

Dynamic Documents

Aleksandr Michuda

Center for Data Science for Enterprise and Society, Cornell University

Before We Begin

- ▶ Take-home Exam
- ▶ We will start presentation soon!

Why Dynamic Documents?

Dynamic Documents are a part of the bigger picture of Reproducible Science. Sure, there is a fixed cost; **BUT**, they make my life easier in these ways:

- ▶ Short term: Easier to document fresh out of the oven results
- ▶ Medium term: Fast, reliable and tractable new results
- ▶ Long term: You can see how everything was created

What are Dynamic Documents?

Based on principles of literate programming, we aim at combining code and paper in one single document

- ▶ Best framework to achieve the holy grail of one-click reproducible workflow
- ▶ Best implementations: Quarto.

The State of Things Now

Currently, the code and the narrative components live in separate universes

Part of Larger Workflow

- ▶ Dynamic documents are best used as part of a larger organized workflow
 - ▶ Structuring folders: Data, analysis, output
 - ▶ Documenting code
 - ▶ Combining both into a final document: Pre analysis or final paper
- ▶ We have already been using jupyter notebooks, but what if you want to turn that notebook into a publishable format for sharing or even submission?

Using Markdown

- ▶ In terms of writing the “paper”/documentation part of dynamic documents, there are many solutions
 - ▶ Latex, HTML, RST (ReStructured Text)
- ▶ But most have honed in on using Markdown
 - ▶ Markdown is an easy way to write formatted text in a plain text format
 - ▶ But without as verbose and difficult of a syntax like latex/HTML
- ▶ Although basic markdown has the basics for formatting, creating tables, adding figures
- ▶ We will use Pandoc, which is used in both the Stata and R sessions

What is Pandoc?

- ▶ Pandoc is sort of what it says: pan (all), doc (document)
- ▶ It's a way to convert between and across different file formats
 - ▶ Word -> HTML
 - ▶ Latex -> Markdown
 - ▶ HTML -> XML
 - ▶ Anything to anything
- ▶ See Pandoc's website for all input and output filetypes

The Magic of Pandoc

- ▶ Pandoc and Markdown allows you to create one file that can then be used in many different places
- ▶ Example:
 - ▶ You're writing your CV and want to put it up in various places.
 - ▶ Your website needs HTML
 - ▶ One job posting allows PDF
 - ▶ One job posting only allows Word
- ▶ Ordinarily, you would need to have three versions, Word, HTML, PDF
 - ▶ This might get unruly as you change one but forget to change the other
 - ▶ What if there's another file format you might need?
- ▶ With Pandoc and markdown, you would:
 - ▶ write your CV in markdown
 - ▶ convert to PDF, Word and PDF with pandoc

Quarto

- ▶ Quarto is the successor or RMarkdown, a very powerful dynamic document software developed for RStudio
- ▶ Now it also applies to jupyter notebooks and allows for creating nice documents from the notebooks you create!
- ▶ Dynamic documents usually have a `yaml` header at the top, that defines global options
 - ▶ We will talk about three special types of `yaml` options in Quarto:
 - ▶ output type
 - ▶ hiding code or output
 - ▶ execution options

What is YAML?

- ▶ YAML is a very basic language created by Ansible (I think?) to define options for its software in a way that didn't require lots of coding.

title: "Toward a Unified Theory of High-Energy Metaphysics"

date: 2008-02-29

author:

- name: Josiah Carberry

- id: jc

- orcid: 0000-0002-1825-0097

- email: josiah@psychoceramics.org

- affiliation:

- name: Brown University

- city: Providence

- state: RI

- url: www.brown.edu

abstract: >

The characteristic theme of the works of Stone is

YAML

- ▶ But the basic thing you need in order to get the paper is:

```
---
```

```
title: My paper
```

```
author: Aleksandr Michuda
```

```
---
```

Preview of what we will talk about

- ▶ Quarto is VERY expansive, you can write websites, books or dissertations with it
 - ▶ All with jupyter notebooks
- ▶ Today, we will focus on the basics that you will need if you wanted to write paper using a jupyter notebooks:
 1. Tables
 2. Figures
 3. Cross-references
 4. Citations

Tables

- ▶ You can create tables easily in three ways:
 - ▶ Create your own markdown table (Not dynamic)
 - ▶ Put in a latex table directly (Not dynamic)
 - ▶ Generate a table from code (Dynamic)

Table 1: Demonstration of pipe table syntax

Default	Left	Right	Center
12	12	12	12
123	123	123	123
1	1	1	1

Table 2: copy-pasted table

	A	B	C	D
0	1.764052	0.400157	0.978738	2.240893
1	1.867558	-0.977278	0.950088	-0.151357
2	-0.103219	0.410599	0.144044	1.454274

Figures

- ▶ You can add figures that are generated or from a folder
- ▶ It's like figures markdown but with more options

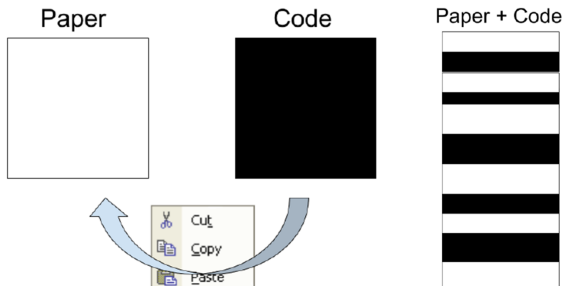
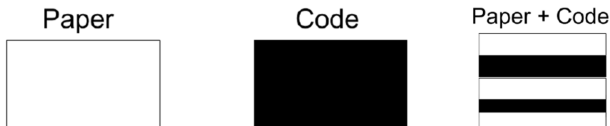


Figure 1: My figure 1, width 300



Cross References

- ▶ To reference a figure, table or section, just use its label!
- ▶ See Table 3
- ▶ See Figure 4
- ▶ See Section ??

Citations and Footnotes

- ▶ For citations, You can use a standard bibtex file, just specify it in the YAML

```
---  
bibliography: references.bib  
---
```

- ▶ See Gupta et al. (2021) ¹
- ▶ This is true (Gupta et al. 2021).

¹This is footnote.

References

Gupta, Anubhab, Heng Zhu, Miki Khanh Doan, Aleksandr Michuda, and Binoy Majumder. 2021. "Economic Impacts of the COVID- 19 Lockdown in a Remittance-Dependent Region." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 103 (2): 466–85.