Scientific programming patterns

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What is wrong with you?!

You studied the language

You learned the libraries

• You coded for months

 And yet the code still feels like a 7-headed apocalyptic monster. Changes are painful, new features break old functionality, reproducing previous results becomes a git-checkout juggling exercise



The good news: you can smell it

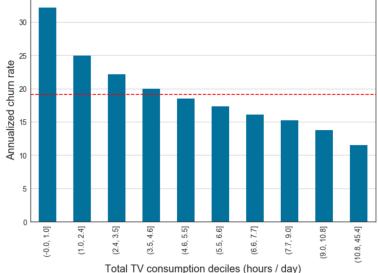
7.1 Total TV

```
In [118]: ttv_h_deciles = pd.qcut(ttv_h, 10)
    ttv_deciles_churn = tv_merged.groupby(ttv_h_deciles).churned_all.mean() * 12 / 10 * 100

In [119]: with plt.rc_context(rc=get_style(figsize=(12 ,8))):
        ax = ttv_deciles_churn.plot.bar(color=blue)
        plt.grid(axis='y')
        plt.xlabel('Total TV consumption deciles (hours / day)')
        plt.ylabel('Annualized churn rate')
        plt.axhline(annual_tv_churn * 100, c='r', ls='--')

        t = ['({:.1f}, {:.1f}]'.format(x.left, x.right) for x in ttv_deciles_churn.index]
        plt.xticks(range(len(t)), t)
```





The good news: you can smell it

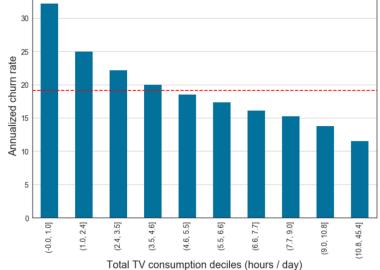
7.1 Total TV

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    plt.ylabel('Annualized churn rate')
    plt.axhline(annual_tv_churn * 100, c='r', ls='--')

t = ['({:.1f}, {:.1f}]'.format(x.left, x.right) for x in ttv_deciles_churn.index]
    plt.xticks(range(len(t)), t)
```





7.2 Playback

7.3 Trends

```
In [137]: tv_delta = pd.cut(tv_merged.TTV_201703_delta, np.arange(-5.5, 5.6, 1.0))
tv_delta_churn = tv_merged.groupby(tv_delta).churned_all.mean() * 12 / 10 * 100

In [138]: with plt.rc_context(rc=get_style(figsize=(12 ,8))):
    ax = tv_delta_churn.plot.bar(color=blue)
    plt.grid(axis='y')
    plt.xlabel('TV consumption trend')
    plt.ylabel('Annualized churn rate')
    plt.axhline(annual_tv_churn * 100, c='r', ls='--')
```

What is wrong with smelly code?

Smelly code might work right now, but in time it is going to have one or more of these issues:

- Hard to read and test: it is difficult to see an overall structure; understanding the code in one place requires checking other code all over
- Coupled: an update in one place requires several other changes in other places
- Not flexible: adding new functionality and modifying exiting features require extensive rewrites or hacks



Code should be as a construction block structure

Functions and classes group together things that are coupled together and form the basic blocks.

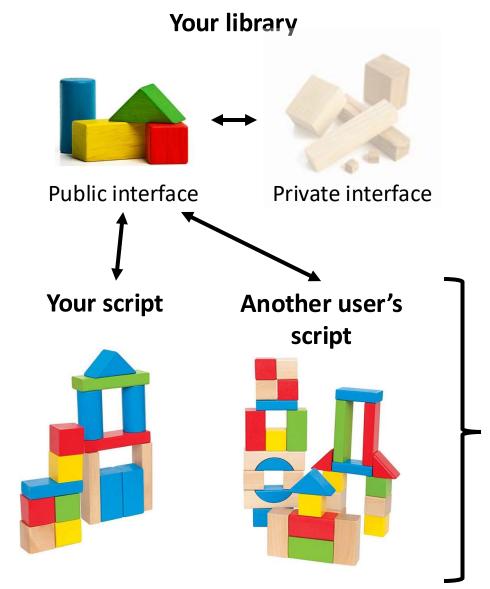
We can easily and quickly rearrange the blocks to extend a structure or build a new one!

Flexible code is just like a block construction:

- is easy to understand in terms of blocks
- tolerates changes
- is reusable



Words that we'll say a lot



"External code"

- Library vs external code
 - External code is anything that is not in your library: your script, 3rd party wanting to do other stuff, another library
- Interface, API
 - How you are supposed to call your library. The list of public functions and classes, and how to use them
- Public interface vs private interface
 - Changing the public interface forces all the external code to change

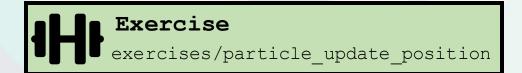
Chapter 1: Introduction to classes Put together things that belong together



Classes live coding



Hands-on



Add a new method to the Particle class

- Make the function update_position into a method of the class Particle.
- Where does the position of the particle belong? Modify the class constructor if necessary.
- Submit a PR for Issue #1 on GitHub.

Summary: Classes organize your code

```
def first_function(x, y, z):
    # Something

def second_function(x, y, z):
    # Something else

def third_function(x, y, z):
    # Something more

class Xyz:
    def __init__(self, x, y, z):
    ...

def first_function(self):
    # Something
    def second_function(self):
    # Something else
    def third_function(self):
    # Something more
```

- Classes help us group data and functionalities that belong together
- When used judiciously, the code becomes more usable as we get rid
 of a lot of manual book-keeping; details are hidden away
- Understanding what belongs to the class and what does not is important to keep the code flexible!

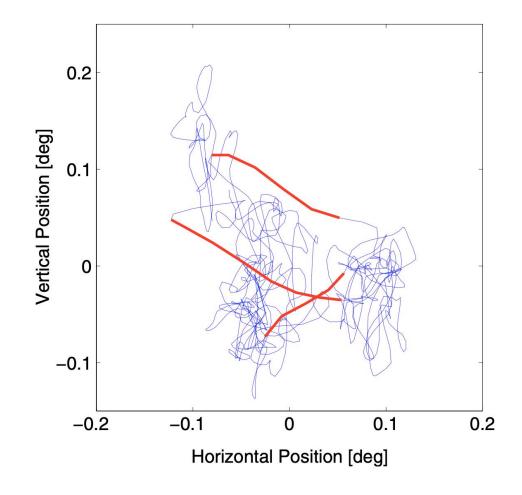
Recap: Class structure

```
class MyClass:
    def init (self, param1, param2):
                                                     The constructor is used to first
        self.param1 = param1
                                                     populate an instance, called by
        if param2 is None:
            param2 = 12.3
                                                     convention "self"
        self.param2 = param2
    def my method(self, foo, bar):
        result = self.param2 * foo + self.param2 * bar
        return result
                                                               Classes can define "methods", i.e.
    def to json(self):
                                                               functions that have access to the data
        params = {
                                                               stored in an instance
            'param1': self.param1,
            'param2': self.param2,
        return json.dumps(params)
    @classmethod
    def from json(cls, json str):
                                                                             A "class method" can be used to build
        json dict = json.loads(json str)
                                                                             an instance in some alternative way,
        instance = cls(json dict['params1'], json dict['params2'])
                                                                             e.g. using data from a file
        return instance
                                                Here is how you create instances from
instance = MyClass(5, 18)
instance = MyClass.from json(json str)
                                                the constructor or a class method
                                                                                            August 2024, v. 3.0, CC BY-SA 4.0
```

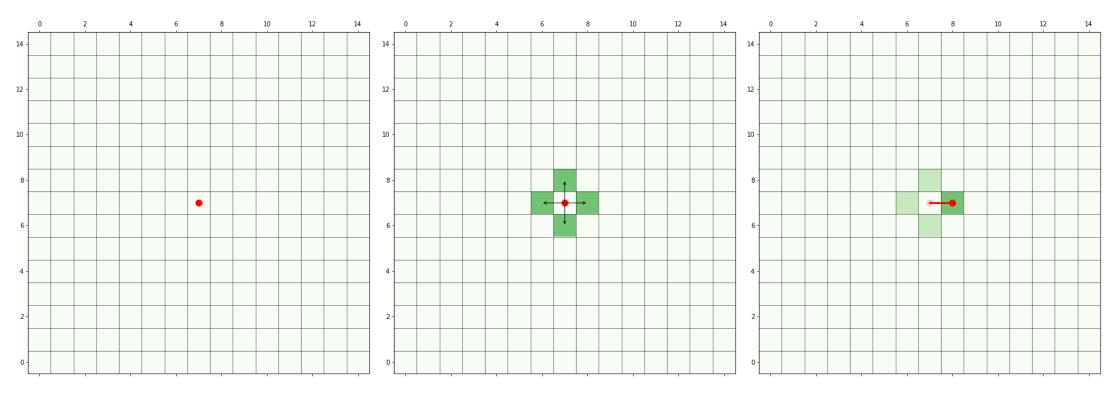
Chapter 2: Break out things that vary independently



- Even when people think they are holding their eyes still, they still move around:
 - Drift, microsaccades, jitter
- The movement has statistical properties such as self avoidance, directional persistence...
- The upcoming exercise is a simplified version of a model Lisa is working on



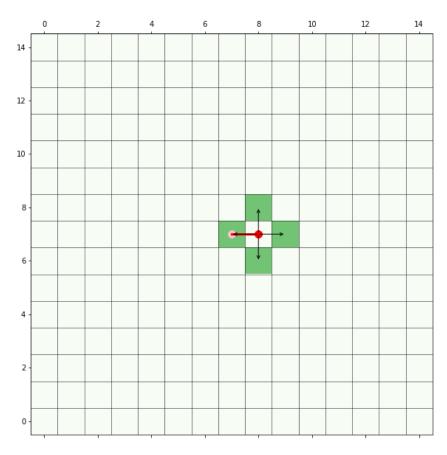




Walker starts somewhere

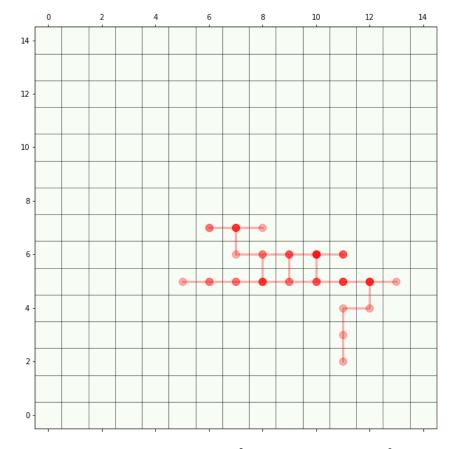
It could walk one step in any direction

It randomly selects one step



In the next step it has the same stepping options

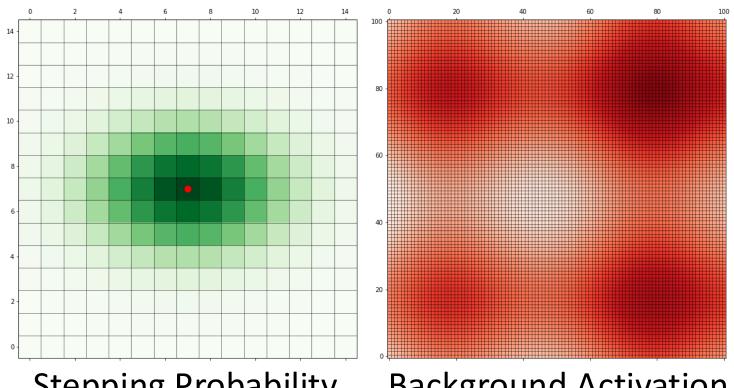




By iterating this procedure, we get a trajectory



- To make the behavior a little bit more interesting the walker in the exercise...
 - Choses its next step from a probability distribution
 - Can also walk over a nonuniform background, that influences how likely it is to go there



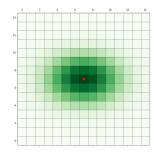
Stepping Probability

Background Activation

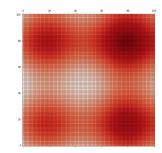




```
next_step_proposal(current_i, current_j, sigma_i, sigma_j, size)
```

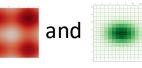


```
create_context_map(size, map_type='flat')
```



```
sample_next_step(current_i, current_j, sigma_i, sigma_j, context_map,
random_state=np.random)
```

Combines



, and probabilistically selects the next location

Conceptual Exercises

- All the exercises are about reformatting and pseudocode! You are not expected to go into detail about how the code works- copy&pasting is fine!
- There are many ways to solve the exercises. It is more important to think about the implementation choices with your partner than to finish.
- We will give you working code to start from at each step, so don't worry about finishing!

Conceptual Exercises

 We DON'T expect a PR, or working code! Instead, decide what would be a good way to build the code and comment our opinion in the git.aspp.school issue.

```
# Markdown Title

Comment in words, what you think!

```python
S = "The maintainers of the library are awsome!"

print(s)

```
```

Conceptual Exercise



A walker class

 Open the notebook "Step_1_classes_exercise" execute the code, and follow the instructions

From...

```
i, j = 100, 50  # initial position
sigma_i, sigma_j = 3, 4  # parameters of the next step map
size = 200  # size of the image
context_map = create_context_map(size, 'hills')  # fixed context map

# Sample a next step 1000 times
trajectory = []
for _ in range(1000):
    i, j = sample_next_step(i, j, sigma_i, sigma_j, context_map)
    trajectory.append((i, j))
```

```
To...?
```

```
walker = Walker(sigma_i=3, sigma_j=4, ...)
# Sample a next step 1000 times
...
```

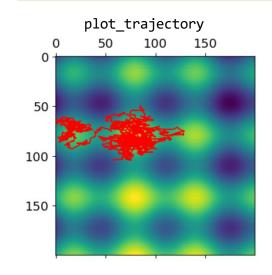
 Comment on Issue #2 on git.aspp.school, suggesting what you think the code should look like.

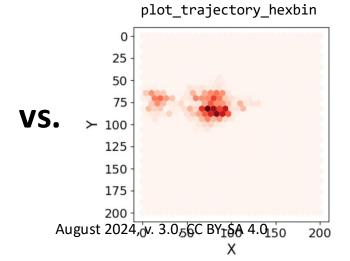
Plotting does not belong to the Walker

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
class Walker:
    """ The Walker knows how to walk at random on a context map.
    def init (self, sigma i, sigma j, size, map type='flat'):
        # ...
    def plot trajectory(self, trajectory):
        """ Plot a trajectory over a context map.
        trajectory = np.asarray(trajectory)
        plt.matshow(self.context map)
        plt.plot(trajectory[:, 1], trajectory[:, 0], color='r')
        plt.show()
    def plot trajectory hexbin(self, trajectory):
        """ Plot an hexagonal density map of a trajectory.
        trajectory = np.asarray(trajectory)
        plt.hexbin(
            trajectory[:, 1], trajectory[:, 0],
            gridsize=30, extent=(0, 200, 0, 200),
            edgecolors='none', cmap='Reds'
        plt.gca().invert yaxis()
        plt.xlabel('X')
        plt.ylabel('Y')
```

- 1. Changing or adding new way of plotting (e.g. by a colleague) would require modifying the Walker's code, without changing its behavior
- 2. Changing the Walker behavior will typically not modify the plotting code
- 3. Using your walker requires you to install matplotlib

These are smells of the fact that plotting varies independently of the Walker





The smells of the Walker constructor

```
def init (self, sigma i, sigma j, size, map type='flat'):
    self.sigma i = sigma i
    self.sigma j = sigma j
    self.size = size
   if map type == 'flat':
        context map = np.ones((size, size))
    elif map type == 'hills':
        grid ii, grid jj = np.mgrid[0:size, 0:size]
        i waves = np.sin(grid ii / 130) + np.sin(grid ii / 10)
        i waves /= i waves.max()
        j waves = np.sin(grid jj / 100) + np.sin(grid jj / 50) + \
            np.sin(grid jj / 10)
        j waves /= j waves.max()
        context map = j waves + i waves
    elif map type == 'labyrinth':
        context map = np.ones((size, size))
        context map[50:100, 50:60] = 0
        context map[20:89, 80:90] = 0
        context map[90:120, 0:10] = 0
        context map[120:size, 30:40] = 0
        context map[180:190, 50:60] = 0
        context map[50:60, 50:200] = 0
        context map[179:189, 80:130] = 0
        context map[110:120, 0:190] = 0
        context map[120:size, 30:40] = 0
        context map[180:190, 50:60] = 0
    context map /= context map.sum()
    self.context map = context map
    # Pre-compute a 2D grid of coordinates for efficiency
    self. grid ii, self. grid jj = np.mgrid[0:size, 0:size]
```

The smells of the Walker constructor

```
def __init__(self, sigma_i, sigma_j, size, map_type='flat'):
    self.sigma i = sigma i
    self.sigma j = sigma j
    self.size = size
    if map type == 'flat':
        context map = np.ones((size, size))
    elif map type == 'hills':
        grid ii, grid jj = np.mgrid[0:size, 0:size]
        i_waves = np.sin(grid_ii / 130) + np.sin(grid ii / 10)
        i waves /= i waves.max()
        j waves = np.sin(grid jj / 100) + np.sin(grid jj / 50) + \
            np.sin(grid jj / 10)
        j waves /= j waves.max()
        context map = j waves + i waves
    elif map type == 'labyrinth':
        context map = np.ones((size, size))
        context map[50:100, 50:60] = 0
        context map[20:89, 80:90] = 0
        context map[90:120, 0:10] = 0
        context map[120:size, 30:40] = 0
        context map[180:190, 50:60] = 0
        context map[50:60, 50:200] = 0
        context map[179:189, 80:130] = 0
        context map[110:120, 0:190] = 0
        context map[120:size, 30:40] = 0
        context map[180:190, 50:60] = 0
    context_map /= context_map.sum()
    self.context map = context map
    # Pre-compute a 2D grid of coordinates for efficiency
    self. grid ii, self. grid jj = np.mgrid[0:size, 0:size]
```

- The constructor will become longer with more map types
- We cannot contribute a new map type without modifying the code
- 3. It is difficult to test
- 4. It is not flexible, e.g. what happens if we want to create an instance from a context map saved on file?

These are smells of the fact that the initialization of context_map varies independently of the Walker

```
def add_block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
  elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block =
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def add block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block = /
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def build_circle(size):
   """ Build a circle. """
   return
def build_square(size):
   """ Build a square. """
   return
def build_triangle(size):
   """ Build a triangle. """
   return
def add_block(blocks, block):
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
block = build_square(size=11)
add_block(blocks, block)
```

Conceptual Exercise



Moving context map creation to separate modules

- Go to the Notebook and follow the instructions there
- Comment on Issue #3 on git.aspp.school, suggesting what you think the code should look like.

New requirement: we need to use different next-step proposals for different experiments

```
class Walker:
    # ...
   def sample next step(self, current i, current j, random state=np.random):
        """ Sample a new position for the walker. """
        # Combine the next-step proposal with the context map to get a
       # next-step probability map
       next step map = self. next step proposal(current i, current j)
       selection map = self. compute next step probability(next step map)
        # Draw a new position from the next-step probability map
       r = random state.rand()
       cumulative map = np.cumsum(selection map)
       cumulative map = cumulative map.reshape(selection map.shape)
       i next, j next = np.argwhere(cumulative map >= r)[0]
       return i next, j next
       next step proposal(self, current_i, current_j):
        """ Create the 2D proposal map for the next step of the walker.
       # 2D Gaussian distribution , centered at current position,
        # and with different standard deviations for i and i
       grid ii, grid jj = self. grid ii, self. grid jj
       sigma i, sigma j = self.sigma i, self.sigma j
       rad = (
           (((grid_ii - current_i) ** 2) / (sigma_i ** 2))
           + (((grid jj - current j) ** 2) / (sigma j ** 2))
       p_next_step = np.exp(-(rad / 2.0)) / (2.0 * np.pi * sigma_i * sigma_j)
       return p next step / p next step.sum()
```

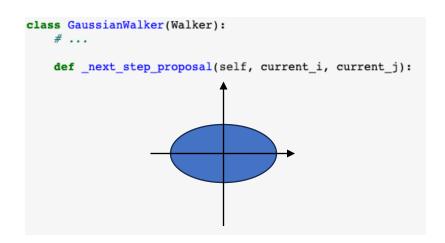
- We would like to run some experiments with a Gaussian next step proposal, some with a rectangular proposal, etc.
- How can we do that?

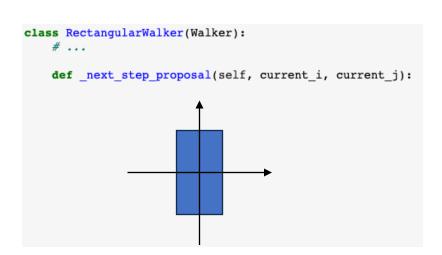
The inheritance solution

```
class Walker:
# ...

def _next_step_proposal(self, current_i, current_j):
    """ Create the 2D proposal map for the next step of the walker. """
    raise NotImplementedError("`_next_step_proposal` not implemented")

def _next_step_proposal(self, current_i, current_j):
    """ Create the 2D proposal map for the next step of the walker. """
    raise NotImplementedError("`_next_step_proposal` not implemented")
```





The problem with inheritance

New requirement: the way of combining next step proposal and context map can also vary

```
def _compute_next_step_probability(self, next_step_map):
    """ Compute the next step probability map from next step proposal and
    context map. """
    next_step_probability = next_step_map * self.context_map
    next_step_probability /= next_step_probability.sum()
    return next_step_probability
This combination can
now be done through
product, sum, or other
```

The problem with inheritance

The inheritance approach leads to a combinatorial explosion of subclasses

```
Gaussian
Rectangular X
Jumping
Product
Sum
```

```
class GaussianWalkerWithProductInteraction(Walker):
   def next step proposal(self, current i, current j):
   def compute next step probability(self, next step map):
class GaussianWalkerWithSumInteraction(Walker):
   def next step proposal(self, current i, current j):
    def compute next step probability(self, next step map):
class RectangularWalkerWithProductInteraction(Walker):
   def next step proposal(self, current i, current j):
   def compute next step probability(self, next step map):
class RectangularWalkerWithSumInteraction(Walker):
    def next step proposal(self, current i, current j):
    def compute next step probability(self, next step map):
```

Passing varying behavior (e.g. functions) as an argument is usually a better alternative

```
class Walker:
    def init (self, size, context map, next step proposal, next step proposal arguments):
        self.next step proposal = next step proposal
        # ...
    def sample next step(self, current i, current j, random state=np.random):
        """ Sample a new position for the walker. """
        # Combine the next-step proposal with the context map to get a
        # next-step probability map
     next step map = self.next step proposal(current i, current j, **next step proposal arguments)
        selection map = self. compute next step probability(next step map)
        # Draw a new position from the next-step probability map
       r = random state.rand()
        cumulative map = np.cumsum(selection map)
        cumulative map = cumulative map.reshape(selection map.shape)
        i next, j next = np.argwhere(cumulative map >= r)[0]
        return i next, j next
```

In this way, we can **define the behavior independently** of the class, avoiding the combinatoric explosion

```
def add_block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
  elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block =
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def add block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block = /
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def build_circle(size):
   """ Build a circle. """
   return
def build_square(size):
   """ Build a square. """
   return
def build_triangle(size):
   """ Build a triangle. """
   return
def add_block(blocks, block):
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
block = build_triangle(size=11)
add_block(blocks, block)
```

```
def add block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block = /
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def build_circle(size):
   """ Build a circle. """
   return
def build_square(size):
   """ Build a square. """
   return
def build_triangle(size):
   """ Build a triangle. """
   return
def add_block(blocks, size, block_builder):
   block = block builder(size)
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
add_block(blocks, size=11, build_triangle)
```

```
def add block(blocks, size, type):
  if type == 'circle':
     # build circle of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'square':
      # build square of given size
      block =
   elif type == 'triangle':
      # build triangle of given size
      block = /
   blocks.append(block)
```

```
def build_circle(size):
   """ Build a circle. """
   return
def build_square(size):
   """ Build a square. """
   return
def build_triangle(size, angle):
   """ Build a triangle.
   return
def add_block(blocks, size, block_builder, kw_args):
   block = block builder(**kw args)
   blocks.append(block)
```

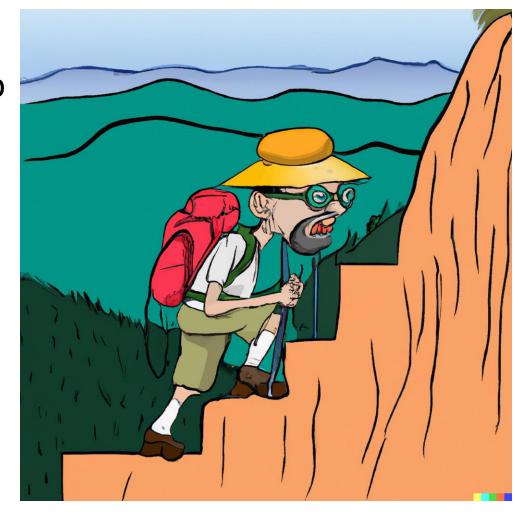
Conceptual Exercise Two next-step proposals



- Go to the Notebook and follow the instructions there
- Comment on Issue #4 on git.aspp.school, suggesting what you think the code should look like.

The Walker: what have we achieved?

- We can run simulations with different combinations of context maps and next step proposals
- New context maps and next step proposals can be contributed by external people without changing the code in your package, or even knowing how it works
- We achieved flexibility and openness to change



Chapter 3: Separate what varies at the level of projects

The holy trinity of scientific computing

- 1. Provenance
- 2. Reproducibility
- 3. Organization



The holy trinity of scientific computing

- 1. Provenance
- 2. Reproducibility
- 3. Organization

It needs to be clear where data and plots come from, when and how they were generated

All information necessary to get the same result needs to be saved

For your own sanity, you should have a consistent system for all this data and artefacts



1. Provenance

- Data Provenance, or lineage, documents where data comes from
- Recording when and by which code the dataset has been changed
- But HOW?
 - External software? Usually not specific for scientific use case.
 - Folder structure/Filenames?
 - Code generated meta-information files? (see next slide)
- In case of plots:
 - data that generated the plots
 - For work in progress plots: plt.annontate()
 - Save .ipynb as pdf (with all the paths/version information in the notebook)
 - Could use metadata in images https://github.com/dfm/savefig

2. Reproducibility

- Save all information necessary to get the same result again
 - All input parameters to the code
 - Randomness- if used, save the seed
 - Which version of the code was used?
- Serialization of intermediate steps in the code (estimation and analysis)

```
import git
import time

curr_time = time.strftime("%Y%m%d-%H%M%S")

repo = git.Repo(search_parent_directories=True)
sha = repo.head.object.hexsha

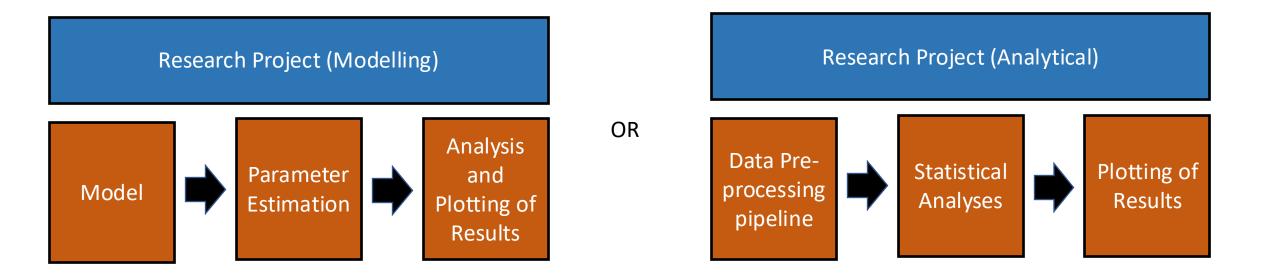
with open('meta.txt', 'w') as f:
    f.write(f'I estimated parameters at {curr_time}.\n')
f.write(f'The git repo was at commit {sha}')
```

2. Reproducibility

 We also recommend using file names containing a version number or a time stamp, so that two subsequent runs do not overwrite previous results

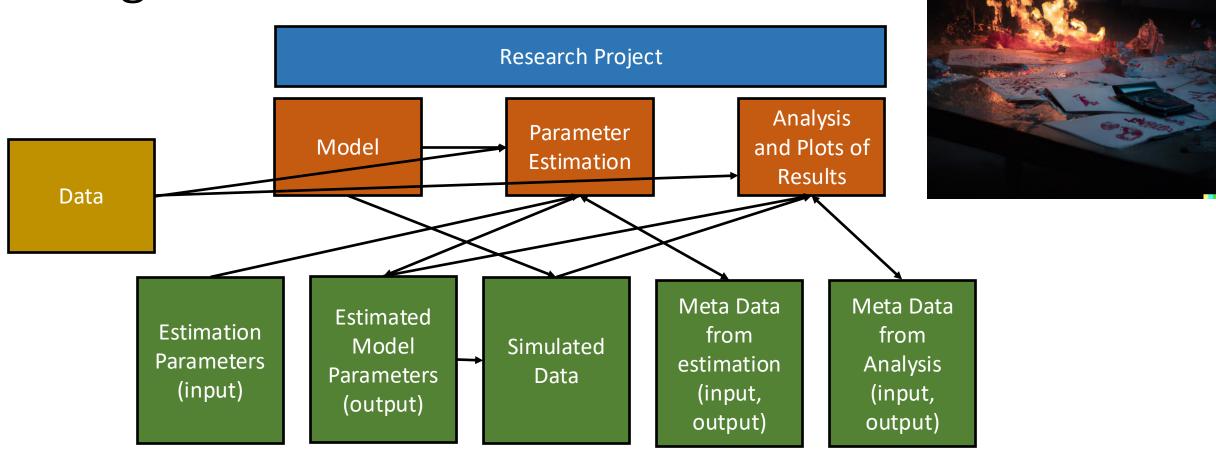
```
# STEP 4: Save the trajectory
curr_time = time.strftime("%Y%m%d-%H%M%S")
np.save(f"sim_{curr_time}", trajectory)
```

3. Organization



- Your research project may look something like this (or maybe you have different steps or a subset of steps)
- In any case it is likely that you will go through the steps many times before you're ready to publish your work

3. Organization

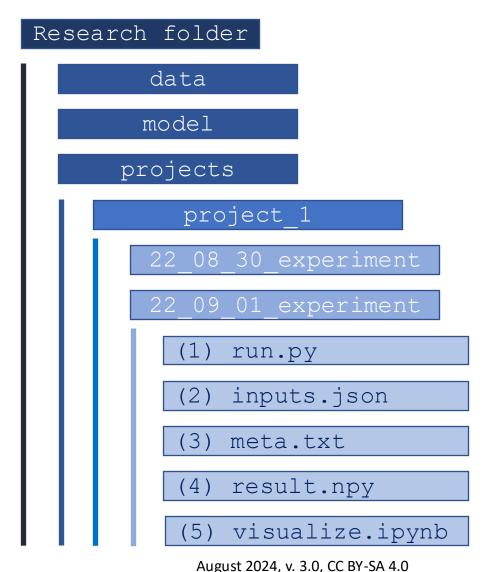


Each run has a bunch of associated data resulting folders and folders of data where no one knows which version of the code generated it or is using it!

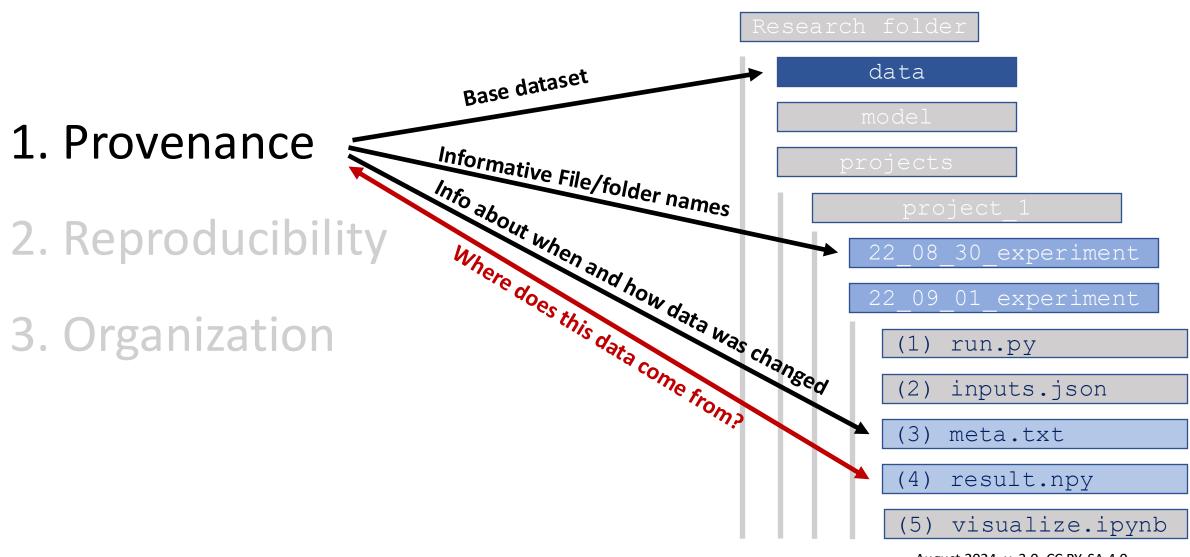
3. Organization

Suggestion:

- Data should always be separated from code
- The model or algorithms or things that are applied to your data should be packages (see packaging lecture)
- Think of "runs" as Experiments. Each experiment has its own folder. The folder contains:
 - 1. Minimal code that calls the model and saves the result
 - 2. All **inputs** necessary to produce the result saved separately
 - **3. Meta information** about which version of your code was used (and maybe a note about what you were trying to achieve, if you want to be extra nice to future you)
 - 4. The **result**
 - 5. Maybe the visualization of the result

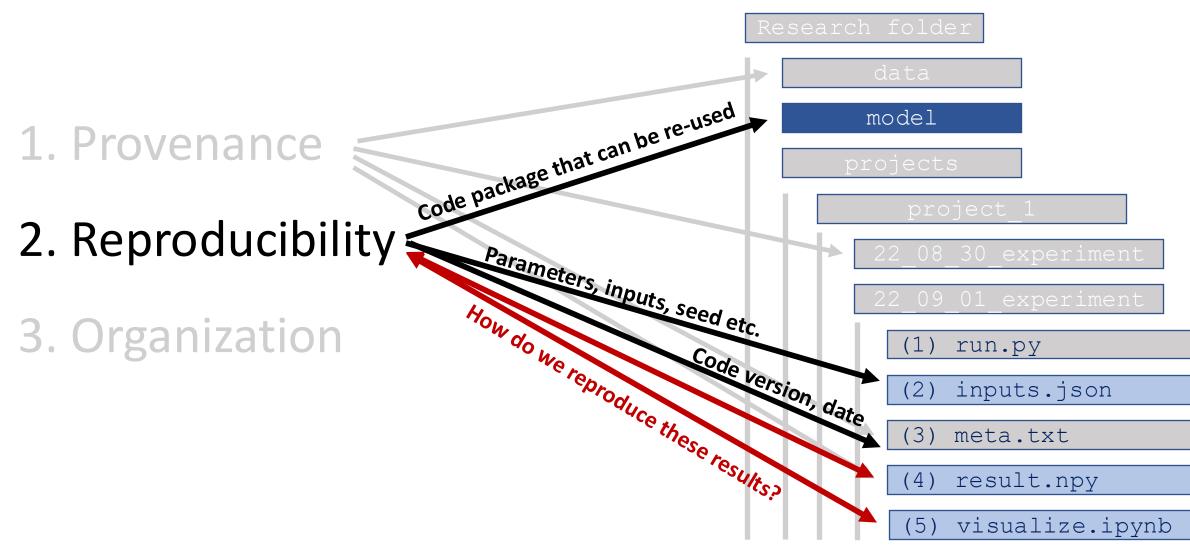


Organization

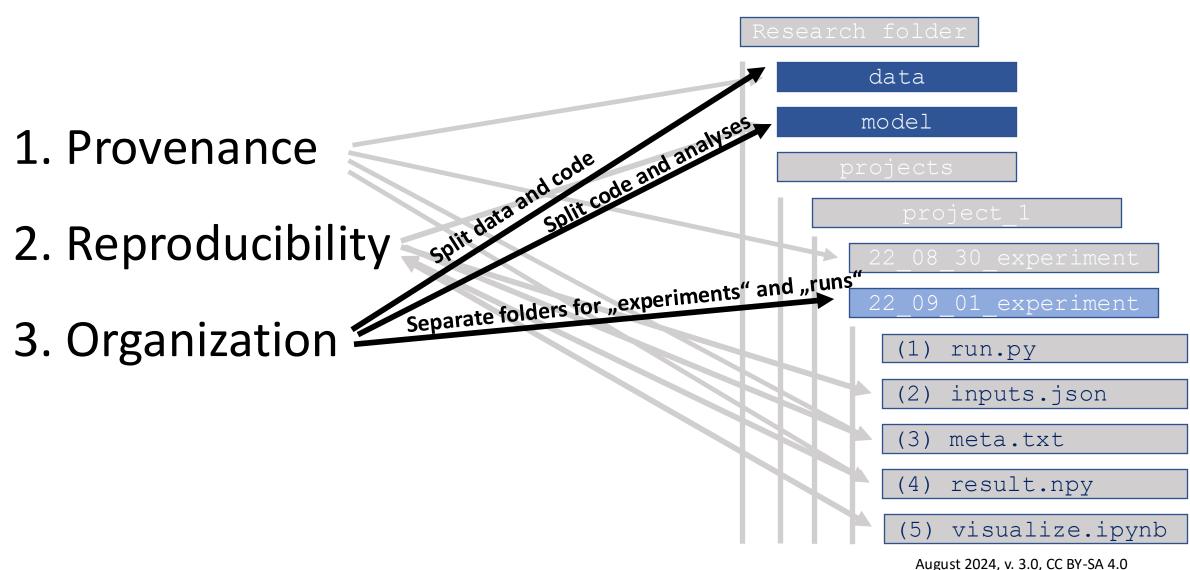


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Organization



Organization



Exercise



Provenance and Reproducibility

Go through the following steps:

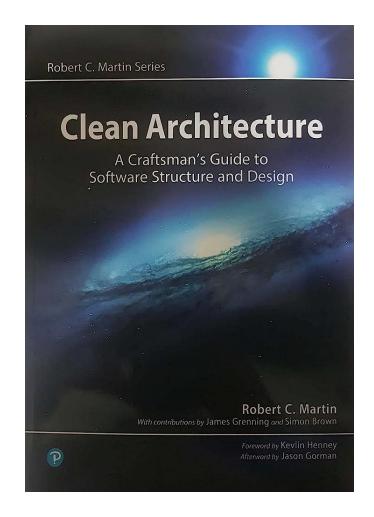
- 1. Complete the run.py script
 - In the file, at the top we give the desired parameters for the run
 - create a context map and walker (see previous exercises for reference)
 - simulate a trajectory (see previous exercises for reference)
- 2. Save the trajectory using `np.save()`, and also save some metadata
- 3. Run the run.py script twice and confirm the results are identical by plotting them using the provided notebook
- 4. Submit PR for Issue #5 on GitHub



Provenance and Reproducibility

Where to go from here...

- Trust your nose! When your code smells, spend some time figuring out where the smell come from
- Don't get carried away: over-engineering counts as premature optimization

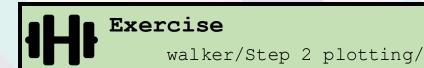


Thank you!





Hands-on

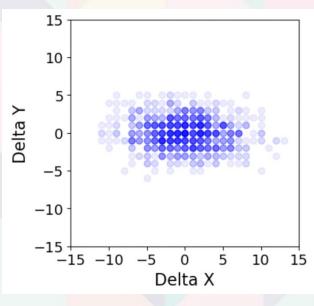


Move plotting code to a new module

- Move plotting code to a separate plotting.py module
- Modify the notebook to import the plots and make sure it runs
- Add a new plotting function, plot_delta_trajectory, that plots a scatter plot of delta_x and delta_y for a (x, y) trajectory. Observe how

we did not have to touch the walker.py file at all.

Submit a PR for Issue #2 on GitHub.



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Here is how to fix it, class dismissed

What are you missing? A few patterns that make your code odor as nice as a spring meadow

- 1. Group together things that belong together
- 2. Break out things that vary independently
- 3. Keep code open for extension



Keep things open for extension

Bonus material

Hooks patterns

Bonus material

common cases:

- in graph traversing algorithms (e.g., depth-first search) the graph traversing is generic, but the operation to be done with the data on the nodes is specific to the application. Graph libraries often implement the traverversing, and allow implementing the operation through hooks (hook when first visiting node, and when all children are visited on the way back)
- in some UI frameworks, hooks can be added to react to certain UI events

Architecture discussion?

- walker.from_data(data)
- walker.fit(data)
- walker_from_data(data), return fitted instance
- fit(walker, data), return parameters

- trajectory from walker
- walker.trajectory(n_steps) (hooks might be useful)
- trajectory(walker, n_steps) (hooks not so useful just write another trajectory creator)

What is an API?

- How is the interface between your code and your manager scripts?
- Other things to consider when writing your code:
 - Who will be using it?
 - Maybe your code has a practical application
 - Even if it's most likely no one, imagine someone trying to replicate your research after you publish
 - Are there parts of the code you may want to use in your next project?
 - E.g. a fitting algorithm can be reused when you move on to the next model
 - E.g. a class for your data may be reusable for the next dataset

