What is literate programming?
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Bowers and Voors (2016) contend that any report of data analysis should have two important

characteristics: (1) the findings of the work are factual and not opinion and (2) other people should be

able to reproduce the findings. One of the techniques they suggest is "Literate Programming." Knuth

(1984) said this, "Instead of imagining that our main task is to instruct a computer what to do, let us

concentrate rather on explaining to human beings what we want a computer to do." In literate

programming the goal is to produce your analysis at the same time you document how you reached the

conclusions that were reached. In literate programming a programmer weaves code into the document

such that paragraphs, equations, etc. explain the code, and the code produces that numbers, figures,

etc. Thus programming becomes a method to facilitate the easy reproduction and communication of

data analysis.

Reference

Bowers, Jake, and Maarten Voors. 2016. "How to Improve Your Relationship with Your Future Self."
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