

Copernicus FRM4SOC FICE 2025

Training on
In Situ Ocean Colour Radiometry

On contributing to open source software

Authors

Hayley.eversking@eumetsat.int



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Open source software – using it

We now live in a world of open-source

- This week you've been using Python a lot
- Also been using tools that are offered under a range of open-source related conditions
 - PACE and OLCI code repositories – open source – you can reuse!
 - ThoMaS – open to reuse – hopefully open to contributions more formally soon
 - HyperCP – fully open – you can contribute.
- *Consider acknowledging or citing software when you use it*
 - User testimony is often crucial to our continued ability to justify funds to develop such tools.
 - Feedback is valuable even if you can't contribute!

Why develop open source software?

Working in community to develop software and tools has many benefits:

- Share the load of creating tools
- Develop transferable skills to help you better process and analyse data, manage code etc
- Ensure consistent application of community endorsed methods.
- Promote uptake of data and methods and gain recognition

How do I create/contribute to existing projects?

Practical recommendations:

- Learn about and use established methods for contributing e.g. Raising git issues, submitting pull requests
- Respect contribution/collaboration guidelines (often provided in repositories – is one in HyperCP)
- Learn about licenses and copyright and ensure you contribute in compliance with these (e.g. don't use GPL libraries in MIT code).
- Consider learning about coding standards, but also don't forget the things that help people use the code:
 - Good documentation
 - Supporting examples/tutorials
 - Support for multiple operating systems
 - Environment files for installation