

# Safety Moment: the bus factor

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The *bus factor* is number of team members that have to suddenly disappear from a project before it stalls due to the lack of knowledge.

This also includes people leaving the lab, quitting their PhD, going on leave etc.

Strategies for boosting it:

## **Documentation**

- software/instrument documentation
- digital lab notebook (that could be accessible to others)
- description of computational/experimental protocols
- explanatory comments in the software/data analysis scripts (using variable names which make sense!)

## **Spreading the experience**

- making sure that group members have an overlapping set of skills

## **Data/code accessibility and transparency**

- Storing data/code on shared drives (or at least on work, not personal, computers)
- Sample accessibility (?)

