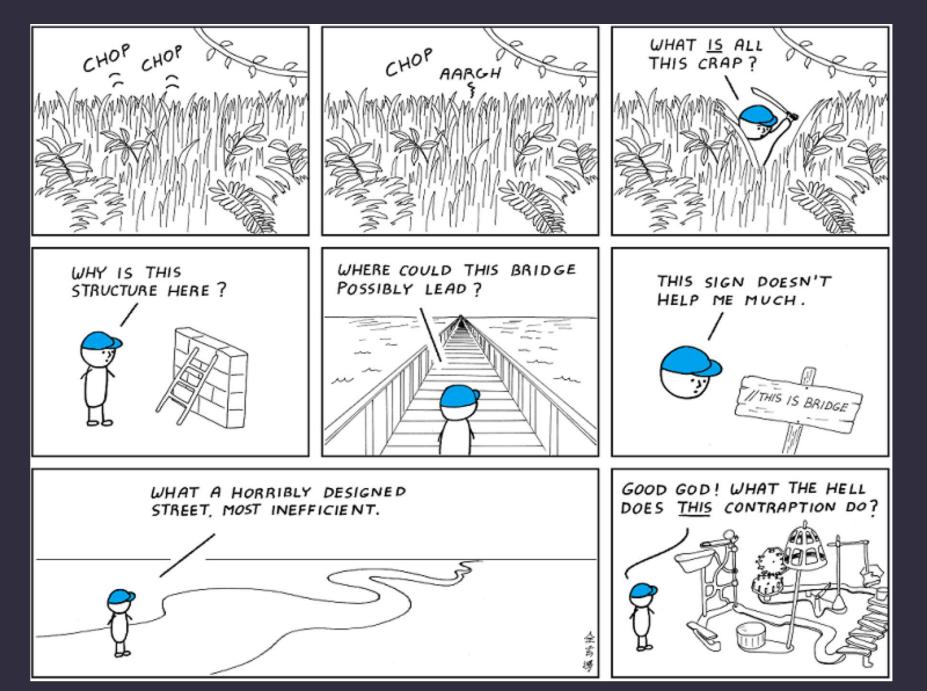
Clear Code

WRITE CODE THAT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND



Why write clear code?

- Easy to understand
- Makes bugs harder to hide
- Important for your collaborators!
- □ Future you is a frequent collaborator...
- Makes it easier to extend

- □ Looks professional: inspires trust
 - Encourages others to not start from scratch!
- Code clarity does not conflict with performance!
- Clear code is easier to reproduce and retrace

Naming: it's important!

□ Which of the two versions better conveys what the function does?

```
function get_them(b)
                                    function flaggedcells(gameboard)
    list = []
                                        flagged = []
    for x in b
                                        for cell in gameboard
        if x.status == 4
                                             if cell.status == FLAGGED
            push!(list, x)
                                                 push!(flagged, cell)
        end
                                             end
    end
                                        end
    return list
                                        return flagged
end
                                    end
```

- □ Code is identical and the operations are understandable in both cases
- □ But motivation, reasoning and outcome is much clearer in the right version!

□ Naming is crucial for conveying the story of what the code does!

Naming: brevity, or not?

- Use intention revealing names and avoid abstract/meaningless/1-char names
 - Bad: data, object, foo, baz, a, b, c, ...
 - People find concrete examples easier to follow than abstract examples
 - There is always something specific that better suits your case instead of a generic name
 - Always err on the side of clarity instead of brevity
- BUT! Brevity does have its place in...
 - "Dummy" variables which only have meaning within the code block they are defined (like i, j in the example)
 - Variables whose name is only meaningful in the caller, e.g., `mean(x)`. What is `x` is only known by whoever called the `mean` function. So, the source code of `mean` can just use a simple name like `x`

```
a, b, c = 1, 2, 3
bird speed = 3
days since creation = 1
for right index in 1:10
    for left index in 1:10
        m[left_index, right_index] = rand()
    end
end
# versus
for i in 1:10
    for j in 1:10
        m[i, j] = rand()
    end
end
```

Naming: brevity is almost always bad

- Besides being uninformative, brevity may also lead to too-similar names...
- □ Pop quiz: what do you think these variables represent? rsdt rsut rsus
 - rsdt = shortwave irradiance at the top of atmosphere, incoming
 - rsut = shortwave irradiance at the top of atmosphere, outgoing
 - rsus = shortwave irradiance at the surface, outgoing
- Avoid abbreviations: they rely on context the reader won't have
- Typing characters isn't a big deal! You will type the name only once but it will likely be read multiple times! Use long descriptive names!

- □ Too similar variable names may be silently confused or mistyped!
 - The above names are so similar that it is statistically certain that you will mistype one for the other: their Levenshtein distance is only 1 (basis of autocorrect algorithms)

Naming: Unicode

- □ New programming languages allow usage of Unicode characters in code
- Some advantages of Unicode:
 - Math expressions feel natural: $\psi_1 \otimes \psi_2$
 - Exactly write a paper formula in code
 - Define unique symbols that you use throughout your code base

```
cross(psi1, psi2) == \psi_1 \otimes \psi_2

\nabla \rho = gradient(\rho)

\langle \epsilon \star \rangle = \Gamma^*mean(\epsilon \star \rangle / \lambda

SW_TOA_\uparrow = upwards_toa_solar_radiation(data)

SW_TOA_\downarrow = downwards_toa_solar_radiation(data)

\alpha = SW_TOA_\uparrow/SW_TOA_\downarrow # surface albedo

const \Re = Real
```

- □ Some disadvantages of Unicode:
 - Hard to input Unicode in some environments, and some terminals cannot display Unicode
 - May be unclear what Unicode code to use, and some Unicode symbols look similar (α vs a)
 - Some Unicode symbols can be confused as operators (like the star here)
- □ My advice: use Unicode as much as possible except for function names









Naming: consistency

□ Linked to the "Pick One Word Per Concept" principle of the documentation block

- □ When referring to the same things but in different sections of the codebase, use the same names, as much as possible. Exactly the same.
 - E.g.: you are building a simulation framework that utilizes a key central data structure, called the "model". Name it `model` (or even better something more specific) in all functions that expect this as an input.
 - E.g.:You are building a data analysis that utilizes general spatiotemporal data (e.g., climate fields).
 Pick a name `F` and use the same `F` in all functions.
 - E.g.: You are building some physics framework for thermodynamic variables. Assign a specific name
 to each variable, and use the same names for all variables independently of where they are in your
 code base. When going for single-letter names `q, s, T, L`, have a "name table" in a central file.
- You'll be surprised how quickly your pattern recognition comes in when reading a codebase permeated by such consistency!

Example from Agents.jl

□ Two code concepts permeate the code base: the "agent" and the "model"

```
function add agent to model!(agent, model)
                                                      function move agent!(agent, pos, model)
    if haskey(agent_container(model), agent.id)
                                                          remove_agent_from_space!(agent, model)
        error("something")
                                                          agent.pos = pos
    else
                                                          add_agent_to_space!(agent, model)
        agent_container(model)[agent.id] = agent
                                                          return agent
    end
                                                      end
    maxid = getfield(model, :maxid)
                                                      function move agent!(agent, model)
    new id = agent.id
                                                          move_agent!(agent,
    if maxid[] < new_id; maxid[] = new_id; end</pre>
                                                              random_position(model), model
    extra_actions_after_add!(agent, model)
    return
                                                      end
end
                                                            Imagine the same source code with different
function nearby_ids(agent, model, r = 1; kwargs...)
    all = nearby_ids(agent.pos, model, r; kwargs...)
                                                            names for the agent and the model. Terrible?
    Iterators.filter(i -> i ≠ agent.id, all)
end
```

Example from Agents.jl

□ Two code concepts permeate the code base: the "agent" and the "model"

```
function add agent to model!(agent, model)
    if haskey(agent_container(model), agent.id)
        error("something")
    else
        agent container(model)[agent.id] = agent
    end
    maxid = getfield(model, :maxid)
    new id = agent.id
    if maxid[] < new id; maxid[] = new id; end</pre>
    extra_actions_after_add!(agent, model)
    return
end
function nearby ids(boid, abm, r = 1; kwargs...)
    all = nearby_ids(boid.pos, abm, r; kwargs...)
    Iterators.filter(i -> i ≠ abm.id, all)
end
```

Well, if not terrible, for sure *much worse*.

Naming: what to avoid

- Avoid misinformation!
 - Don't name a variable customer_vector if it is not a vector, but e.g. a dictionary
 - Don't name a variable customer_dict if it is the dictionary of employers
 - In fact, consider whether you need to convey the type of the object at all; often unnecessary
- □ Avoid constant literals
 - E.g., don't write "2020", write 'year = "2020" and use 'year'
 - Assign as many constant values to variable bindings as possible
 - Makes your code more generic and extendable!
- Avoid numeric suffixes: (agent1, agent2), (pos_1, pos_2)
 - Sometimes enumeration by integer is the most fitting, true, but...
 - But more often than not it isn't! The variables will likely have more meaningful separation
 - E.g.: (agent_junior, agent_senior), (position_old, position_new)

Naming: what to avoid

- Avoid "Hungarian notation" where name indicates the type, e.g., customer_dict, employers_vector
 - *if* the type is obvious from context
 - or if your programming language is typed, and hence allows specifying the type programmatically within the language

```
# `_dict` is useless here:
birthdays_dict = Dict{String, Date}()
birthdays = Dict{String, Date}()

in this example the type
shouldn't be specified at all,
but we'll learn why in block 3

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

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function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)

# __vector is better specified as type

function employer_birthdays(employer_vector)
```

□ Only exception is naming variables starting with `is_` or `has_` if they are Boolean

```
has_water = air_parcel.temperature < saturation_temperature(air_parcel)
is_prime = factors(number) == [1, number]</pre>
```

Naming: follow the language style

- □ In e.g., Julia or Python, the following convention for naming is used
- □ Functions and variables are lower case with possible underscores
 - example, example_with_long_name
- □ Types/Classes are camel case without underscores
 - Example, ExampleWithLongName
- Global constants are all capitals with possible underscores
 - EXAMPLE, EXAMPLE_WITH_LONG_NAME
- □ In Julia modules are CamelCase, in Python they are lowercase without underscore
- □ Following conventions = super cool
 - Meets existing expectations and conveys role of variables without necessarily reading all code
 - Not following conventions will confuse user or make them uncomfortable
 - e.g., using all capitals for a function name or using snake case (snakeCase) in Julia



Exercise: bad names

- □ We're providing the file badnames.jl. Try to figure out what the functions do.
 - Not so easy with bad names, huh?

Re-write the names of variables/functions to make the code easier to navigate and understand. Do not alter the code operations in any way! Only the names!

□ Max time: 10 minutes!

Functions: functional programming

- Functional programming is a paradigm particularly suited for scientific programming
 - This section blends the line between Block 2 and 3: clear code and software design!

- □ What is it?
 - 1. Your code is structured around functions
 - 2. Each function performs a single, specific task
 - 3. Functions are re-used throughout your code base
 - 4. Higher level functions are composed out of lower level functions
 - 5. Function names are a clear indication of what they do

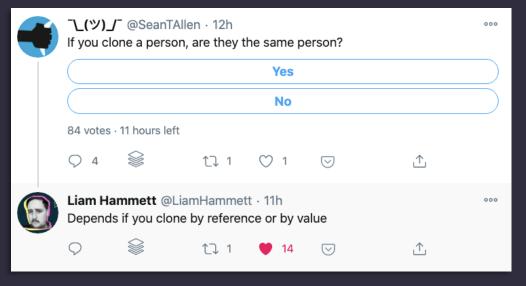
- □ Why? Re-usable, intuitive, allows for clear code, easy to extend and maintain
- □ Functional programming dramatically reduces code duplication

Functions: functional programming example

```
function load_sequence(id)
    download repo = nothing
    for repo in ALL_REPOS
        if id in repo.index
            download repo = repo
            break
        end
    end
    isnothing(download_repo) && error("No download")
    connect!(download repo.connection, id)
    protein_sq = download_sq(id, download_repo)
    for aacid in "BXZJOU"
        if aacid in protein_sq
            error("Invalid sequence")
        end
    end
    return protein sq
end
```

```
function load_sequence(id)
    repo = find_repo(id)
    protein_sq = download_sq(repo, id)
    validate(protein_sq)
    return protein_sq
end
```

Quick note: this only works when objects are passed **by reference**, **not by value**



Functions: size and level of abstraction

- □ Functions should be *short!* Pop quiz: how short?
- □ 3 to 100, with median 30!

- □ Functions should have 1 (or rarely 2) level of abstraction
 - Abstraction ≈ level of detail
 - Each abstraction layer incurs a parallel mental processing load
 - Less abstraction makes the functions cleaner, and outlines their use
 - Small functions make bugs easy to find and solve
 - Typically: extra indentation ≈ extra level

```
function load sequence(id)
    seq = download seq(id)
    complement map = Dict(
        'A' => 'T', 'T' => 'A',
        'C' => 'G', 'G' => 'C'
    complement = copy(seq)
    not recognized = 'N'
    for i in 1:length(complement)
        n = seq[i]
        complement[i] = get(complement map, n, not recognized)
    end
    cleaned seq = remove flaning n(complement)
    return cleaned seq
end
```

Pro tip: Duplicated code blocks across functions means you should be making them a function instead!

Functions: reducing size

□ An extra level of abstraction can be made into its own function

```
function complement sequence(seq)
                                             function load_sequence(id)
    complement_map = Dict(
                                                 seq = download_seq(id)
        'A' => 'T', 'T' => 'A',
                                                 icomplement = complement_sequence(seq);
        'C' => 'G', 'G' => 'C'
                                                 cleaned_seq = remove_flaning_n(complement)
                                                 return cleaned seq
    complement = copy(seq)
                                             end
    not recognized = 'N'
    for i in 1:length(complement)
        n = seq[i]
        complement[i] = get(complement map, n, not recognized)
    end
    return complement
end
```

Functions: reducing size

Validation/checking if-else blocks can be transformed into early returns by inverting the sequence of the if-else

- In realistic code several conditions may need to be checked; all can be brought to the start or be turned into a dedicated function.
- This trick means that the mental load of carrying an if-else around can be easily discarded when reading the actual function purpose!

Functions: purpose

- □ Functions should do one thing, and one thing **only**
- □ Also known as the <u>Single-Responsibility Principle</u>

- □ Possible "1-things" (non-exhaustive list):
 - Calculation of quantities
 - Plotting
 - Communication with outside world (global scope)
 - Job submission on a cluster

- Loading/reading data
- Processing data
- Search
- Question (true/false)
- □ If you have a function that does 2 or more of the above, you gotta split it up!
- □ This increases the *reusability* of functions and *decreases the bug risks*!

Functions: naming

- □ The name of a function is exceptionally important!
- Must convey the "one thing" the function does
 - Clearly, and without ambiguity!
 - Too long names, or not clear enough, are an indicator that the function doesn't do "one thing"
- Examples: lyapunovspectrum, nearby_agents, mutualinformation, ...
- □ Important: do not "shadow" functions
 - Which means: don't use names of existing functions, even in case of no conflict
 - E.g., `np.sort` and `plt.sort` and `mypackage.sort` are legitimate code due to namespace separation by the parent module
 - However this can be confusing to the reader (do the functions do the same thing?)
 - Instead, extend the base functions (e.g., via single/multiple dispatch) if they do the same thing,
 - Or define new ones whose name better reflects this different behavior

Functions: a bad example

- □ What is the side-effect here?
- How does the function violate the "1-thing" rule?

```
function check_authentification(
          username, password
)
   user = get_user(username)
   encoded = encode(password)
   if user.encoded_pass == encoded
        initialize_user_session()
        return true
   else
        return false
   end
end
```

□ What does "false" mean? Is the password false, is there a network error?

Functions: arguments

- □ Keep the number of arguments small: 0, 1, 2, 3. The fewer the better!
 - Each extra argument should be weighted carefully as it increases mental mapping when reading
- □ Make the non-crucial arguments either keywords, or passed in a container
 - A good example is plotting functions that use the keyword propagation technique
 - Another example are model parameters which are passed as a named container

```
function plot_field_cor(X, Y; kwargs...)
    z = spatial_cor(X, Y)
    color = maximum(z) > 10.0 ? "C0" : "C1"
    plot_field(z; color, kwargs...)
end

def plot_field_cor(x, y, **kwargs):
    z = spatial_cor(x, y)
    color = "C0" if z.max() > 10.0 else "C1"
    plot_field(x, y, color, **kwargs)

def plot_field(x, y, color = "C0", marker = "o"):
    # do the actual plotting
end

def plot_field(x, y, color = "C0", marker = "o"):
    # do the actual plotting
end

Python
```

Functions: main

 Define functions in a "main"-like setting, with the called functions being declared after the main function

- This is similar with how a scientific paper is structured
 - The model or main result is summarized
 - Everything is defined in more detail in later sections (e.g. "methods")
 - Also like with figures: a figure is only placed after it has been referenced once
- ☐ If your language doesn't allow this...
 - You are certainly using too old of a language

```
function load_sequence(id)
    seq = download seq(id)
    validate(seq)
    return seq
end
function download seq(id)
    # implementation
end
function validate(seq)
    # implementation
end
```

Exercise: legacy code → modern clean code

- Get the `eratosthenis_sieve` code (Julia and Python versions available)
 - Translate it verbatim to your language of choice if necessary

- Make it cleaner and more readable by:
 - 1. Using higher level syntax that your language provides (e.g., list comprehensions or broadcasting)
 - 2. Using functional programming and better naming
 - 3. Using functions from the standard library for e.g., counting or finding true elements

- What were the major changes you did?
- □ What comments did you have to use, if any?
- Max time: 20 minutes!

Comments

- "proper use of comments is to compensate for our failure to express ourselves in code"
 - Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship
- □ Problems with comments:
 - Comments are hard to maintain
 - Wrong comments are much worse than no comments
 - Comments are expressed in human language, not code language
 - There are better ways to document code in human language

□ Self-explanatory & simple code is superior to complicated but commented code

Bad Comments

- □ Bad comments should be avoided at all costs! Here are some examples:
 - redundant
 - misleading or incorrect
 - replacing proper code
- □ Don't comment out code:
 - E.g. fix bug or
 - Add a slightly modified version of an algorithm below the commented one
- □ Runnable but commented-out code leads to confusion!
- Comments in full capitals are distracting & flow-interrupting

```
# validate protein sequence
valid = validate_sequence(protein_seq)
```



```
!valid && error("Invalid")

toks = split(line)
# toks[5] contains the raw p-value,
# toks[6] the test number
adj_pval = calculate_adj_pval(toks[5], toks[6])

# versus:
raw pval = toks[5]; testnumber = toks[6]
```

adj_pval = calculate_adj_pval(raw_pval, testnumber)

True story: incredibly confusing comments

□ Trying to understand an old thermodynamic FORTRAN code base

```
subroutine function_name (sst,hx,qx,...)

real, intent (in) :: sst ! sea surface temperature
real, intent (in) :: hx ! liquid water static energy
real, intent (in) :: qx ! specific humidity

subroutine second_function_name(hx,qx,...)

real, intent (in) :: hx ! moist static energy
real, intent (in) :: qx ! water mixing ratio
```

I know these two variables are the same thing... But the comment makes me doubt the WHOLE REALITY.

This is similar to a comment saying one variable has X units in one function, and when passed to another function it has Y units, that are very similar, but not exactly the same, as X

Good Comments

- Warning of Consequences
- Explaining a Regex or other typically unfamiliar structures
- TODOs
- Justifying an operation that can only be known by knowledge of a specific paper
- Defining short-named variables in scripts
- Justifying a value choice

```
@test crazy = longtest(val)
genomic regex = r''([^:]+):(\d+)-(\d+)$"
# TODO: Generalize to higher dims
for i in 1:5
    stuff...
end
x = 5y^2 + 2
B = 5 # magnetic field (in Tesla)
V = 2.5 \# potential (in eV)
 "good value for peak detection & alignment"
 const PEAKW = 7
```

Best comments (?)

- □ It is nearly impossible to comment the actual behavior of code; only the intended
- □ High level intention-based description of code blocks = best comments
 - Also known as "Commenting Showing Intent", CSI
 - Comments describe what the following block of code intents on doing
 - These comments must be language agnostic
 - Such comments are always recommended to have!
 - Example: <u>partially predictable chaos source code</u> from DynamicalSystems.jl

□ HOWEVER!

- If you follow the good practices of this workshop, you will write very few CSI! Why...?
- In the majority of cases CSI actually become documentation strings! [block 5]
- Since each function has its own docstring, and functions are small, CSI are rarely needed
- In fact, it was surprisingly hard to find examples for this slide...
- (Obviously, sometimes you will have to write larger functions. There CSI are very helpful!)
- □ To make the case: solution of the Eratosthenis sieve exercise

Vertical Formatting: Files

Outside the file: group functionality logically into files and folders

□ Start script files with a description (comment) about what the file contains

```
#=
Styling file for the figures of the
velocity correlation paper.
=#
```

```
#=
This file defines functions that simply return all timeseries of velocity and timing from the different sources we have. E.g. PG13, Uwe recordings, Drum playalongs, drum tapping, etc.
Any extra options (like e.g. using only melody, etc.), are passed as keyword arguments.

All functions always return (mtds, vels)
=#
```

Put headers into logical sections of each source file

Vertical Formatting: Code

Inside the file:

Properly use blank lines, similarly with writing a paper

□ Everything in the same train of thought is cohesive, without blank lines

□ Blank lines separates complete thoughts (paragraphs)

Vertical Formatting: Code

achine-learning technology powers many aspects of modern society: from web searches to content filtering on social networks to recommendations on e-commerce websites, and it is increasingly present in consumer products such as cameras and smartphones. Machine-learning systems are used to identify objects in images, transcribe speech into text, match news items, posts or products with users' interests, and select relevant results of search. Increasingly, these applications make use of a class of techniques called deep learning.

Conventional machine-learning techniques were limited in their ability to process natural data in their raw form. For decades, constructing a pattern-recognition or machine-learning system required careful engineering and considerable domain expertise to design a feature extractor that transformed the raw data (such as the pixel values of an image) into a suitable internal representation or feature vector from which the learning subsystem, often a classifier, could detect or classify patterns in the input.

Representation learning is a set of methods that allows a machine to be fed with raw data and to automatically discover the representations needed for detection or classification. Deep-learning methods are representation-learning methods with multiple levels of representation, obtained by composing simple but non-linear modules that each transform the representation at one level (starting with the raw input) into a representation at a higher, slightly more abstract level. With the composition of enough such transformations, very complex functions can be learned. For classification tasks, higher layers of representation amplify aspects of the input that are important for discrimination and suppress irrelevant variations. An image, for example, comes in the form of an array of pixel values, and the learned features in the first layer of representation typically represent the presence or absence of edges at particular orientations and locations in the image. The second layer typically detects motifs by spotting particular arrangements of edges, regardless of small variations in the edge positions. The third layer may assemble motifs into larger combinations that correspond to parts of familiar objects, and subsequent layers would detect objects as combinations of these parts. The key aspect of deep learning is that these layers of features are not designed by human engineers: they are learned from data using a general-purpose learning procedure.

```
# we are done
3017
                  if isinstance(self.grouper, Grouping):
3018
                       self.grouper = self.grouper.grouper
3019
                   # no level passed
3020
                   elif not isinstance(self.grouper,
3021
                                       (Series, Index, ExtensionArray, np.ndarray)):
3023
                       if getattr(self.grouper, 'ndim', 1) != 1:
3024
                           t = self.name or str(type(self.grouper))
3025
                           raise ValueError("Grouper for '%s' not 1-dimensional" % t)
                       self.grouper = self.index.map(self.grouper)
3026
3027
                       if not (hasattr(self.grouper, "__len__") and
                               len(self.grouper) == len(self.index)):
3028
3029
                           errmsg = ('Grouper result violates len(labels) == '
                                     'len(data)\nresult: %s' %
3030
3031
                                     pprint_thing(self.grouper))
3032
                           self.grouper = None # Try for sanity
3033
                           raise AssertionError(errmsg)
3034
3035
               # if we have a date/time-like grouper, make sure that we have
               # Timestamps like
3036
              if getattr(self.grouper, 'dtype', None) is not None:
3037
3038
                   if is_datetime64_dtype(self.grouper):
3039
                       from pandas import to datetime
3040
                       self.grouper = to_datetime(self.grouper)
                  elif is_timedelta64_dtype(self.grouper):
                       from pandas import to_timedelta
3043
                       self.grouper = to_timedelta(self.grouper)
3044
```

Horizontal Formatting

- Lines should always have a maximum character length
 - 80, 88 or 92 are common guidelines, I use 92, but check your style guide

- □ Each new code block (for loops, functions, ...) introduces a new level of indentation
 - Use 4 spaces instead of 2 and never use TAB

When writing floating point literals, they should always include a leading and/or trailing zero if necessary

```
# Yes: # No:
0.1 .1
2.0 2.
3.0f0 3.f0
```

```
function flaggedcells(gameboard)
    → flagged = []
    for cell in gameboard
    → if cell.status == FLAGGED
          → push!(flagged, cell)
          end
        end
        return flagged
end
```

Spacebar: it's your friend!

- □ When to use white spaces (spacebar) is typically defined by the style guide.
- Strongly recommend to follow a style guide with spacebars everywhere!
 - All binary operators have enclosing white spaces, except of: *, ^, / (because of math syntax)
 - Spaces after any commas and semicolons (, ;)
 - Assignment (=) is always enclosed by spaces, keyword assignment depends on your style guide

```
b*b-4*a*c # no a=b&&(x.<y)/(z^2) # no b*b-4*a*c # yes! # a=b&&(x.<y)/(z^2) # yes! b*b-4*a*c # yes! # a=b&&(x.<y)/(z^2) # yes! f(x,y;z=3) # no! f(x,y;z=3) # depends on style, and typically preferred in Python!
```

You need your friends!

```
uhtraj,=ivp((ta,ua)->fxp(ua,yphet[3]),[uini[1],yphet[1]],[0,yphet[2]],N;
    output="trajectory")
ua0, conva=newton(x-\frac{1}{2}, phet0), [minimum(uhtraj>>1)])
ub0, convb=newton(x->fxp([x[1];0],phet0), [maximum(uhtraj>>1)])
evec(u,p,num)=
begin
    J=jacobian(ua->fxp(ua,p),[u[1],0])
    ev=eigen(J)
    iev=sortperm(real.(ev.values))
    vec=ev.vectors[:,num]
    vec=vec*sign(vec[2])/norm(vec)
    return vec
end
va0, vb0=evec(ua0, phet0, 1), evec(ub0, phet0, 2)
offset=1e-3
tguess=50
Nhet=300;
xmid=(ua0[1]+ub0[1])*0.5
M0=(t0,u0,p,sgn)->ivp((ta,ua)->fxp(ua,p),u0,[0,t0],Nhet,
    output="trajectory",stop=u->(u[1]-xmid)*sgn>0)
utha, tha=M0(-tguess, [ua0[1],0]+offset*va0, phet0,1)
```

this codeblock is *incredibly difficult to parse at a glance*. For two reasons: bad variable naming, but most importantly, the whole codeblock has only a single space bar in 753 characters (and that's the mandatory one after the return statement).......

It's like the words are mushed into each other; imagine trying to read a book without spaces. Doesn't make sense right? Well the same goes for code...!!!

Consistency above all

- □ So far: much advice on how to write clean code. Important to follow!
- Equally important: consistency across a file, then across a repo, then across an organization!
- Strongly recommended: follow a Style Guide and (if possible) incorporate an automated formatter for your code!
- □ Even more strongly recommended: agree with your co-developers on the style!

- □ A Julia recommendation:
 - https://github.com/domluna/JuliaFormatter.jl with https://github.com/SciML/SciMLStyle
- □ A Python recommendation:
 - https://github.com/psf/black

Your code → clear code

- 1. Clean up your mess code!
 - a. Establish good naming convections throughout your code's variables
 - b. Remove all bad comments and only leave good and necessary ones
- 2. Functional programming
 - a. Identify large functions in your code base
 - b. Separate functions into smaller chunks by making functions call other functions
 - c. Ensure all functions have one purpose
- 3. File organization
- a. Separate your code logically into folders and files
- b. Write a description for each file (comment at the top summarizing the file's contents)
- c. Provide a logical organization of the file's structure by grouping functions with similar/connected functionality in sections, each with its own header
- 4. At the end, add a new tag at this stage called "clear" (remember that all of these changes should be done via a branch + merge!)