FAQ for Quantlets or
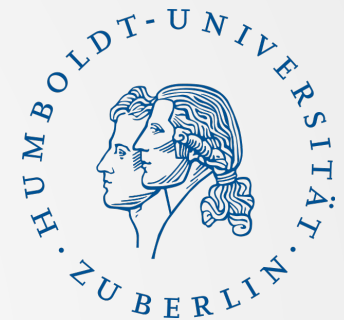# What could have gone wrong?!
(GitHub.com/Quantlet)

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IRTG 1792 High Dimensional Nonstationary
Time Series
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
hu.berlin/irtg1792

Warning

⊡ Dear Q users, please contact the Quantlet Team with questions regarding Quantlets **only after you carefully read the Quantlet Styleguide and this FAQ**. Thank you!

Please, read the FAQ first!

Outline

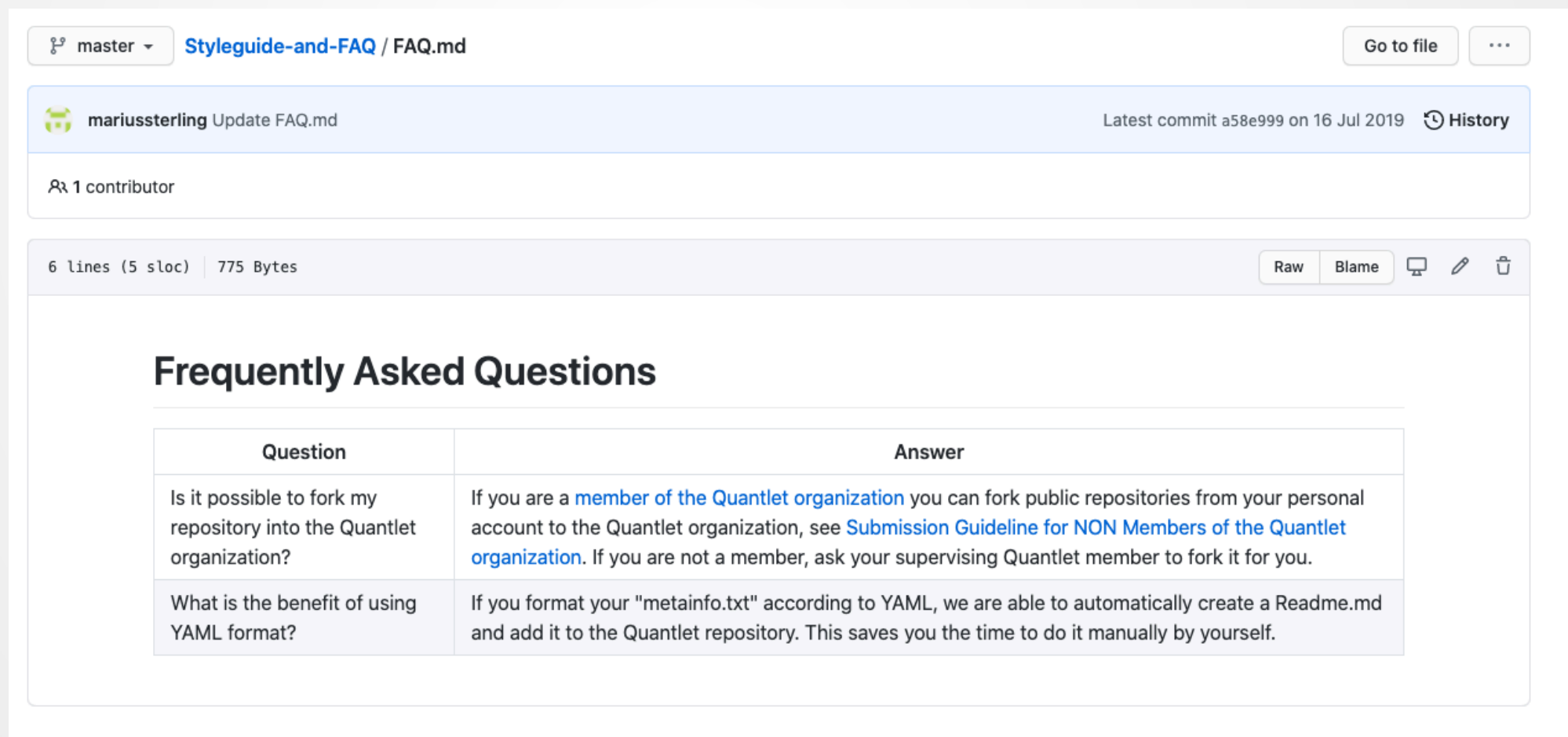1. What is this file for?

2. FAQ = Frequently Asked Questions

   ▶ What is a Quantlet in a first place?

   ▶ I uploaded all the Q files, but the README is still not created

   ▶ Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?

   ▶ I updated my Quantlet (the code, the images or the metainfo.txt) to my existing Quantlet but the README is not updated

   ▶ How can I check whether my Metainfo.txt is debuggable?

   ▶ Sometimes I see metainfo.txt and sometimes it is Metainfo.txt - is there a difference?

   ▶ Can I put additional fields to the metainfo.txt file?

3. Additional Information

1. What is this file for?

- ⊡ To improve and enhance the work between Q users and Q team
- ⊡ To an-ease the Q style usage
- ⊡ To improve Q style guide and mitigate the problem of repetitive questions

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Question to the audience: Why do we need all these Q rules?

What is a Quantlet in a first place?

When someone refers to „Quantlet", it could mean two things:

1. The whole Quantlet system - the quantlet.com page, the page where we depict our projects as a plot, and the GitHub repository where the respective code is stored.
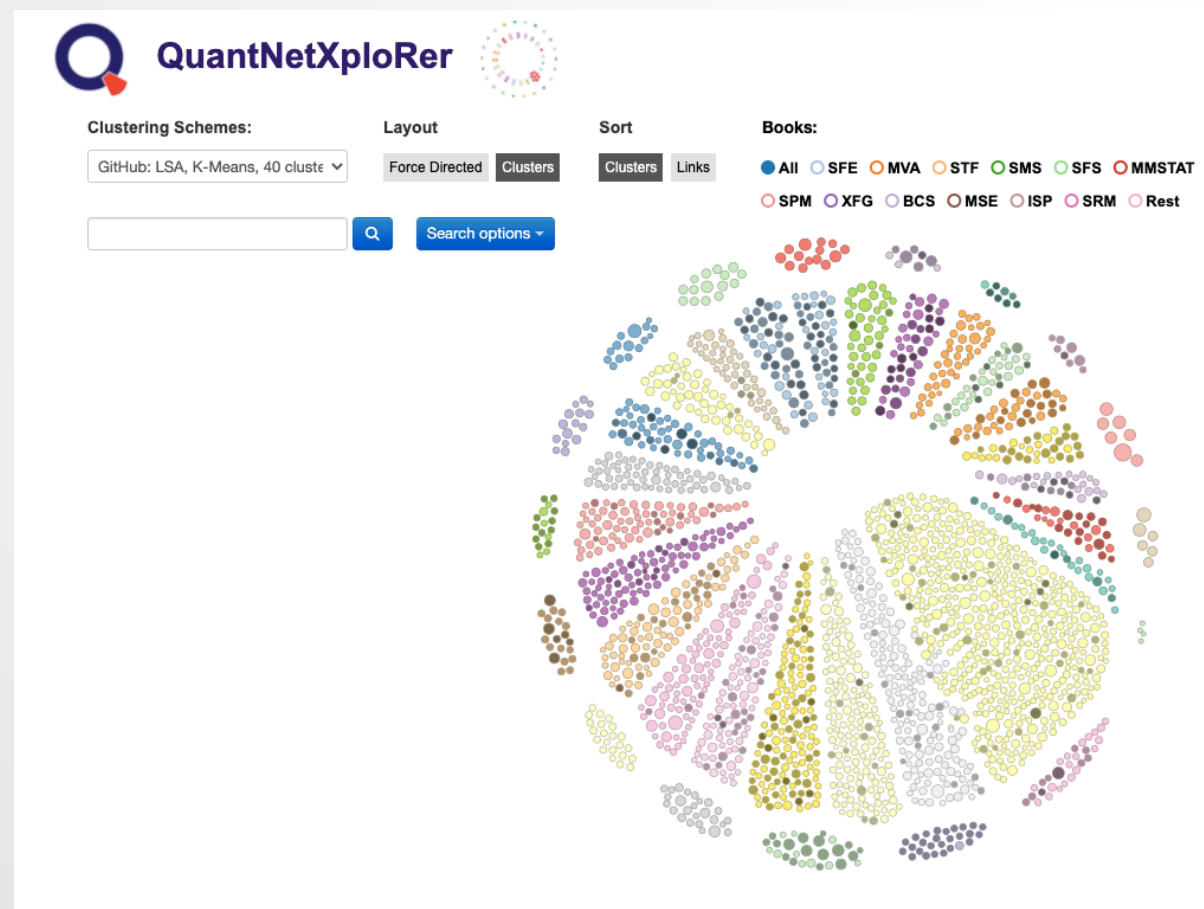
Yes, we call the whole website Quantlet

What is a Quantlet in a first place?

When someone refers to „Quantlet", it could mean two things:

2. On the already mentioned plot each semantically meaningful part of a project = Quantlet are clustered and indexed, so you can easily find the research you are interested in or similar research work.

I uploaded all the Q files, but the README is still not created

⊡ There are three the most frequent reasons why the README is not created:

1. Metainfo.txt does not contain all the **compulsory** fields: **Name of Quantlet**, **Published in, Description** (please use at least 10 words to describe what your program does), **Keywords** (at least 5 keywords), **Author** ⟶ if it is the case, please fill out these fields

I uploaded all the Q files, but the README is still not created

2. The field **Name of Quantlet** in the metainfo.txt and **the main code script** do not have the same name: by specifying the same name to the **Name of Quantlet** and the main code script (the most important code script*). So our program does not know, what coding file should be shown in the README file ⟶ see the next slide

*if you have multiple important code scripts, you either need to decide which is the most important, or it is a hint that you need to divide your Quantlet into multiple Quantlets. Where each one of these important coding scripts will be **the main code**

I uploaded all the Q files, but the README is still not created

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Please, rename your main script, so it has the same name, as the field **Name of Quantlet** in the metainfo.txt (or vice versa). The only difference is that the main code script will also have the file name extension in the end (.py .ipynb .r etc).

Example: the first row of your metainfo.txt contains: Name of the Quantlet: Super_Quantlet

So, the main code script should be called super_quantlet.py (or .ipynb, .r etc.)

I uploaded all the Q files, but the README is still not created

3. Your Metainfo.txt is *not debuggable*. First, what this means: your metainfo.txt is written in a YAML language (language commonly used to create configuration files); *Not debuggable* means, there is a mistake in the YAML syntax and the configuration file cannot be processed (we cannot automatically extract the information from the specified fields). Since these criterion might have multiple reasons, it was also divided into one section (Please see the next section Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable)

Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?

⊡ There are three the most frequent reasons why the your Metainfo.txt is not debuggable:

1. One of the fields contains additional quotation marks. As we remember from the Quantlet Styleguide:

> ▶ The colon ':' separates the data field (left) from its description (right).
> ▶ The dash '-' enumerates list items. Avoid them in text.
> ▶ Put texts in quotes (single or double), especially if the text is multiline or if special characters, e.g. ':', '-', '_', …, are used.

Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?

1. One of the fields contains additional quotation marks.

Please, wrap up your text into different quotation marks: if you use a single quote in the text, use a double quote to wrap up the text (or vice versa).

Example:

Before	After
Description: That's my super amazing Quantlet	Description: "That's my super amazing Quantlet"

Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?

2. You used a different sign to list the items

Please, use the dash/hyphen sign „-„ for listing the items.

Example:

Before	After

Keywords:
  + keyword 1
  + keyword 2
…
  + keyword 5
	Keywords:
	  - keyword 1
	  - keyword 2
	…
	  - keyword 5

Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?

2. The textual entrance is too long and you have not used any quotation marks to wrap it up. So YAML does not understand where is the end of the string. ⟶ Please wrap up your field entrance.

Example:

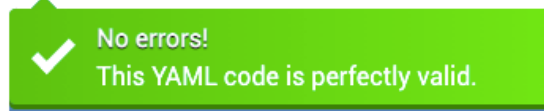| Before	After
Description: Imagine that this comment is super long	Description: "Imagine that this comment is super long"

I updated my Quantlet (the code, the images or the metainfo.txt) to my existing Quantlet but the README is not updated

⊡ As you could see in the styleguide:

⊡ The README file is automatically created for all Quantlets in the Github organisation.

▶ README files are not overwritten, thus not updated.

▶ If you need an updated README file, delete the README file, a new one is created automatically.

So if you changed your code, images or metainfo.txt and the README is not updated ⟶ Please, remove the old README file. The new one will be automatically created within a couple hours

How can I check whether my Metainfo.txt is debuggable?

⊡ There are online platforms, where you can check that your metainfo.txt can be processed by YAML, e.g.:

▶ http://www.yamllint.com/ (you just paste your code, press „go" and if the output is green   you are good to go)

Valid YAML!

▶ https://onlineyamltools.com/validate-yaml you just paste your code, press „go" and if the output is green

you are good to go)

No errors!
This YAML code is perfectly valid.

▶ If something is not correct, then you will receive a different output (most likely red) ⟶ Please consult the previous section "Why is my Metainfo.txt not debuggable?", until you get the green output

Sometimes I see metainfo.txt and sometimes it is Metainfo.txt - is there a difference?

☒ No, there is absolutely no difference, both are valid conventions for naming of the same file.

Can I put additional fields to the metainfo.txt file?

⊡ Yes, you can have as many fields as you want. And you can name them as you want. The important point is that you provide all mandatory fields. Otherwise, the README won't be generated automatically and the <u>quantlet.com</u> website won't be able to properly index your quantlet.

Additional Information

⊡ When you fill out the metainfo.txt field Keywords: please specify at least 5 keywords. Even though, the README still will be able to be compiled, we will not have enough information to do the clustering. And it could lead to the case that your Quantlet won't be indexed and found properly through the Quantlet website.

⊡ And again: Dear Q users, please contact the Quantlet Team with questions regarding Quantlets **only after you carefully read the Quantlet Styleguide and this FAQ**. Thank you!

Contact

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