Computational Reproducibility (Research Reproducibility in Theory and Practice, Day 3, FSCI2021)

Daniel S. Katz d.katz@ieee.org, @danielskatz

Slides and examples are in https://bit.ly/CompRepro



NCSA | National Center for Supercomputing Applications



Exercise

- Take a look at this dataset: https://osf.io/z274d/
- Download it via: https://osf.io/z274d/download
- Contains demographic data: tab-separated with a header row
- Using this data, create a graph that shows life expectancy in Canada between 1980 and 2000
- Write down how you did it, and give it to someone else, then ask them to reproduce it

```
year poplifeexp gdppercap country continent
1952 8425333 28.801779.4453145 afghanistan asia
1957 9240934 30.332820.8530296 afghanistan asia
...
```



Goals

- Reproducibility
- Of what?
 - Papers, results, figures
- By whom?
 - Future you, someone else knowledgeable in your field, anyone else
- When?
 - Tomorrow, six months, 5 years, 50 years
- How much?
 - Close enough (you decide what this means), not necessarily all the bits
 - Plausible vs. practical



Defining R* - terms

- Reproducibility, Replicability, Repeatability, etc.
- Confusing terms see <u>"Replicability vs. reproducibility or is it the other way around?" (blog)</u> and <u>"Reproducibility vs. Replicability: A Brief History of a Confused Terminology" (paper)</u> for some discussion
- Maybe these are getting to be more standardized? But still, define what you mean!

| Goodman | Claerbout | ACM (2020+) | AMC (2020-) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Repeatability | Repeatability |
| Methods Reproducibility | Reproducibility | Reproducibility | Replicability |
| Results Reproducibility | Replicability | Replicability | Reproducibility |
| Inferential Reproducibility | | | |

Goodman, S. N., Fanelli, D., and Ioannidis, J. P. A. (2016). <u>What does research reproducibility mean?</u> *Sci. Transl. Med.*8:341ps12. Claerbout, J. F., and Karrenbach, M. (1992). <u>Electronic documents give reproducible research a new meaning</u>. *SEG Expanded Abstracts* 11, 601–604. Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) (2020). <u>Artifact Review and Badging (Version 1.1)</u>.



Context: data science

- Organize and analyze large (or small) data sets to learn from them
 - Steps: capture/acquire, organize, process, analyze, communicate
- Examples
 - How fast are stars moving away from us, and how does this vary with their distance?
 - Which credit card transactions are fraudulent?
 - What does this German document say in English? What does this recording of someone speaking Spanish say?
 - Which patient scans contain tumors?
 - Who's going to win the election?
 - If a patient has these symptoms, what disease do they have?
 - What treatment is best for this particular patient?
- Relevant: statistics, preregistration (declare your hypothesis before doing your analysis), random studies, false
 positives/negatives, sample size, confidence, power
- Typical outputs: data, tools and methods (algorithms, models, software), conclusions (understanding data)



Context: computational science

- Modeling or simulating a (physical) process in a predictive way, often using one or more equations
- Examples, simulation or analysis of:
 - Atmospheric or oceanic circulation, coupled together with other physical processes into a climate simulation
 - The interactions of atoms in one or more molecules (drug design)
 - The atoms and forces in a material (material design)
 - Engineering analysis of the stress or deformation of a structure under some load (mechanical engineering)
 - Electrical signals in a circuit board or a set of synapses (electrical engineering or neuroscience)
 - Microwaves focused on a breast tumor (patient-specific medicine)
- Often called computational science & engineering (CSE)
- Relevant: mathematics, error bounds
- Typical outputs: algorithm, method, software, conclusions (understanding processes)



Computational reproducibility principles

- 1. Provide structure
- 2. Control the source & changes
- 3. Use notebooks to explain and document
- 4. Automate steps
- 5. Automate everything
- 6. Capture the environment
- 7. Provide a license & make citable



First thing – get a terminal

- On a Mac
 - Click the Launchpad icon in the Dock, type Terminal in the search field, then click Terminal.
 - In the Finder , open the /Applications/Utilities folder, then double-click Terminal.
- On Windows
 - Open your computer's Start menu. Click the Windows ☐ icon on the bottom-left corner of your desktop or press the ☐ Win key on your keyboard
 - Type cmd or Command Prompt. After opening the Start menu, type this on your keyboard to search the menu items. Command Prompt will show up as the top result.
 - Click the Command Prompt app on the menu. This will open the Command Prompt terminal in a new window.
- Using Binder
 - Go to https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on
 - Once binder starts the repo, use "New" -> "Terminal" to get a terminal



Principle 1 – Provide structure

- Use directories for different things, all inside a project directory, with a top-level readme and license
 - E.g., data, docs, models, notebooks, references, reports, src (for Python data science, <u>Cookiecutter Data Science</u> is an example)
- Use relative paths, so that you can move and share
 - (../data/file.dat)
- Use names that have meaning (and avoid using "final")
 - 00-dsk-data_acquisition.py

```
My_project
|--data
|--docs
```

--notebooks

--references

--reports

--src



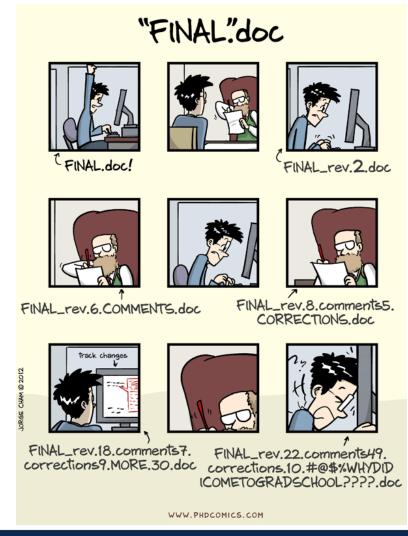
Principle 2 – Control the source & changes

- 1. For data, store the original (raw) data archivally somewhere and build other versions elsewhere using scripts (including accessing the data from the archive)
 - Note: GitHub is not archival, and isn't good for large datasets
 - Two previous versions of this class used data in https://raw.githubusercontent.com/csoderberg/test_study/master/gapminder_copy.txt but this no longer exists
 - However, it is still in OSF: https://osf.io/z274d/
 - Get it via
 wget https://osf.io/z274d/download -O gapminder_copy.txt
 (You may have to install wget Google it)

```
My_project
  --data
        --raw
        |--derived
|--results
  --docs
  --notebooks
  --references
  --reports
  --src
```

Principle 2 – Control the source & changes

- 2. For software, use a version control system to save versions and changes, and explain the reason for the changes
 - Git is the standard these days
 - Basics
 - Software is stored somewhere (e.g., GitHub, GitLab), either privately or publicly
 - New versions can be added
 - Author, changes, message about change stored
 - Multiple people can make changes in different parts of a project or even a file, and these can be merged together, mostly automatically
 - See <u>Software Carpentry's "Version Control with Git"</u>
 - Version numbers
 - Consider releases, use semantic versioning
 - A release is a tagged version
 - major.minor.patch (API-breaking.API-maintaining.bug-fixes)



Principle 2 – Control the source & changes

- 3. For published documents, people, etc. find a permanent identifier (PID, e.g., DOI, PubMed ID, ORCID) and use it to find the details (e.g., for references)
 - Get data from ORCID for a person (in Python):

Get metadata about a paper from a DOI (in bash):

```
curl https://api.crossref.org/works/10.1145/3307681.3325400/transform/application/vnd.crossref.unixsd+xml
```

Get bibtex for a paper from a DOI (in bash):

```
curl -LH "Accept: application/x-bibtex" https://doi.org/10.1145/3307681.3325400
curl https://data.crosscite.org/application/x-bibtex/10.1145/3307681.3325400
```



Principle 3 – Use notebooks to explain & document

- Notebooks are great for showing what code does
- And teaching people how to use it
- Intersperse cells with text, equations, runnable code, outputs, images
 - Demo: go to https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on launch binder
 - Once binder starts the repo, click on Notebook Demonstration.ipynb
- This uses binder (mybinder.org) you can too
- Turn a Git repo into a collection of interactive notebooks, making your code immediately reproducible by anyone, anywhere
 - Use requirements.txt to tell binder what dependencies to install in the environment
 - Also take a look at binderhub and jupyterhub if you want to run your own instance
- But don't write code to do the same task in multiple notebooks
 - Pull it out (refactor it) into a (reusable) package, then import that package in the notebooks

Jupyter Notebook Example

Credit: This is slightly modified from examples used in the FSCI 2 (https://osf.io/sbnz7/), which was created by Courtney Soderberg

Setting up the notebook

Lets get started

The notebook is built up from separate editable areas, or cells.

A new notebook contains a single code cell.

Add a line of code and execute it by:

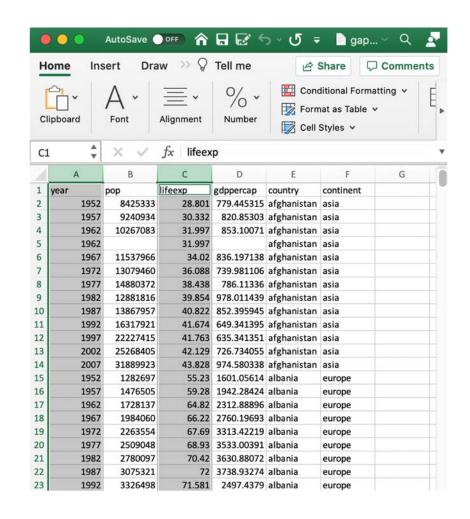
- · clicking the run button, or
- · click in the cell, and press shift-return

```
In [1]: print('hello world')
```

hello world

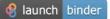


- 1. Anything you do by hand is subject to irreproducible errors
 - GUIs can be intuitive, but they don't support scalability or reproducibility well
 - Imagine having to extract a column of data from 1000 Excel files
 - Goal: capture what you do in some way so that you can repeat it in one step, such as
 - Capture a set of commands in a single script
 - Use <u>pyexcel</u> to read and write data to/from Excel files
 - Script GUI actions see <u>AutoHotkey_L</u> for an example of how this can be done for Windows programs



- 2. Scripts for simple things (steps)
 - Shell scripts
 - See Software Carpentry lesson "The Unix Shell"
 - "The Unix shell has been around longer than most of its users have been alive. It has survived so long because it's a power tool that allows people to do complex things with just a few keystrokes. More importantly, it helps them combine existing programs in new ways and automate repetitive tasks so they aren't typing the same things over and over again."
 - At the simplest, the shell is the process you interact with when you type in a terminal window
 - Multiple commands can be placed in a script and rerun
 - And the shell supports variables and control flow (e.g. if-then, loops)

• Go to https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on



Once binder starts the repo, use "New" -> "Terminal" to get a terminal

```
mkdir raw mkdir proc Make directories
```

Get raw input files (into raw directory)

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0001.jpg -O raw/0001.jpg wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0002.jpg -O raw/0002.jpg wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0003.jpg -O raw/0003.jpg wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0004.jpg -O raw/0004.jpg python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0001.jpg proc/0001_sharp.jpg
```

```
python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0001.jpg proc/0001_sharp.jpg
python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0002.jpg proc/0002_sharp.jpg
python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0003.jpg proc/0003_sharp.jpg
python3 bin/sharpen image.py raw/0004.jpg proc/0004 sharp.jpg
```

Process raw input files

python3 bin/local_build_mosaic.py 2 proc/mosaic.jpg proc/0001_sharp.jpg proc/0002_sharp.jpg proc/0003_sharp.jpg proc/0004_sharp.jpg

Further process processed files



- Go to https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d, click on
- Once binder starts the repo, use "New" -> "Terminal" to get a terminal

Automate by:

sh script/build_mosaic.sh

Contains all the commands from the previous slide

- 3. Can use notebooks like scripts/programs with tools such as
 - nbclient, a very lightweight python API for executing notebooks
 - Papermill, a tool for parameterizing and executing Jupyter Notebooks
 - Jupytext, a converter between notebooks and code and vice versa
- 4. An interesting-looking new project
 - <u>nbmake-action</u> A Notebook-First Continuous Integration Framework
 - A GitHub Action for testing notebooks, runs them from top-to-bottom
 - Intended to raise the quality of scientific material through better automation
 - For scientists/developers who have written docs in notebooks and want to CI test them after every commit



4. Make randomness repeatable

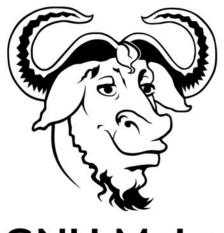
- Many simulations and data analysis involve random seeds, used to start generating a series of "random" numbers
 - Capture these seeds as part of your step so that you can repeat the same "randomness"
 - And get the "same" results
- But be aware of tradeoffs
 - Example
 - When adding a list of floating point numbers, order can matter due to numerical roundoff
 - When using parallel computing, order can change with the same or different numbers of processes
 - Can force order at the cost of performance (extra sync/lock/messages)
 - Better to know what accuracy counts
 - Or to have a debug mode and a production mode





Principle 5 – Automate everything

- Make or something make-like to handle multiple steps (dependencies) and not redo what isn't needed
 - In the previous example, what happens if we just change the final program?
 - We don't really want to have to rerun the whole script
 - Learn about make (GNU make, gmake) from <u>Software Carpentry's lesson</u>
 - Short version
 - A program that defines rules for how to make one thing from others (dependencies)
 - Can use variables to make rules general
 - Make knows how to only make a thing when its dependencies have changes
- Other options: workflow (management) systems & languages, e.g., in bioinformatics, snakemake, cwl, wdl, nextflow, ... (there's <u>a CWL wiki page</u> with 298 examples)
- Consider continuous integration to automatically rebuild/test when things change
 - Integrate with GitHub Actions, CircleCI, Travis CI, etc.



GNU Make





Principle 5 – Automate everything

```
.PHONY: clean all
all: proc/mosaic.jpg
                                                                             This is in script/Makefile-explicit
clean:
        -rm -rf raw proc
raw:
                                                                     To run it, from the terminal in binderhub, use:
       mkdir raw
                                                                             make -f script/Makefile-explicit
proc:
       mkdir proc
raw/0001.jpg: | raw
       wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0001.jpg -O raw/0001.jpg
[...]
raw/0004.jpg: | raw
       wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data/0004.jpg -O raw/0004.jpg
proc/0001 sharp.jpg: raw/0001.jpg bin/sharpen image.py | proc
        python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0001.jpg proc/0001_sharp.jpg
[...]
proc/0004 sharp.jpg: raw/0004.jpg bin/sharpen image.py | proc
       python3 bin/sharpen_image.py raw/0004.jpg proc/0004_sharp.jpg
proc/mosaic.jpg: bin/local_build_mosaic.py_proc/0001_sharp.jpg_proc/0002_sharp.jpg_proc/0003_sharp.jpg_proc/0004_sharp.jpg
        python3 bin/local build mosaic.py 2 proc/mosaic.jpg proc/0001 sharp.jpg proc/0002 sharp.jpg proc/0003 sharp.jpg proc/0004 sharp.jpg
```



Principle 5 – Automate everything

```
LANGUAGE=python3
FILE NOS=0001 0002 0003 0004
RAW_FILES=$(FILE_NOS:%=raw/%.jpg)
PROC_FILES=$(FILE_NOS:%=proc/%_sharp.jpg)
SHARPEN = bin/sharpen image.py
MOSAIC = bin/local build mosaic.py
RAW SOURCE DIR=https://raw.githubusercontent.com/danielskatz/parsl-example/master/data
.PHONY: clean all
all: proc/mosaic.jpg
clean:
      -rm -rf raw proc
raw:
      mkdir raw
proc:
      mkdir proc
$(RAW FILES): | raw
      wget $(@:raw/%.jpg=$(RAW_SOURCE_DIR)/%.jpg) -O $@
proc/%_sharp.jpg: raw/%.jpg $(SHARPEN) | proc
      $(LANGUAGE) $(SHARPEN) $(@:proc/%_sharp.jpg=raw/%.jpg) $@
proc/mosaic.jpg: $(MOSAIC) $(PROC FILES)
      $(LANGUAGE) $(MOSAIC) 2 $@ $(PROC FILES)
```

And make the automation as general as possible

This is in script/Makefile

To run it, from the terminal in binderhub, use: make -f script/Makefile



Principle 6 – Capture the environment

- Containers
 - Use <u>docker</u> to ensure the exact same software environment everywhere; lightweight & practical
 - For HPC, will likely need to use singularity or shifter instead
 - To specific an environment
 - In Python, use virtualenv (and `pip freeze > requirements.txt`) or pipenv or conda
 - In R, use add_dependencies_to_description() or use <u>renv package</u> or <u>rocker</u>
- VMs (heavier weight than containers, includes OS)
- <u>Reproducible builds</u> a set of software development practices that create an independently-verifiable path from source to binary code
 - Reliant on package identification and management, e.g., <u>Guix</u>, <u>PyPI</u>, <u>CRAN</u>, ...
- Lots of tools and systems see "<u>Publishing computational research a review of infrastructures for reproducible and transparent scholarly communication</u>" for a 2020 survey of 11



- Copyright defines ownership, license gives permission to do something
- But facts aren't copyrightable, while works of authorship are (at least in the US)
 - A particular arrangement of facts might be eligible for copyright protection if that arrangement demonstrates sufficient creativity, but not if the arrangement is something uncreative like chronological or alphabetical order
 - Even with creative arrangement, underlying facts cannot be copyrighted; it's perfectly legal for someone else to pull them out, rearrange them, and use them in something new
 - See "Who 'owns' your data?"
- If you are employed, your employer may own the copyright to things you create at work, and maybe even outside
 - Common in the US and in universities, but students own work they develop, even in their own coursework
- Use a common license, don't create your own
 - Common licenses are understood, uncommon one will prevent people from using your work just because they may not understand the license



- Creative Common licenses for text and data
 - CC0 waive copyright, dedicate to the public domain (not really a license)
 - CC BY (Attribution): material is free to use and adapt, but credit must be given
 - CC BY-SA (Attribution-ShareAlike): free to use and adapt, but credit must be given and adapted material must also be
 distributed with this same license
 - CC BY-ND (Attribution-NoDerivs): free to use, but credit must be given and can't be adapted
 - CC BY-NC (Attribution-NonCommercial): free to use and adapt but credit must be given and can't be used commercially
 - CC BY-NC-SA (Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike): free to use and adapt, but credit must be given, can't be used commercially, and adapted material must also be distributed with this same license
 - CC BY-NC-ND (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs): free to use, but credit must be given, can't be used commercially, and can't be adapted
- Creative Commons provides a guide/decision tree
- Be aware someone might argue that the data are facts and not subject to copyright, so the license doesn't hold
- Scholarly norms and principles of attribution/credit/provenance/authority might hold more sway
- (for more, see "CC BY and data: Not always a good fit")



- Open Source Initiative licenses for software
 - Don't use a CC license for software
 - At high level, two types of licenses
 - Permissive: MIT, Apache, BSD, ...
 - Copyleft ("viral"): GPL, LGPL
- Use <u>choosealicense.com</u> to pick one
- Pick a very common one if possible
- How to apply (MIT):
 - Create a text file (typically named LICENSE or LICENSE.txt) in the root of your source code and copy
 the text of the license into the file. Replace [year] with the current year and [fullname] with the name
 (or names) of the copyright holders.

- Citeable isn't required for reproducibility, but it's a good idea if you want credit
- Make your data citable
 - Deposit it in an archival repository (e.g., Zenodo, OSF, see <u>re3data.org</u> for more) along with metadata,
 receive a DOI, advertise the DOI and metadata (suggested citation)
- Make your software citable
 - Less well-defined practice
 - GitHub is not an archival repository
 - Can follow data practice (can link GitHub repo to Zenodo to automatically deposit new releases guides.github.com/activities/citable-code)
 - Record metadata in the repository (using CodeMeta or citation.cff), some repositories will pick up
 - Also can use Software Heritage ("archive.org for software") to cite archive of GitHub software
 - See <u>cite.research-software.org</u> for more



Exercise(s)

- Try out one of the project structure tools, or look at them and try to organize a project you have similarly
 - Python: Cookiecutter Data Science
 - R: ProjectTemplate
- Redo the exercise from the beginning in a more reproducible manner
- Automate a paper you have written
 - Or try to do this for a paper someone else has written (start by finding the data and code, see how far you can get)

Final thoughts

- "I was inspired more than 15 years ago by John Claerbout [...] He pointed out to me, in a way paraphrased in Buckheit and Donoho (1995): 'an article about computational result is advertising, not scholarship. The actual scholarship is the full software environment, code and data, that produced the result." David Donoho (in https://doi.org/10.1093/biostatistics/kxq028)
- "You shouldn't try to do these things all at once; start with one, or part of one. Then in your next project, do that plus another thing." Karl Broman (in https://kbroman.org/steps2rr/)
- It's no secret that good analyses are often the result of very scattershot and serendipitous explorations. [...] That being said, once started it is not a process that lends itself to thinking carefully about the structure of your code or project layout, so it's best to start with a clean, logical structure and stick to it throughout. (in https://drivendata.github.io/cookiecutter-data-science/)



Resources (1)

- Organizing projects:
 - Python: Cookiecutter Data Science https://drivendata.github.io/cookiecutter-data-science
 - R: ProjectTemplate http://projecttemplate.net/
- Guidelines:
 - Karl Broman's initial steps toward reproducible research (R, explains python too) https://kbroman.org/steps2rr/
- Reproducible papers:
 - PINGA lab's template (computational science, GitHub, Python, LaTeX) <u>https://www.leouieda.com/blog/paper-template.html</u>
 - Manubot (markdown, git, collaboration) https://manubot.org
 - Akhaghi (C/C++, LaTeX) https://gitlab.com/makhlaghi/reproducible-paper
- Book:
 - The Practice of Reproducible Research: Case Studies and Lessons from the Data-Intensive Sciences http://www.practicereproducibleresearch.org/



Resources (2)

- Short courses/MOOCs:
 - Essential skills for reproducible research computing https://barbagroup.github.io/essential_skills_RRC/
 - Reproducible Research using Jupyter Notebooks https://reproducible-science-curriculum.github.io/workshop-RR-Jupyter/
 - Duke UPGG Informatics Orientation Bootcamp https://duke-gcb.github.io/2019-08-12-
 Duke/
 - Reproducible Research and Data Analysis (under development) https://opensciencemooc.eu/modules/reproducible-research-and-data-analysis/
 - Reproducible research: Methodological principles for a transparent science https://learninglab.inria.fr/en/mooc-recherche-reproductible-principes-methodologiquespour-une-science-transparente/
 - Make (Software Carpentry's lesson) http://swcarpentry.github.io/make-novice/



Resources (3)

- Tools:
 - Popper https://github.com/getpopper/popper
 - Reana http://www.reanahub.io
 - ReproZip https://www.reprozip.org
 - Sciunit https://sciunit.run
- Other:
 - Reproducible PI Manifesto https://lorenabarba.com/gallery/reproducibility-pi-manifesto/
 - Container information https://slurm.schedmd.com/containers.html
 - Python virtual environments: https://towardsdatascience.com/comparing-python-virtual-environment-tools-fe0c603fe601 and https://towardsdatascience.com/comparing-python-virtual-environment-tools-9a6543643a44
 - Computational science example (from FSCI 2018 & 2019): https://github.com/danielskatz/repro-fdtd1d
 - Make your code ready for publication (sharable and citable) workshop https://gitlab.com/hifis/hifis-workshops/make-your-code-ready-for-publication/workshop-materials
 - Software Citation Principles https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj-cs.86

