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PIDs for software - shedding some light on a dark puzzle

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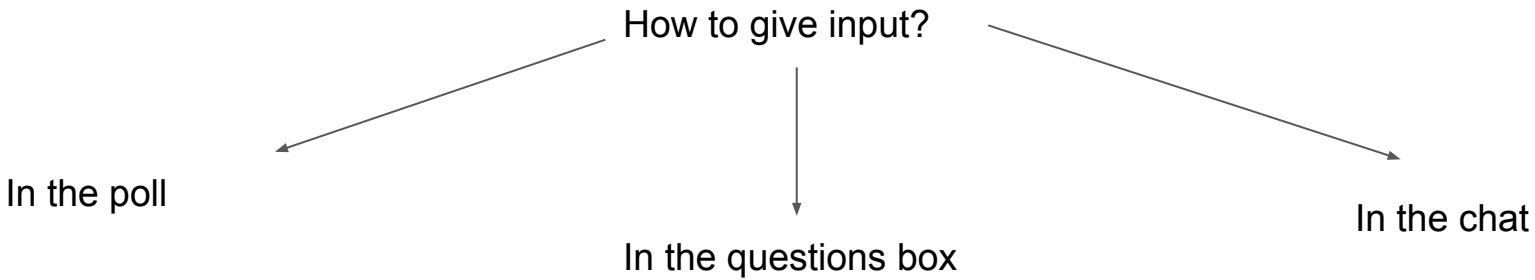
The Future of Research Communications and e-Scholarship

RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

This session's goals

1. **Share findings** from the Software Source Code Identification Working Group
   DOI: 10.15497/RDA00053
2. **Learn** about attendees' backgrounds
3. **Show the complex puzzle** of identifying software
4. Get attendee opinions about **where we are**
5. Get attendee opinions about **where we should go**



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Question 1: Are you **dealing** with software in your daily work?

- Yes, using,
- Yes, implementing
- Yes, developing
- Yes, designing
- Yes, testing
- Yes, all of the above
- No or Not yet

Software is all around us...

Apollo 11 Guidance Computer (~60.000 lines), 1969

"When I first got into it, nobody knew what it was that we were doing. It was like the Wild West."

Margaret Hamilton

Tim Berners-Lee invented the **World Wide Web, 1989**, while working at CERN

"When somebody has learned how to program a computer … **You're joining a group of people who can do incredible things. They can make the computer do anything they can imagine.**"

From An Insight, An Idea with Tim Berners-Lee at 27:27 (25 January 2013)

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Question 2: Have you **heard about** or **read** the RDA/FORCE11 Software Source Code Identification output?

- yes! I even read and commented during the community review,
- yes only heard about it,
- not yet :)

Software Source Code Identification Working Group

The SCID WG Goal: **capture and analyze** the software identification state-of-the-art in the scholarly ecosystem

Co-chairs

- Roberto Di Cosmo
- Martin Fenner
- Daniel S. Katz

Secretariat Liaison

- Stefanie Kethers

RDA page
https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/software-source-code-identification-wg

Repository
https://github.com/force11/force11-rda-scidwg

Chronology...

03/2018 Spawned at RDA **P11** in Berlin from the

- RDA Software Source Code IG &
- FORCE11 Software Citation Implementation WG

10/2018 - TAB endorsement

4/2019 - RDA **P13**, Philadelphia

- **WG kick-off**

10/2019 - **FORCE2019**, Edinburgh Full day hackathon on research software

03/2020 - RDA VP15 session online

07/2020 - Output in community review **DOI:10.15497/RDA00053**

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Question 3: What kind of **stakeholder** are you in the scholarly ecosystem?

- a researcher, a research software engineer,
- a publisher, a citation manager,
- a funder, an evaluator,
- a registry admin, a curator
- or some other role

Definition: Actors

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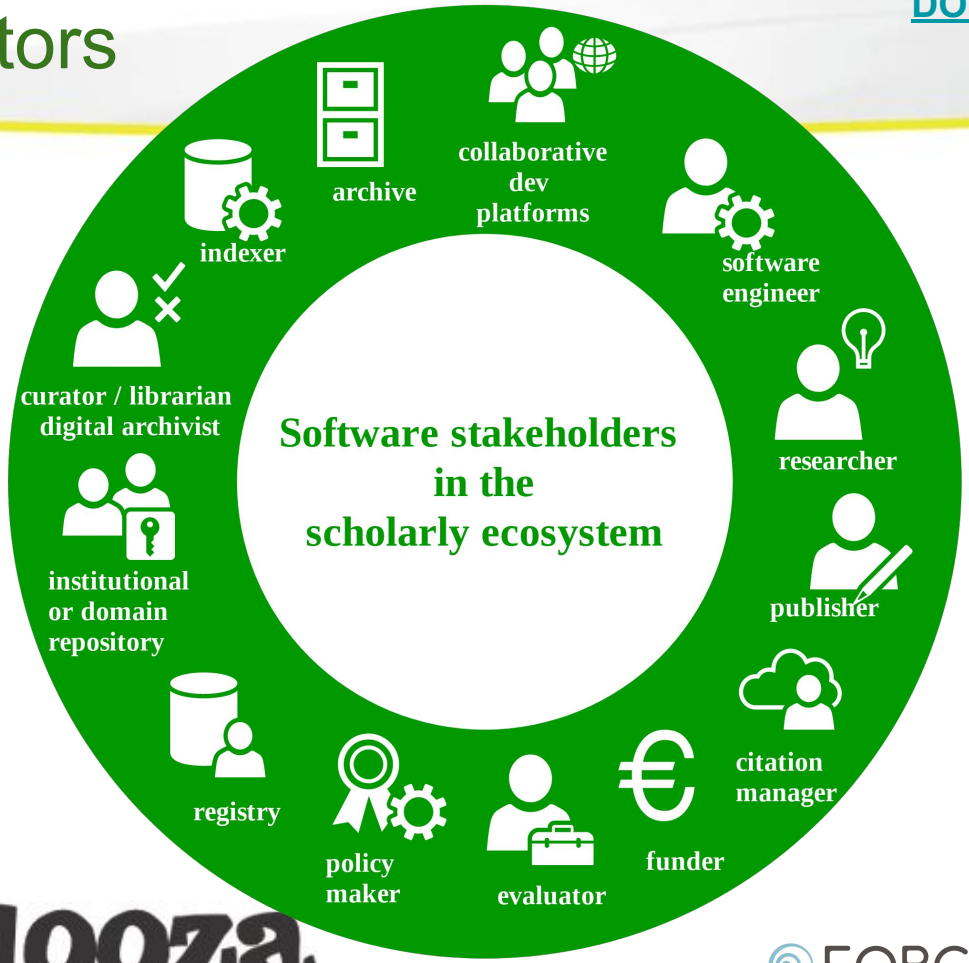

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Question 4: Do you **need to identify** software in your work?

- Yes, in my articles, reports and other writings
- Yes, in my data
- Yes, in my software
- Yes, in different settings
- Not at the moment

Question 5: What do you want to see when you click on a software PID?

- a project, a module,
- a release, a source code artifact, an executable,
- a docs page, a tutorial,
- a docker image
- or depending on the use-case at hand

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Identification target - what do we want to identify?

Software concept / project / collection

Description in registry, a homepage or any other form of metadata record

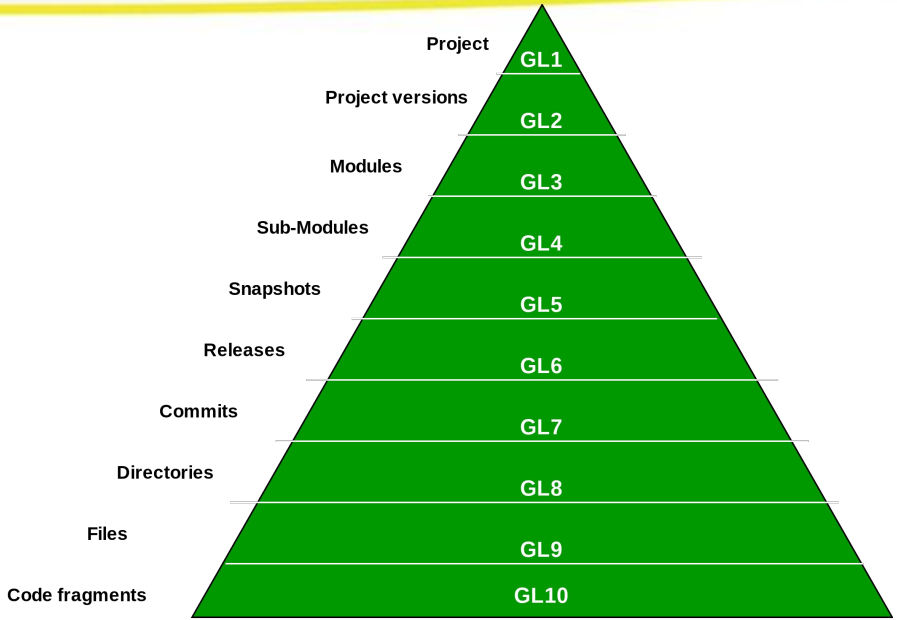
- Project versions (for example Python2 and Python3)
- Modules
- Sub-modules

Software artifact

- Executable (download link)
- Software source code
  - Dynamic artifact - current development code (on collaborative development platform)
  - Archived copy
    - Snapshot (all branches, all dev history)
    - Release / Package
    - Commit- a specific point in development history
    - Directory
    - File
    - Algorithm

Software context

- Complementary artifacts
  - the software environment, tutorial (Jupyter notebook), Data (input/output data), etc.
- Articles
- Documentation



Question 6: What's the most important **use case** in your workflow?

- Get credit / Give credit
- To reproduce an experiment
- Curate software metadata
- Access the software source code to use it
- None of the above

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The use cases collection (a small excerpt)

Actor	Use case description	Action	Identification target
Archive	Identify all the software artifacts I hold	Archiving, referencing	Release and smaller artifacts
Citation manager	Curate the software citation entries	Credit	Project, release
Curator / librarian / digital archivist	Catalog and browse the development history of legacy software source code for preservation purposes	Archiving	Project, release and smaller artifacts depending on the reference
Publisher	Create/retrieve identifiers quickly for use in the paper for all software including commercial packages.	Referencing, describing	Any item (all granularity levels)
Registry	Identify and curate the software entries I hold	Archiving, referencing, describing, credit	Project
Researcher as a software user (RSU)	Access and use SSC no longer available on a collaborative platform	Archiving	Snapshot, release, revision, directory

Question 7: Are you using a **software identifier**?

- Yes, all the time
- Yes, sometimes
- Maybe, I'm not sure
- No, it is too difficult to do

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Landscape of Identifiers schemes (small excerpt)

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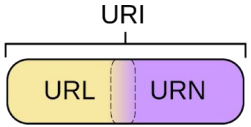
HAL-ID

Digital Object Identifier



Wiki Item identifier (Qxxx)

ASCL.net
Astrophysics Source Code Library

Software Identification

ARK
Archival Resource Key

Handle
Handle System identifiers

SWHID
Software Heritage identifiers

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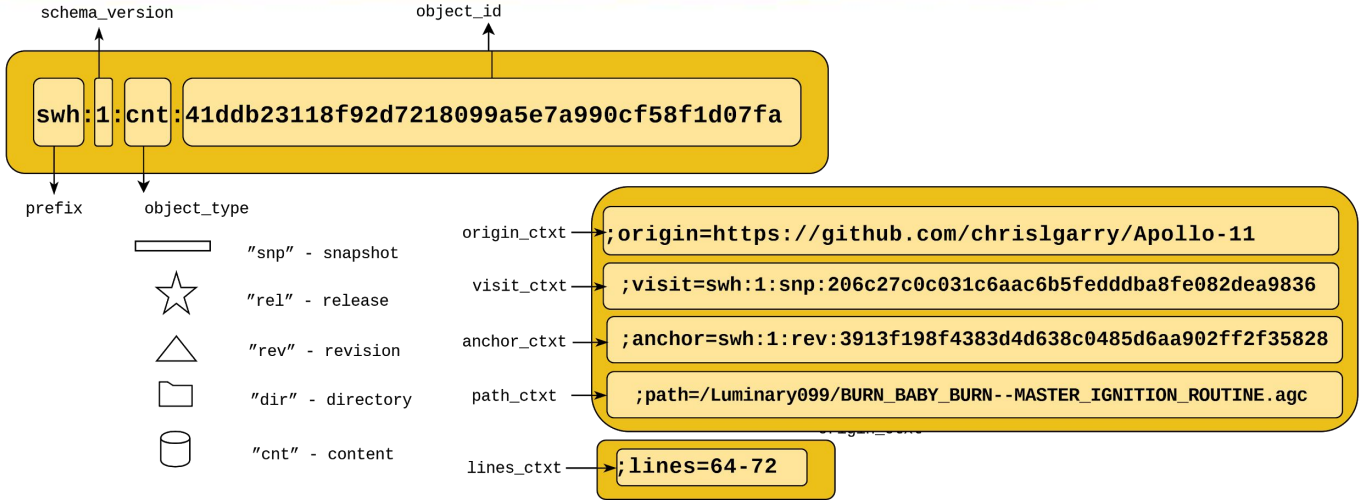
Intrinsic identifier: the Software Heritage ID (SWHID)

- **Intrinsic**: compute a unique **digital fingerprint**
- **cryptographically strong** identifiers
- **decentralised**:
  - do not need a registry,
  - agreement on a standard



Documentation

Extrinsic identifier: the **HAL ID**

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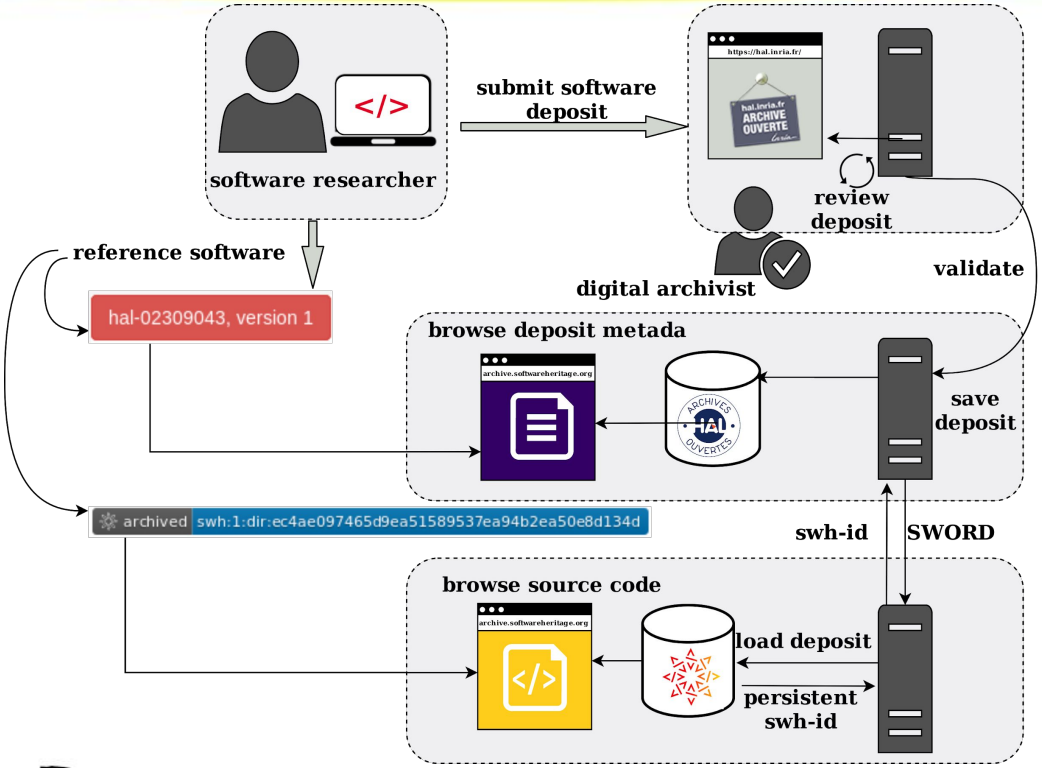
Deposit guide

[Describe][Cite]

Software Heritage

[Archive][Reference]



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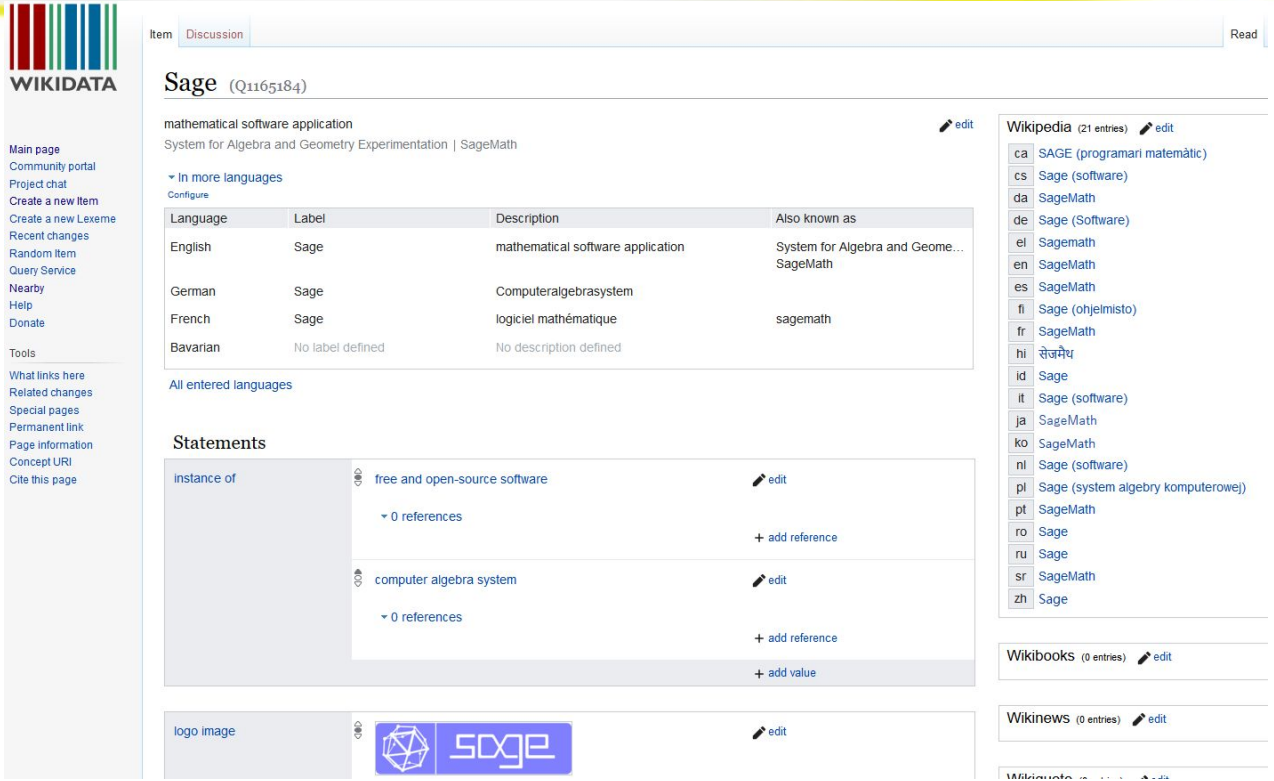
Wikidata entities for identifying projects

Q1165184=SageMath.

A few examples of external identifiers properties of used on software entities:

- Arch package sagemath
- Debian stable package
- Fedora package
- Free Software Directory entry
- Freebase
- Gentoo package
- Open Hub ID sage
- Quora topic
- Ubuntu Package
- swMATH work ID 825
- SWHID snapshot (15.11.2020)
- and many more



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Identifiers from Registries

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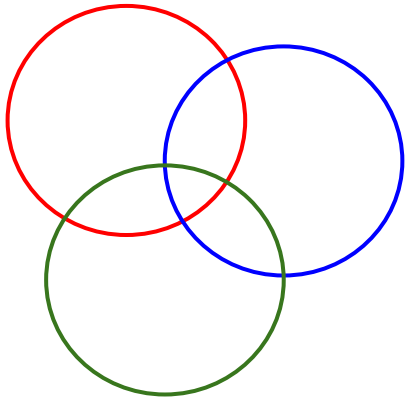
- To meet discipline-specific needs, discipline-specific registries have appeared
- **RRID** (life sciences), **ASCL** (astronomy), **swMath** (math)
- These let the community register different types of objects (including software) with an organization that curates the entries
- The entries then can be used in papers, including in citations
- But each is independent, and because software can cross disciplines, the registries can have overlapping contents



DOI on JOSS articles

- Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS, https://joss.theoj.org)
  - A developer friendly, open access journal for research software packages
- Research software packages are identified with:
  - The article DOI: JOSS publishes a short paper with a Crossref DOI (https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01686)
  - The software DOI: The author deposits the software in a repository that provides a DOI (e.g., Zenodo) (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3547813)
- As a result, there are 2 DOIs.
- Links from the paper and metadata DOI to:
  - the software deposit and its DOI,
  - the live version of the software (e.g., on GitHub)

JOSS
The Journal of Open Source Software

Welcome to the Tidyverse

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1 RStudio 2 cynkra 3 Redbubble 4 Erasmus University Rotterdam 5 Flatiron Health 6 Department of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin 7 Sage Bionetworks 8 Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health 9 Chukyo University, Japan 10 Department of Environmental Science, Policy, & Management, University of California, Berkeley 11 LINE Corporation 12 University of Wisconsin, Madison 13 None 14 University of California, Berkeley

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Software
- Review
- Repository
- Archive

Editor: Karthik Ram
Reviewers:
- @dcicco-USGS
- @jeffreyhanson

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Published: 21 November 2019

Summary

At a high level, the tidyverse is a language for solving data science challenges with R code. Its primary goal is to facilitate a conversation between a human and a computer about data. Less abstractly, the tidyverse is a collection of R packages that share a high-level design philosophy and low-level grammar and data structures, so that learning one package makes it easier to learn the next.

The tidyverse encompasses the repeated tasks at the heart of every data science project: data import, tidying, manipulation, visualisation, and programming. We expect that almost every project will use multiple domain-specific packages outside of the tidyverse: our goal is to provide tooling for the most common challenges; not to solve every possible problem. Notably, the tidyverse doesn't include tools for statistical modelling or communication. These toolkits are critical for data science, but are so large that they merit separate treatment. The tidyverse package allows users to install all tidyverse packages with a single command.

There are a number of projects that are similar in scope to the tidyverse. The closest is perhaps Bioconductor (Gentleman et al., 2004; Huber et al., 2015), which provides an ecosystem of packages that support the analysis of high-throughput genomic data. The tidyverse has similar goals to R itself, but any comparison to the R Project (R Core Team, 2019) is fundamentally challenging as the tidyverse is written in R, and relies on R for its infrastructure; there is no tidyverse without R! That said, the biggest difference is in priorities: base R is highly focussed on stability, whereas the tidyverse will make breaking changes in the search for better interfaces. Another closely related project is data.table (Dowle & Srinivasan, 2019), which provides tools roughly equivalent to the combination of dplyr, tidyr, tibble, and readr. data.table prioritises

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Summary

Granularity level (GL)	ID target	Extrinsic identifiers									Intrinsic identifiers	
		ASCL	*ARK*	*DOI*	*HAL*	*URL*	*RRID*	*SwMath*	*Wikidata*		*Hash*	*SWH*
									entity	*property*		
GL1	project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
GL2	project version		X						X			
GL3	module		X						X			
GL4	repository		X			X				X		
GL5	repository snapshot		X							X		X
GL6	release		X	X**						X	X	X
GL7	commit		X							X	X	X
GL8	directory		X	X**	X*					X	X	X
GL9	file		X	X**							X	X
GL10	Code fragment		X									X

Final question (8): Given this mess (dark puzzle), how can we clean it up?

(considering communities, technologies, etc.)

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