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## Preserving information on mathematical software via web archives

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an information service for mathematical software



## Why consider software? (1/2)

- Improving the status of software and its developers in the scientific publication process.
  - Especially in mathematics scientific software comprises sophisticated knowledge.
- The digital revolution provides the logistics to augment all kinds of data to traditional publications and make all data thoroughly accessible.
- Best practices for software in science:
  - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable
  - Replicability, Reproducibility, Reusability
- Checks & balances for the tools we use in scientific work.





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## Why consider software? (2/2)

What can possibly go wrong?

- Excel bug(s) the most commonly used mathematical software in nonmathematical science.
- Knight Capital Group.
- Science alert: <u>"A Bug in FMRI Software Could Invalidate 15 Years of Brain</u> <u>Research"</u>
- Google: disasters caused by software / mathematical errors



AC	1 🗕 💽	$f_{x}$	=AA1*AB1	
	AA	AB	AC	
1	425	154.2	100000	
2	850	77.1	100000	
3	1700	38.55	100000	
4	6375	10.28	100000	
5	6425	10.2	100000	
6	12750	5.14	100000	
7	12850	5.1	100000	
8	25500	2.57	100000	
9	25700	2.55	100000	

## **Goal: Make software visible in science**



- If the software code is available on a version controlled repository, always cite the SHA value.
- If the software code is freely available in a less standardised environment
  - Download the software for yourself;
  - Follow the citing instructions on the webpage;
  - Ask the authors to move the software to a version controlled repository;
  - Create a web archive.
- If the software code is not available
  - Follow the citing instructions on the webpage;
  - Create a web archive.

## **Evaluation of the situation in maths**



Q1: How well is software represented by its surrogate on the web?Q2: Which information about software is available on the web?Q3: How many websites of software are archived?Q4: For how many of these can we recover referenced versions?



A1: High correlation between references in literature and in-links on the web. Good representation. A2: Software pages are well structured with i. e. a documentation, download, update section.

Result 1: It is worthwhile considering software surrogates on the web.

A3: About half of the webpages have been archived.

A4: Only about 20% of these can be linked to a given referenced version in literature.

### Result 2: There is work to be done.

For details see <u>"Archiving Software Surrogates on the Web for Future Reference</u>" by Holzmann, Sperber, Runnwerth (TPDL 2016).

## **Coupling swMATH and web archives**



References in zbMATH (referenced in 1311 articles, 4 standard articles)

Showing results 1 to 20 of 1311.

Sorted by year (citations) 20 \*

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135

#### 1 2 3 64 65 66 next

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**Live Demo** 

## Make your own (micro) web archive for referencing software: in theory



Entity



MyFiniteElementMethod

# Make your own (micro) web archive for referencing software: in practice





What is a micro archive? A micro archive is a snapshot of a fixed (evolving) set of URLs that are representative for some object or entity (at a given time). Hence, such an archive can be used to describe and / or derive information about its subject at the time of the crawl.

Create your own micro archive for an entity or object of your choice by either defining a set of URLs manually or loading / extracting a crawl specification from some URL:

	Enter spec definition	
Enter URL to load / extra	act a crawl specification	
	Load / extract spec	

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## Live Demo

## What you gain with Micrawler



- The information from the web is archived precisely as you processed it.
- Archive the website when you use its content, not when you reference / cite it.
- All your information from the web is verifiable.
- You create an archive according to your semantic specification.
- Your data is retraceable through time.



## Outlook



- Enable referencing micro archives by handle (i. e. DOI)
  - Pointing to the micro archive from a publication
- Mining meta data from those archives automatically
  - Detect versions, features, etc.
- Consider scientifically relevant web content for web archives



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### To be continued...

Contact: <u>Helge Holzmann</u> <u>Mila Runnwerth</u>



