U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Science

How to Build a Science UI:
Getting Started with the STRUDEL Design System

Sarah Poon
sspoon@lbl.gov

Cody O'Donnell
ctodonnell@lbl.gov

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

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https://strudel.science

https://ux.lbl.gov

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ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION

UX.lbl.gov SciData

Scientific Data Division

BERKELEY LAB[1]
Bringing Science Solutions to the World

What we will cover

Part 1

1. About STRUDEL
2. The STRUDEL design system
3. Task Flow walkthrough

Part 2

1. What is STRUDEL Kit?
2. How to implement STRUDEL Task Flows with STRUDEL Kit
3. Get involved in the STRUDEL community

Menti

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Team

UX designers and researchers, software engineers, and computer scientists employing UX for science at Berkeley Lab.

Lavanya Ramakrishnan
lramakrishnan@lbl.gov

Dan Gunter
dkgunter@lbl.gov

Sarah Poon
sspoon@lbl.gov

Rajshree Deshmukh
rajshreed@lbl.gov

Cody O'Donnell
ctodonnell@lbl.gov

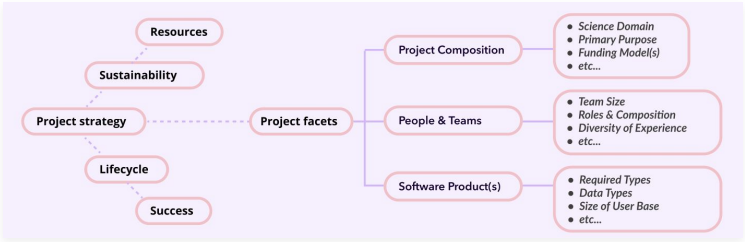
Drew Paine
pained@lbl.gov

STRUDEL

ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION

An open source project that enables teams to create user-centered software for scientific communities.

WIP

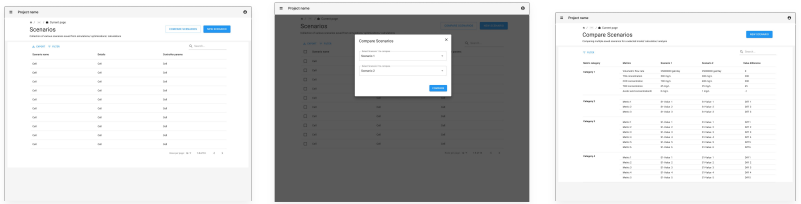


Typology of Scientific Software

informing a strategic

Planning Framework

Beta



Design System

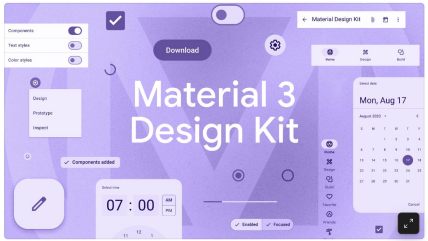
with

Task Flows

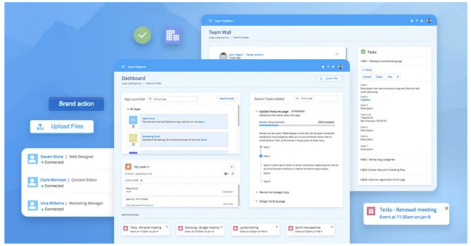
What is a design system?

A design system is a set of reusable components and patterns for designing and building UIs as well as guidelines on when and how to use them.

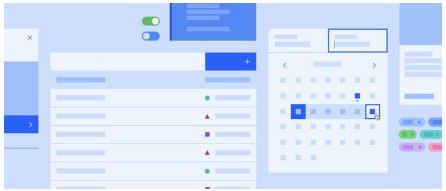
Design systems are commonly used in industry.



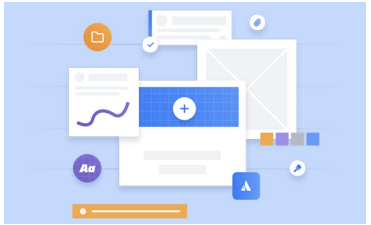
Google Material Design



Salesforce Lightning Design

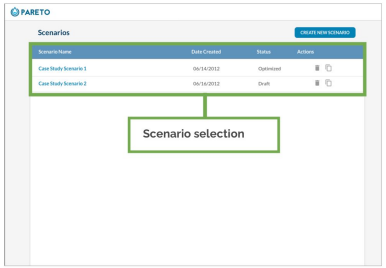


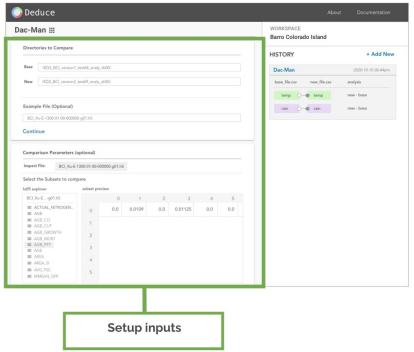
IBM Carbon Design

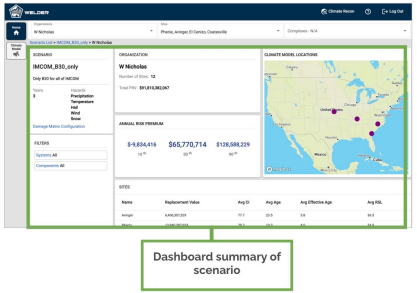


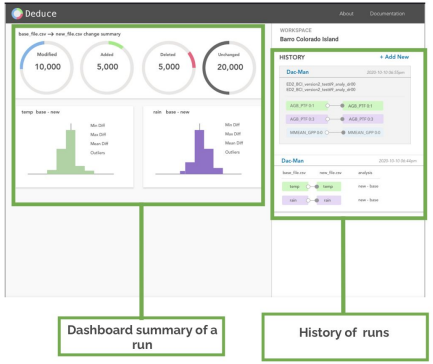
Atlassian Design System

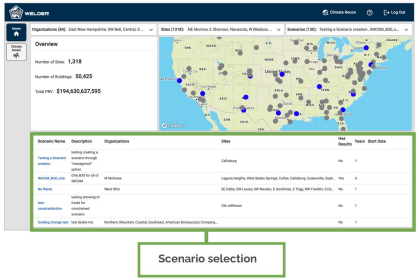
Motivation - recognized common patterns in science UIs

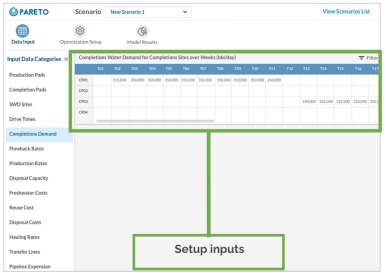


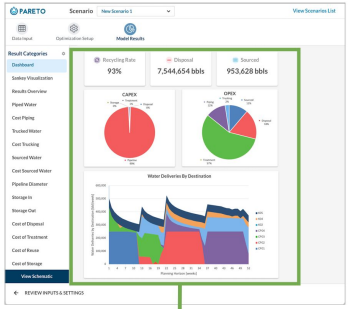


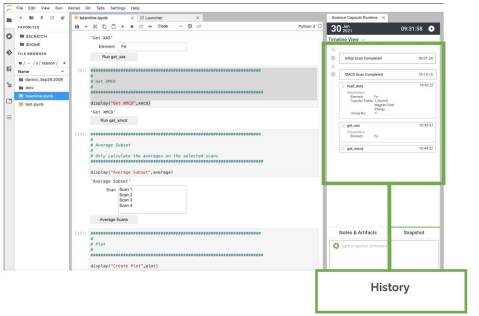












Scenario Selection

Select Inputs

Dashboard summary of results

History

What is unique about the STRUDEL design system?

Designed specifically for scientific UIs

Enables building UIs applicable across different scientific domains

Focuses on the larger flow & function of UI

Gives you a jump start to think about entire UI flow rather than starting from scratch

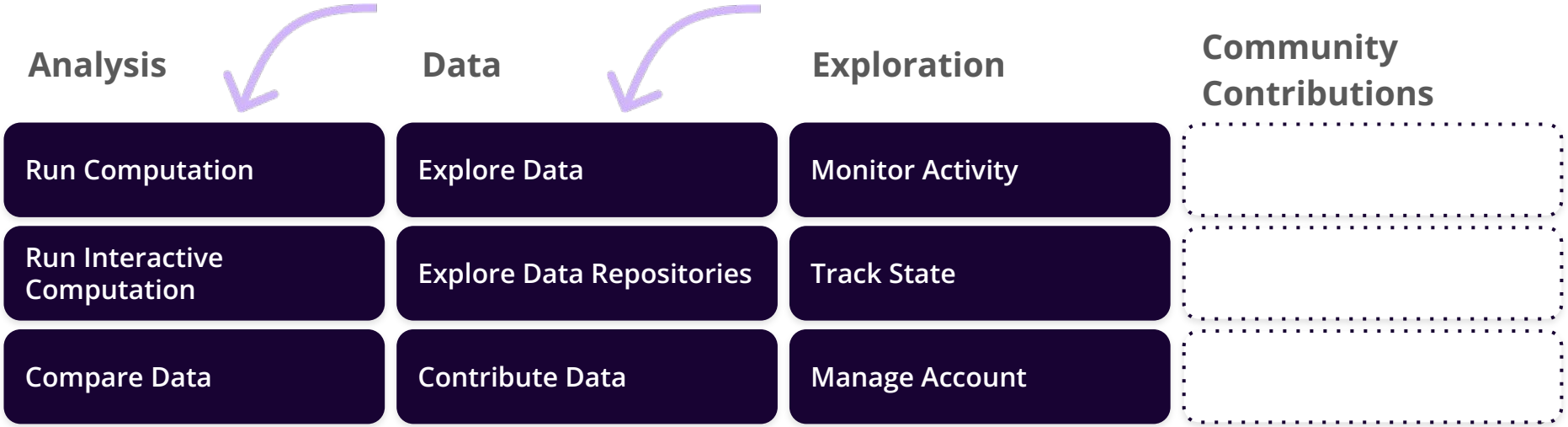
Designed by experts to empower scientists

Informed by our collective UX experience in the sciences to help democratize UX practices

Task Flows

Task Flow: series of steps represented by screens which helps user to accomplish a particular task in the scientific software's user interface

Similar Task Flows exist across various types of scientific software.



“UI to setup, run, and display results for a computational diff tool for large datasets”

- Input datasets
- Specify method and parameters to calculate diff
- Graphs & plots as diff results

https://strudel.science

Home Planning Framework Design System Engage About

STRUDEL

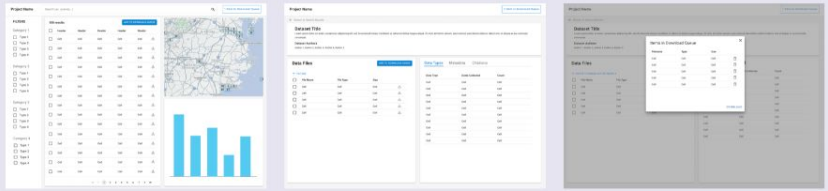
Scientific sofTware Research for User experience, Design, Engagement, and Learning

STRUDEL enables teams to create user-centered software for scientific communities.
Plan, design, and build better scientific software projects using STRUDEL Planning Framework and Design System.

Build Scientific UIs

UI Task Flow library & guides to streamline scientific software UI design and development.

GET STARTED →



Plan your UX strategy

Questions, guidelines, and insights to help teams incorporate UX into project planning

Design System

UI templates, Task Flows, & interactive components

STRUDEL Design System provides a set of reusable components and patterns along with guidelines for designing and implementing user interfaces for scientific software. This design system is distinct since it is organized around Task Flows, which are the stepwise flows a user takes to accomplish specified tasks.

EXPLORE TASK FLOWS

Why STRUDEL Design System?

Designed for scientific software

Specifically designed for common patterns seen in scientific UIs that can be applied across different scientific domains.

Focuses on how the UI should function

It focuses on the series of steps taken as part of a larger workflow. This provides the big picture of user journeys & aid to improve user experience.

Good UX from experts in the sciences is baked in

Informed by over a decade of collective UX experience in the sciences and encapsulates good UX practices.

profile settings

Monitor Activities

Enables users to monitor running tasks, jobs, experiments, and observational studies and make decisions based on the status of those activities.

jobs experiments observations

Run Computation

Enables users to run computation(s) through a multi-step flow to generate results.

execution scenario job simulation optimization stepper wizard

Run Interactive Computation

Enables querying, computation, and visual analysis of single or combined data entities to instantly derive insights, and create reports or dashboards.

execution scenario data analysis

Search Data Repositories

Enables exploration and evaluation of datasets from a repository which users can download or export.

dataset repository

Track State

Enables users to look at historical status of an activity or document which can aid issue debugging or retrieval of old data.

account history system status

Run Computation

execution scenario job simulation optimization stepper wizard

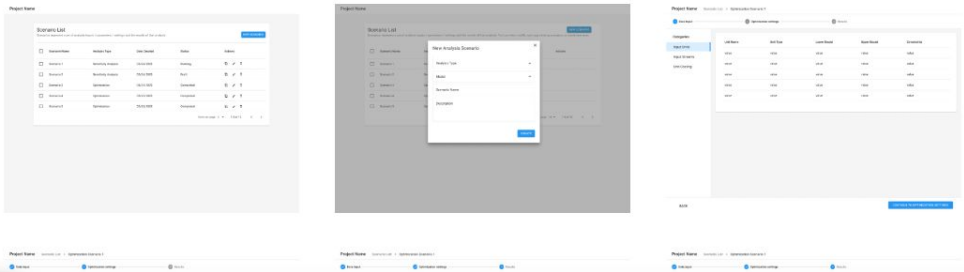
Intent

Enables users to run computation(s) through a multi-step flow to generate results.

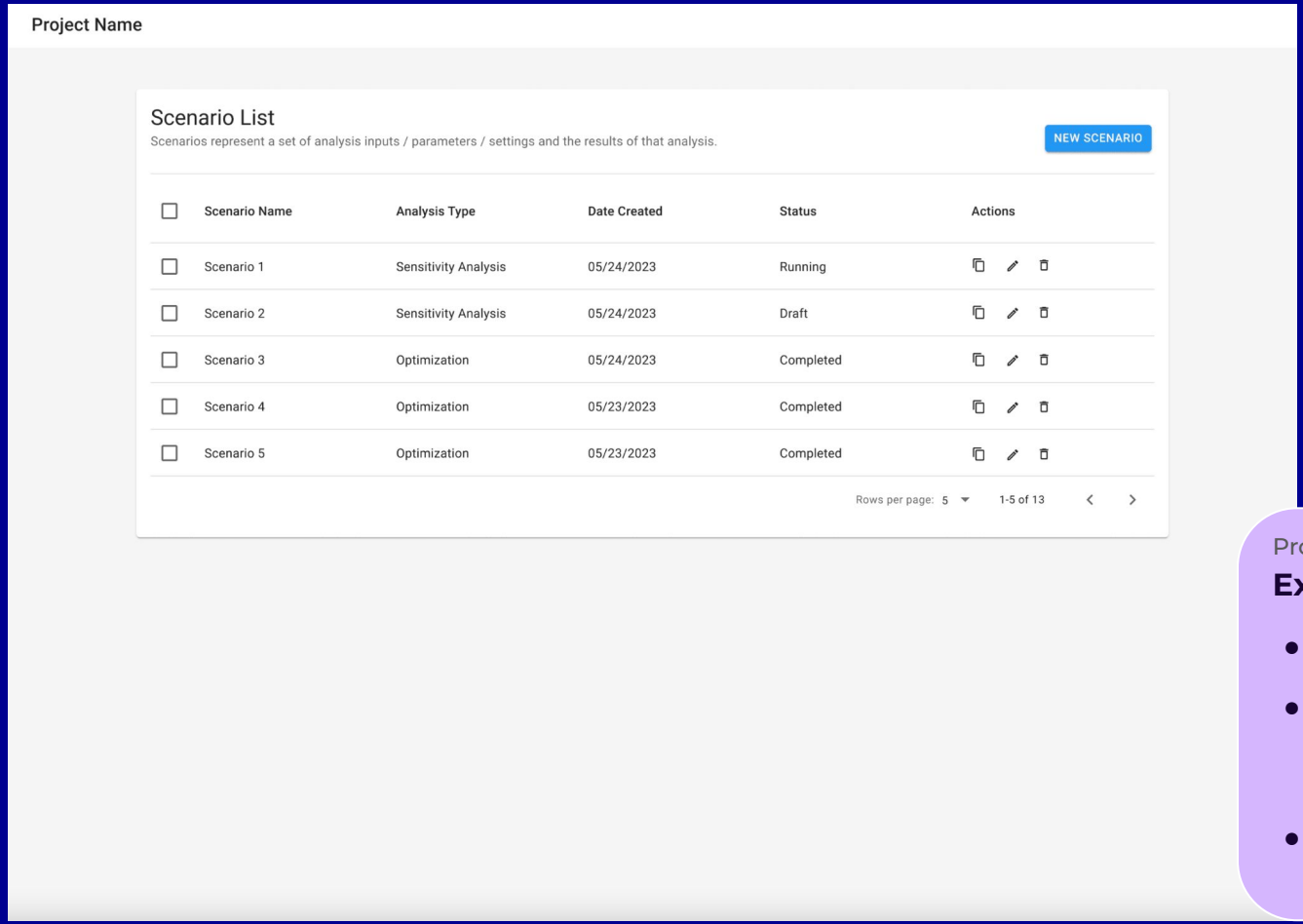
Computations could be optimizations, calculations, or simulations for a model, scenario, or experiment with attributes to observe and compare results. Attributes may include input data and settings. Computations may be long running and require the ability for a user to leave the flow and return later.

DESIGN TEMPLATES LIVE EXAMPLE CODE

Overview



Run Computation (1 of 6) - Scenario List

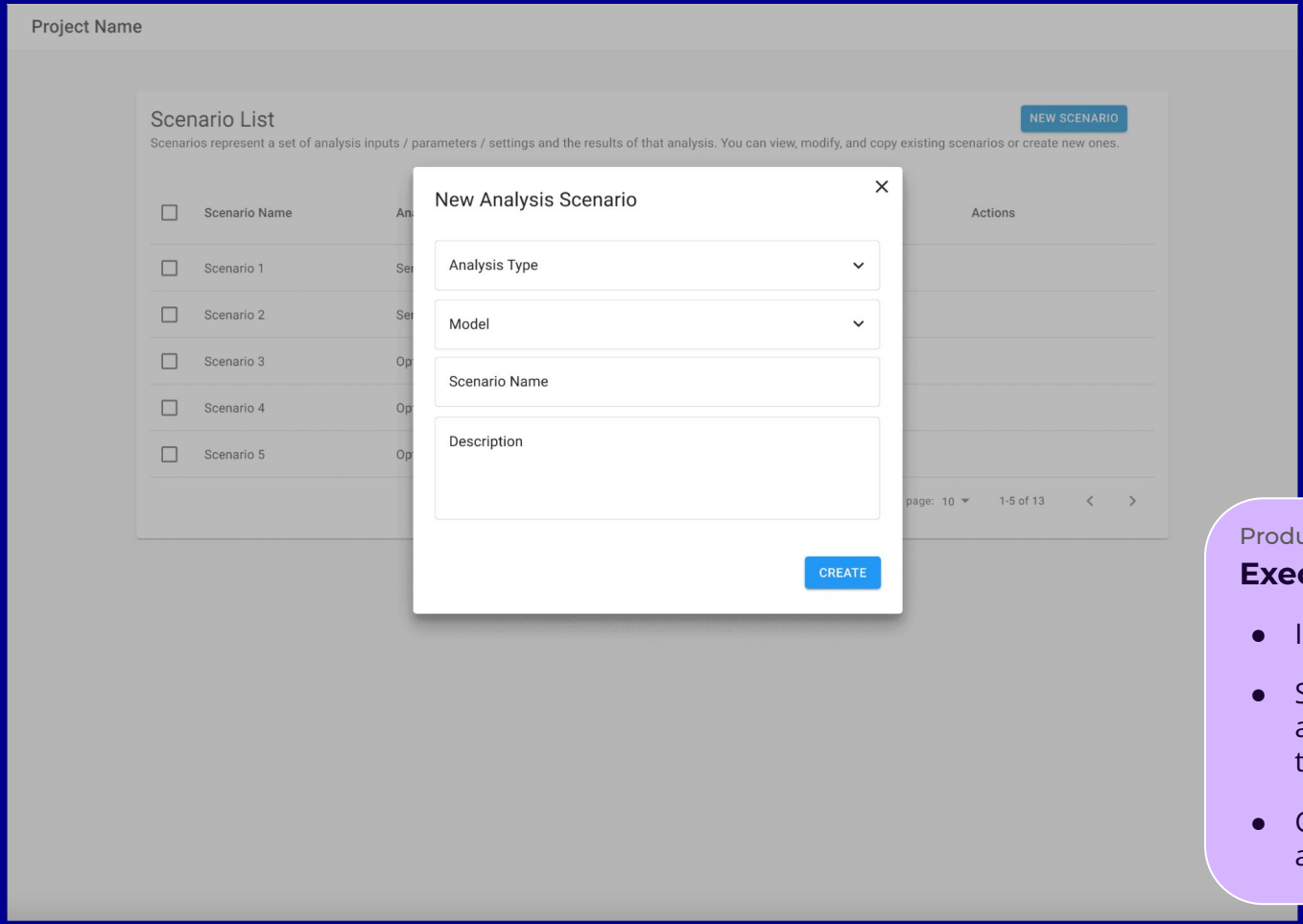


Product Needs :

Execute diff tool

- Input datasets
- Specify method and parameters to calculate diff
- Graphs & plots as diff results

Run Computation (2 of 6) - New Scenario



Product Needs :

Execute diff tool

- Input datasets
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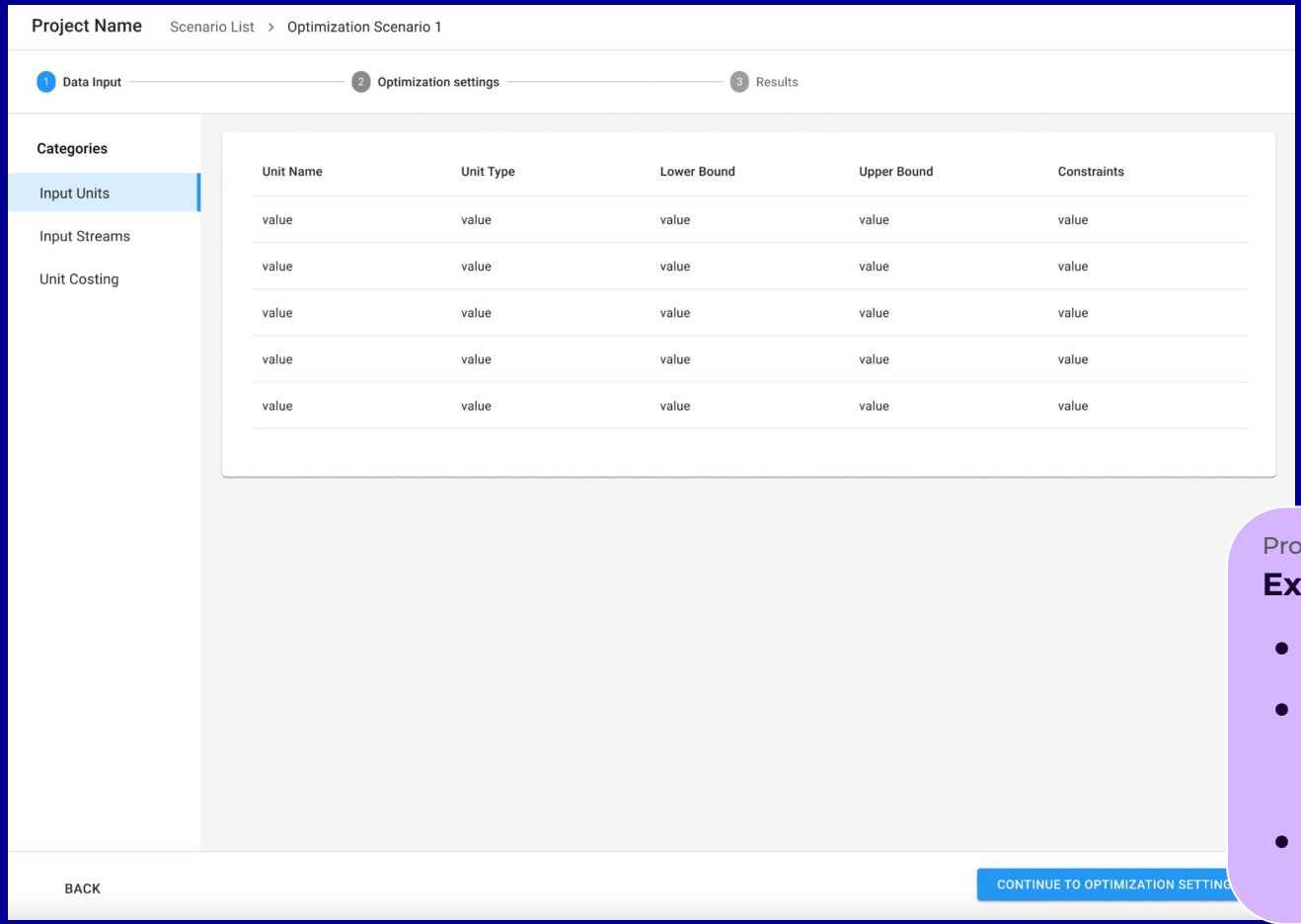
- Graphs & plots as diff results

Run Computation (3 of 6) - Inputs Configuration



Product Needs :

Execute diff tool

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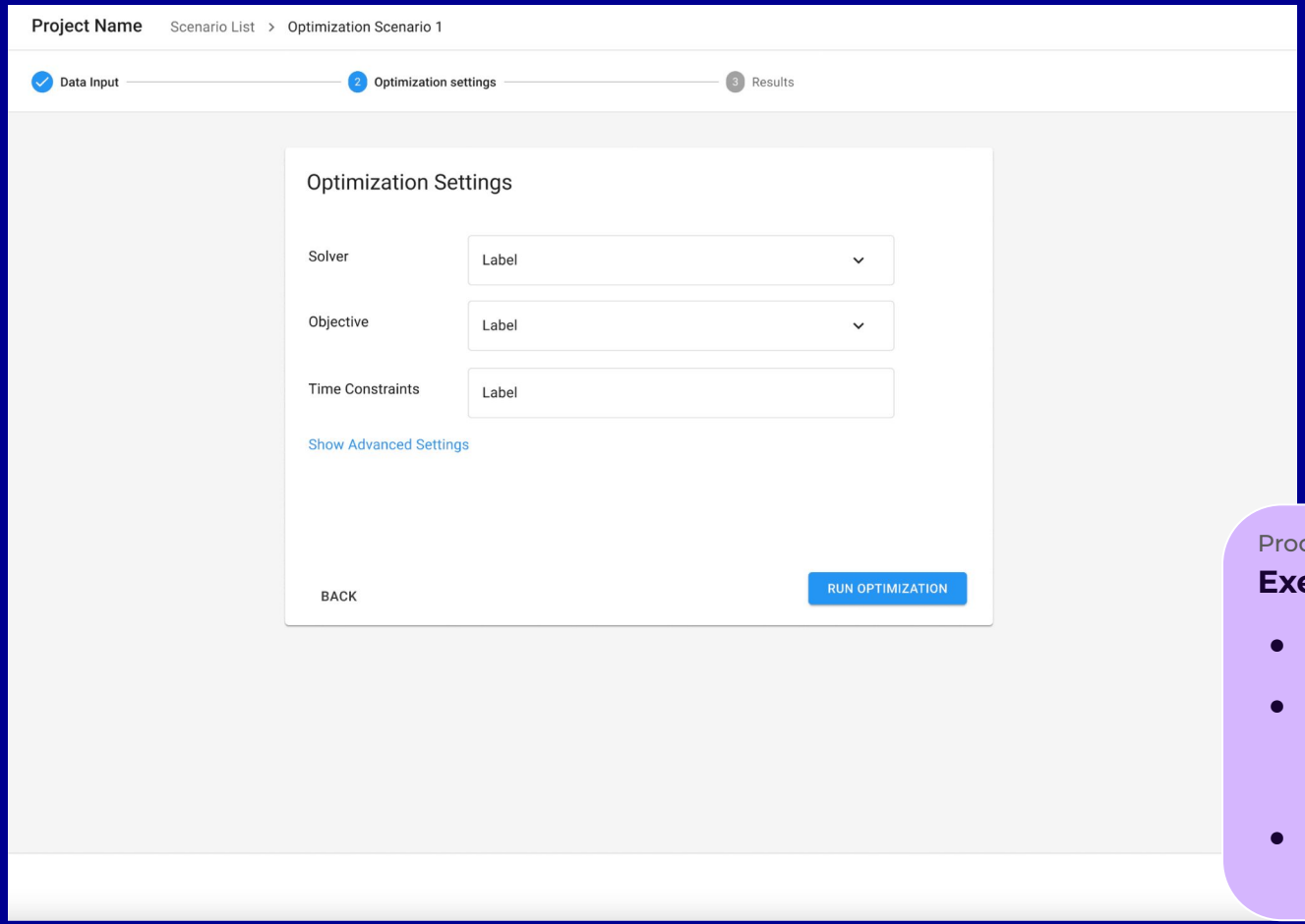
Run Computation (4 of 6) - Settings Configuration

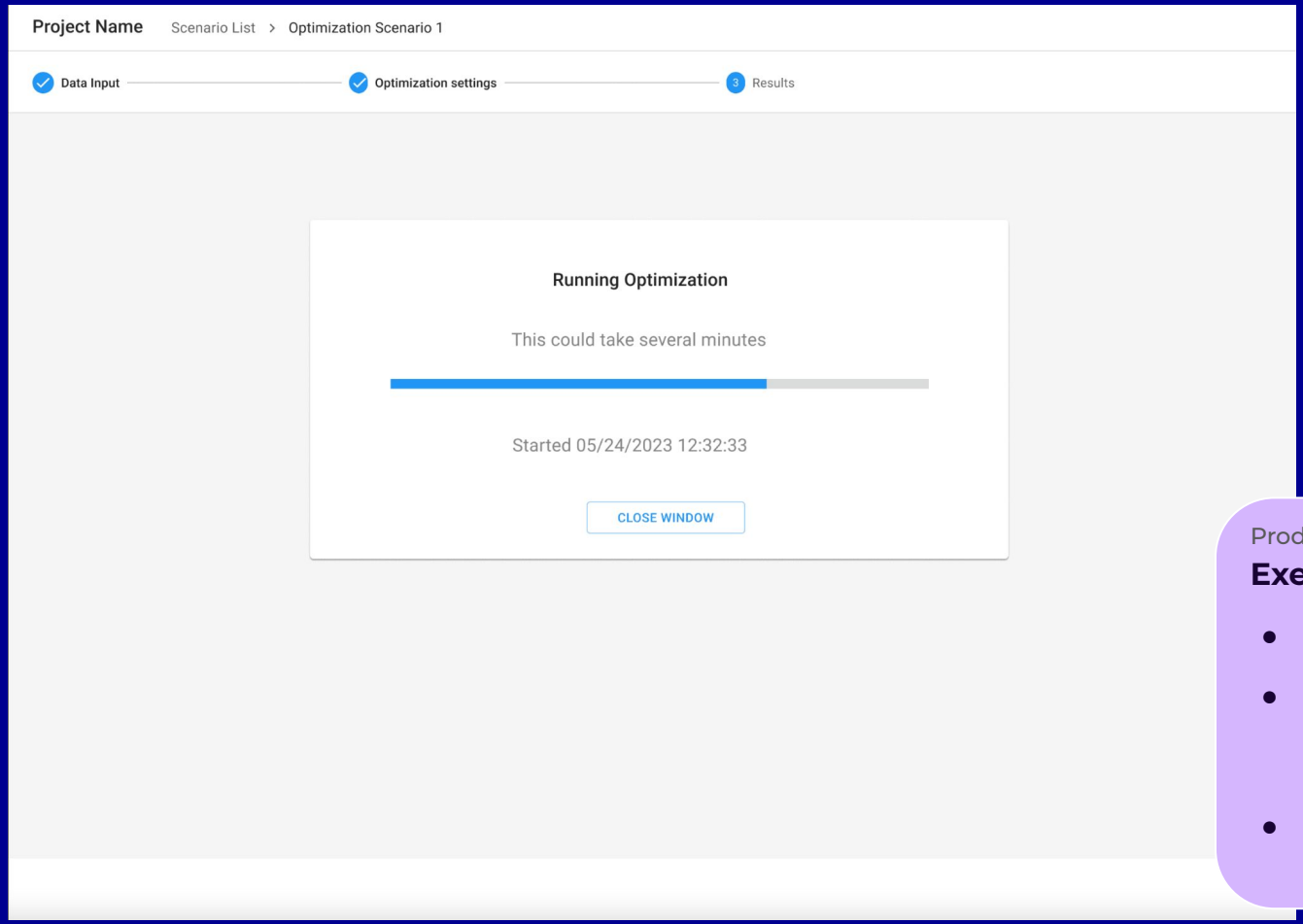


Product Needs :

Execute diff tool

- Input datasets
- Specify method and parameters to calculate diff
- Graphs & plots as diff results

Run Computation (5 of 6) - Execution Progress



Product Needs :

Execute diff tool

- Input datasets
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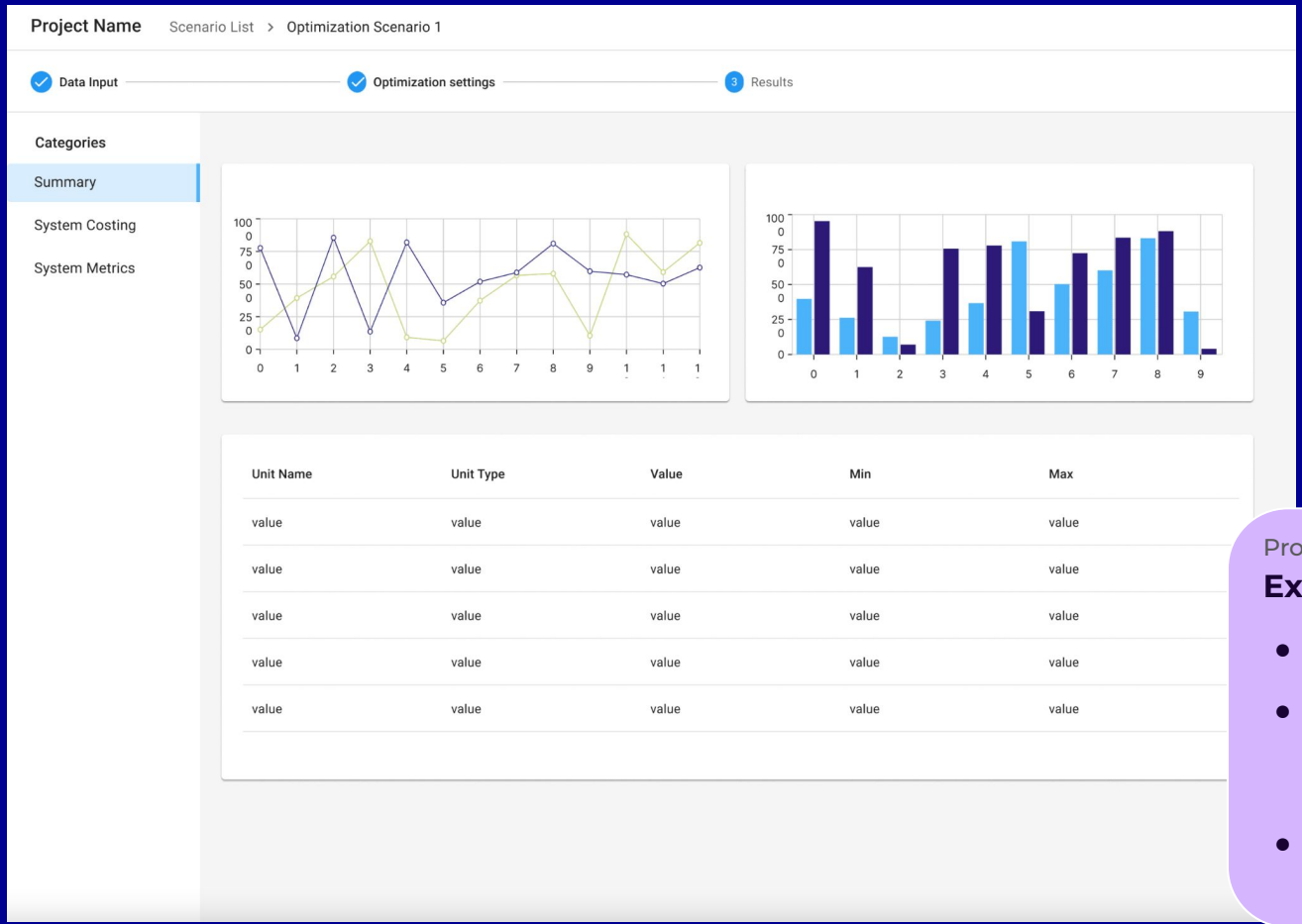
Run Computation (6 of 6) - Results Dashboard



Product Needs :

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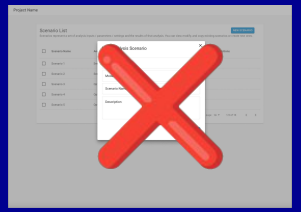
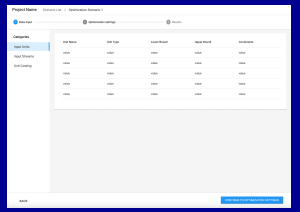
“UI to setup, run, and display results for a computational diff tool for large datasets”

Scenario List

New Scenario

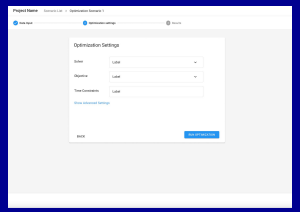


Inputs Config



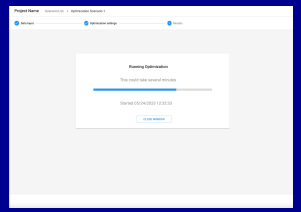
Input datasets

Settings Config



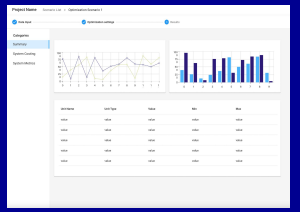
Specify method and parameters to calculate diff

Execution Progress



May take a long time to run

Results Dashboard



Graphs & plots as diff results

Design System
Overview
Task Flows
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Compare Data
Contribute Data
Explore Data
Manage Account
Monitor Activities
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Run Interactive Computation
Search Data Repositories
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Tutorials
Release Status

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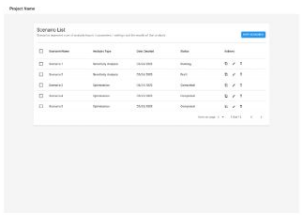
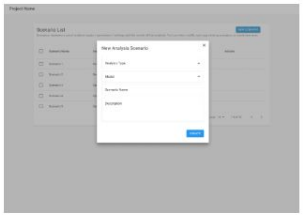
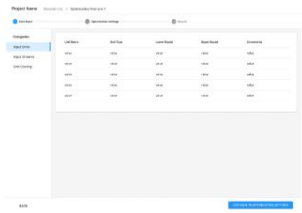
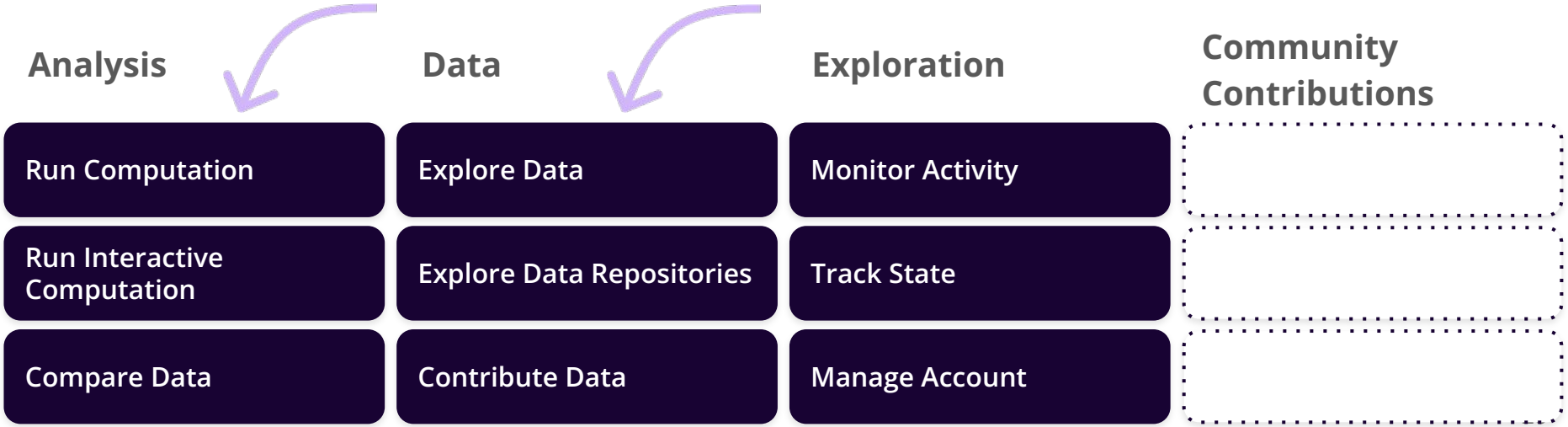




Task Flows

Task Flow: series of steps represented by screens which helps user to accomplish a particular task in the scientific software's user interface

Similar Task Flows exist across various types of scientific software.



“Public website to share a dataset about planets”

- See all the planets in my dataset
- View planet details along with images and plots for that planet

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Explore Data

data table | data grid | summary | filter | facets | search

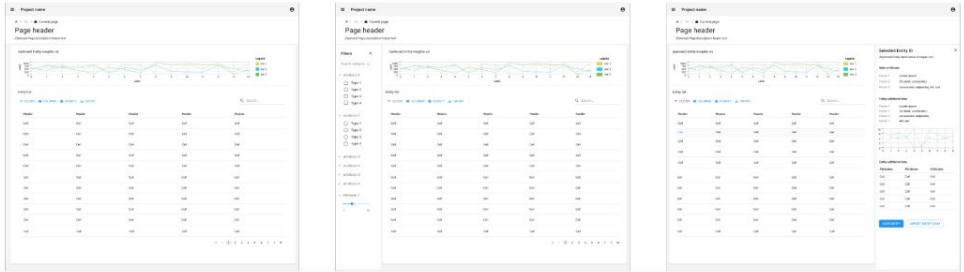
Intent

Enables users to view and work with data in a tabular layout with search, sort, filter, and summary view interactions.

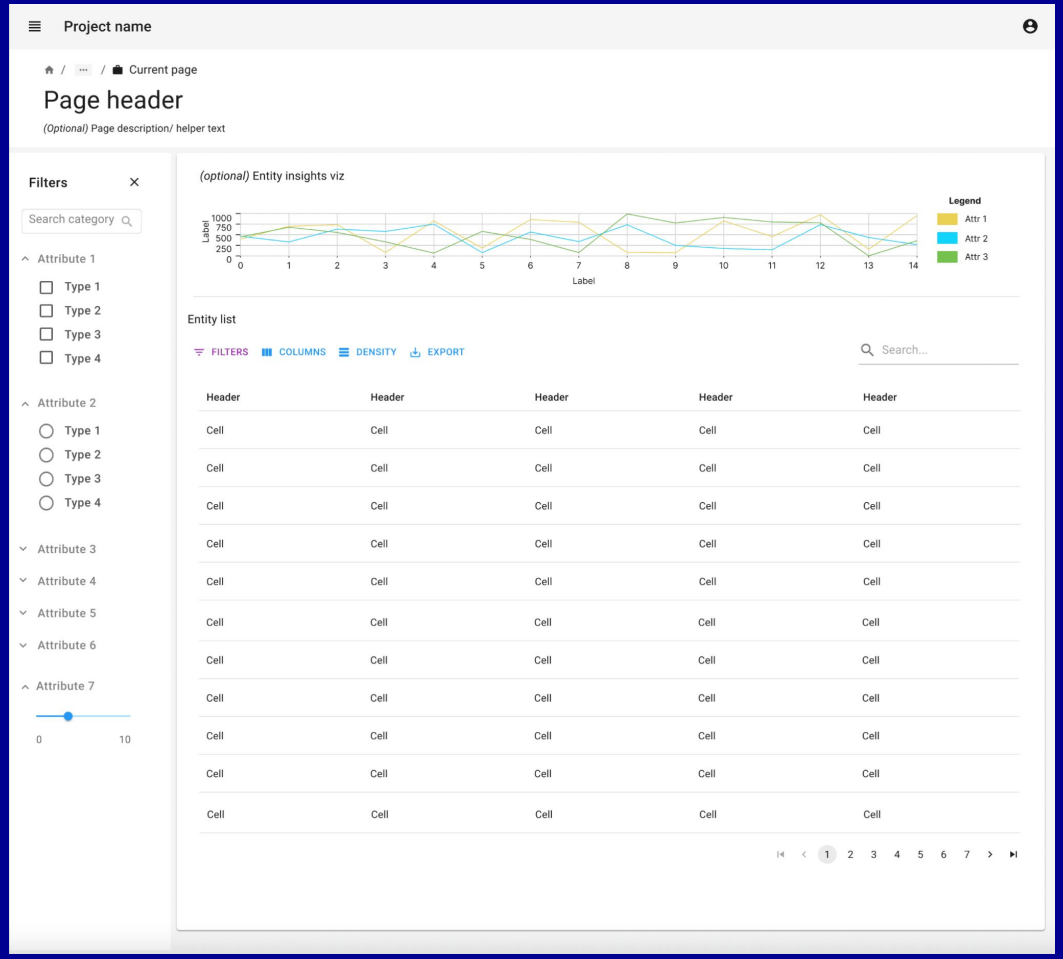
It is the most commonly used task flow to showcase any entity and make it easily consumable and accessible.

DESIGN TEMPLATES | LIVE EXAMPLE | CODE

Overview



Explore Data (1 of 3) - Entity List

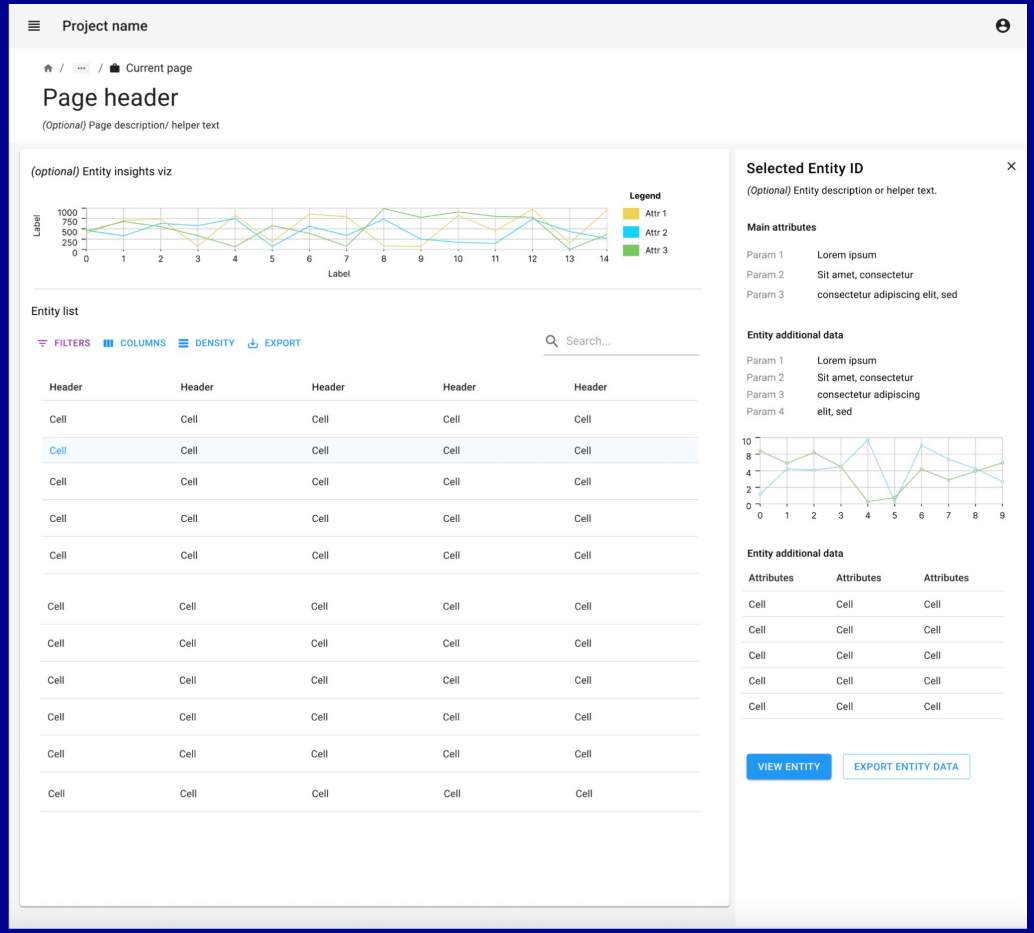


Product Needs :

Planets data website

- See all the planets in my dataset
- View planet details along with images and plots for that planet

Explore Data (2 of 3) - Details Preview



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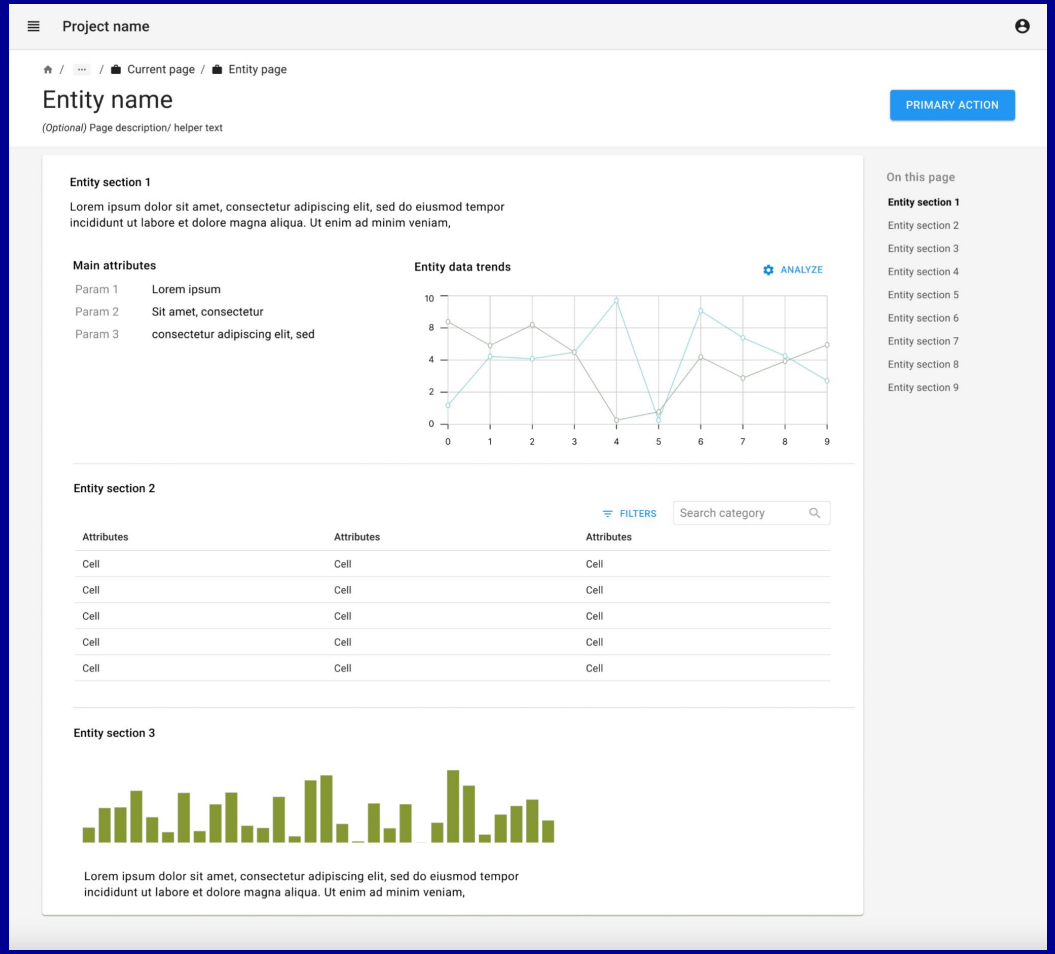
Explore Data (3 of 3) - Full Details



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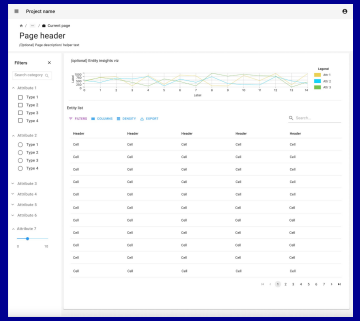
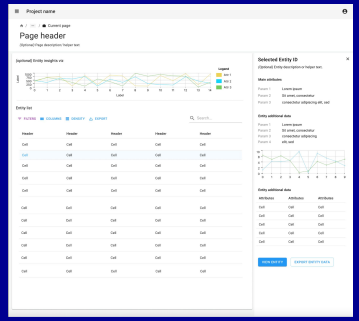
Entity Table



See all the planets in my dataset

Details Preview



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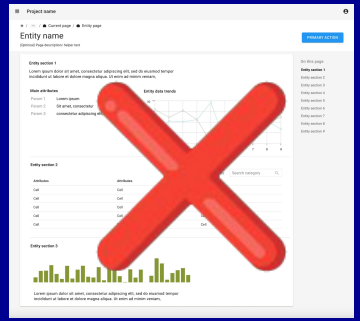
Full Details



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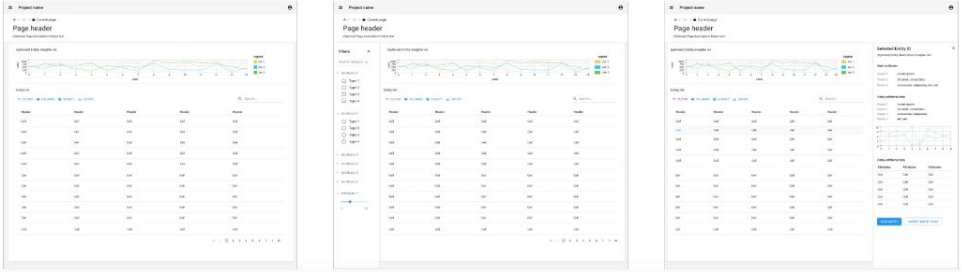


Part 2

STRUDEL Kit

What we will cover

Part 1

1. About STRUDEL
2. The STRUDEL design system
3. Task Flow walkthrough

Part 2

1. What is STRUDEL Kit?
2. How to implement STRUDEL Task Flows with STRUDEL Kit
3. Get involved in the STRUDEL community

What is STRUDEL Kit?

Open Source Software Toolkit

An open source software development kit for building web applications from the STRUDEL Task Flows.

Low-code command line starter tool

Includes a simple command line tool to generate template code for apps and task flows.

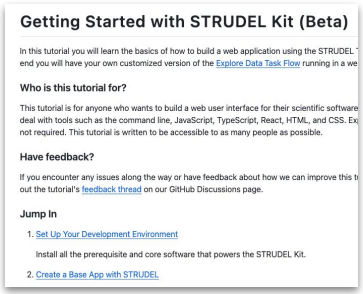
React templates, STRUDEL Tech Stack, and curated resources

Extensible React templates, modern stack of open source tools, and curated resources to help you build.

React + Material UI Components

Implementation Walkthrough

Detailed Tutorial



Getting Started with STRUDEL Kit (Beta)

In this tutorial you will learn the basics of how to build a web application using the STRUDEL
end you will have your own customized version of the Explore Data Task Flow running in a we

Who is this tutorial for?

This tutorial is for anyone who wants to build a web user interface for their scientific software
deal with tools such as the command line, JavaScript, TypeScript, React, HTML, and CSS. Ex
not required. This tutorial is written to be accessible to as many people as possible.

Have feedback?

If you encounter any issues along the way or have feedback about how we can improve this t
out the tutorial's feedback thread on our GitHub Discussions page.

Jump In

1. Set Up Your Development Environment

   Install all the prerequisite and core software that powers the STRUDEL Kit.

2. Create a Base App with STRUDEL

Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Setup

1. Install strudel-cli

```
pip install strudel-cli
```

Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Setup

1. Install strudel-cli

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```

2. Create a STRUDEL base app

```
strudel create-app planets-app
```

Prompts from *create-app*

```
(strudel-learn-env) learning-strudel % strudel create-app planets-app
Creating your app...
  [1/2] name (planets-app):
  [2/2] appTitle (My Science App): Planets
```

Generated files

Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Setup

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```

```
npm install
```

```
npm start
```

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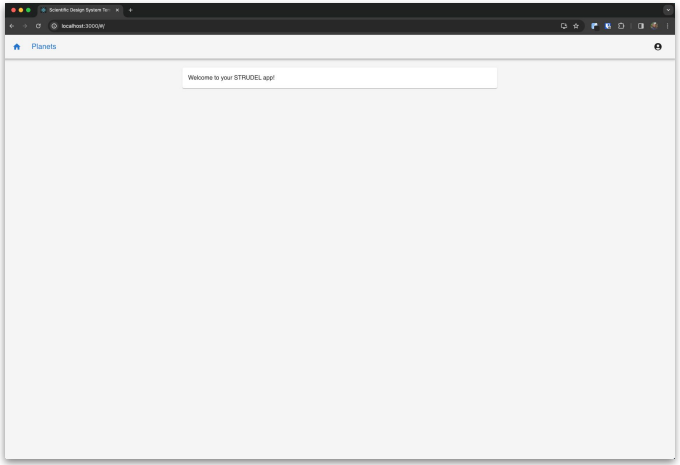
Generated files

Initial home page



Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Setup

3. Add a Task Flow to your app

```
strudel add-taskflow --config ../tf-config.json
```

tf-config.json (Task Flow Configuration)

```
{
  "name": "solar-system",
  "template": "explore-data",
  "pageTitle": "Solar System Explorer",
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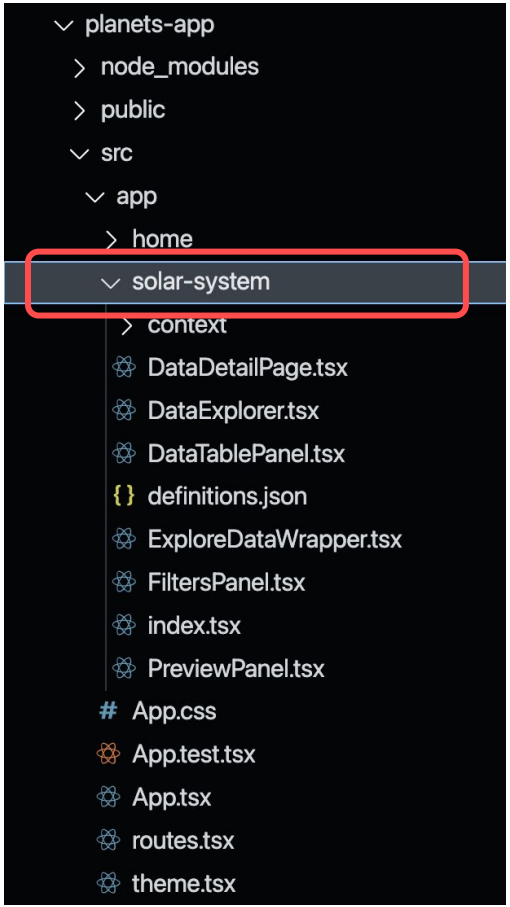
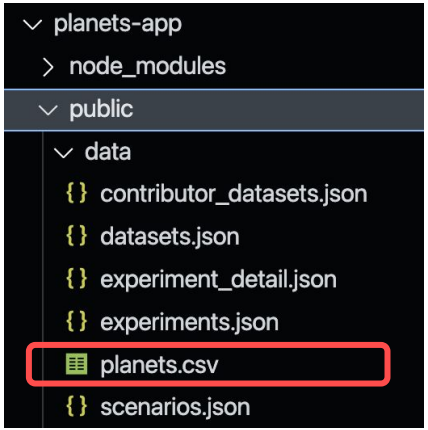


Data source placement



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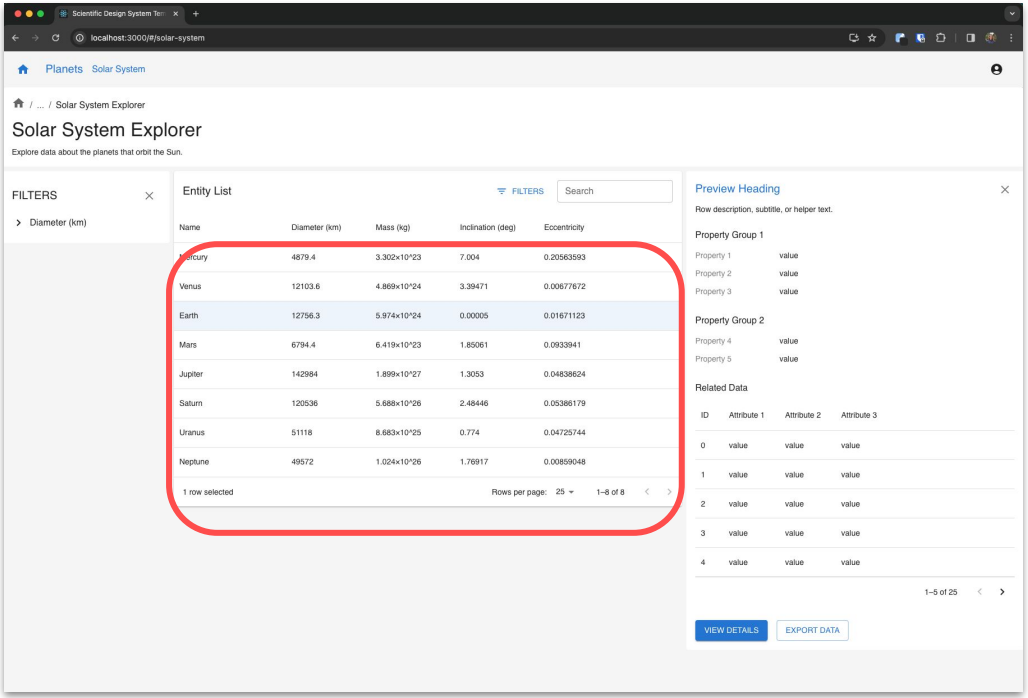
Initial solar-system Task Flow



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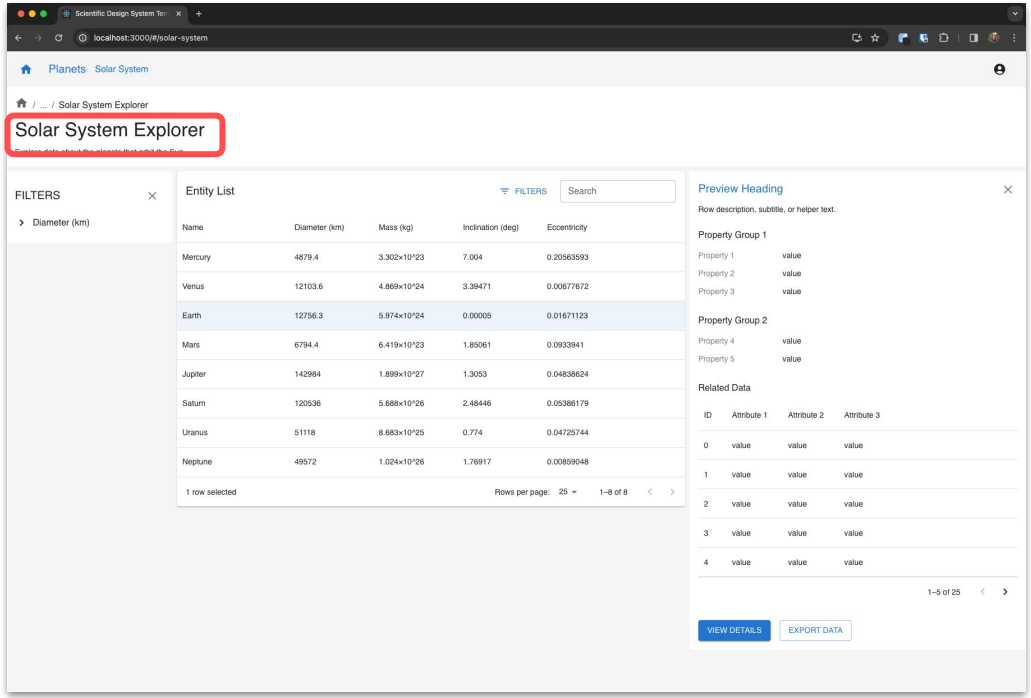

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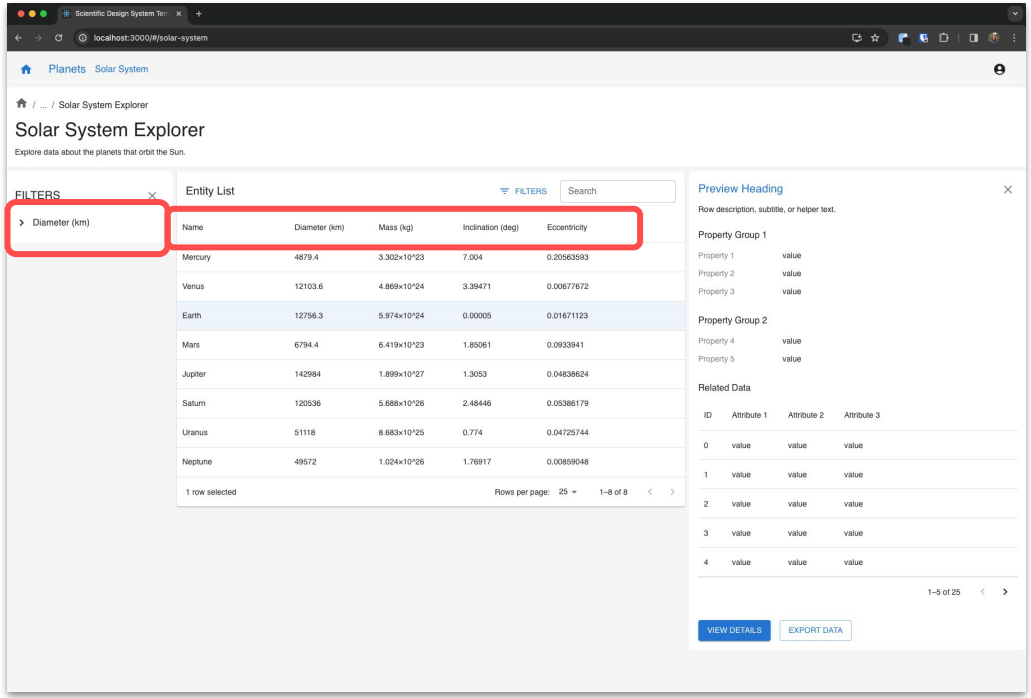


Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Setup

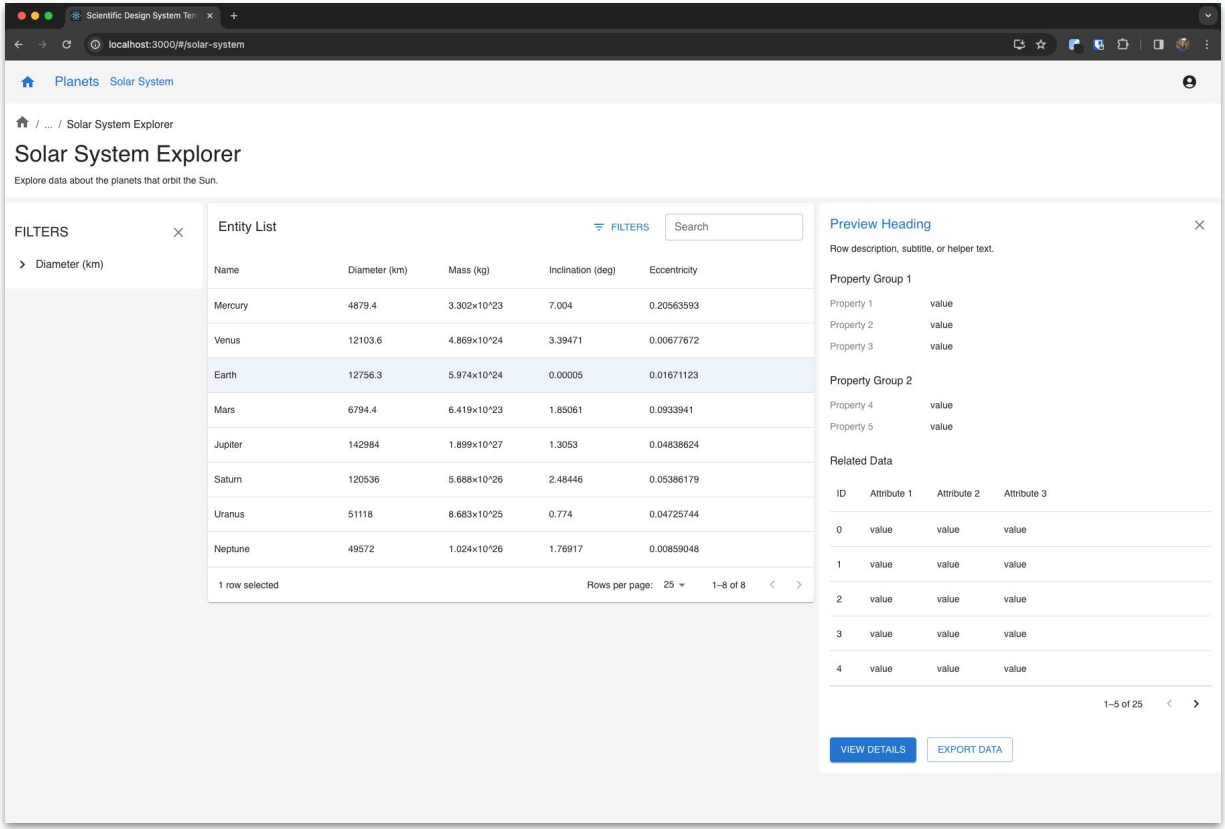
3. Add a Task Flow to your app

```
strudel add-taskflow --config ../tf-config.json
```

```
{
  "name": "my-second-taskflow",
  "template": "run-computation",
  ...
}
```

```
{
  "name": "my-other-explorer",
  "template": "explore-data",
  ...
}
```

Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow
Customization



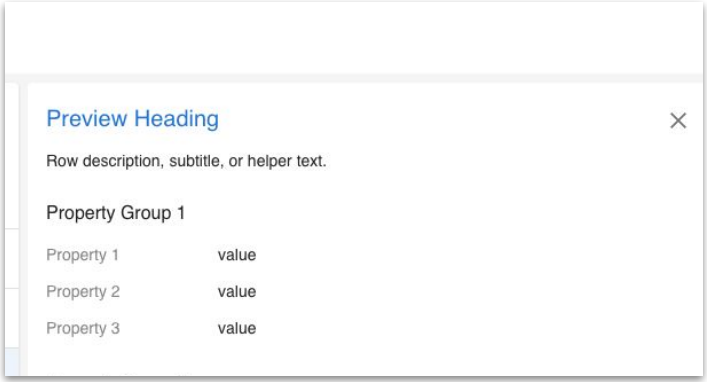
Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Customization

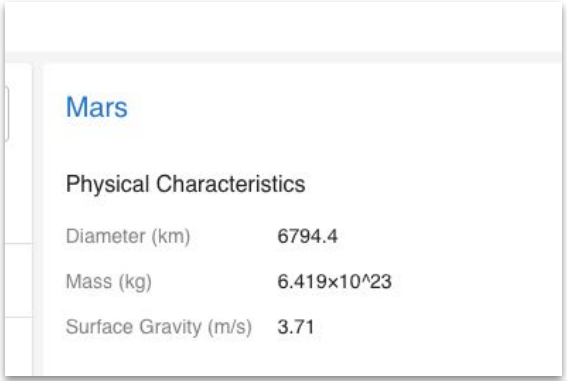
4. Customize and expand your Task Flow

Add dynamic data to the preview panel

Snippet of initial preview panel



Snippet of customized preview panel



PreviewPanel.tsx

```
<Typography fontWeight="medium" mb={1}>Property Group 1</Typography>
<LabelValueTable
  rows={[
    { label: 'Property 1', value: 'value' },
    { label: 'Property 2', value: 'value' },
    { label: 'Property 3', value: 'value' },
  ]}
/>
```

PreviewPanel.tsx

```
<Typography fontWeight="medium" mb={1}>Physical Characteristics</Typography>
<LabelValueTable
  rows={[
    { label: 'Diameter (km)', value: state.previewItem['Diameter'] },
    { label: 'Mass (kg)', value: state.previewItem['Mass'] },
    { label: 'Surface Gravity (m/s)', value: state.previewItem['SurfaceGravity'] },
  ]}
/>
```

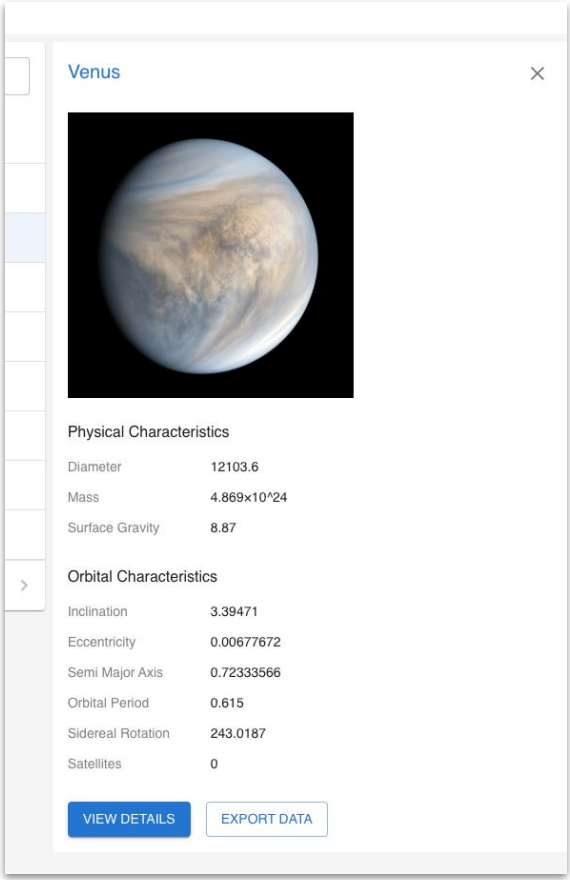
Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Customization

4. Customize and expand your Task Flow

Keep building out your Task Flow

- Remove sections
- Add dynamic images and figures
- Add new components and sections
- Add links



Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow

Customization

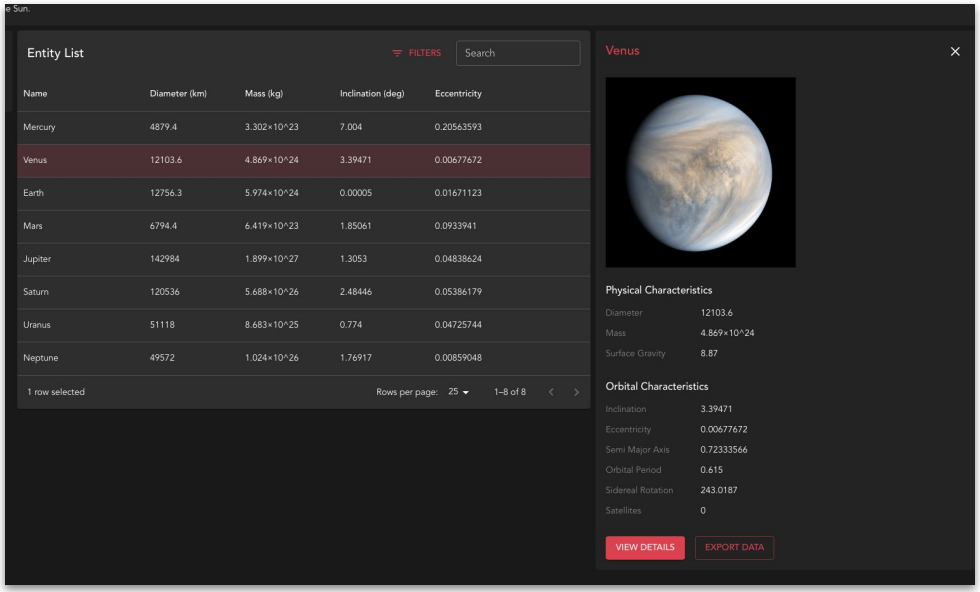
5. Customize your theme and styles

Modify the global theme

Theme configuration

```
{
  palette: {
    mode: 'dark',
    background: {
      default: '#191919',
      paper: '#232323'
    },
    primary: {
      main: '#dd4050',
      light: '#e36370',
      dark: '#bf2231',
      contrastText: '#fff'
    }
  },
  ...
  typography: {
    htmlFontSize: 16,
    fontFamily: '"Avenir", "Helvetica"',
    fontSize: 14
  }
}
```

Task Flow with modified palette

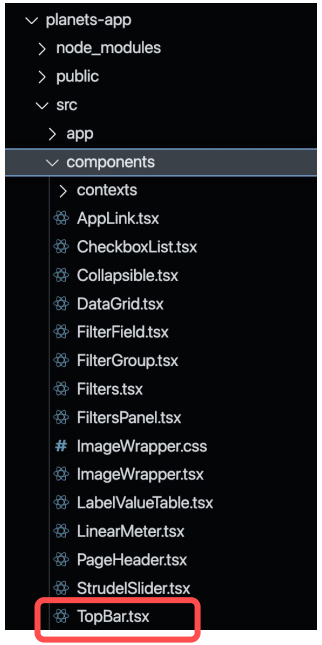


Customization

5. Customize your theme and styles

Modify the app navigation bar

App-wide components



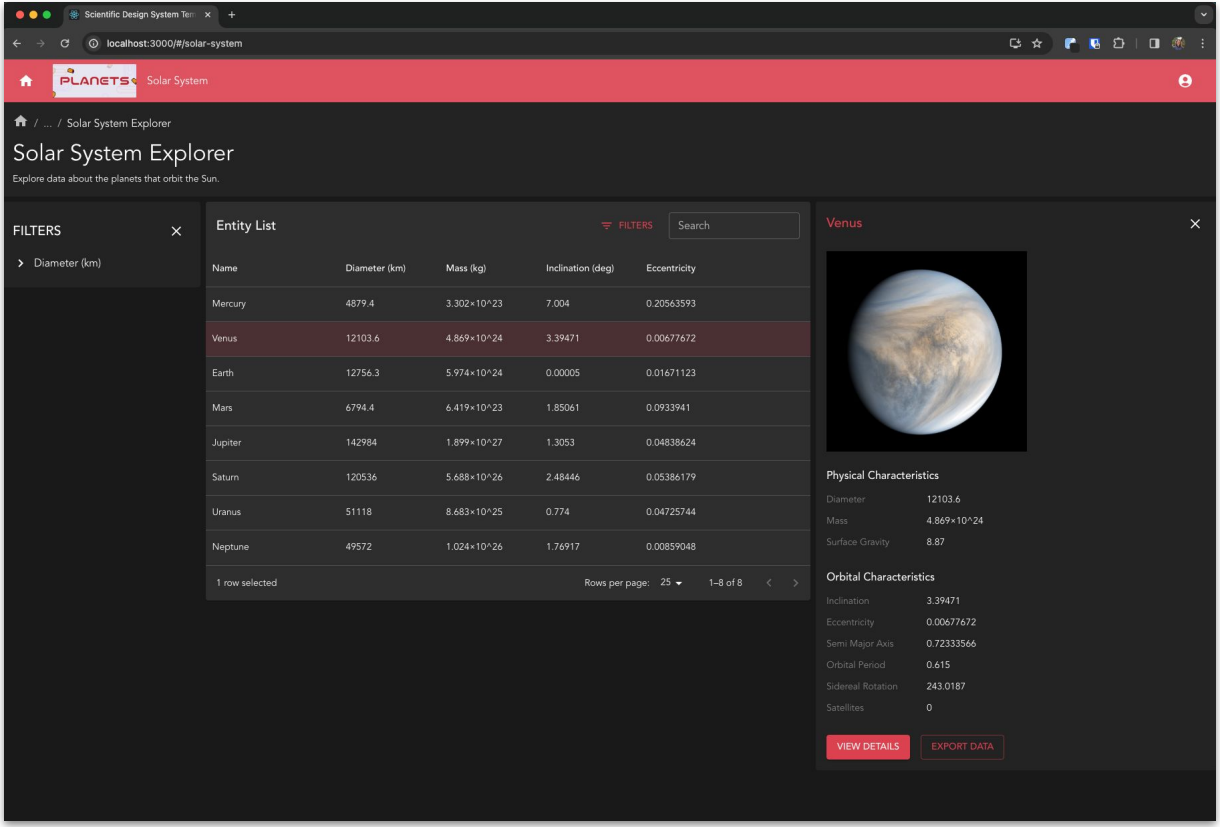
App navigation bar component

TopBar.tsx

```
<AppBar
  color="default"
  position="static"
  sx={{
    backgroundColor: 'primary.main'
  }}
>
```

Navigation bar with new color

Implement a STRUDEL Task Flow
Product



Implement a Task Flow UI in one hour or less.

Configurable options, simple architecture, and beginner-friendly tutorials.

Accessible to many members of the scientific community.

Take your app as far as you need.

The Key Ingredients to the STRUDEL Kit

Process

Configure UI details with JSON.

Task Flow React **templates** as starting points.

Combine sections like **building blocks.**

Philosophy

Leverage the **open source tools** baked into the STRUDEL Tech Stack.

You should be in **control** of your app.

Decouple the data from the presentation; the backend from the frontend.

STRUDEL Kit Tech Stack

strudel-cli

Command-line tool for quickly generating Task Flow template code.

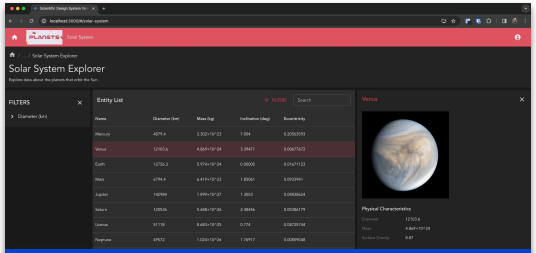
- Command line
- Python
- JSON
- Cookiecutter

STRUDEL React Templates

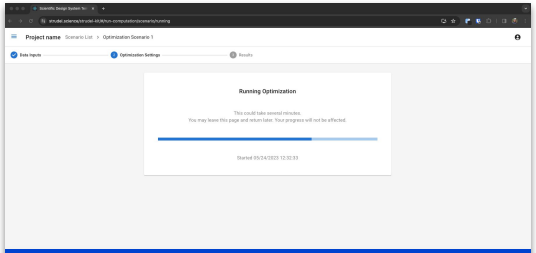
Code templates for building STRUDEL Task Flows using the React web library.

- JavaScript / TypeScript
- React
- Material UI Components
- Plotly.js

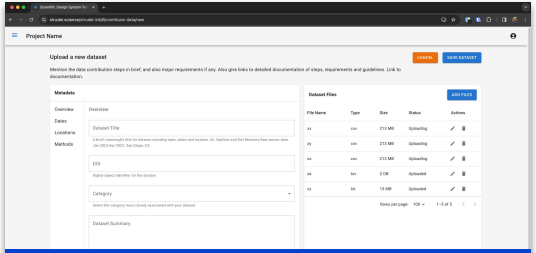
Continue Building: Add More Task Flows



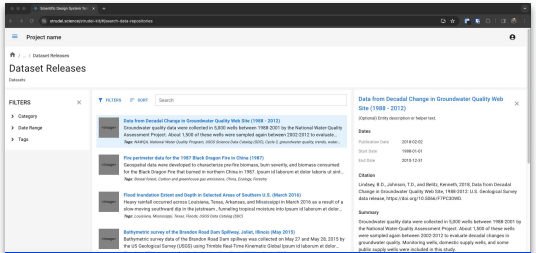
Explore Data



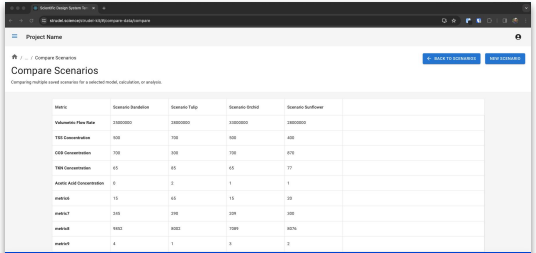
Run Computation



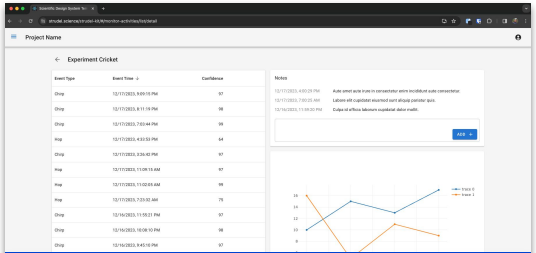
Contribute Data



Search Data Repositories

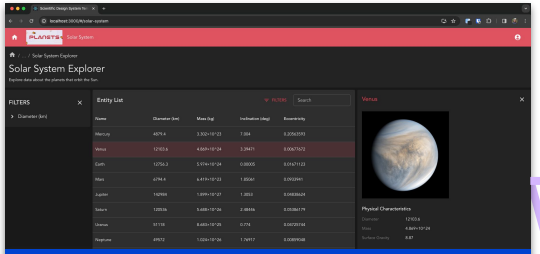


Compare Data



Monitor Activity

Continue Building: Connect Task Flows



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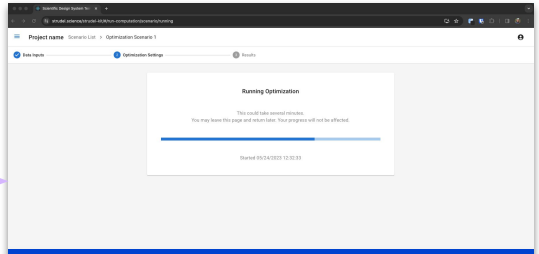
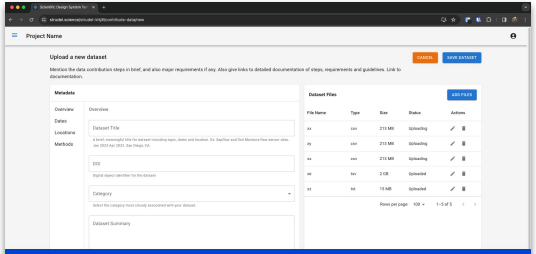
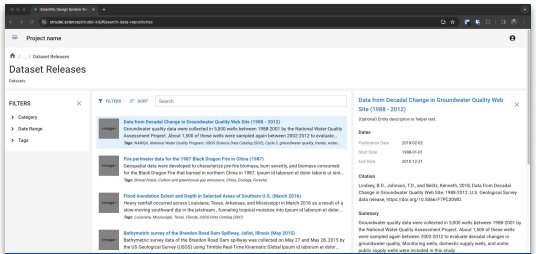


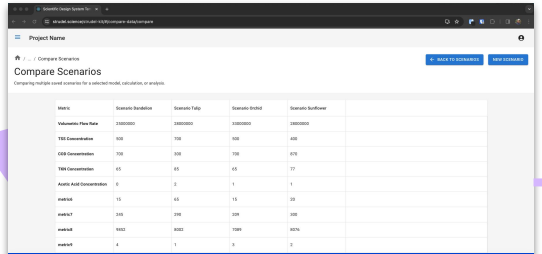
Run Computation



Contribute Data



Search Data Repositories



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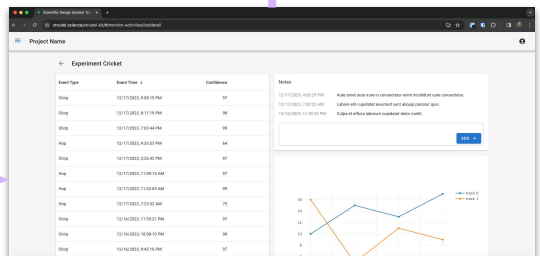
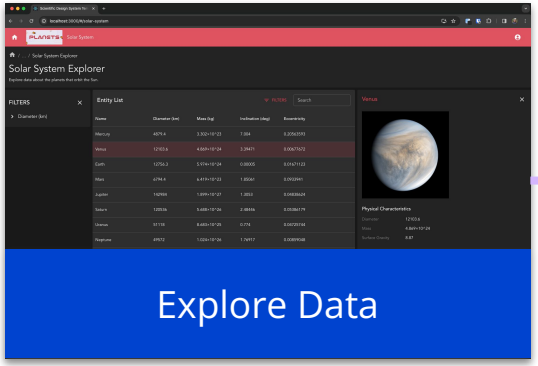
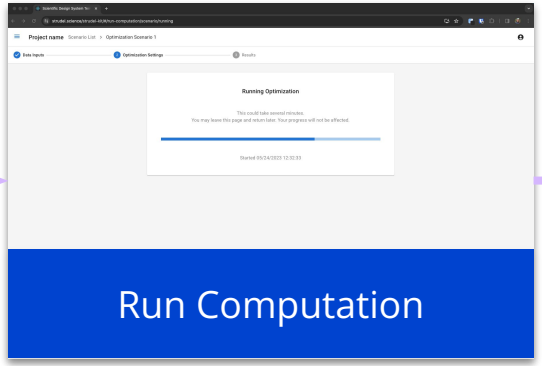


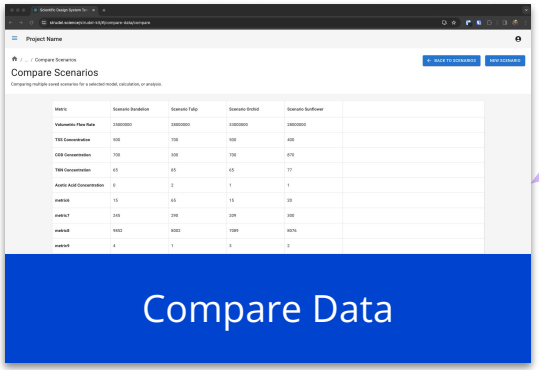
Monitor Activity

Continue Building: Integrate an Existing App





Your app



STRUDEL Design System Hackathon

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM PDT

In-person at the **Berkeley Lab**

Register now: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1ststrudelhackathon

Join the STRUDEL team and other members of the scientific community for an interactive day of building user interfaces with the STRUDEL Design System.

Attendance is completely free and lunch will be included. Registration required.

Funding to assist travel is not available for this event.

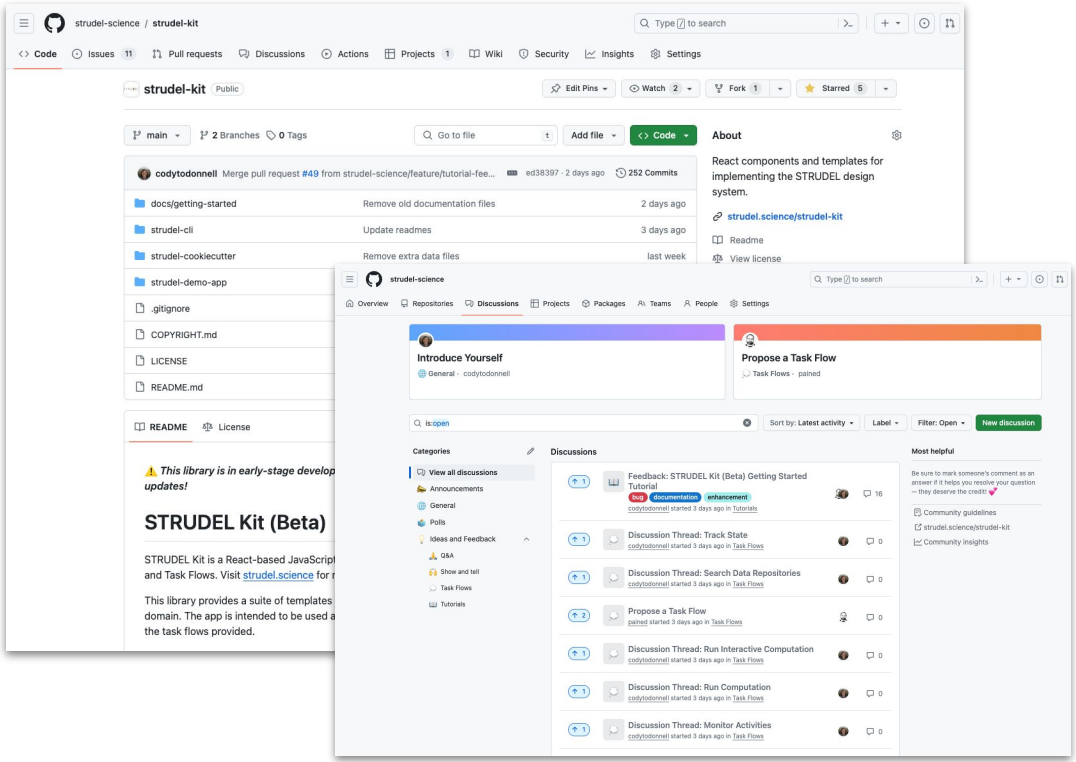
How STRUDEL can Grow

STRUDEL Kit and the STRUDEL Design System are still early beta-stage projects.

Expanding the Task Flows and Implementation Process

- Advanced UI features and variants
- Advanced custom components
- Community-driven Task Flows
- Expanded suite of tutorials
- Smarter automation
- More complex configuration
- Graphical configuration UI
- Backend integrations

[strudel-kit repository on GitHub]



[Join the discussion on our GitHub Discussions page.]

Get Involved!
Join the STRUDEL Community

Visit our website to learn more & use our products!

https://strudel.science

Join the US-RSE User Experience working group to connect with the larger community of practice!

#wg-ux on the **US-RSE Slack**
https://go.lbl.gov/usrse-uxwg

Join our mailing list to keep up to date & contribute to the community!

strudel-community+subscribe@lbl.gov

Have comments?
Start a conversation on our
GitHub Discussions Page
https://go.lbl.gov/strudel-discussion

STRUDEL Design System Hackathon

- In person @ Berkeley Lab
- Tuesday March 19, All Day
- *Space is limited! Please express your interest by this coming Monday March 11, 2024*
- *Register for the event*

Interested in co-hosting a local hackathon? Reach out to chat!

Thank you for joining us!

Questions?