Best ways to let others know how to cite your research software

Increase citations for your code

- Cite it when YOU use it --- Seriously!
- Release it so others can use it
- Assign it a license so others know how they can use your code
- Use a standard format to specify how you want your code cited
- Make your citation preference clearly visible and easy to find
- Register your code with the Astrophysics Source Code Library (ASCL ascl.net)
- Include a software section in your research papers, and list your own software there (in addition to citing it with a formal citation)

Standard formats for specifying citation

Codemeta.json and CITATION.cff are two standard formats for letting others know how you want your software cited

**CITATION.cff**
- YAML file; is easy for humans to create and read
- Contains only the information needed for citation
- Should be placed in repo root directory

**codemeta.json**
- JSON file; is easy for machines to use and re-use
- Contains information needed for citation
- Also contains additional information useful to software archives and indexers
- Should be placed in repo root directory

Use the ASCL to get started!

The ASCL generates CITATION.cff and codemeta.json template metadata files for its entries to ease adoption of these files

- Entries must have assigned ASCL IDs
- Template generation work best when ASCL lists a preferred citation for the code
- The resulting file is intended to be a starting point and should be edited as needed by software author

Generate CITATION.cff file

Add /CITATION.cff to ASCL entry URL
i.e., https://ascl.net/1911.024/CITATION.cff

```
cff-version: 1.1.0
message: "Please cite the following work when using this software:
  https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2019ascl.soft11024W
  "
authors:
  - family-names: Wilson
    given-names: Robert W.
  - family-names: Pospieszynski
    given-names: Marc W.
  - family-names: Stark
    given-names: Antony A.
  - family-names: & others
    given-names:
  title: "comb: Spectral line data reduction and analysis package"
data-released: PLACEHOLDER
identifiers:
  - type: "ascl-id"
    value: "1911.024"
  - type: "doi"
    value: PLACEHOLDER
  - type: "bibcode"
    value: "2019ascl.soft11024W"
abstract: "comb is a single-dish radio astronomy spectral line data analysis package"
```

Generate codemeta.json file

Add /codemeta.json to ASCL entry URL
i.e., https://ascl.net/1911.024/codemeta.json

```
@context: "https://doi.org/10.5683/schema/codemeta-2.0"
@type: "SoftwareSourceCode"

› name: "comb: Spectral line data reduction and analysis package"
› description: "comb is a single-dish ra, the code is available."
› identifier: "ascl:1911.024"
› author: [...]  
› relatedLink: [...] 
› codeRepository: [...] 
› version: "PLACEHOLDER: Add version here" 
› license: "PLACEHOLDER: Add license/licenses/MIT.html here"
```

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