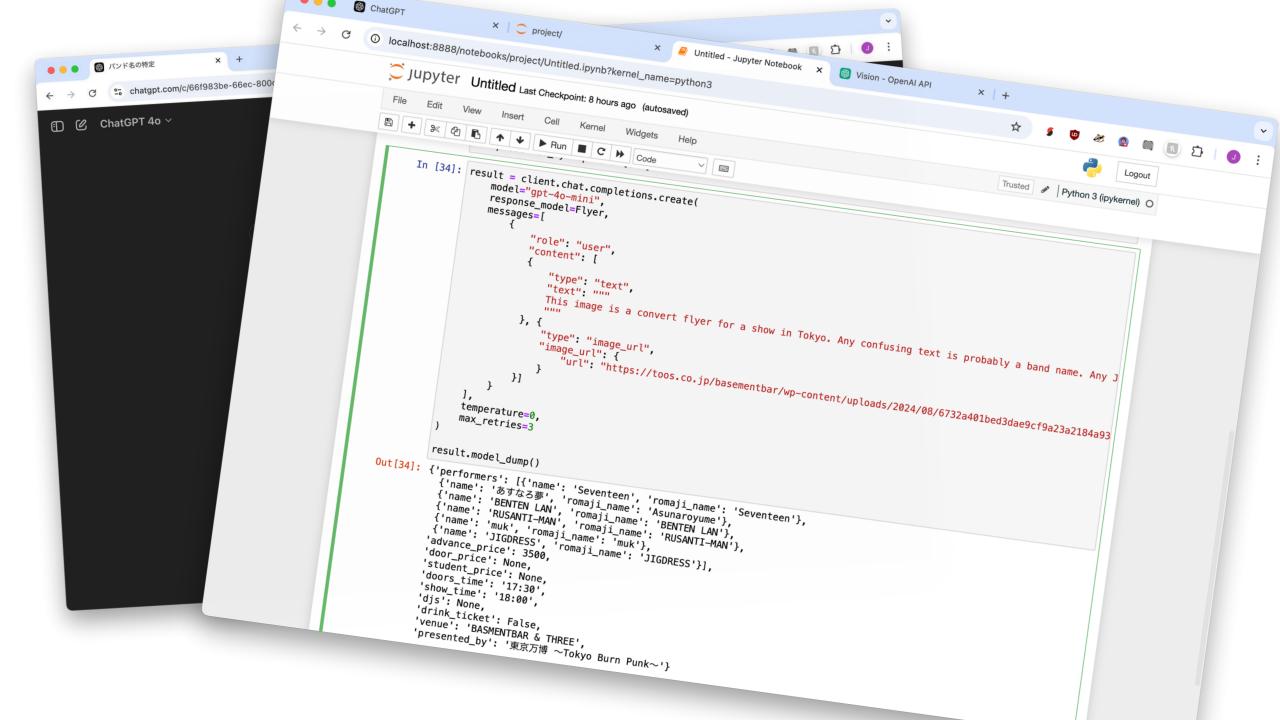
# Data-driven projects

#### A few thoughts



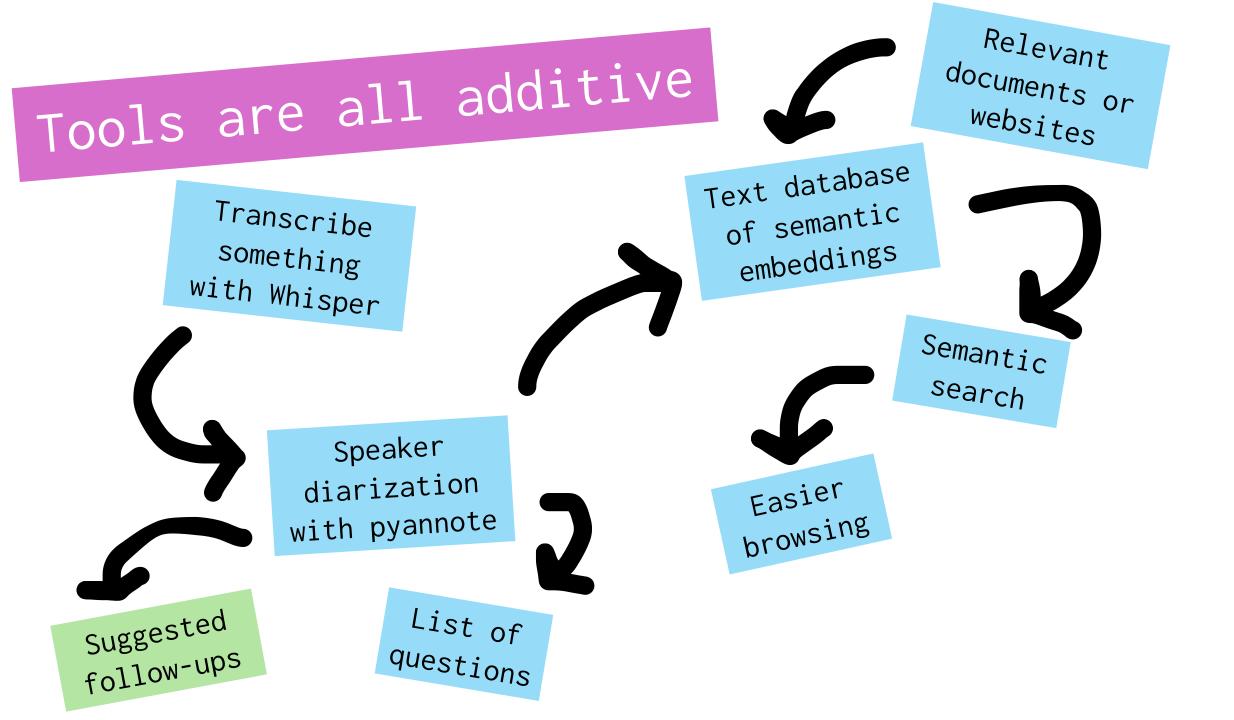


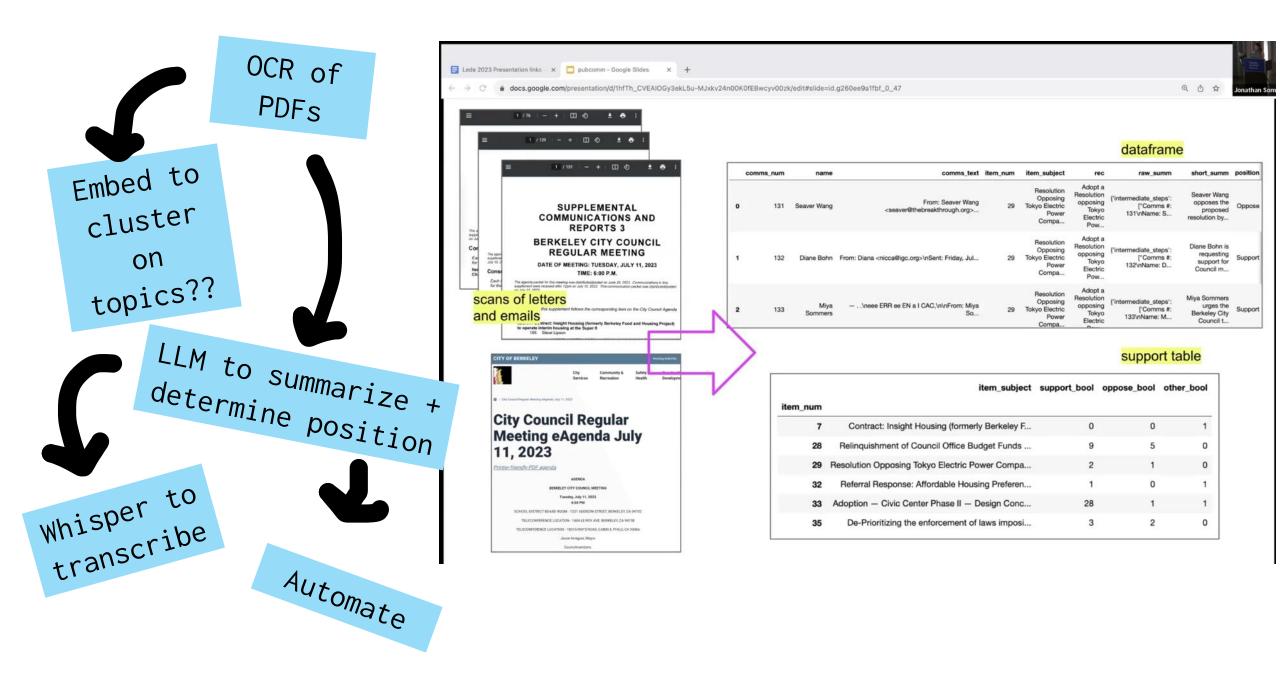


- Managing data projects and coding projects is the worst thing
- •Estimates: all wrong
- •Data: all misunderstood
- •I hope you discovered that while you were working on this project!



- You have data. What can it be joined with?
  - Good target for automation: joining with data that frequently changes
  - "What columns would make this job more effective?"
- Things that need to be done repeatedly
- Things that are done by new hires
- Sell something to others that benefits you, they'll pay you to improve it







- Lots of venture capital = artificially cheap
- Price is not related to ability
- You will need ongoing support and adjustments
  - Don't ignore this!!!!
- Using a platform is better for big, quick changes
  - Journalism example: using an online Whisper tool vs. one built into in-house CMS infrastructure

## Expertise

- You (maybe) have the skills to prototype
- Hire **single-time-fee consultant** for guidance
  - They have experience, most important early on
  - They know what is possible vs impossible
  - Best if not someone who can develop for you
  - Ask "what do people use AI for that they should not?"
- Don't trust what any company says :)

### Estimating

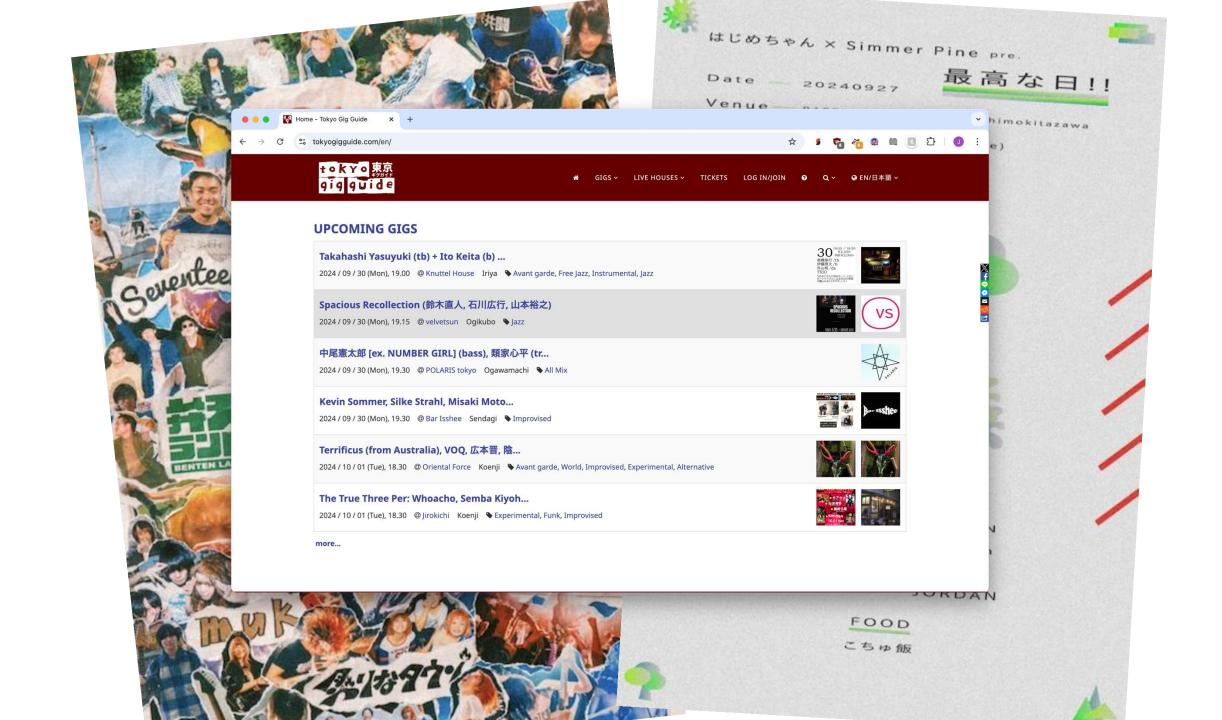
- Estimating how long it takes is very hard
- Estimating what you'll need+want is very hard
  - You'll get 80% of the way there in 20% of the time
  - Edge cases are the problem!
  - AI is good in "easy" cases but sometimes the hard cases are almost impossible
- Never trust internal or external estimates.
  - Think days, weeks or month. Not a specific number.



- Have a product that can be used at 80% ability
- How can it be used with people instead of fully automated?
- Data is often **misunderstood**, and you realize flaws later on. Can it still be used?
- Beautiful visualization can hide bad analysis

### Evaluations

- Create number-based evaluations early on
- Don't just measure "accuracy"
  - What happens when it goes wrong?
- If it's human-in-the-loop, quality can be lower
- Test with people who are suspicious of AI
- Be sure to measure and test over time (weekly, monthly), models change



# Data-driven projects

#### A few ideas