

PSI

Center for Scientific Computing,
Theory and Data

Writing workflows

An outsider's perspective

Edward Linscott

LMS Seminar, 12 March 2025

Outline



Outline



What I've learned after 5 years of trying to automate Koopmans functionals <https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/abe-simpson-talking-to-kids>

Well not quite

Outline



but the intervening years have not been kind – see permit photos)

History of koopmans



- I want to run Koopmans functional calculations and I know how to write python and use ASE (and I was advised not to use AiiDA...)
- atoms
- calculators
- where necessary, use outputs of previous calculation into subsequent calculation (e.g. link a file, set a parameter etc.)
- start writing multiple scripts
- wannierisation
- dscf
- dfpt

History of koopmans



- natural emergence of the idea of a workflow and subworkflows that I want to be able to reuse

... koopmans

Interfacing with AiiDA



What I needed to do

- isolate into steps
- functional programming



COMMON WORKFLOW LANGUAGE



COMMON WORKFLOW LANGUAGE

- “an open standard for describing how to run command line tools and connect them to create workflows”



COMMON WORKFLOW LANGUAGE

- “an open standard for describing how to run command line tools and connect them to create workflows”
- introduced in 2014; version 1.2 released in 2020



- “an open standard for describing how to run command line tools and connect them to create workflows”
- introduced in 2014; version 1.2 released in 2020
- mostly used by bioinformatics community

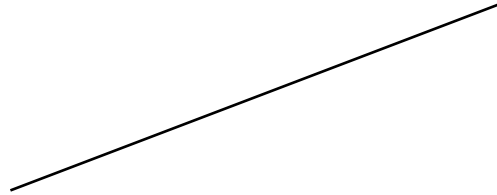
Process

Basic Concepts

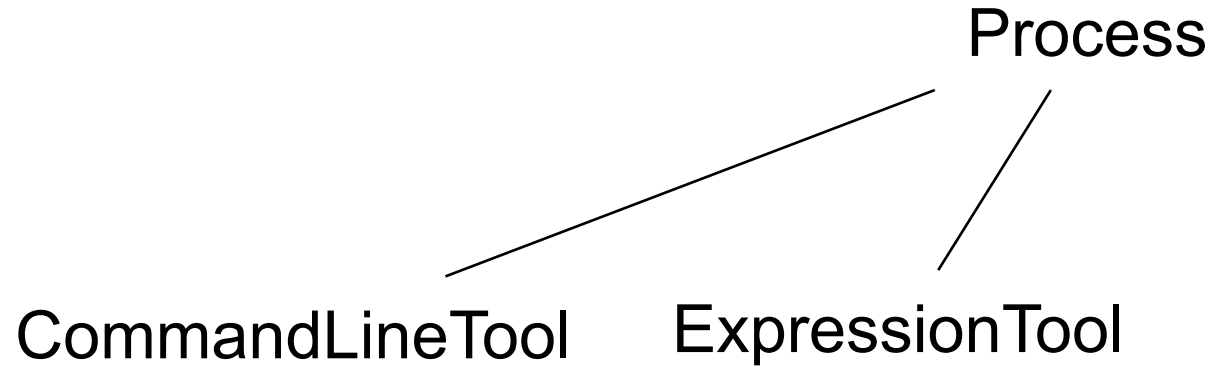


Process

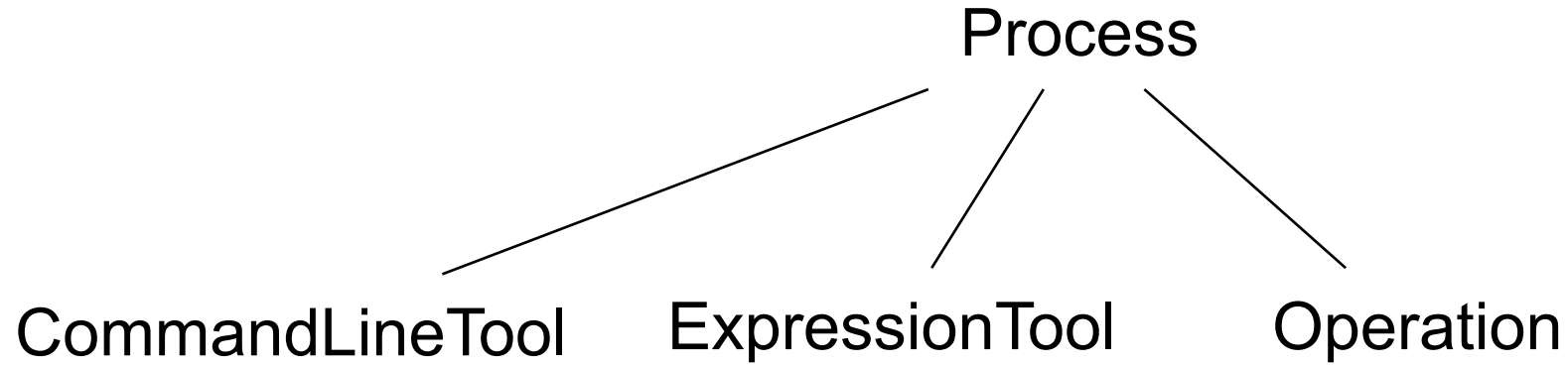
CommandLineTool

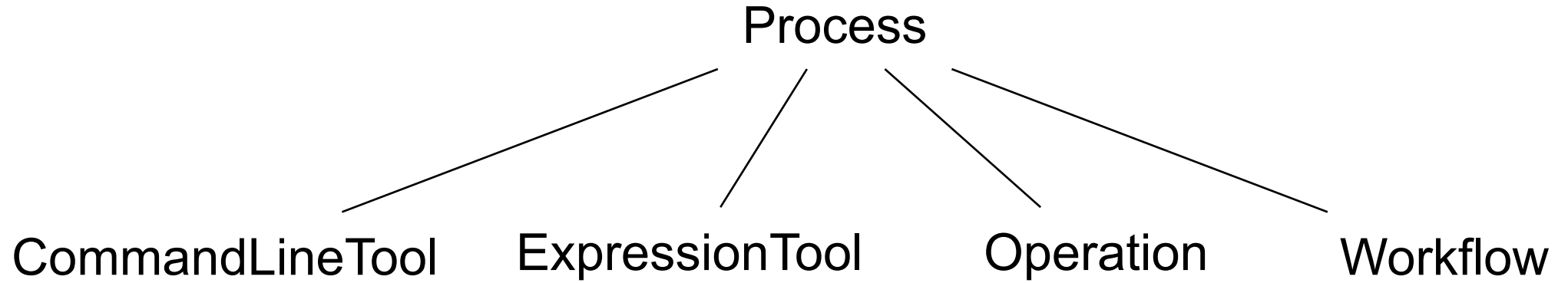


Basic Concepts



Basic Concepts





CommandLineTool



```
echo.cwl
```

```
cwlVersion: v1.2
```

```
class: CommandLineTool
```

```
baseCommand: echo
```

```
inputs:
```

```
  message:
```

```
    type: string
```

```
    default: "Hello World"
```

```
    inputBinding:
```

```
      position: 1
```

```
outputs: []
```

ExpressionTool



```
uppercase.cwl
cwlVersion: v1.2
class: ExpressionTool
requirements:
  InlineJavascriptRequirement: {}

inputs:
  message: string
outputs:
  uppercase_message: string

expression: |
  ${ return {"uppercase_message": inputs.message.toUpperCase()}; }
```

Workflow



```
echo_uppercase.cwl
```

```
cwlVersion: v1.2
```

```
class: Workflow
```

```
requirements:
```

```
  InlineJavascriptRequirement: {}
```

```
inputs:
```

```
  message: string
```

```
outputs:
```

```
  out:
```

```
    type: string
```

```
    outputSource: uppercase/uppercase_message
```

Workflow



```
steps:
  echo:
    run: echo.cwl
    in:
      message: message
    out: [out]
  uppercase:
    run: uppercase.cwl
    in:
      message:
        source: echo/out
    out: [uppercase_message]
```

Pros and Cons



- pros:

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit

Pros and Cons



Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)
 - `ExpressionTool` restricted to Javascript

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)
 - `ExpressionTool` restricted to Javascript
 - need to define custom types (e.g. OPTIMADE, PREMISE)

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)
 - `ExpressionTool` restricted to Javascript
 - need to define custom types (e.g. `OPTIMADE`, `PREMISE`)
 - custom types do not permit defaults

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)
 - `ExpressionTool` restricted to Javascript
 - need to define custom types (e.g. `OPTIMADE`, `PREMISE`)
 - custom types do not permit defaults
 - rigorous schemas require willingness from the community

Pros and Cons



- pros:
 - clear and explicit
 - composable and customisable
- cons:
 - verbose
 - complicated workflows lead to very complicated CWL (e.g. `while`)
 - `ExpressionTool` restricted to Javascript
 - need to define custom types (e.g. `OPTIMADE`, `PREMISE`)
 - custom types do not permit defaults
 - rigorous schemas require willingness from the community

- Merge requests 14
- Manage >
- Plan >
- Issues 113**
- Issue boards
- Milestones
- Wiki
- Requirements
- </> Code >
- Build >
- Deploy >
- Operate >

```
var max_seconds = type REAL 1
default { 1.D+7, or 150 days, i.e. no time limit }
```

I would propose the introduction of either (a) a new field (`default_explanation` or similar) or (b) a sub-field of `default` . This new field would contain any explanation of the default is contained, while `default` would be strictly reserved for the actual numerical value of the default.

Why should I care?

Both of these changes would make the `.def` schema more machine-readable. A rigorous schema is not easier for other codes to interact with Quantum ESPRESSO while avoiding the like.

Julian Geiger reacted with :thumbsup:

👍 1

👎 0

😊

Child items ✓ 0

⋮ | ^

No child items are currently assigned. Use child items to break down this issue into smaller

Labels
None

Milestone
None

Weight
None

Due date
None

Time tracking
No estimate or time spent

Health status
None

Confidentiality

So where does that leave koopmans?

Rewriting koopmans



koopmans is slowly being refactored into “CWL-inspired” python

```
class Bin2XMLInput(IOModel):
    binary: File

    class Config:
        arbitrary_types_allowed = True

class Bin2XMLOutput(IOModel):
    xml: File

    class Config:
        arbitrary_types_allowed = True

class Bin2XMLProcess(CommandLineTool):

    input_model = Bin2XMLInput
    output_model = Bin2XMLOutput

    def _pre_run(self):
        super()._pre_run()
```

Rewriting koopmans



```
if not self.inputs.binary.exists():
    raise FileNotFoundError(f'`{self.inputs.binary}` does not exist')

# Link the input binary file to the directory of this process as input.dat
dst = File(self, Path("input.dat"))
dst.symlink_to(self.inputs.binary)

@property
def command(self):
    return Command(executable='bin2xml.x', suffix=f'input.dat output.xml')

def _set_outputs(self):
    xml_filepointer = File(self, Path("output.xml"))
    self.outputs = self.output_model(xml=xml_filepointer)
```

Aside: Common Workflows

Common Workflows



Compare with Common Workflows (all implemented in AiiDA <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41524-021-00594-6>, but can change code – maybe talk with Marnik about this and the advantages/limitations. Are people writing any common workflows or is everything still code-dependent? No – for anything complicated you need code-specific logic)

In an ideal world:

- workflows with very prescribed inputs and outputs
- workflows that are engine-agnostic (we should not have to rewrite how to calculate binding energy curves, defect energies etc again and again – nor should this knowledge be exclusive to AiiDA)

Common Workflows



- should make concatenating workflows straightforward
- workflow managers such as AiiDA can read and run .cwl files

The alternative: siloed communities where we only write AiiDA – that is valid, but we need to simplify, we need to educate, we need to commit (and not push people away from it)

Where we call down

- everyone wants bespoke

Test¹

¹This is a footnote

Introduction

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magnam aliquam quaerat voluptatem. Ut enim aequae doleamus animo, cum corpore dolemus, fieri tamen permagna accessio potest, si aliquod aeternum et infinitum impendere malum nobis opinemur. Quod idem licet transferre in voluptatem, ut postea variari voluptas distinguique possit, augeri amplificarique non possit. At etiam Athenis, ut e patre audiebam facete et urbane Stoicos irridente, statua est in quo a nobis philosophia defensa et collaudata est, cum id, quod maxime placeat, facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus. Temporibus autem quibusdam

et aut officiis debitis aut rerum necessitatibus saepe eveniet, ut et voluptates repudiandae sint et molestiae non recusandae. Itaque earum rerum defuturum, quas natura non depravata desiderat. Et quem ad me accedis, saluto: 'chaere,' inquam, 'Tite!' lictores, turma omnis chorusque: 'chaere, Tite!' hinc hostis mi Albucius, hinc inimicus. Sed iure Mucius. Ego autem mirari satis non queo unde hoc sit tam insolens domesticarum rerum fastidium. Non est omnino hic docendi locus; sed ita prorsus existimo, neque eum Torquatum, qui hoc primus cognomen invenerit, aut torquem illum hosti detraxisse, ut aliquam ex eo est consecutus? — Laudem et caritatem, quae sunt vitae.

**Here is a focus slide
presenting a key idea**

This is a matrix slide

You can use it to
present information
side-by-side

with an arbitrary
number of rows and
columns

More text appears under the same subsection title as earlier

But a new subsection starts a new page.

Now, let's cite a nice paper.¹

¹E. B. Linscott *et al.* *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **19**, 7097–7111 (2023)

E. B. Linscott *et al.* koopmans: an open-source package for accurately and efficiently predicting spectral properties with Koopmans Functionals. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **19**, 7097–7111 (2023).