

INTRODUCTION TO PANDAS, TESTING & TEST-DRIVEN DATA ANALYSIS



Europython 2018 • Edinburgh • Tutorial • 23rd July 2018

Nicholas J. Radcliffe
Stochastic Solutions Limited
& Department of Mathematics, University of Edinburgh



 *@SPatout*

PANDAS
NUMPY,
& SCIPY

NUMPY & SCIPY

- Numpy & Scipy are fast, powerful, stable libraries for numerical and scientific computing in Python, providing excellent C-like performance
- They are probably the biggest reason Python has gained the success it has in Data Science
- They are incredibly widely used, including by SciKit Learn
- Initially created by Travis Oliphant (thanks, Travis!)
- Excellent documentation

PRONUNCIATION

- It's a free country: you can pronounce them however you like. That said:
 - Numpy: NUM-PIE, (not NUM-PEE!)
 - SciPy: SIGH-PIE, (definitely not SKIPPY!!)
 - SciKit Learn: SIGH-KIT-LURN, (definitely, definitely not PSYCHIC LEARN!!!)

PANDAS

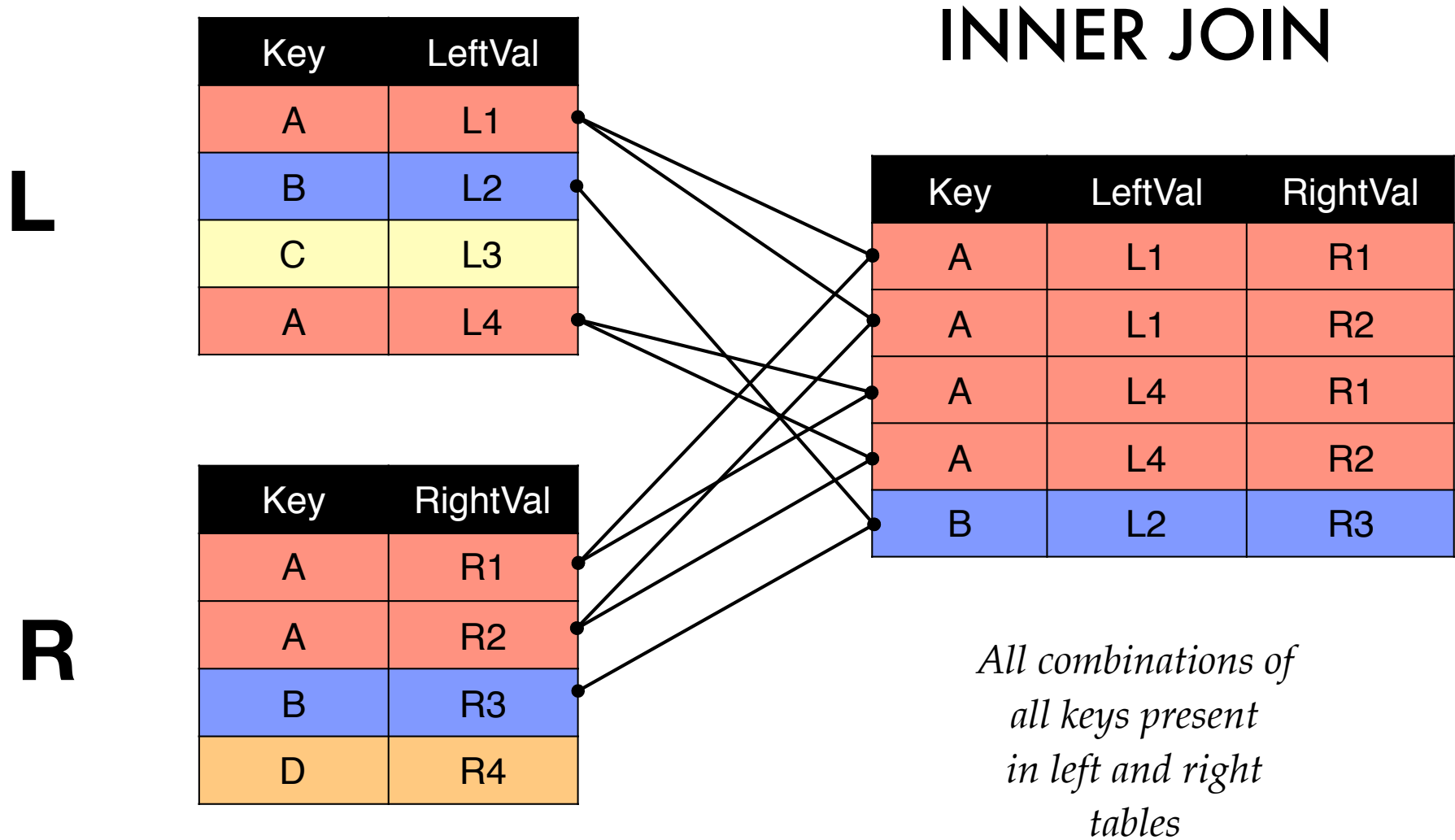
- Provides (column) database-style access to Numpy and Numpy-like data structures and adds further data-science-friendly operations.
- Very widely used in data science.
- Under active development; not particularly stable
- Famously terrible documentation (but there are ongoing efforts to improve, including at sprints)
- Initially created by Wes McKinney

DATABASE JOINS

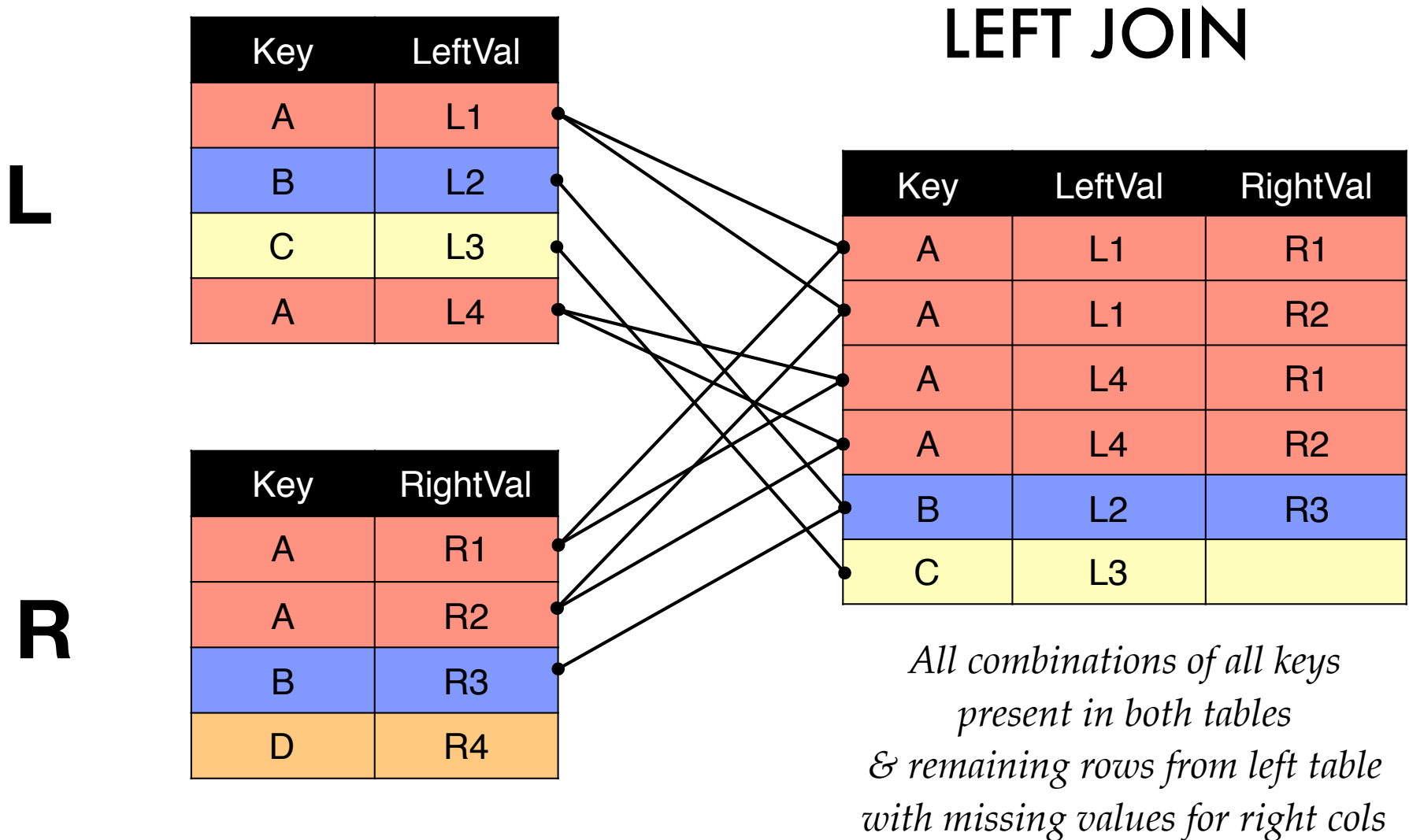


PANDAS MERGES

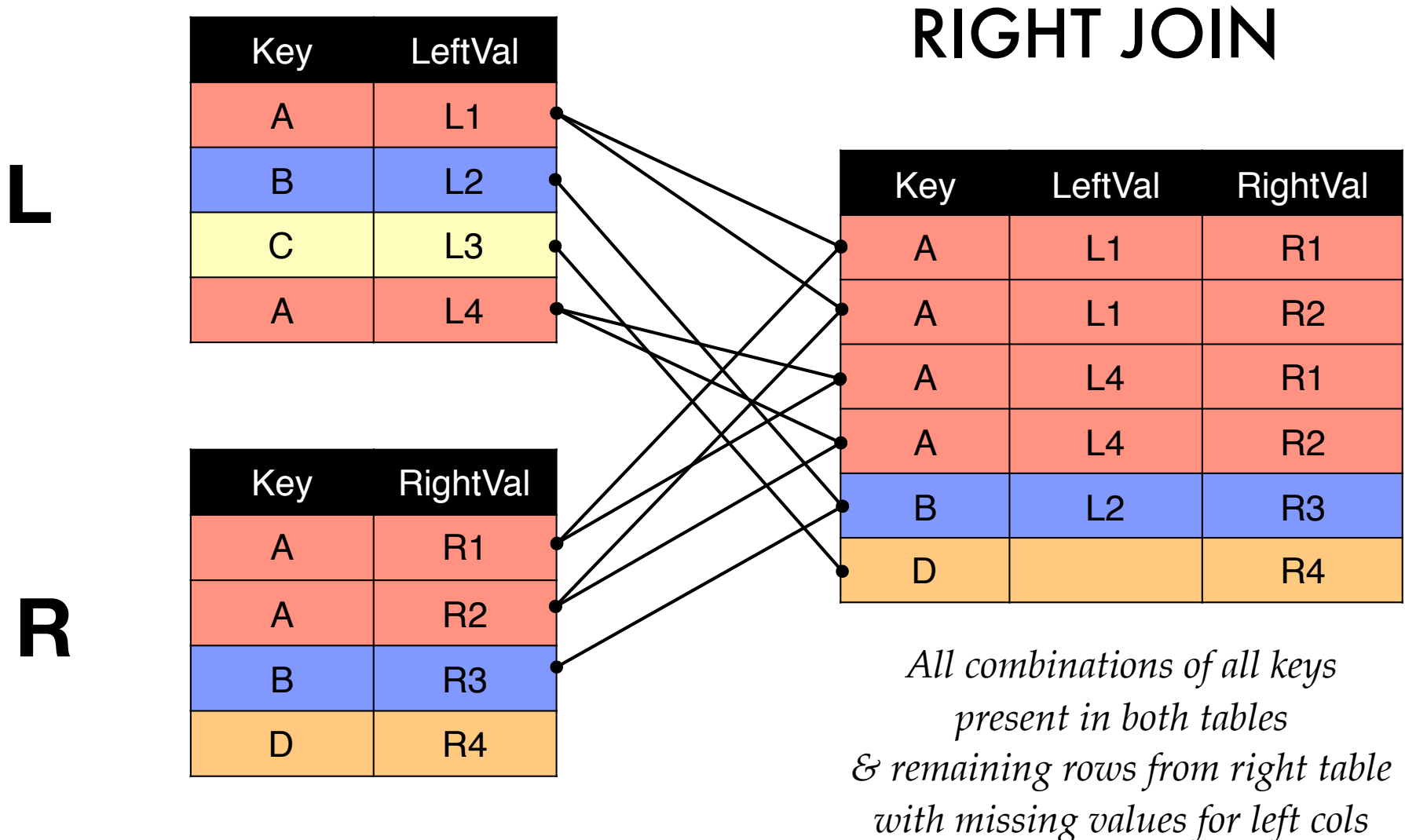
DATABASE JOINS



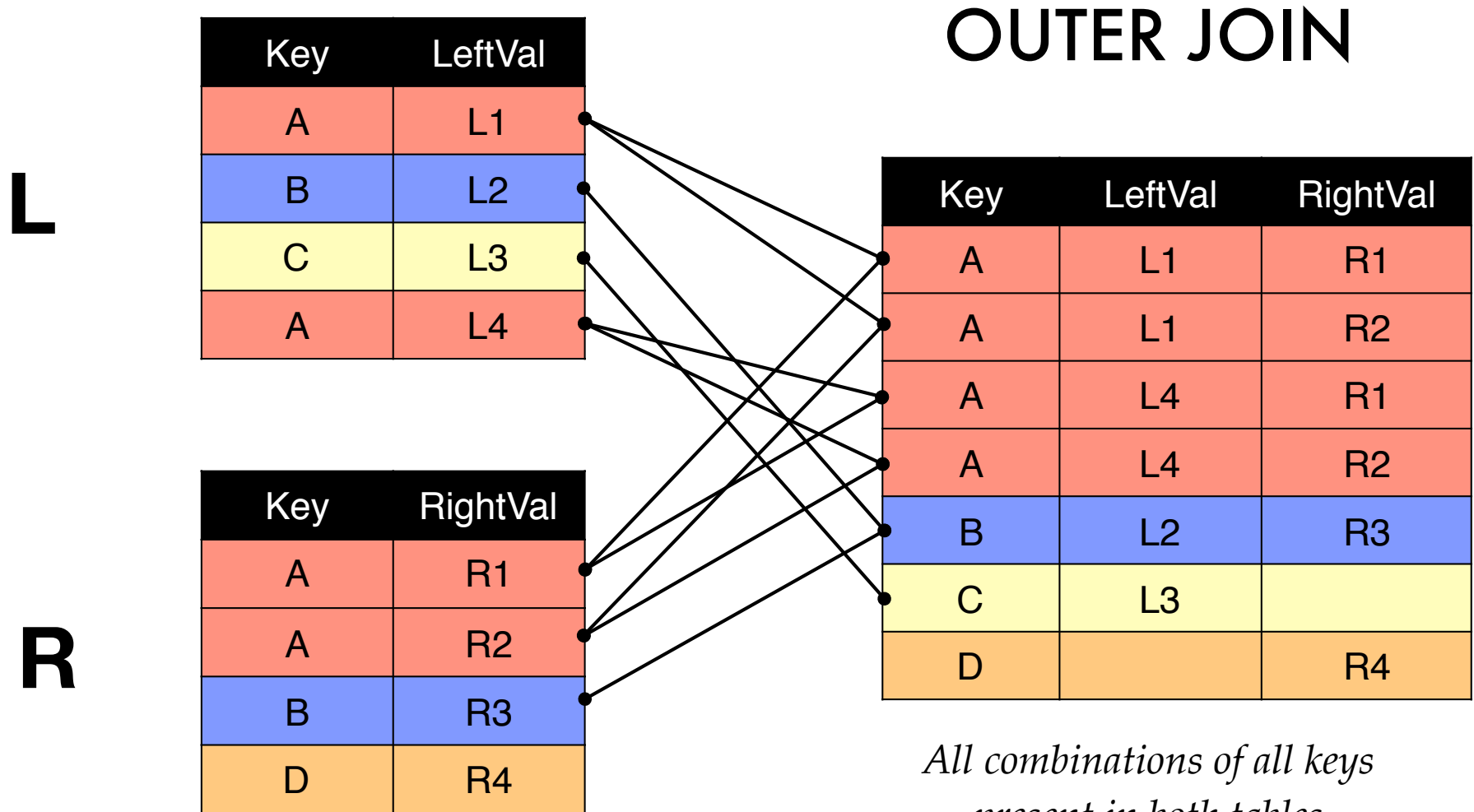
DATABASE JOINS



DATABASE JOINS



DATABASE JOINS



*All combinations of all keys
present in both tables
& remaining rows from both table
with missing values where appropriate*

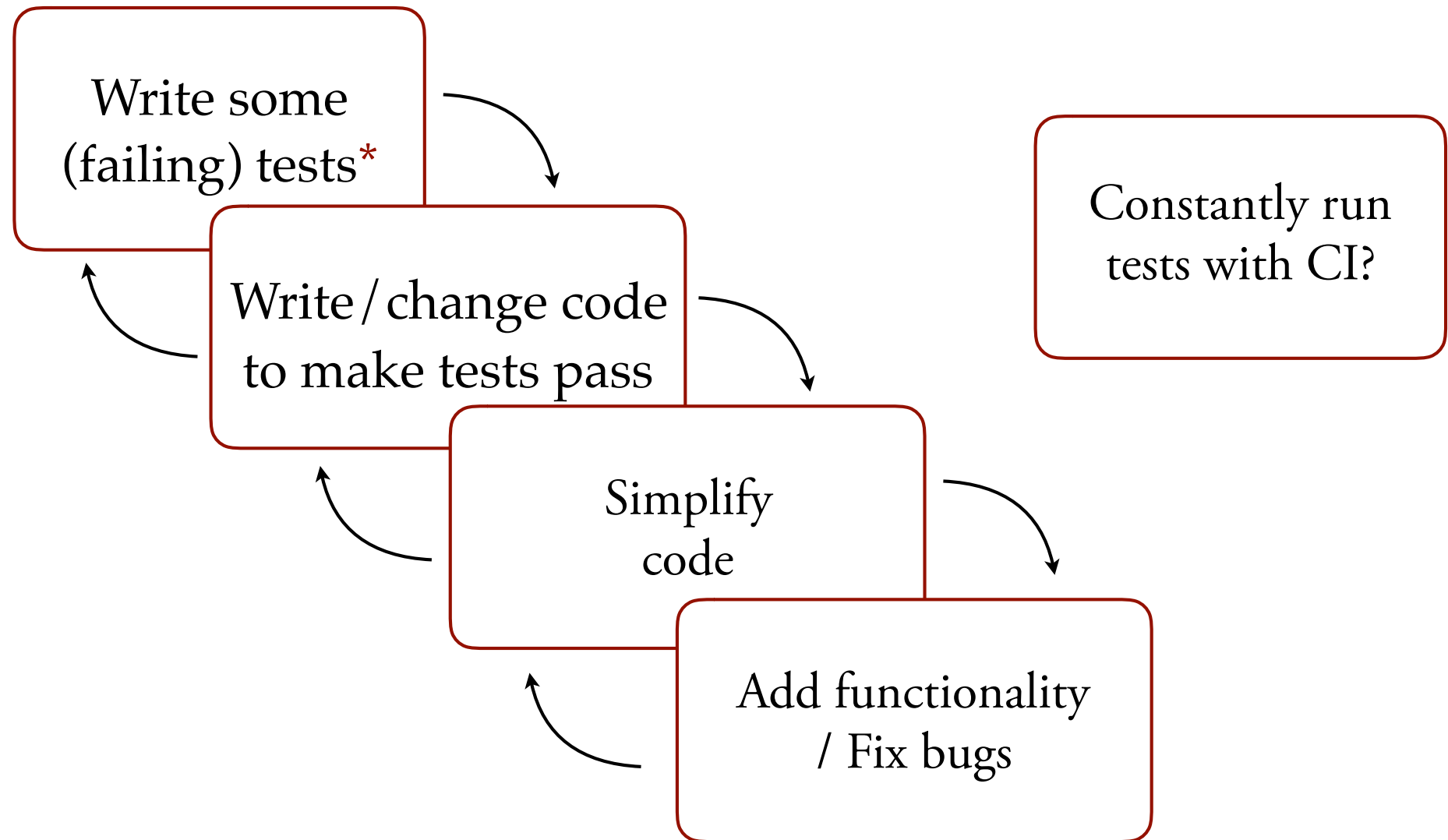
**NOTEBOOK
AVAILABLE
FROM**

NOTEBOOK AVAILABLE FROM

<https://github.com/njr0/europython2018>

OVERVIEW OF TEST-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

TEST-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTWARE



* While mocking almost everything

TESTING SOFTWARE FOR PYTHON

- Built-in Framework: unittest
- Also very popular: pytest (pip install pytest)
- Also nose (which extends unittest)
- Also mock (for mocking)

“Don’t mock. It’s not kind.”

— *Animal’s People*, Indra Sinha.

UNIT TESTS & SYSTEM/INTEGRATION TESTS

- Unit tests check small “units”, often individual functions for correctness, often “in isolation”
- System tests / integration tests check larger module, who systems, or across systems

BASIC STRUCTURE OF TESTS WITH UNITTEST

```
import unittest
from somemodule import f1, f2, class1, Exception1

class TestSomeModule(unittest.TestCase):

    def test_f1(self):
        self.assertEqual(f1(...), expectedResult)

    def test_f1_bad_inputs(self):
        self.assertRaises(Exception1, f1, bad_input)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    unittest.main()
```

KEY IDEAS

- Test “corner cases” (e.g. bad inputs) as well as easy / good cases
- Try hard to write tests that fail
- Write new tests to specify new functionality before you write the code
- “Refactor” working code to simplify it
- Run the tests “all the time” (or at least, often), possibly with a Continuous Integration system (e.g. Jenkins, CircleCI etc.)

TEST-DRIVEN DATA ANALYSIS



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<https://github.com/njr0/europython2018>

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TDD \mapsto TDDA

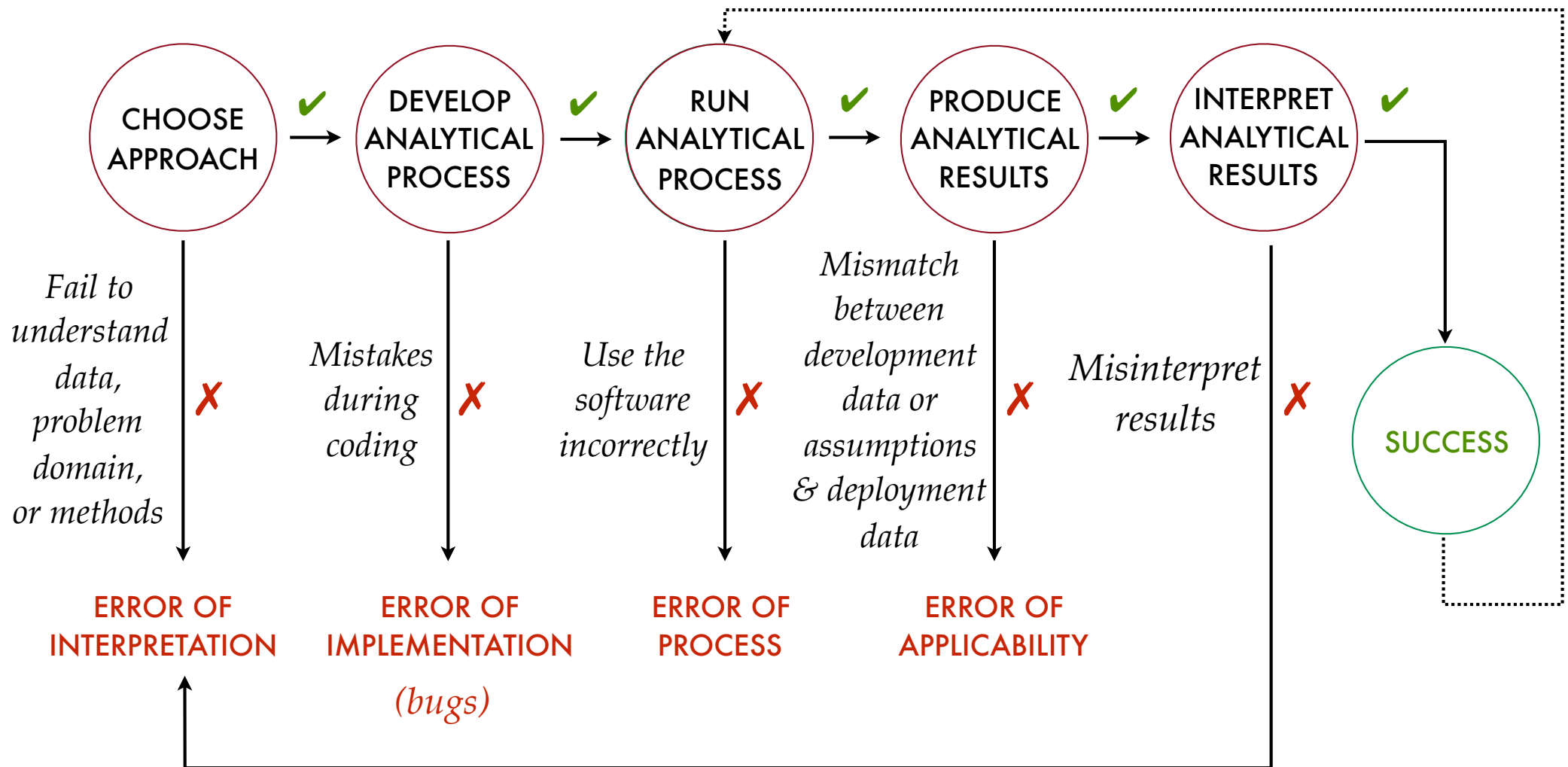
*We need to extend TDD's idea of testing for
software correctness
with the idea of testing for
meaningfulness of analysis,
correctness and validity of input data,
& correctness of interpretation.*

DEVELOPMENT PHASE

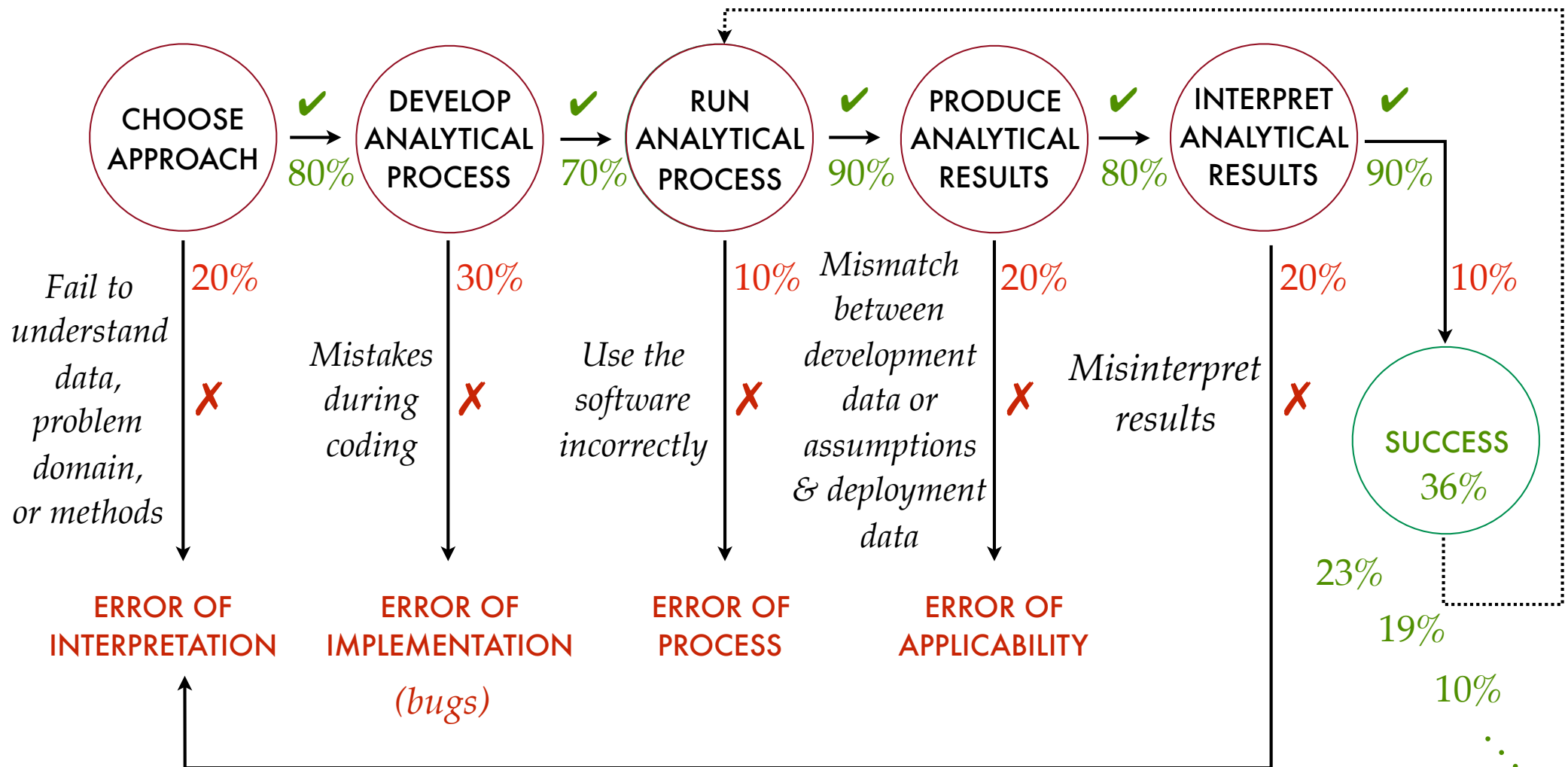
*Using sample/initial
datasets & inputs to
develop the process*

OPERATIONAL PHASE

*Using the process with other
datasets and inputs, possibly
having different characteristics*



If you buy into this model, it's sobering to attach probability estimates to each transition and calculate the probability of success after a few runs . . .



TDDA: MAIN IDEAS

1. “Reference” Tests

- *cf.* system / integration tests in TDD
- With support for exclusions, regeneration, helpful reporting etc.
- Re-run these tests *all the time, everywhere*

2. Constraint Discovery & Verification

- a bit like unit tests for data
- can cover inputs, outputs and intermediate results
- automatically discovered
 - *more-or-less* including regular expressions for characterising strings (Rexpy)
- Use as part of analysis to verify inputs, outputs and intermediates (as appropriate)

TDDA LIBRARY

1. From PyPI (recommended)

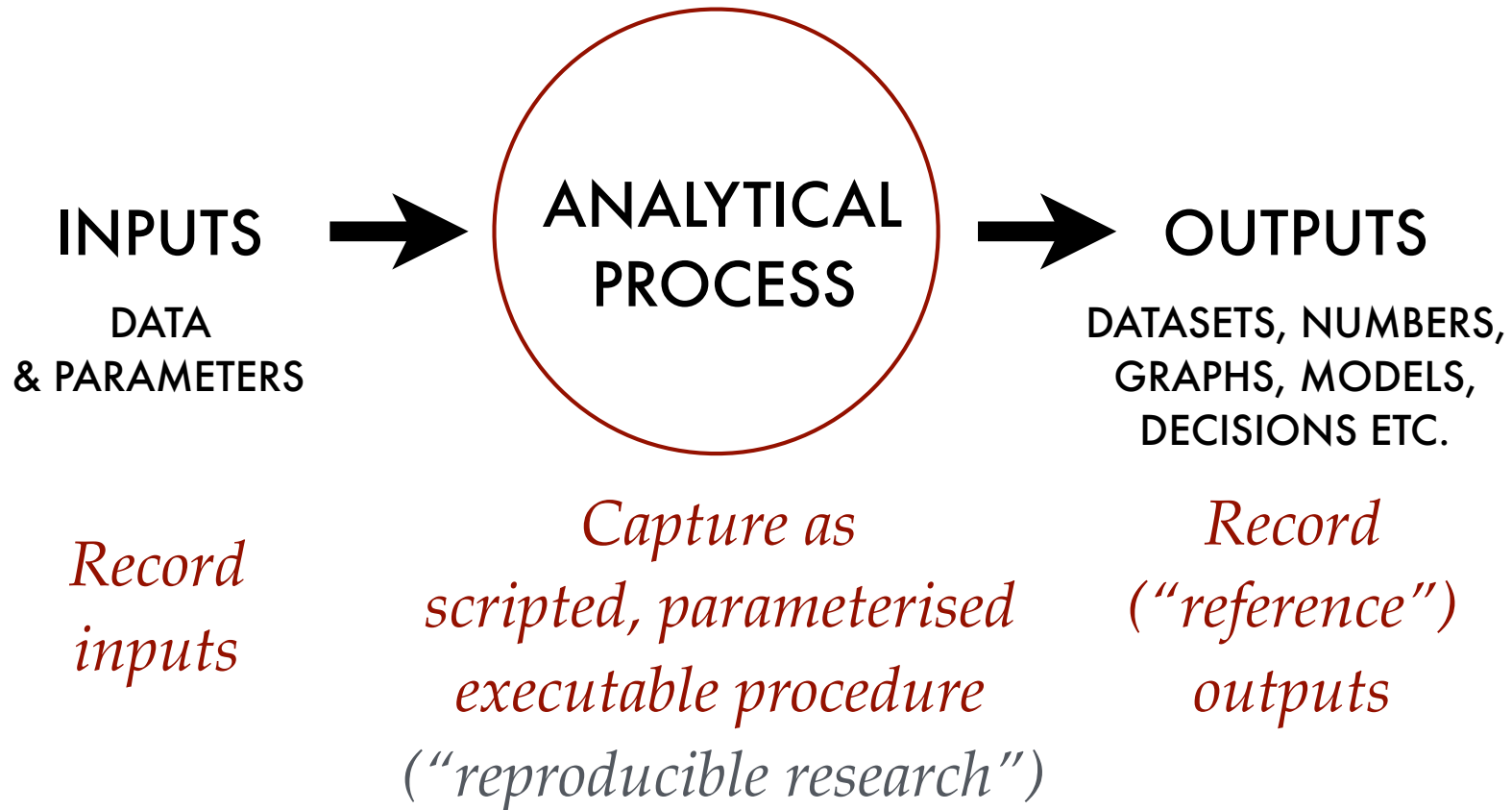
```
pip install tdda
```

2. From Github (source)

```
git clone https://github.com/tdda/tdda.git
```

- Runs on Python 2 & Python 3, Mac, Linux & Windows, under `unittest` and `pytest`
- MIT Licensed
- Documentation:
 - Sphinx source in `doc` subdirectory
 - Built copy at <http://tdda.readthedocs.io>
- Quick reference: <http://www.tdda.info/pdf/tdda-quickref.pdf>

REFERENCE TESTS



*Develop a verification procedure (diff) and periodically rerun:
do the same inputs (still) produce the same outputs?*

REFERENCE TEST SUPPORT

1: UNSTRUCTURED (STRING) RESULTS

- Comparing actual string (in memory or in file) to reference (*expected*) string (in file)
- Exclude lines with substrings or regular expressions
- Preprocess output before comparison
- Write actual string produced to file when different
- Show specific diff command needed to examine differences
- Check multiple files in single test; report all failures
- Automatically re-write reference results after human verification.

REFERENCE TEST SUPPORT

UNSTRUCTURED (STRING) METHODS

Check a single (in-memory) string against a reference file

```
self.assertStringCorrect(string, ref_path, ...)
```

Check a single generated file against a reference file:

```
self.assertFileCorrect(actual_path, ref_path, ...)
```

Check a multiple generated files against respective reference files:

```
self.assertFilesCorrect(actual_paths, ref_paths, ...)
```

EXERCISE 1: STRING DATA REFERENCE TESTS

I. CHECK THE TESTS PASS

1. Copy examples somewhere:

```
cd ~/tmp  
tdda examples  
cd referencetest-examples
```

2. Look at reference output:

```
reference/string_result.html  
reference/file_result.html
```

3. Run tests (should **pass**).

```
cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py; cd ..  
or cd pytest; pytest; cd ..
```

NOTE

- Although tests pass, output is *not* identical
— version number and copyright lines in reference files are different

```
self.assertFileCorrect(outpath, 'file_result.html',  
                        ignore_patterns=['Copyright', 'Version'])
```

(This will be clearer after next part of exercise.)

EXERCISE 1 (CTD): STRING DATA REFERENCE TESTS

II. MODIFY THE GENERATOR, VERIFY RESULTS, RE-WRITE REFERENCE RESULTS

4. Modify `generators.py`

e.g. Capitalise `<h1> ... </h1>` contents in the `generate_string` function

5. Repeat step 3 to run tests again. Two tests should **fail**.

```
cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py; cd ..  
or cd pytest; pytest; cd ..
```

6. Check modified results in (reported) temporary directory are as expected; run the suggested diff command or something similar (`opendiff`, `fc`, ...). Again, note that in addition to the changes you introduced, the Copyright and Version lines are different

7. On the assumption that these now represent the verified,* new target results, re-write the reference output with

```
cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py -W  
or cd pytest; pytest --write-all -s
```

8. Repeat step 5 to run tests again. All tests should **pass**.

*** WARNING**

If you habitually re-write results when tests fail without carefully verifying the new results, your tests will quickly become worthless.

With great power comes great responsibility: use TDDA Reference Tests wisely!

EXERCISE 1 (CTD): STRING DATA REFERENCE TESTS

III. MODIFY THE RESULTS VERSION NUMBER; CHECK STILL OK

9. Modify `generators.py` code to change version number in output.
10. Repeat step 3 to run tests again. All tests should still **pass** since version number is excluded by `ignore_substrings=['Copyright', 'Version']` parameter to `assertStringCorrect`.

REFERENCE TEST SUPPORT

2: STRUCTURED DATA METHODS (DATAFRAMES & CSV)

- Comparing generated DataFrame or CSV file to reference DataFrame or CSV file
- Show specific diff command needed to examine differences
- Check multiple CSV files in single test; report all failures
- Choose subset of columns (with list or function) to compare
- Choose whether to check (detailed) types
- Choose whether to check column order
- Choose whether to ignore actual data in particular columns
- Choose precision for floating-point comparisons
- Automatic re-writing of verified (changed) results.

REFERENCE TEST SUPPORT

STRUCTURED DATA METHODS (DATAFRAMES & CSV)

Check a single generated CSV file against a reference CSV file

```
self.assertCSVFileCorrect(actual_path, ref_csv, ...)
```

Check multiple generated files against respective reference CSV files:

```
self.assertCSVFilesCorrect(actual_paths, ref_csvs, ...)
```

Check an (in-memory) DataFrame against a reference CSV file

```
self.assertDataFrameCorrect(df, ref_csv, ...)
```

Check an (in-memory) DataFrame against another (in-memory) DataFrame

```
self.assertDataFramesEqual(df, ref_df, ...)
```

EXERCISE 2: DATAFRAME/CSV REFERENCE TESTS

I. CHECK THE TESTS PASS

1. If you've done Exercise 1, you already have the examples in the same directory
2. Look at reference output:
`reference/dataframe_result.csv`
`reference/dataframe_result2.csv`
3. Run tests (should **pass**).
`cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py; cd ..`
`cd pytest; pytest; cd ..`

NOTE

You can look at the data frame being generated with this 2-line program (save as `show.py`)

```
from dataframes import generate_dataframe  
  
print(generate_dataframe())
```

EXERCISE 2: DATAFRAME/CSV REFERENCE TESTS

II. MODIFY THE DATA GENERATOR, VERIFY RESULTS, RE-WRITE REFERENCE RESULTS

4. Modify `dataframes.py`

e.g. Change the default precision from 3 to 2 in the `generate_dataframe` function. This will cause the string column `s` to be different.

5. Repeat step 3 to run tests again. Three tests should **fail**.

```
cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py; cd ..  
or cd pytest; pytest; cd ..
```

6. Look at the way differences are reported, and check that the only material change is to column `s`, as expected.

7. On the assumption that this new output now represents the new, verified target result,* re-write the reference output with

```
cd unittest; python test_using_referencetestcase.py -W  
or cd pytest; pytest --write-all -s
```

8. Repeat step 5 to run tests again. All tests should now **pass**.

*** WARNING**

If you habitually re-write results when tests fail without carefully verifying the new results, your tests will quickly become worthless.

With great power comes great responsibility: use TDDA Reference Tests wisely!



NEW COOLNESS!

TAGGING TESTS TO RUN A SUBSET

With **unittest** (not yet **pytest**), you can "tag" single individual tests or whole test classes to allow only those ones to be run with when running with `-1` or `--tagged`.

```
from tdda.referencecetest import ReferenceTestCase, tag
class TestDemo(ReferenceTestCase):
    def testOne(self):
        self.assertEqual(1, 1)

    @tag
    def testTwo(self):
        self.assertEqual(2, 2)

    @tag
    def testThree(self):
        self.assertEqual(3, 3)

    def testFour(self):
        self.assertEqual(4, 4)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    ReferenceTestCase.main()
```

```
$ python3 tests.py -1
```

```
..
```

```
-----
Ran 2 tests in 0.000s
```

```
OK
```

See what classes have tagged tests
with `-0` or `--istagged`

```
$ python3 tests.py -0
```

```
__main__.TestDemo
```

```
-----
OK
```

CONSTRAINT GENERATION & VERIFICATION

CONSTRAINTS

- Very commonly, data analysis uses data tables (e.g. DataFrames) as inputs, outputs and intermediate results
- There are many things we know (or at least expect) to be true about these data tables
- *Could* write down all these expectations as constraints and check that they are actually satisfied during analysis . . . *but life's too short!* (Also: humans are rather error-prone)

THE BIG IDEA

- Get the computer to discover constraints satisfied by example datasets automatically.
- Verify against these constraints, modifying as required
- (Humans much happier to make tweaks than start from scratch)

EXAMPLE CONSTRAINTS

SINGLE FIELD CONSTRAINTS	DATASET CONSTRAINTS
$\text{Age} \leq 150$	The dataset must contain field CID
$\text{type}(\text{Age}) = \text{int}$	Number of records must be 118
$\text{CID} \neq \text{NULL}$	One field should be tagged 0
CID unique	Date should be sorted ascending
$\text{len}(\text{CardNumber}) = 16$	MULTI-FIELD CONSTRAINTS
$\text{Base in } \{\text{"C"}, \text{"G"}, \text{"A"}, \text{"T"}\}$	$\text{StartDate} \leq \text{EndDate}$
$\text{Vote} \neq \text{"Trump"}$	$\text{AlmostEqual}(\text{F}, \text{m} * \text{a}, 6)$
$\text{StartDate} < \text{tomorrow}()$	$\text{sum}(\text{Favourite}^*) = 1$
$v < 2.97\text{e}10$	$\text{minVal} \leq \text{medianVal} \leq \text{maxVal}$
$\text{Height} \sim \text{N}(1.8, 0.2)$	$V \leq H * w * d$

CONSTRAINTS SUPPORTED BY TDDA LIBRARY

KIND	DESCRIPTION	BOOLEAN	NUMERIC	DATE	STRING
min	<i>Minimum allowed value; on verification interpreted with proportionate tolerance epsilon.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗
max	<i>Maximum allowed value; on verification interpreted with proportionate tolerance epsilon.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗
sign	<i>"positive", "non-negative", "zero", "non-positive" or "negative".</i>	✓	✓	✗	✗
max_nulls	<i>0 if nulls not allowed. In principle, can be higher values (in particular, 1), but discover function does not use these at present.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
no_duplicates	<i>true if duplicates are not allowed.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
min_length	<i>smallest allowed string length</i>	✗	✗	✗	✓
max_length	<i>largest allowed string length</i>	✗	✗	✗	✓
rex	<i>list of regular expressions; strings must match at least one. (Available from version 0.4.0 on.)</i>	✗	✗	✗	✓

CONSTRAINT GENERATION & VERIFICATION

1. Copy examples somewhere:

```
cd ~/tmp  
tdda examples          (if not done already)  
cd constraints-examples
```

2. Generate constraints from first 92 elements of periodic table (`testdata/elements92.csv`)

```
cd constraints-examples  
python elements_discover_92.py  
or tdda discover testdata/elements92.csv elements92.tdda
```

3. Examine output (`elements92.tdda`)

4. Perform verification of same data (as DataFrame). Should **pass**.

```
python elements_verify_92.py  
or tdda verify testdata/elements92.csv elements92.tdda
```

Obviously, verifying a dataset against the constraints generated from that dataset should always work!

```
pip install feather-format
```

EXAMPLE: elements92.tdda

```
{
  "fields": {
    "Z": {"type": "int", "min": 1, "max": 92, "sign": "positive", "max_nulls": 0, "no_duplicates": true},
    "Name": {"type": "string", "min_length": 3, "max_length": 12, "max_nulls": 0, "no_duplicates": true},
    "Symbol": {"type": "string", "min_length": 1, "max_length": 2, "max_nulls": 0, "no_duplicates": true},
    "Period": {"type": "int", "min": 1, "max": 7, "sign": "positive", "max_nulls": 0},
    "Group": {"type": "int", "min": 1, "max": 18, "sign": "positive"},
    "ChemicalSeries": {"type": "string", "min_length": 7, "max_length": 20, "max_nulls": 0,
      "allowed_values": ["Actinoid", "Alkali metal", "Alkaline earth metal",
        "Halogen", "Lanthanoid", "Metalloid", "Noble gas",
        "Nonmetal", "Poor metal", "Transition metal"]},
    "AtomicWeight": {"type": "real", "min": 1.007946, "max": 238.028914, "sign": "positive", "max_nulls": 0},
    "Etymology": {"type": "string", "min_length": 4, "max_length": 39, "max_nulls": 0},
    "RelativeAtomicMass": {"type": "real", "min": 1.007946, "max": 238.028914, "sign": "positive",
      "max_nulls": 0},
    "MeltingPointC": {"type": "real", "min": -258.975, "max": 3675.0, "max_nulls": 1},
    "MeltingPointKelvin": {"type": "real", "min": 14.2, "max": 3948.0, "sign": "positive", "max_nulls": 1},
    "BoilingPointC": {"type": "real", "min": -268.93, "max": 5596.0, "max_nulls": 0},
    "BoilingPointF": {"type": "real", "min": -452.07, "max": 10105.0, "max_nulls": 0},
    "Density": {"type": "real", "min": 8.9e-05, "max": 22.610001, "sign": "positive", "max_nulls": 0},
    "Description": {"type": "string", "min_length": 1, "max_length": 83},
    "Colour": {"type": "string", "min_length": 4, "max_length": 80}
  }
}
```

EXAMPLE SUCCESSFUL VERIFICATION

```
constraints-examples — -bash — 113x40
0 godel:$ python elements_verify_92.py
FIELDS:

AtomicWeight: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓
Group: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓
Name: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓ max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
Density: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓
MeltingPointKelvin: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓
Symbol: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓ max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
Period: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓
Description: 0 failures 3 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓
BoilingPointF: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ✓
Etymology: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓ max_nulls ✓
ChemicalSeries: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓ max_nulls ✓ allowed_values ✓
MeltingPointC: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ✓
Z: 0 failures 6 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
BoilingPointC: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ✓
Colour: 0 failures 3 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓
RelativeAtomicMass: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓

SUMMARY:

Passes: 72
Failures: 0
0 godel:$
```

CONSTRAINT GENERATION & VERIFICATION

5. Now run verification of larger dataset (first 118 elements of periodic table) against the same constraints. Should **fail** (because, for example, atomic number now goes to 118).

```
python elements_verify_118_against_92.py  
or tdda verify testdata/elements118.csv elements92.tdda
```

6. Repeat verification of larger dataset (118 elements) against constraints generated against that same (118) data. Should **pass**.

```
python elements_verify_118.py  
or tdda verify testdata/elements118.csv elements118.tdda
```

7. Finally, verify the constraints from 118 data against the 92 data. Should **pass**.

```
tdda verify testdata/elements92.csv elements118.tdda
```

Note: fewer constraints are discovered for elements118 than for elements92 (67 against 72). This is because there are nulls in some fields in the 118 data (the melting points, density etc.) but not in the 92 data.



FAILURE (ANOMALY) DETECTION

This afternoon's workshop has much more on this!

8. "Detect" the failing records

```
tdda detect testdata/elements118.csv \  
        elements92.tdda             \  
        bads.csv                    \  
        --per-constraint            \  
        --output-fields
```

- This writes out the failing records to `bads.csv`. (Can use `.feather` instead)
- The `--per-constraint` flag says write out a column for every constraint that ever fails, as well as an `nfailures` column.
- `--output-fields` says write all the original fields as well as the results fields (otherwise, it just writes an index/row number).

EXAMPLE UNSUCCESSFUL VERIFICATION

```
constraints-examples — -bash — 113x40
0 godel:~$ python elements_verify_118_against_92.py
FIELDS:

AtomicWeight: 2 failures 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max × sign ✓ max_nulls ×
Group: 0 failures 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓
Name: 1 failure 4 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length × max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
Density: 2 failures 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max × sign ✓ max_nulls ×
MeltingPointKelvin: 1 failure 4 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ×
Symbol: 1 failure 4 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length × max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
Period: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ sign ✓ max_nulls ✓
Description: 0 failures 3 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓
BoilingPointF: 1 failure 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ×
Etymology: 2 failures 2 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length × max_nulls ×
ChemicalSeries: 0 failures 5 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓ max_nulls ✓ allowed_values ✓
MeltingPointC: 1 failure 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ×
Z: 1 failure 5 passes type ✓ min ✓ max × sign ✓ max_nulls ✓ no_duplicates ✓
BoilingPointC: 1 failure 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max ✓ max_nulls ×
Colour: 0 failures 3 passes type ✓ min_length ✓ max_length ✓
RelativeAtomicMass: 2 failures 3 passes type ✓ min ✓ max × sign ✓ max_nulls ×

SUMMARY:

Passes: 57
Failures: 15
0 godel:~$
```

ABSENT CONSTRAINTS

Gregory (Scotland Yard detective): *“Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?”*

Holmes: *“To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.”*

Gregory: *“The dog did nothing in the night-time.”*

Holmes: *“That was the curious incident.”*

— *Silver Blaze*, in *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*
Arthur Conan Doyle, 1892.

CONSTRAINTS API

DISCOVERY

```
from tdda.constraints.pdconstraints import discover_constraints

constraints = discover_constraints(df)

with open('constraints.tdda', 'w') as f:
    f.write(constraints.to_json())
```

VERIFICATION

```
from tdda.constraints.pdconstraints import verify_df

verification = verify_df(df, 'constraints.tdda') # (printable object)

constraints_df = verification.to_frame() # (Pandas DataFrame)
```

OUTPUT of to_frame()

	field	failures	passes	type	min	min_length	max	\
0	AtomicWeight	2	3	True	True	NaN	False	
2	Name	1	4	True	NaN	True	NaN	
3	Density	2	3	True	True	NaN	False	
4	MeltingPointKelvin	1	4	True	True	NaN	True	
5	Symbol	1	4	True	NaN	True	NaN	
7	BoilingPointF	1	3	True	True	NaN	True	
8	Etymology	2	2	True	NaN	True	NaN	
9	RelativeAtomicMass	2	3	True	True	NaN	False	
11	MeltingPointC	1	3	True	True	NaN	True	
12	Z	1	5	True	True	NaN	False	
13	BoilingPointC	1	3	True	True	NaN	True	

	max_length	sign	max_nulls	no_duplicates	allowed_values
0	NaN	True	False	NaN	NaN
2	False	NaN	True	True	NaN
3	NaN	True	False	NaN	NaN
4	NaN	True	False	NaN	NaN
5	False	NaN	True	True	NaN
7	NaN	NaN	False	NaN	NaN
8	False	NaN	False	NaN	NaN
9	NaN	True	False	NaN	NaN
11	NaN	NaN	False	NaN	NaN
12	NaN	True	True	True	NaN
13	NaN	NaN	False	NaN	NaN

CONSTRAINTS

True *Satisfied*

FALSE *Not satisfied*

NaN *No constraint*



njr@StochasticSolutions.com



<http://tdda.info>



<https://github.com/tdda>



#tdda*



@tdda0

@njr0

* tweet (DM) us email
address for invitation
Or email me.

Correct interpretation: Zero

Error of interpretation: Letter "Oh"

www.tdda.info/pdf/tdda-tutorial-pydata-london-2017.pdf

Rexpy

Regular Expressions by Example

Source: `git clone http://github.com/tdda`

Package: `pip install tdda`

Try online: <http://rexpy.herokuapp.com>

Regular Expressions

212-988-0321

476 123 8829

1 701 734 9288

(617) 222 0529

optional
1

^{start of line}1^{optional space or open bracket}[\ (] ? ^{digits (3)}\d{3} ^{optional close bracket}\) ? ^{space or hyphen}[\ -] ^{digits (3)}\d{3} ^{space or hyphen}[\ -] ^{digits (3)}\d{4} ^{end of line}\$

*start
of
line*

*optional
space
or open
bracket*

*digits
(3)*

*optional
close
bracket*

*space
or
hyphen*

*digits
(3)*

*space
or
hyphen*

*digits
(3)*

*end
of
line*

Regular Expressions

212-988-0321

$^{\wedge}\backslash d\{3\}\backslash -\backslash d\{3\}\backslash -\backslash d\{4\}\$$

as before

$^{\wedge}\backslash d+\backslash -\backslash d+\backslash -\backslash d+\$$

less specific:

+ = 1 or more times

$^{\wedge}[1-2]+\backslash -[8-9]+\backslash -[0-3]+\$$

specific range of digits

$^{\wedge}212\backslash -988\backslash -0321\$$

totally specific

$^{\wedge}.*\$$

matches anything

. = any char

** = 0 or more times*

Regular Expressions

MN 55402

OH 45202

^[A-Z]{2} \d{5}\$

Regular Expressions

MN 55402

OH 45202-7735

\wedge [A-Z]{2} \d{5} (\- \d{4}) ? $\$$

*unescaped parentheses
(no backslash) "tag"
sub-expressions*

optional

You have a problem.

You think

“I know, I’ll use regular expressions.”

Now you have two problems

Pros & Cons

Powerful

*Ugly

Hard to write

Harder to read

Harder still to debug

Hard to quote/escape†

*Butt . . .

† r' . . . ' is your friend

Verbal Expressions

```
verbal_expression = VerEx()  
tester = (verbal_expression.  
          start_of_line().  
          find('http').  
          maybe('s').  
          find('://').  
          maybe('www.').  
          anything_but(' ').  
          end_of_line()  
)
```

*Why not let
the computer do
the work?*

Rexpy

is our early attempt to let the computer
find useful regular expressions
from examples

```
$ python
```

```
>>> tels = ['212-988-0321', '987-654-3210', '476 123 8829', '123 456 7890',  
>>>          '701 734 9288', '177 441 7712', '617 222 0529', '222 111 9276']  
>>> regexps = rexp.extract(tels)  
>>> for r in regexps:  
...     print r  
^\d{3}\-\d{3}\-\d{4}$  
^\d{3}\ \d{3}\ \d{4}$
```



Rexpy currently never groups white space with punctuation; but it will soon.

rexp.py

Automatic Discovery of Regular Expressions ?

Miró

d3aebe51-aa3e-77d4-968f-003fa5c7c179
d3aec05c-aa3e-77d4-a0d3-003fa5c7c179
d3aec117-aa3e-77d4-8097-003fa5c7c179
d3aec1b8-aa3e-77d4-8b27-003fa5c7c179
d3aec257-aa3e-77d4-a61a-003fa5c7c179
d3aec2ee-aa3e-77d4-affa-003fa5c7c179
d3aec382-aa3e-77d4-ba1f-003fa5c7c179
d3aec419-aa3e-77d4-ab8e-003fa5c7c179
d3aec4b0-aa3e-77d4-9fc8-003fa5c7c179
d3aec545-aa3e-77d4-8888-003fa5c7c179
d3aec5dc-aa3e-77d4-a383-003fa5c7c179
d3aec673-aa3e-77d4-8fdc-003fa5c7c179

find patterns

clear

[0-9a-f]{8}\-aa3e\-77d4\-[0-9a-f]{4}\-003fa5c7c179

☐ group ☐ anchor

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Command Line

```
$ rexy --help
```

Usage:

```
rexy [FLAGS] [input file [output file]]
```

or

```
python -m tdda.rexy.rexy [FLAGS] [input file [output file]]
```

If input file is provided, it should contain one string per line; otherwise lines will be read from standard input.

If output file is provided, regular expressions found will be written to that (one per line); otherwise they will be printed.

FLAGS are optional flags. Currently::

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <code>-h, --header</code> | Discard first line, as a header. |
| <code>-, --help</code> | Print this usage information and exit (without error) |
| <code>-g, --group</code> | Generate capture groups for each variable fragment of each regular expression generated, i.e. surround variable components with parentheses

e.g. <code>'^([A-Z])\-([0-9])\$'</code>
becomes <code>'^[A-Z]+\-[0-9]+\$'</code> |
| <code>-u, --underscore</code> | Allow underscore to be treated as a letter. Mostly useful for matching identifiers. Also allow <code>-_</code> . |
| <code>-d, --dot</code> | Allow dot to be treated as a letter. Mostly useful for matching identifiers.

Also <code>-.</code> <code>--period</code> . |
| <code>-m, --minus</code> | Allow minus to be treated as a letter. Mostly useful for matching identifiers. Also <code>--hyphen</code> or <code>--dash</code> . |
| <code>-v, --version</code> | Print the version number. |

API: Pure Python

Get examples: `python -m tdda.rexpy.examples`

ids.py:

```
from tdda import rexy
```

```
corpus = ['123-AA-971', '12-DQ-802', '198-AA-045', '1-BA-834']
results = rexy.extract(corpus)
print('Number of regular expressions found: %d' % len(results))
for rex in results:
    print('    ' + rex)
```

RESULTS

```
$ python ids.py
```

```
Number of regular expressions found: 1
```

```
^\d{1,3}\-[A-Z]{2}\-\d{3}$
```

API: Pandas

pandas_ids.py:

```
import pandas as pd

from tdda import rexy

df = pd.DataFrame({'a3': ["one", "two", pd.np.NaN],
                   'a45': ['three', 'four', 'five']})
re3 = rexy.pdextract(df['a3'])
re45 = rexy.pdextract(df['a45'])
re345 = rexy.pdextract([df['a3'], df['a45']])
print('  re3: %s' % re3)
print('  re45: %s' % re45)
print('re345: %s' % re345)
```

RESULTS

```
$ python pandas_ids.py
  re3: [u'^[a-z]{3}$']
  re45: [u'^[a-z]{4,5}$']
re345: [u'^[a-z]{3,5}$']
```



njr@StochasticSolutions.com



<http://tdda.info>



<https://github.com/tdda>



#tdda*

* *tweet (DM) us email
address for invitation. Or email me.*



@tdda0 @njr0 @StochasticSolns



Correct interpretation: Zero

Error of interpretation: Letter "Oh"

<https://github.com/njr0/europython2018>