Workflow and Provenance

(anything profound, and the cool slides, is from Bertram Ludäscher. Everything else is from Renear

What is data workflow?

Much of our work with data, especially in scientific applications, consists in *transforming one data set into another*

Data curation and data workflow

Data curation is concerned with transformations in two ways:

managing and documenting transformations involved in data analytics

performing transformation to realize data curation objectives. (preservation, integration, format conversion, etc.)

Kinds of data transformations

Transformations where input and output datasets are identical in propositional content

transformation to a different data description language (or new version of a language)

transformation to a different serialization (or new version of a serialization)

Transformations where the input dataset mathematically contains the output dataset

transformation to a subset matching specific conditions e.g. simple queries

transformation to a logically or mathematically entailed data of the same kind e.g., summaries, statistics, visualizations

Transformations where the input dataset scientifically contains in the output dataset

transformation to scientifically entailed data of the same kind here the resulting data set typically contains information different in kind e.g., a data set about air pressure is transformed to a dataset about altitudes.

Example Bioinformatics Workflow:

Motif-Catcher

Marc Facciotti et al.

UC Davis Genome Center

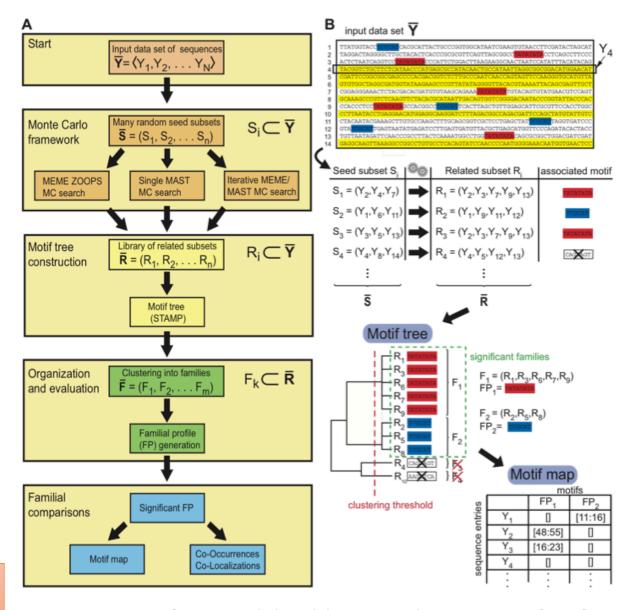
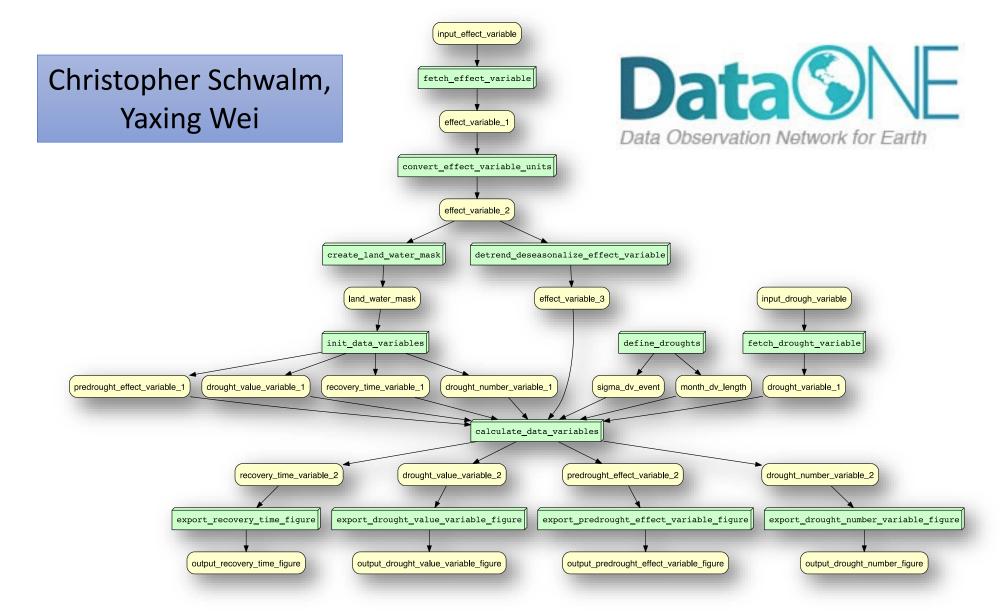


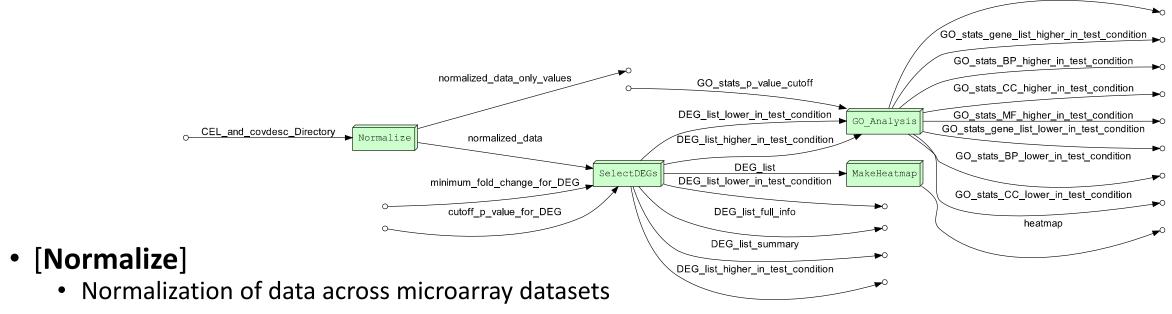
Figure 1: Concept of Monte-Carlo based detection and interpretation of motifs.

A) Abstract description of MotifCatcher process. B) Examples illustrating the process with sample data.

Multi-Scale Synthesis and Terrestrial Model Intercomparison Project (MsTMIP)



Gene Expression Microarray Data Analysis



- [SelectDEGs]
 - Selection of differentially expressed genes between conditions
- [GO Analysis]
 - determination of gene ontology statistics for the resulting datasets
- [MakeHeatmap]
 - creation of a heatmap of the differentially expressed genes.

Tyler Kolisnik, Mark Bieda

GO stats MF lower in test condition

Why is workflow important

Thoughtfully designed organized workflows support:

Efficiency

Reliability

Modifiability

Reuse

Reproducibility

Computational provenance

The heart of computational provenance:

What data was used?
What calculations were performed?

and also: "What in the world exactly happened just now?!"

Why is provenance important?

Access to provenance information supports

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understanding reliability reproducibility trust attribution and credit discovery and reuse of data, tools, and algorithms
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Prospective vs Retrospective provenance (Ludaescher)

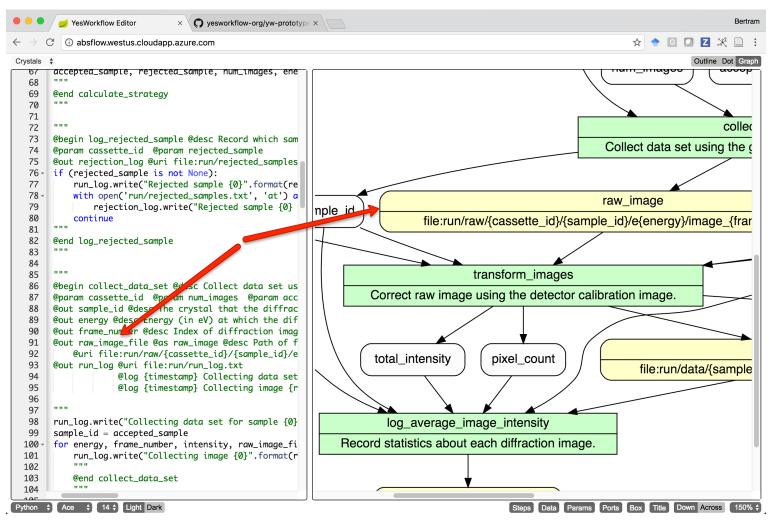
Prospective

a specification the workflow scenario

Retrospective

generated data on the execution of the workflow scenario

Scripts are (or can be) workflow!! [try.yesworkflow.org]



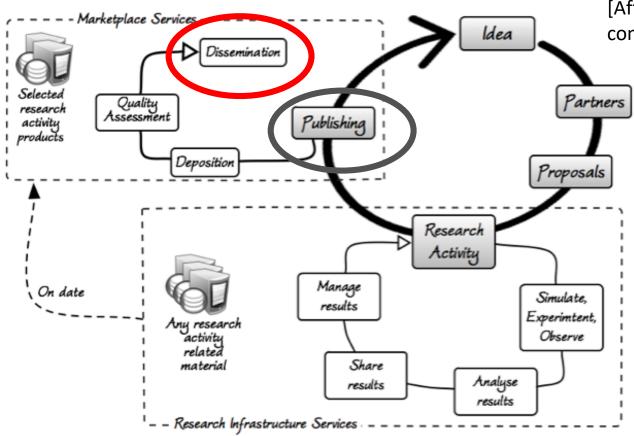
At least remember this

don't just sit there typing at the command line, write a script, and document it

[for crying out loud]

Communication

Scientific communication is how data gets noticed



[After all, if the results of analyzing data are not communicated, then what's the point of it all?]

Scientific and technical communication is a critical part of the data lifecycle, with effects flowing both ways:

- from the research process,
- and back into the research process.

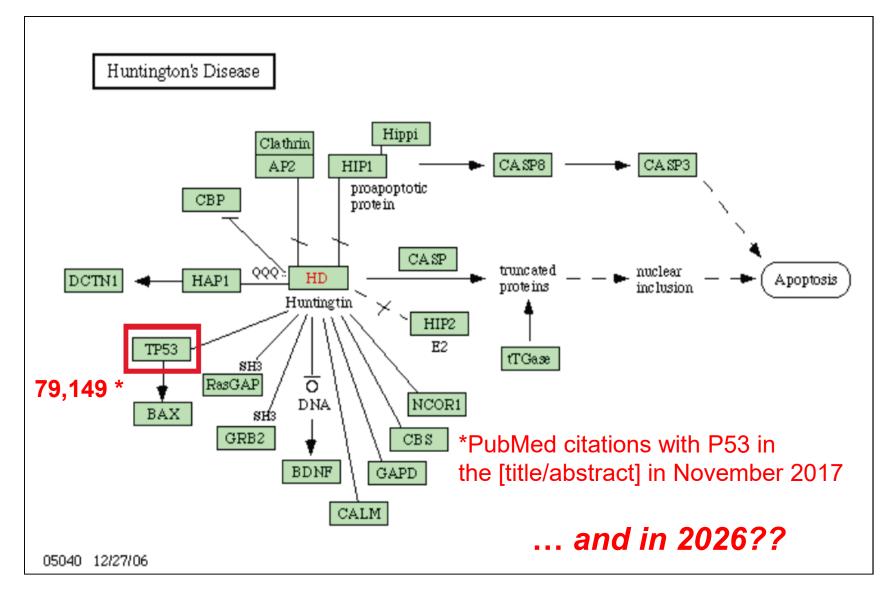
image from "Science 2.0 Repositories: Time for a Change in Scholarly Communication" Massimiliano Assante et al., *D-Lib Magazine* 2015.

. . . the crisis

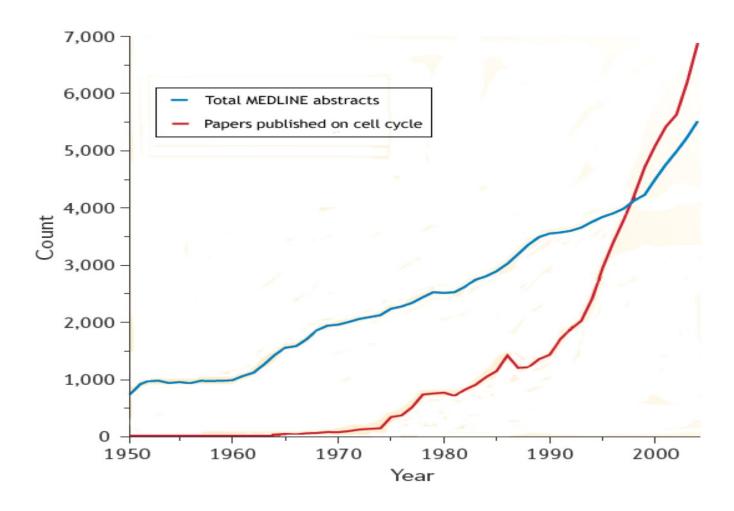
But scientific and technical publishing is in crisis

a problem caused by data and that can be addressed with data as we'll see in the next video

Lisa's problem

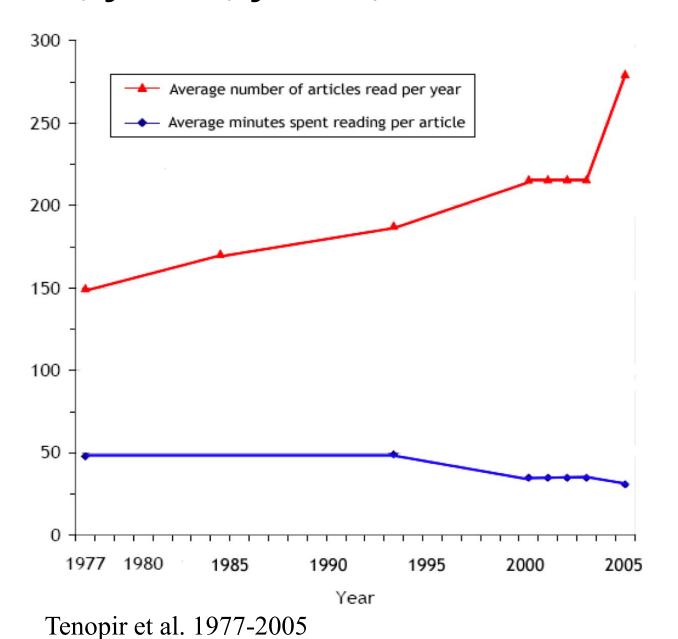


Are you kidding me???



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Faster, faster, faster, more more more



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Responses to the problem

One response: text mining [instead of L2R/T2B reading]

information extraction

"undiscovered public knowledge" and hypothesis generation (Swanson and Smalheiser

Another response: tools for **strategic reading**

Necessary data standards are now, finally, in place to support reading tools

Character encoding interoperability

Unicode/UTF-xx [Adoption: nearly total]

Data structure serialization interoperability

XML, JSON [Adoption: nearly total]

Syntactic interoperability

i.e. RDF(S), OWL [Adoption: underway]

Semantic interoperability

RDF/OWL ontologies; linked data. [Adoption: substantial]

Document markup meta-languages

XML [Adoption: nearly total]

Document markup languages

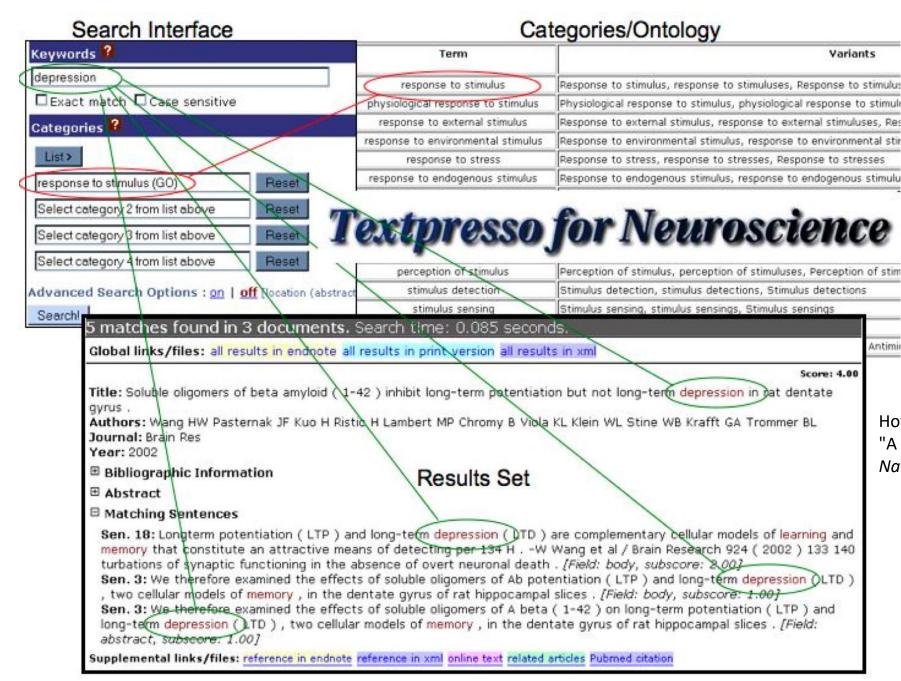
e.g, NLM/DTD, XHTML, TEI, DocBook, DITA [Adoption: widely adopted]

Metaphysical interoperability

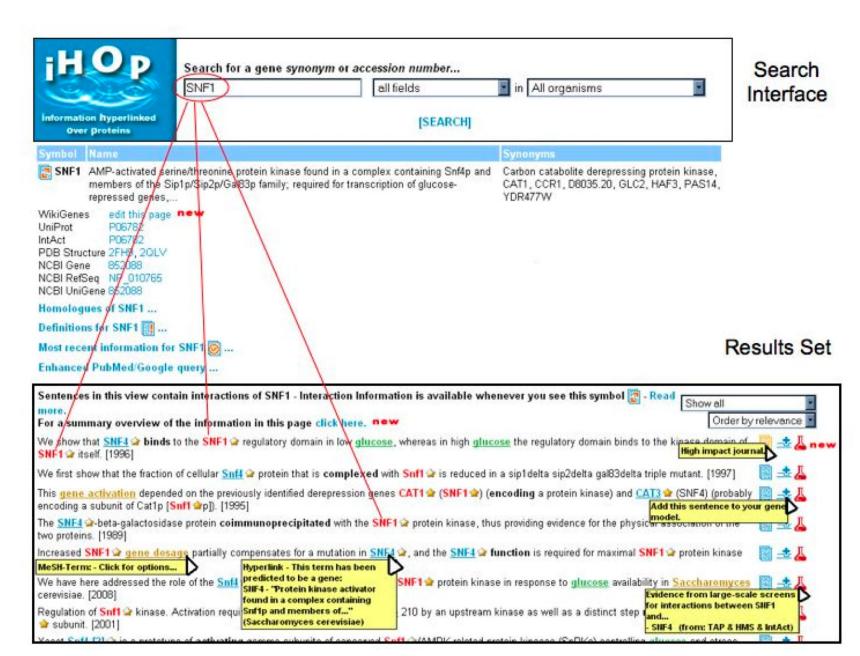
"upper" ontologies [Adoption: (hard to say)]

Domain ontologies and terminologies

hundreds [Adoption: steady improvements]



Hoffmann, R; Valencia, A (Jul 2004). "A gene network for navigating the literature.". *Nature Genetics*. **36** (7): 664.



Muller HM, Kenny EE, Sternberg PW "Textpresso: an ontology-based information retrieval and extraction system for biological literature" *PLoS Biol.* 2004 Nov;2(11)..

Data Mining?

We wouldn't have to mine the data if we didn't bury in the first place.

Barend Mons, "Which gene did you mean?" BMC Bioinfomatics (2005)

And finally. . .

Automate like you are going to live forever Document like you are going to die tomorrow

Michael Sperberg-McQueen

and for fun. . .

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66oNv_DJuPc