Using sphinx with Jupyter notebooks for training material

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Jupyter notebooks

- Allows for interactive training sessions with more convenience than the REPL
- By default stores notebooks in .json format
- jupytext extension allows to save notebooks as plain python files

Sphinx

- Used for API documentation of python packages (similar to doxygen)
- Can read and include source files
- Default format: .rst, but can also use .md files
- Can also include Jupyter notebooks using the nbsphinx extension. Output does not need to be tracked, but is generated when building website.
- Example for training lessons: https://lhcb.github.io/starterkit-lessons/index.html

Using Jupyter notebooks, nbsphinx, jupytext together

Advantages

- Easy interactive training sessions
- Nice webpage
- When building webpage all code is executed ⇒ always realize directly if anything is broken (→ unittests)
- Notebooks tracked as plain python ⇒ can be easily searched and skimmed from the command line without need to start Jupyter server
- Easily integrates with API documentation of other python packages

Alternative: Jupyter book