Abstract Submitted
for the DNP17 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

The winding road to being a code monkey MICHAEL SARAHAN, Continuum Analytics — I am now a software engineer at a company that provides data analytics services, and helps support the open source data science community. I have been a computer nerd for a very long time, but it was my CEU experience at Texas AM with Sherry Yennello (2003-2005) that helped me put my nerd skills to productive use. My project then was simulation of pulse shape discrimination electronics, and it was an excellent introduction to core computational concerns, such as digitization: when you see a line on the screen, that's not really how the computer sees it. I wandered in graduate school through a chemistry program into using electron microscopes. My programming interest got me into image and signal processing, which led naturally to jobs in analyzing data, and also in acquiring data. Throughout, it was always difficult just to make software work. I got pretty good at making it work. That's what I do for a living now - package software so that it is easy for other people to do great science with.

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