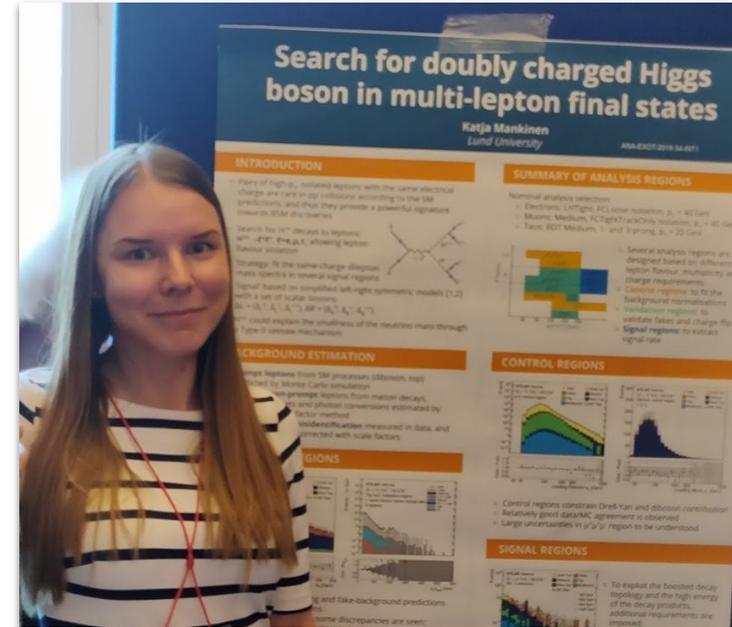


The grass is greener on the other side.... Life after COMPUTE

Katja Mankinen
COMPUTE retreat 17.8.2020

Who?

- PhD in experimental particle physics, 2020
“*Search for doubly charged Higgs bosons in multi-lepton final states with the ATLAS detector*”
- COMPUTE student since 2016
- Data analyst at CSC - IT Center for Science, Finland
 - big data analytics
 - developing machine learning and natural language processing tools and processes



CSC - IT center for Science

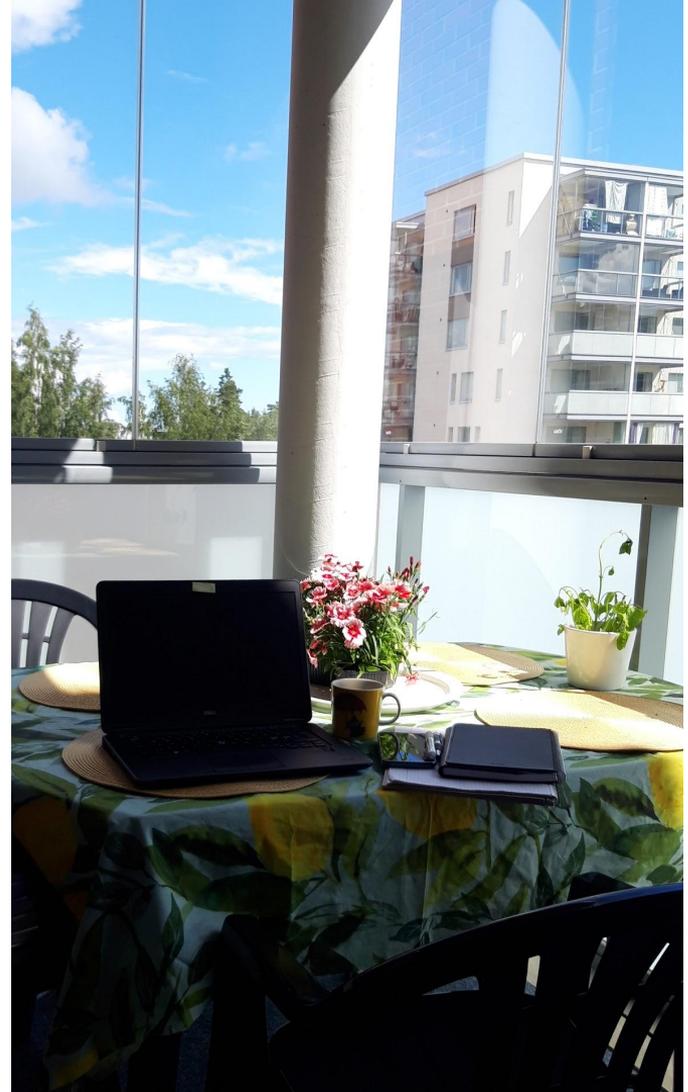


- provides IT services for research institutes, higher education institutions, public administration and enterprises:
 - computing environments, cloud services, scientific software
 - data management, data storage, data analytics
 - research information management and administration
 - support and training for scientists
- owned by the Finnish state and Finnish higher education institutions, and operated on a non-profit principle



Life in an IT company

- data analysis
- programming
- lots of meetings
- making slides and giving presentations
- teaching
- time to learn new things
- conferences and summer schools
- free coffee and fruit baskets
- amazing colleagues and nerdy jokes



Tips for COMPUTE students

- ➔ ● [Trygghetsstiftelsen](#):
career coaching, seminars, help with resume and applications,
financial support
- Be honest with yourself: what do YOU want to do?
- Talk with people and let them know you're looking for jobs

Translate knowledge to skills

- Project management, communication and leadership skills
 - “Managed a team of N people in a (international) project”
 - “Monthly reported progress to international collaborators in a form of [format: presentations, reports]”
- Data analysis, statistics, math...
- Computing skills!
 - If using very specific technology, draw parallel with “industry-standard”
 - Large scale distributed computing

Link together your experiences and skills

“Given my background in <education/job>, I can <skills>, which will help in this role to <job requirements/tasks>.”

“From my experience as <role>, doing <tasks>, I have learned <skills>. I hope to use these for <job task>.”

Problem - Action - Result

“Tackled <problem> by <doing action>, improving <measure>, resulting in <result> within a year”

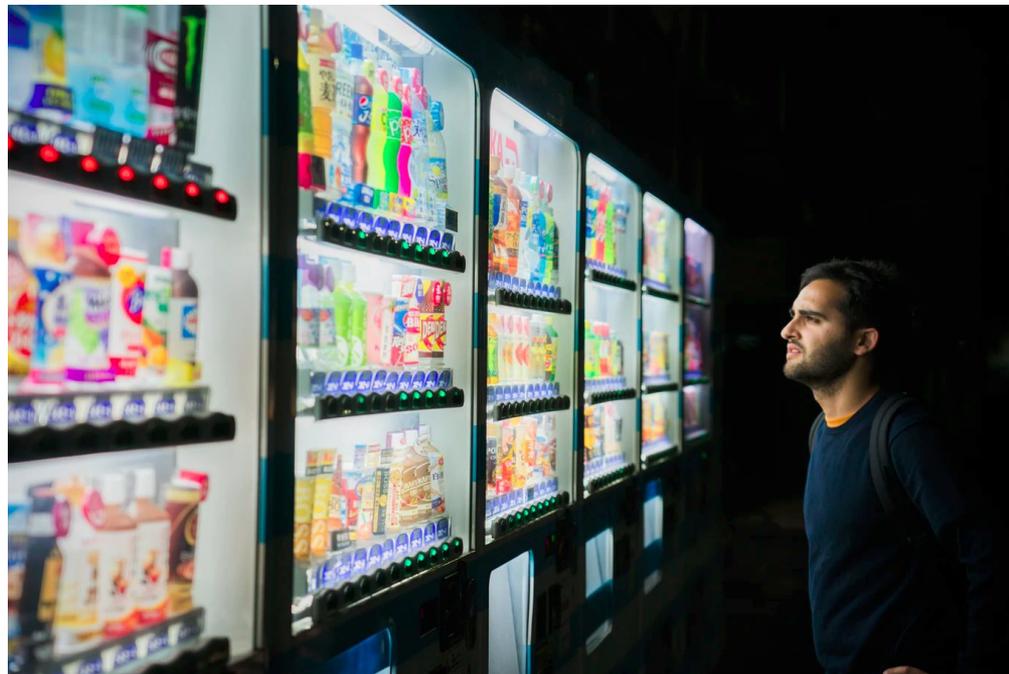
“Achieved Z / Improved Z by Y% / Discovered Z when studying the system X”

Finding interesting jobs

[Victoriano Izquierdo on Unsplash](#)

- Data scientist/analyst/engineer
- ML engineer
- Applied scientist
- Research scientist/engineer
- Research engineer
- Product analyst
- Business analyst
- R&D scientist ...

- Industries: marketing, energy, cleantech, food, health...



You can keep on doing exciting things

- *Apply your expertise in **quantitative analysis**, data mining, and the presentation of data to help automate, optimise and **understand key business problems and solutions***
- ***Research, design, develop** and evaluate highly innovative predictive models to understand the impact of specific behaviors, trends and patterns*
- ***Work closely with** cross-functional **teams** of data and backend engineers, analysts, user researchers, product managers and designers*
- *Build and analyze dashboards, **reports** to empower operational and **exploratory data analysis***
- ***Communicate insights** and recommendations to key stakeholders, engineering and product partners*
- *Understand how user fraud affects other consumers of our data, including insights and feature teams, and work across the data landscape to minimise impact and drive influence wherever possible.*

= data analysis (expect messy data!)

= design and conduct analysis/experiment

= (international) collaboration

= give presentations and write reports, communicate complex ideas in short form

= understand data in detail (statistics!) and draw conclusions

Life is fun outside academia, too!

- There **are** interesting jobs in various industries
- Apply even if you don't have "enough experience"
- You can quickly learn new things!
- Your research topic may be irrelevant in the outside world, but the skills will be useful in other contexts
- Of course: there will be rejections (number game!)
- Don't give up!

[Clem Onoieghuo on Unsplash](#)



Good luck with post doc/other job hunting!

Let's connect and chat more!

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90
days unemployed
after PhD

1
YES

