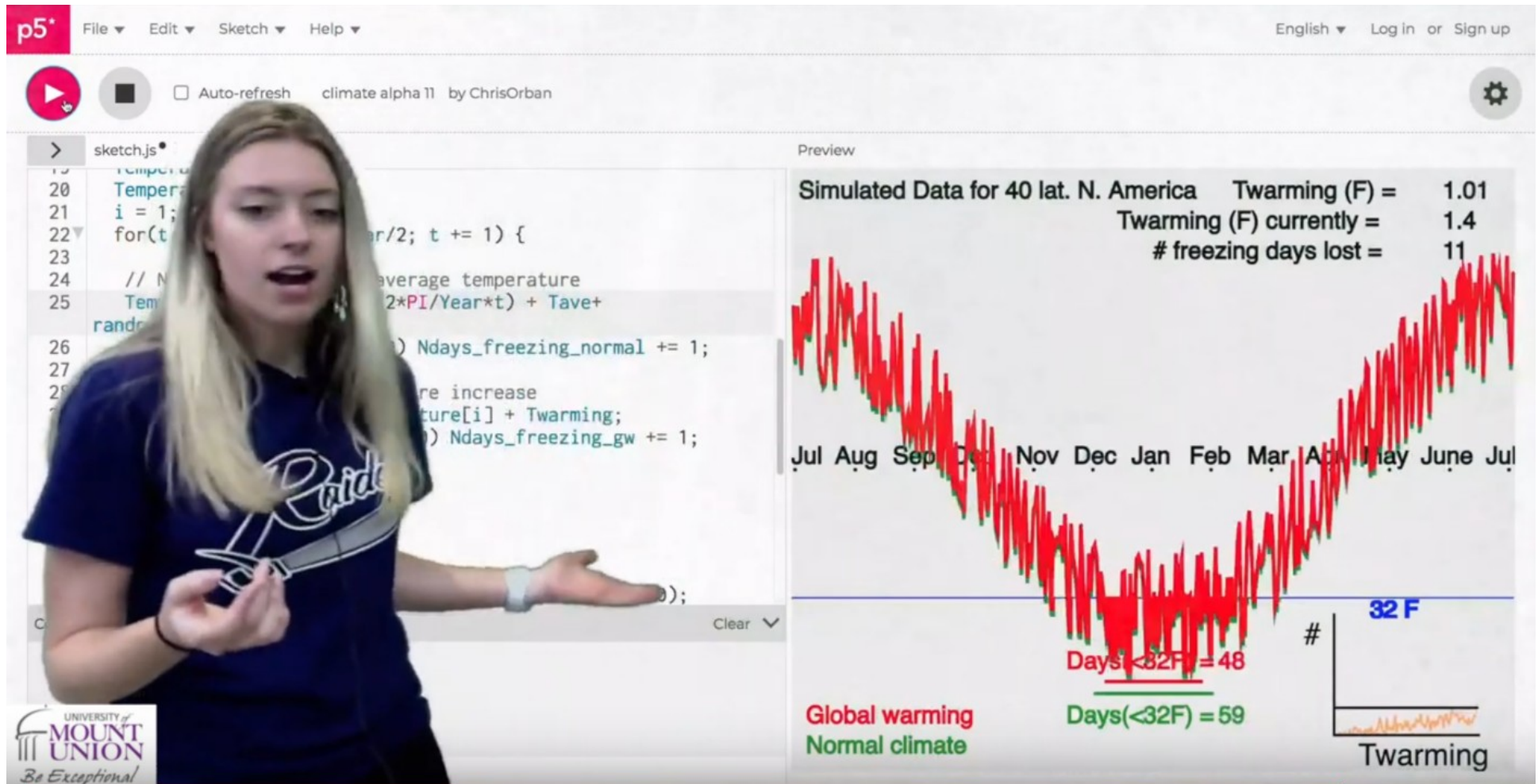


Teaching CS in connection with other subjects



Prof. Chris Orban



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

STEM coding

A little about me

- Computational physics
- Plasma physics
- Education research
- Ph.D. in Physics from OSU



A little bit about the STEMcoding Project

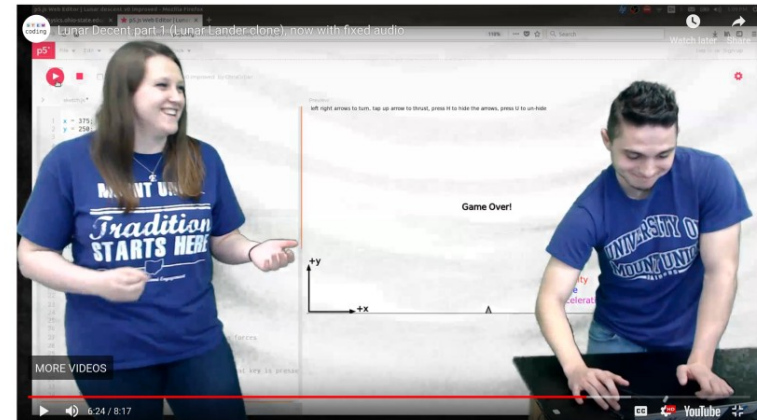
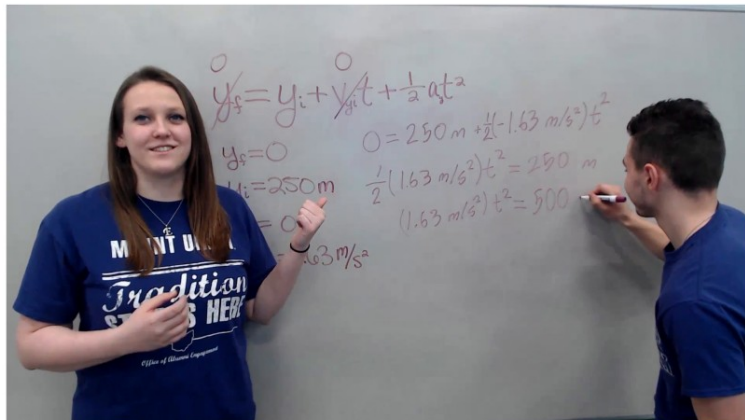
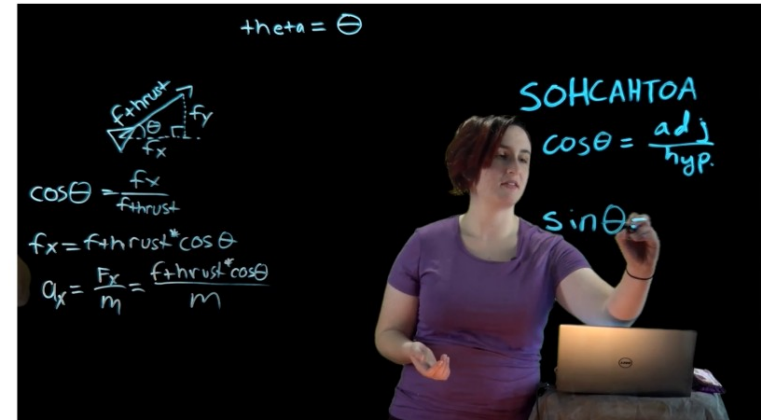
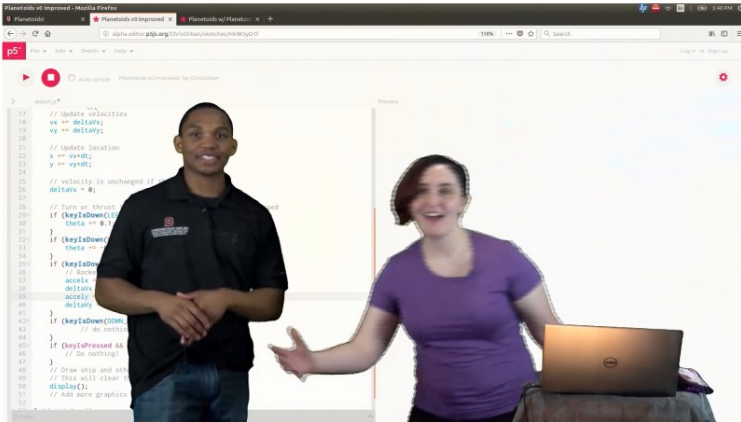
- Started in 2017 with the launch of a youtube channel / hour of code activities
 - Initial focus on physics
- Expanded content to astronomy, physical science, enviro science
- Now connected to a state-wide “discrete math” effort in Ohio*

*Chris Orban / STEMcoding does not speak on behalf of Ohio Dept. of Education and can only share public details

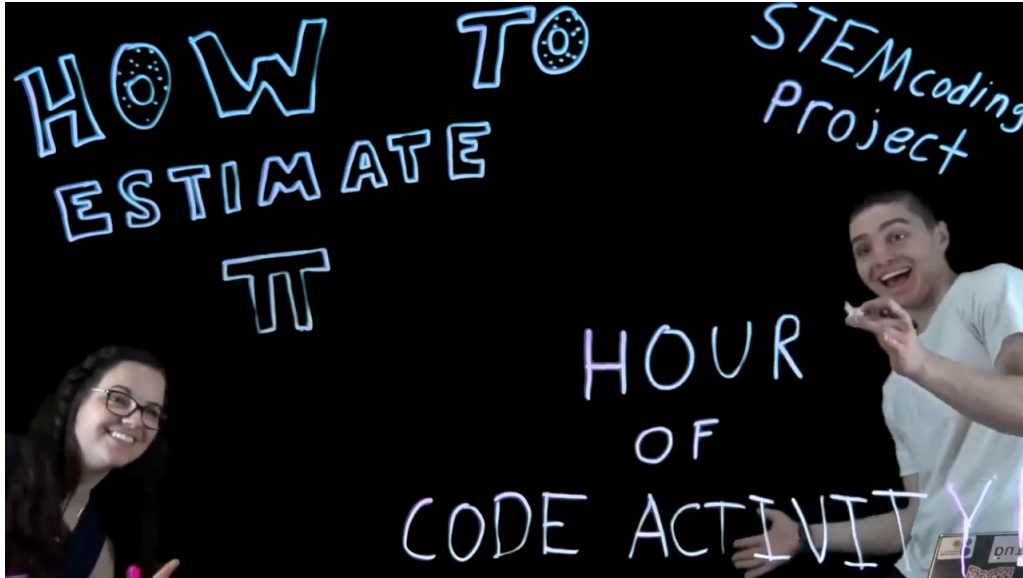
Hour of code activities

- 2017 release – Move the blob
- 2018 release
 - Asteroids & Lunar Lander
 - Pong & Bonk.io
 - Pi day
- 2019 release
 - Escape Velocity / Newtonian Black Holes
- 2021 release
 - Earth Day / Climate Change activity

2018 Hour of Code Activities: Asteroids & Lunar Lander



2018 Hour of Code Activities: Pi day



p5.js File Edit Sketch Help & Feedback

Auto-refresh pi estimator v0 colors by ChrisOrban

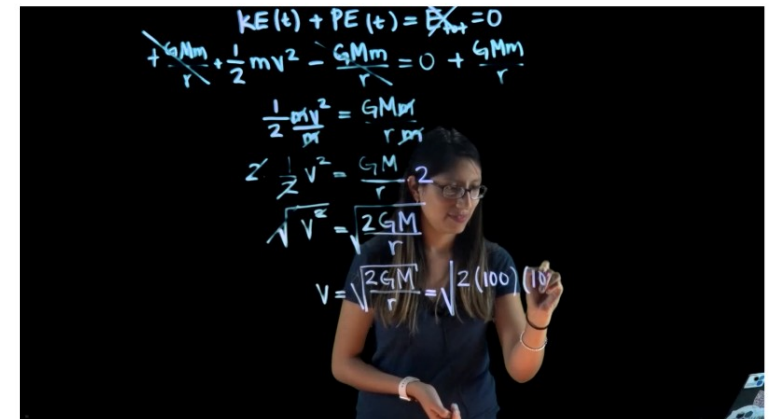
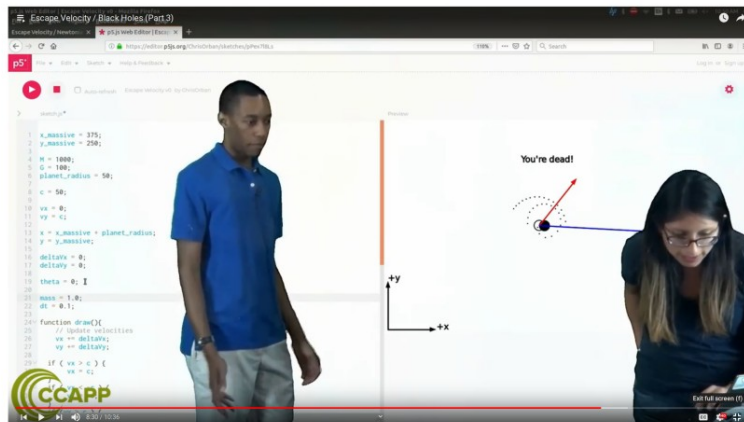
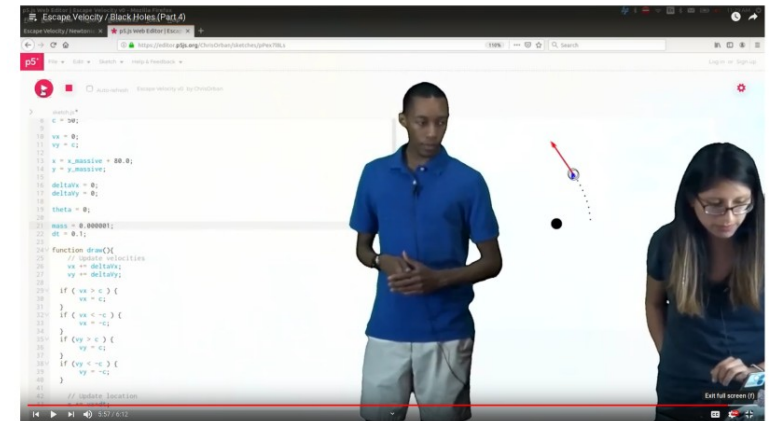
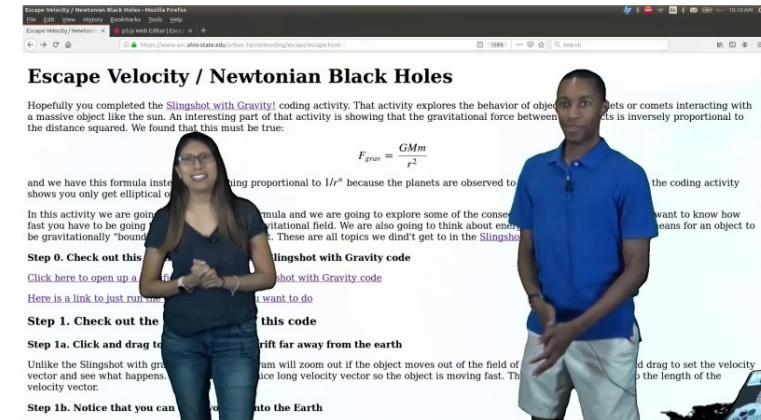
sketch.js

```
1 x = 0;
2 y = 0;
3
4 Npoints = 0.0;
5 Npoints_incirc = 0.0;
6
7 color1 = [0,0,0]; // black
8 color2 = [170,170,170]; // gray
9
10 function draw() {
11
12     x = random(-radius,radius);
13     y = random(-radius,radius);
14
15     if ( sqrt(x*x + y*y) < radius ) {
16         drawPoint(x,y,color2);
17         Npoints_incirc += 1.0;
18     } else {
19         drawPoint(x,y,color1);
20     }
21     Npoints += 1.0;
22 }
23
```

Preview

A woman with glasses is standing in front of the p5.js code editor, pointing at the code.

2019 Hour of Code Activities: Escape Velocity & Black Holes



2021 Hour of Code Activity: Earth Day

Introduction

Step 1. Get Climate Data

Step 2. Calculate Average Temperatures

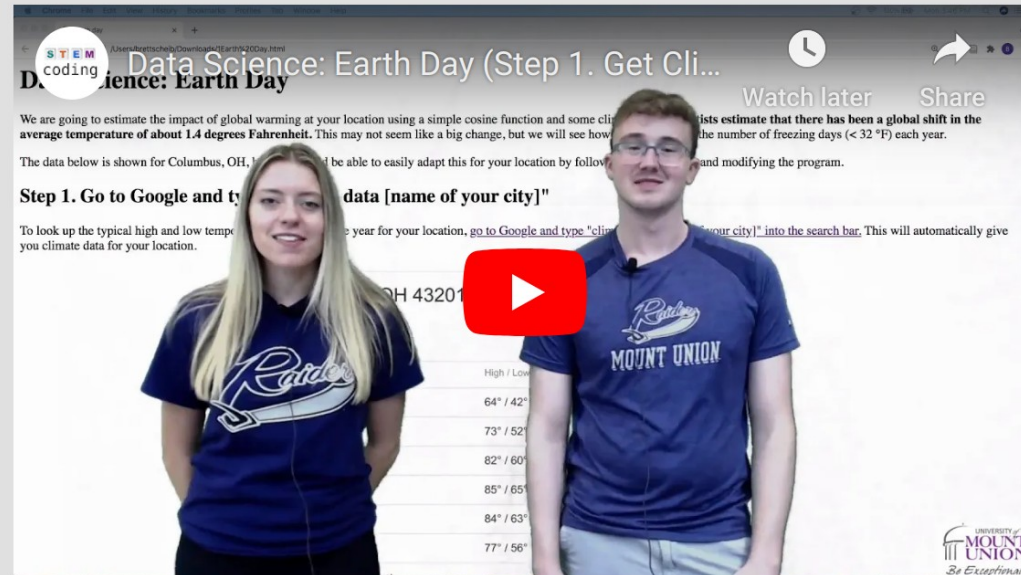
Step 3. Open the Code

Step 4. Add Your Temperatures

Step 5. Run the Code

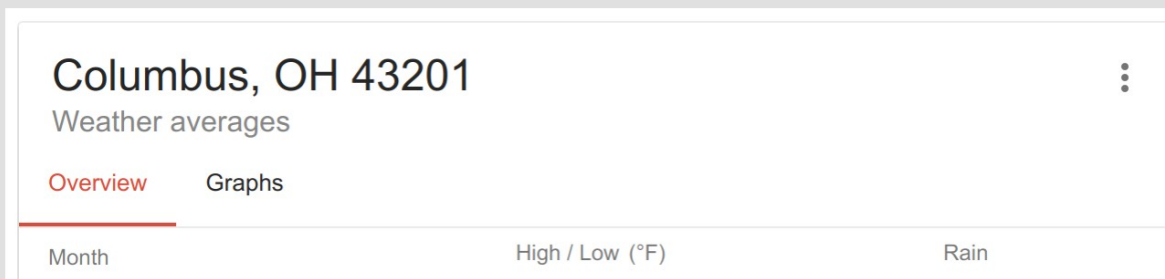
Step 6. Temperature Variability

Step 1. Go to Google and collect climate data

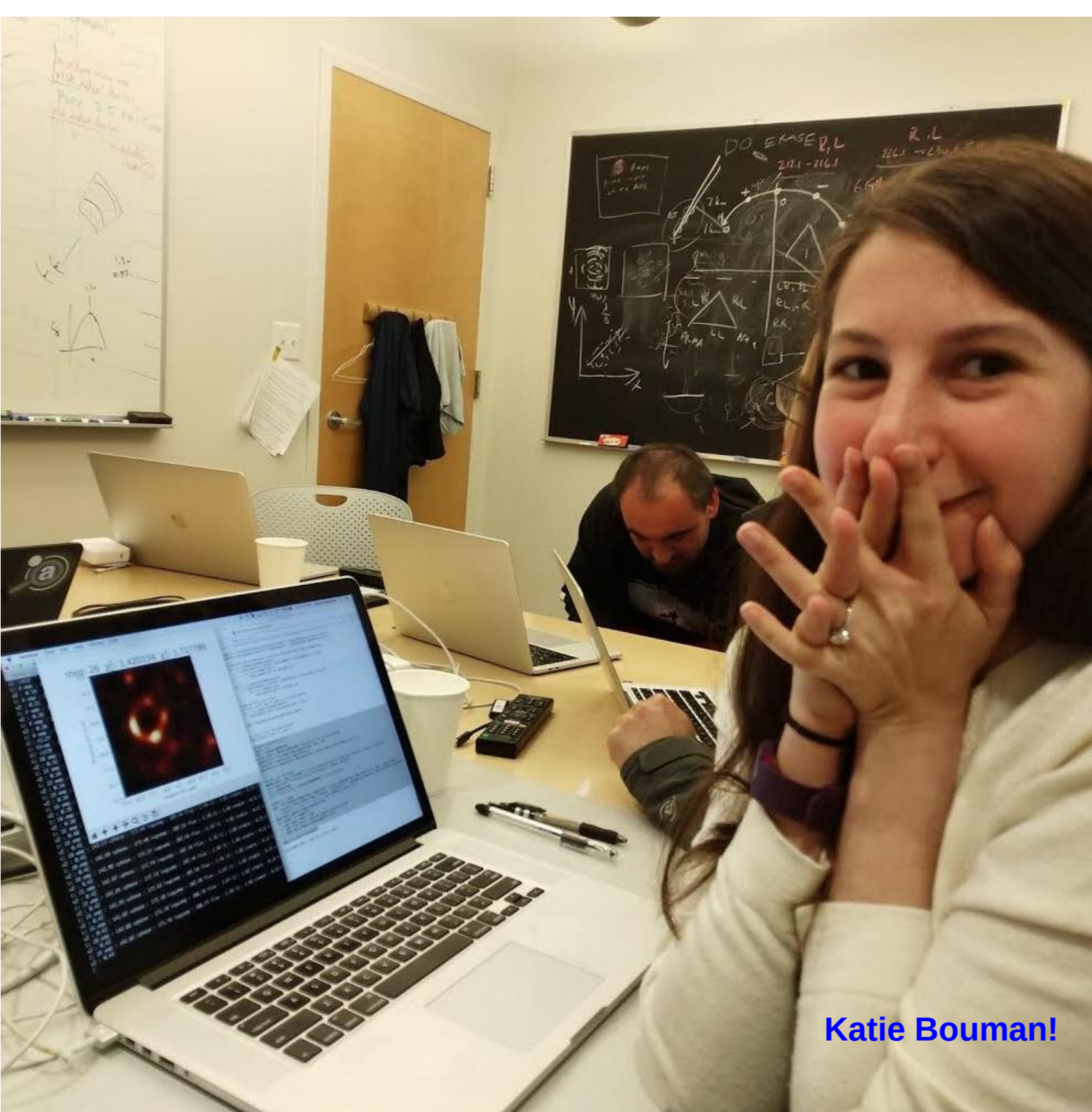


To look up the typical high and low temperatures throughout the year for your location, [go to Google and type "climate data \[name of your city\]" into the search bar](#). This will automatically give you climate data for your location.

The data below is shown for Columbus, OH, but you should be able to easily adapt this for your location by following the directions and modifying the program.



Thoughts on Connectedness



Katie Bouman!



Connectedness and standards

- “Computational thinking” (CT) became popularized by an essay in 2006
- In 2013, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) mentions “computational thinking” as a tool for doing science
- Data science (DS) has gotten more attention in the last few years
- DS and CT are interconnected in many ways but in other ways the communities are disconnected

Final thoughts

1. Math and science teachers were doing data science and computational thinking before it was cool
2. The need for more data science / data skills is DIRECTLY connected to long-time struggles to get kids to understand graphs and plots

How would I connect with...

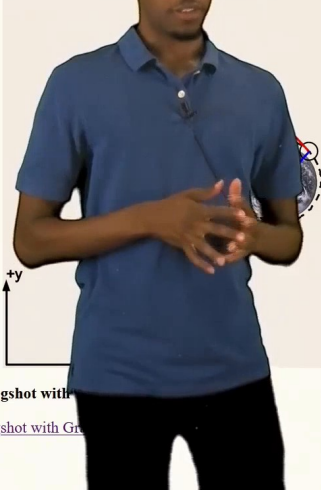
Earth Science / Astronomy

Project Mercury (Part 1. Circular Orbit)

Mathematician Katherine Johnson is famous for calculating trajectories of America's first manned space

The big concern at that point in the history of the space program was accurately predicting where a space capsule could send the mercury capsule hundreds of miles from where the Navy was trying to recover the space

The calculation that Katherine Johnson did had to consider many different factors in the trajectory of the capsule in a circular orbit. Ultimately that orbit is going to look like



Step 0. Check out this modified version of the Slingshot with

[Click here to open up a modified version of the Slingshot with Gr](#)

Step 1. Note the units



Project Mercury Activity

p5.js File Edit Sketch Help English Log in or Sign up

Auto-refresh Mercury v0 alpha by ChrisOrban

```
1 // Initial velocity of the Mercury capsule
2 vx = 0;
3 vy = 60;
4
5 // Initial position of the Mercury capsule
6 x = 430;
7 y = 250;
8
9 // Center of the earth
10 x_earth = 375;
11 y_earth = 250;
12 earth_radius = 50;
13
14 M = 1000;
15 G = 100;
16
17 deltaVx = 0;
18 deltaVy = 0;
19
20 theta = 0;
21
22 mass = 3.0; // of the capsule
23 dt = 0.1;
24
25 function draw(){
26   // Update velocities
27   vx += deltaVx;
28   vy += deltaVy;
29
30   // Update location
31   x += vx*dt;
32   y += vy*dt;
33
34   // velocity is unchanged if there are no forces
35   deltaVx = 0;
36   deltaVy = 0;
37 }
```

Preview

Velocity
Force

CCAPP
ccapp.osu.edu

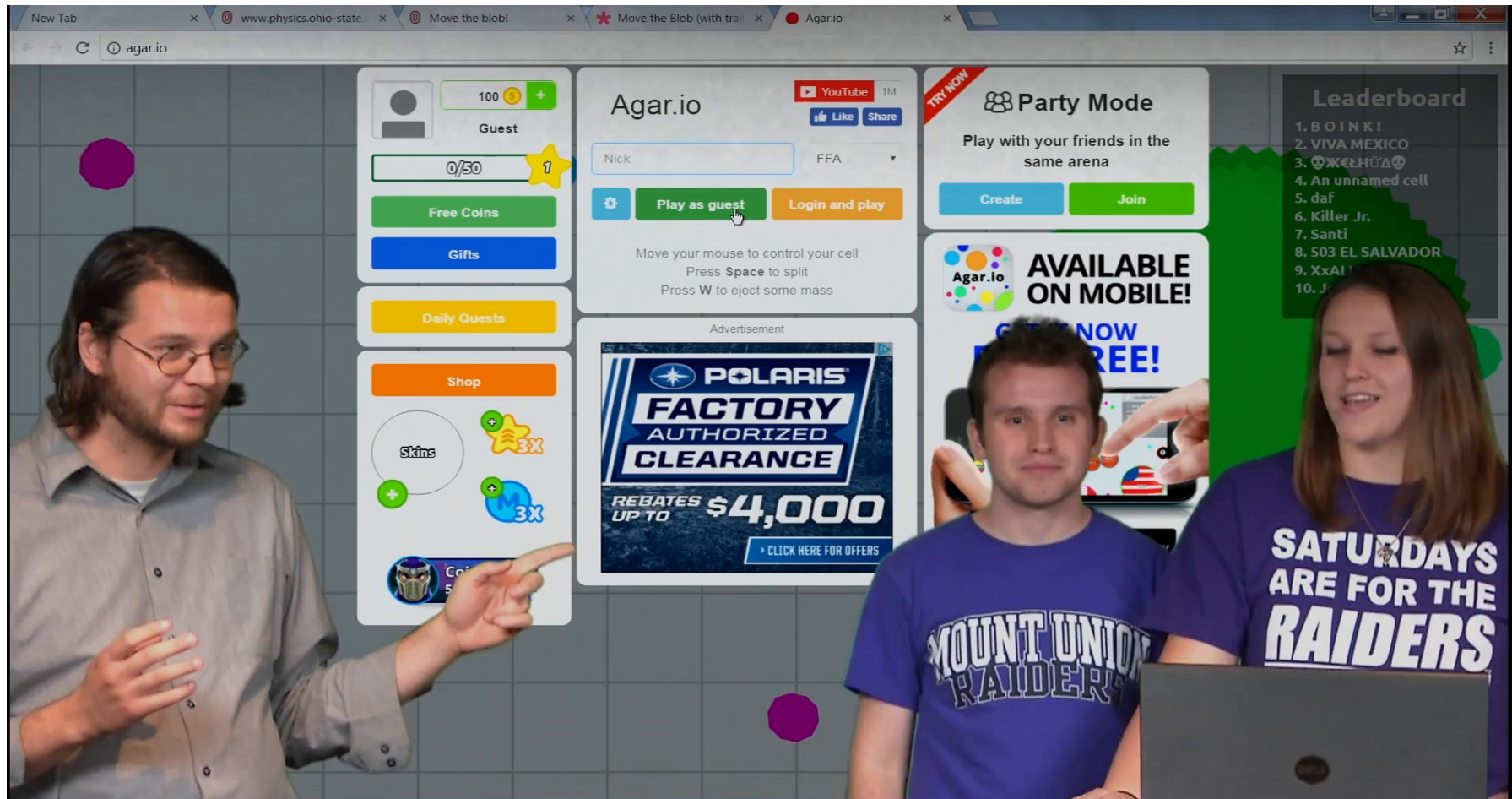
STEMcoding Astronomy Youtube Playlist

Jimmy Newland's Website
(www.jimmynewland.com)

How would I connect with...

Physical Science

Move the blob



<http://go.osu.edu/movetheblob2>

STEM coding

Accelerate the blob

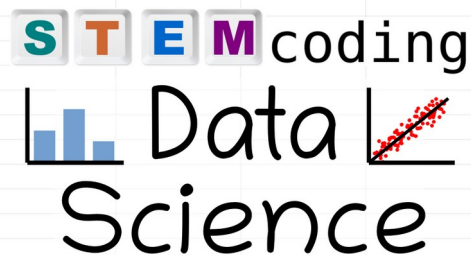
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the p5.js editor. The code in the sketch.js file is as follows:

```
17 // Update location
18 x += vx*dt;
19 y += vy*dt;
20
21 // acceleration is zero unless keys are pressed
22 ax = 0;
23 ay = 0;
24
25 // Turn or thrust the ship depending on what key is pressed
26 if (keyIsDown(LEFT_ARROW)) {
27   ax = -2;
28 }
29 if (keyIsDown(RIGHT_ARROW)) {
30   ax = 2;
31 }
32 if (keyIsDown(UP_ARROW)) {
33   ay = 2;
34 }
35 if (keyIsDown(DOWN_ARROW)) {
36   ay = -2;
37 }
38
39 // Draw axes and other stuff
40 // This will clear the screen and re-draw it
41 display();
42
43 for( i = 0; i < xhistory.length ; i+= 1) {
44   drawPoint(xhistory[i],yhistory[i]);
45 }
46
47 drawBlob(x,y,vx,vy,ax,ay);
48
49 // Add more graphics here before the end of draw()
50
51
52
```

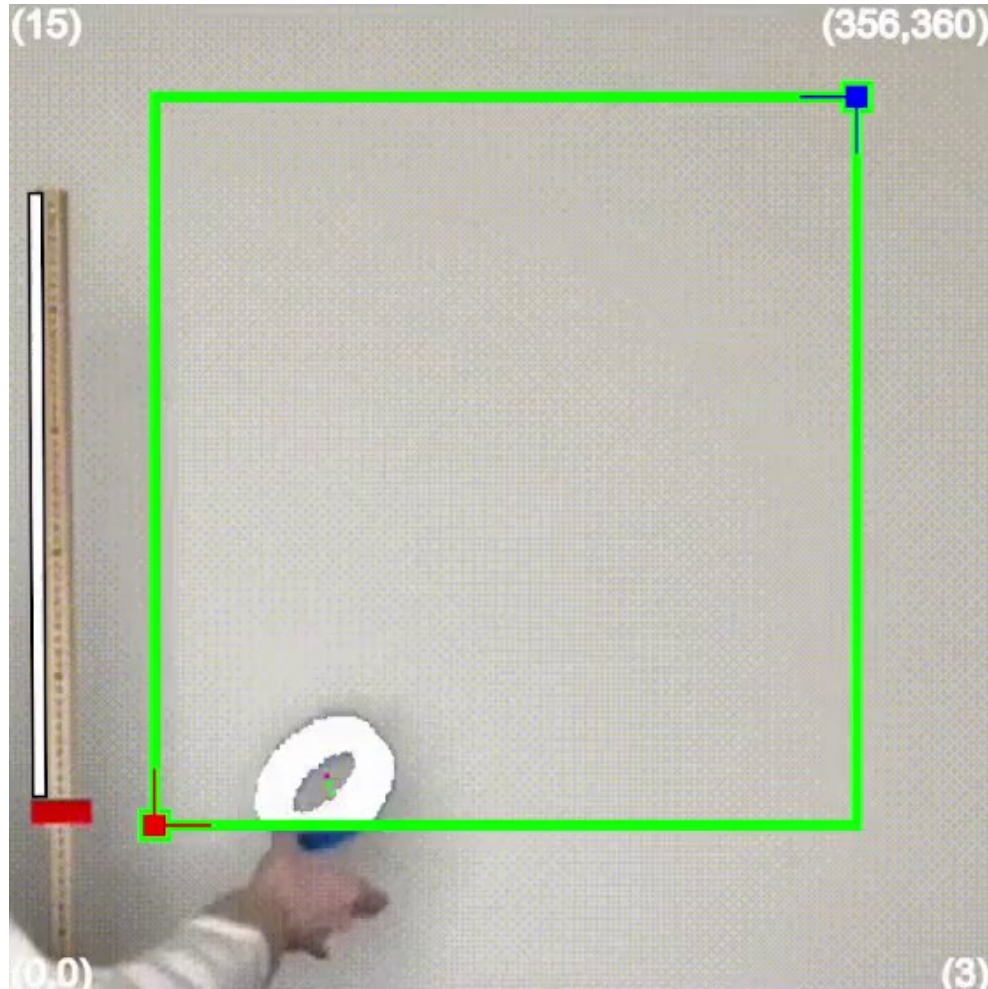
The preview window shows a 2D coordinate system with a red dot representing the blob. A dashed line indicates the path of the blob. A red arrow points from the blob towards the bottom right, labeled "Acceleration Velocity". A text overlay says "Click this screen first! then move the arrow keys!".

<http://go.osu.edu/acceleratetheblob2>

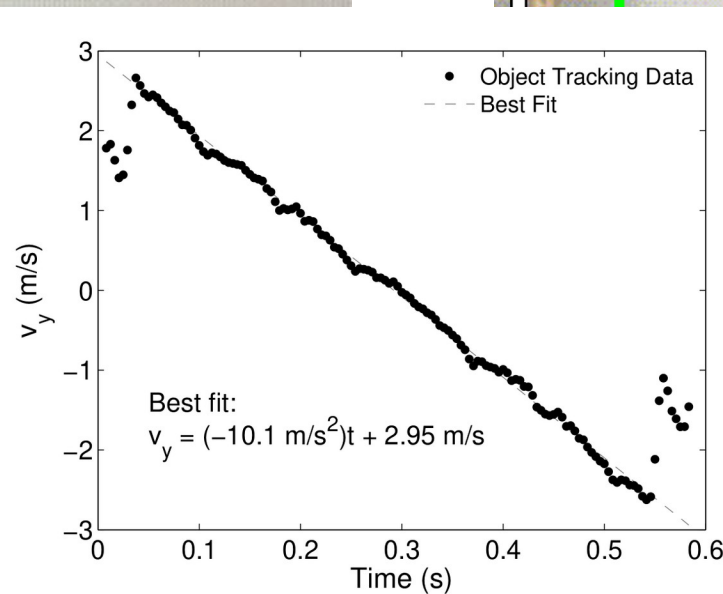
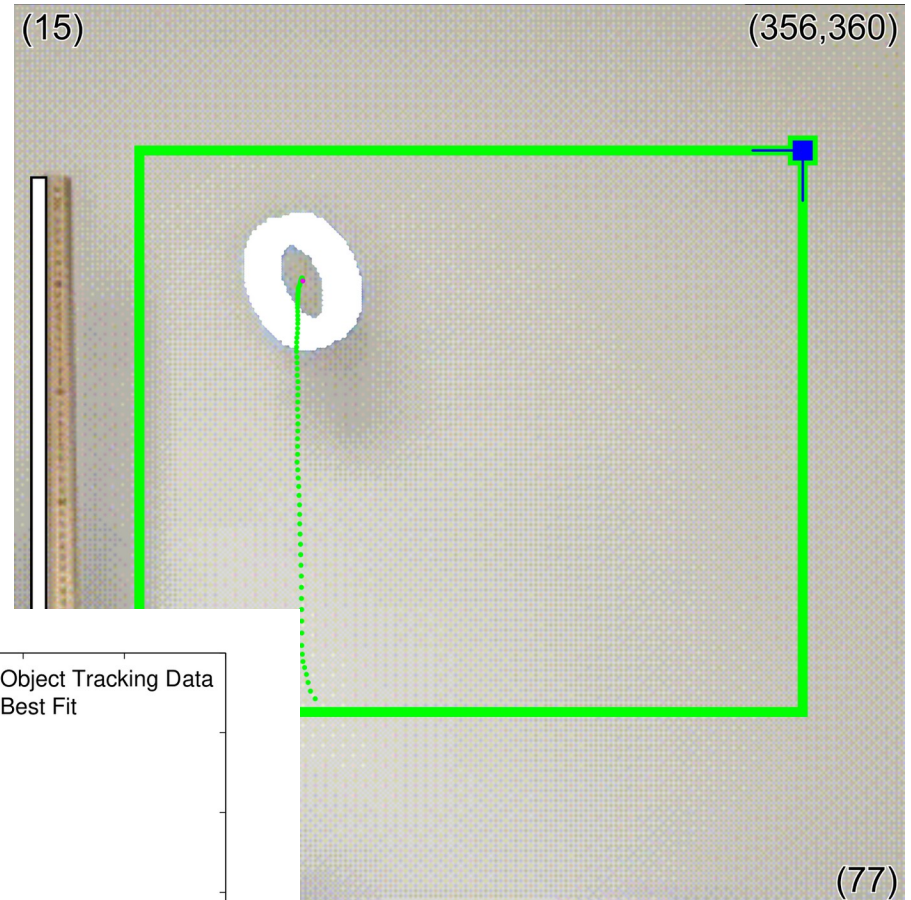
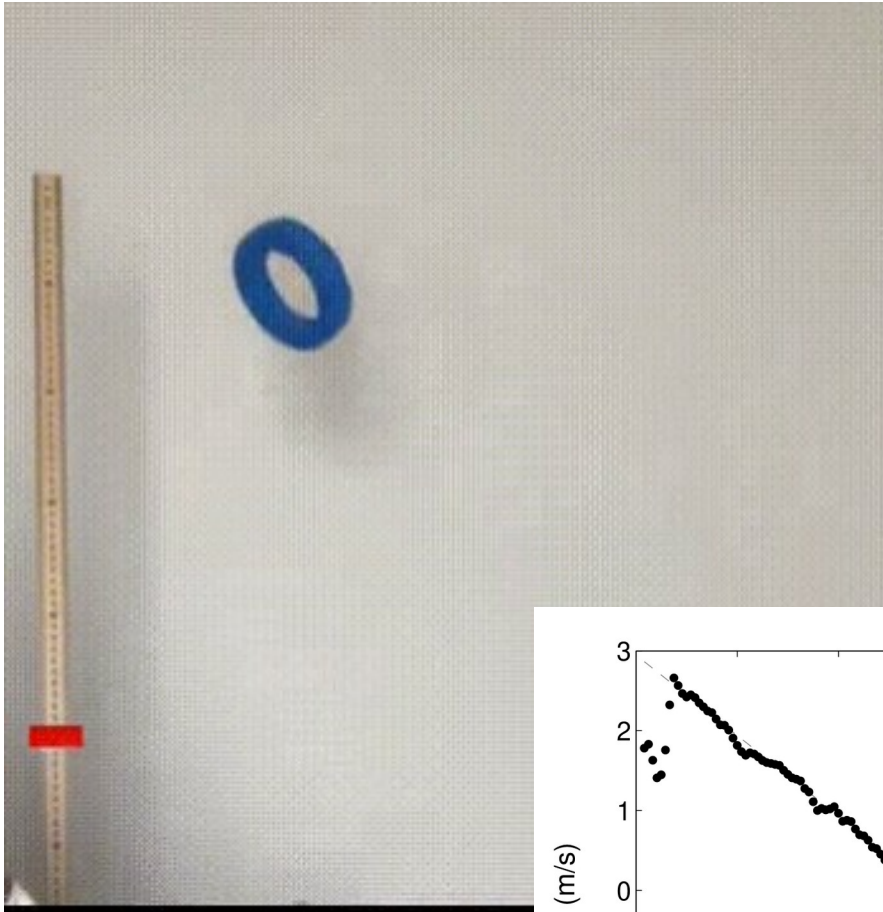
STEMcoding Object Tracker



Track colors not objects!



Track colors not objects!



Methods to Simplify Object Tracking in Video Data

Orban, C. M.,^{1,2} Zimmerman, S.,^{3,4,5} Kulp, J.,¹ Boughton, J.,⁶ Perrico, Z.,⁷ Rapp, B.,⁷ and Teeling-Smith, R.⁷

¹Physics Department, The Ohio State University, 191 W Woodruff Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

²Physics Department, The Ohio State University at Marion, 1461 Mount Vernon Ave, Marion, OH 43302

³Department of Mathematics, The Ohio State University, 231 West 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210

⁴Department of Mathematics, The Ohio State University at Marion, 1461 Mount Vernon Ave, Marion, OH 43302

⁵Mathematics Department, The Ohio State University at Marion, 1461 Mount Vernon Ave, Marion, OH 43302

⁶Great Oaks Career Campuses, 110 Great Oaks Drive, Cincinnati, OH, 45241

⁷University of Mount Union, Alliance, OH, 44601

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent years have seen an explosion of interest in analyzing the motion of objects in video data as a way for students to connect the concepts of physics to something tangible like a video recording of an experiment [1, 2]. The limitations of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic especially grew interest in this area because students could not attend in person lab activities, but they could analyze video data from their computers at home, which is what many instructors chose to focus on.

Generally, the goal of a student activity involving analysis of video data is to obtain the x,y position of a particular object in as many frames of the video as possible. Once obtained, this data can be used to infer velocities, acceleration and any number of other quantities like momentum or energy. A variety of software exists for students to look at individual frames and click on the object to infer the x,y position (e.g. [2–6]). For longer videos or videos recorded at a high frame rate this task can become tedious. Some, but not all, of these tools include a capability to automatically identify the position of the object in the frame [2–4]. But it is not unusual, especially when inexperienced users are recording the video and config-

Video to analyze a video where he is walking across the sidewalk [2]. In the analyzed video, Dr. Lane has a red piece of paper taped to his right shoulder. This piece of paper is the object being tracked.

In the video tutorial, Dr. Lane explains that it is important to define the “template image” of the object not at the center of the paper but rather at one of the corners so that the object tracking algorithm searches for a splotch of red next to some gray, which is the color of his shirt. With this hint, the object tracking works well and the plot of x versus time shows that Dr. Lane is walking at an approximately constant velocity as expected.

Although this is just a brief moment in the tutorial video it underscores the difficulty of what automatic object tracking is attempting to do. The background of Fig. 1, for example, has many different features that the program potentially needs to scan through as it searches for the the red piece of paper. Further complicating matters, the paper itself will look different in each frame due to changes in lighting and shadows. In our own experimentation with object tracking using a different program – specifically the Vernier Video Physics app – we found it to be surprisingly difficult to get the program to “lock on” to a moving object.

For the full list of physsci, physics,
& astro activities:

http://go.osu.edu/physics_coding

How would I connect with...

Earth Science / Environmental
Science / Biology /
Atmospheric Science

p5* File Edit Sketch Help English Log in or Sign up

climate alpha 11 by ChrisOrban

```

19 Tempera
20 Tempera
21 i = 1;
22 for(t = 0; t < Year/2; t += 1) {
23
24 // Normal average temperature
25 Tempera = (2*PI/Year*t) + Tave+
  rand(
26
27 ) Ndays_freezing_normal += 1;
28
29 // Global warming
30 Tempera[i] + Twarming;
31 ) Ndays_freezing_gw += 1;
32
33 }
  
```

Preview

Simulated Data for 40 lat. N. America Twarming (F) = 1.01
 Twarming (F) currently = 1.4
 # freezing days lost = 11

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May June Jul

32 F

Days(<32F) = 48

Days(<32F) = 59

Global warming

Normal climate

Twarming

UNIVERSITY of MOUNT UNION
Be Exceptional

<http://go.osu.edu/earthdaycoding>

STEM coding
 Data Science

How would I connect with...

Earth Science / Atmospheric
Science



Air Pressure! (designed by Prof. Chris Orban, Ohio State U.)

It turns out nearly all smartphones (iPhones and Android) and nearly all iPads have air pressure sensors (a.k.a. barometers). With a couple of apps you can use to get a pressure reading, the app that seems to work best on all platforms is the [Arduino Science Journal](#).

Step 0. Download the [Arduino Science Journal](#) app.

Note: It doesn't make a big difference if you use a smartphone or an iPad for this lab. But if you do have an iPad, please go ahead and use it.

Step 1. Open the app. Press "+" to open a new experiment in the lower right corner to edit the new experiment. Tap the "Sensor" at the bottom of the screen to bring up the various sensors.

Step 2. Click on this symbol  (fourth symbol from the top). At this point your screen should look something like this:



Arduino Science Journal
Think like a real scientist

OPEN



<https://www.asc.ohio-state.edu/orban.14/stemcoding/pressure/>

How would I connect with...

Math

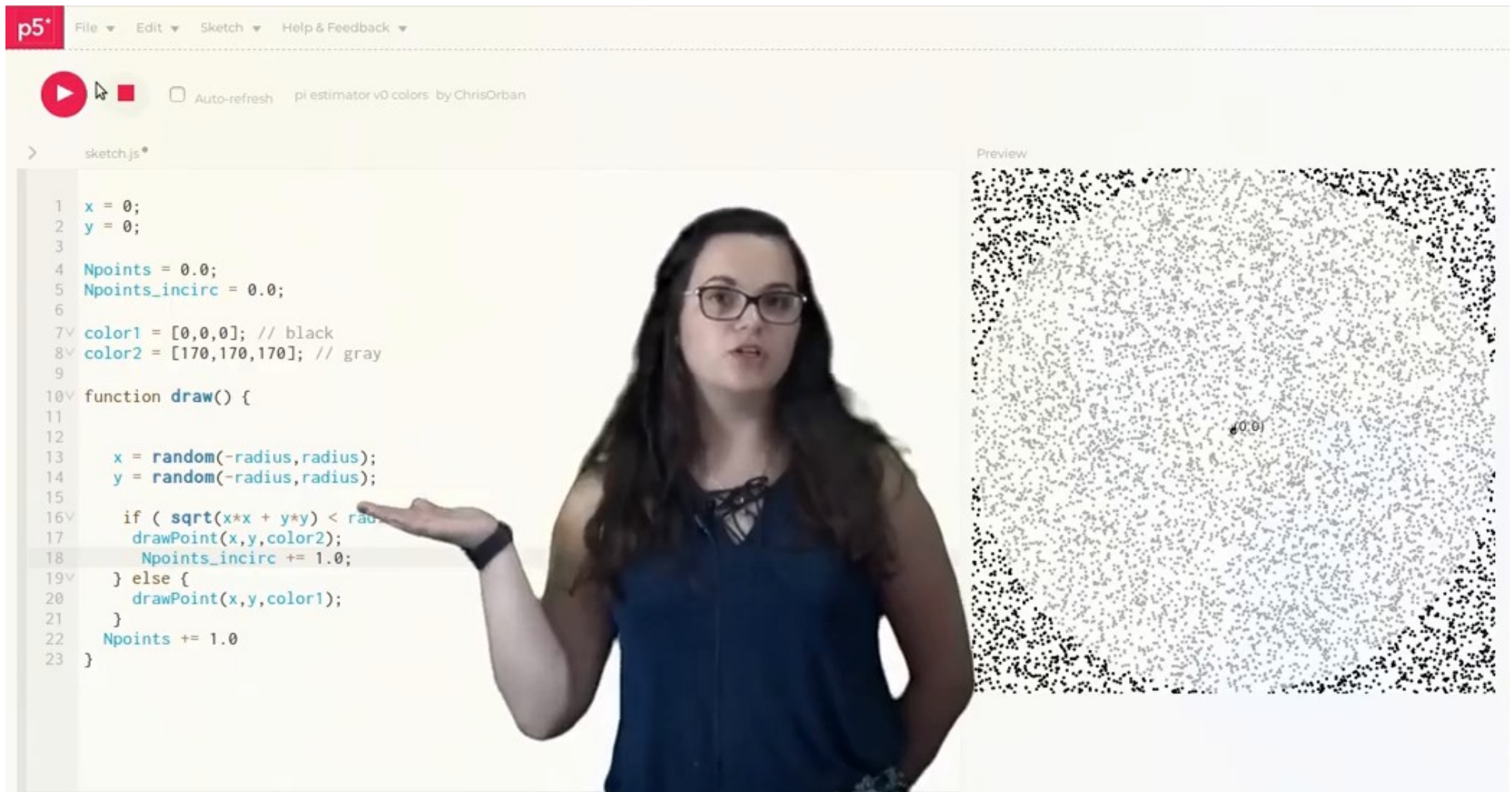
p5* File Edit Sketch Help & Feedback

▶ 🔍 📄 Auto-refresh pi estimator v0 colors by ChrisOrban

> sketch.js

```
1 x = 0;
2 y = 0;
3
4 Npoints = 0.0;
5 Npoints_incirc = 0.0;
6
7 color1 = [0,0,0]; // black
8 color2 = [170,170,170]; // gray
9
10 function draw() {
11
12     x = random(-radius,radius);
13     y = random(-radius,radius);
14
15     if ( sqrt(x*x + y*y) < radius ) {
16         drawPoint(x,y,color2);
17         Npoints_incirc += 1.0;
18     } else {
19         drawPoint(x,y,color1);
20     }
21     Npoints += 1.0;
22 }
23 }
```

Preview



<http://go.osu.edu/pidaycoding>

STEM coding

Discrete math

1. Games

2. Counting/Combinatorics

– With application to cybersecurity

3. Probability

4. Connectivity

– Related to Graph/Network Theory

5. Iteration and recursion

6. Cryptography



STEMcoding activities for math!

Pi Day activities:

[Exercise 1. Graphical Estimation of Pi \(Improved -- Hour of Code version\)](#) ([Video Tutorial](#))

[Exercise 2. Series estimate of Pi](#)

Earth Day activity:

[Number of freezing days lost to global warming \(data analytics demo\)](#)

Mathematical Flower activity:

[Mathematical Flower activity \(fun patterns with polar coordinates!\)](#) ([Video Tutorial](#))

Night Sky Simulator! (Data analysis activity)

[Night Sky Simulator!](#) ([Video Tutorial](#))

Laser Defense

[Laser Defense \(The Basic Game\)](#)

[Laser Defense \(Auto Targeting\)](#)

http://go.osu.edu/math_coding

Thai 21 (Discrete Math)

[Thai 21 \(Part 1. The Basic Game\)](#)

Hidden Figures (Project Mercury)

[Project Mercury \(Part 1. Circular Orbit\)](#)

[Project Mercury \(Part 2. Re-entry\)](#)

Interesting math-focused activities borrowed from physics:

[Wave Interference coding activity](#) ([Video Tutorial](#))

Great stuff from other people using the same coding framework as us:

[Mathematical Rose Patterns \(Coding Train Youtube channel\)](#)

Questions?

orban@physics.osu.edu
stemcodingohio@gmail.com

go.osu.edu/objecttracker

youtube.com/STEMcoding

stemcoding.herokuapp.com

Monthly email list:

u.osu.edu/stemcoding

  @STEMcoding

    coding