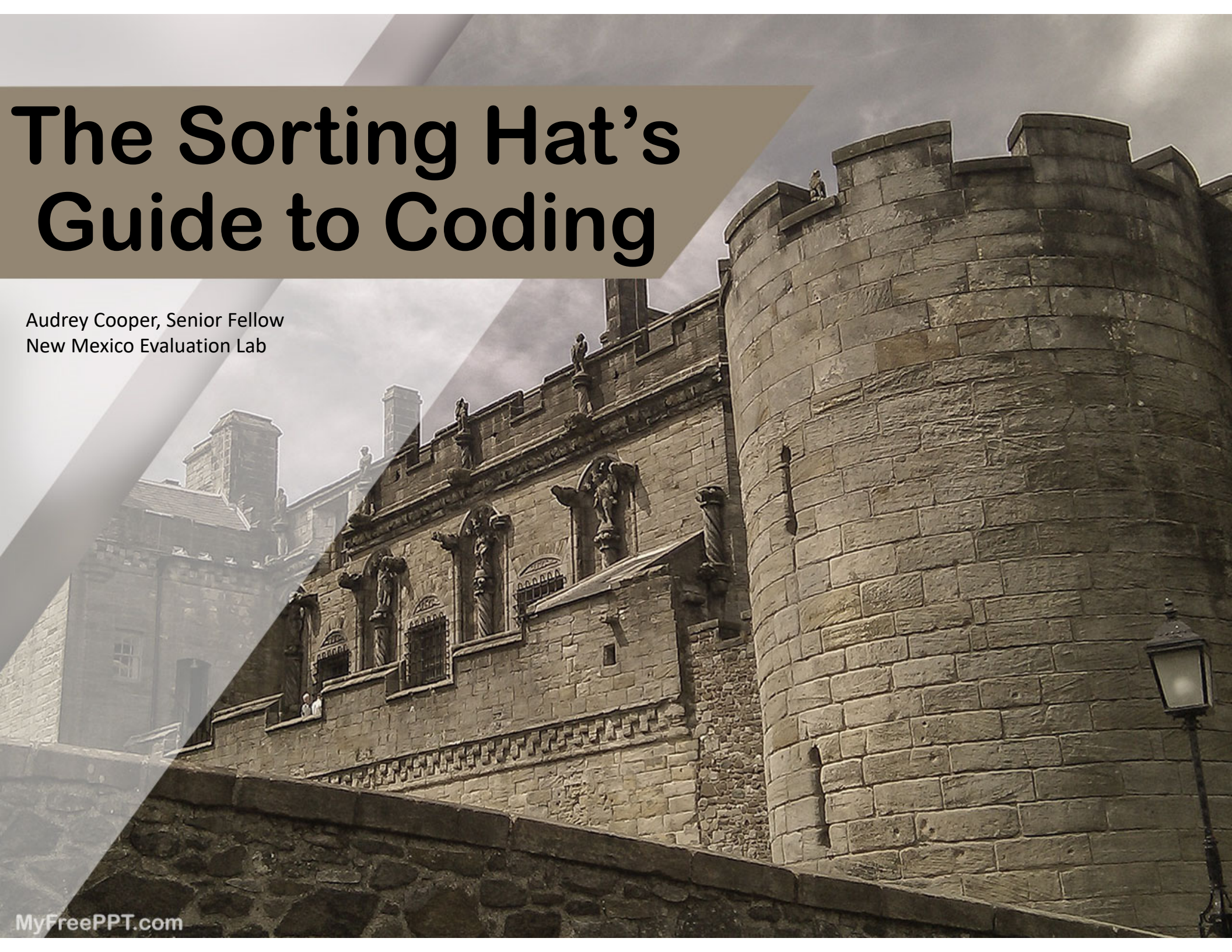


The Sorting Hat's Guide to Coding

Audrey Cooper, Senior Fellow
New Mexico Evaluation Lab

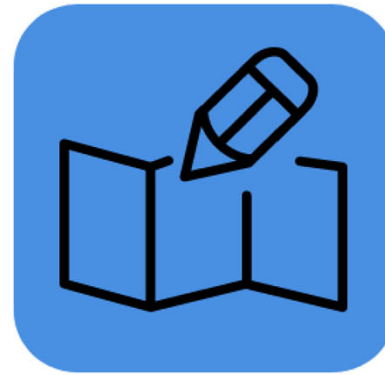




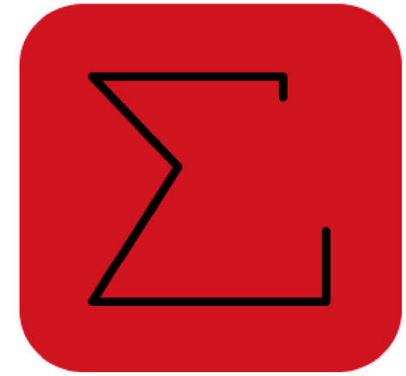
Participatory
Evaluation



Evaluation
Questions



Data
Collection



Embedding
Evaluation

Data Collection: A refresher

- Focus groups & Interviews
- Ways and Means:
 - Flash cards
 - Scribing
 - Audio
 - Combinations

Tips for Manageable Data Collection

- Keep it simple
- Be clear in the instructions
- Transcribe data into Word or Excel
 - Line by line
 - Paragraph style

The Pros and Cons of Coding as an Individual vs as a Team

Individual Coding

- Pros**
 - Faster!
 - Flexible time frame
 - Possibly less aggravating
 - Greater continuity of codes
- Cons**
 - Limited buy-in
 - No discussion
 - Greater opportunity for bias
 - Less accountability

Group Coding

- Pros**
 - Thorough
 - Buy-in
 - Rich discussion
 - Reduction of bias, perhaps
- Cons**
 - Slower!
 - Can produce conflict
 - Less flexible time frame

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

What's the point in coding?

Collect data → Write a report

What's the problem with this?

Collect data → Code data → Theme data → Write a report

Why is this better?

What is coding anyway?

A method of organization . . .

Let's think of coding like sorting your laundry.

Let's say you haven't read Marie Kondo, and you haven't done laundry in a month.

You have a ton of clothing to wash, sort, and put away. You want to be organized!

What do you do? Invite some friends over, make a pot of coffee, and get to work.

Let's code your laundry!

You have a pile of clothing, practically a whole room

It's in a total hodgepodge

You've got socks to match, pants, shirts, some non-clothing items

You've got 5 people's worth of laundry

It's overwhelming

You start at the top, and you find a t-shirt . . .

Where does it go? Whose shirt is it? What kind of t-shirt?

Likely issues: defining where it belongs, deciding what kind of clothing article it is, and agreeing with the people in the room (or not).

More silliness on laundry . . .

Example of coding in a group vs coding alone:

You pick up a t-shirt, and it's an adult size large. What could go wrong?

1. It's your t-shirt, so it should go in your pile
2. Your child defines it as a dress and likes to wear it around the house with a belt.
3. Your partner thinks that t-shirt is not worthy of wear and likes to use it to scrub the kitchen floor.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, multi-story stone building, possibly a castle or a historical structure. The building features a prominent cylindrical tower on the right side. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Let's sort some data!

See Excel Document