



Carsten Knoll, Robert Heedt Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Institute of Control Theory

"Automatic Control Knowledge Repository" – A Computational Approach for Simpler and More Robust Reproducibility of Results in Control Theory

ICSTCC, Sinaia, Romania (remote participation), 2020-10-08

Reproduction of Scientific Results (1)

- Scientific communication: traditionally based on natural language (+ mathematics + diagrams)
- Growing importance of computational methods
 - Simulations
 - Numerical linear algebra
 - Symbolic calculations with CAS

Proceedings in Applied Mathematics and Mechanics, 6/10/2020

Trajectory Planning for Closed Kinematic Chains Applied to Cooperative Motions in Health Care

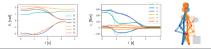
Carsten Knoll1*, Xuehua Jia1, and Robert Heedt1

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1 Introduction: Modelling of Cooperative Standing-Up Motion

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"Automatic Control Knowledge Repository" Institute of Control Theory - C. Knoll, R. Heedt ICSTCC, Sinaia, Romania (remote participation), 2020-10-08

Slide 2 of 18



Reproduction of Scientific Results (1)

- Scientific communication: traditionally based on natural language (+ mathematics + diagrams)
- Growing importance of computational methods
 - Simulations
 - Numerical linear algebra
 - Symbolic calculations with CAS
- Understanding and reproduction depends on access to these methods (sources and executables)

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Trajectory Planning for Closed Kinematic Chains Applied to Cooperative Motions in Health Care

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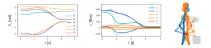
¹ Institut f
ür Regelungs- und Steuerungstheorie, Fakult
ät Elektrotechnik und Informationstechnik, Technische Universit
ät Dresden, 01062 Dresden

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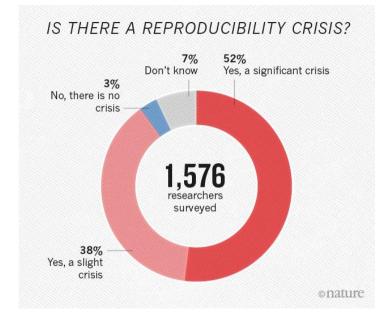
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source: https://www.nature.com/news/1-500-scientists-lift-the-lid-on-reproducibility-1.19970 (2016)



source: https://www.nature.com/articles/467775a/box/2 (2010)

Outline

✓ Motivation: Reproducibility Challenge

- □ Existing Approaches
- □ Our Approach
- □ Implementation Status & Demo
- □ Conclusion & Outlook

Outline

Motivation: Reproducibility Challenge
 Existing Approaches
 Our Approach
 Implementation Status & Demo
 Conclusion & Outlook

 DVCS: Keeping track of changes (Who? When? What?)



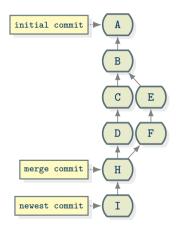


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- Defacto standard: git repository





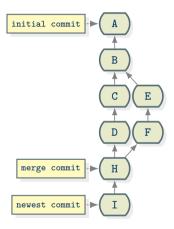
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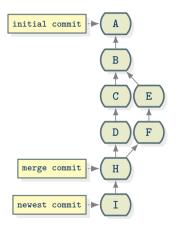
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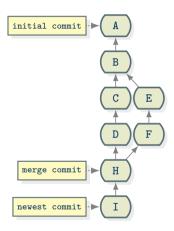
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- ∃ platforms for public repository-hosting (github, gitlab, codeberg, ...)







- Automated Test: Software that runs other software
- Compare result to (hardcoded) expected results





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- (-) Unproductive code (additional effort)





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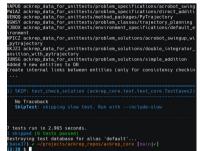


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• Continuous Integration:

Dedicated service to automated test running and result handling



Slide 7 of 18



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• Continuous Integration:

Dedicated service to automated test running and result handling

• Triggered e.g. by a new commit to the main branch of a repo





• Low prevalence of source code publication together with scientific results





- Low prevalence of source code publication together with scientific results
- Even lower prevalence of CI usage





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Plausible reason:

- Target audience: (general) software projects
- Lack of structure and functionality specific to computational science





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Research question:

What kind of science specific structure and functionality is suited to mitigate the reproducibility crisis?







Outline

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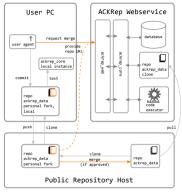
- Establish a (canonical) repository for
 - content-related software (e.g. control algorithms),
 - organizational software (automated tests)
 - and metadata in a formal structure







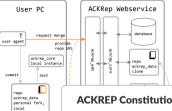
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- Establish a set of self-governance rules •
 - (Distribute the decision making among active contributors)



ACKREP Constitution

Preamble

nush clone

ackrep data

personal fork

Public

This document describes how individuals interact in the scope of the project "Automatic Control Knowledge Repository" (ACKREP). This project only makes sense if people are willing to contribute their work. Therefore a focus on equal participation and maintaining a constructive and welcoming atmosphere is central. The main purpose of this constitution is to ensure that the project is driven by equal peers and not harmfully dominated by an individual or a small group.

Decision making (scalable rejection-minimizing consensus mechanism)

All decisions concerning the project are taken by the whole group of recognized contributors in form of a noll. All contributors have the right to suggest a poll, to add poll options during the discussion phase and to vote on a poll (during the voting phase). The poll allows to express approval (+1, +2), neutrality (0), or rejection (-1, -2, -3) for each poll option, Approval and rejection are recorded separately (i.e. they do not compensate). The lowest value (-2) is considered as veto. The winning option is the one with the weakest rejection, among those without yeto. In case of ambiguity stronger approval rate is relevant. If ambiguity persists, the poll is repeated with just the ambiguous options. If there is no option without veto, then

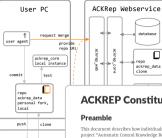




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- Working title: "Automatic Control Knowledge Repository" (ackrep)



"Automatic Control Knowledge Repository" Institute of Control Theory - C Knoll R Heedt ICSTCC, Sinaia, Romania (remote participation), 2020-10-08



ackrep data

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Public

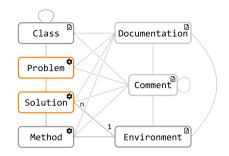
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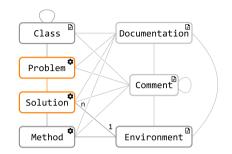






Reproducibility \rightarrow entity types:

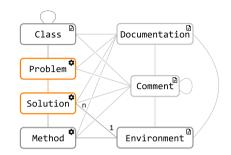
• Is a **Problem** solved by a **Solution**?







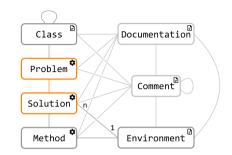
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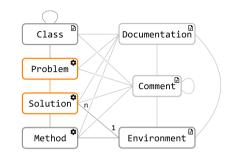
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- Which computational **environment** is required?
 - EnvironmentSpecification (meta data)



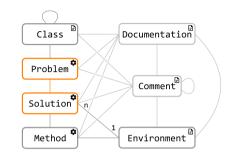




Proposed Repository Structure

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- To which **class** does a Problem belong?
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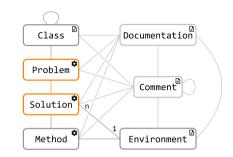




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- Which further information exists?
 - Documentation (text)
 - Comment (text)



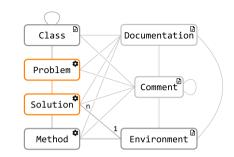




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Entities:

- Identified via unique keys
- Stored in (text-based) files
- Managed via DVCS (git)
- Publicly hosted



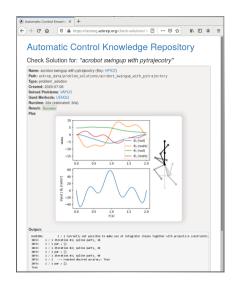




Supportive Webservice and Tools

• Webservice:

- Execute Solutions against Problems (≙ Continuous Integration)
- Present results
- Make available knowledge accessible

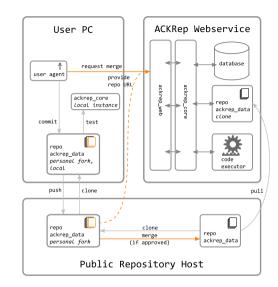






Supportive Webservice and Tools

- Webservice:
 - Execute Solutions against Problems (≙ Continuous Integration)
 - Present results
 - Make available knowledge accessible
- Tools:
 - Locally check entities
 - Support debugging process







- Desirable: makes results/implementations easily findable
- Problems: single point of failure





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Canonical repository + webservice \rightarrow central infrastructure

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- Solution approach: **peer-based decision making**

ACKREP Constitution

Preamble

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Decision making (scalable rejection-minimizing consensus mechanism)

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 - Method: "Scalable Rejection Minimizing Consensus Mechanism"

ACKREP Constitution

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Decision making (scalable rejection-minimizing consensus mechanism)

• Fallback option: hard fork of software and data (possible due to free license)



Slide 13 of 18



Outline

- ✓ Motivation: Reproducibility Challenge
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Current Implementation Status

- $\exists ackrep_core (GPLv3)$
- ∃ ackrep_web (GPLv3)
- ∃ ackrep_data
 - Default license GPLv3
 - Demonstration examples only
 - Control theoretic content in preparation





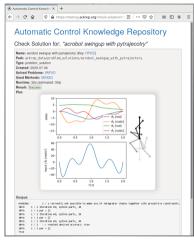
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 - Control theoretic content in preparation
- \Rightarrow Early prototype, proof of concept





Live Demonstration



https://testing.ackrep.org



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Slide 16 of 18

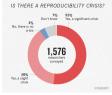


Outline

- ✓ Motivation: Reproducibility Challenge
- ✓ Existing Approaches
- ✓ Our Approach
- ✓ Implementation Status & Demo
- □ Conclusion & Outlook

Summary:

• Reproducibility of computational results is still an unsolved challenge

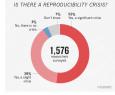






Summary:

- Reproducibility of computational results is still an unsolved challenge
- Existing approaches (public code, CI) not widely enough used







Summary:

- Reproducibility of computational results is still an unsolved challenge
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- Proposal: Combination of existing components
 - Structured repository





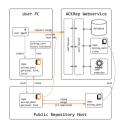




Summary:

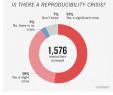
- Reproducibility of computational results is still an unsolved challenge
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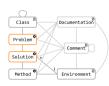


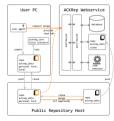




Summary:

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- Proposal: Combination of existing components
 - Structured repository
 - Tailored webservice
 - Peer-based organization structure







ACKREP Constitution

Preamble

This document describes how individuals interact in the scope of the project" Automatic Controk Knowledge Repositosy' (ACMER). This project only makes sense if people are willing to contribute their work. Therefore a focus on equal participation and maintaining a constructive and wereforming atmosphere is excital. The main propose of this coastlution is to ensure that the project is driven by equal peers and not harmfully dominated by an individual or a small group.

Decision making (scalable rejection-minimizing consensus mechanism)

All decisions concerning the poier care taken by the whole group of recognized contributions in from e1 q all. In decisions have been being to suggest a quality basis to find a spin of the site of the site of the single of the site of



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Outlook:

Improve ackrep_core (containerization), add more content to ackrep_data







Summary:

- Reproducibility of computational results is still an unsolved challenge
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- Proposal: Combination of existing components
 - Structured repository
 - Tailored webservice
 - Peer-based organization structure

Outlook:

- Improve ackrep_core (containerization), add more content to ackrep_data
- Incorporate feedback from potential users/contributors
- \rightarrow https://testing.ackrep.org repository: https://github.com/cknoll/ackrep_data
- \rightarrow Corresponding author: carsten.knoll@tu-dresden.de





