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Professionalizing scientific software development

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Most software in our field has been developed by single researchers. This is no longer sustainable. We need software that is continuously improved and extended, runs on different platforms, is fully documented and covered by tests, and has a friendly user interface. This can only be achieved if software development is institutionalized. All major neutron facilities have recognized this need, and build up scientific computing groups.

In this talk, I will review the first seven years of the Scientific Computing Group of MLZ. I will emphasize the importance of open-source principles and international cooperation, and present the division of labor agreed upon in SINE2020. I will then give a brief overview of our current projects in the field of reflectometry and GISAS, single crystal diffraction, and materials diffraction.

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