

Documentation: not an API catalogue

Or, how to do it, how to love it, how to make it better

Default State

- Prioritized last
- An API catalogue, automatically built, with no entry point
- Terse docstrings with no information content
- Out of sync with the code

Aspiration

- Live as we code
 - Manuals describing how to use the code, at different levels of details
 - Docstrings that demonstrate how to use a function or class
 - Always up to date
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Bringing documentation forward

```
def myfunction(aaa, bbb):  
    """Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.  
  
    Consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod.  
  
    Example:  
  
        Tempor incididunt ut labore et  
  
    >>> myfunction(aaa, bbb)  
    dolore magna aliqua.  
    >>> myfunction(0, 0) == 42  
    True  
    """  
    pass
```

```
pytest --doctest-modules
```

- Doctests document usage *and* are unit-tests
- Jupyter notebooks are manuals *and* integration tests
- *sphinx.ext.doctest* creates manuals *and* integration tests
- BDD are tests *and* how-tos
- And, of course, CI to bring it all together.