

The struggles of Developing Python Packages for Spectroscopy

*A small overview of the lessons learned in developing
open-source spectroscopy packages.*

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PyAstro 2018



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SCIENCE INSTITUTE



SpecViz



Cosmoscope

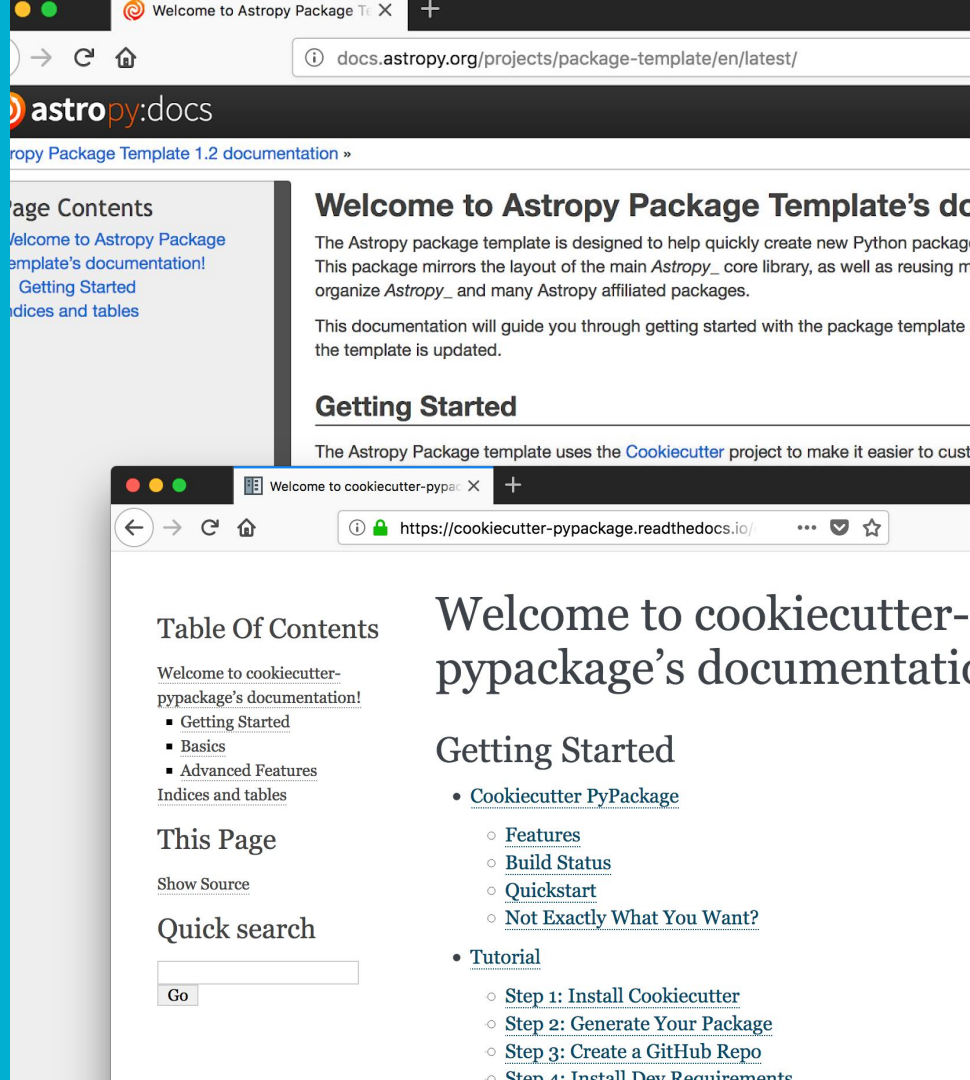
*Analysis & Data
Handling*

*Visualization &
Interaction*

*Multi-source
distributed
communication*

Lesson 1

The easier a package is to get into the hands of users, the easier it is to get constructive feedback on



Distribution platforms



- Language-agnostic packaging tool and installer
- Environment manager
- Requires extra legwork



- Python-package centric
- Installs from source (2.x+) or from binaries (3.x+)
- Built-in

Lesson 2

A voice spoken is a voice heard,
and other methods of
unadulterated feedback

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#308 Fix setup import bug
This fixes #268. It also cleans up the code a little bit by using more appropriate source file/variable names.

Labels

bug

spacetelescope/cubeviz Apr 9th Added by GitHub



Nicholas Earl 12:15 PM

@ddavella I pushed a fix for the subset removal to specviz, pull latest and give it a shot when you have a moment.



Daniel D'Avella 12:19 PM

oh sweet, thanks.

looks good, thanks!



Nicholas Earl 12:39 PM

@crjones I've pushed a workaround for the model fitting with units. Everything should be compatible with astropy 3.0.1 until the regression is fixed. No need to pin to 3.0!

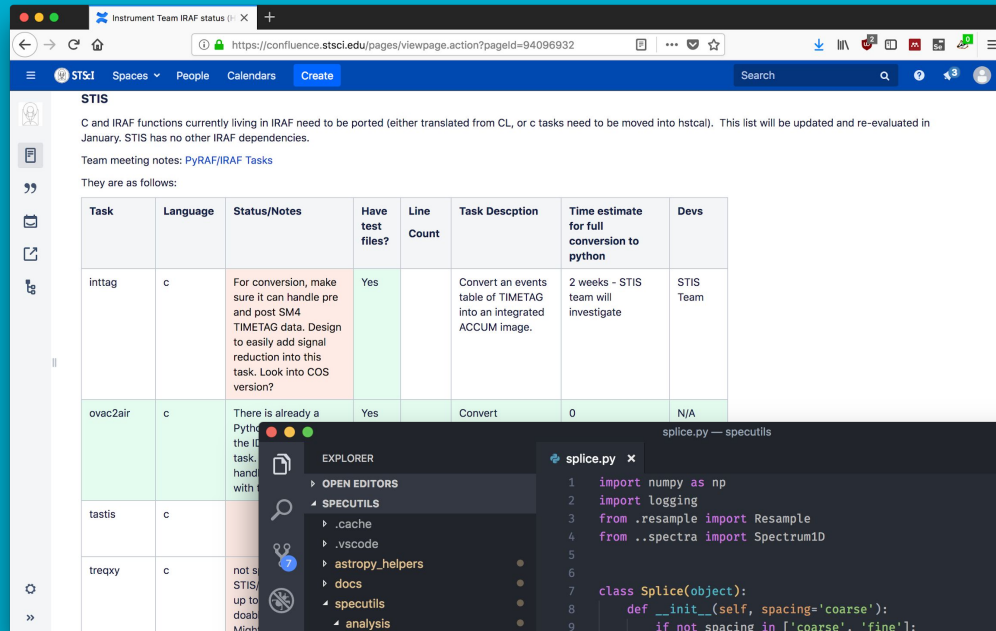
Sunday, April 15th

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GitHub Issues page for the repository spacetelescope/specviz. The browser's address bar shows the URL https://github.com/spacetelescope/specviz. The page lists several open issues, each with a title, a status icon (a circle with an exclamation mark), and a category label. The issues are:

- #398 Accessibility of specviz (discussion, enhancement) - opened 5 days ago by stscicrawford
- #392 Specviz no longer responds to flux unit changes through dispatch (in Cubeviz) (enhancement) - opened 19 days ago by drdavella
- #378 Auto-crop the limits of the viewer to the data (enhancement) - opened on Mar 21 by Cadair
- #362 Have auto loader check identifier registry before testing all loaders (core, enhancement) - opened on Feb 19 by nmealr
- #361 Scientific notation not updating on unit change (enhancement, gui) - opened on Feb 15 by brechmos-stsci
- #355 Where is the inverse variance equivalent of astropy.nddata.StdDevUncertainty defined? (core, feature) - opened on Jan 26 by weaverba137
- #354 Convert dex(wavelength) to wavelength (enhancement) - opened on Jan 26 by weaverba137
- #353 Why is the file type not auto-detected? (core, enhancement) - opened on Jan 26 by weaverba137
- #346 "Edit on GitHub" link on http://specviz.readthedocs.io is out of date (documentation) - opened on Dec 12, 2017 by kassin
- Warnings about unclosed files (bug, minor, testing)

Hands-on Feature Sprints & Hack Days

- Individuals with vested interest that may not have development skills
- Maintainers of previous iterations of features that may not be written in python
- Teams that have specific workflows that'd like replicated



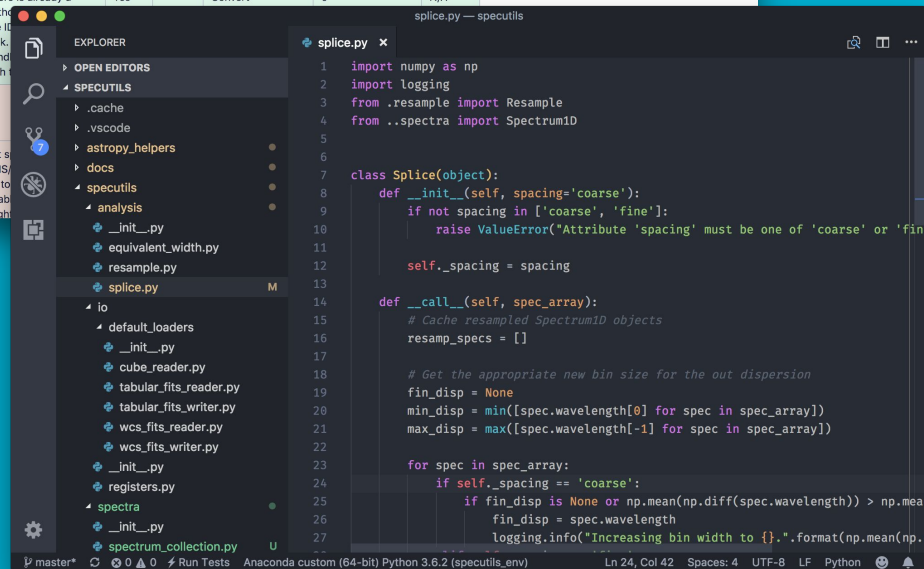
STIS

C and IRAF functions currently living in IRAF need to be ported (either translated from CL, or c tasks need to be moved into hstcal). This list will be updated and re-evaluated in January. STIS has no other IRAF dependencies.

Team meeting notes: PyRAF/IRAF Tasks

They are as follows:

Task	Language	Status/Notes	Have test files?	Line Count	Task Description	Time estimate for full conversion to python	Devs
inttag	c	For conversion, make sure it can handle pre and post SM4 TIMETAG data. Design to easily add signal reduction into this task. Look into COS version?	Yes		Convert an events table of TIMETAG into an integrated ACCUM image.	2 weeks - STIS team will investigate	STIS Team
ovac2air	c	There is already a Python task handling with	Yes		Convert	0	N/A
tastis	c						
treaxy	c	not s STIS up to doab Minh					



```
splice.py — specutils
1 import numpy as np
2 import logging
3 from ..resample import Resample
4 from ..spectra import Spectrum1D
5
6
7 class Splice(object):
8     def __init__(self, spacing='coarse'):
9         if not spacing in ['coarse', 'fine']:
10             raise ValueError("Attribute 'spacing' must be one of 'coarse' or 'fine'")
11         self._spacing = spacing
12
13     def __call__(self, spec_array):
14         # Cache resampled Spectrum1D objects
15         resamp_specs = []
16
17         # Get the appropriate new bin size for the out dispersion
18         fin_disp = None
19         min_disp = min([spec.wavelength[0] for spec in spec_array])
20         max_disp = max([spec.wavelength[-1] for spec in spec_array])
21
22         for spec in spec_array:
23             if self._spacing == 'coarse':
24                 if fin_disp is None or np.mean(np.diff(spec.wavelength)) > np.mean(
25                     spec.wavelength
26                     logging.info("Increasing bin width to {}.".format(np.mean(np.diff(spec.wavelength)) * 1.5))
27                 ):
```

Lesson 3

Respect users' workflows by ensuring piecemeal package adoption (because some usage is better than none)

```
In [4]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

from specutils import Spectrum1D

%matplotlib notebook
```

```
In [5]: spec = Spectrum1D.read("/Users/nearl/Downloads/hlsp_misty_foggie_halo008508",
format="hlsp-synth")
```

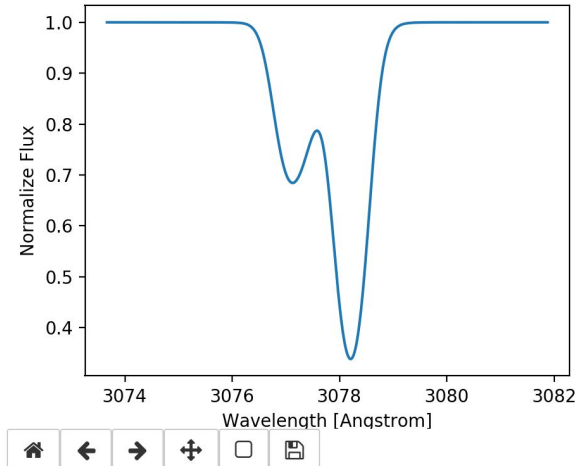
```
In [7]: x, y = spec.wavelength, spec.flux

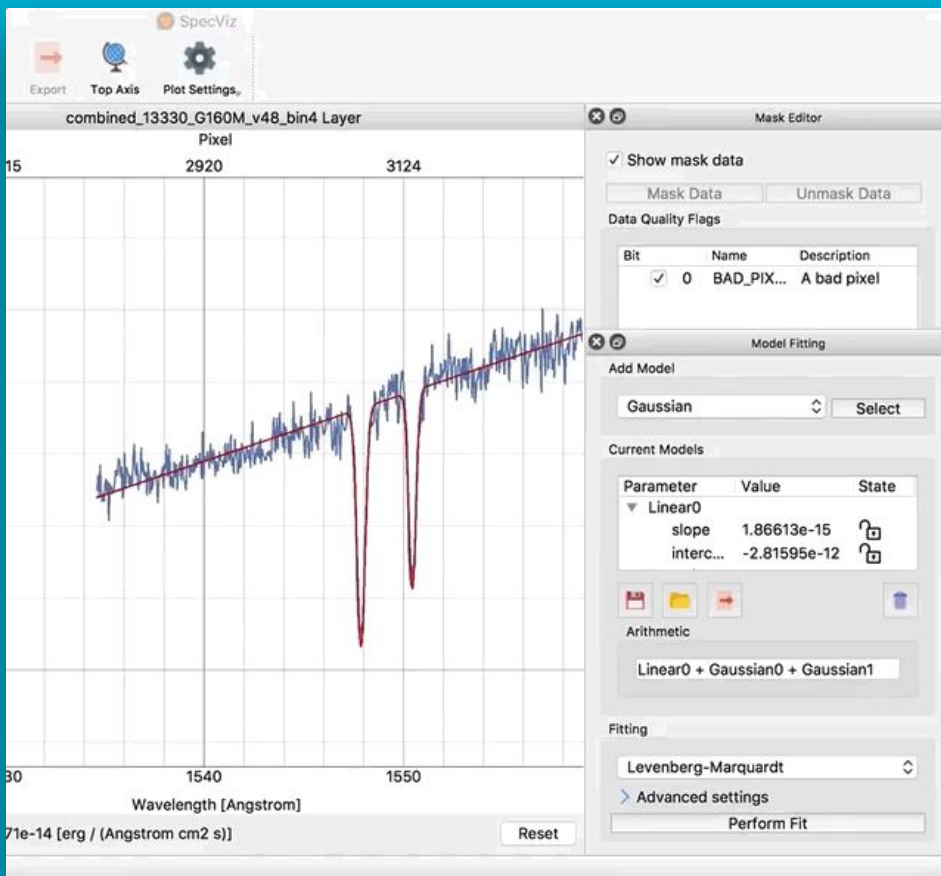
f, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.set_xlabel("Wavelength [Angstrom]")
ax.set_ylabel("Normalize Flux")

ax.plot(x, y)
```

Figure 1





Avoiding a Walled-Garden

- Exportable, Astropy-ready data models usable outside SpecViz
- Easy, extensible IO infrastructure for parsing spectral data into Astropy quantities

Lesson 4

Give users the tools they need to implement features they want (so you don't have to)

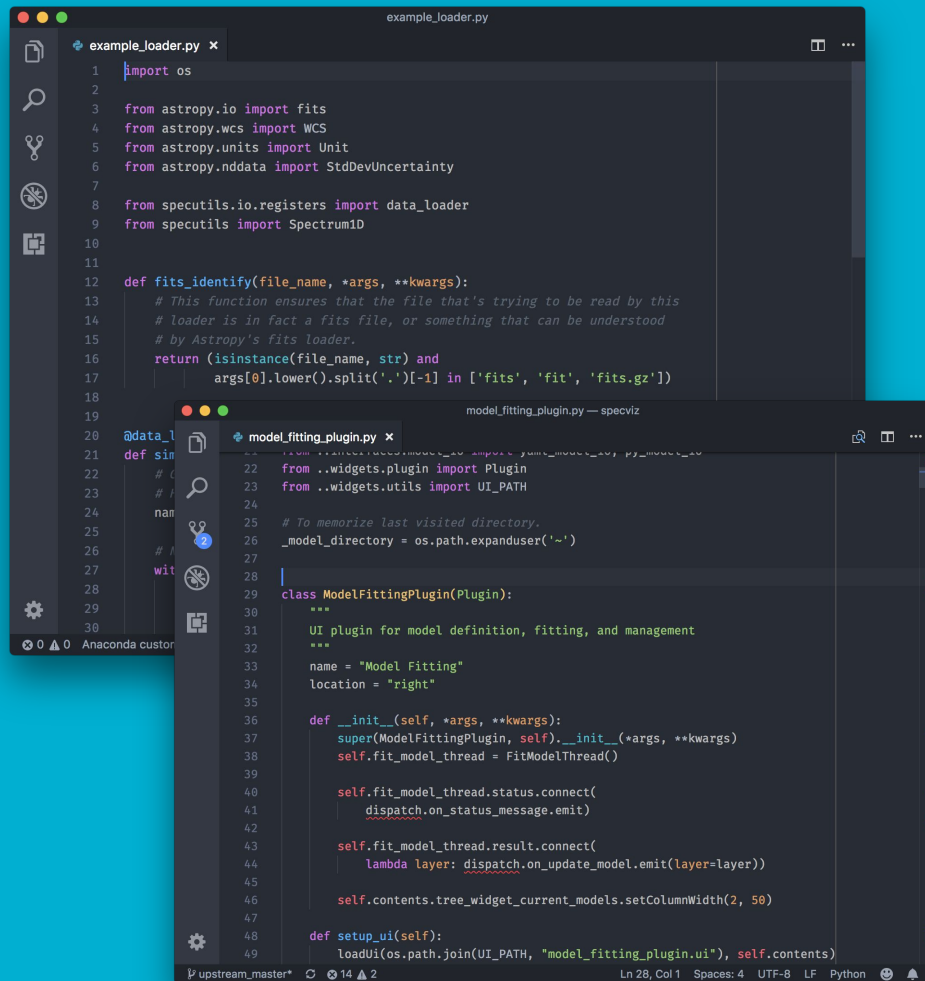
The screenshot shows the 'File Loader Wizard' interface. It contains several sections for configuring data loading:

- Dispersion:** HDU the dispersion is stored in: SCI; Which component is it stored in: NELEM - shape=(1,); What units is the dispersion in: Custom.
- Data:** HDU the data is stored in: SCI; Which component is it stored in: NELEM - shape=(1,); What units is the data in: Custom.
- Uncertainty:** File includes uncertainties (checkbox); HDU the uncertainty is stored in: ; Which component is it stored in: ; How are the uncertainties stored: .
- Bit Mask:** File includes mask (checkbox); HDU the mask is stored in: ; Which component is it stored in: ; Bit mask definition: Custom.

At the bottom left is a 'Preview YAML' button. On the right, a plot shows 'NELEM ()' on the y-axis (ranging from 7211.5 to 7212.5) and wavelength on the x-axis (ranging from 7211.4 to 7211.6). Below the plot is a text box: 'If you would like to read other files li loader below and click on Save to YA extension, in the ~/specviz directory) and open this in Specviz as a one-off.' Below that is a 'Loader Name' input field.

Help others to help you help them help themselves

- Where sensible, abstract behavior away from the package mechanics
- Compartmentalize features to make their creation simple to integrate later



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example_loader.py
1 import os
2
3 from astropy.io import fits
4 from astropy.wcs import WCS
5 from astropy.units import Unit
6 from astropy.nddata import StdDevUncertainty
7
8 from specutils.io.registers import data_loader
9 from specutils import Spectrum1D
10
11
12 def fits_identify(file_name, *args, **kwargs):
13     # This function ensures that the file that's trying to be read by this
14     # loader is in fact a fits file, or something that can be understood
15     # by Astropy's fits loader.
16     return (isinstance(file_name, str) and
17           args[0].lower().split('.')[-1] in ['fits', 'fit', 'fits.gz'])
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model_fitting_plugin.py — specviz
22 from ..widgets.plugin import Plugin
23 from ..widgets.utils import UI_PATH
24
25 # To memorize last visited directory.
26 _model_directory = os.path.expanduser('~')
27
28
29 class ModelFittingPlugin(Plugin):
30     """
31     UI plugin for model definition, fitting, and management
32     """
33     name = "Model Fitting"
34     location = "right"
35
36     def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
37         super(ModelFittingPlugin, self).__init__(*args, **kwargs)
38         self.fit_model_thread = FitModelThread()
39
40         self.fit_model_thread.status.connect(
41             dispatch.on_status_message.emit)
42
43         self.fit_model_thread.result.connect(
44             lambda layer: dispatch.on_update_model.emit(layer=layer))
45
46         self.contents.tree_widget_current_models.setColumnWidth(2, 50)
47
48     def setup_ui(self):
49         loadUi(os.path.join(UI_PATH, "model_fitting_plugin.ui"), self.contents)
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```

Lesson 5

Choice, choice, choice; expand users' ability to leverage the spectroscopic packages in multiple ways

Create a server

A server is defined by a set of functions called `Operations` that serve as an API for any clients that connect.

```
In [1]: from cosmoscope.interfaces.decorators import reversible_operation
        from cosmoscope.core.server import launch as server_launch
```

...

```
In [2]: @reversible_operation("Apply Smooth")
        def smooth_data(data, kernel, context):
            from astropy.convolution import convolve

            conv_data = convolve(data, kernel)
            context['old_data'] = data

            return conv_data
```

```
INFO:root:[server] Function smooth_data has been added to server api.
```

```
In [3]: server_launch(server_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:4242",
                    client_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:4243")
```

```
INFO:root:[server] Server is now listening on tcp://127.0.0.1:4243 and sending on tcp://127.0.0.1:4242.
```

Create a basic client

The client connects to the server RPC API and sends and receives messages. Any other clients connected to the server can also receive messages initiated by other clients.

```
In [4]: from qt_client.client import SubscriberAPI, Subscriber, gevent
```

```
In [5]: sub_api = SubscriberAPI("tcp://127.0.0.1:4243")
        subscriber = Subscriber(sub_api)
        subscriber.bind("tcp://127.0.0.1:4242")

        gevent.spawn(subscriber.run)
```

```
Out[5]: <Greenlet at 0x10ccdc178: <bound method Puller.run of <zerorpc.core.Subscriber object at 0x10ccd2978>>>
```

```
In [6]: sub_api.client.smooth_data
```

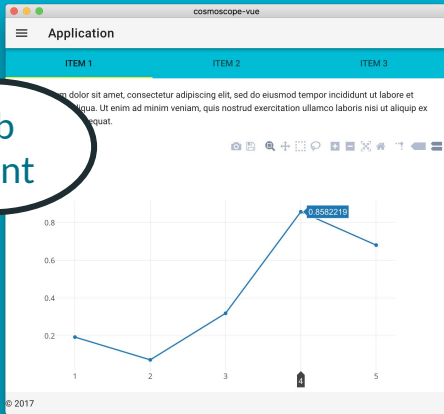
```
Out[6]: <function zerorpc.core.ClientBase.__getattr__.<locals>.<lambda>(*args, **kargs)>
```

Server API

Shell Client

Desktop Client

Web Client



```
def create_server():
    """Create a server"""
    from cosmoscope.interfaces.decorators import reversible_operation
    from cosmoscope.core.server import server_launch
    INFO[root][server]: Function smooth_data has been added to server api.
    INFO[root][server]: Function load_data_from_path has been added to server api.

    In [1]: from cosmoscope.interfaces.decorators import reversible_operation
           from cosmoscope.core.server import server_launch
           INFO[root][server]: Function smooth_data has been added to server api.
           INFO[root][server]: Function load_data_from_path has been added to server api.

    In [2]: @reversible_operation("Apply Smooth")
           def smooth_data(data, kernel, context):
               from astropy.convolution import convolve
               conv_data = convolve(data, kernel)
               context["old_data"] = data
               return conv_data
           INFO[root][server]: Function smooth_data has been added to server api.

    In [3]: server_launch(server_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:14243",
           client_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:14242")
           INFO[root][server]: Server is now listening on tcp://127.0.0.1:14243 and we
           nding on tcp://127.0.0.1:14242.

def create_client():
    """Create a client"""
    from cosmoscope.interfaces.decorators import reversible_operation
    from cosmoscope.core.client import client_launch
    INFO[client][client]: Function smooth_data has been added to client api.
    INFO[client][client]: Function load_data_from_path has been added to client api.

    In [1]: from cosmoscope.interfaces.decorators import reversible_operation
           from cosmoscope.core.client import client_launch
           INFO[client][client]: Function smooth_data has been added to client api.
           INFO[client][client]: Function load_data_from_path has been added to client api.

    In [2]: @reversible_operation("Apply Smooth")
           def smooth_data(data, kernel, context):
               from astropy.convolution import convolve
               conv_data = convolve(data, kernel)
               context["old_data"] = data
               return conv_data
           INFO[client][client]: Function smooth_data has been added to client api.

    In [3]: client_launch(client_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:14242",
           server_ip="tcp://127.0.0.1:14243")
           INFO[client][client]: Client is now connecting to tcp://127.0.0.1:14243 and
           sending on tcp://127.0.0.1:14242.
```

Questions?

SpecViz: [/spacetelescope/specviz](https://spacetelescope/specviz)

- New release v0.5, now includes user-loadable line list labels that pin to plots.
- Performance improvements to loading data, bug fixes with arithmetic propagation.
- And more.

SpecUtils: [/astropy/specutils](https://astropy/specutils)

- New v0.3 release, will be available on PyPI soon!

