IPOL: Image Processing On Line

Beyond Traditional Articles

RIGOUR AND OPENNESS IN 21ST CENTURY SCIENCE Oxford, 11th – 12th April 2013

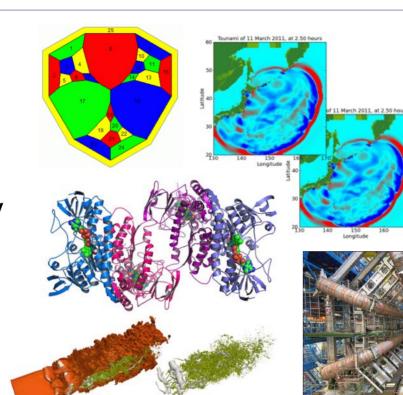
Gabriele Facciolo CMLA, ENS Cachan, FR Image Processing On Line – IPOL http://www.ipol.im/

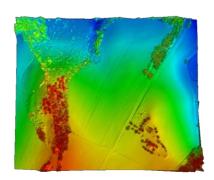


Software Everywhere

- particle physics
- fluid dynamics
- econometrics
- signal processing
- quantum chemistry
- LIDAR archeology
- MRI analysis
- climate & weather
- geophysics

. . . .









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Software vs Science?

Research software is not like general-purpose equipment: telescopes, supercomputers, compilers, libraries



Software is made by scientists for scientists, specialized for an experimental process.

Most of the research software is:

- not released
- not published, not reviewed, not cited
- not completely specified
- ... and often buggy



Reproducible Research

Research is reproducible if other researchers can independently obtain the same results from the published material.

- Theoretical sciences have proofs
- Experimental sciences have procedures
- Computational sciences have ...
 - insufficient descriptions
 - missing parameters
 - missing pre/post processing steps
 - missing data

refs: Claerbout 1992, Donoho 1995, Stodden, Vandewalle



Reproducible Research Initiatives (some)

Journals:

- Math Programming Computation requires the code
- Biostatistics stamps reproducible articles
- JMLR publishes software
- Geophysics has some software guidelines
- Source Code for Biology and Medicine publishes software
- Image Processing On Line focuses on algorithm and software
- Computing in Science and Engineering reviews software

Editors:

- SIAM updated its supp. material policies to include software
- ► ACM reformed its supp. material copyright policy
- Elsevier experiments with "executable papers" and "post-PDF"

Tools and Services:

- RunMyCode
- ► FLOSShub, mloss/mldata
- Open data repositories: DataDryad, Figshare



Science Code Manifesto

- ►Code: All source code written specifically to process data for a published paper must be **available** to the reviewers and readers of the paper.
- ► Copyright: The copyright ownership and license of any released source code must be clearly stated.
- ▶ Citation: Researchers who use or adapt science source code in their research must credit the code's creators in resulting publications.
- ▶ Credit: Software contributions must be included in systems of scientific assessment, credit, and recognition.
- ▶ Curation: Source code must remain available, linked to related materials, for the useful lifetime of the publication.

http://sciencecodemanifesto.org/





- Publish description of method/algorithm and present results
- The code used for obtaining the results is rarely made public

Non reproducible results are viewed with skepticism.

Reasons to not distribute the research code?



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 - Ashamed of the code (no time for cleanup & documentation)



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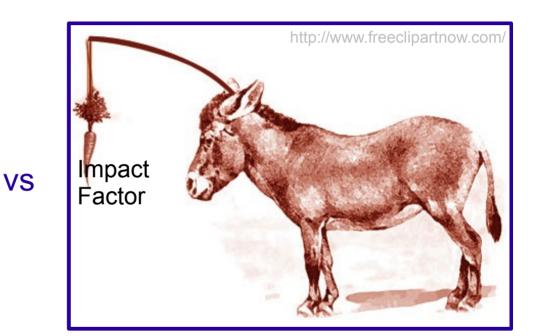
Reasons to not distribute the research code?

- Keep the advantage w.r.t. other researchers (better to not publish at all)
 - Ashamed of the code (no time for cleanup & documentation)
 - Prevent incorrect use (by choosing wrong parameters)





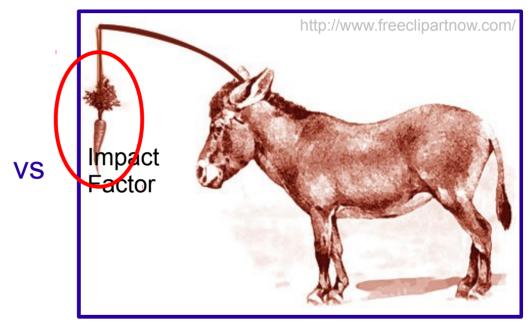
Picture of a rare utopian community in the act of sharing their research code





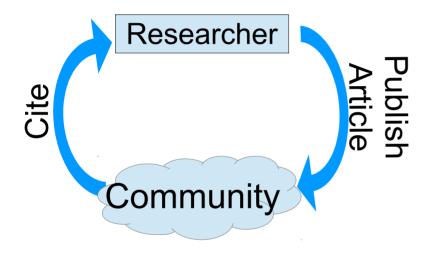


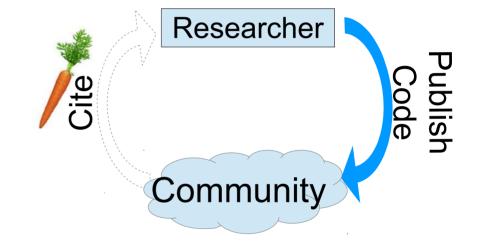
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KEY to lure researchers into sharing their code





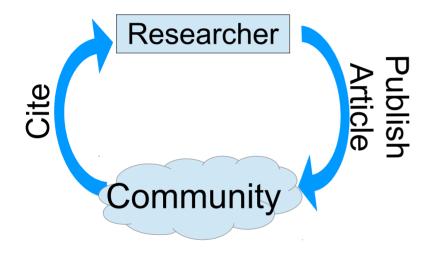


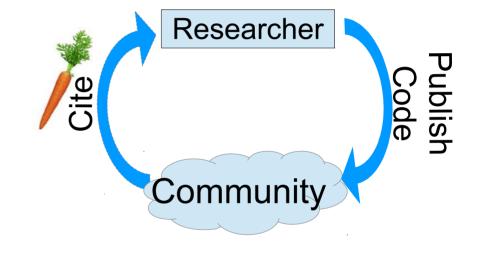
Traditional Research Articles

Source Code

Step 1: Make the code a publication by itself







Traditional Research Articles

Source Code

Step 2: Guide community to cite implementations



IPOL: Image Processing On Line



"IPOL is a research journal of image processing and image analysis. Each article contains a text describing an algorithm and source code, with an online demonstration facility and an archive of online experiments. The text and source code are peer-reviewed and the demonstration is controlled. IPOL follows the Open Access and Reproducible Research models."

http://ipol.im/

For every article, the implementation is:

- Reviewed and Published under GPL/BSD license
- Following Software Guidelines for correctness, portability, documentation



IPOL: Image Processing On Line

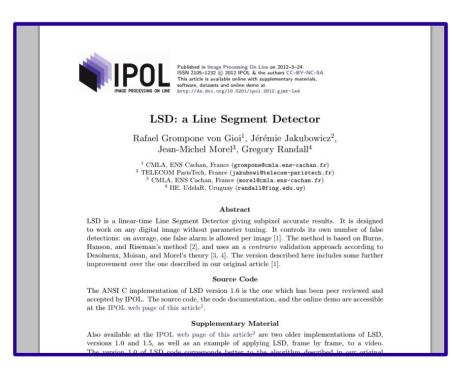
GOAL: provide a reference implementations of image processing algorithms

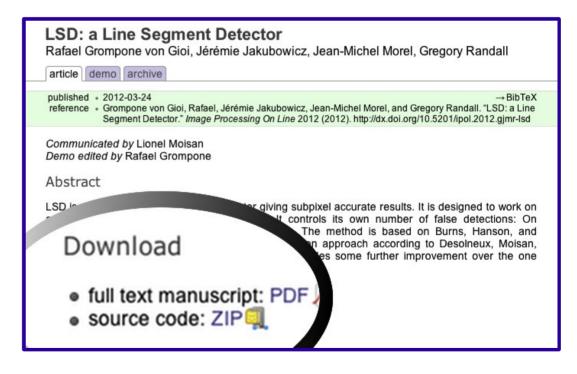
- ► IPOL is not a prototype (running since 2011)
- ▶ IPOL is a journal: ISSN; DOI; Int'l editorial committee; ...
- Partnership with a SIAM journal for publication in both journals
- ▶ IPOL exists because no other journal did it
- ► IPOL publishes algorithms, not software. The implementations are here to provide the full details and a way to run the algorithm



IPOL Article Components

- Algorithm description
- ► Implementation source code

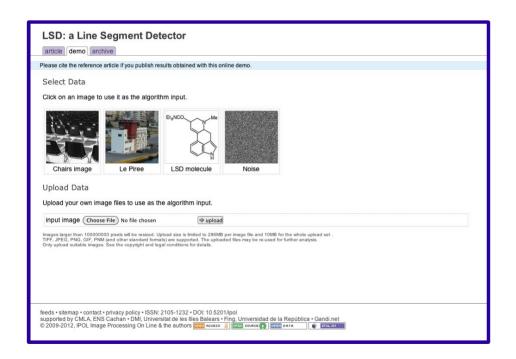






IPOL Article Components

- Algorithm description
- Implementation source code
- Web demo interface



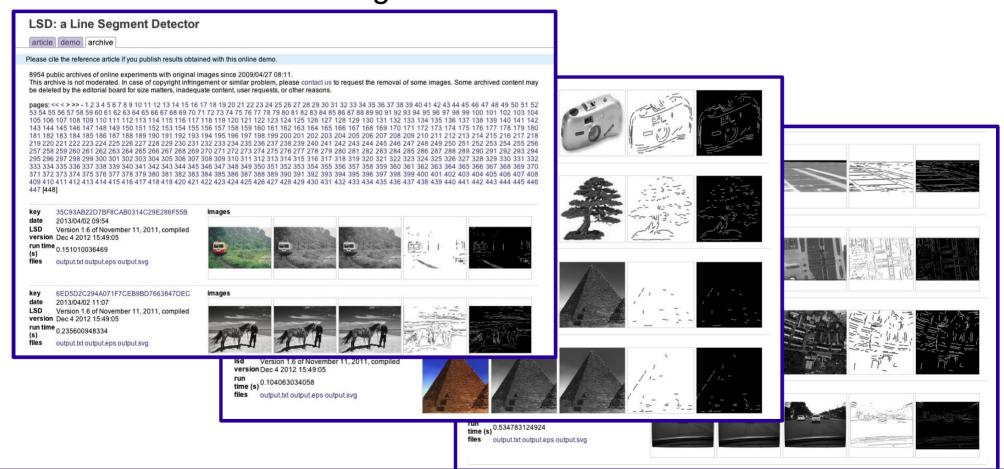


Test the algorithm with new data and explore the parameters without compiling



IPOL Article Components

- Algorithm description
- Implementation source code
- Web demo interface
- Public archive with original test data





Reproducible+demo → Rigour++



CODE

- on-line demo facilitates experimentation
- and leads to a stricter verification of the claims

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Reproducible+demo → Rigour++



CODE





CODE + DEMO

- on-line demo facilitates experimentation
- and leads to a stricter verification of the claims

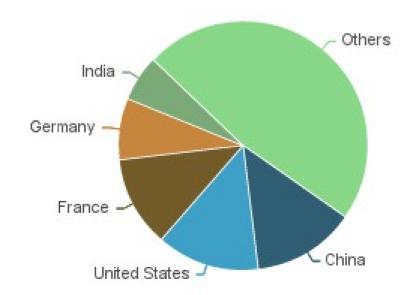
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IPOL Usage Stats

- 30 articles published with code and demo since 2011
 20 articles in preparation
- ▶ 109 citations (cf. Google Scholar)
- ► 2012: 125000 visits, 13000 code/data downloads
- ▶ 2012: 50000 demo runs, 30000 archived runs on original data

- Visits





IPOL: Good Things

- Reference versions of algorithms
- In-depth analysis of algorithms
- ► Improvement of the algo. by the reviewer and user tests
- Improvement of the code by the review
- Useful to other researchers

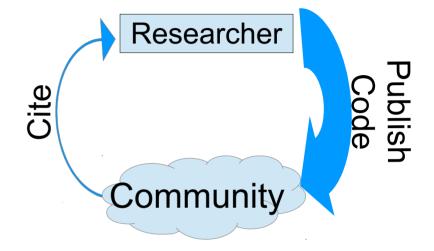
reproducible is good, reusable is better



Challenges

Needs momentum:

- Effort to prepare the code for publication isn't negligible
- Community must learn to cite the implementations



Also: Reproducible ≠ Reusable

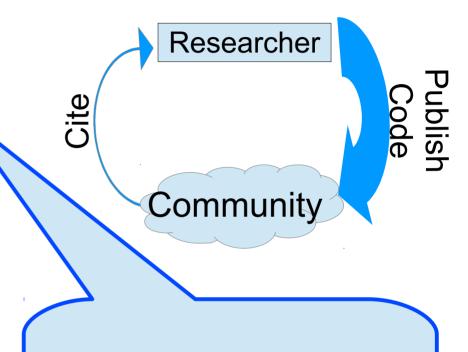


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Also: Reproducible ≠ Reusable



Team-up with:

WEB designers & Visualization Scientists?





Follow-up to...

IPOL wouldn't be possible without the support and trust of the authors, reviewers and editors who contributed to it. Lots of help from Paris, Palma, Montevideo, Durham, ...

You can be part of it.



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