Can we work together on data analysis?

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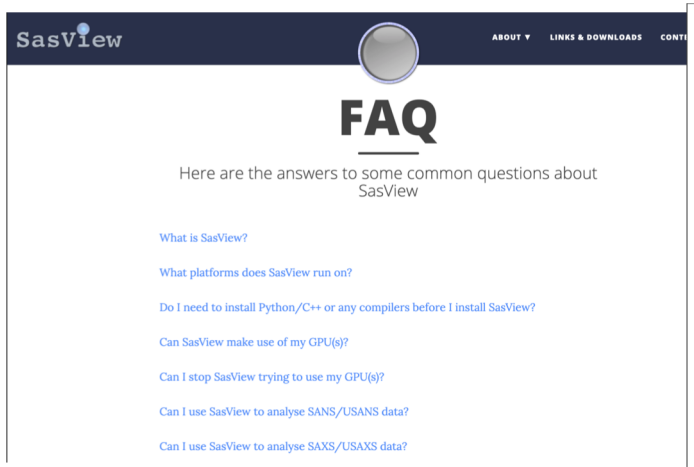
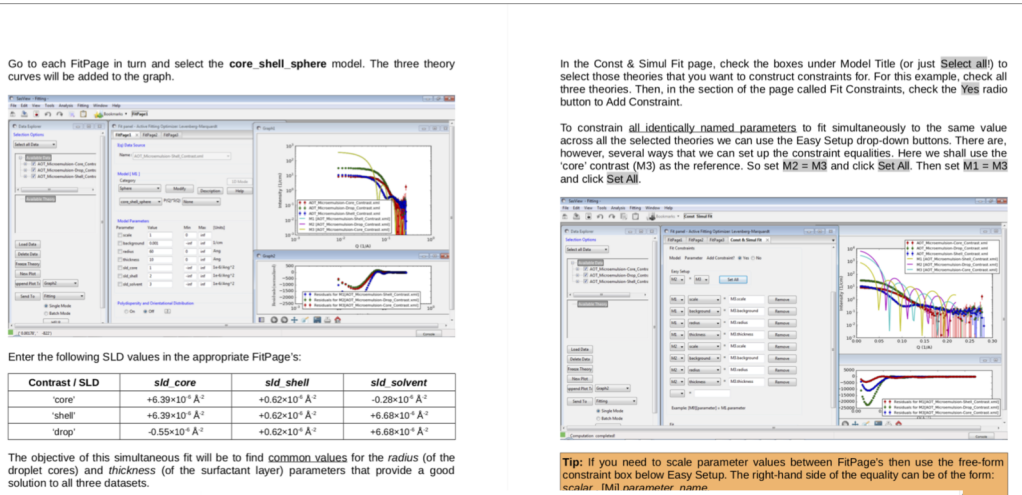
SasView as an example for collaborative data analysis software development

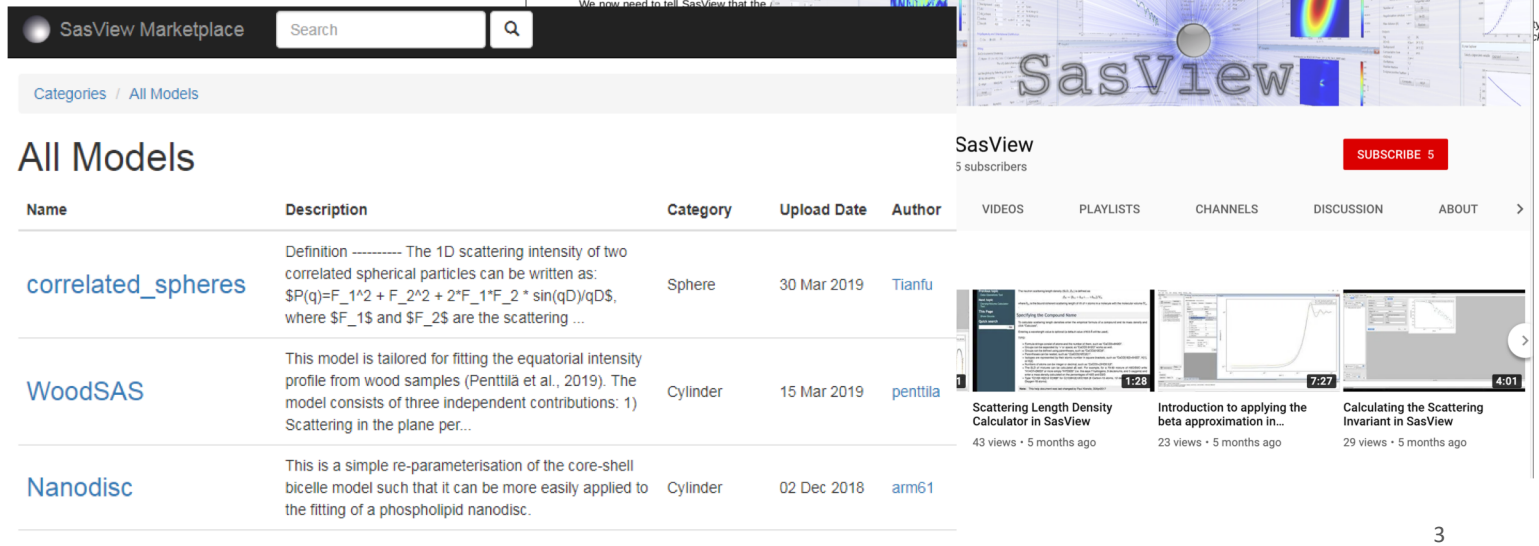
- SasView open, collaborative, community development platform for SAS data analysis
- SasView originates from NSF funded project DANSE (2006)
- Turned into Community project in 2013
- Supported by 9 facilities, 40 contributors (~15 active at any one time)
- Management team P. Butler (NIST), M. Doucet (ORNL), A. Jackson (ESS), S. King (ISIS)
- Biweekly calls
- Regular code camps
- External funding e.g. SINE2020

SasView resources, education and outreach

- Website
- Documentation
- Written Tutorials
- Video Tutorials (YouTube)
- Taught courses
  - Scattering schools
  - University courses
- E-learning
- Twitter
- Slack
- Mailing Lists
- Bootcamps & Regional Workshops
- (Marketplace)

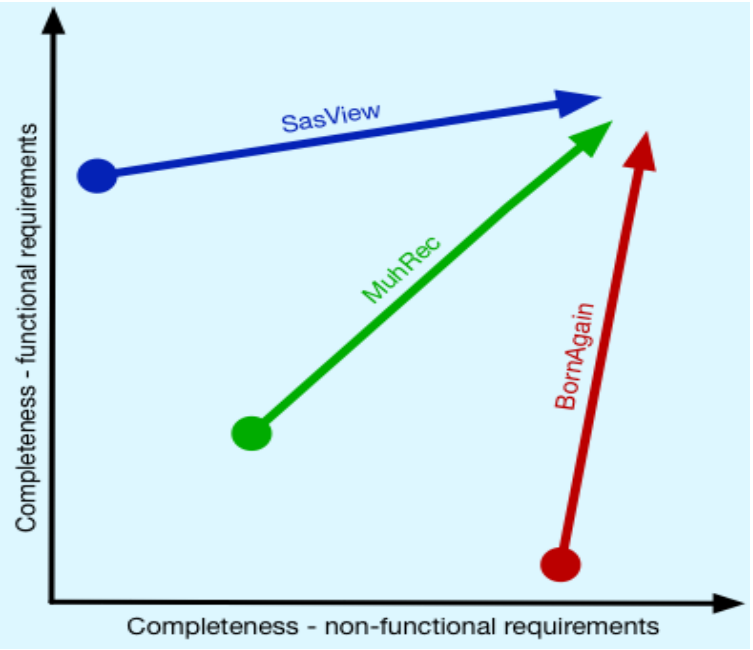






Lessons learned from SasView

- SasView has engaged user community that always asks for more – which is good!
- But not everything can be done with limited resources
- Therefore right model for engaging community is critical
- The balance between functional and non-functional requirements (e.g. code quality) is critical
- Non-functional requirements are not scientifically exciting but are important. One either needs a lot of resources or better start from the right place

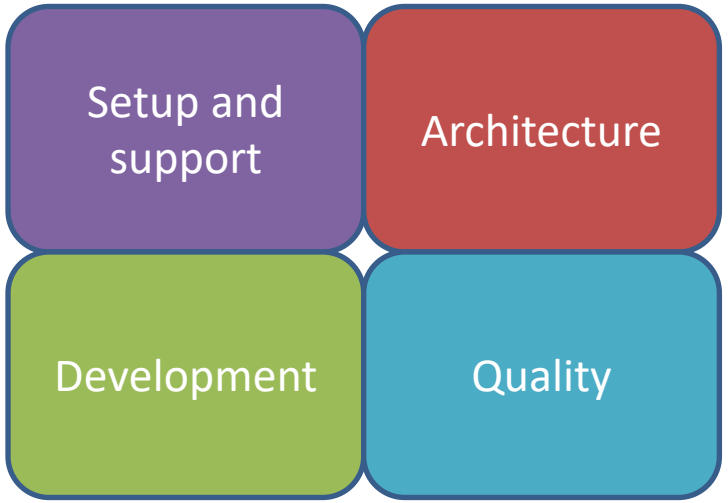


Discussion topic 1

- Do we need SasView like platform for reflectometry software?
- How do we engage user community?
- What can we share between software packages e.g. model library?
- How can we start? Is there a proper funding model?

Standards and Guidelines in SINE2020

- SINE2020 is EU founded project including work package on data treatment (WP 10)
- Guidelines were derived initially from a questionnaire to the neutron community
- Based on five different neutron/muon data analysis software tools: BornAgain, Mantid, McStas, Muhrec, SasView
- Addresses standards and guidelines in four areas:



- Planned to continue/update standard and guidelines and have annual meetings

Software setup, communication and support

- As a project grows the advice is to apply a governance model.
- Use an Open Source license, such as GPL.
- Provide user support, as a minimum through email support.
- Provide version controlled user documentation.
- Have regular releases, and aim for a minimum of once a year.
- With every new release, as a minimum, email out release notes to user mailing-list.
- Support multiple operation systems.

Software architecture

- Design software to be modular and to support plug-ins
- Where software needs to support scripting, the preference is for Python scripting
- Where the software uses a GUI, the advice is to use a recent version of Qt
- Design software to be able to accommodate different data formats.
- Support NeXus/HDF5 data formats.

Software development

- Use the programming languages C++ and/or Python.
- Factor into your project plan that you will be doing maintenance work on your code (~10-30%).
- Using a development methodology is advised, such as an agile methodology.
- Use Git for version control.
- Use a build tool, such as CMake.
- Use tool that makes user installation easy
- Use an issue/ticketing system, such as Github.
- Provide version controlled developer documentation.

Software quality

- Use a tool for continuous integration and automated testing, such as Jenkins.
- For software with a large user base, it is advised to have a user testing period prior to releases.
- Do code reviews, using a tool such as GitHub.
- Use static and/or dynamic analysis tools at least occasionally.
- It is advised to follow a coding standard.

- More at https://epubs.stfc.ac.uk/work/43005596 (Credits Anders Markvardsen)

Discussion topic 2

- Would it be useful to have similar guidelines for reflectometry software?
- What is missing or unnecessary?
- Should we also standardize on input for user requirements i.e. as a part of communication and support? If yes, how can achieve it e.g. github issues?
- Should we align with Standard and Guidelines annual meeting e.g. invite a representative to SXNS meeting in Lund (June 2020)?