Developers' meeting – minutes

MXCuBE project meeting, Zoom, November 2020

Participants:

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Agenda

> Creating package / Python module
> Routines for GitHub CI
> Branch or tag
> Release cadence
> AOB

Creating Package / Python Module

It is proposed to make MXCuBE into a Python module with a proper Python install script; this will require reorganising the directory structure, so that the HardwareObjects/ directory is no longer inside mxcube/. All in favour and none opposed. Some additional points were raised:
> The new structure will make the use of git submodules unnecessary, and we should get rid of them. PK notes that you can use a structure of an empty container module with both real modules as submodules, either as part of the standard repository or locally, if you need to tie specific versions together.
> Using pip install '-e' will allow you to put softlinks into your environment, so that you can modify the code in your repository and keep the installation up-to-date without having to reinstall.

Routines for github Continuous Integration

To fit with the new packaging structure, and on general principles, it is agreed that more testing is needed:
> We need more tests, particularly functional tests; the new abstract classes might make such tests easier to set up.
> Code should be made to push changes automatically to PyPy and/or Conda.
> Tests should start with installation.
> It is agreed to reactivate Pylint, setting ignore statement to avoid the conflict between Black and Pylint rules.
> Hooks that automatically run modification scripts (e.g. Black) are discussed. Since commit hooks have to be installed locally, this would require each developer to

instal and maintain them. It is agreed that such hooks are a good thing that people can install and use if desired, but the commit rules will rely only on pylint and testing to ensure that checked-in code obeys the rules.

Branches or tags

There is some discussion about splitting into a fast-moving master/development branch and a reliable and common production/stable branch. In the end it is agreed to keep having only one branch, and make a common effort on keeping all synchrotrons current with the branch and making sure that breaking changes are only introduced by agreement. There will be regular tagging to keep track of what is the current version, and the discussions in the developers' meetings will serve to approve what goes into the tags. Now we have a shared set of abstract classes it should be much easier to keep everybody synchronised.

Release Cadence

To be discussed later

Date of next meeting

Next developers' meeting should be in December; MO will send out a Doodle poll for the week of the 14th of December.