

Ten simple rules for

Making a (great great) MSc at BiRC!

Thomas B.
BiRC

2024-11-15

Introduction

This is a quick guide; very much inspired by the famous 10 rules series of PLoS Computational Biology.



PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

 OPEN ACCESS

EDITORIAL

Ten Simple Rules for Graduate Students

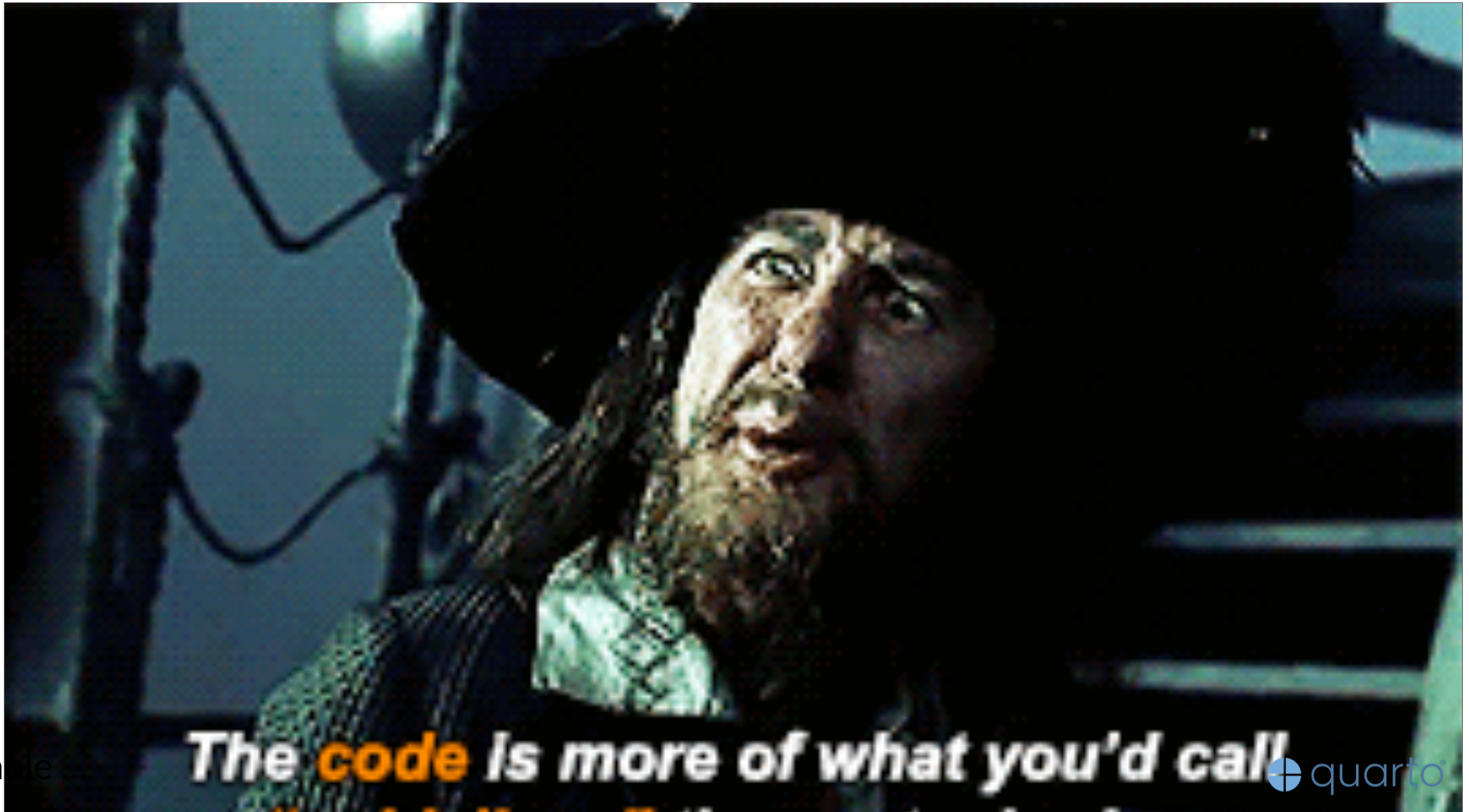
Jenny Gu, Philip E Bourne 

Published: November 30, 2007 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030229>

We still think it is a good read!

?!¿ 10 Simple rules ?!¿

Well, first & foremost...



"guidelines" than actual rules.

Rule 1: Find a good match: project and supervisor(s)

- There are no good/ bad supervisors but there can be good/bad match.
- Find a project topic that matches your interest so you can have some drive for the next 4-5 months

Rule 2: Sketch the project and the contract

Is it going to be a Theory? Data Analysis ? project ??

- Be (crystal) clear about that
- Are the essential building blocks (eg data) available ?
- Is this a project you can write clearly about ? (2 paragraphs)
- If not ... think again ...

Cluster or no cluster ?



10 simple ...



- Do you need the use of the cluster for your project ?
- Pros and Cons
- If you do not have much previous experience, time to get started ASAP

¿ Gihub or not Github ?

- a worthy skill
- can be a PIB goal
- take the time to get used to Git
- ask around ..

Many tutorials and lots of R / python IDEs interfacing it

Rule 3: Start early

Nobody counts when you started your project but everything stops by end of May/
December

So :

- Start early ..
- Read / write for yourself
- Ask Qs

Rule 4 Summarize your work, start to write early

- The more you keep electronic notebooks the easier it will be to “put it all together”
- Writing early about your stuff forces you to check how much you have digested / understood

Rule 5: Ask for help.. earlier than later

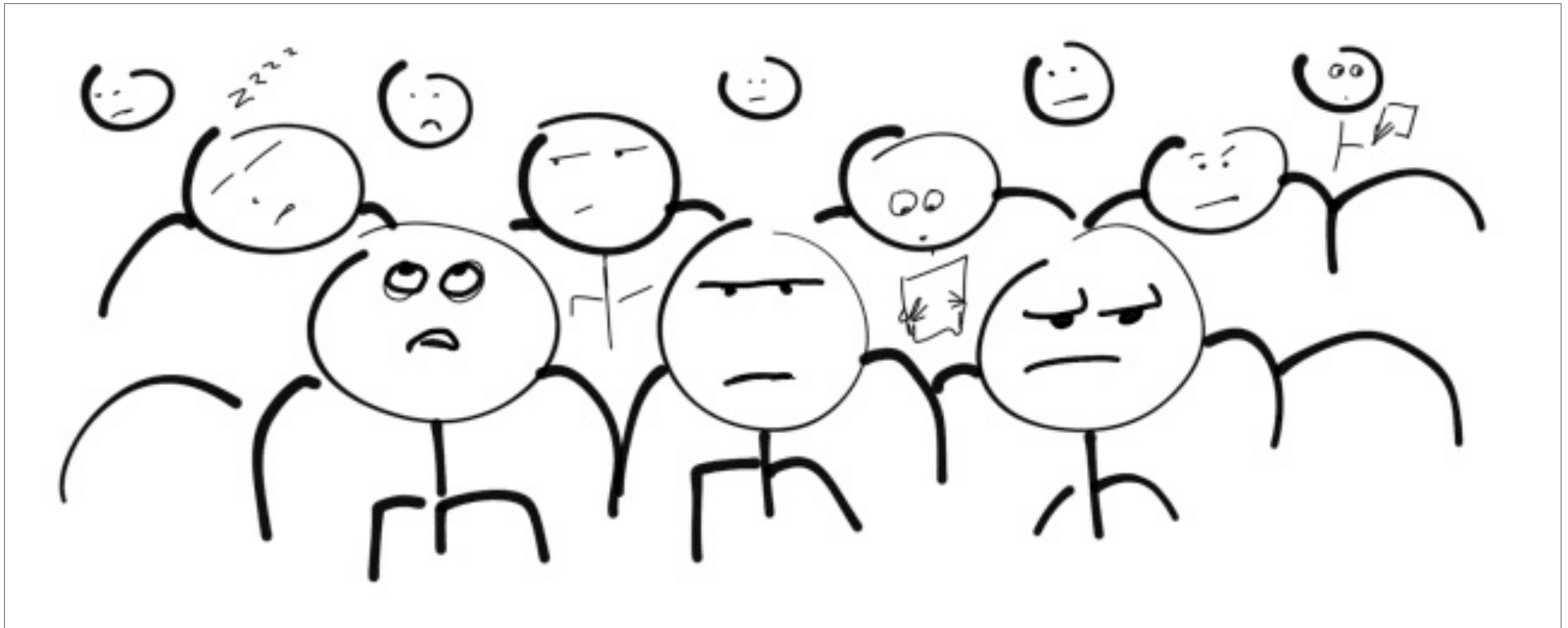
- Google it
- Ask Your fellow students, BiRC PhDs and post docs
- and your supervisor(s) off course

Rule 6: Monitor your own progress together

- Use your supervisor for regular meeting but
- More importantly use yourself and your fellow students. The more you present to each other formally / informally the more you can see clearly where you are going .. and where to go next ..
- Remember the mantra : “Remain Focused on Your Hypothesis While Avoiding Being Held Back (aka Rule 6)

Rule 7: Captivate your audience

- Prove your Scientific Independence !
- Do not worry so much about size (of the report)
- Write for a specific audience (aka the censor...)

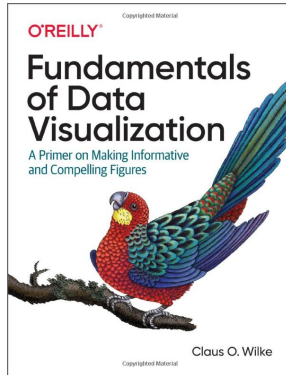


10 simple ...

To reiterate ...

- Explain to someone proficient in bioinformatics but a complete stranger to your topic ...
- Explain the context, the state of the art and “what is missing” (this is were you pitch in with your project topic).

Rule 8: Make nice figures and tables

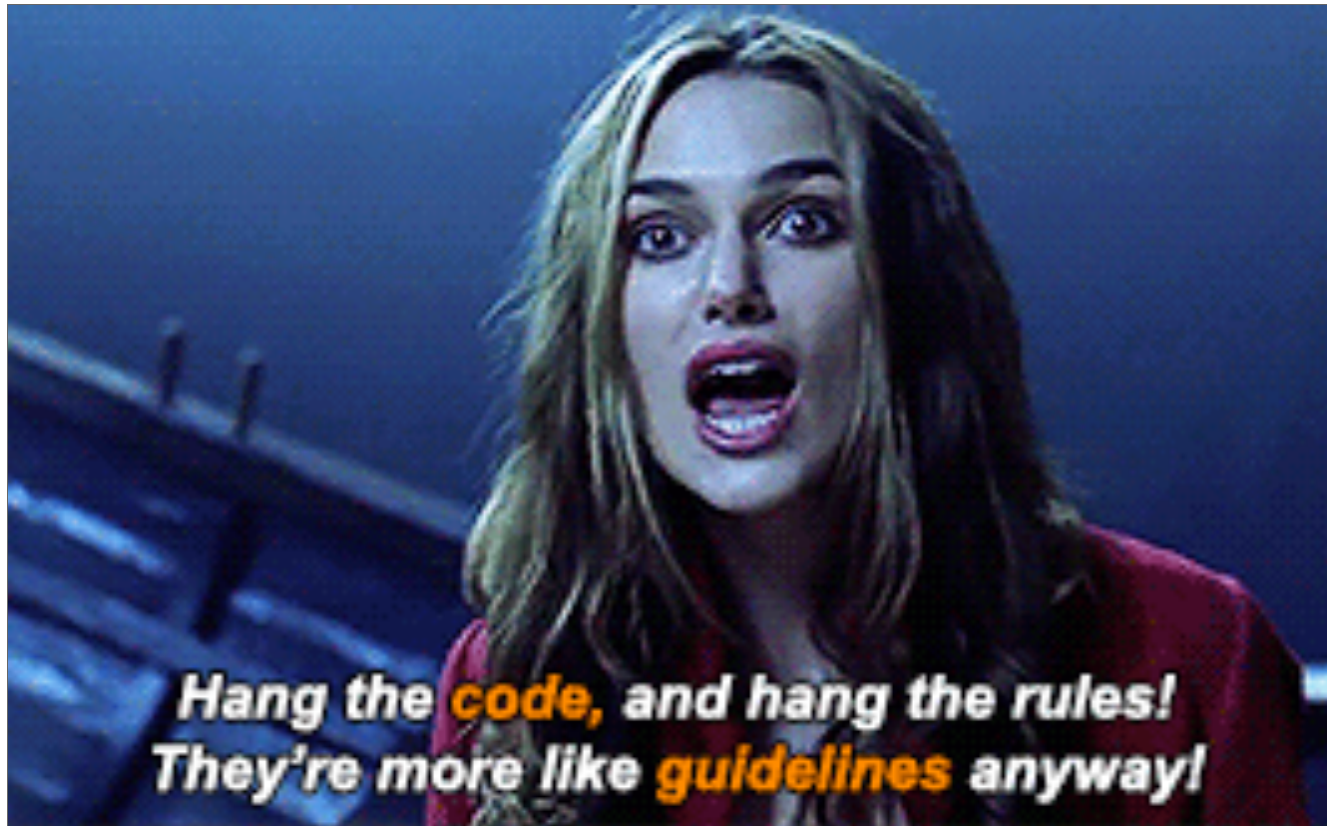


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<https://www.science.org/content/blog-post/2021-year-graphics>

Rule 9. Have fun

Do we need to elaborate :0) ?



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Rule 10: think ahead ... after the MSc thesis