

(Digital) Reproducible Science

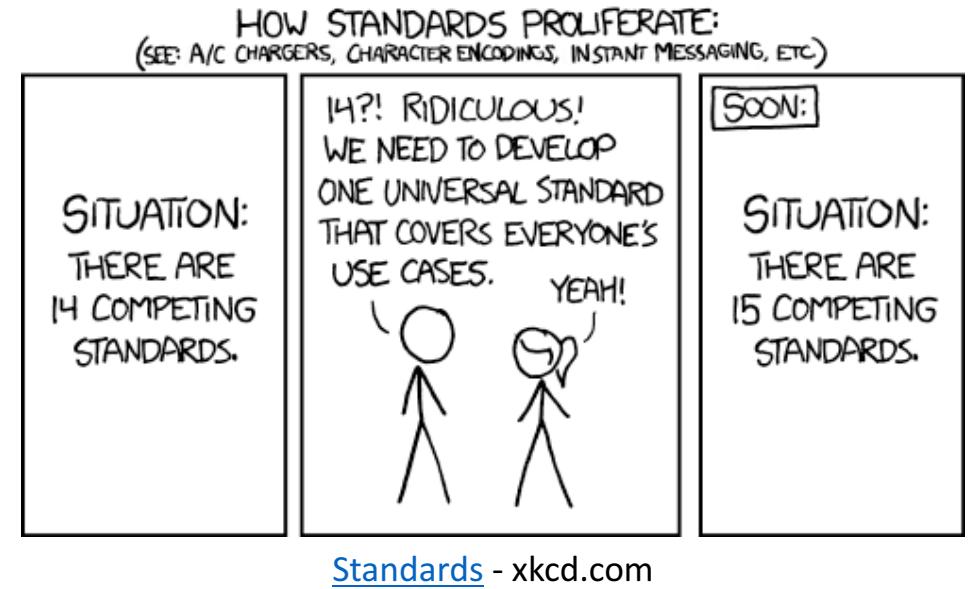
Fall 2019

Joseph Gum

Quiz time!

- What is a repository?
 - Differences between code and data repositories?
- Who do you turn in your data/results to?
 - Is your code publicly accessible?
- Name a version control software (VCS)
- What is a branch in git?
- What is a package in Python?

- Have you had trouble running code from others, or sharing your code?
- Is interoperability important to you?
 - Do you feel there are too many standards to understand?



(Oceanography) Data Stewards Salad

- [ESIP](#)
- [RDA](#)
- [EarthCube](#)
- [FAIR](#)
- [Ocean Best Practices](#)
- [DataONE](#)
- [IEDA](#)
- [Force11](#)
- And so on...



An Opinion of Two Cities: Science and Software

- Science focused:
 - Three “R”s of Science - Repeatability, Replicability, Reproducibility
 - *Reproducibility and Replicability in Science*, 2019
 - The Replication Crisis in Science
 - Solving the Sharing of Software and Data
 - FAIR principles
 - Data centers/repositories
 - Methods repository - Ocean Best Practices
- Software focused:
 - Community Decisions in Oceanography
 - Working environment: package managers, virtualization
 - Online interactive notebooks: Binder
 - Version control: git, Github
 - Code readability: formatters
 - Code readability part 2: docstrings/comments, autodocs
 - Variable names and standard vocabularies
 - Advanced software engineering
 - Licensing code and data
 - DOIs for code and data

Reproducible Science: Making Reproducible Experiments Possible

Three “R”s of Science

- **Repeatability:** **Same** team, **same** experimental setup
 - **Replicability:** **Different** team, **same** experimental setup
 - **Reproducibility:** **Different** team, **different** experimental setup
-
- **Methods reproducibility:** provide sufficient detail about procedures and data so that the same procedures could be exactly repeated.
 - **Results reproducibility:** obtain the same results from an independent study with procedures as closely matched to the original study as possible.
 - **Inferential reproducibility:** draw the same conclusions from either an independent replication of a study or a reanalysis of the original study.

Reproducibility and Replicability in Science, 2019

- Recently released report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, commissioned by Congress/NSF
- “prompted by concerns about the reproducibility and replicability of scientific research”
- Recommendations on what scientists, funders, journals/conferences, institutions should do in the future
- Recommendations:
 - 6-3: Funding open-source, useable tools and infrastructure for reproducibility
 - 6-5: NSF recommendations related to repositories
 - 6-7: Journals and societies set progressive 3R policies for submissions

The Replication Crisis in Science

- Not just social and life sciences!
- [Resplandy et al., 2018](#) – “Quantification of ocean heat uptake from changes in atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ composition”
 - Data is available, attempting to come up with similar numbers falls short in original paper as noticed by a climate change skeptic
 - A problem of [propagated errors](#)
- As science uses more moving parts, especially code, how can we ease the burden of fulfilling all of these dependencies?
 - Use software to ensure everyone uses the latest scientific conclusions?
 - Automatic updating of libraries?

Solving the Sharing of Software and Data

- What level of replicability is needed for software and data?
 - Loose code – search for a researcher's personal website, hope the links are current and code installs neatly with minimal emails/forum searches?
 - Packaging –package manager, data centers?
 - System image – just boot up an image that contains everything you need?
- Are current scientific best practices being followed?
 - Are the best science practices of the day being followed? Or are outdated libraries being used with ad-hoc fixes to make them current?
- What is the minimum level of fuss a user should expect to encounter?
 - Language expert? No experience required?

FAIR Principles

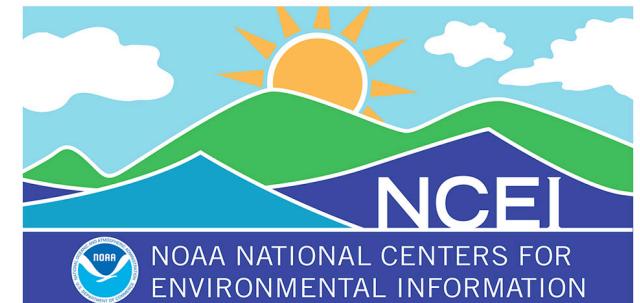
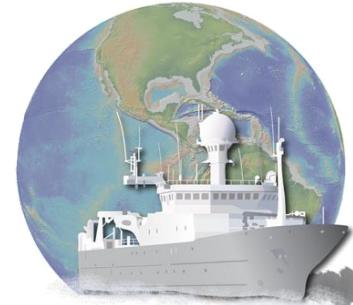
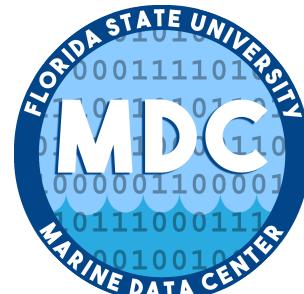


- Make data easier to use: “guidelines to improve the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reuse of digital assets”
- **What does FAIR mean?**
 - **Findable**
 - **Accessible**
 - **Interoperable**
 - **Reusable**
- “Is your data FAIR?” vs “Does your data follow FAIR virtues?”
 - Absolutes versus relatives – start with the relatives

Data Centers/Repositories



- Data centers are paid to make your data available – talk to us!
 - (It's also a requirement of your grant to submit your data)
- Use our libraries to read our data holdings, or ask us to make them
 - Feel free to contribute too!



Repository of Methods – Ocean Best Practices

- DOIs for manuals and handbooks
 - How to do fieldwork, make models, etc.
- UNESCO/IOC project
- Internationally agreed upon methods...
 - ...and publically submitted methods



<https://www.oceanbestpractices.org/>

Reproducible Software: Opinionated Practices with Python

Why spend effort for reproducibility?

- Faster deployment of code
- Faster understanding of code
- Easier extension of code
- It's good for you and the community!

How can we measure reproducibility?

- Read more than write – can you read it one month, year from now?
- New installs over current- can you install it one month, year from now?
- Code brittleness – can you extend it one month, year from now?

Lets see what some people have said about software, data before:

The ~dangers~ of big data

- Data may be hosted in several different places, which is a waste of resources
- Reproducibility of published analyses:
 - If code isn't readable it is difficult to check
 - Code is often written in proprietary languages
- Data may be used without understanding it or updating it (QC status)
- Where should this data be hosted? Who should maintain it?

PODS-DISCO
2018, Hawaii



How should we organize and share our datasets?

Access and reproducibility are key!

Projects like BCO-DMO and Earthcube are creating standards and improving access



Coding standards are important for sharing and reproducibility (IPython/Jupyter notebook/Github)



How can we discover the relationships in large multi-instrument data streams? How can we relate data collected from new technology to old data?

How to encourage scientists to participate?

Requirements by journals and funding bodies
Building community and tools to keep data sustainable
Are there non-science funding resources to facilitate this? Creating positions such as "Information Officer"

PODS-DISCO
2018, Hawaii

How do we standardize our coding practices?

- “Opinionated” guidelines – [PEP-20](#), “This is the way we are doing things”
- More people following the same opinionated practices – easier to share code!
- Software tools to help write opinionated Python
 - Conda/Conda-forge
 - Black
 - isort (non-notebooks, production code)
- Software tools to help facilitate opinionated Python
 - Git/Github
 - Binder
 - Sphinx (numpy docstrings)
- Science decisions made by communities
 - netCDF-CF
 - Pangeo

Community Decisions - Oceanography

- Formats: NetCDF (as opposed to CDF)
 - Backends: [HDF5](#), NetCDF3, [zarr](#) (cloud native, coming soon™!)
- Formats: ASCII/CSV (old)
 - Easier for initial view, quickly lacking flexibility and metadata
- Standard Vocabularies
 - Regulated vocabularies with strict definitions
 - Propose new names, pass committee approval
 - [CF](#) – Physical parameters
 - [BODC](#) lists – Biogeochemical parameters
- Cloud: [Pangeo](#)
 - Standardizing environments to make it easier to run code



unidata



Working environments

- Simplify installing and setting up an environment to run code
- Compartmentalization makes it easier to prevent unforseen mixing that leads to problems
- Package manager:
 - [Conda](#) + [conda-forge](#): easier installation of dependencies, environments
 - Pip: standard Python tool; if all of your packages are in there, fine! (probably not)
- Virtualization:
 - Conda provides virtual environments like `virtualenv`
 - [Docker](#), other tools are good for deployment



Binder



- A platform for making notebooks runnable online
 - Plug-in to Github
 - Google has a similar platform called Colab
- Allow others to experiment with your code before downloading
- Make DOI notebooks runnable

A screenshot of a GitHub repository page for a project named "Python environment with requirements.txt". The page shows a list of files: index.ipynb, requirements.txt, and runtime.txt. Below the files is a "README.md" section containing the following text:

Python environment with requirements.txt

[launch binder](#)

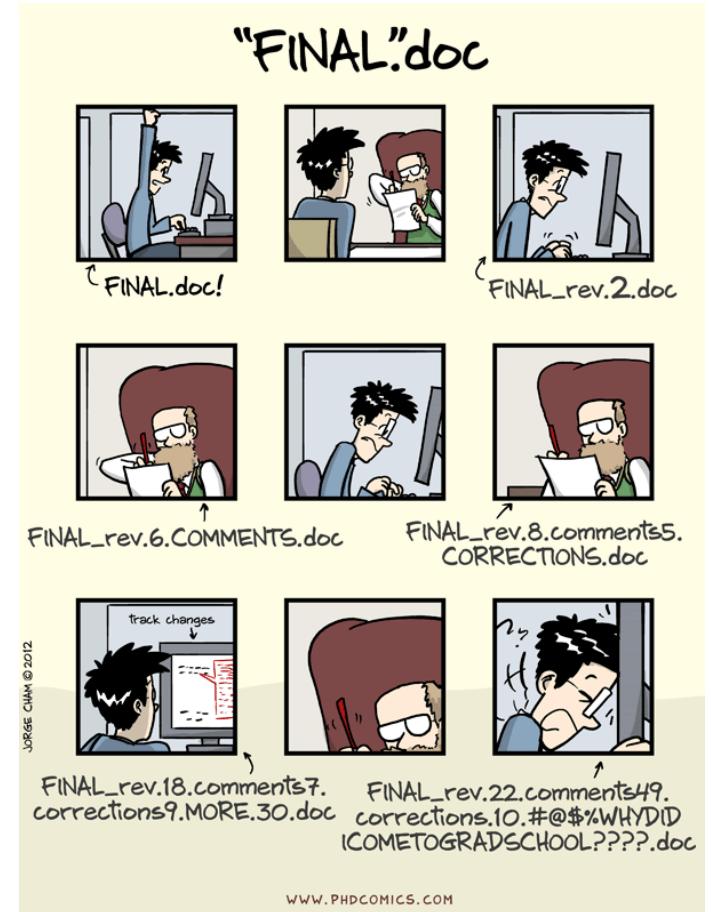
A Binder-compatible repo with a `requirements.txt` file.

Access this Binder at the following URL

<http://mybinder.org/v2/gh/binder-examples/requirements/master>

Version Control: git, Github

- Easier to keep track of yours/others changes
- Remote copies as failsafes in case of computer failure – but not a replacement for backups
- Commits should be “atomic”
 - Commits are fully formed, not half-done
 - Related edits are grouped into a single commit
 - Commits are small (one change) and often
- Use branches to try new ideas without polluting the master
- Want more [git tutorials?](#)
- [Github](#) – one of many places hosting code repos



"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com



Code Formatting

- [Black](#): “The Uncompromising Code Formatter”
- [isort](#): Sort and trim imports; for production code, not notebooks

```
# in:

def very_important_function(template: str, *variables, file: os.PathLike, engine: str, header: bool = True
    """Applies `variables` to the `template` and writes to `file`."""
    with open(file, 'w') as f:
        ...

# out:

def very_important_function(
    template: str,
    *variables,
    file: os.PathLike,
    engine: str,
    header: bool = True,
    debug: bool = False,
):
    """Applies `variables` to the `template` and writes to `file`."""
    with open(file, "w") as f:
        ...
```

Code Readability part 2: comments and autodocs

- Docstrings: format for writing documentation in Python
- Flavors: [Numpy](#), [Google](#)
 - Use **numpy** for your projects!
- Document/Autodocs: [Sphinx](#)
 - Automatically generate code documentation
 - Make html, latex, pdf, plain text, etc.
 - Use with [Read the Docs](#) for free hosting



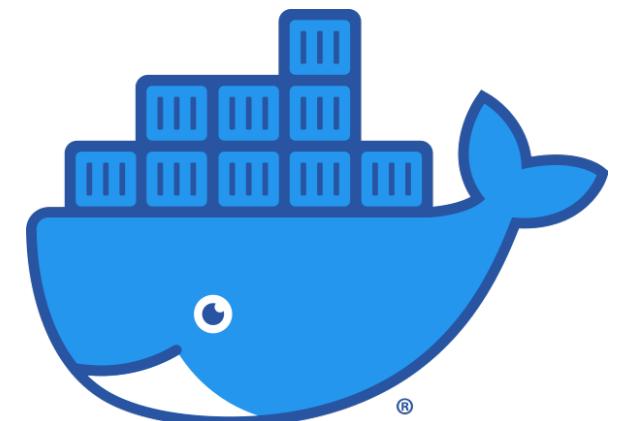
```
class Photo(ndarray):  
    """  
    Array with associated photographic information.  
  
    ...  
  
    Attributes  
    -----  
    exposure : float  
        Exposure in seconds.  
  
    Methods  
    -----  
    colorspace(c='rgb')  
        Represent the photo in the given colorspace.  
    gamma(n=1.0)  
        Change the photo's gamma exposure.  
    """
```

Code readability – variable names

- Context is important
 - Internal functions vs public API vs data products?
 - Equations implemented in code can make sense to use shorter names
- Variable names
 - Temperature: temperature, temp, tmp, T, [sea water temperature](#), [sea surface skin temperature](#), [TEMPP681](#), [TMESOT01](#)
- Those names in blue are from standard vocabularies
 - Controlled, publically available, names added after proposal process
 - Group Examples: [CF](#), [SeaVox](#), [BODC](#)
- Someone should write a tool that checks files and converts to standard vocabulary names?

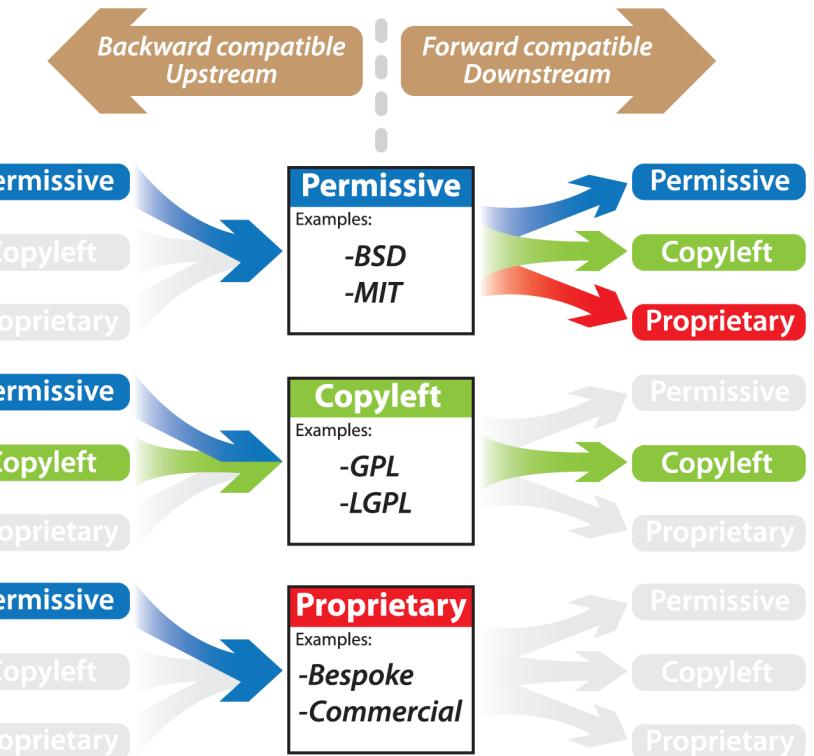
Advanced Software Engineering

- Python language power features:
 - Decorators, factories, list comprehensions, etc.
- APIs
 - Data: JSON, YAML, XML, REST, SOAP, etc.
- Packaging
 - Version schemes
- Continuous Integration (CI)
 - Special mention: [Pre-commit](#)
- Tests
 - Unit, system/holistic
- Images/Containers
- “Better is the enemy of good”



Licensing Code and Datasets

- Tool to help you choose:
<https://choosealicense.com/>
 - Software: MIT, BSD
 - Data: CC
- USA federal government data licenses:
ODC, CC, GNU (Federal only)
- Publicly funded data must be open access, data centers may license holdings
- If no license is stated, a proprietary license is assumed - “all rights reserved”



doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002598.g002>

DOIs for Fun and Profit: Pt. 1



- DOI – Digital Object Identifier, can be made by many organizations
 - Your institution may do so, but you don't need to use them
 - Zenodo is broadly available for all
- Making DOIs for code
 - <https://guides.github.com/activities/citable-code/>
- Making DOIs for data
 - <https://www.zenodo.org/>
 - Your institution may be able to [make DOIs](#)



DOIs for Fun and Profit: Pt. 2



- Citing DOIs:
 - Zenodo: lets look at [10.5281/zenodo.1256998](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1256998)
 - Choose citation style
 - Online tool: <https://citation.crosscite.org/>
 - 10.7942/C2008W, "american-geophysical-union", "en-US"
- These tools depend on the DOI fields being filled out properly, so you don't have to manually form them
 - Otherwise, follow recommended style

Questions?

Want the slides? (DOI coming)

<https://github.com/asx-/reproducible-science>

Appendix A: Python Libraries You Might Not Be Using But Should

- Official Standard Libraries
 - [Exceptions](#) – Catch warnings and errors and not fail
 - [Logging](#) – Put logs out to files, different priority levels instead of print statements
 - [Pathlib](#) – Current and easy way of interacting with paths
 - [Pdb](#) – Python debugger
- Community Standard Libraries
 - [Pytest](#) – Testing framework
 - [SciPy](#) Stack – basic tools for scientific computing
 - Plotting – [Cartopy](#), [Holoviews](#), [Matplotlib](#)
 - Cloud Data – [xarray](#), [dask](#), [zarr](#)
 - (Bonus) [NumFOCUS](#) – Foundation that funds a number of science focused Python projects and other software

Appendix B: Resources for improving (digital) reproducible science

- Carpentries Project
 - Software
 - Data
- OceanHackWeek
 - 2018, 2019

Appendix C: Arguments for Open Source

- Open Source means open to collaboration, distributed efforts:
 - New opportunities for unknown collaborators to join
 - Distributed costs – instead of one project funding 1 FTE, 4 projects funding 0.3 FTEs
 - Redundancy in maintenance – One person on holiday, retiring, etc. does not bring the entire project down
 - Easier hiring – pay other maintainers to add new features, find other developers working on similar projects able to add to the software, find private industry programmers to help more easily -
<https://science.mozilla.org/projects>
 - Journals and repositories are moving towards mandated shared code and data – move ahead of the curve early

Appendix D: Shiny is to R as ??? is to Python?

- Quickly turn Python code into a web dashboard
- Streamlit - <https://streamlit.io/docs/index.html>
- Dash - <https://dash.plot.ly/introduction>