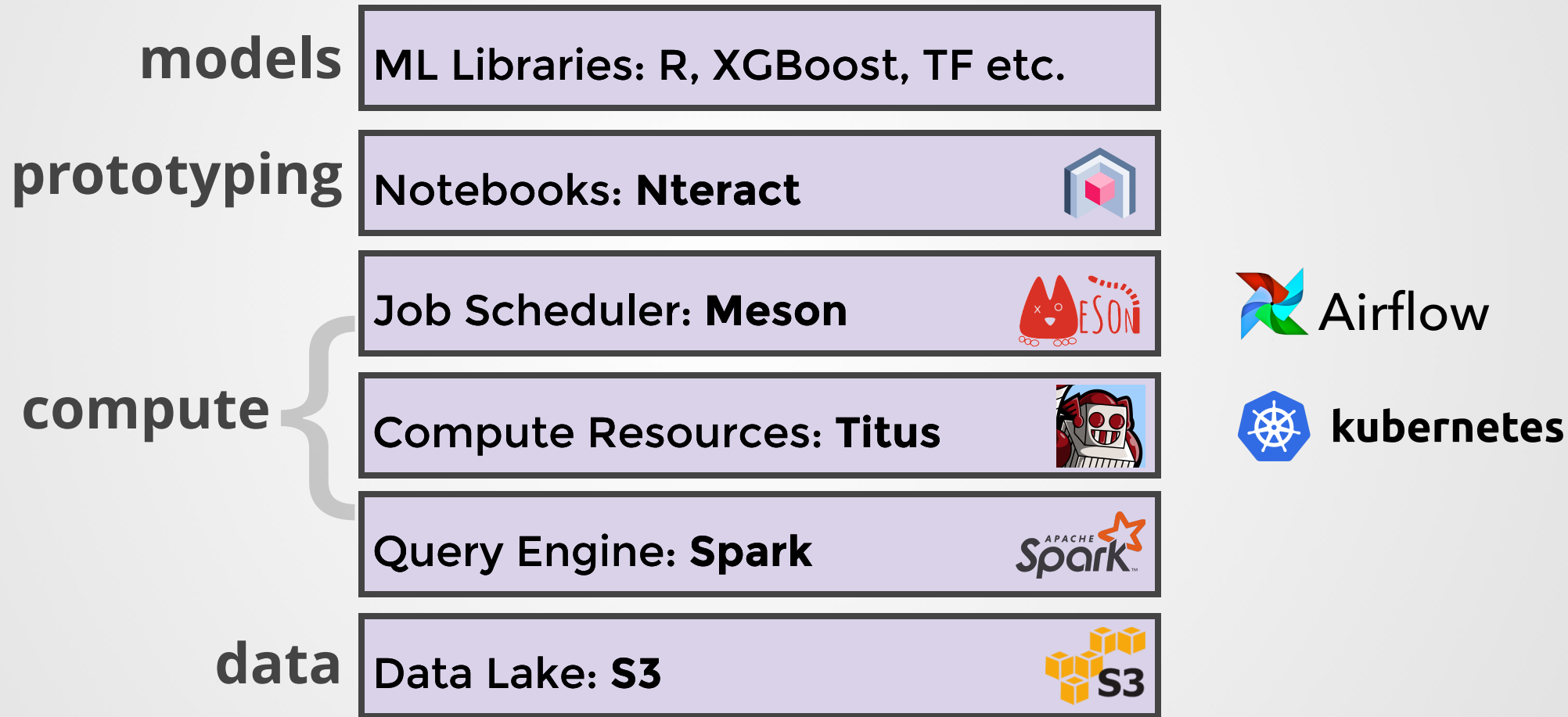


Query Engine: **Spark**



Data Lake: **S3**





Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to run at scale?
Custom Titus executor.

Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to run at scale?

Custom Titus executor.

How to access data at scale?

Slow!

Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to run at scale?

Custom Titus executor.

How to access data at scale?

Slow!

How to schedule the model to update daily?

Learn about the job scheduler.

Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to run at scale?

Custom Titus executor.

How to access data at scale?

Slow!

How to schedule the model to update daily?

Learn about the job scheduler.

How to expose the model to a custom UI?

Custom web backend.

Bad Old Days



Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to run at scale?

Custom Titus executor.

How to access data at scale?

Slow!

How to schedule the model to update daily?

Learn about the job scheduler.

How to expose the model to a custom UI?

Custom web backend.

Bad Old Days



Time to production:

4 months

Data Scientist built an NLP model in Python. Easy and fun!

How to monitor models in production?
at scale?

Custom Titus executor.

How to access data at scale?

How to let another data scientist iterate on her version of the model safely?

How to schedule the model to update daily?

without the job scheduler.

How to debug yesterday's failed production run?

How to migrate a model to a custom UI?

Custom web page

How to backfill historical data?

How to make this faster?

Bad Old Days



production:
4 months

ML Wrapping: Metaflow



models

ML Libraries: R, XGBoost, TF etc.

prototyping

Notebooks: **Nteract**

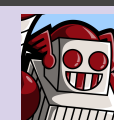


compute

Job Scheduler: **Meson**



Compute Resources: **Titus**



Query Engine: **Spark**



data

Data Lake: **S3**



Airflow



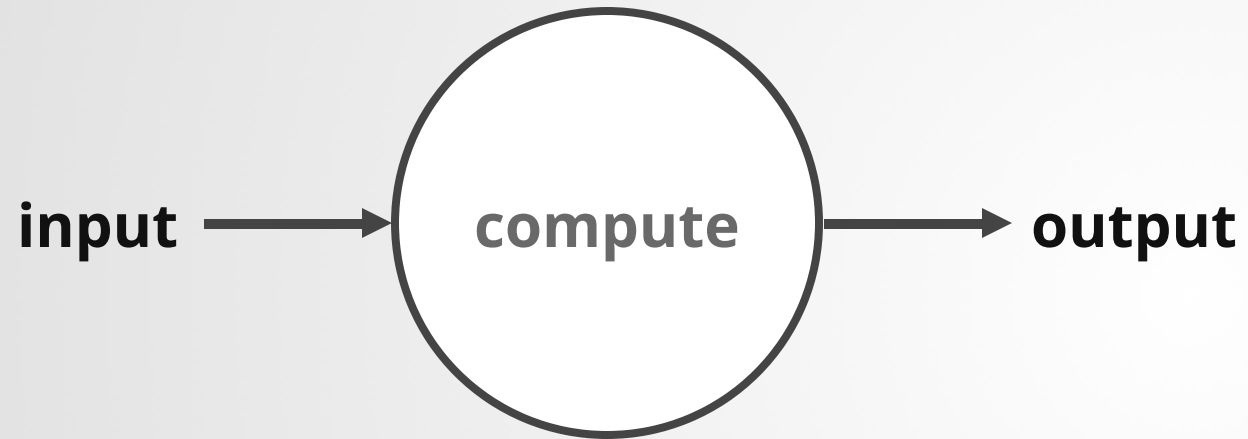
kubernetes



Metaflow

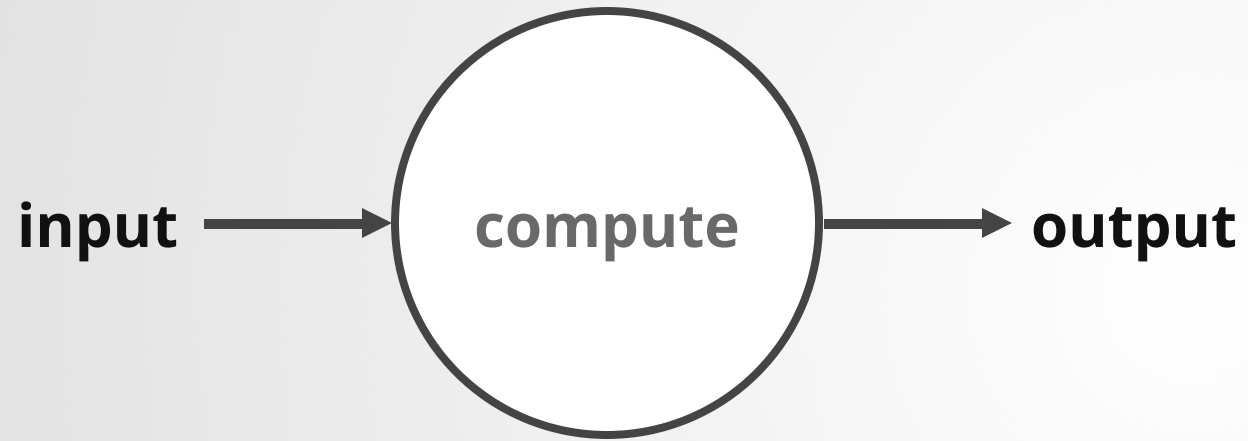
Build

How to get started?



```
def compute(input):  
    output = my_model(input)  
    return output
```

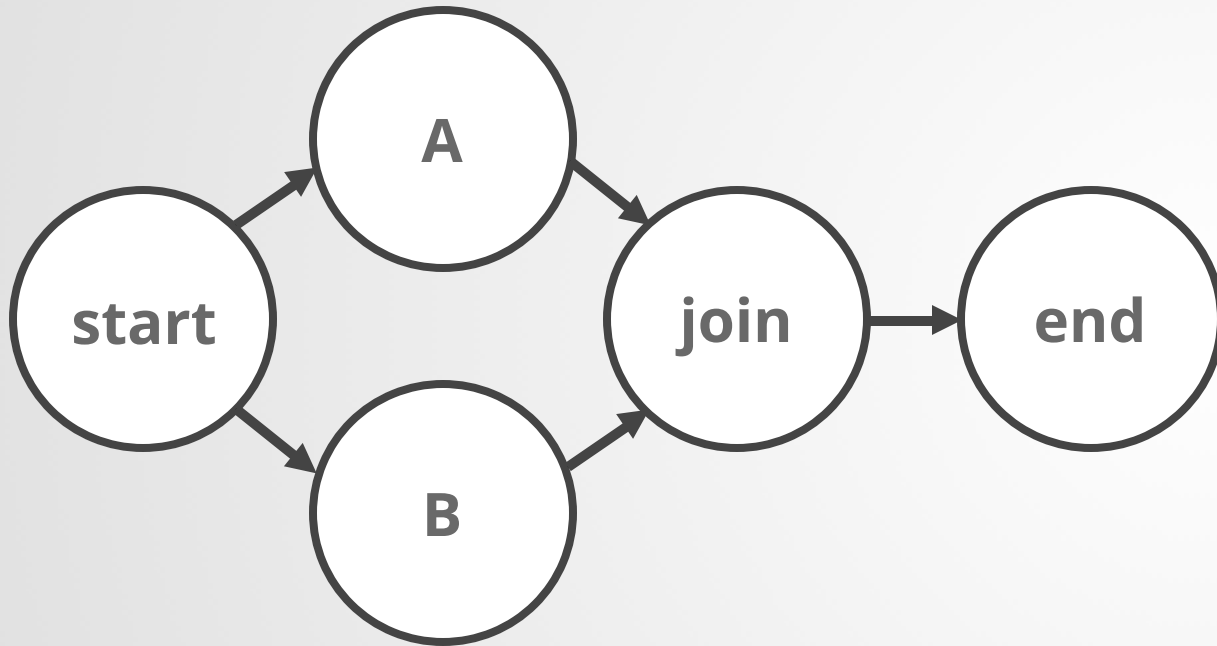

How to get started?



```
def compute(input):  
    output = my_model(input)  
    return output
```

```
# python myscript.py
```

How to structure my code?



```
from metaflow import FlowSpec, step
```

```
class MyFlow(FlowSpec):
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def start(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.a, self.b)
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def a(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.join)
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def b(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.join)
```

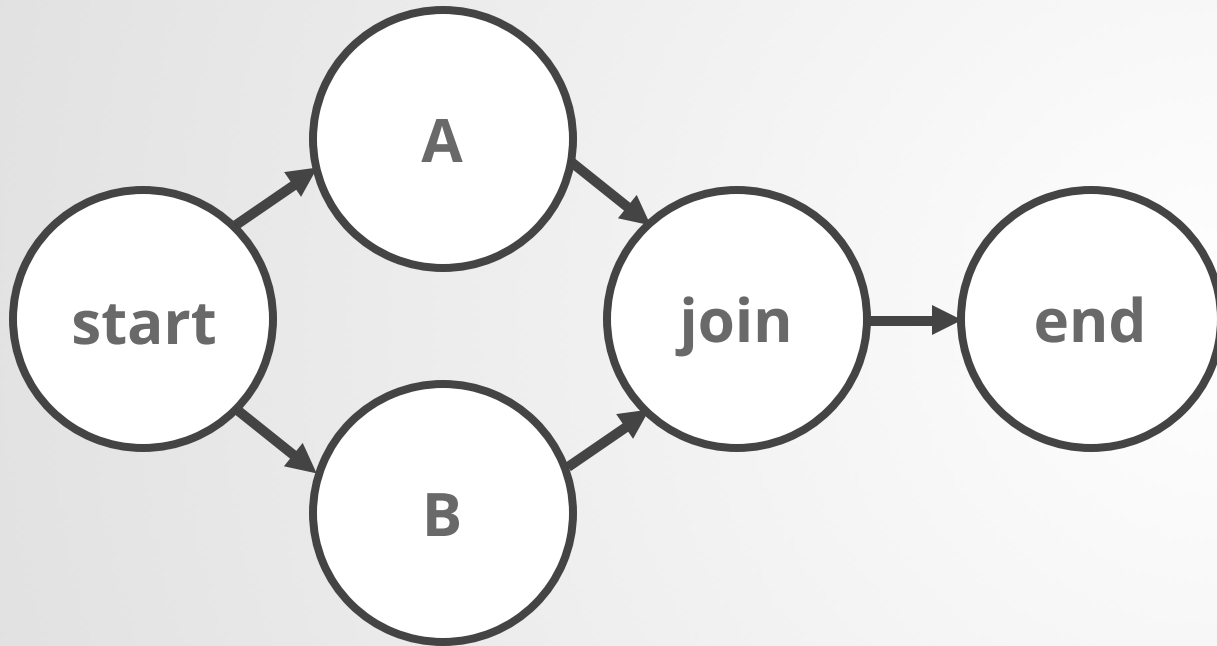
```
    @step
```

```
    def join(self, inputs):
```

```
        self.next(self.end)
```

```
MyFlow()
```


How to structure my code?



```
# python myscript.py run
```

```
from metaflow import FlowSpec, step
```

```
class MyFlow(FlowSpec):
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def start(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.a, self.b)
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def a(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.join)
```

```
    @step
```

```
    def b(self):
```

```
        self.next(self.join)
```

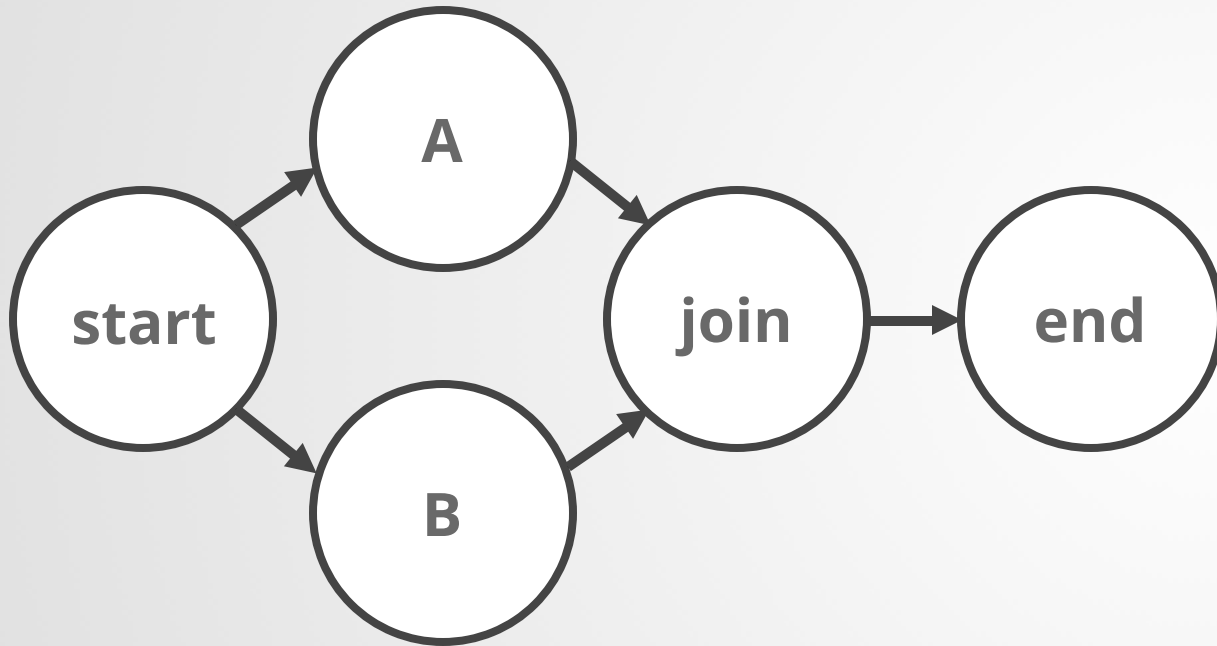
```
    @step
```

```
    def join(self, inputs):
```

```
        self.next(self.end)
```

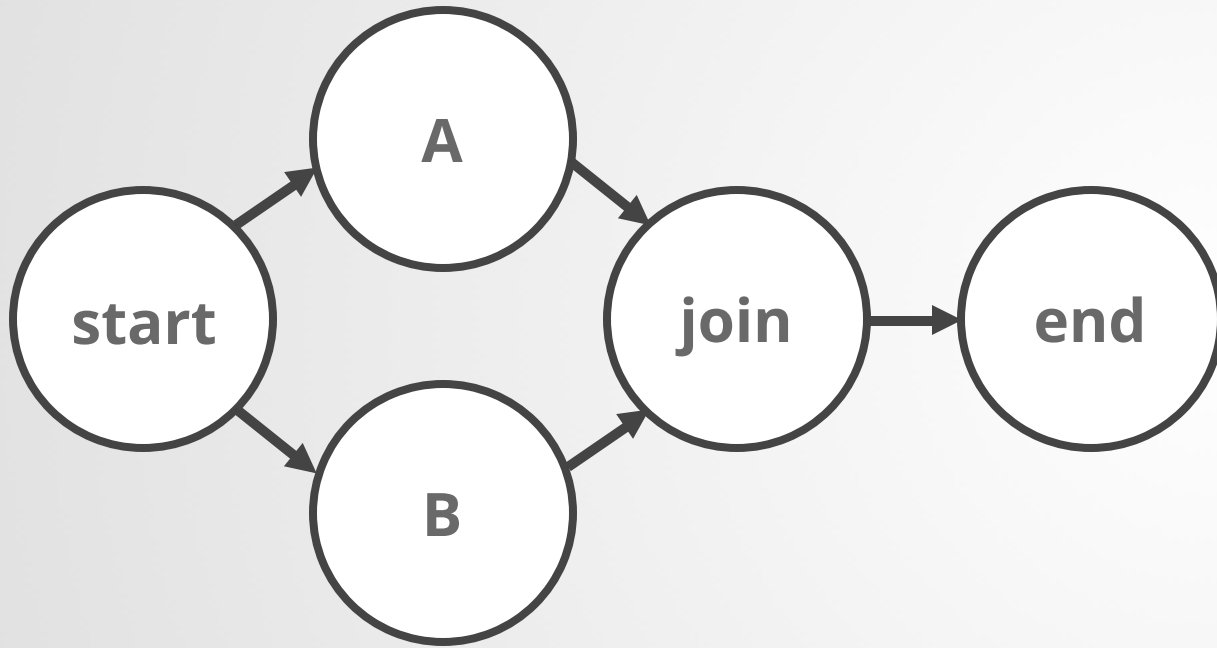
```
MyFlow()
```

How to deal with models written in R?



```
metaflow("MyFlow") %>%  
  step(  
    step = "start",  
    next_step = c("a", "b")  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "A",  
    r_function = r_function(a_func),  
    next_step = "join"  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "B",  
    r_function = r_function(b_func),  
    next_step = "join"  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "Join",  
    r_function = r_function(join,  
      join_step = TRUE),
```

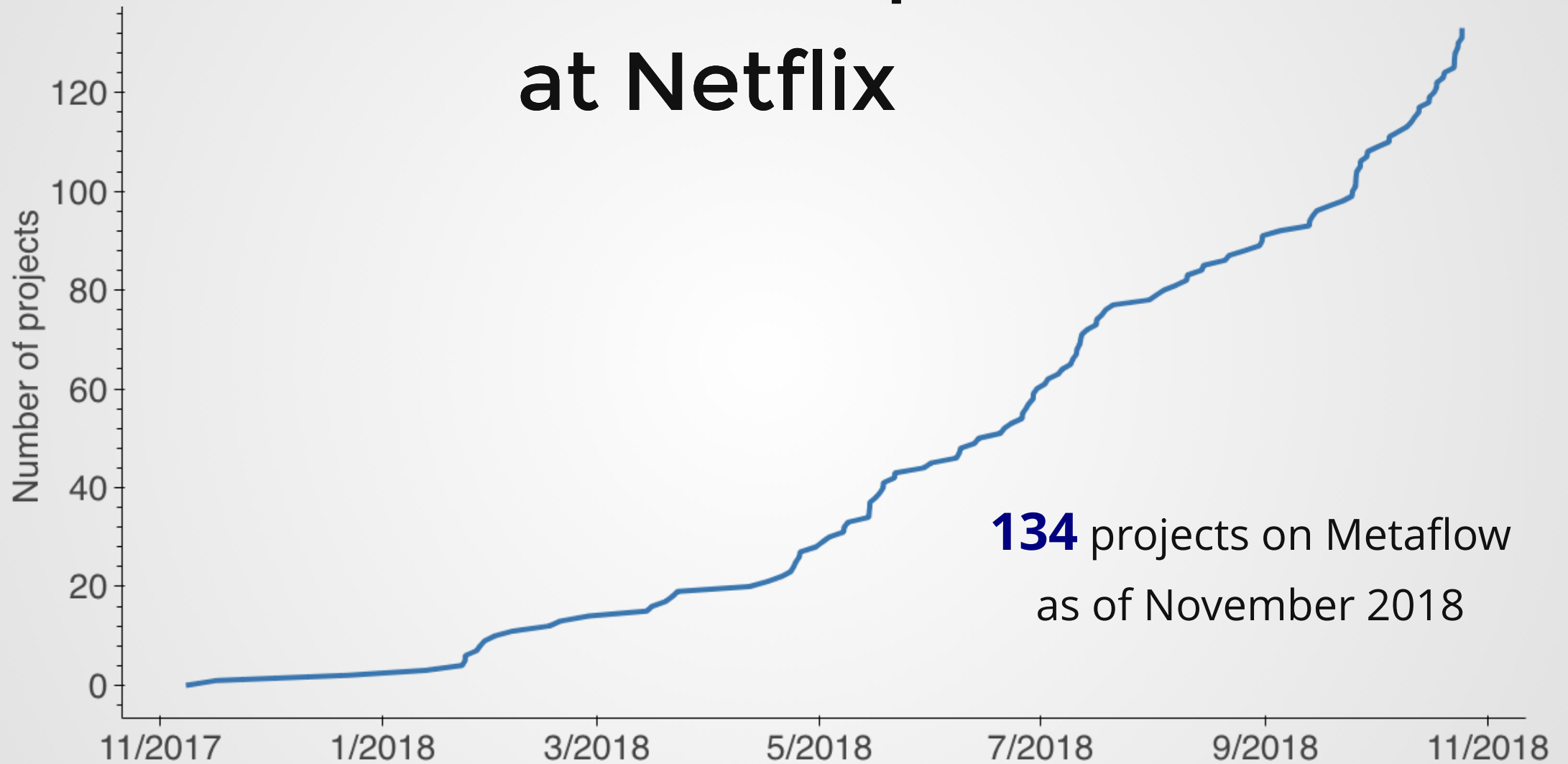
How to deal with models written in R?



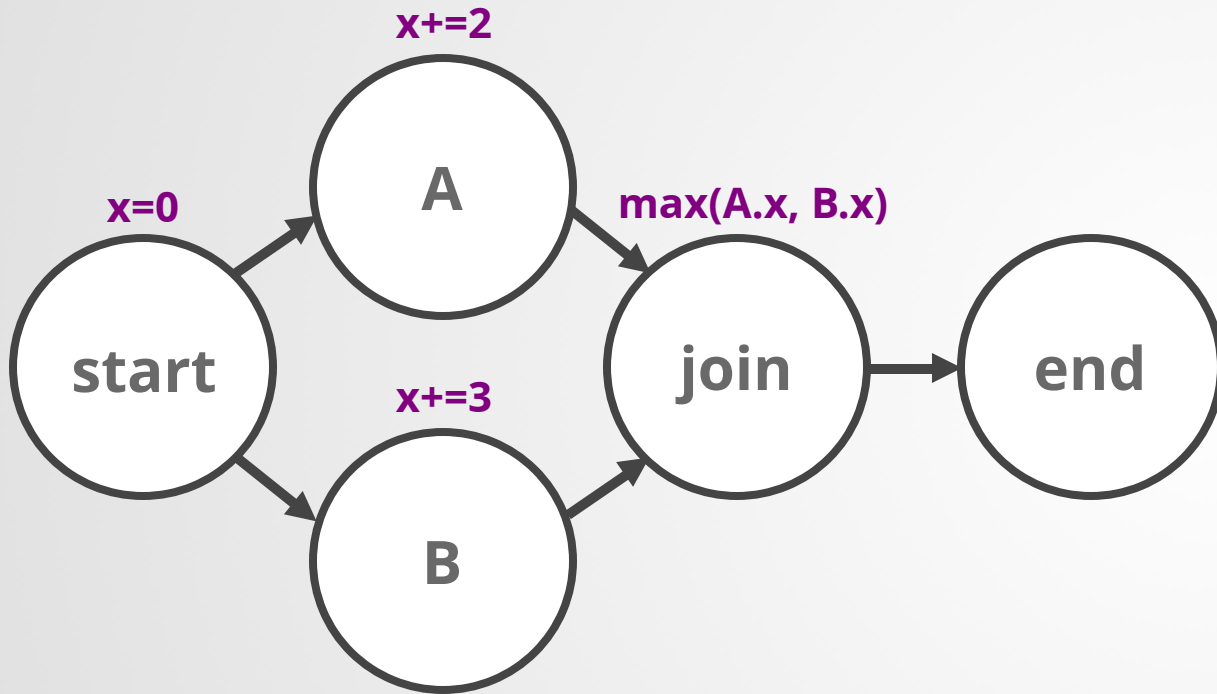
```
metaflow("MyFlow") %>%  
  step(  
    step = "start",  
    next_step = c("a", "b")  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "A",  
    r_function = r_function(a_func),  
    next_step = "join"  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "B",  
    r_function = r_function(b_func),  
    next_step = "join"  
  ) %>%  
  step(  
    step = "Join",  
    r_function = r_function(join,  
      join_step = TRUE),
```

```
# RScript myscript.R
```


Metaflow adoption at Netflix



How to prototype and test my code locally?



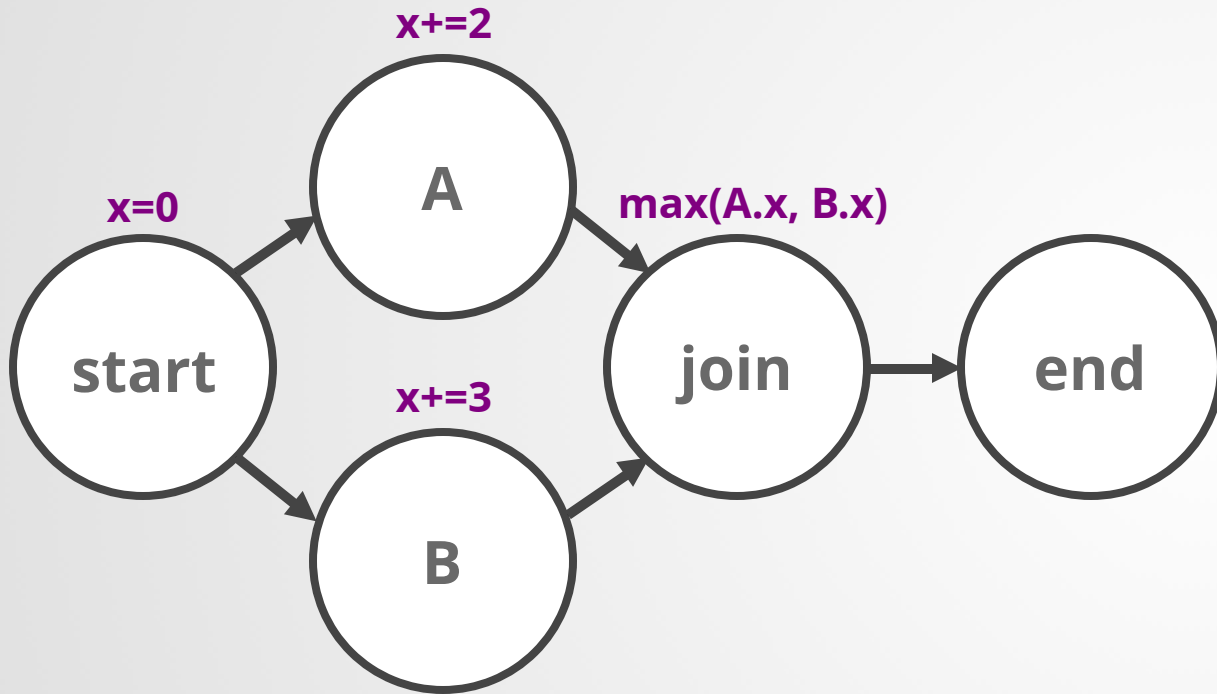
```
@step
def start(self):
    self.x = 0
    self.next(self.a, self.b)
```

```
@step
def a(self):
    self.x += 2
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@step
def b(self):
    self.x += 3
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@step
def join(self, inputs):
    self.out = max(i.x for i in inputs)
    self.next(self.end)
```

How to prototype and test my code locally?



```
@step
def start(self):
    self.x = 0
    self.next(self.a, self.b)
```

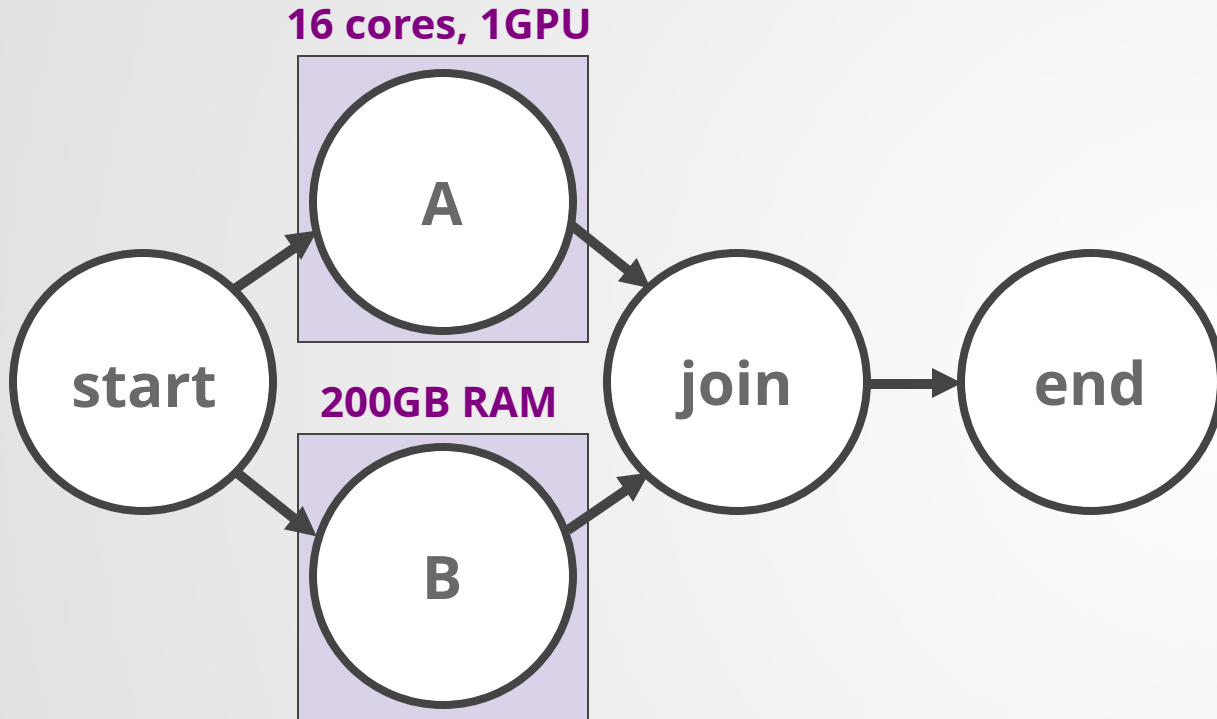
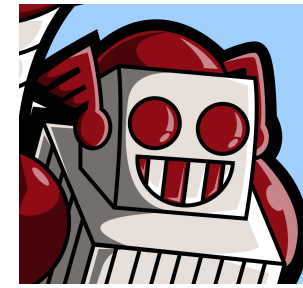
```
@step
def a(self):
    self.x += 2
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@step
def b(self):
    self.x += 3
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@step
def join(self, inputs):
    self.out = max(i.x for i in inputs)
    self.next(self.end)
```

```
# python myscript.py resume B
```

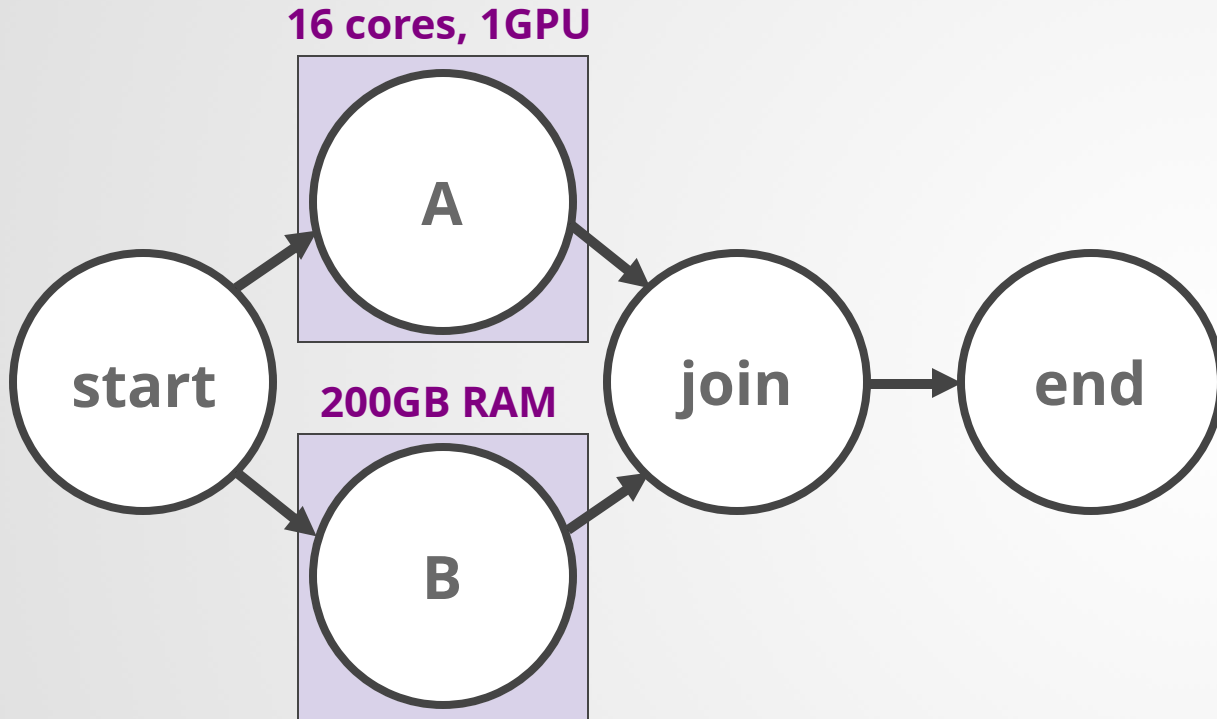
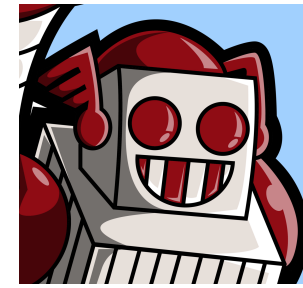

How to get access to more CPUs, GPUs, or memory?



```
@titus(cpu=16, gpu=1)
@step
def a(self):
    tensorflow.train()
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@titus(memory=200000)
@step
def b(self):
    massive_dataframe_operation()
    self.next(self.join)
```

How to get access to more CPUs, GPUs, or memory?

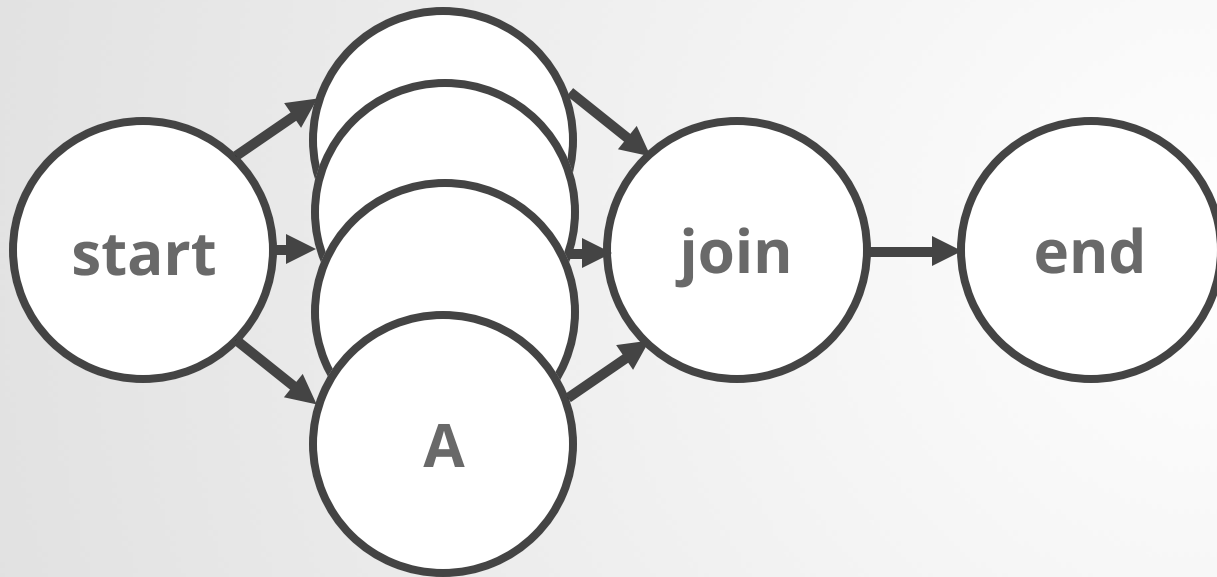


```
@titus(cpu=16, gpu=1)
@step
def a(self):
    tensorflow.train()
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
@titus(memory=200000)
@step
def b(self):
    massive_dataframe_operation()
    self.next(self.join)
```

```
# python myscript.py run
```

How to distribute work over many parallel jobs?



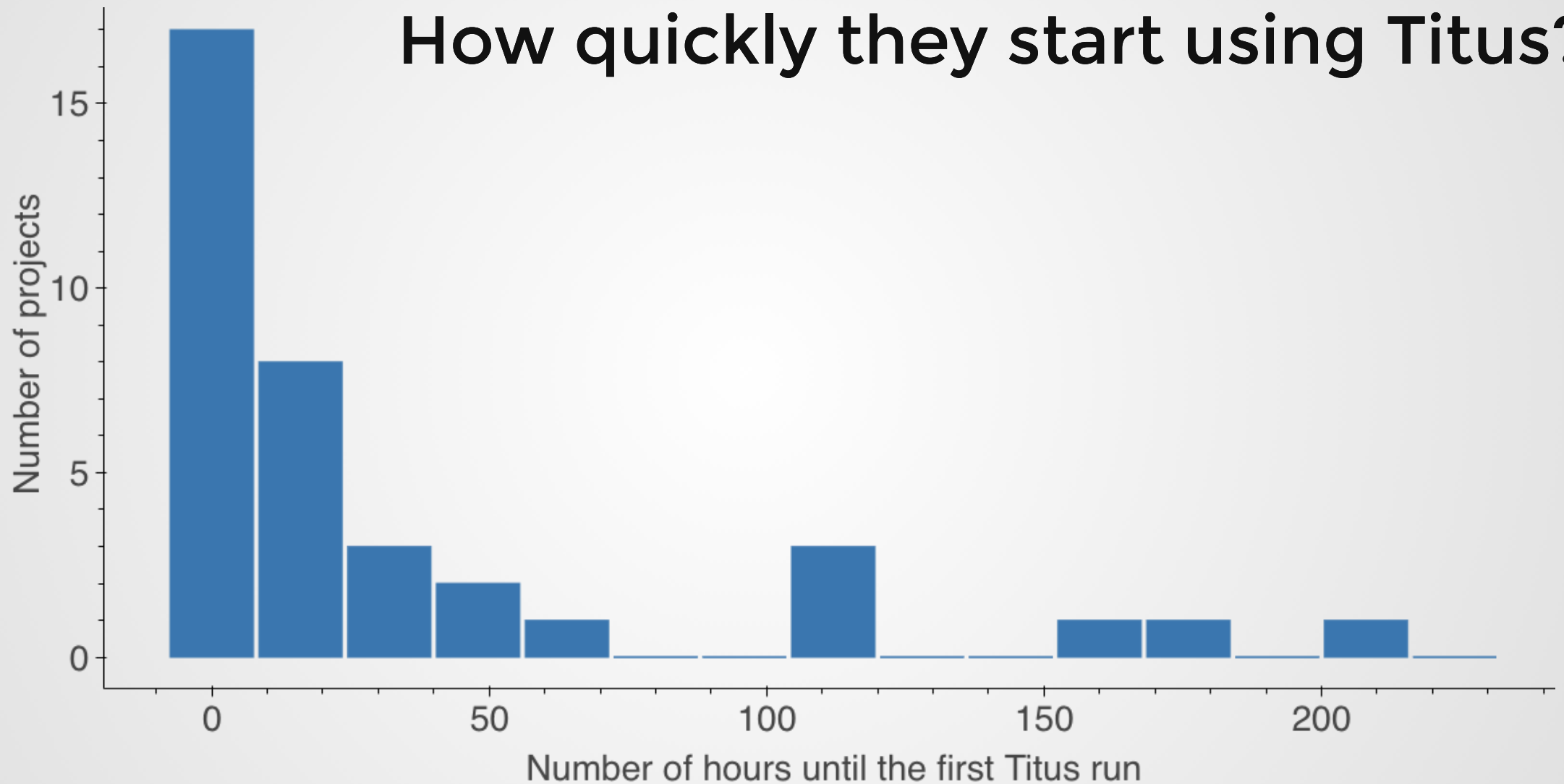
```
@step
def start(self):
    self.grid = ['x', 'y', 'z']
    self.next(self.a, foreach='grid')

@titus(memory=10000)
@step
def a(self):
    self.x = ord(self.input)
    self.next(self.join)

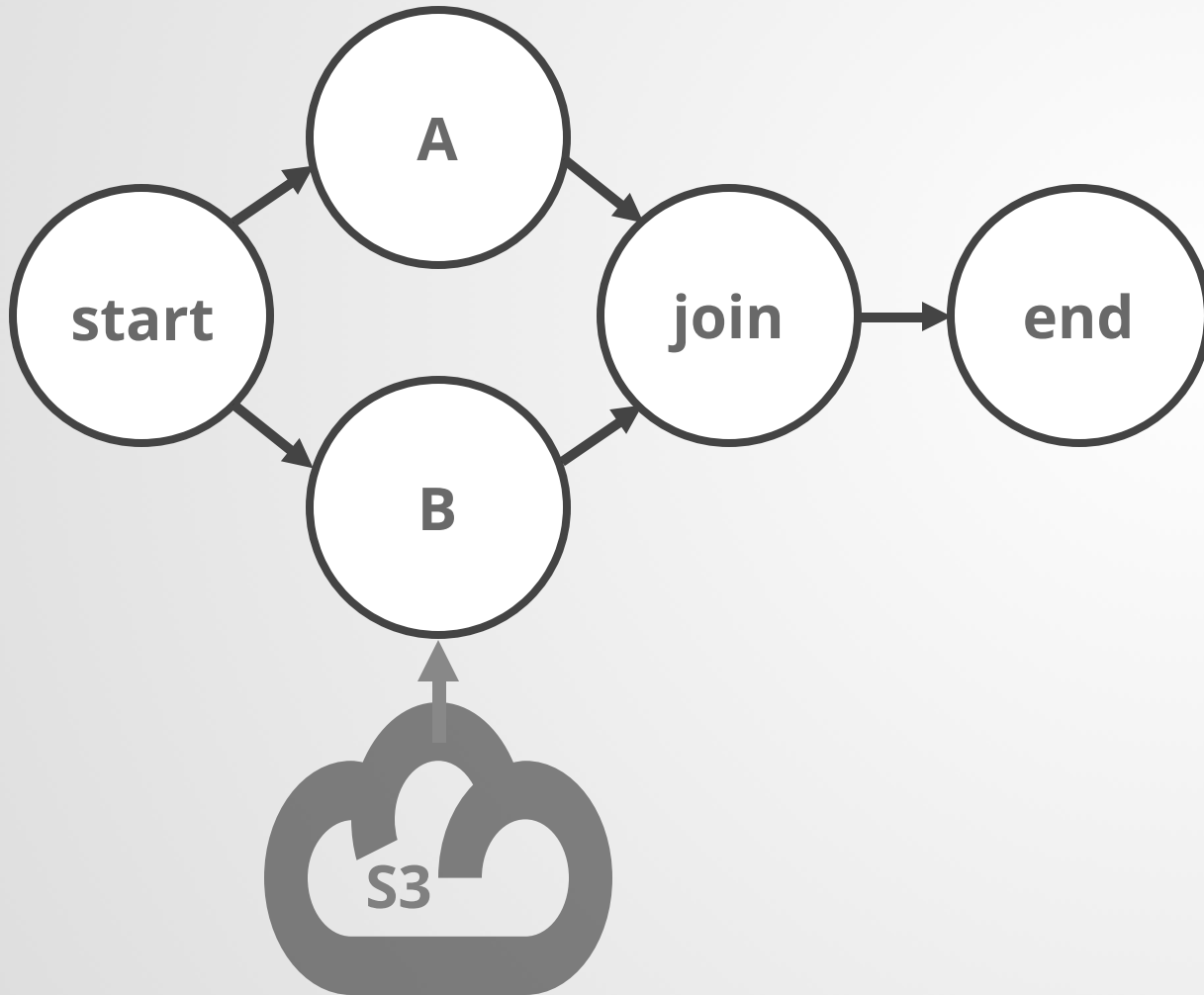
@step
def join(self, inputs):
    self.out = max(i.x for i in inputs)
    self.next(self.end)
```


40% of projects run steps outside their dev environment.

How quickly they start using Titus?



How to access large amounts of input data?



```
from metaflow import Table

@titus(memory=200000, network=20000)
@step
def b(self):
    # Load data from S3 to a dataframe
    # at 10Gbps
    df = Table('vtuulos', 'input_table')
    self.next(self.end)
```

Case Study: Marketing Cost per Incremental Watcher

1. Build a separate model for every new title with marketing spend.

Parallel foreach.

2. Load and prepare input data for each model.

Download Parquet **directly from S3**.

Total amount of model input data: **890GB**.

3. Fit a model.

Train each model on an instance with **400GB of RAM, 16 cores**.

The model is **written in R**.

4. Share updated results.

Collect results of individual models, write to a table.

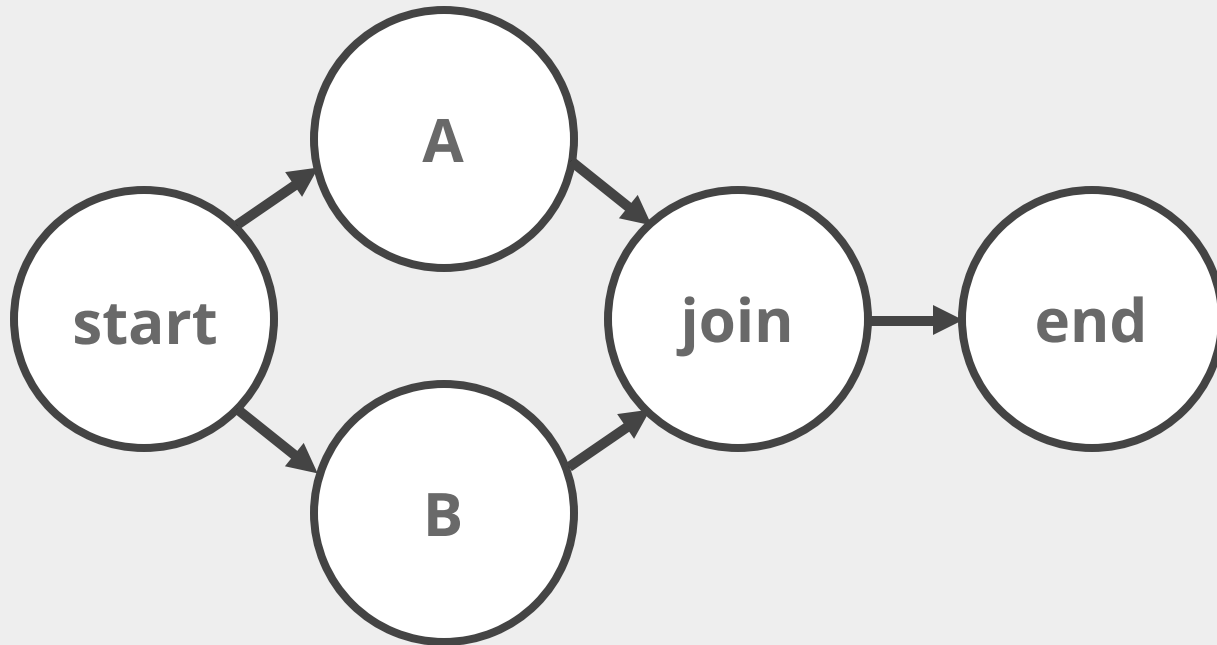
Results shown on **a Tableau dashboard**.

Deploy

How to version my results and access results by others?

savin: unsampled_model

david: sampled_model

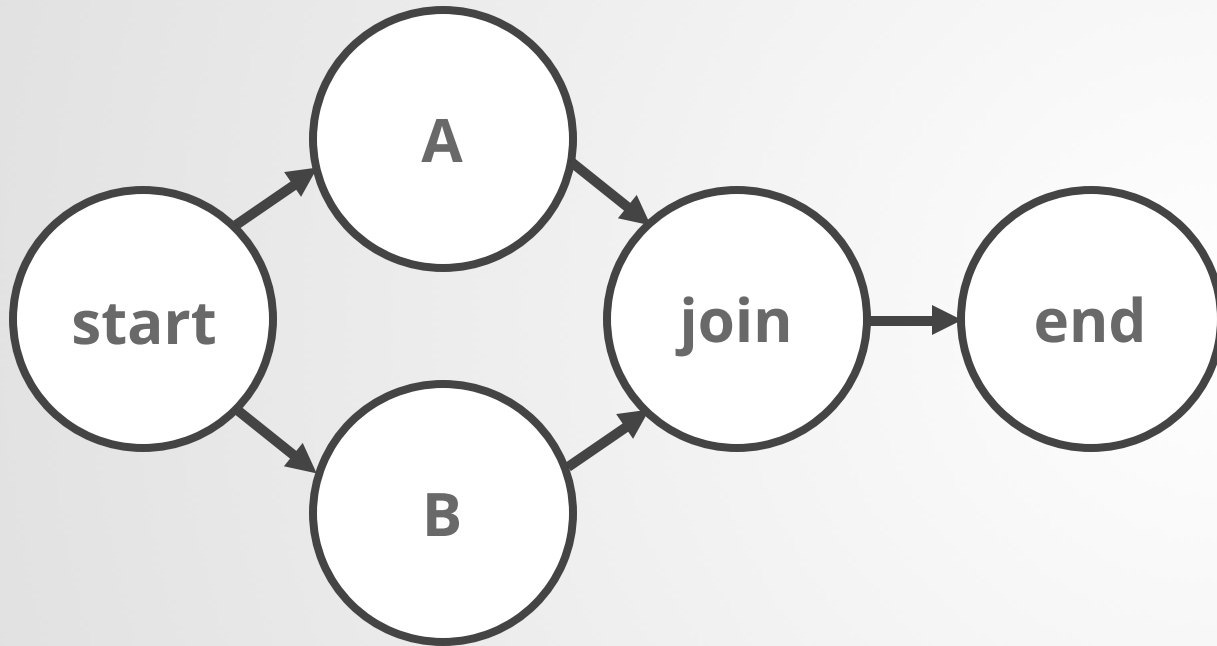


```
# Access Savin's runs
namespace('user:savin')
run = Flow('MyFlow').latest_run
print(run.id) # = 234
print(run.tags) # = ['unsampled_model']
```

```
# Access David's runs
namespace('user:david')
run = Flow('MyFlow').latest_run
print(run.id) # = 184
print(run.tags) # = ['sampled_model']
```

```
# Access everyone's runs
namespace(None)
run = Flow('MyFlow').latest_run
print(run.id) # = 184
```

How to deploy my workflow to production?



798455

Instance Details

Actions: [Retrigger](#) **Params:** [View Params](#)

Duration: 3 minutes **Has Artifacts:** TRUE

Tags: ⓘ This workflow has no tags.

Initiator Type: ⓘ Initiator information not available

Graph

```
graph LR; meson-start[meson-start] --> start[start]; start --> branch_a[branch_a]; start --> branch_b[branch_b]; branch_a --> join[join]; branch_b --> join; join --> end[end]; end --> meson-end[meson-end]
```

Step Details

Step Id: split **Step Actions:** [Restart](#)

Step Instance Id: 3 **Start Time:** Oct 5th 2018, 1:09:57 pm

Tags: [titus](#) **End Time:** Oct 5th 2018, 1:10:30 pm

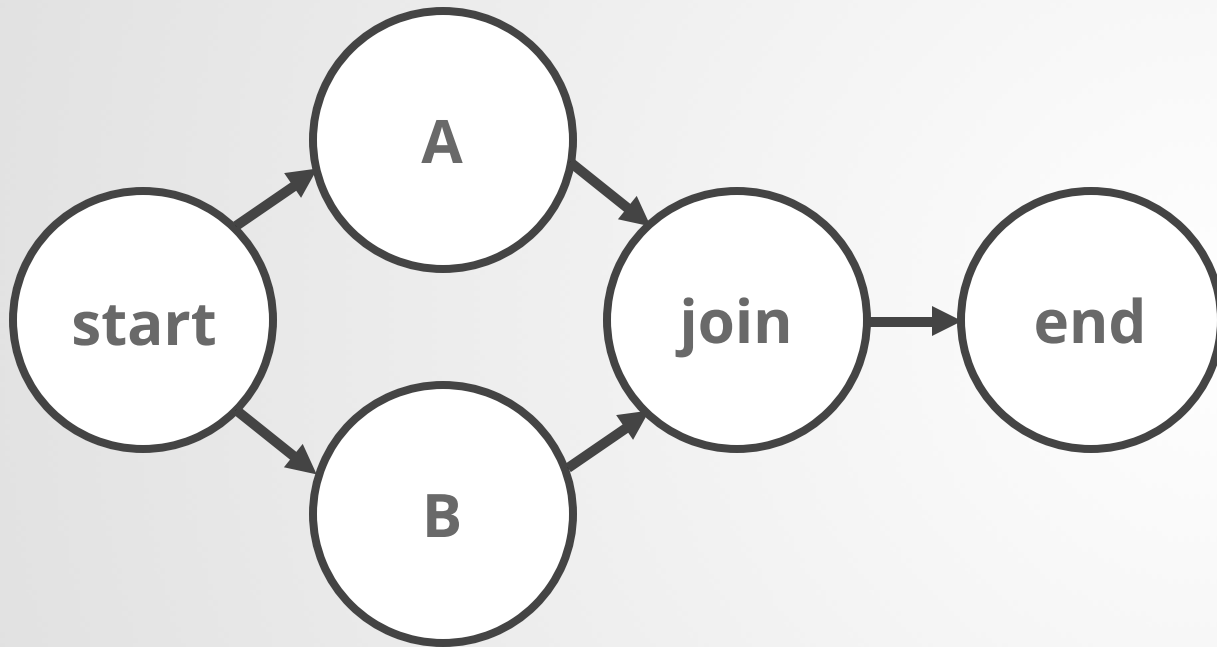
Status: **COMPLETED** **Params:** [View Step Params](#)

Activated Time: Oct 5th 2018, 1:09:55 pm

Step Input Data Artifacts

ⓘ No input data artifacts for this step.

How to deploy my workflow to production?



798455

Instance Details

Actions: [Retrigger](#) **Params:** [View Params](#)

Duration: 3 minutes **Has Artifacts:** TRUE

Tags: ⓘ This workflow has no tags.

Initiator Type: ⓘ Initiator information not available

Graph

```
graph LR; meson-start[meson-start] --> start[start]; start --> branch_a[branch_a]; start --> branch_b[branch_b]; branch_a --> join[join]; branch_b --> join; join --> end[end]; end --> meson-end[meson-end]
```

Step Details

Step Id: split **Step Actions:** [Restart](#)

Step Instance Id: 3 **Start Time:** Oct 5th 2018, 1:09:57 pm

Tags: [titus](#) **End Time:** Oct 5th 2018, 1:10:30 pm

Status: **COMPLETED** **Params:** [View Step Params](#)

Activated Time: Oct 5th 2018, 1:09:55 pm

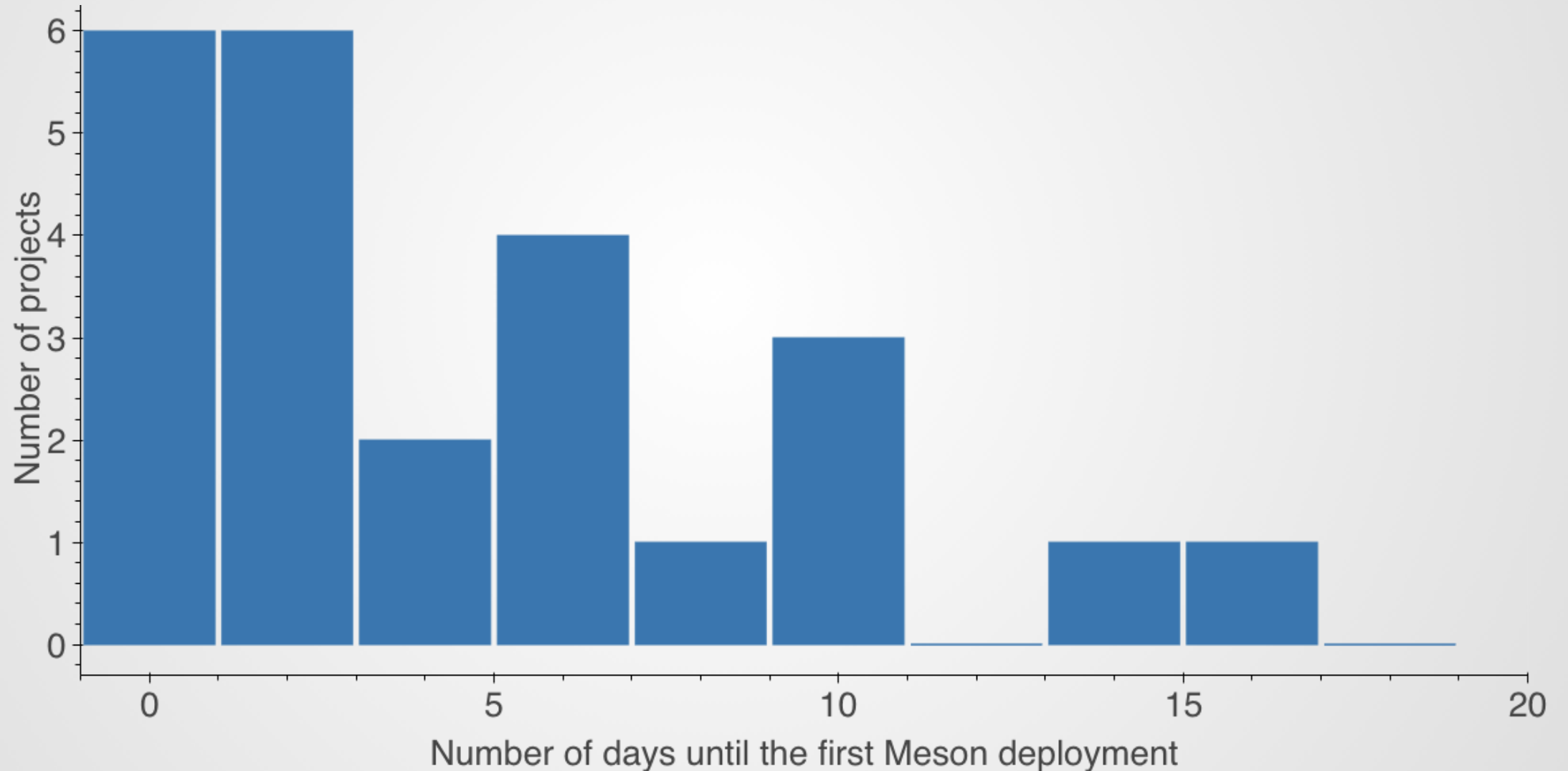
Step Input Data Artifacts

ⓘ No input data artifacts for this step.

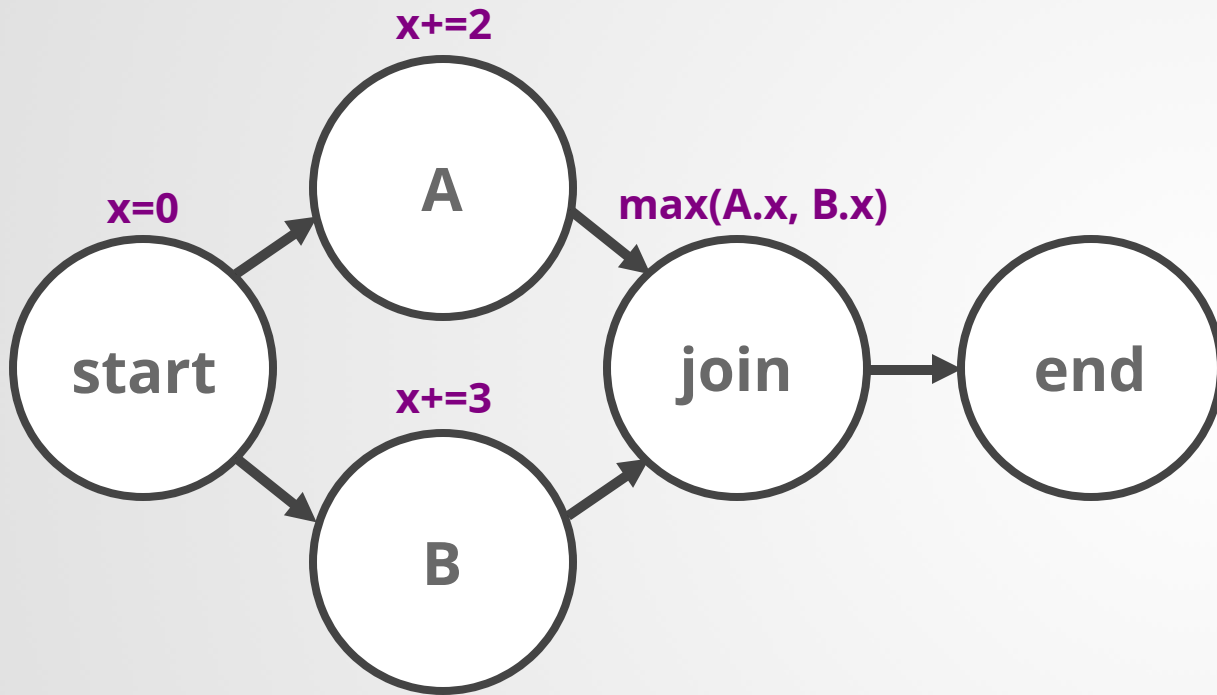
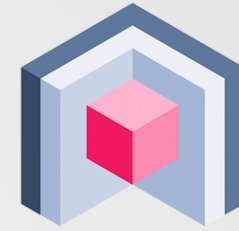
```
#python myscript.py meson create
```

26% of projects get deployed to the production scheduler.

How quickly the first deployment happens?



How to monitor models and examine results?



```
In [145]: 1 from metaflow import Flow
          2 run = Flow('MyFlow').latest_run
          3 run
```

```
Out[145]: Run('MyFlow/3')
```

```
In [152]: 1 list(run)
```

```
Out[152]: [Step('MyFlow/3/end'),
           Step('MyFlow/3/join'),
           Step('MyFlow/3/b'),
           Step('MyFlow/3/a'),
           Step('MyFlow/3/start')]
```

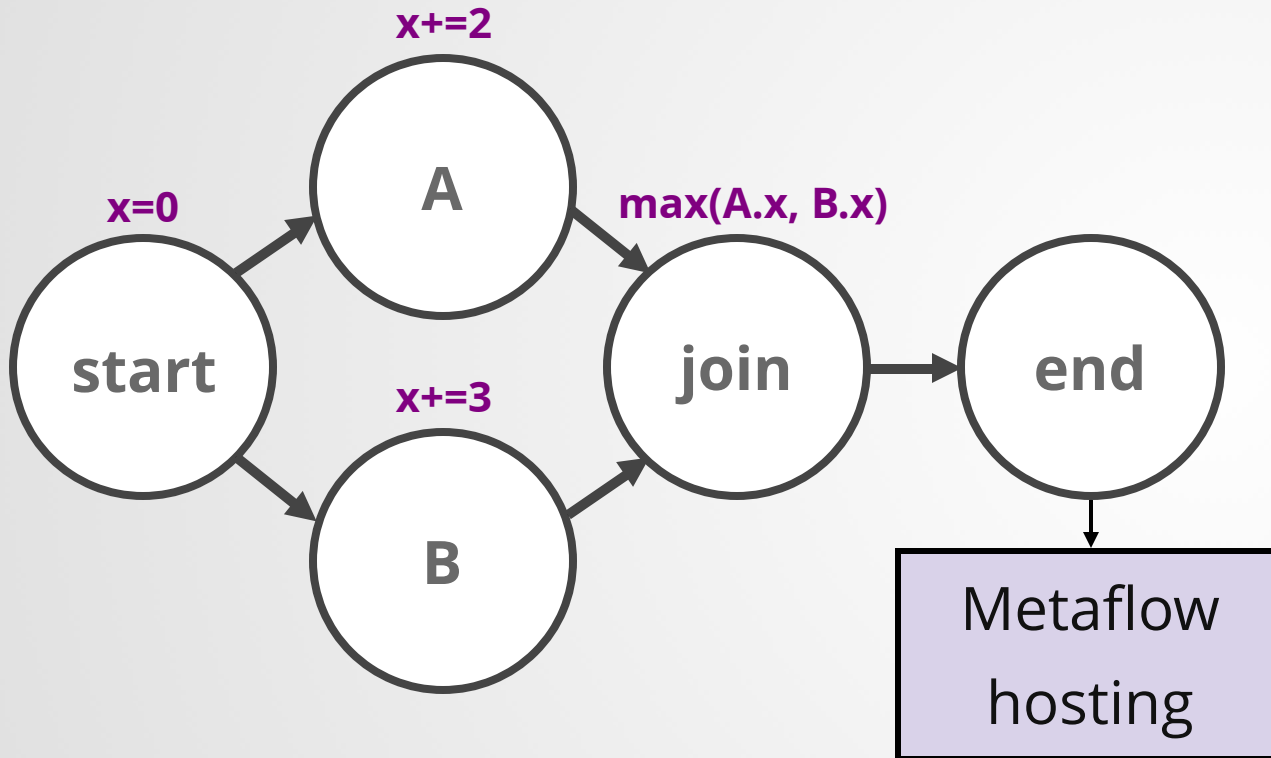
```
In [150]: 1 run['start'].task.data.x
```

```
Out[150]: 0
```

```
In [151]: 1 run['a'].task.data.x
```

```
Out[151]: 2
```


How to deploy results as a microservice?



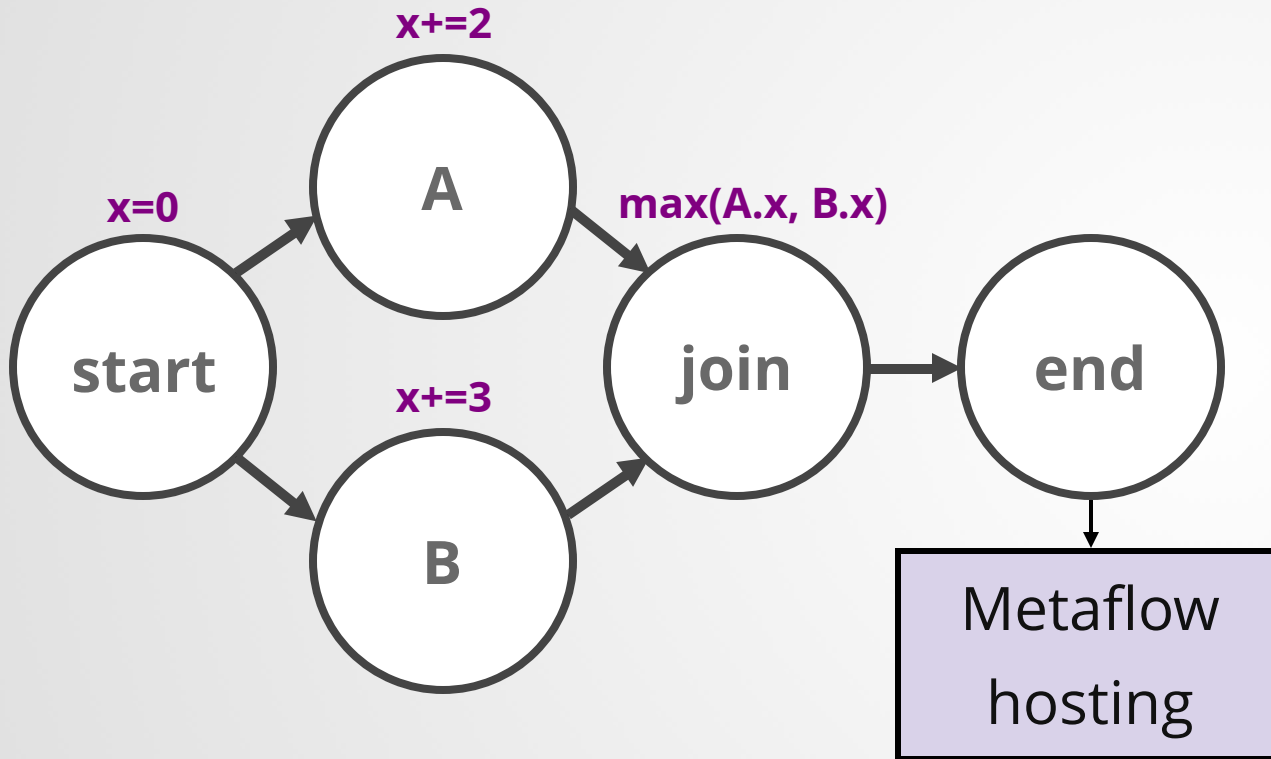
```
from metaflow import WebServiceSpec
from metaflow import endpoint
```

```
class MyWebService(WebServiceSpec):
```

```
@endpoint
```

```
def show_data(self, request_dict):
    # TODO: real-time predict here
    result = self.artifacts.flow.x
    return {'result': result}
```

How to deploy results as a microservice?



```
from metaflow import WebServiceSpec
from metaflow import endpoint
```

```
class MyWebService(WebServiceSpec):
```

```
    @endpoint
```

```
    def show_data(self, request_dict):
        # TODO: real-time predict here
        result = self.artifacts.flow.x
        return {'result': result}
```

```
# curl http://host/show_data
{"result": 3}
```

Case Study: Launch Date Schedule Optimization

1. Batch optimize launch date schedules for new titles daily.
Batch optimization deployed on **Meson**.
2. Serve results through a custom UI.
Results deployed on **Metaflow Hosting**.
3. Support arbitrary what-if scenarios in the custom UI.
Run optimizer **in real-time in a custom web endpoint**.



Metaflow

diverse problems

diverse problems



diverse people

diverse problems



diverse people



diverse models

diverse problems



diverse people



diverse models



help people build

diverse problems



diverse people



diverse models



help people build



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diverse people



diverse models



help people build



help people deploy



happy people, healthy business

thank you!

@vtuulos

vtuulos@netflix.com

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Bruno Coldiori

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