

Enough with trickle down
reproducibility: scientists, open this
gate! scientists, tear down this wall!

How does reproducible research actually work in practice?

Karthik Ram



What exactly is
reproducibility
anyway?

4 kinds of reproducibility

*Computational
reproducibility and
transparency*

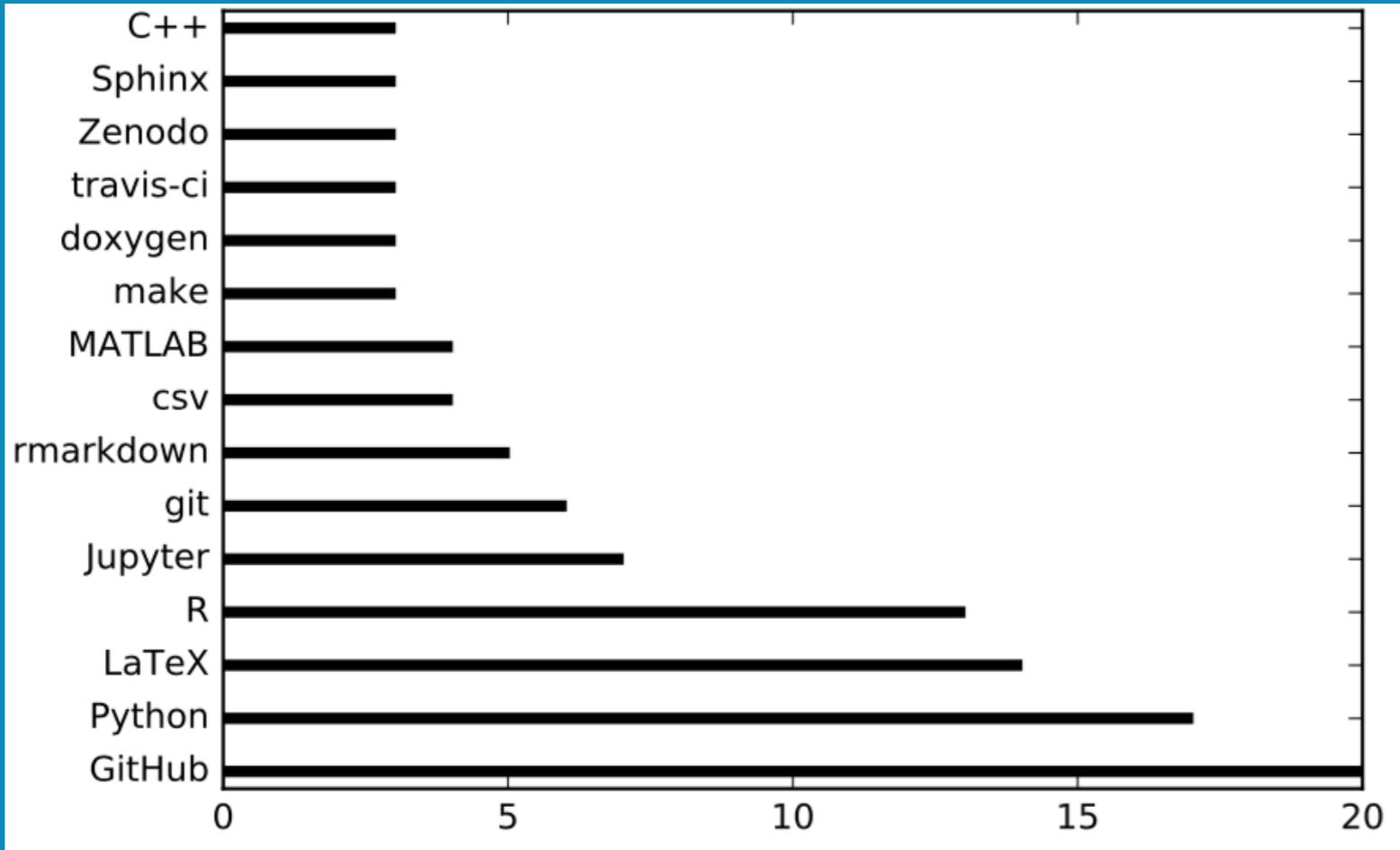
*Computational
correctness*

*Scientific
reproducibility &
transparency*

*Statistical
reproducibility*

Millman et al , 2016

*What tools are
scientists using?*



Huff 2016

What are some
obstacles around
making research
reproducible?

1 Leveling up skills

Biggest bottleneck to adoption of reproducible research practices was related to diversity of skills

More homogeneity in tool familiarity = better reproducibility

2 Dependencies, build systems, and packaging

Scientific software often built on numerous dependencies



Improved build systems
for software, data &
workflows



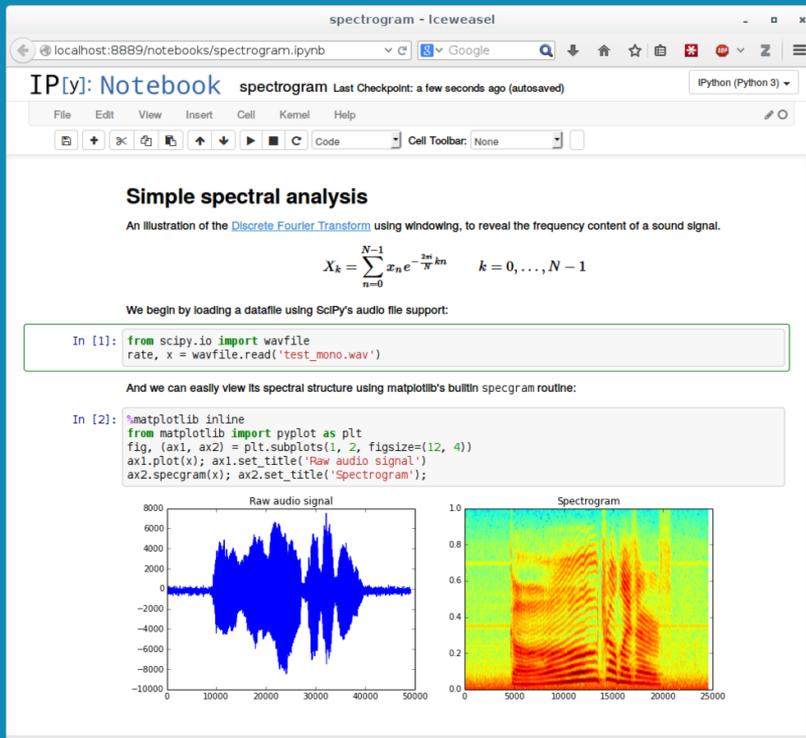
3 Testing

Code that went beyond simple script reported testing systematically

However, many scientists were discouraged by the perceived effort of unit testing

4

Publishing



File Edit Code View Project Workspace Plots Tools Help

Untitled1* x knitr-slides.Rmd x

Knit HTML

```
1 % Writing beautiful and reproducible slides quickly
2 % Yihui Xie
3 % 2012/04/30
4
5 ```{r setup, include=FALSE}
6 # set global chunk options
7 opts_chunk$set(fig.path='figure/slides-', cache=TRUE)
8 # upload images automatically
9 opts_knit$set(upload.fun = imgur_upload)
10 ```
11
12 # Why
13
14 - after you finished typing '\documentclass{beamer}' and '\title{', I have
15   finished my first slide with markdown
16 - much less commands to remember, e.g. to write bullet points, just begin with a
17   dash "-" instead of '\begin{itemize}' and '\item'; how things can be simpler?
18 - I know you want math to show you are a statistician, e.g. $f(k)={n \choose
19   k}p^k(1-p)^{n-k}$
20 - you do not need to maintain output -- only maintain a source file
21 - HTML5/CSS3 is much more fun than LaTeX
```

Run

Chunks

Insert Chunk Ctrl+Shift+I

Jump To... Shift+Alt+J

Run Current Chunk Ctrl+Alt+R

Run Next Chunk Ctrl+Alt+N

Run All Ctrl+Alt+A

There is still a need for publication formats that allow for effortless collaboration.

5 Data sharing & versioning

Versioning data is hard, as is finding reliable places to archive them

zenodo



karthik@serenity ▶ ~/Documents/Work/Github/ss-tradeoff-paper/data ▶ master ◻

karthik@serenity ▶ ~/Documents/Work/Github/new_laptop/ss_paper ◻



65+ TOOLS	R, C++, NODE	LARGE CONTRIBUTOR COMMUNITY
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- 1** **Data retrieval** (APIs, data storage services, journals)
- 2** **Data visualization** (e.g. plot.ly)
- 3** **Data sharing** (figshare, Zenodo, data)
- 4** **Reproducibility**

6

Time and incentives

*"time and efforts spent on
creating reproducible
research are not very well
rewarded"*

*Ram &
Marwick, 2016*



POINT OF VIEW

How open science helps researchers succeed

Abstract Open access, open data, open source and other open scholarship practices are growing in popularity and necessity. However, widespread adoption of these practices has not yet been achieved. One reason is that researchers are uncertain about how sharing their work will affect their careers. We review literature demonstrating that open research is associated with increases in citations, media attention, potential collaborators, job opportunities and funding opportunities. These findings are evidence that open research practices bring significant benefits to researchers relative to more traditional closed practices.

DOI: [10.7554/eLife.16800.001](https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.16800.001)

[10.7554/eLife.16800.001](https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.16800.001)

Journal of Open Source Software

JOSS 10.21105/joss.00037



The Journal of Open Source Software

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tidytext: Text Mining and Analysis Using Tidy Data Principles in R

Authors

[Julia Silge](#) / [David Robinson](#)

Repository:

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DOI:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.21105/joss.00037>

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[doi2bib](#)

Summary

The tidytext package (Silge, Robinson, and Hester 2016) is an R package (R Core Team 2016) for text mining using tidy data principles. As described by Hadley Wickham (Wickham 2014), tidy data has a specific structure:

joss.theoj.org

**Will
reproducibility
always be this
hard?**



Practices you can adopt now

Version your code

Automate everywhere

Open your **data**

Document your processes

Test everything

Avoid excessive dependencies

DOIs everywhere

Avoid spreadsheets *

Workflow and provenance

frameworks are hard to adopt

*



Hadley Wickham ✓
@hadleywickham



Following

To paraphrase [@JennyBryan](#): teaching spreadsheet abstinence doesn't work, need to focus on harm reduction

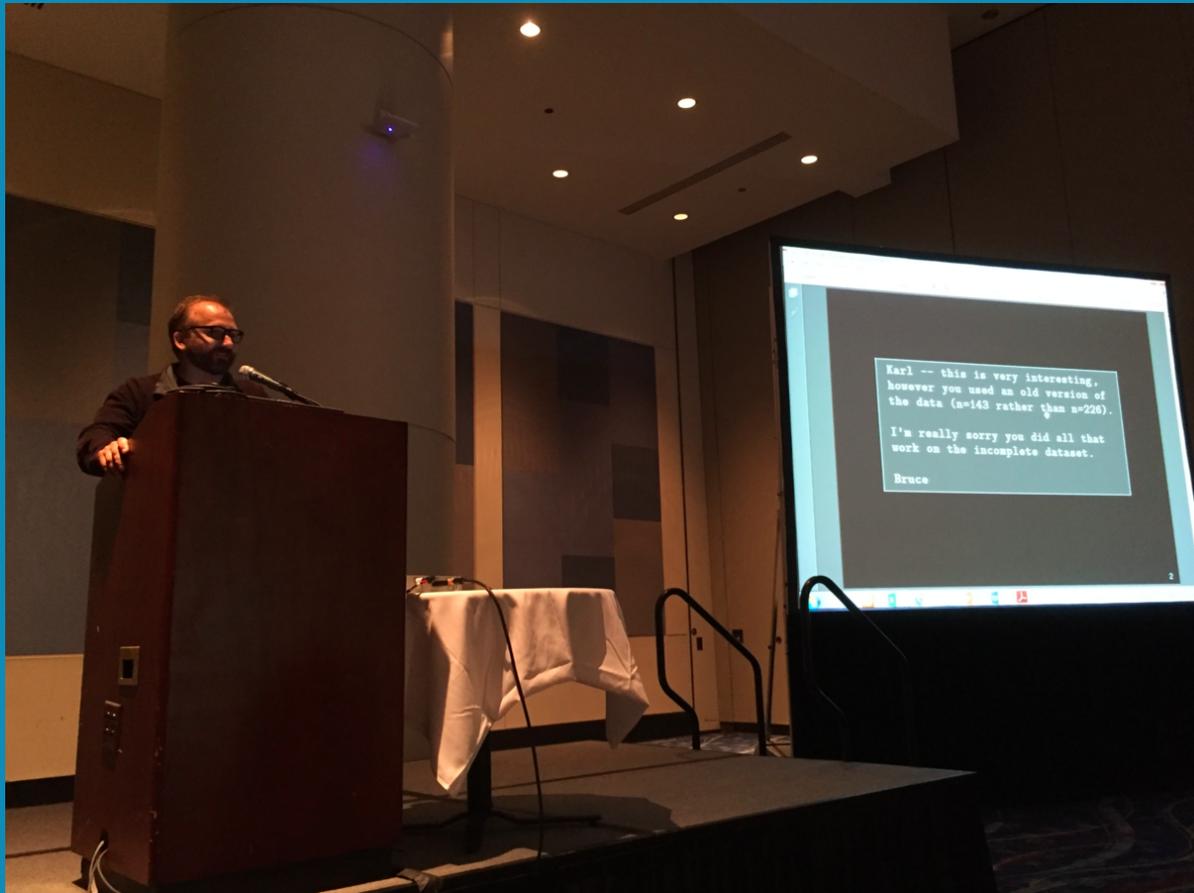
Partial reproducibility is better than nothing

Start small -- provide raw data, post any scripts, and versions of programs you used

Karl Broman

What we need right now is *scientists actually using stuff that already exists, not engineers building new stuff that no one will ever use*

C. Titus Brown



See previous talk by Karl Broman
kbroman.org/steps2rr/



The Practice of Reproducible Research

*A collection of case studies to be published in
spring 2017*

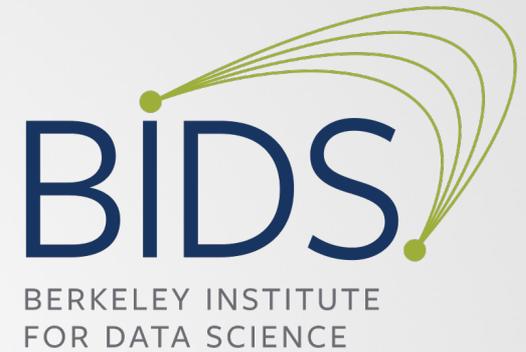
Ben Marwick

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Katy Huff

Scott Chamberlain

**Jeroen Ooms & rOpenSci
contributors**



inundata.org/talks/jsm2016