

Reviewing code using Codecov

LINCS Python Academy

Quentin Lutz

15-01-2020

Code reviewing

- Pretty much **any review** not provided by the author of some code. It aims at:
 - Finding and correcting errors/flaws
 - Proposing better solutions
 - Improving readability/maintainability of the code
 - Increasing some sense of responsibility
- Very **broad term**:
 - Your IDE reviews your code
 - Git users review your code
- Here, our goal will be to make code reviewing easier.

Context

- Say you are **developing a package** (in pretty much any major language or even multiple languages at once).
- You have written an **adequate test suite** and are satisfied with it.
- However, as your package grows, your code may become increasingly **difficult to test** accurately.
- In particular, **how do you assess how relevant your tests are?**

Code coverage a.k.a. Line count

- **Counting and marking lines** of codes that are read during tests is a possible indicator of test quality.
- Pros:
 - You can easily know what parts of your code are left out.
 - The count metric is easily increased.
- Cons:
 - A high line count is no guarantee for relevant tests.

Codecov

- Codecov does not compute this metric, it formats externally-generated coverage reports in a user-friendly way.
- There are many alternatives to Codecov that do the same thing.
- Many Python packages use Codecov.



Travis CI **passing** Azure Pipelines **failed** codecov **83%**

Azure Pipelines **succeeded** build **passing** codecov **97%**

DOI [10.5281/zenodo.3596890](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3596890)

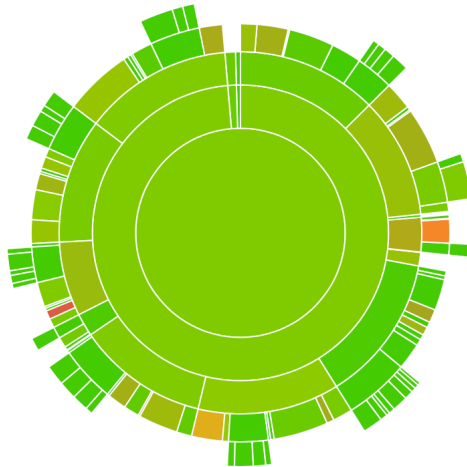
scikit-learn

python [3.5](#) | [3.6](#) | [3.7](#) | [3.8](#) stability **stable** code quality **C** codecov **81%**

Codecov features



- Seamless integration with CI tools
- Automatic merging of all the build reports for each commit
- Marketing arguments:
 - A new badge
The badge is a dark grey rectangle with the Codecov logo on the left, the text 'codecov' in white, and a green box containing '95%' on the right.
 - Synthetic graphics



Codecov features

- All the **major languages are supported**, multiple languages can be used at once.
- Automatic notifications can be set up for quick pull requests evaluations.

Codecov workflow

On your machine:

- Run your tests using a coverage tool (for Python: coverage). This generates a coverage report.
- Upload this report to codecov.io .

Using a CI service:

- Run your tests using a coverage tool.
- Let codecov upload each build's report, gather them and merge them.

Codecov setup

Setup depends on your CI and language. See <https://docs.codecov.io/docs/quick-start>

If you created a package using F. Durand's My Toy Package, setup is as follows:

- In your `.travis.yml`:

install:

```
- pip install -U tox-travis  
- pip install codecov
```

after_success:

```
- codecov
```

- In your `tox.ini`:

commands =

```
pip install -U pip  
py.test --basetemp={envtmpdir} --doctest-modules --cov-report=xml --cov=your_projects_name
```

- In your `requirements_dev.txt`:

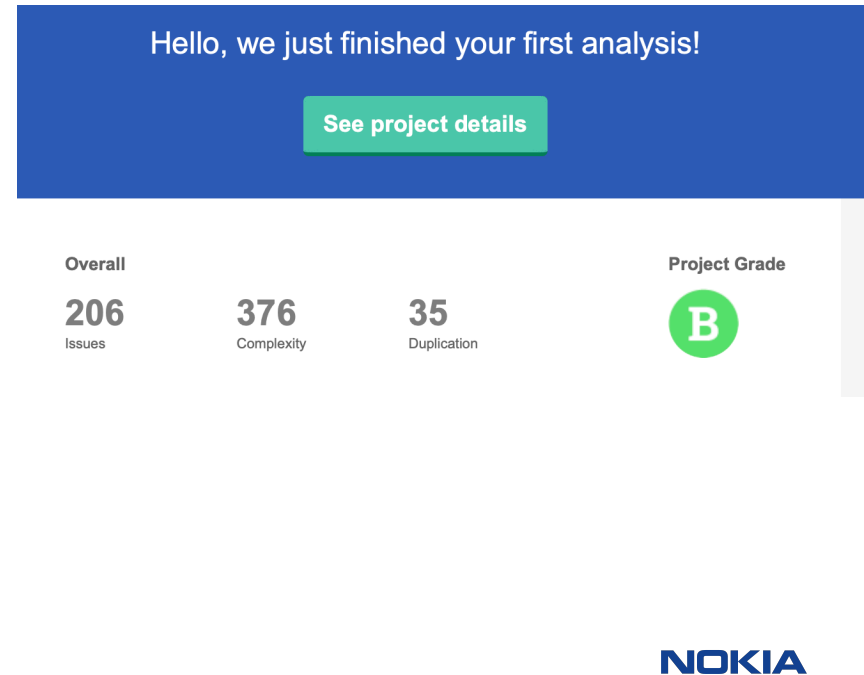
```
pytest==4.6.5  
pytest-runner==5.1  
pytest-cov==2.8.1
```

Codecov interface

- Go to [scikit-network's Codecov](#) and [Travis](#)

Comparison with another service: Codacy

- Codacy needs no additional code in the package.
- It provides IDE-like remarks on the code but also a few higher-level mostly security-related advice (SQL injections, weak keys, ...).
- Attempts to aggregate more metrics to give a more educated guess of the package's quality.
- It lacks a (free) local API.



Takeaway

Codecov has advantages...

- ... as regards the developer:
 - Overview of the code coverage
 - Easy integration
 - Incentive for covering tests
- ... as regards the package presentation:
 - Badge

However, it gives no strong guarantee about code functionality.

References

- Bacchelli, A; Bird, C (May 2013). "[Expectations, outcomes, and challenges of modern code review](#)". *Proceedings of the 35th IEEE/ACM International Conference On Software Engineering (ICSE 2013)*.
- <https://codecov.io>
- <http://codacy.com>