Open source & data sharing

Or . . . how to stop worrying and leverage your research

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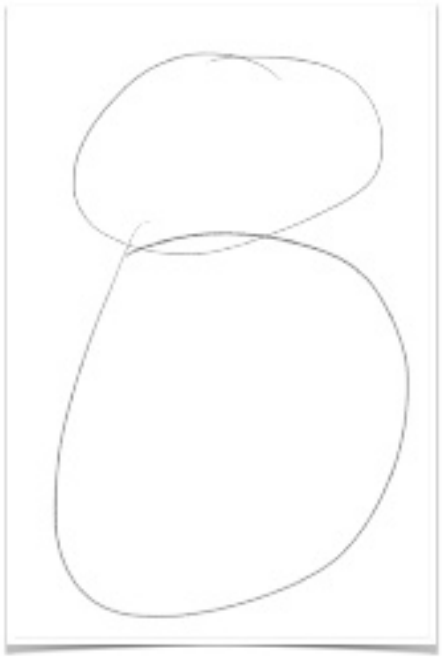
Open source—free as in beer, not in time!



1. Draw some circles

2. Draw the rest of the damn owl

@Koenighotze

What I advocate

To make available online and for anyone to access, assess, reuse & contribute to:

- All your data. And, if not possible
  - metadata
  - subset
  - simulated/scrambled data
- All text files, including scripts, figures, working paper

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So, why 'give' it away?

- The greater good: transparency & reproducibility
  - avoid "additional results available upon request"
- Private gains:
  - higher visibility (others will actually use your research)
  - incentives on working 'tidy'

How can I do that?

- Using a versioning system and an online platform
  - To share, distribute and cooperate on data
- Currently, Git and GitHub is the default (but Bitbucket, etc.)
- Complete version history with time stamps

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- You work on a piece (data) and using Git commit to your own local repository
- Then you push to an open online repository (GitHub)
- Which now serves as your (ugly) website as well
  - Actually people (well, me) blog using GitHub as a free server using Jekyll or Hugo (blogdown)

Applications for Git/GitHub

- GUI applications
  - GitHub desktop, GitKraken, ScourgeTree
- Built-in most proper editors:
  - Sublime, Emacs, Overleaf, RStudio, etc.
- Command line (most powerful, but . . .)

Package it!

Instead of just providing the data you can wrap it in an (R-)package

- give examples (vignettes) of the code and data
- data easier to read
- distribution again via CRAN or GitHub

Many R-packages contain (access) to economic data

- `AER` package—all applied econometrics textbook data (California test score data...)
- `IMFData`
- `wbstats`—World bank data