

Sujet : Re: PCI Ecol 681: I play the role of data and script editor
De : Thomas Guillemaud <thomas.guillemaud@inrae.fr>
Date : 04/03/2024 08:22
Pour : Mario <mario.desallais@gmail.com>, contact PCI <contact@peercommunityin.org>
Copie à : Frederik De Laender <frederik.delaender@unamur.be>

Hi Mario

Thanks for your reply

This is not a requirement but, yes a readme file explaining in a few sentences how to install and run the notebook would be great. Alternatively, expanding a bit the introductory text in zenodo would be ok

I remind you that it would be good to modify this in your notebook:

```
!pip install sympy
!pip install matplotlib
```

because the imports of these libs could not run.

It's now all right for me. I'm going to write my small report in the PCI Ecol website with a green light from my side for the recommender.

Best

Thomas

Le 01/03/2024 à 15:27, Mario a écrit :

Hello Thomas,

Thank you very much for your (very) prompt feedback! It took me a while to reply as I've been very busy over the last few days, for which I apologize.

I understand PCI's requirements in terms of reproducibility of analyses and I totally share this point of view.

If I've understood correctly, what's essentially missing is a README file (question 2 and 4) ? and perhaps point 6 regarding your question about the other figures ? The rest of the points seem to me to be answered by a "yes", if only I modify the notebook by adding the sympy and matplotlib libraries indeed. I apologize for this mistake, by the way, these are such common libraries that I forgot I needed to add them.

As for the figs, let me explain my initial reasoning:

I made the decision to include the whole script only for figure 4 because I see it as an example of how to use our mathematical functions & equations. A kind of proof of concept. As this figure is particularly telling and represents our most applied results, I felt it was important to do so.

However, I think that the presence of the core functions used (linked to the analytical results we present in the article) and the dataset make it possible to reproduce all the other figures, particularly 5 and 7.

This is even truer for figures 3, 6 and 8, which don't use the dataset but only random matrix generations. Each scientist has his or her own way of randomly generating this type of ecological system (corresponding to Eq. 1 in the article) and there are already many examples in the literature. Moreover, depending on the computer language used (Python, R, Julia, etc.) and even the version of that code, the methods vary, so I thought it more useful and convenient to simply provide the main functions that are easy to read.

In conclusion, I think that the script provided allows anyone who understands the mathematical logic of the article to replicate our analyses and I'm confident that the results will be robust. BUT if this justification isn't enough and I have to provide my entire code, I'll do it without any problem (juste time to annotate). Let me know!

Best regards, and thanks again for your super-fast feedback,

Mario Desallais

Le ven. 16 févr. 2024 à 11:46, contact PCI <contact@peercommunityin.org> a écrit :

Hello Mario,

I'm going to play the role of data and script editor of your preprint #681 submitted to PCI Ecol.

PCI Ecol indeed wants to ensure as best as possible the reproducibility of the analyses carried out in the reviewed articles. Readers of articles eventually recommended by PCI should be able to reuse the data and scripts from these articles. A "naive" outside eye is useful to ensure that this reuse is effective in an environment different from that of the authors. Hence, I'll be an additional reviewer and will send my report as a review of the 1st round of peer review. Before writing my report I'll probably have to have Email contacts with you (such as the present Email).

==> **The goal is to get a YES for all the following questions** deriving from the instructions for authors before the end of the 1st round of review:

- 1- Can we get the data and script from the links indicated in the submission form or from the article itself? Yes/no/not applicable (if not applicable, the next questions should not be replied)
- 2- Is there a readme file. Yes/no
- 3- Are there metadata for the data and comments for the scripts? Yes/no

4- Are the readme, and data files understandable by a normal reader? Yes/no

5- Do the scripts run on the data? Yes/no

6- Are the results the same as in the paper? Yes/no

It is crucial that we swiftly come to a point where every question is answered with a "yes", as my report will play a pivotal role in the recommender's decision during the first round of peer review.

==> I already checked you article and script. Here is my temporary report:

You produced a Jupyter notebook. This is extremely convenient, even I'm a newbie in those notebooks.

I could run it but I had to install 2 libraries

```
!pip install sympy
!pip install matplotlib
```

because the imports of these libs could not run. Maybe something you should modify in the notebook.

I understood that "#Certain function defined below can be used to generate certain panels or points in figures 5 and 7 of the article, which also use the experimental data.", but I wondered why the notebook does not contain the code to generate the other figs.

Thanks for your help in getting this done and thanks again for submitting your preprint to PCI Ecol

Thomas

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