

Reproducibilidad en Experimentos Computacionales

Lucas Mello Schnorr



ICI2ST Conference, November 23rd 2023



NO TRANSPARENCY NO CONSENSUS



Toward Open Science

Plan National pour la Science Ouverte (CoSO)

- France (**CNRS**, **Inria**, **INRAE**, ...) but also Europe and US
- Many flavors: *Citizen Science vs. Ethics and Societal Responsibility*

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Main pillars:

1. Open access
2. Open data
3. Open source
 - *Open hardware*
4. **Open methodology (Reproducible Research)**
 - *Open-notebook science*
 - *Open science infrastructures*
5. Open peer review
6. Open educational resources

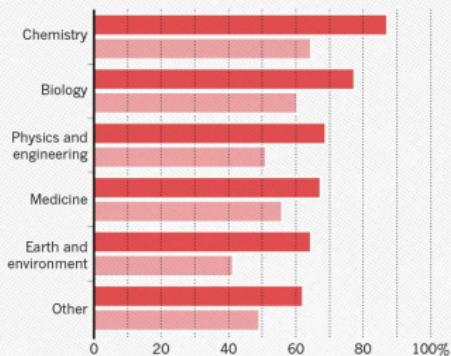


Socio-technical Challenges

HAVE YOU FAILED TO REPRODUCE AN EXPERIMENT?

Most scientists have experienced failure to reproduce results.

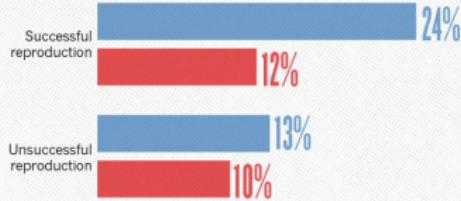
● Someone else's ● My own



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO PUBLISH A REPRODUCTION ATTEMPT?

Although only a small proportion of respondents tried to publish replication attempts, many had their papers accepted.

● Published ● Failed to publish



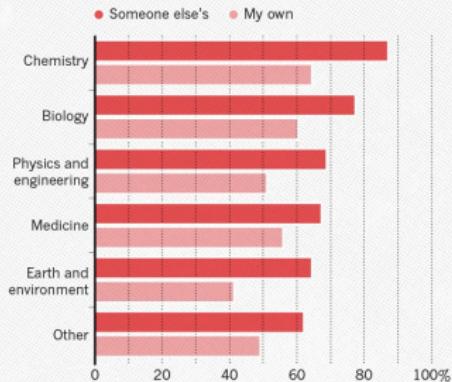
Number of respondents from each discipline:
Biology 703, Chemistry 106, Earth and environmental 95,
Medicine 203, Physics and engineering 236, Other 233.

1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility,
Nature, May 2016

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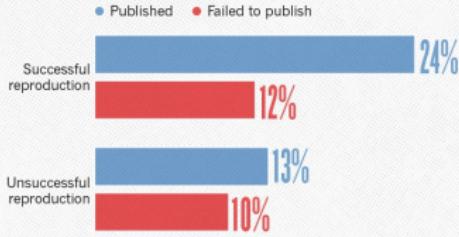
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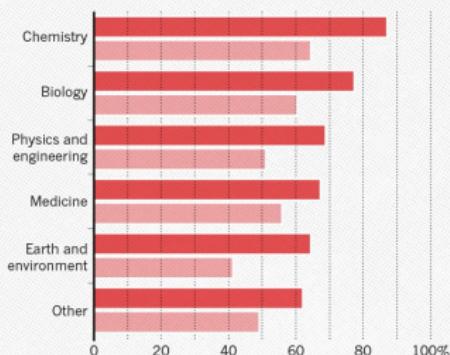
- Fraud, conflict of interest (pharmaceutic, ...)
- No incentive to reproduce/check our own work (afap), nor the work of others (big results!), nor to allow others to check (competition)
- Peer review does not scale: 1M+ articles per year!

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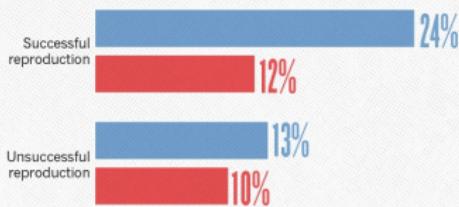
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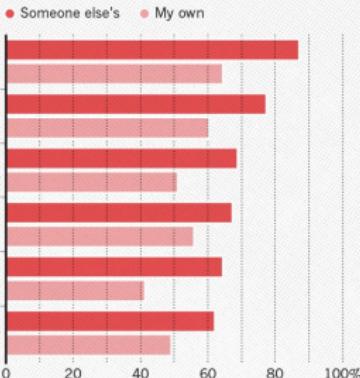
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...

Socio-technical Challenges

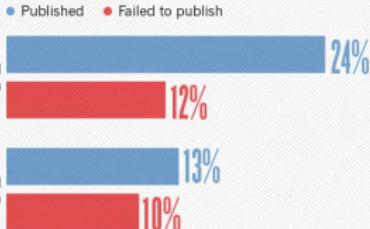
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Methodological/technical causes

- The many biases (apophenia, confirmation, hindsight, experimenter, ...): bad designs
- Selective reporting, weak analysis (statistics, data manipulation mistakes, computational errors)
- Lack of information, code/raw data unavailable

Different Reproducibility Concerns in Modern Science

Biology, Oncology sample provenance, clinical trials \rightsquigarrow standardized protocols

Psychology, Nutrition HARKING, p-hacking \rightsquigarrow pre-registration

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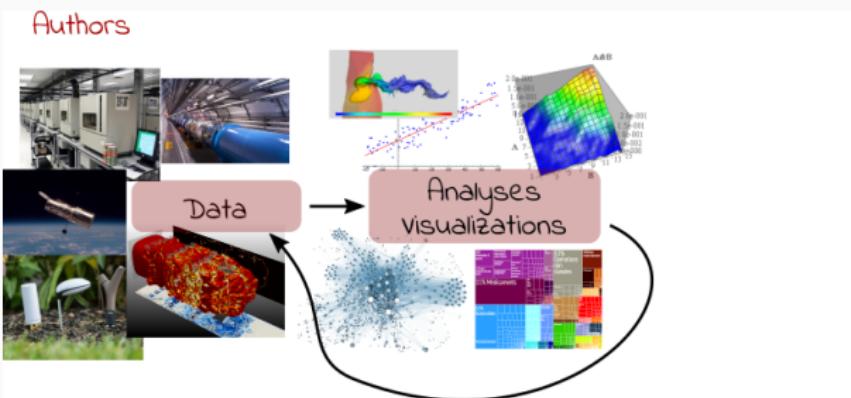
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Artificial Intelligence most of the above 😊

The processing steps between raw observations and findings have gotten increasingly numerous and complex



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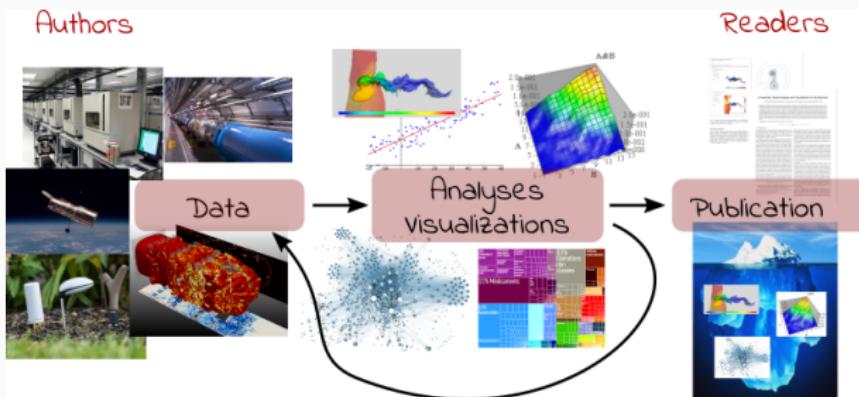
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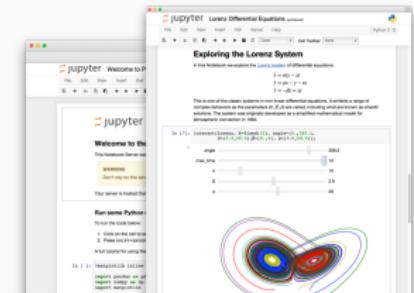
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Reproducible Research = Bridging the Gap by working Transparently

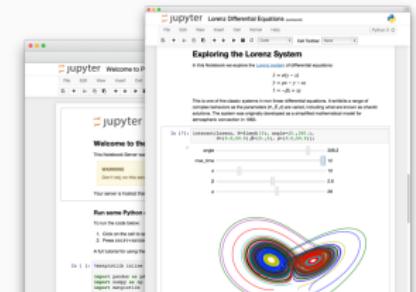
Reproducibility Issues Related to the use of Computers

Computation provenance: notebooks and workflows

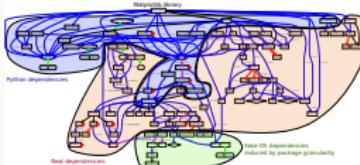


Reproducibility Issues Related to the use of Computers

Computation provenance: notebooks and workflows



Software environments

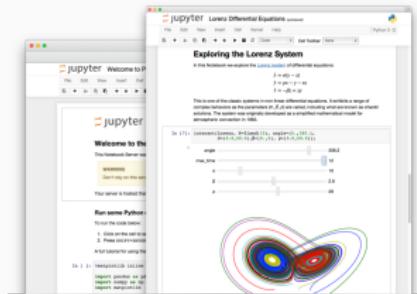


ReproZip

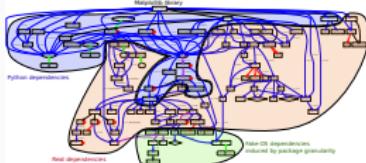


Reproducibility Issues Related to the use of Computers

Computation provenance: notebooks and workflows



Software environments



Sharing and Archiving



Good Practice #1

Taking Notes and Documenting

Frustration as an Author/Reviewer



Author

- I thought I used the same parameters but I'm getting different results!
- The new student wants to compare with the method I proposed last year
- My advisor asked me whether I took care of setting this or this but I can't remember
- The damned fourth reviewer asked for a major revision and wants me to change Figure 3. Which code and which data set did I use?
- It worked yesterday! 6 months later: Why did I do that?

Reviewer

- As usual, there is no confidence interval, I wonder about the variability and whether the difference is significant or not
- That can't be true, I'm sure they removed some points
- Why is this graph in logscale? How would it look like otherwise? I'm not even sure of what this value means. If only I could access the generation script

Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

Un document computationnel

Mon ordinateur m'indique que π vaut approximativement

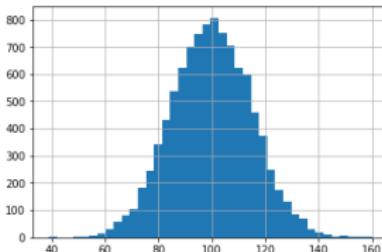
3.141592653589793

Mais calculé avec la méthode des [aiguilles de Buffon](#), on obtiendrait comme approximation :

```
import numpy as np
N = 1000000
x = np.random.uniform(size=N, low=0, high=1)
theta = np.random.uniform(size=N, low=0, high=pi/2)
2/(sum((x+np.sin(theta))>1)/N)
```

3.1437198694098765

On peut inclure des formules mathématiques comme $\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ et des dessins qui n'ont rien à voir avec π (si ce n'est une constante de normalisation... ☺).



Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

Document initial dans son environnement

The screenshot shows a Jupyter notebook interface with the title '# Un document computationnel'. It contains three code cells:

- In [1]:** A code cell with the Python command `print(pi)` which outputs the value 3.141592653589793.
- In [2]:** A code cell calculating the probability of a needle hitting a line in a grid. It uses `np.random` to generate random theta and x values, and `np.sum` to count successful hits. The output is 3.1437190694098765.
- In [3]:** A code cell using `matplotlib` to plot a histogram of 10000 random numbers. The plot shows a bell-shaped curve centered around 100.

Document final

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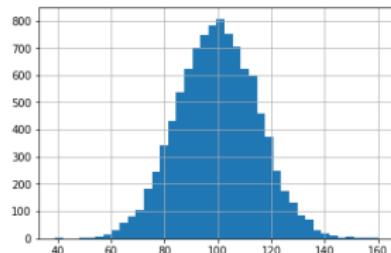
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2/(sum((x+np.sin(theta))>1))/N
```

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Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

Document initial dans son environnement

Un document computationnel

```
In [1]:  
from math import *  
print(pi)  
3.141592653589793
```

Mais calculé avec la [méthode des aiguilles de Buffon](#) (https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguille_de_Buffon), on obtiendrait comme approximation :

```
In [2]:  
import numpy as np  
N = 1000000  
x = np.random.uniform(size=N, low=0, high=1)  
theta = np.random.uniform(size=N, low=0, high=pi/2)  
2*(sum((x+np.sin(theta))>1))/N  
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```
In [3]:  
%matplotlib inline  
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
  
mu, sigma = 100, 15  
x = mu + sigma*np.random.randn(10000)  
  
plt.hist(x,40)  
plt.grid(True)  
plt.show()
```

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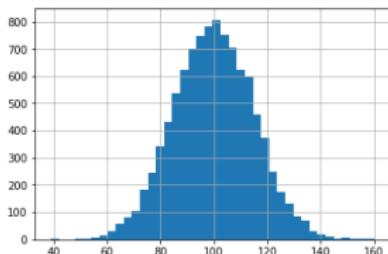
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Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

Document initial dans son environnement

jupyter example_pi (Python 3)

Un document computationnel

```
In [1]: from math import *  
print(pi)  
3.141592653589793
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import numpy as np  
N = 1000000  
x = np.random.uniform(size=N, low=0, high=1)  
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2*(sum((x+np.sin(theta))>1))/N  
Out[2]: 3.1437198694098765
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In [3]:  
%matplotlib inline  
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
  
mu, sigma = 100, 15  
x = mu + sigma*np.random.randn(10000)  
  
plt.hist(x, 100)  
plt.grid(True)  
plt.show()
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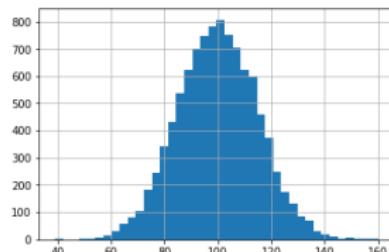
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Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

Document initial dans son environnement

A screenshot of a Jupyter notebook interface. The title bar says "jupyter example_pi". The main area shows three code cells:

- In [1]:** Prints π to the console.
- In [2]:** Calculates π using Buffon's needle method.
- In [3]:** Plots a histogram of random numbers.

Annotations with red arrows point from the text "Résultats" to the output of cell In [1] and the histogram in cell In [3].

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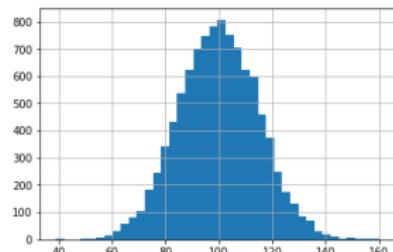
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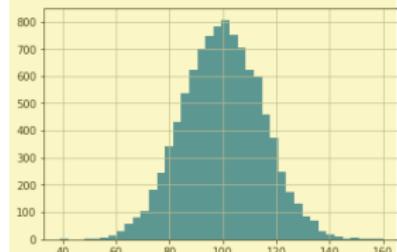
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Tool 1: Computational Notebooks/Litterate Programming

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The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with three code cells:

- In [1]:** Prints the value of π (3.141592653589793) and includes a note about calculating it with the Buffon's needle method.
- In [2]:** Generates random points and calculates the ratio of points below a line to the total number of points to approximate π .
- In [3]:** Plots a histogram of 100,000 random numbers between 0 and 1, showing a bell-shaped distribution centered at 0.5.

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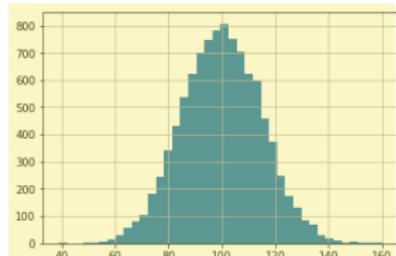
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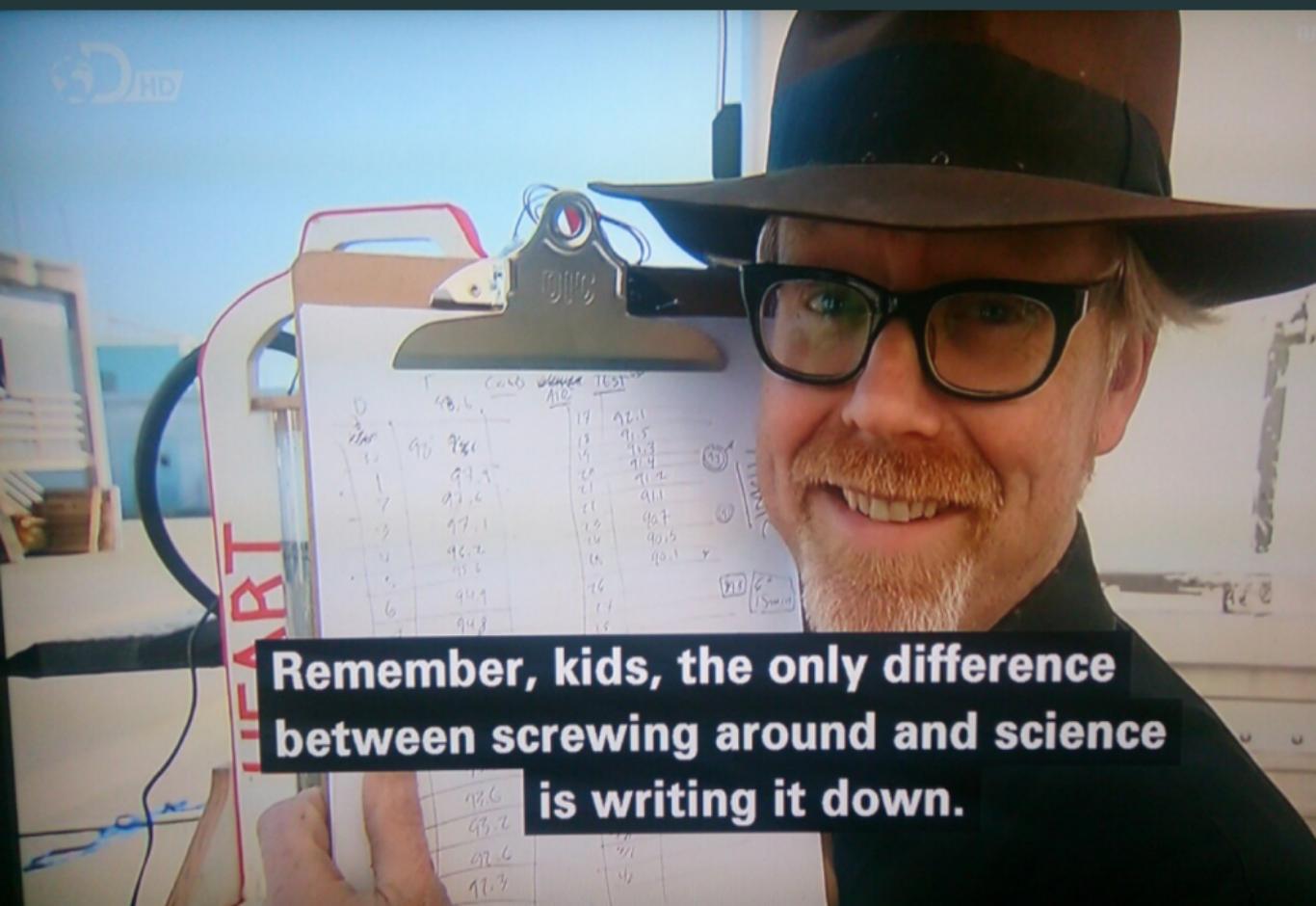
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Export →

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Tool 1bis: Lab. Notebooks, Computational Documents



Remember, kids, the only difference between screwing around and science is writing it down.

Tool 1ter: Workflows

Notebooks are no panacea and do not help developing clean code

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with several code cells and their outputs.

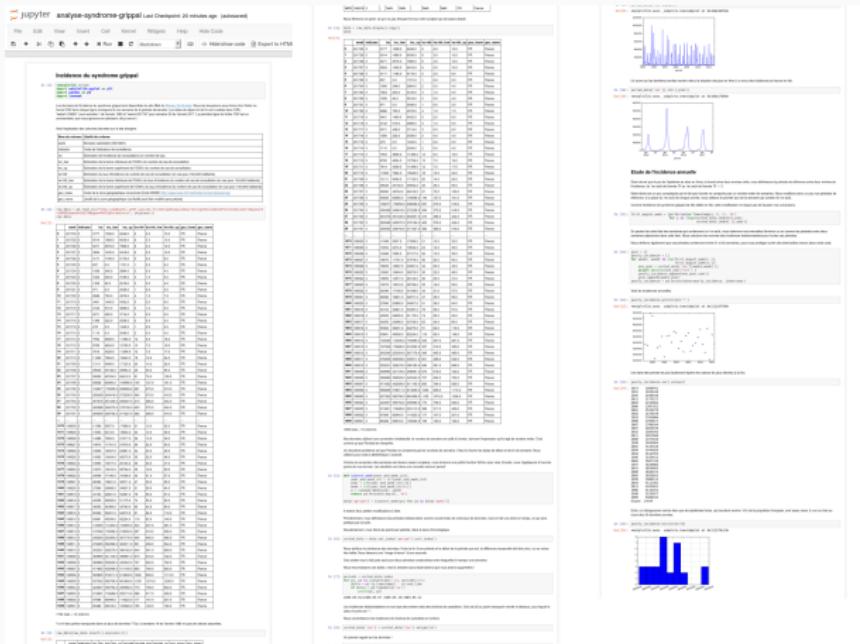
- In [1]:** `# Un document computationnel`
Output: Mon ordinateur n'indique que j'suis vers "approximativement"
- In [2]:** `from math import *`
Output: 3.141592653589793
But calculé avec la `__method__` des (ajoutées de Buffet) `math.cmath` (<http://hg.python.org/cpython/file/3.4.3/math.c>, on estendrait comme `approximation_`)
- In [3]:** `import numpy as np`
Output: 0.1437120069495075
- In [4]:** `theta = np.random.uniform(0, low=0, high=pi/2)`
Output: 0.7854000000000001
- In [5]:** `np.sin(theta)/sin(theta))**1/N`
Output: 0.9999999999999999
- In [6]:** `%matplotlib inline`
Output: A histogram showing a bell-shaped curve centered around 100, with values ranging from 0 to 200 on the x-axis and 0 to 800 on the y-axis.

Tool 1ter: Workflows

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Tool 1ter: Workflows

Notebooks are no panacea and do not help developing clean code

The image displays a 4x3 grid of Jupyter Notebook screenshots, each showing a different step or aspect of a data science workflow. The notebooks include code snippets, explanatory text, and visualizations such as scatter plots and heatmaps.

- Cell 1: Estimating Color Names by Web Image Searchers**

Code to extract color names from a web image. It uses the `imageio` library to read the image and `colornames` to find the closest color names.
- Cell 2: Generating a color palette from a photograph**

Code to generate a color palette from a photograph using `skimage` and `colornames`.
- Cell 3: Generating a color palette from a photograph**

Another iteration of generating a color palette from a photograph, showing a heatmap of color distribution.
- Cell 4: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

Code to reduce dimensionality using PCA and t-SNE, followed by a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 5: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

Another dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 6: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A third dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 7: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A fourth dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 8: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A fifth dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 9: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

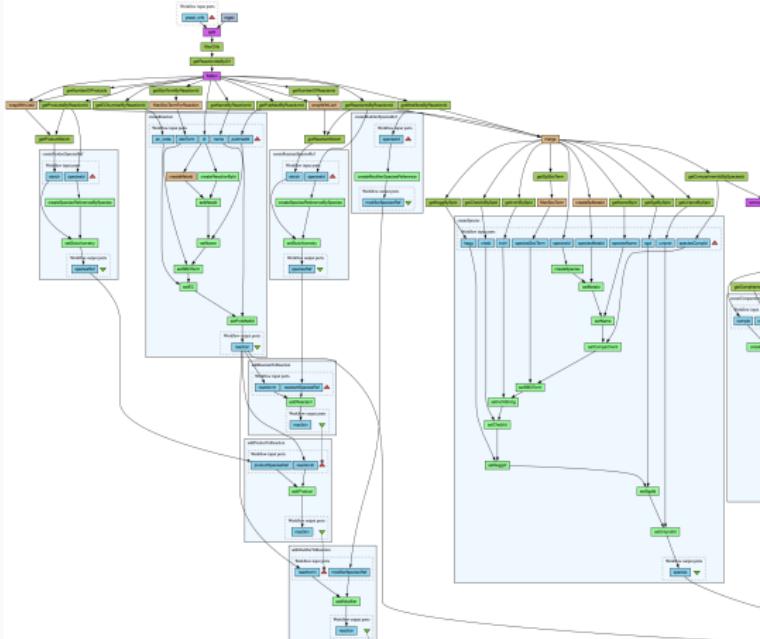
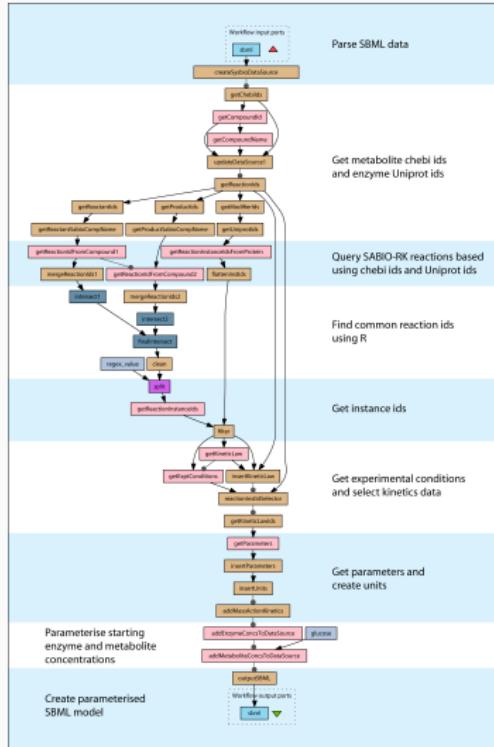
A sixth dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 10: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A seventh dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 11: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A eighth dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.
- Cell 12: Dimensionality reduction and model results**

A ninth dimensionality reduction and model results section, showing a heatmap of the reduced data.

Tool 1ter: Workflows



Tool 1ter: Workflows

Workflows:

- Clearer high-level view
- **Explicit** composition of codes and data movement
- Safer sharing, reusing, and execution
- Notebooks are a variant that is both impoverished and richer
 - No simple/mature path from a notebook to a workflow

Examples:

- Galaxy, Kepler, Taverna, Pegasus, Collective Knowledge, VisTrails
- Light-weight: `make`, `dask`, `drake`, `swift`, `snakemake`, ...
- Hybrids: SOS-notebook, ...

Good Practice #2

Controlling Software Environment

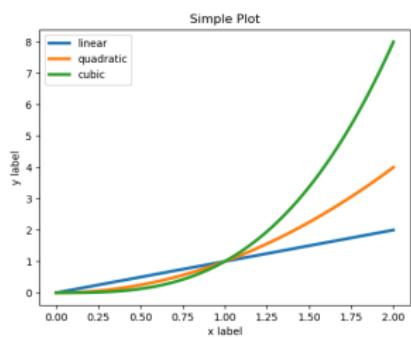
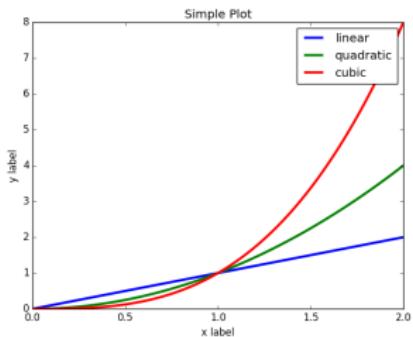
Argh... damned computers

- **Alice:** I got 3.123123 **Bob:** I got segfault
- Damned! It used to work!!! Whenever I upgrade my computer, things break so I try to stay away from this 😞
- Whenever trying the code of my colleague, I had to install libFoo-1.5c but I broke everything and now neither his code nor mine works! 😞
- But hey! Here is my code. It's on GitHub so feel free to play with it! I'm doing open science 😊
 1. No one will ever run/use your code if it isn't easy to install
 2. No one will ever manage to run your code if you don't document how to run it
 3. Others (even you) are unlikely to get the same results unless you control and share your software environment

Software dependencies: horror stories

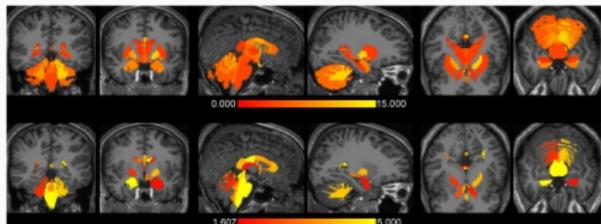
Software dependencies: horror stories

- Software environment evolution



Software dependencies: horror stories

- Software environment evolution
- OS heterogeneity



The Effects of FreeSurfer Version, Workstation Type, and Macintosh Operating System Version on Anatomical Volume and Cortical Thickness Measurements (PLOS ONE, 2012)

Significant differences in volume and cortical thickness were revealed across FreeSurfer versions:

- volume: $8.8 \pm 6.6\%$ (range 1.3-64.0%)
- cortical thickness: $2.8 \pm 1.3\%$ (range 1.1-7.7%)

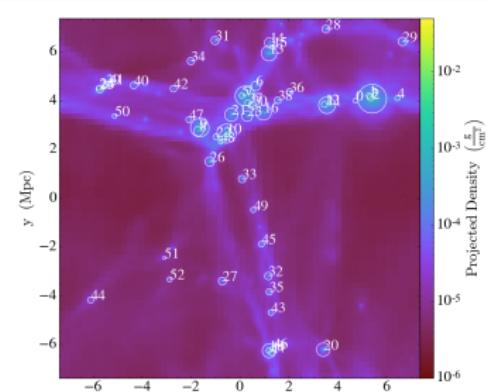
About a factor two smaller differences were found between the Mac and HP workstations and between Mac OSX 10.5 and OSX 10.6.

In the context of an ongoing study, users are discouraged to update to a new major release of either FreeSurfer or operating system.

Formal assessment of the accuracy of FreeSurfer is desirable.

Software dependencies: horror stories

- Software environment evolution
- OS heterogeneity
- Impact of the compiler

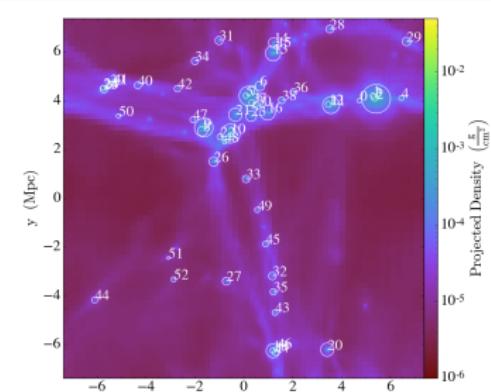


Assessing Reproducibility: An Astrophysical Example of Computational Uncertainty in the HPC Context (ResCuE-HPC, 2018)

| Compiler | Optim. | Largest Halo Avg Mass. | Std. Err | Walltime |
|-----------|--------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|
| gcc@6.2.0 | None | 2.273E 46 | 1.069E 44 | 22h |

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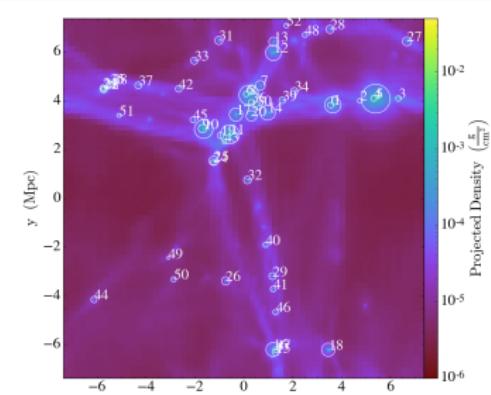


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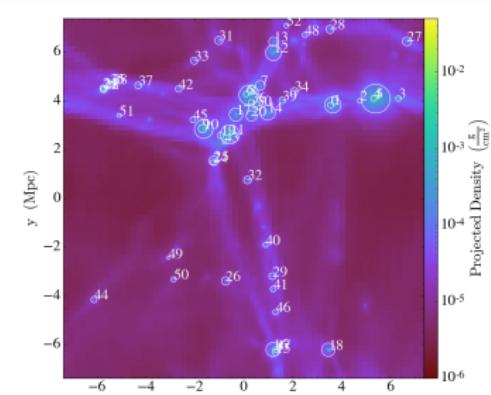


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| gcc@6.2.0 | None | 2.273E 46 | 1.069E 44 | 22h |
| gcc@6.2.0 | Normal | 2.266E 46 | 1.218E 44 | 10h |
| gcc@6.2.0 | High | 2.275E 46 | 1.199E 44 | 9h |

Software dependencies: horror stories

- Software environment evolution
- OS heterogeneity
- Impact of the compiler



Assessing Reproducibility: An Astrophysical Example of Computational Uncertainty in the HPC Context (ResCuE-HPC, 2018)

| Compiler | Optim. | Largest Halo | | Walltime |
|--------------|--------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| | | Avg Mass. | Std. Err | |
| gcc@6.2.0 | None | 2.273E 46 | 1.069E 44 | 22h |
| gcc@6.2.0 | Normal | 2.266E 46 | 1.218E 44 | 10h |
| gcc@6.2.0 | High | 2.275E 46 | 1.199E 44 | 9h |
| intel@16.0.3 | None | 22.71 E 46 | 1.587E 44 | 39h |
| intel@16.0.3 | Normal | 43.30 E 46 | 1.248E 44 | 7h |
| intel@16.0.3 | High | 2.268E 46 | 1.414E 44 | 6h |
| cce@8.5.5 | Low | 43.11 E 46 | 1.353E 44 | 16h |
| cce@8.5.5 | Normal | 2.271E 46 | 1.261E 44 | 6h |
| cce@8.5.5 | High | 2.272E 46 | 1.341E 44 | 5h |

Complex ecosystems

```
1 import matplotlib  
2 print(matplotlib.__version__)
```

3.5.1

Complex ecosystems

```
1 import matplotlib  
2 print(matplotlib.__version__)
```

3.5.1

```
1 apt show python3-matplotlib
```

Package: python3-matplotlib
Version: 3.5.1-2+b1
Source: matplotlib (3.5.1-2)
Maintainer: Sandro Tosi <morph@debian.org>
Installed-Size: 27.6 MB
Depends: libjs-jquery, libjs-jquery-ui, python-matplotlib-data (>= 3.5.1),
python3-dateutil, python3-pil.imagetk, python3-pyparsing (>= 1.5.6),
python3-six (>= 1.4), python3-numpy (>= 1:1.20.0), python3-numpy-abi9,
python3 (<< 3.11), python3 (>= 3.9~), python3-cycler (>= 0.10.0),
python3-fonttools, python3-kiwisolver, python3-packaging, python3-pil,
python3:any, libc6 (>= 2.29), libfreetype6 (>= 2.2.1),
libgcc-s1 (>= 3.3.1), libqhull-r8.0 (>= 2020.1), libstdc++6 (>= 11)

Recommends: python3-tk

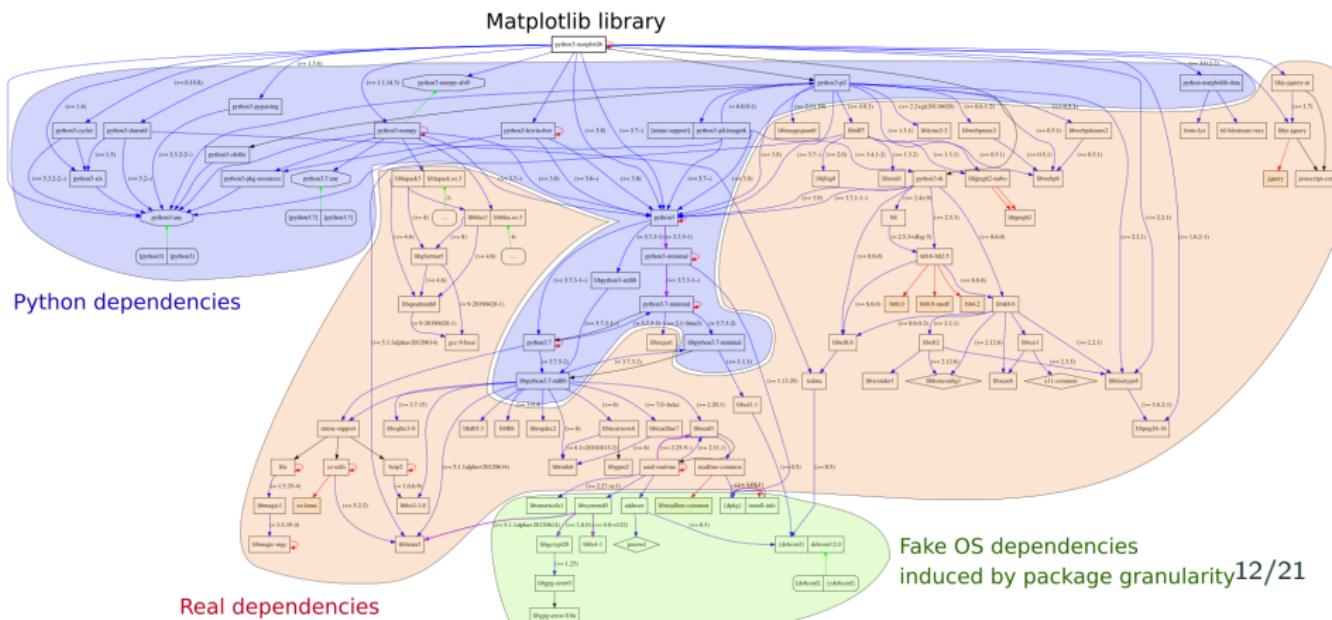
Suggests: dvipng, ffmpeg, fonts-staypuft, ghostscript, gir1.2-gtk-3.0, inkscape,
ipython3, librsvg2-common, python-matplotlib-doc, python3-cairocffi,
python3-gi, python3-gi-cairo, python3-gobject, python3-pyqt5,

Complex ecosystems

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1 import matplotlib  
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3.5.1

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1 apt show python3-matplotlib
```



Tool 2: Containers and Package Managers

The good



The bad



The ugly



Automatic tracking

Tool 2: Containers and Package Managers

The good



The bad



The ugly



Automatic tracking

Containers

- Pros: Lightweight, Good isolation, Easy to use
 - Running as easy as `docker run <cmd>`
 - Building images: `docker build -f <Dockerfile>`
 - Sharing through the Docker Hub: `docker pull/push `

Tool 2: Containers and Package Managers

The good



The bad



The ugly



Automatic tracking

Containers

- **Pros:** Lightweight, Good isolation, Easy to use
- **Cons:** Opaque, Container build is generally not reproducible
 - Recipes rarely follow *reproducible good practices*

```
1      FROM ubuntu:20.04
2      RUN apt-get update
3          && apt-get upgrade -y
4          && apt-get install -y ...
```

- Choose a stable image (and the smallest possible)
- Include only the necessary libraries (e.g. no graphics libs)
- Avoid system updates (instead freeze sources)

Tool 2: Containers and Package Managers

The good



The bad



The ugly



Automatic tracking

Containers

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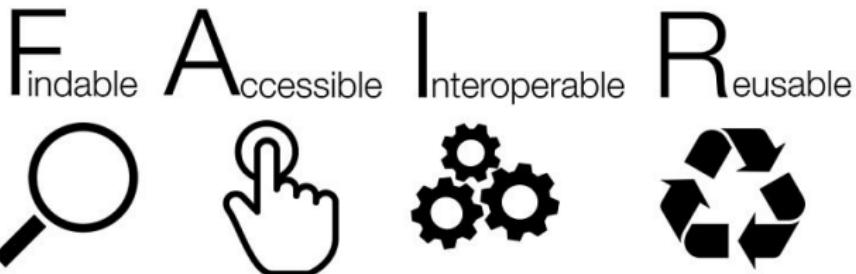
Package managers (the ugly and the good)

- Language specific: pip/pipenv/virtualenv, conda, CRAN/Bioconducto
 - Limits: version management, durability, permeable, language centric
- GUIX/NiX = Full-fledged functional package manager
 - Native support for environment (*à la git*)
 - Isolation through --pure
 - Recompile from source (cache recommended)

Good Practice #3

Version Control and Archiving

FAIR principles



<https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

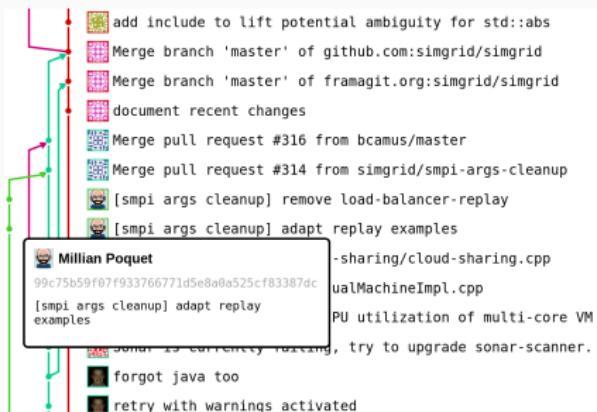
- "*Open as much as possible and close as much as necessary*"
- Management, publication, annotation (metadata), archiving
- Source code = specific data with specific consideration

Let's go beyond general principles!

Tool 3: Version Control and Forge

Git = version control

- Developed in 2005 by Linus Torvalds for the kernel development
- Local and efficient rollbacks
- Distributed: everyone has a full copy of the history



GitHub, GitLab, and Co

- Free hosting of public projects, social network



Limitation

- Managing large data: **Git-LFS** **Git Annex** (or **DataLad**)

Tool 3bis: Fighting Information Loss with Archives



or



= awesome collaborations (\neq archive)

- D. Spinellis. *The Decay and Failures of URL References*. CACM, 46(1), 2003
The half-life of a referenced URL is approximately 4 years from its publication date.
- P. Habibzadeh. *Decay of References to Web sites in Articles Published in General Medical Journals: Mainstream vs Small Journals*. Applied Clinical Informatics. 4 (4), 2013
half life ranged from 2.2 years in EMHJ to 5.3 years in BMJ
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Article archives



Data archives



Software Archive



Software Heritage

Collect/Preserve/Share

What Will it Take ?

Changing Research Practices

Soft. Engineering, Statistics, and Reproducible Research in the curricula

Manifesto: "*I solemnly pledge*" (WSSSPE, Lorena Barba, FAIR)

1. I will teach my graduate students about reproducibility
2. All our research code (and writing) is under version control
3. We will always carry out verification and validation
4. We will share data, plotting script & figure under CC-BY
5. We will upload the preprint to arXiv at the time of submission of a paper
6. We will release code at the time of submission of a paper
7. We will add a "Reproducibility" declaration at the end of each paper
8. I will keep an up-to-date web presence



Learn and Teach using online resources like

- Software Carpentry, The Turing Way, ...

Changing Publishing Practices

Artifact evaluation and ACM badges



Major conferences

- Supercomputing: Artifact Description (AD) **mandatory**, Artifact Evaluation (AE) still **optional**, Double blind vs. RR
- NeurIPS, ICLR: **open reviews**, reproducibility challenge



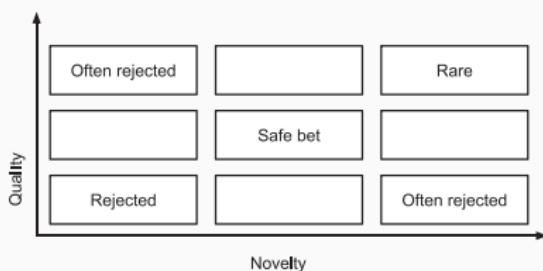
Joelle Pineau @ NeurIPS'18

- ACM SIGMOD 2015-2019, Most Reproducible Paper Award...

Mentalities are **evolving** people care, make stuff available, **errors are found and fixed**

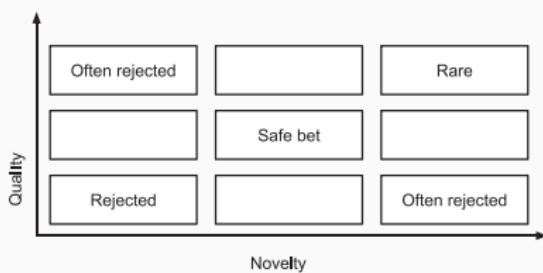
Changing Academic Practices (Publish or Perish)

- Goodhart's Law: Are Academic Metrics Being Gamed?, M. Fire 2019
 - AI: over 1,000 ranked journals ($\times 10$ in 15 years)
 - Shorter papers with increasing self references
 - More and more papers without any citation
 - Sharp increase in the number of new authors publishing at a much faster rate given their career age
- The Truth, The Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth: A Pragmatic, Guide to Assessing Empirical Evaluations, TOPLAS 2016



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- Impact factor abandoned by Dutch university in hiring and promotion, decisions. Nature, June 2021. Faculty and staff members at Utrecht University will be evaluated by their commitment to open science

Good research requires time and resources

1. **Train yourself and your students:** RR, statistics, experiments
 - Beware of checklists and norms Understand what's at stake
2. **Change the norm:** make publication practices evolve
3. **Incentive:** consider RR/open science when hiring/promoting

Reproducible Research = Rigor and Transparency

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3. **Incentive:** consider RR/open science when hiring/promoting
4. **Prepare the Future:** Toward literate experimentation?
 - Reuse, reuse, reuse!
 - Shared and controlled testbeds
 - How to share Experiments ?



Resources and Acknowledgments

Slides are available here

https://github.com/schnorr/SMPE/raw/master/lectures/talk_23_11_23_ICI2

Thanks to

- Arnaud Legrand for sharing slides and knowledge about this topic
- My students that have undertaken many of these methods

MOOC "Advanced RR" planned for Nov. 2023

- Managing data (FITS/HDF5, git annex)
- Software environment control (docker, singularity, guix)
- Scientific workflow (make, snakemake)



More information available

- MOOC Reproducible Research:

Methodological principles for a transparent science, Inria Learning Lab