

Interactive comment on “Creative computing with Landlab: an open-source toolkit for building, coupling, and exploring two-dimensional numerical models of Earth-surface dynamics” by Daniel E. J. Hobley et al.

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I congratulate the authors to provide the community with Landlab and this accompanying paper. As the authors share their model as an entirely open software on GitHub, they adhere to the growing trend of open collaboration for scientific computing. This is great! This being said, I found it a bit surprising to find TopoToolbox and TecDEM referenced as closed source software (page 4, line 9), in line with ArcMap and Matlab. I agree that ArcMap and Matlab are closed and commercial software. Yet, the Matlab-based toolboxes TopoToolbox and TecDEM themselves are open software as

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their codes are open and could be run (although with major modifications) on platforms like Octave, which itself is open. I think that there is a smooth transition between fully open software such as Landlab which is based on Python, software such as TopoToolbox and TecDEM that exploit the increasing openness and interoperability of commercial and closed software such as ArcGIS and Matlab, and completely closed-source software. I encourage the authors to account for this slight but significant difference in principles of software development.

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