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The Astropy Project: a community effort to develop a common core package for Astronomy

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The Astropy Project is a community effort to develop an interoperable ecosystem of open-source tools to enable astronomical research and education from the Python programming language. At its core is the Astropy package, a Python package that provides much of the base functionality needed by researchers and developers of more specialized packages. The Astropy project and package have now formally existed for nearly 6 years, and the community of contributors and users has changed significantly during this time. We will discuss the initial need for the project, the initial development, and recent efforts towards making the existing tools more stable and supported. We will also discuss the development of the community and the future sustainability of this and other core open-source projects developed by active researchers.

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