

Building a code project from scratch: code, document, test, share

Session type: Hands-on activity.

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A suggested activity is to build a code project from scratch and implement code documentation, unit testing, and building a project website. The main objective of the code project could be to read a data file, maybe perform some simple statistics, and plot the results.

Activities on writing modularized and testable code would be really good. In addition, activities on unit testing code, writing code documentation, and building a project website would be beneficial. I mainly use Python, so for unit testing I use pytest (<http://doc.pytest.org/en/latest/>) and for code documentation I use Sphinx (<http://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/stable/>). I recently built a cookiecutter template for Python projects that helps promote these best practices (<https://github.com/usgs/cookiecutter-python-package>).