# Introduction to PySPEDAS plug-in development

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We're doing development on GitHub:

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas

Plug-in developers can have their own branch, e.g.,

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas/tree/elfin/pyspedas

 When you're ready to merge the updates from your branch, submit a pull request to master. You can also create a fork of PySPEDAS in your own account and submit a pull request.

 We're distributing PySPEDAS using the Python Package Index (PyPI); you can get the latest version using pip:

pip install pyspedas

• You can update PySPEDAS in your environment using the --upgrade flag:

pip install --upgrade pyspedas

You can install the bleeding edge from your development branch using:

pip install --upgrade https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas/archive/branch.zip

 Advice on creating isolated virtual environments can be found in our README:

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas

 Google has a free tool that allows you to run PySPEDAS using Jupyter notebooks in the cloud called "Colab", available at:

https://colab.research.google.com/

 I suggest using this to get to know PySPEDAS, test your plug-in code and create examples, reproduce issues others are running into, etc.

- We use the MIT license (available in the repo), so the code you contribute will be under this license.
- We have user documentation available at:

https://pyspedas.readthedocs.io/

 These docs are built automatically using the files in the 'docs' directory, and the docstrings in your code:

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas/tree/master/docs

(when code is contributed to the master branch)

### We only have a few big rules:

- Please do not modify code that belongs to someone else without talking to them first. Changes are always welcome, but it's important to make sure the owner doesn't have their own changes locally that might conflict with your changes. They may also want to review your changes before merging with the master branch.
- PySPEDAS is cross-platform, so please be sure to properly handle file paths in a way that works on unix-like machines as well as Windows

### And some suggestions:

- Please use the logging module instead of print() for sending output to the console (some users prefer to turn off all console messages other than errors, e.g., in processing scripts)
- We suggest following PEP-8, at least where it makes sense (i.e., where it improves the readability of the code)
- If your code depends on a package that requires a compiler to install, you'll have to provide instructions to install the package in your documentation (because we won't be able to install it automatically), and use a try/except to catch the possible ImportError
- Minimize adding additional external dependencies where possible

- We try to support all versions of Python that numpy supports (which I think goes back 5 years), so limit usage of features that require newer versions of Python. I think we'll be bumping to requiring Python 3.8+ soon
- Dockerfiles for quickly running PySPEDAS in different versions of Python can be found here:

https://github.com/supervised/pyspedas-docker

# Mission plug-in design

- A simple plug-in for loading mission data in PySPEDAS looks like this:
  - README.md: simple documentation that gets rendered on GitHub
  - config.py: contains a CONFIG dictionary with remote data directory and your other configuration options
  - load.py: core load routine; mostly instrument independent code for accessing the data and loading the CDF files
  - \_\_init\_\_.py: instrument load routines (or wrappers for instrument load routines if you decide to put them into their own files/directories)
  - tests/: directory containing the test suite

tests	Large update to the test suite	3 months ago
☐ README.md	Update README.md	3 years ago
🖺initpy	Adding datasets() functions to the missions that load data from SPDF;	2 months ago
🗋 config.py	Removing .sci. from SPDF paths	2 years ago
load.py	Removing unused imports	last year

**≡** README.md

B

### Colorado Student Space Weather Experiment (CSSWE)

The routines in this module can be used to load data from the Colorado Student Space Weather Experiment (CSSWE) mission.

#### **Instruments**

• Relativistic Electron and Proton Telescope integrated little experiment (REPTile)

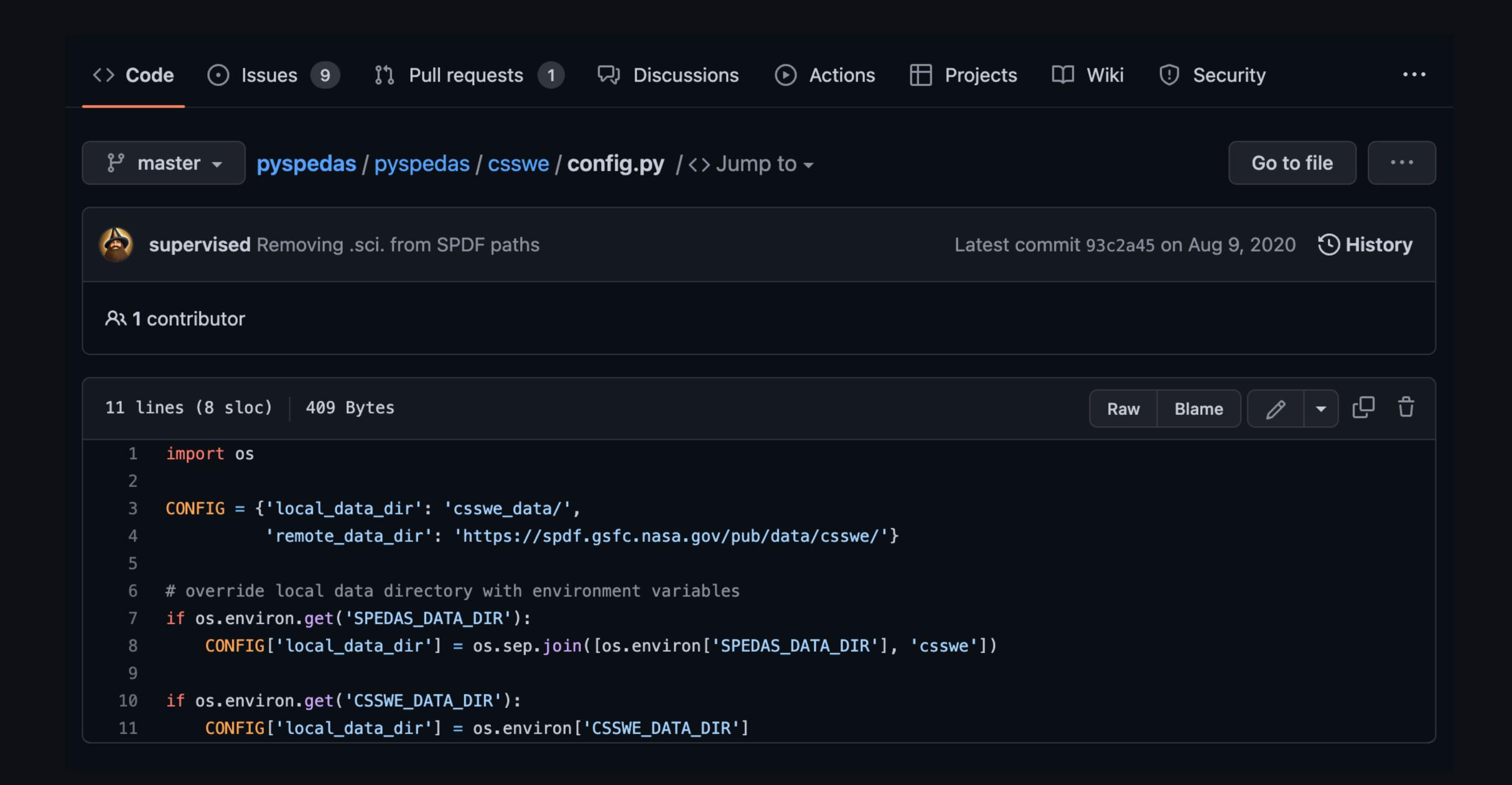
#### **Examples**

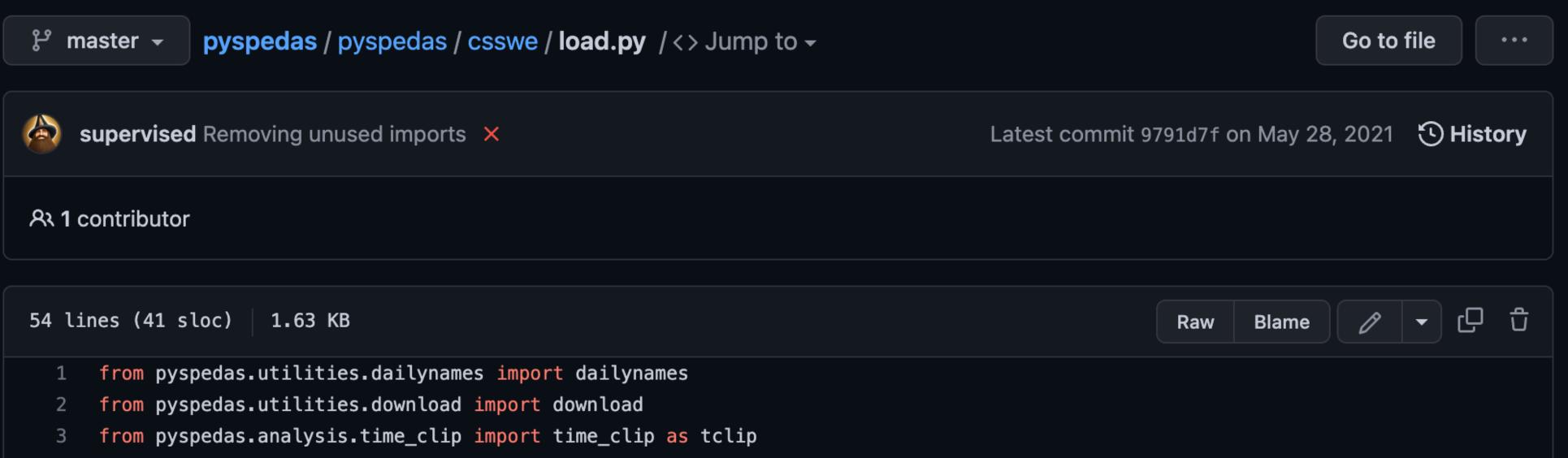
Get started by importing pyspedas and tplot; these are required to load and plot the data:

```
import pyspedas
from pytplot import tplot
```

#### Relativistic Electron and Proton Telescope integrated little experiment (REPTile)

```
reptile_vars = pyspedas.csswe.reptile(trange=['2013-11-5', '2013-11-6'])
tplot(['E1flux', 'E2flux', 'E3flux', 'P1flux', 'P2flux', 'P3flux'])
```





```
from pytplot import cdf_to_tplot
     from .config import CONFIG
     def load(trange=['2013-11-5', '2013-11-6'],
              instrument='reptile',
 9
              datatype='flux',
10
11
              level='l2',
              suffix='',
12
13
              get_support_data=False,
14
              varformat=None,
15
              varnames=[],
              downloadonly=False,
16
              notplot=False,
17
              no_update=False,
18
              time_clip=False):
19
20
         1111111
        This function loads data from the CSSWE mission; this function is not meant
21
22
         to be called directly; instead, see the wrapper:
             pyspedas.csswe.reptile
23
24
25
         111111
26
```

```
iio_upua ce-i a cse,
             time_clip=False):
19
20
21
        This function loads data from the CSSWE mission; this function is not meant
22
        to be called directly; instead, see the wrapper:
            pyspedas.csswe.reptile
23
24
25
26
27
        if instrument == 'reptile':
            pathformat = level+'/'+instrument+'/'+datatype+'/%Y/csswe_'+instrument+'_6sec-'+datatype+'-'+level+'_%Y%m%d_v??.cdf'
28
29
        # find the full remote path names using the trange
30
31
        remote_names = dailynames(file_format=pathformat, trange=trange)
32
        out_files = []
33
34
35
        files = download(remote_file=remote_names, remote_path=CONFIG['remote_data_dir'], local_path=CONFIG['local_data_dir'],
    no_download=no_update)
         if files is not None:
36
             for file in files:
37
                 out_files.append(file)
38
39
        out_files = sorted(out_files)
40
41
        if downloadonly:
42
43
            return out_files
44
45
        tvars = cdf_to_tplot(out_files, suffix=suffix, get_support_data=get_support_data, varformat=varformat, varnames=varnames,
    notplot=notplot)
46
47
        if notplot:
48
            return tvars
49
50
        if time_clip:
51
            for new_var in tvars:
                 tclip(new_var, trange[0], trange[1], suffix='')
52
53
54
        return tvars
```

```
74 lines (57 sloc) | 2.51 KB
                                                                                                         Blame
                                                                                                    Raw
     from .load import load
      from pyspedas.utilities.datasets import find_datasets
     def reptile(trange=['2013-11-5', '2013-11-6'],
              datatype='flux',
              level='l2',
              suffix='',
  8
  9
              get_support_data=False,
 10
              varformat=None,
 11
              varnames=[],
              downloadonly=False,
 12
 13
              notplot=False,
 14
              no_update=False,
 15
              time_clip=False):
 16
          This function loads data from the Relativistic Electron and Proton Telescope integrated little experiment (REPTile)
 17
 18
 19
          Parameters
 20
 21
              trange : list of str
 22
                  time range of interest [starttime, endtime] with the format
 23
                  'YYYY-MM-DD','YYYY-MM-DD'] or to specify more or less than a day
                  ['YYYY-MM-DD/hh:mm:ss','YYYY-MM-DD/hh:mm:ss']
 24
 25
 26
              datatype: str
 27
                 Data type; Valid options:
 28
                      'counts' for L1 data
                      'flux' for L2 data
 29
 30
              level: str
 31
 32
                 Data level; options: 'l1', 'l2' (default: l2)
 33
 34
              suffix: str
                 The tplot variable names will be given this suffix. By default,
 35
 36
                 no suffix is added.
```

```
"VAR_TYPE" attribute of "data".
41
42
43
            varformat: str
                The file variable formats to load into tplot. Wildcard character
44
                "*" is accepted. By default, all variables are loaded in.
45
46
            varnames: list of str
47
                List of variable names to load (if not specified,
48
                all data variables are loaded)
49
50
            downloadonly: bool
51
52
                Set this flag to download the CDF files, but not load them into
                tplot variables
53
54
            notplot: bool
55
56
                Return the data in hash tables instead of creating tplot variables
57
58
            no_update: bool
                If set, only load data from your local cache
59
60
            time_clip: bool
61
                Time clip the variables to exactly the range specified in the trange keyword
62
63
64
        Returns
65
            List of tplot variables created.
66
67
68
         return load(instrument='reptile', trange=trange, level=level, datatype=datatype, suffix=suffix,
69
    get_support_data=get_support_data, varformat=varformat, varnames=varnames, downloadonly=downloadonly, notplot=notplot,
    time_clip=time_clip, no_update=no_update)
70
71
    def datasets(instrument=None, label=True):
        out = find_datasets(mission='Smallsats/Cubesats', instrument='csswe', label=label)
73
        return out
74
```

# Creating a new mission plug-in

I have a tool that uses Al to generate all of the initial files for a mission:

https://github.com/supervised/pyspedas-add-project

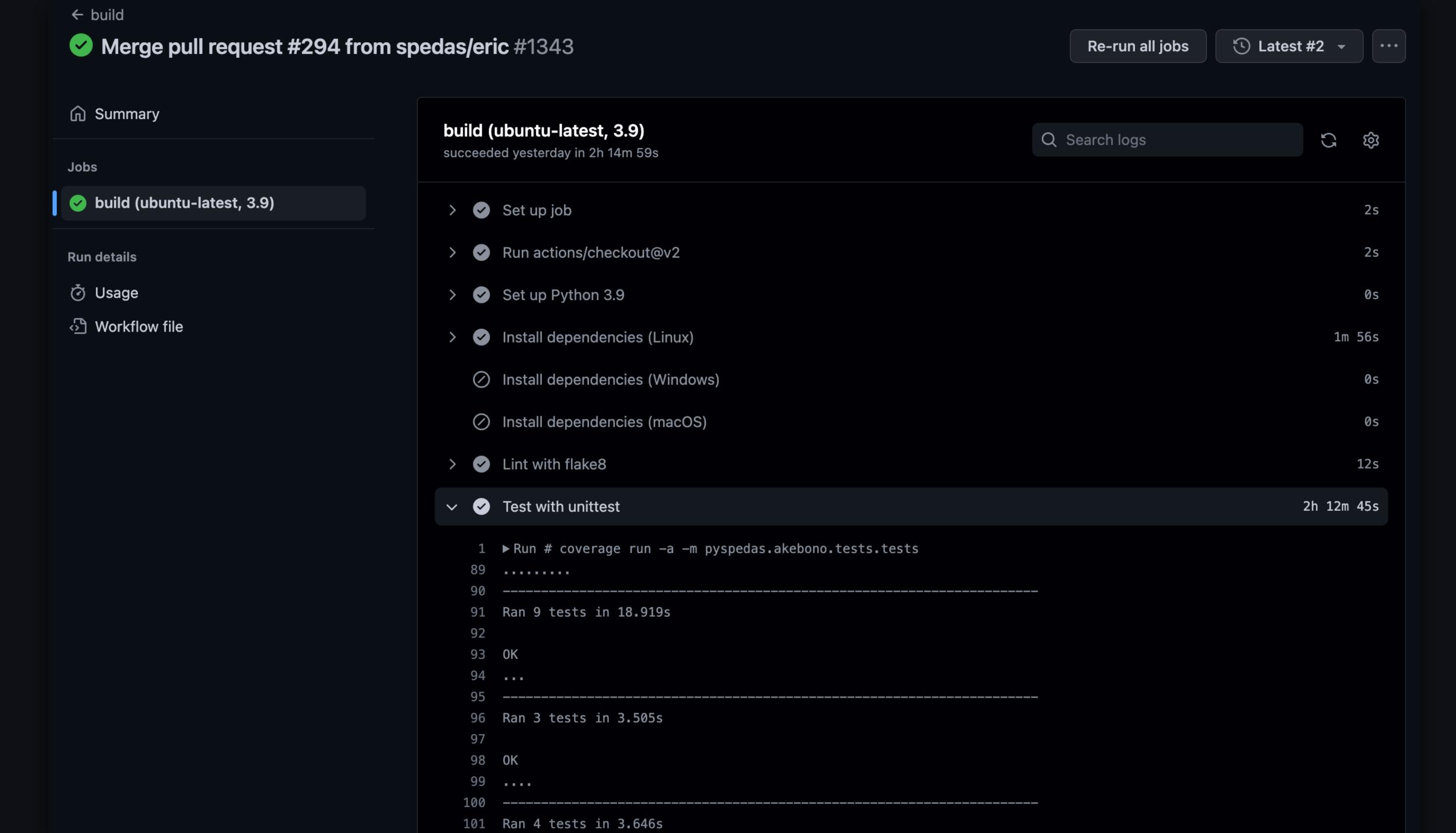
This requires an API key for Codex

# Unit tests

- We use the unittest framework to ensure that the code runs.
- The full test suite runs every time code is merged with the master branch; the config file is at .github/workflows/pythonpackage.yml. By default, the tests run on Ubuntu, but you can change to macOS or Windows by modifying pythonpackage.yml.
- The test status, including full logs, can be found by clicking 'Actions' in the Github repo, or at:

### https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas/actions

You'll want to look for the long-running 'build' workflows to see the logs

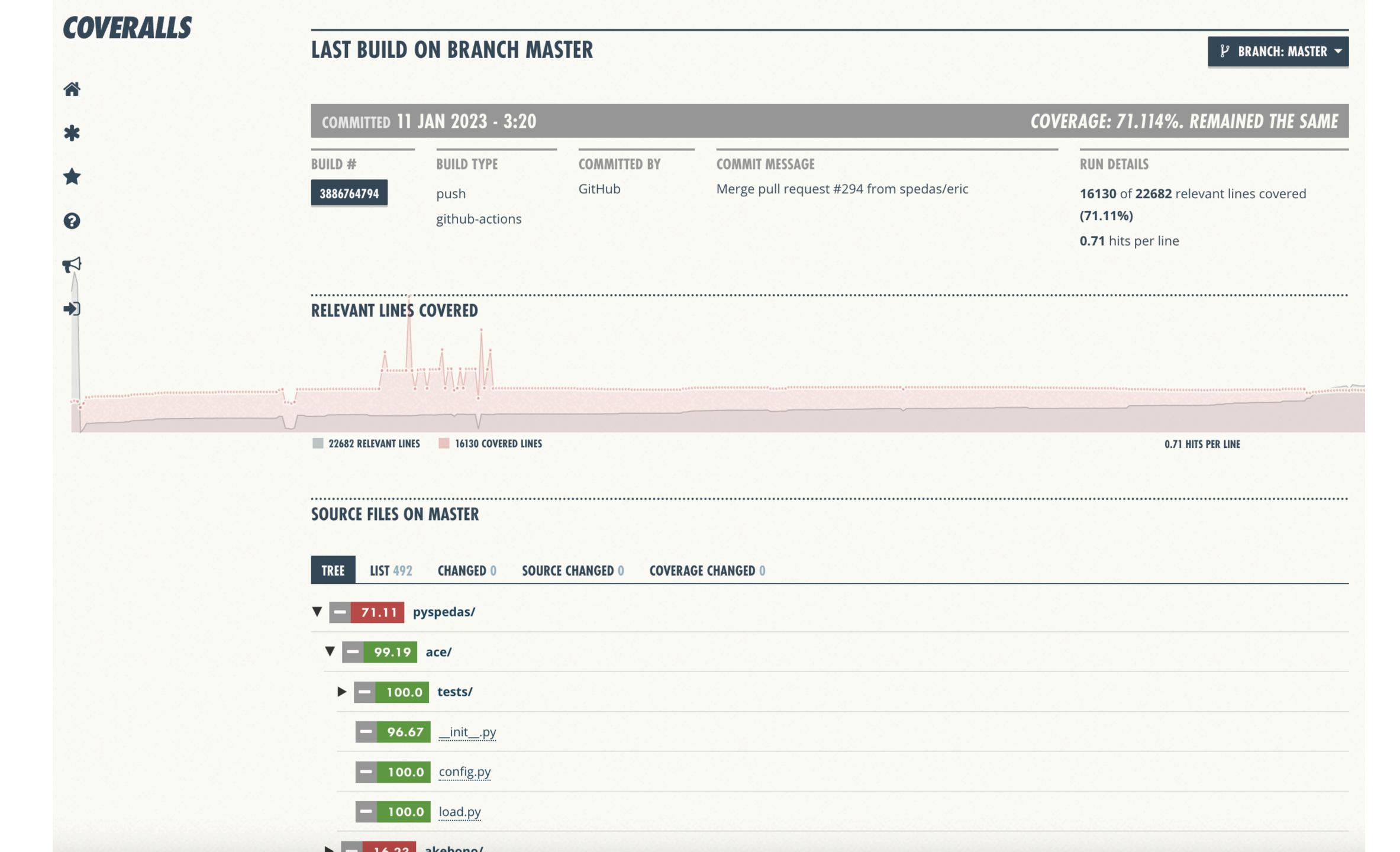


# Code coverage of the unit tests

• We're using coveralls to measure test coverage:

https://coveralls.io/github/spedas/pyspedas

- This tool will show you which lines in your code have been executed by the test suite, and which haven't
- Note: files that the test suite doesn't see won't be included, so be sure to have tests that execute code in every file



# Validation tests

We have tools for checking that IDL matches Python available at:

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas-validation

- These tools run in IDL and use the mgunit unit test framework.
- See the following example:

https://github.com/spedas/pyspedas-validation/blob/main/src/example/validation\_example\_ut\_define.pro

```
8 ;
9 ; NOTES:
10 ;
            To run:
              IDL> mgunit, 'validation_example_ut'
11 ;
12 ;
            For the MMS validation tests, see:
13 ;
              projects/mms/common/tests/mms_python_validation_ut__define.pro
14 ;
15 ;
16  ; $LastChangedBy: egrimes $
17 ; $LastChangedDate: 2020-10-08 10:37:39 -0700 (Thu, 08 Oct 2020) $
    ; $LastChangedRevision: 29225 $
19 ; $URL: svn+ssh://thmsvn@ambrosia.ssl.berkeley.edu/repos/spdsoft/trunk/general/spedas_tools/python_validation/py_validation_examp
20 ;-
21
    ; the individual unit tests are implemented as methods that start with "test_"
     function validation_example_ut::test_example
      ; first run IDL code to produce some tplot variables
24
      store_data, 'tplot_variable', data={x: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10], y: [0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 2, 2, 1, 0, 1]}
25
26
      ; next, create an array containing a script to run in Python that should produce the same variables as above
27
      pyscript = ["from pytplot import store_data", $
28
                  "store_data('tplot_variable', data={'x': [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10], 'y': [0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 2, 2, 1, 0, 1]})"]
29
30
       ; next, create an array containing the variables you would like to check
31
32
      vars = ['tplot_variable']
33
      ; the unit tests must return 1 if they pass, 0 if they fail
34
      ; spd_run_py_validation returns 1 if the variables in the array 'vars' match
35
       ; in both IDL and Python, and 0 if differences are found
36
      ; note: for performance reasons, only N data points are checked, where N is specified
37
      ; by the points_to_check keyword (default: 10)
38
      ; the maximum difference is specified by the tolerance keyword (default: 1e-6)
39
      return, spd_run_py_validation(pyscript, vars)
41 end
42
    ; the setup procedure runs before each test runs
    pro validation_example_ut::setup
      del_data, '*'
46 end
```