

# “I can’t code” and other reproducibility-blockers

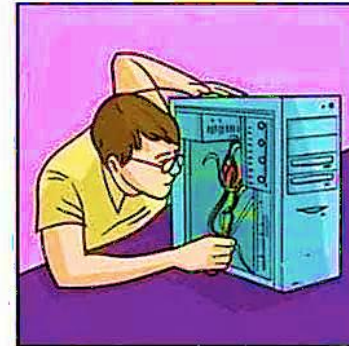
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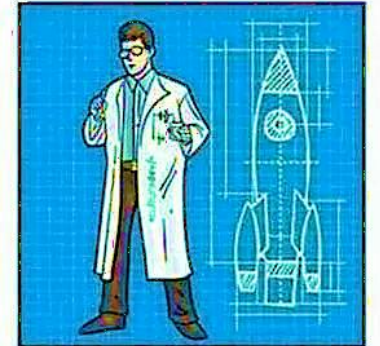
l.whalley@northumbria.ac.uk  
lucydot.github.io

## A programmer

What people think I do



What my parents think I do



What I think I do



What I really do



# Good research is reproducible research

Vanilla sponge



Ingredients (data)

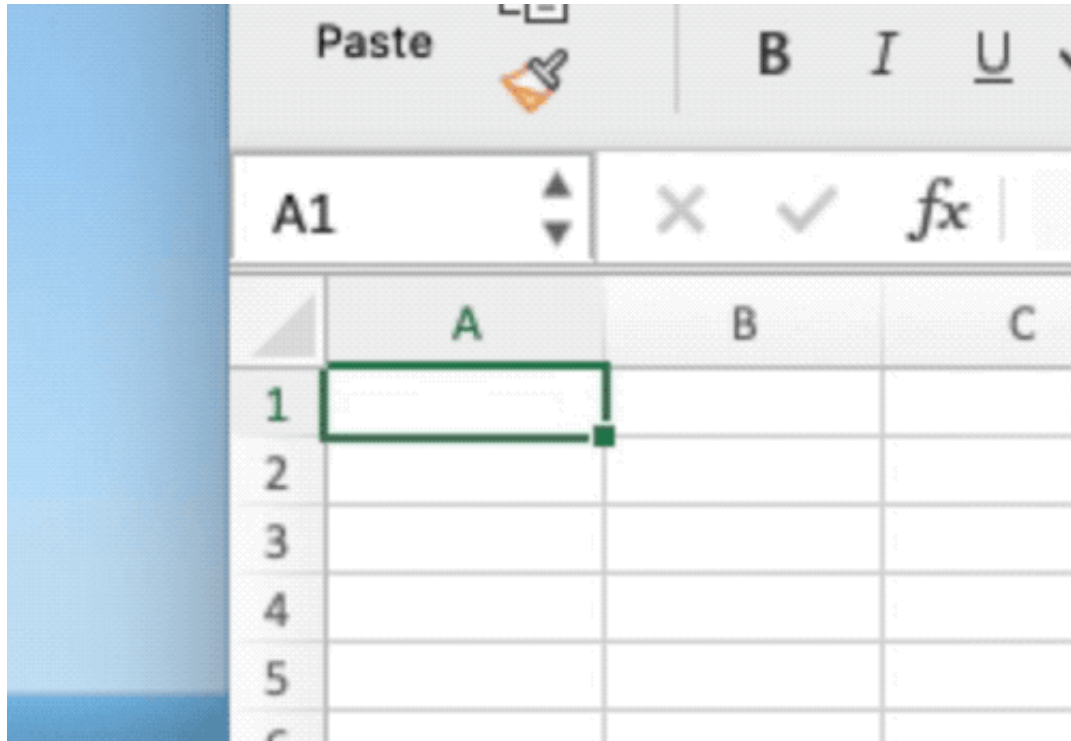


Recipe (methods)

Chocolate sponge



# Researchers make errors



19.6% of genetic research crunched  
in excel contains errors<sup>1</sup>

## Error loading a spin-polarised calculation #7

🔒 Closed

ajjackson opened this issue on Jul 23, 2018 · 11 comments



ajjackson commented on Jul 23, 2018

I ran an LDA band structure for MgO. With no spin enabled it reads in ok, but when I set structure effmass seems to have trouble reading the files.

Are spin-polarized calculations supported? I see that `effmass.inputs.Data` has an `att` channels, but I get an error while the object is being instantiated.

[spin\\_test.zip](#)



My research code contains  
errors



# Computational reproducibility

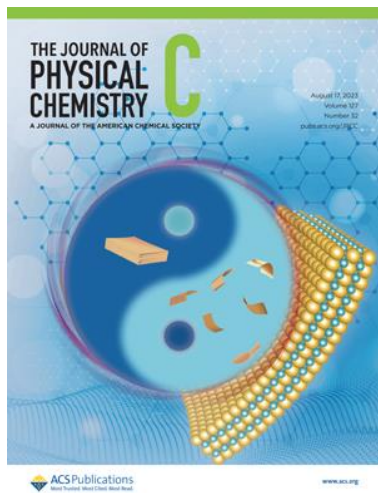


Scriberia 

Image from  
The Turing Way<sup>2</sup>

# Our Approach

## 1. Journal Article<sup>3</sup>



## 2. Project-specific repository<sup>4</sup>

### Data and analysis code for "Steric Engineering of Point Defects in Lead Halide Perovskites"

■ This paper is published with open access in J. Phys. Chem. C [here](#).

All of the code is distributed as [Jupyter Notebooks](#). If you are looking for the code that implements the interpolation method used in the paper, please see [this repository](#). If you are looking for raw DFT input and output files for the total energy calculations used to predict defect properties, please see [this repository](#).

## 3. Domain-specific data repository<sup>5</sup>

### NOMAD Materials science data managed and shared

NOMAD lets you manage and share your materials science data in a way that makes it truly useful to you, your group, and the community. **Free and open source.**

[Open NOMAD](#) →

## 4. Pre-print<sup>6</sup>



# Our Approach

Project-specific repository



+

```
Preview Code Blame 191 lines (191 loc) · 75.4 KB Raw [copy] [download] [edit] [dropdown]
```

### Symmetry Mode Analysis

```
In [8]: import numpy as np
import csv
import re
import matplotlib
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from collections import OrderedDict

In [20]: def get_data(filepath, cutoff):
    with open(filepath) as File:
        content = File.read()

    label = re.findall('Pm-3m\[d*\?d*,d*\?d*,d*\?d*\]([A-Z]*d*[+-?])', content)
    label_content = re.findall('Pm-3m\[d*\?d*,d*\?d*,d*\?d*\]([sS]*?)')

    totals = []
    for content in label_content:
        decimals = re.findall('(-?\d+\.\d+)', content)
        totals.append(sum([abs(float(entry)) for entry in decimals]))

    data = {label[i]: totals[i] for i in range(len(label))}
    data = OrderedDict(filter(lambda data: data[1] > cutoff, data.items()))
    data = OrderedDict(sorted(data.items(), key=lambda data: data[1], reverse=True))

    return data


def plot_data(data, amp):
    plt.style.use('seaborn-colorblind')
    plt.figure(figsize=(20,10))
    plt.bar(range(len(amp)), amp, align='center')
    plt.xticks(range(len(amp)), list(data.keys()), fontsize=20)
    matplotlib.rc('xtick', labels=20)
    matplotlib.rc('ytick', labels=20)
    plt.ylabel("Mode amplitude", fontsize=20)
    plt.axis(ymin=0, ymax=2.2)
    plt.show()


In [21]: # all phonon modes with amplitude below this cutoff will not be plotted
```




Jupyter Notebook  
to map from Data  
to Code


Happy colleague

 **samhood** 1:47 PM  
Thank you!!  
Your packages are so nice, you're amazing ❤️


 **lucydot** 1:49 PM  
I am totally screenshot-ing that comment for a future talk!!!

Big person in the field

 **Volker Blum** @AimsDuke · 16 Mar  
Truly excellent news! This should be super-useful. Thank you!

 **Lucy Whalley** @lucydotwhalley · 16 Mar  
🎉 The effective mass code `effmass` has been updated! 📍 It now plays nicely with FHI-aims (thanks @matthias\_golomb), Vasp, Castep and ASE. And it comes with a super trendy command line interface: [github.com/lucydot/effmass](https://github.com/lucydot/effmass).

Little person in the field

 **Pepe Marquez**  
@PepeMarquez9

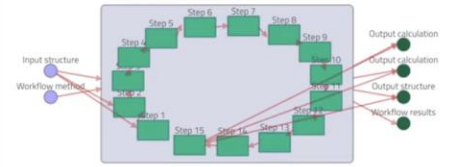
Nice nice!  
Some cool DFT calculations on BaZrS3 ❤️ chalcogenide perovskites just made it to #NOMAD courtesy of @lucydotwhalley and @prakayastha314 ! 🌟

**Calculations** / BaZrS3 FHI-aims GeometryOptimization simulation

last processing time: 12/21/2023, 7:19:21 AM  
processing version: 1.2.2.dev202+ge8efa503a/

final energy difference: 3.537e-6 eV  
final displacement maximum: 1.416e-3 Å  
final force maximum: unavailable

Workflow Graph



Legend: input, workflow, task, output

# Reproducibility-blockers

For most of the papers, there was little to provide any help to a researcher willing to reproduce the calculations... the input files were not provided.<sup>7</sup>

**Time pressures**



**Lack of incentives**



**Fear of scooping**



**“I can’t code”**



**Sensitive data**





# Coding has an image problem



# Women invented programming



Ada Lovelace wrote the first computer programme



Grace Hopper invented the first compiler

# Women were the first programmers



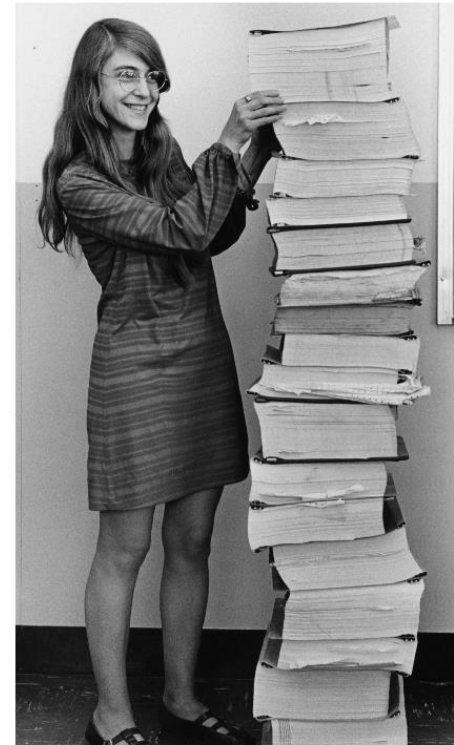
**1969:** 'Space age needleworker "weaves" core rope memory for [Apollo missions'] computers.' (Raytheon, 1969, p. 18)



**1962:** Mathematicians and programmers, Patsy Simmers, Gail Taylor, Milly Beck, Norma Stec, holding parts of the first computers.



**c. 1972:** African-American woman computer operator at the Office of Personnel Management.



**1969:** Margaret Hamilton with the code she and her staff wrote for the Apollo 11 mission.

Teaching coding inclusively: if this, then what?

Olivia Guest<sup>1</sup> and Samuel H. Forbes<sup>2</sup>



# What happened in the 1980s?

## What Happened To Women In Computer Science?

% Of Women Majors, By Field

Medical School   Law School   Physical Sciences   Computer science

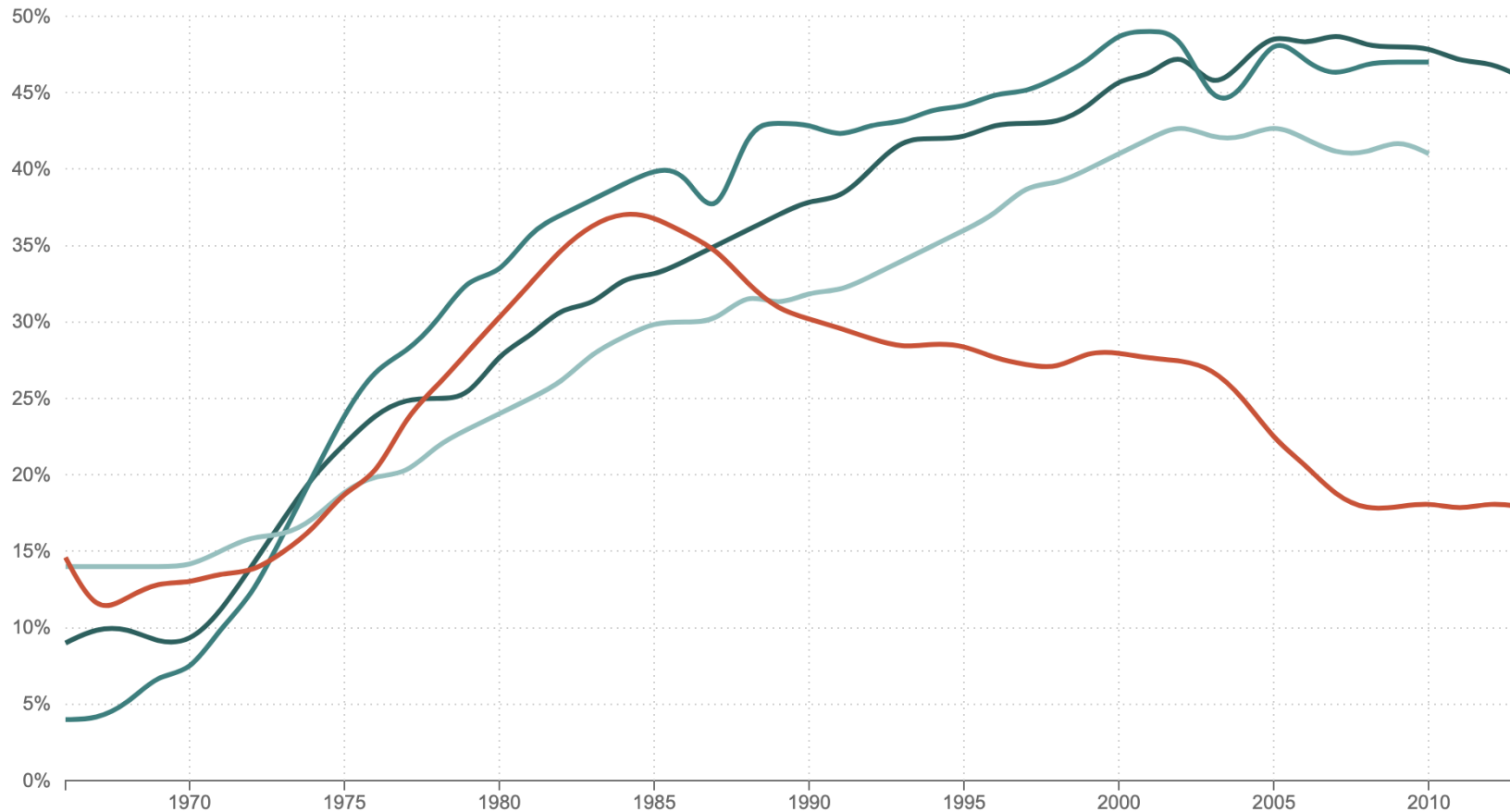


Image from  
NPR Planet Money  
“When women  
stopped  
programming”

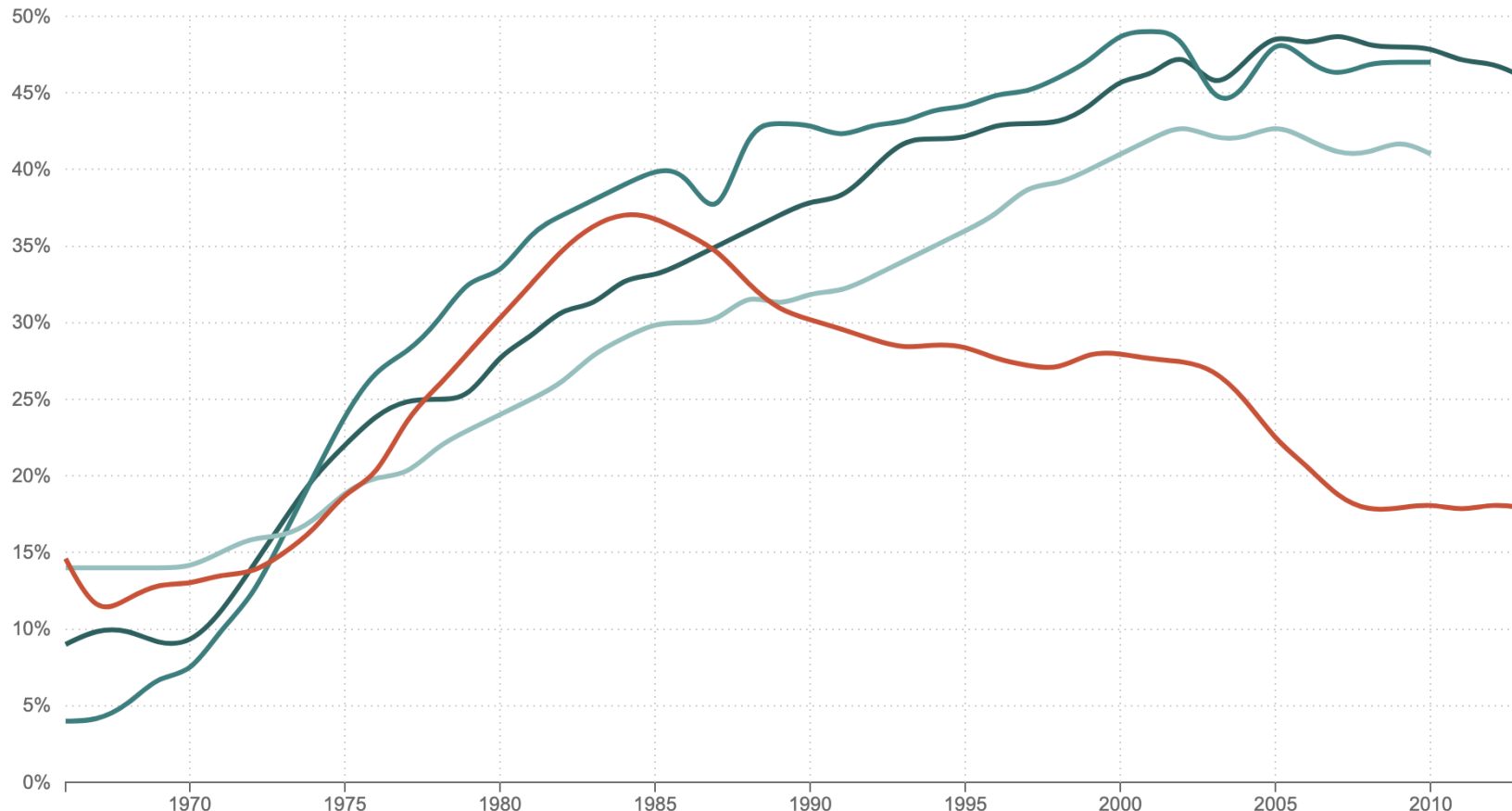


# What happened in the 1980s?

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Medical School   Law School   Physical Sciences   Computer science



**Two Bytes Are Better Than One**

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16BIT  
MICROCOMPUTER  
SS-16**

**SUPER STARTER**  
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CIRCLE 106 ON READER SERVICE CARD

# Changing (student) attitudes

**“I can’t code”**

→ like any other skill coding takes practice, and you *will* generate a lot of errors on the way

**“I am too old to learn to code”**

→ there is no critical developmental window for learning to code

**“If we learn to code we will not have time to learn X”**

→ Coding is an increasingly *necessary* part of research

Teaching coding inclusively: if this, then what?

# Communities of support



THE  
CARPENTRIES

We teach foundational coding  
and data science skills to  
researchers worldwide.

For those new to  
programming

For career  
advice



RSE

RESEARCH SOFTWARE  
ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



Software  
Sustainability  
Institute

For reaching the wider  
community

Northumbria  
specific



RC

Research Computing  
Community

# Contribution takes many forms

Make raw data available

Provide feedback to developers

Test systems

Enable data logging

Write tutorials or examples

Signpost students and staff



# Summary

- 1) Good research is reproducible
- 2) Join the “Research Computing Community” for further discussion
- 3) Jupyter Notebooks are a useful tool
- 4) Computing has an image problem: think about building confidence
- 5) Code contributions do not need to be technical

# References

- 1) Gene name errors in Excel: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-016-1044-7>
- 2) The Turing Way: <https://the-turing-way.netlify.app/index.html>
- 3) Steric engineering journal article: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.3c03516>
- 4) Steric engineering project repository: [https://github.com/NU-CEM/MACsPbl3\\_defects](https://github.com/NU-CEM/MACsPbl3_defects)
- 5) Steric engineering NoMaD dataset: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17172/NOMAD/2023.12.21-1>
- 6) Steric engineering pre-print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.08412>
- 7) Reproducibility in computational chem: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemmater.7b00799>

# Further Reading

- 1) The Turing Way: <https://the-turing-way.netlify.app/index.html>
- 2) Teaching coding inclusively: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/3r2ez>