MXCuBE developers' meeting January 25th 2022

Participants:

- Marcus Oscarsson, Jean Baptiste Florial (ESRF)
- Rasmus Fogh (Global Phasing)
- Michael Hellmig (HZB)
- Clemente Borges (DESY)
- Bo Yi (NSRCC)
- Roberto Borghes (Elettra)
- Merghdad Yazdi (MAXIV)

Minutes: Rasmus

Site status

ESRF working on adding automation features.

PR guidelines

It is agreed that the guidelines as written do not reflect either current or desired practice. Current guidelines say you need one review, and PR can be merged after 15 days if no one reviews. MO proposes that you should comment your PRs thoroughly, so people can understand reasons and problems, and that you can merge your own PRs after review. The meeting agrees on both points. There must be at least one positive review from outside your institution. You may assign reviewers if there is one or more people whose opinion is particularly important / desired.
ACTION: MO to propose updated guidelines. Because of many missing participants the discussion should be restarted at the next meeting.

Repository workflow

The proposal in Jordi Andreus PR relies on Gitflow, with branch naming using Python PEP440. In short, the new develop branch would be treated exactly as the current master branch. The new master branch would be **only** for releases, and no PRs would be made to master. Release candidate branches would be started on develop and end up by becoming the next step on the master branch. Hotfix branches would start on master, add fixes, and

the result would be brought back to master. We would use Bumpversion to increase version numbers – more specifically bump2version, which is an actively developed fork of the former. This would have to be installed locally. MO proposes in the slightly longer term to replace Travis with a github action workflow for continuous integration.

It was discussed when to make the change-over. One proposal was to start from the day of the meeting to PR to develop instead of to master. RF proposed to get started with a release ASAP and sort it out from there. It was agreed that we were not quite ready for this, and to continue discussion and take it up at the next meeting.

The question of local code branches was raised (RF again). Although there is agreement that local branch naming and repository organisation must be free to choose, the point was raised whether a systematic (and optional) way of naming might be useful
The ambition would be to make regular releases, maybe every six months, and to track the release much more closely at the local synchrotrons than has been the case in the past.

There was a long discussion of exactly which version should be bumped in exactly what circumstances, which did not result in a clear consensus. The general idea of semantic versioning is clear, but is it a matter of versioning only the master/release branch, or is it also desired to track changes within the development branch through semantic versioning? A precise example going through a development-release cycle with indication of what is bumped when would be useful to ensure a common understanding. The point was discussed after the meeting in some detail under mxcubecore PR #669.

The version string could be kept either in a text file, or in a Python file whence it could be imported. There are also a couple of technical options for implementing the bumping.

Each repository (mxcubeqt, mxcubewqeb, and mxcubecore) would have its own separate semantic version string.

The person doing merging would be responsible for ensuring that the version string in the final result is correct (irrespective of exactly which bump procedure we agree on).

The meeting is positive towards the new working procedure, and towards starting to use it as soon as possible, but it is agreed to wait a little to make sure everybody is on board and it is completely clear how the bumping schema is to be used.

Any Other Business

It is proposed that the next half-yearly meeting, which is to be in Grenoble, should if possible be physical.

It is noted that Jordi Andreu has left ALBA for a private company. Apart from limited and short-time help he is therefore lost to the project.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to eb in February. MO to send out a Doodle.