

# Versioned executable user documentation for in-development science tools





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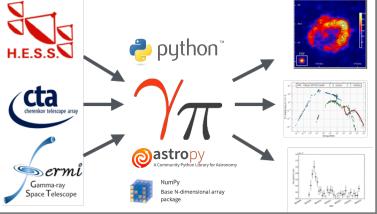
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### **Abstract**

One key aspect of software development is **feedback from users**. This community is not always aware of the developments undertaken in the code base, neither they use the tools and practices followed by the developers to deal with a non-stable software in continuous evolution. **Gammapy provides its beta-tester user community with versioned reproducible environments and executable documentation, in the form of tutorials that are versioned coupled with the code base.** We believe this set-up greatly improves the user experience for a software in prototyping phase, as well as providing a good workflow for developers to deliver versioned and up-to-date documentation.

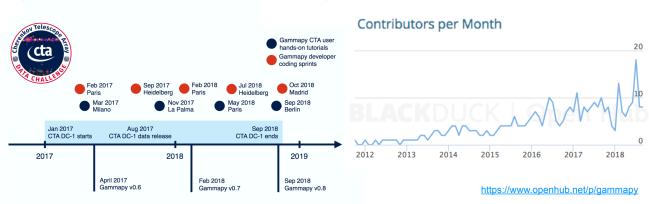
# What is Gammapy?

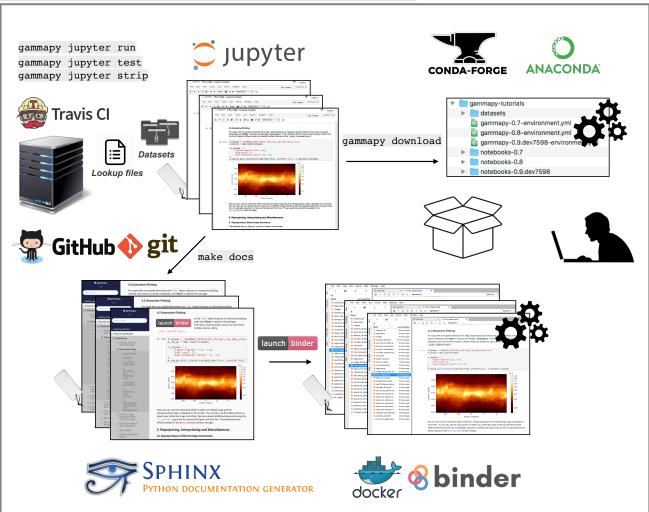
A Python package for gamma-ray astronomy. A prototype for the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) science tools.



## A software in development

The rise in the contributor and user base together with a high development activity, hinders user feedback from not always up-to-date versions. There's a need for reproducible environments versioned coupled with the code base.





#### **Command Line Tools**

gammapy download provides users with the means to retrieve any tutorials-related asset for a specific version, whereas gammapy jupyter provides developers with a tool to work with notebooks in a seamless workflow for the development/review/publish process of the versioned executable tutorials.

### Set-up

- <u>Tutorials integration</u>: tutorials in the form of *Jupyter* notebooks are integrated into the software documentation with *Sphinx* + *nbsphinx* extension.
- <u>Executable on-line</u>: the documentation provides links to *myBinder* platform, where tutorials can be executed in the cloud using a versioned kernel provided by a *Dockerfile*.
- Version-coupling: the base-code, the tutorials and the Dockerfile are stored in the same Github versioned repository.
- Authoring and review: seamless code review for the tutorials with gammapy jupyter using diff comparisons in pull requests is possible, since the notebooks only store markdown and code cells with no outputs.
- <u>Regression tests</u>: tutorials execute in *Travis* Continuous Integration system, checking that their
  output cells do not throw any errors.
- <u>Reproducibility</u>: deterministic environments are defined for each version of the software in the form of *conda* configuration files, with pinned version numbers for each dependency package.
- Shipping: gammapy download command allows to retrieve versioned tutorials, composed of Jupyter notebooks, the datasets needed and the conda configuration file to build the environment.
- Maintainability: for each versioned environment we define its requirements, which tutorials to provide and where to fetch them with centralized index lookup files.

https://github.com/gammapy/gammapy https://docs.gammapy.org https://gammapy.org