

RSE by accident: From CodeRefinery to Nordic-RSE and beyond

Samantha Wittke, SSI Fellow 2025, CSC - IT Center for Science, Finland

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Content for today

- The CodeRefinery project
- CodeRefinery workshops
- How to engage with, contribute to, and benefit from our resources
- Nordic-RSE

The problem - Research code challenges

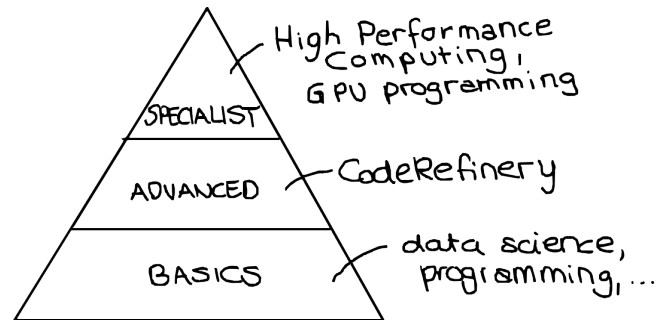
- Many researchers write code but lack formal training beyond programming
- Collaboration on code can be frustrating and inefficient
- Research code is often poorly documented and non-reproducible
- Good coding practices are often not part of standard academic training

"It works on my machine"

Enter, CodeRefinery

Our mission since 2016:

- A community-driven, publicly funded project
- Hands-on training in practical coding tools for research
- Focus on “good enough” software practices to improve efficiency
- Support for Open Science and FAIR software development



Similar efforts: [INTERSECT](#), [SURESOFT](#), [DIGITAL RESEARCH ACADEMY](#), [The Carpentries FAIR RS](#) and probably many more ...

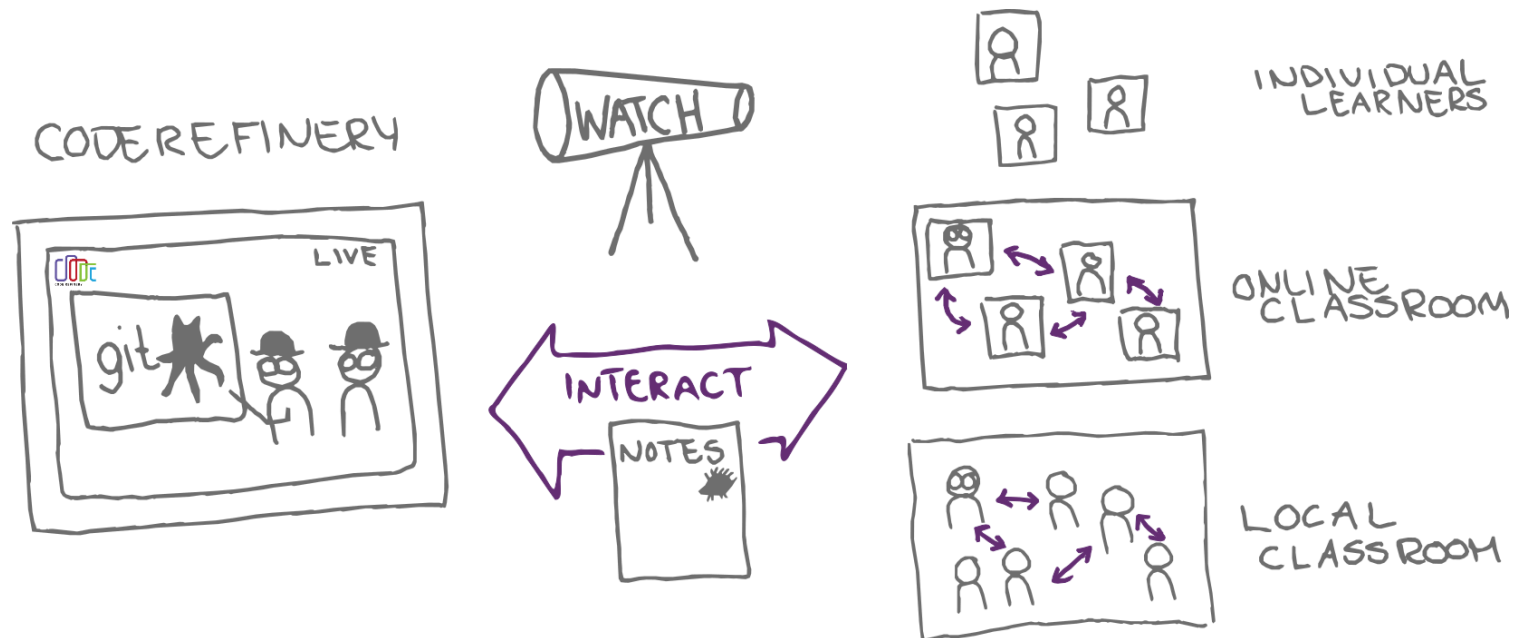
We teach practical skills for researchers

Topics which are helpful for researchers and essential for RSEs.

- **Git & Version Control** – No more lost files or confusion over changes
- **Reproducible Research** – Ensure results can be verified and reused
- **Collaborative Coding** – Work efficiently with colleagues & open-source communities
- **Efficient Coding Techniques** – Write cleaner, modular, and scalable code
- **Documentation & Testing** – Make your code understandable and error-free
- **Open Science & FAIR Principles** – Share your work for maximum impact

[All Lesson materials available under CC BY 4.0 license](#)

Our workshops - interactive & hands-on



- **Format:** Online and reverse hybrid through local classrooms
- **Hands-on exercises** – Not just lectures, but real tool experience
- **Collaborative learning** – Learn alongside peers with expert guidance
- **Beginner-friendly** – No prior experience with the tools we teach required!

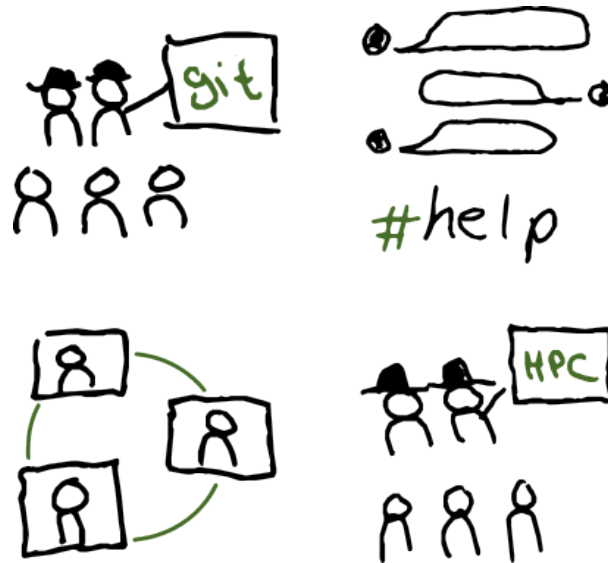
Collaboration across funding borders



~ 15 people in-kind + volunteers



Beyond the workshop - community



- **Networking** – Connect with peers and experts.
- **Collaborative projects** – Work with others on teaching and outreach.
- **Specialized workshops** – Covering High-Performance Computing (HPC) and more.
- **Open learning materials** – Use, modify, and contribute!

How you can benefit

- ✓ Join a workshop as a learner or observer
- ✓ Bring your team and learn together
- ✓ Host a local classroom for others to learn together
- ✓ Use CodeRefinery materials for your own training

How you can contribute

- 🙌 **Teach with us** – Become a co-instructor
- ✍️ **Contribute to lesson materials** – Improve and expand lesson content
- 💡 **Provide feedback** – Help us refine teaching and materials

Success stories and impact

Tested in [10 large online and 28 in-person](#) workshops

- We reach over [500 persons/year](#)
- Over [30 instructors / speakers](#)
- Over [100 helpers / exercise leaders](#)

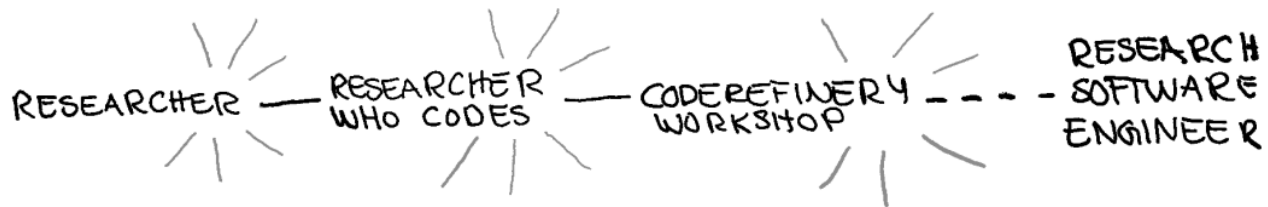
"Thank you for six great days of learning Git, testing, modular code, Sphinx (!) and more. I already started incorporating Sphinx in my current project."

"I write my codes now in such a way that the person who will be taking over my job would have less time figuring out what is going on."

-> [Results from post-workshop survey 2024](#)

Relation to Research Software Engineering

- We teach topics which are helpful for researchers and essential for RSEs.
- [Nordic-RSE](#) colleagues hang out and discuss on the [CodeRefinery community chat](#)



Nordic-RSE

- Networking platform for specialized research supporters in Nordics
- Community and professional development network for RSEs
- Events to bring RSEs and RSE adjacent people together
- Support those who want to bring RSE services and skills to their community.

We are an association with about 100 people on mailing list

Nordic RSE Conference 2025



- May 20 -21, 2025 in Gothenburg, Sweden
- Next week, 45 registrations (+10 from last year!)

Follow or get involved!

Join our community discussions in [Zulip](#) We are on BlueSky, Mastodon and LinkedIn

- Visit coderefinery.org
- [CodeRefinery blog](#)
- [CodeRefinery newsletter](#)
- Register for an [upcoming workshop](#)
- Become an [ambassador](#)
- Support e-mail: support@coderefinery.org
- Visit nordic-rse.org
- [Nordic-RSE blog](#)
- [Nordic-RSE newsletter](#)
- Support e-mail: secretary@nordic-rse.org

These slides: [10.5281/zenodo.15428448](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15428448)

Credits and license

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Images

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- Slide 7: Monitor setup, R. Darst
- Slide 7: Logos, (c) respective organizations
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