Project Workflow

Project Workflow - Motivation



Example Slide

• This is an example slide.

Project Workflow - Automation

- Gentzkow and Shapiro (2014): Automation
 - Automate everything that can be automated.
 - ▶ Write a single script that executes all code from beginning to end.
- Application:
 - ► README file
 - Master script file

Automation - README File

- Purpose: orientation and instruction
 - Start Here
- Contents:
 - Project description
 - Instructions for replication (master script file)
 - ► Instructions for data access
 - Special considerations for software prep (e.g., user written Stata commands)

Automation - README File

- Purpose: orientation and instruction
 - Start Here
- Contents:
 - Project description
 - Instructions for replication (master script file)
 - Instructions for data access
 - Special considerations for software prep (e.g., user written Stata commands)
- Example:
 - Hollingsworth, A., Ruhm, C. J., & Simon, K. (2017). Macroeconomic Conditions and Opioid Abuse. Journal of Health Economics, 56, 222–233.

Automation - Master File

- Purpose: single project file that runs all individual project files
 - Roadmap for the analytic process

Contents:

- Series of well-annotated statements that run script files for data cleaning, analysis, table/figure creation, etc.
- ► Includes commands to clear output files/tables/figures.

Automation - Master File

- Purpose: single project file that runs all individual project files
 - Roadmap for the analytic process

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- Series of well-annotated statements that run script files for data cleaning, analysis, table/figure creation, etc.
- ► Includes commands to clear output files/tables/figures.

• Example:

Goodman-Bacon, A. (2021). The Long-Run Effects of Childhood Insurance Coverage: Medicaid Implementation, Adult Health, and Labor Market Outcomes. American Economic Review, 111(8): 2550-93.

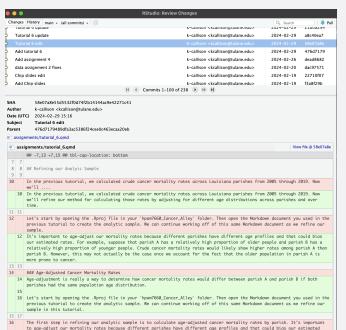
- Gentzkow and Shapiro (2014): Version Control
 - Store code and data under version control.
 - Run the whole directory before checking it back in.
- Application:
 - File repository (GitHub)

Purpose: avoid this

```
cleandata_022113.docleandata_022613.doregressions.logcleandata_022113a.docleandata_022613_jms.doregressions_022413.dochips.csvtvdata.dtaregressions_022713_mg.doregressions_022413.log
```

• How it works:

- ► Maintain one file (e.g., regressions.log).
- ► File changes are tracked each time the file is "checked back in" (i.e., commit changes and push to GitHub).
- ▶ If you screwed up, revert back to the previous commit.



- Gentzkow and Shapiro (2014): Version Control
 - Store code and data under version control.
 - ▶ Run the whole directory before checking it back in.
 - Run your master file before each push.
- Application:
 - File repository (GitHub)

- Gentzkow and Shapiro (2014): Directories
 - Separate directories by function.
 - Separate files into inputs and outputs.
 - Make directories portable.
- Application:
 - Directory map in your README file

Gentzkow and Shapiro directory map:

```
---C:/build---
                          ---C:/analysis---
/input
                          /input
   extractOB_xls
                               tvdata.dta (link to C:/build/output)
/code
                          /code
   rundirectory.bat
                               rundirectory.bat
   export_to_csv.stc
                              regressions.do
   mergefiles.do
                              regressions_alt.do
/output
                          /output
   tydata dta
                              fig1.eps
                               fig2.eps
                               tables.txt
/temp
                          /temp
                               regressions.log
   chips.csv
                               regressions_alt.log
   t.v.csv
```

Goodman-Bacon directory map:

```
User-written packages (installed in the master file):
gtools, outreg2, grc1leg, cpigen, taxsim27, ranktest
Folder Structure:
data/
      I--afdc/
      I--cen/
      |--datatemp/
      |--extra/
      1--vs/
      |--x/
dofile/
      I--cr/
            |--afdc/
            I--cen/
            |--pop/
            I--vs/
            1--x/
      I--an/
      I--extra/
```

Example directory map:



Navigating directories (Stata example):

```
clear

*** replace this with your main directory path
global projectdir "C:/Program files/Dropbox/myproject/"
global graphdir "$project/graphs"
global tabledir "$project/tables"
```

Navigating directories (Stata example):

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*** replace this with your main directory path
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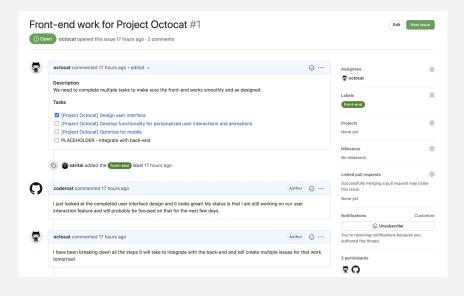
global graphdir "$project/graphs"
global tabledir "$project/tables"
```

 Note: be carefule using globals to define lists of control variables when using multiple .do files.

Project Workflow - Project Management

- Gentzkow and Shapiro (2014): Management
 - Manage tasks with a task management system.
 - Email is not a task management system.
- Application:
 - GitHub Issues and Task Lists

Project Workflow - Project Management



Project Workflow - Tools

- Tools for an efficient project workflow:
 - Statistical software: R or Stata
 - Word processing software: LaTeX (Markdown/Quarto)
 - Integrated development environment (IDE): RStudio or Visual Studio Code (VS Code)
 - Stata isn't great for this
 - Version control: Git and GitHub