

# A Practical Introduction to Reproducible Computational Workflows

If you have not installed the required software, please start now!

<https://github.com/ISMB-ECCB-2019-Tutorial-AM4/reproducible-computational-workflows>

Let us know if you need any help!



# **A Practical Introduction to Reproducible Computational Workflows**

## Introduction

## Reproducibility

obtaining consistent results using

the same input data,

computational steps, methods, and code,

and conditions of analysis

## Reusability

obtaining new results using

different input data or parameters,

the same computational steps, methods, and code,

and conditions of analysis

## Replicability

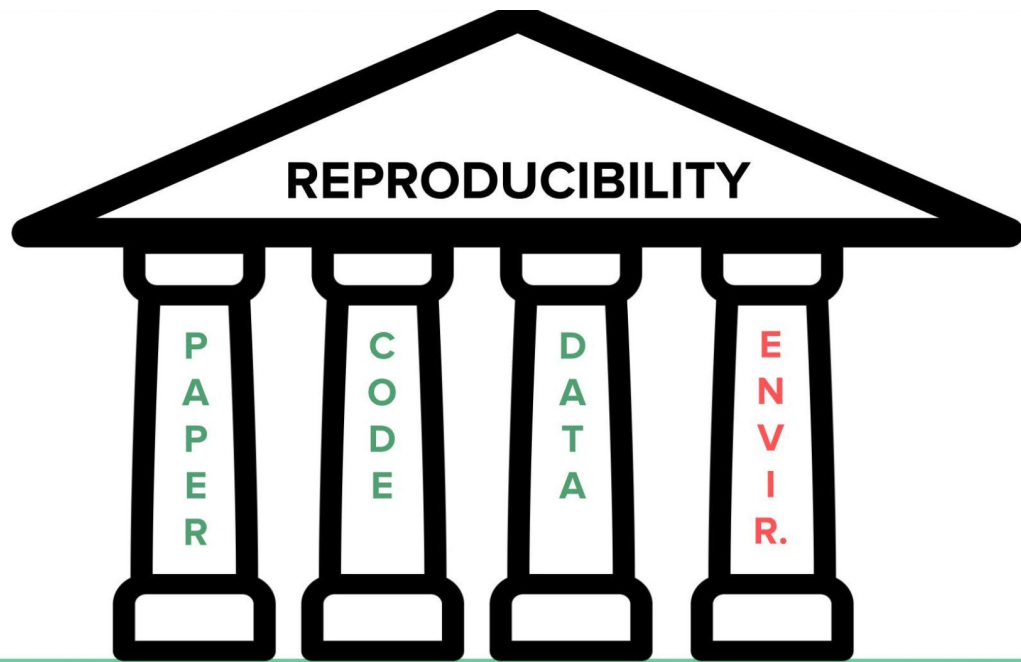
obtaining consistent results across

studies aimed at answering the

same scientific question, each of

which has obtained its own data

# Four Pillars of Reproducible Research



## Open Science

- Open access publications
- Open data
- Open source code
- Open execution environment

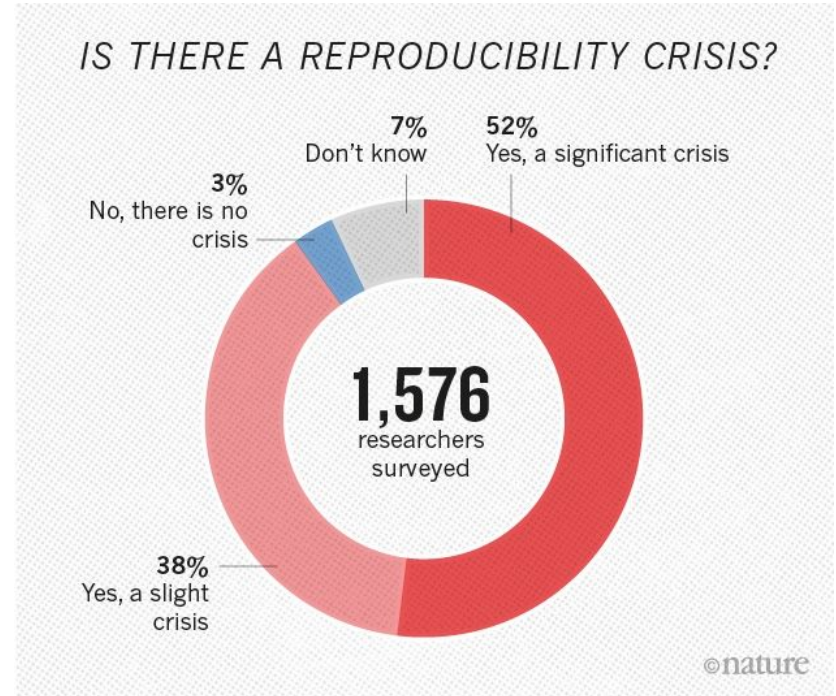
# Reproducibility Crisis?

“More than 70% of researchers have tried and failed to reproduce another scientist's experiments, and more than half have failed to reproduce their own experiments.”

*Nature, 2016, M. Baker, 1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility*

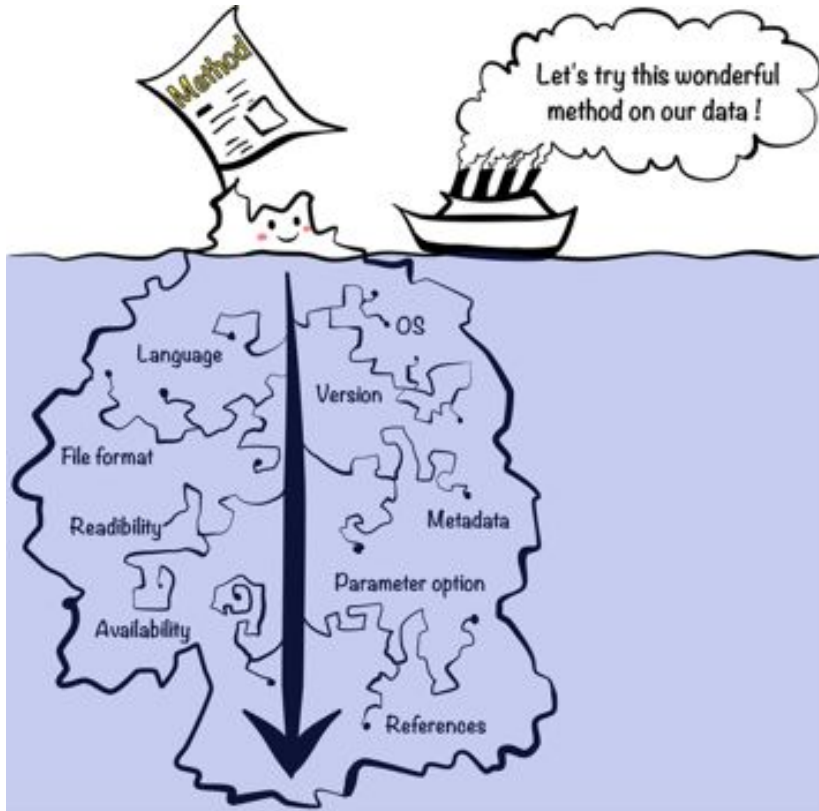
“Nature journal editors ... will, on a case-by-case basis, ask reviewers to check how well the code works.”

*Nature, 2018, Does your code stand up to scrutiny?*





# Barriers to Reproducibility and Reusability



- Missing or incomplete documentation
- Distribution is missing files
- Missing third party package
- Dependencies failed to build
- Runtime error
- Internal compiler error
- My last week:
  - samtools: error while loading shared libraries: libbz2.so.1.0: cannot open shared object file
  - error while loading shared libraries: libz.so.1: failed to map segment from shared object: Operation not permitted
  - /lib64/libc.so.6: version `GLIBC\_2.14' not found

Today you'll learn techniques and tools to overcome these barriers and publish a reproducible workflow and results!

# Tools and Infrastructure



Computational Notebooks:  
Jupyter Notebook  
Jupyter Lab



Cloud environment to run  
computational notebooks  
(including RStudio)



Source package and  
environment  
management system



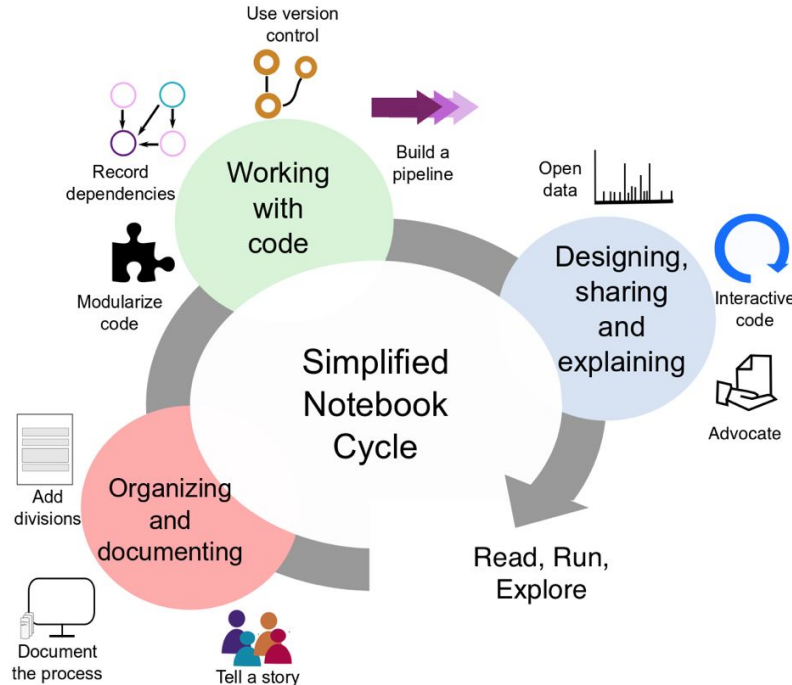
Source code  
repository



# Today's Sessions

- Set up your environment
  - Introduction to Conda
  - Define your software dependencies
- Create and run Jupyter Notebooks
  - Intro to Jupyter Notebook and Lab
  - Visualize biological data using plugins
- Open-source your code and collaborate using GitHub
- Make your code reproducible by anyone, anywhere
  - Setup Jupyter Notebook [or RStudio] on mybinder.org
  - Share binder links and create badges
  - Other options to share notebooks
- Share you own project
  - Work on own/team project or on provided examples
  - Demo your project

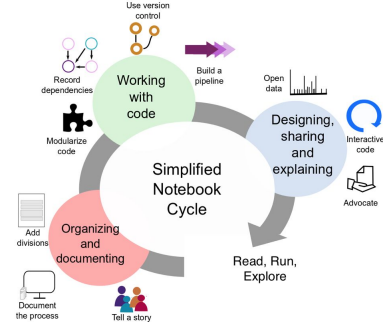
# Writing and Sharing Computational Analyses in Jupyter Notebooks



Ten Simple Rules for Writing and Sharing Computational Analyses in Jupyter Notebooks, PLOS Comp. Biol. in press, preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.08055>

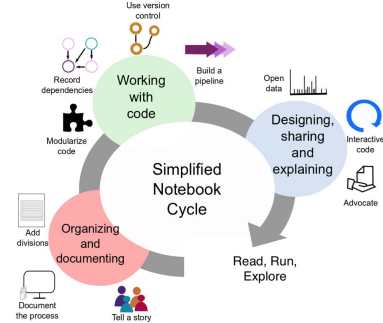
# Organizing and Documenting

- Rule 1: Tell a Story for an Audience
  - Beginning - introduce topic
  - Middle - describe steps
  - End - interprets results
  - Describe not just what you did, by why you did it, how the steps are connected, and what it all means.
  - Adjust your description depending on the intended audience
- Rule 2: Document the process, not just the results
  - Add descriptive notes, e.g., why a particular parameter was chosen
- Rule 3: Use cell divisions to make steps clear
  - Avoid long cells
  - Limit each cell to one meaningful step
  - Split long notebooks into a series of notebooks
  - Keep a top-level index notebook with links to the individual notebooks



# Working with Code

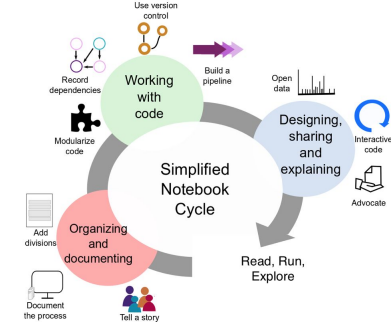
- Rule 4: Modularize Code
  - Use functions instead of duplicating code cells
- Rule 5: Record Dependencies
  - Manage your dependencies explicitly from the start using a tool such as
    - Conda's `environment.yml`
    - pip's `requirements.txt`
- Rule 6: Use Version Control
  - Consider using a public repository from the beginning of a project
  - Tie research results to specific software versions
- Rule 7: Build a Pipeline
  - Design notebooks with reuse in mind (different input data and parameters)
  - Define key input data and parameters at the top of each notebook
  - Break long notebooks into smaller notebooks that focus on one or a few analysis steps.



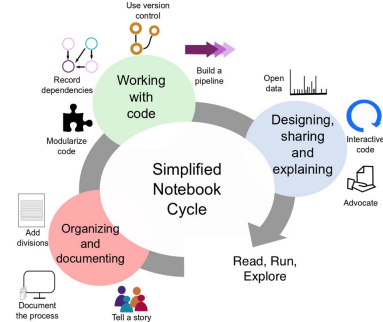
# Sharing, explaining

- Rule 8: Share and Explain Your Data

- Share your data in a repository with a persistent identifier, e.g., DOI or ARK
  - Bio repositories, e.g., NCBI, Ensemble, PDB
  - General repositories, e.g., Zenodo <https://zenodo.org/>
- Small datasets can be stored in GitHub with our source code
  - E.g., in a /data folder
- Very large datasets
  - Consider using a sample of the data and a link to the original data
- Save intermediate data after data processing
  - E.g., in /intermediate\_data folder
  - Can be used to verify each step in a workflow



# Sharing, explaining cont.



- Rule 9: Design your notebooks to be read, run, and explored
  - Git repository
    - Add a descriptive README file
    - Add a LICENCE file (liberal licence, e.g., MIT, Apache 2)
    - Add a static HTML/PDF file of your notebooks for long-term preservation
    - Add Binder badge/link to launch notebooks in the cloud (<https://mybinder.org/>)
  - Consider using ipywidgets to add menus or sliders to enable interactive exploration of parameters

# Sharing, explaining cont.

- Rule 10: Advocate for open research
  - Apply what you learned in this tutorial in your own research and be an advocate for open and reproducible research in your lab or workplace
  - Publish a fully reproducible paper! Create all figures, data tables, and all other computational results using Jupyter Notebook and deposit in Github.



**Brad Voytek**  @bradleyvoytek · 20 Apr 2018

Our lab's moving to this model: publish "static PDF" papers as expected, but also a shadow, interactive [@ProjectJupyter](#) version alongside that has all code to process, analyze, and visualize data.

"The Scientific Paper Is Obsolete" featuring [@fperez\\_org](#)



**The Scientific Paper Is Obsolete**

Here's what's next.

[theatlantic.com](#)



# **Demo of the Ten Simple Rules using Jupyter Notebook run on mybinder.org**

<https://github.com/jupyter-guide/ten-rules-jupyter>