

# Challenges in Developing Great MCQMC Software

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with input from Mark Klinchin, the GAIL and QMCPy teams, and friends  
partially supported by SigOpt, an Intel company

Please join us Tuesday, July 19, for lunch at ???  
to discuss the future of MCQMC software

Thanks to the organizers as we meet again in person  
Slides at [speakerdeck.com/fjhickernell/quasi-monte-carlo-software](https://speakerdeck.com/fjhickernell/quasi-monte-carlo-software)

MCQMC 2022, Linz, July 18, 2022





# My Definition of Great MCQMC Software

- **Correct**, e.g., not omit the zeroth point in a low discrepancy sequence (Owen 2022; SciPy Developers 2020)
- **Complete**—contain the components or easily access components in other libraries to solve real, complex problems
- **Accessible**—tutorials, demos, discussion forums, etc. for (new) users; written in a language that potential users speak; provide a consistent user interface
- **Efficient**—in terms of compute time and memory
- **Current**—include the latest and best algorithms
- **Sustainable**—have a sufficient user base and developer community for updates and maintenance
- **Scalable**—take advantage of advanced computer architectures for speed and to solve large problems



## Selective History of MCQMC Software

- L'Ecuyer (2017) provides a history of random number generation
- Notorious randu from the 1960s (Wikipedia n.d.), which fails the spectral test
- VEGAS (Lepage 1978; Lepage 2021) importance sampling Monte Carlo algorithm favored by physicists
- ACM low discrepancy point generators (Bratley and Fox 1988; Bratley, Fox, and Niederreiter 1992; Hong and H. 2003)
- FinDer (Paskov and Traub 1995; Papageorgiou n.d.) and BRODA (Kucherenko n.d.) targeting quantitative finance
- Korobov cubature and scrambled Sobol' generators in NAG (The Numerical Algorithms Group 2021) for decades
- Scrambled Sobol' and Halton generators in MATLAB (The MathWorks, Inc. 2022) since 2008, and fixed a few years later



# Selective History of MCQMC Software

- Stan (Stan Development Team 2022) for Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
- Keller
- L'Ecuyer
- Nuyens
- Hickernell
- TensorFlow
- Scrambled Sobol' in SciPy (Virtanen, Gommers, Oliphant, Haberland, Reddy, Cournapeau, Burovski, Peterson, Weckesser, et al. 2020) and PyTorch (Paszke, Gross, Massa, Lerer, Bradbury, Chanan, Killeen, Lin, Gimelshein, et al. 2019)



# Why Do We Need Software?



# Software Library Architecture

content...



# Choice of Language

content...



# Advanced Architectures

content...





# Introductory Demos

content...



# Connecting Demos

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# Building User & Developer Ownership

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# From Private to Public

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# Next Steps





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