



3D Slicer Module Implementation in Python

Mónica Sevilla García Alicia Pose-Díez de la Lastra Lucía Cubero Gutiérrez Sergio Carreras Salinas









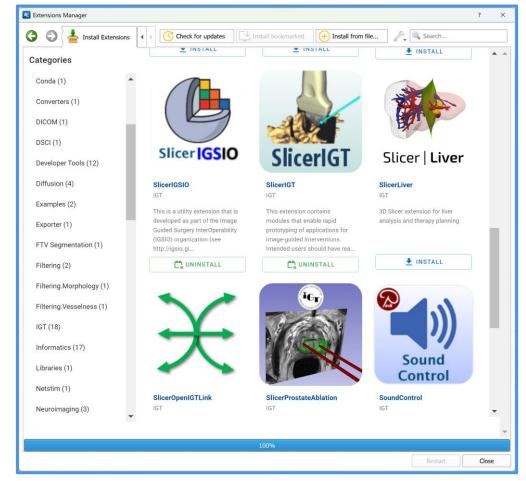




3D Slicer Architecture: Extensions and Modules



- Functionality is provided through modules
- Modules can be grouped by purpose into Extensions (Segmentation, Registration, Visualization, etc.)
- 3D Slicer is a modular platform designed for extensibility:
 - Pre-installed modules
 - Available from the Extension Manager
 - Option to create your own modules to extend Slicer's capabilities





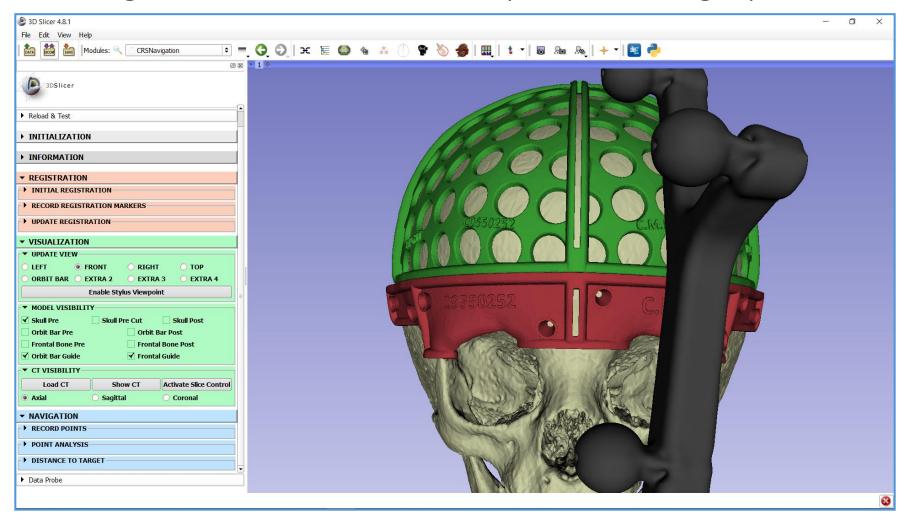
Why develop your own module?

- Existing tools may not meet specific project or research needs
- Automate repetitive tasks (loading, processing, exporting data)
- Integrate your own image processing or AI algorithms
- Enable reproducible workflows to share with collaborators
- Use in research, teaching or clinical applications



Examples of custom modules

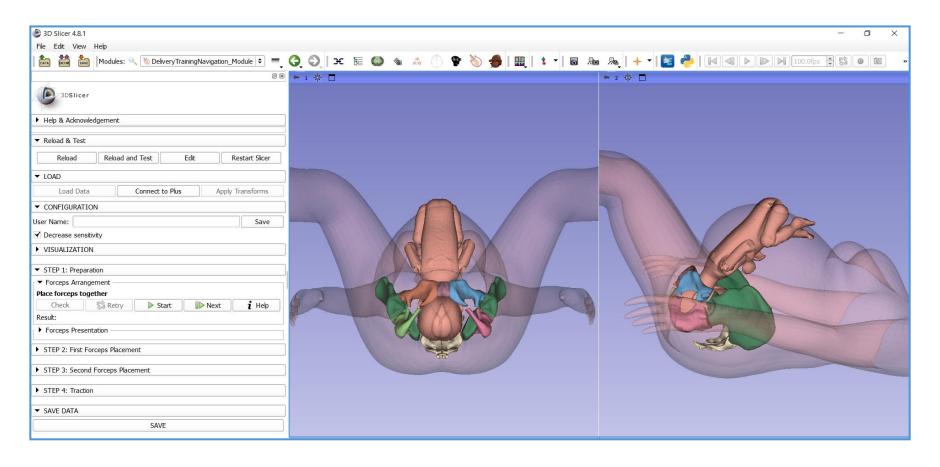
Surgical navigation module for craniosynostosis surgery





Examples of custom modules

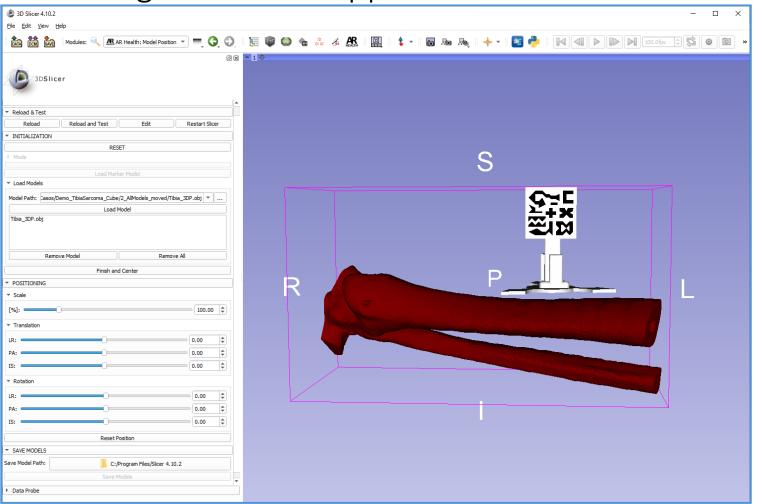
Training module for birth delivery





Examples of custom modules

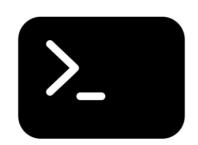
Module for building custom AR applications in healthcare





3D Slicer

- CLI modules (Command Line Interface):
 - Use external executables or Python scripts
 - Good for batch processing or headless execution
- Scripted modules (Python):
 - Entirely written in Python
 - Easy to develop and test
 - Full access to GUI and MRML scene
- Loadable modules (C++):
 - Highest performance
 - Complex to build and maintain (requires compilation)



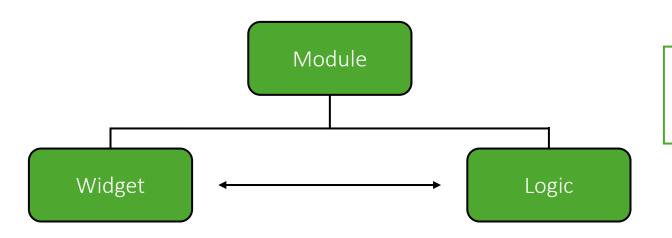






Anatomy of scripted module

- Scripted modules are typically a single .py file
- Key components:
 - Module class: defines metadata (name, category)
 - Module Widget class: builds the graphical interface (interactions with buttons)
 - Module Logic class: implements the core functionality and processing



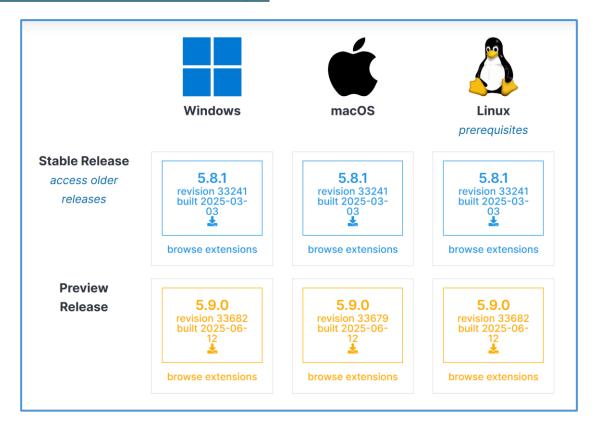
Design of the User Interface (UI):

- The GUI is built using Qt Designer
- Already embedded into Slicer no need for installation



Installation requirements

• Download and install the latest version of **3D Slicer** from the following link: https://download.slicer.org/





- Install a suitable code editor:
 - We recommend Visual Studio Code (free, cross-platform)
 - Alternatives: PyCharm (Community), Sublime Text, etc.



Visual Studio Code

PyCharm

Sublime Text



```
slicer.ScriptedLoadableModule import *
     slicer.util import VTKObservationMixin
    rt time
    pathlib import Path
class MyFirstModule(ScriptedLoadableModule):
 def __init__(self, parent):
 ScriptedLoadableModule.__init__(self, parent)
self.parent.title = "MyFirstModule" # TODO make this more human readable by adding spaces
 self.parent.categories = ["IGTModules"]
  self.parent.dependencies = []
 self.parent.contributors = ["Monica Garcia Sevilla, Alicia Pose"] # replace with "Firstname Lastna
 self.parent.helpText = """Lab 3. Practical Session""'
 self.parent.helpText += self.getDefaultModuleDocumentationLink()
 self.parent.acknowledgementText = """Department of Bioengineering, Universidad Carlos III"""
class MyFirstModuleWidget(ScriptedLoadableModuleWidget, VTKObservationMixin):
 def __init__(self, parent=None):
```



Hands-on: Building your own module in 3D Slicer



Part 1: Create your module

1. Create module

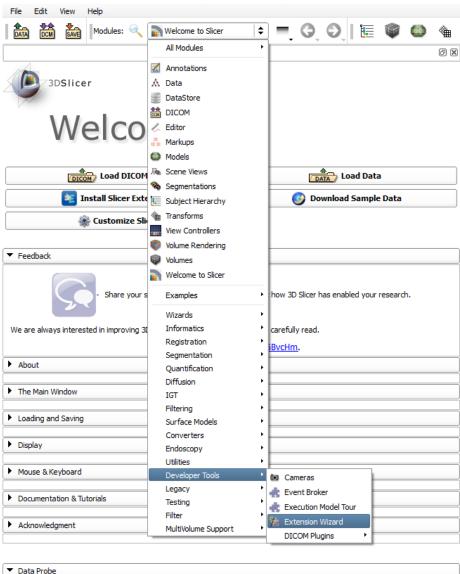
3D Slicer includes a module, **Extension Wizard**, to create modules or extensions.

The initial module code already contains a template with some buttons and functions as an example, making it easier to start.

Steps:

- Open Slicer.
- Click on Modules: "Welcome to Slicer", select "Developer Tools" from the list and choose the module "Extension Wizard".







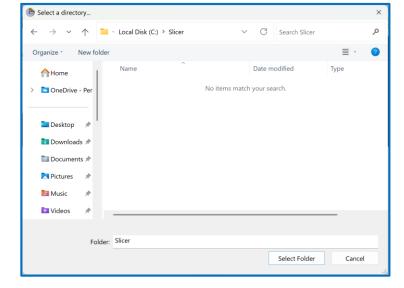
1. Create module

- Click on "Create Extension" and specify the name of your extension. For this workshop you should call it *MyModule*.
- In "Destination" click '...' to choose the directory where you will store the module.

• We recommend creating a folder in disk C called Slicer and storing the

module in \rightarrow C:/Slicer.

Click OK.
 ✓ Extension Tools
 ✓ Create Extension
 ✓ Select Extension
 OK Cancel





- You can add extra information about the extension (authors, organization, a description,...).
- Click OK.

IMPORTANT! Never use special characters like accents in paths, code or text (including the description of the module). This will result in errors and the module will not be loaded



l Slicer			?	×
Name:	MyExtension			
Category:				
Description:	This is my first Slicer	module		
Contributors:	Name	Organization		
	My Name (New item)	AnyWare Corp.		
		ОК	Cancel	





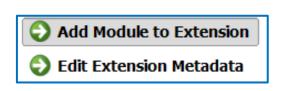
3D Slicer





1. Create module

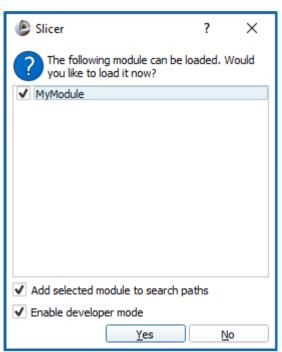
- Select "Add Module to Extension" to create your module.
- Input the name (MyModule), in Type select scripted and press OK.
- Activate the checkbox "Add selected module to search paths" to load your module every time Slicer is opened.
- The module has now been created!
- However, we will do some additional steps.











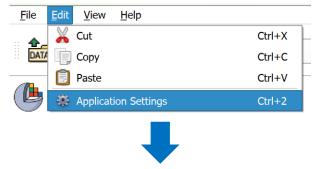


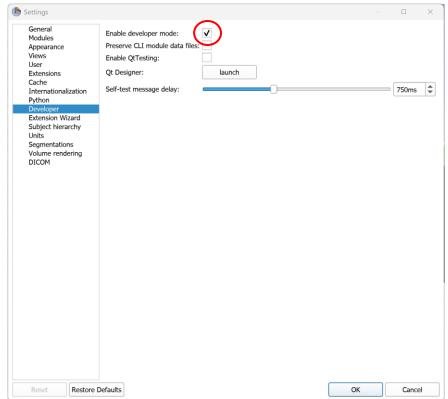




As we will be using 3D Slicer as developers, we have to enable the developer mode. That way we can access some additional and useful functions.

- Click on Edit
 Application Settings.
- Choose "Developer" from the left panel and check "Enable developer mode".
- Click OK and restart Slicer.







1. Create module: using the template

- If you open the directory where you created your module (C:/Slicer/MyExtension/MyModule) you will find inside a file called MyModule.py. Open it using your code editor (Visual Studio, Sublime Text,...)
- You will find that there is already some code, which is an initial template generated by Slicer. You could start with this, but to simplify the implementation of the module for this tutorial we will substitute it by the file MyModule_TemplateForStudents.py given to you in this workshop.
- Close the file in your code editor.



1. Create module: using the template

- Delete the current file MyModule.py from your folder and paste the provided one: MyModule_TemplateForStudents.py.
- IMPORTANT: Change the name of the template file to MyModule.py so that it has the name of your module. Otherwise Slicer won't be able to load it.
- Restart Slicer.
- Click on "Welcome to Slicer" drop down menu to show all modules. You will find your module now under "MyExtension" category (the extension you created).
- Open it.
- Now let's take a look at what each section represents...



Error Log

1. Create module

Modules: 🔍 🚟 MyModule 3D Slicer 🕶 1 🖟 🗖 ▶ Help & Acknowledgement ▼ Reload & Test Reload to see module changes Restart slicer (sometimes better than reload if you make big changes) Reload and Test Restart Slicer Open Qt designer Open code editor -> Edit Edit UI Inputs Your Module Select a Volume Input volume: Image threshold: 0.50 ▼ Outputs Thresholded volume: None None Inverted volume: Advanced ▼ Data Probe Traceback (most recent call last): Show Zoomed Slice File "C:/Slicer/MyExtension/MyModule/MyModule.py", line 74, in setup self.ui.loadModel1Button.connect('clicked(bool)', self.onLoadModel1Button) # when the button is pressed we call the function onLoadModel1Button

AttributeError: '' object has no attribute 'loadModel1Button'

Python Console

Show/Hide Python console



1. Create module: add data

- Open again your module's folder (C:/Slicer/MyExtension/MyModule).
- Inside the Resources directory of your module, create a new folder and call it *Data*.
- Copy the files *transform.h5*, *Model1.stl* and *Model2.stl* (also provided in this workshop) inside the *Data* folder.

Storing your data inside your module's folders makes it much easier to access it from code.



Part 2: Design UI



3D Slicer

2. Design UI

- To start, you have to create this UI with Qt Designer.
- The structure is the following:

LOAD DATA: ← Collapsible Button

- Load Model 1 ← Push Button
- Load Model 2 ← Push Button

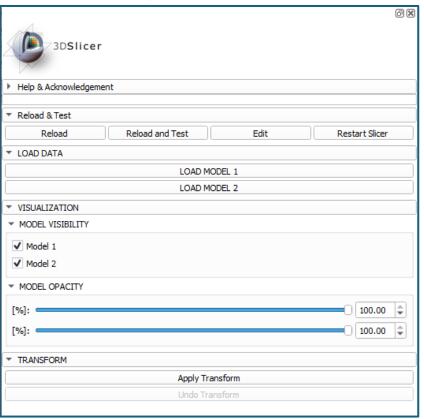
VISUALIZATION: ← Collapsible Button

- Model Visibility ← ctkCollapsibleGroupBox
 - Show Model 1 ← Check Box
 - Show Model 2 ← Check Box
- Model Opacity ← ctkCollapsibleGroupBox
 - Change opacity of Model 1 ← ctkSliderWidget
 - Change opacity of Model 2 ← ctkSliderWidget

TRANSFORM: ← Collapsible Button

- Apply Transform ← Push Button
- Undo Transform ← Push Button

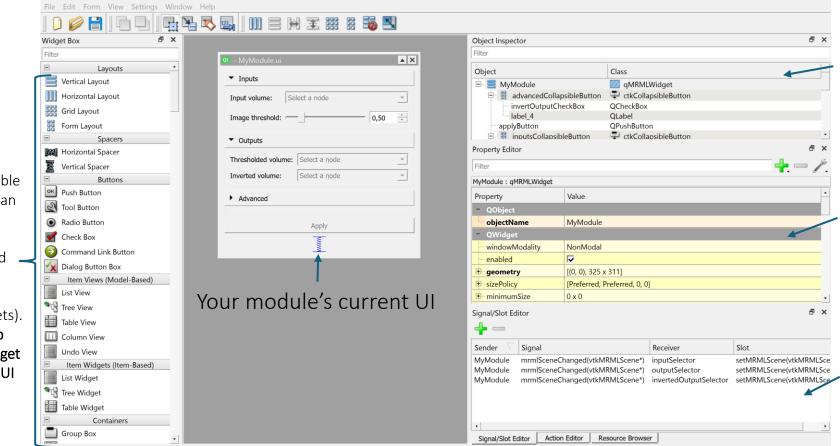
Expected Final UI







Click on the Edit UI button of your module to open Qt Designer.



Object Inspector:

Shows the hierarchical structure of your widgets in your interface. It allows you to view and select UI elements based on their parent-child relationships, making it easier to organize and manage the layout of your module.

Property Editor:

Allows you to view and modify the properties of the selected widget.
These properties include object names, geometry, fonts, colors, tooltips, visibility, and more.

Signal/Slot Editor:

enables you to create connections between signals (such as a button click) and slots (methods that handle the action). It provides a graphical way to link user interactions with specific behaviors in your application, without needing to write code manually.

Widget Box:

contains all the available
Qt widgets that you can
use to build your
interface.
Widgets are organized
by category (e.g.,
Buttons, Display
Widgets, Input Widgets).
You can drag and drop
widgets from the Widget
Box directly into your UI
layout.



- Try to replicate the expected UI by adding the corresponding widgets.
- Start by changing the names of the 3 collapsible buttons (Inputs, Outputs, Advanced) to the expected ones (LOAD DATA, VISUALIZATION, TRANSFORM). You can do this by double clicking on the collapsible or looking for the "text" field in the Property Editor after clicking on it.
- For the TRANSFORM collapsible button, make sure you uncheck the collapsed option from the Property Editor.
- Then drag and drop the corresponding elements from the Widget Box to the UI and remove the original ones. Input the correct text in each widget.

NOTE: Please refer to slide 23 to check each widget type.

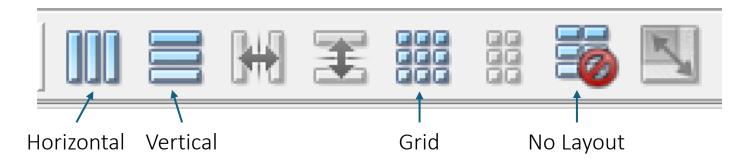
IMPORTANT: Don't worry about the layout for now, we will arrange everything in the next step.



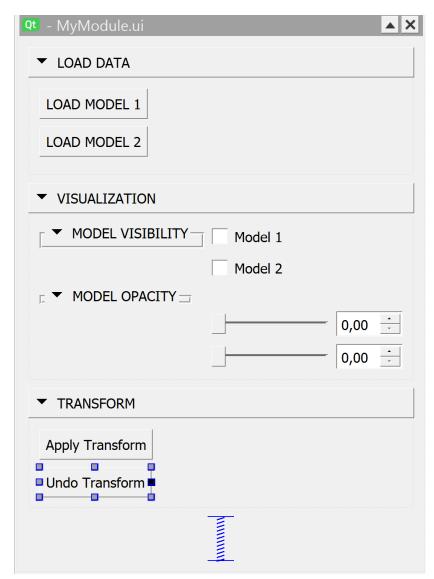




- You might have something like this now >
- To arrange the widget elements, click on every collapsible button and choose the correct layout from the top menu:



 For the ctkCollapsibleGroupBox widgets, drag and drop at least one element on top of them to be able to select the layout.



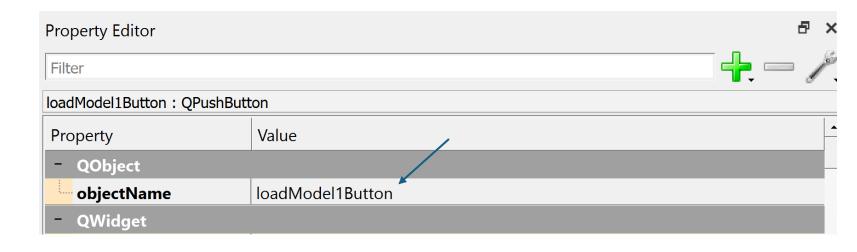


Now we are going to give names to every widget element to be able to access them from code later.

• Select each widget, go to the Property Editor and input a name in *objectName*.

We suggest you use the following names, as the template code already uses them:

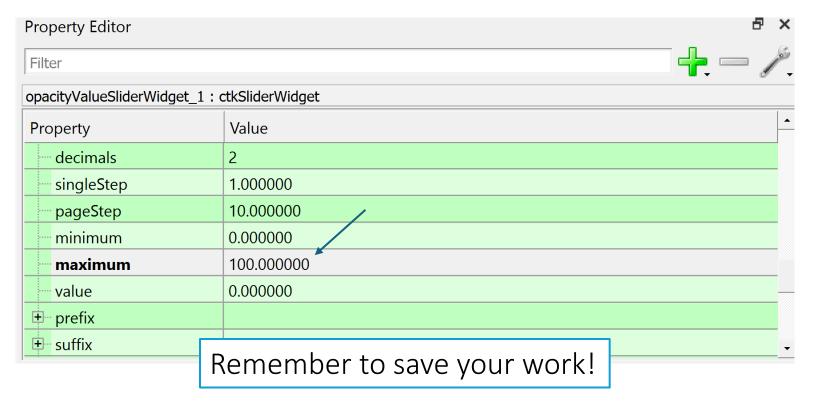
- loadModel1Button
- loadModel2Button
- model1_checkBox
- model2_checkBox
- opacityValueSliderWidget_1
- opacityValueSliderWidget_2
- applyTransformButton
- undoTransformButton



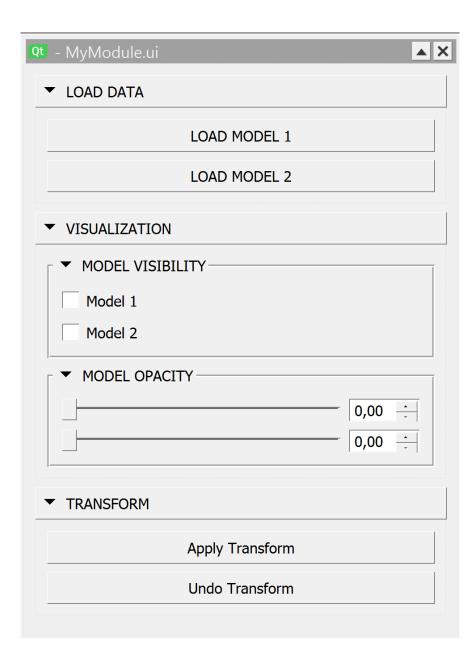


Set the maximum value of the ctkSliderWidgets to 100. The minimum should already be 0.

• To do this, select them and look for the field *maximum* in the Property Editor.



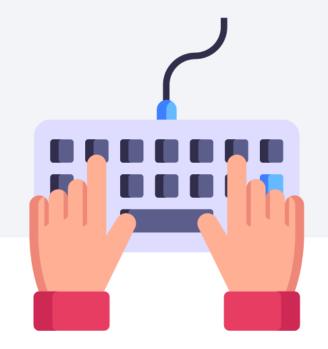
• Expected result:







Part 3: Python review





3. Python review

For this tutorial, we asume you have some experience in programming.

If you have experience with Python language you can move to "Part 4: Code implementation". If not, the following slides review some key concepts you need to know before starting.

You can also follow this link: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/statement-in-python/



3. Python review

Indentation

Most programming languages like Java, C or C++ use braces {} to define a block code (a for loop, a function,...).

In Python, indentation is used to identify blocks. The block will start after ":" and an indentation and will end with the first unindented line.

You can either indent using two spaces or four, but you should choose one and be consistent.

```
# Python program showing
# indentation

site = 'gfg'

if site == 'gfg':
    print('Logging on to geeksforgeeks...')
else:
    print('retype the URL.')
print('All set !')
```

Output:

```
Logging on to geeksforgeeks...
All set !
```





3D Slicer



3. Python review

Conditions

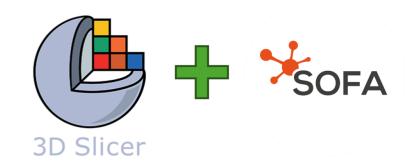
If, elif and else:

```
a = 3
b = 9
if b % a == 0 :
    print "b is divisible by a"
elif b + 1 == 10:
    print "Increment in b produces 10"
else:
    print "You are in else statement"
```

Functions

def myFunction(param1, ...,
paramN):

```
# Function for checking the divisibility
# Notice the indentation after function declaration
# and if and else statements
def checkDivisibility(a, b):
    if a % b == 0 :
        print "a is divisible by b"
    else:
        print "a is not divisible by b"
#Driver program to test the above function
checkDivisibility(4, 2)
```



Part 4: Code implementation



Before we start coding...

Before starting with the implementation of our module, let's remember how the code is structured:

- Every module is composed of three classes:
 - *Module*: Contains metadata of your module (categories, contributors, etc.)
 - *Widget*: Defines the graphical interface (buttons, layouts,...) and captures the interaction of the user with these items.
 - *Logic*: Defines the logic of the module. For example, it defines what action should be performed when a certain button is clicked. The corresponding function of the button in the widget will capture the interaction and call some function inside logic to do a certain action.
- Open your module's code file (MyModule.py) and check this.



Before we start coding...

```
import logging
 import vtk
 import slicer
 from slicer.ScriptedLoadableModule import *
 from slicer.util import VTKObservationMixin
class MyModule(ScriptedLoadableModule):
    """Uses ScriptedLoadableModule base class, available at:
    def __init__(self, parent):
        ScriptedLoadableModule. init (self, parent)
        self.parent.title = "MyModule" # TODO: make this more human readable by adding spaces
        self.parent.categories = ["MyExtension"] # TODO: set categories (folders where the module shows up in the module selector)
        self.parent.dependencies = [] # TODO: add here list of module names that this module requires
        self.parent.contributors = ["Your Name (Institution)"] # TODO: replace with "Firstname Lastname (Organization)"
        self.parent.helpText = """This is an example of scripted loadable module bundled in an extension.
See more information in <a href="https://github.com/organization/projectname#MyModule">module documentation</a>."""
        self.parent.acknowledgementText = """Departamento de Bioingenieria, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid"""
class MvModuleWidget(ScriptedLoadableModuleWidget, VTKObservationMixin): ==
class MyModuleLogic(ScriptedLoadableModuleLogic): --
```



Buttons, sliders and other elements of the interface are usually assigned a function that is executed when the user interacts with it.

This assignment is performed as shown below:

Connections

These connections ensure that whenever user changes some settings on the GUI, that is saved in th

(in the selected parameter node).

----- 2. CONNECT BUTTONS WITH FUNCTIONS ----
self.ui.loadModel1Button.connect('clicked(bool)', self.onLoadModel1Button) # when the button is pressed

---- FILL

button

function

self.ui.model1_checkBox.connect('stateChanged(int)', self.onModel1VisibilityChecked)

---- FILL ---
self.model2_checkBox...

self.ui.opacityValueSliderWidget_1.connect("valueChanged(double)", self.onOpacityValueSliderWidget1Changed)

---- FILL ---
self.ui.opacityValueSliderWidget_2

These names are the ones assigned to your GUI items in Qt designer under the ObjectName section

the type of widget you add. For buttons it is 'clicked(bool)', for check boxes 'stateChanged(int)',...

The type of interaction is associated with

Property Value

- QObject

objectName loadModel1Button

- QWidget

enabled

oadDataButton: OPushButton



In this section of the code you see the definition of all functions called when an interaction with a button (or other interface element) is performed.

```
# ----- 3. DEFINITION OF FUNTIONS CALLED WHEN PRESSING THE BUTTONS -----
def onLoadModel1Button(self):
    model name = 'Model1.stl' # indicate name of model to be loaded
   data path = slicer.modules.mymodule.path.replace("MyModule.py","") + 'Resources/Data' # indicate the
   self.logic.loadModelFromFile(data path, model name, [1,0,0], True) # call function from logic
   self.ui.model1 checkBox.checked = True
    self.ui.opacityValueSliderWidget 1.value = 100
# def onLoadModel2Button(self): ...
def onModel1VisibilityChecked(self, checked):
    model1 = slicer.util.getNode('Model1') # retrieve Model1
    self.logic.updateVisibility(model1, checked)
# ---- FILL ----
# def onModel2VisibilityChecked(self, checked): ...
# ----
def onOpacityValueSliderWidget1Changed(self, opacityValue):
    model1 = slicer.util.getNode('Model1') # retrieve Model1
    # Get opacity value and normalize it to get values in [0,100]
   opacityValue norm = opacityValue/100.0
    self.logic.updateModelOpacity(model1, opacityValue norm) # Update model opacity
```



These functions:

- modify everything directly related with the interface (enable buttons, hide or show a collapsible layout, etc.)
- Call functions from the logic.

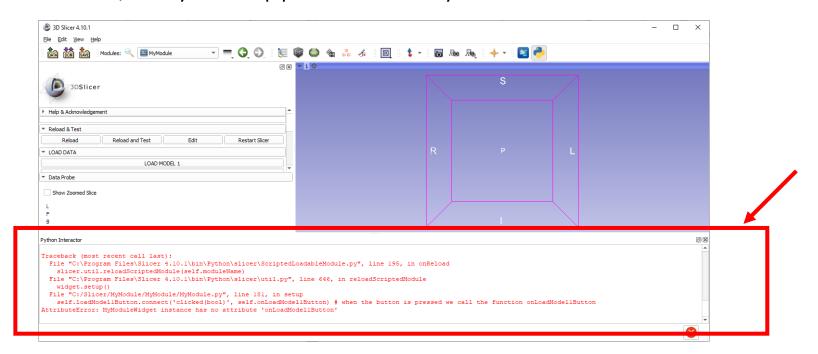


HINT

While you are implementing code, it is a good idea to check the result every time you finish a step (definition of a function, creation of a button,...)

For that, you can *Reload* or *Restart* Slicer

If your code has errors, they will appear in the Python console





Now that you know all this...

Let's start implementing our module!

The sections of the code you have to fill are indicated the following way:

```
---- FILL ----
Code to implement
```



We'll start with the connections. You have already some of them in the template. Connect the remaining buttons with the following functions:

```
self.loadModel1Button.connect('clicked(bool)', self.onLoadModel1Button) # when the button is pressed we call the function onLoadModel1Button
# self.loadModel2Button... 📛 1
self.model1_checkBox.connect('stateChanged(int)', self.onModel1VisibilityChecked)
# self.model2_checkBox... \leftarrow 2
self.opacityValueSliderWidget_1.connect("valueChanged(double)", self.onOpacityValueSliderWidget1Changed)
# self.opacityValueSliderWidget_2... \leftarrow 3
```

- loadModel2Button → onLoadModel2Button
- model2 checkbox → onModel2VisibilityChecked
- opacityValueSliderWidget_2 → onOpacityValueSliderWidget2Changed
- applyTransformButton → onApplyTransform
- 5. undoTransformButton → onUndoTransform



Now we have to implement the code for each of the funtions we have associated with the widgets:

```
def onLoadModel1Button(self):
   model_name = 'Model1.stl' # indicate name of model to be loaded
   data path = slicer.modules.mymodule.path.replace("MyModule.py","") + 'Resources/Data' # indicate the path from w
   self.logic.loadModelFromFile(data path, model name, [1,0,0], True) # call function from logic
   self.ui.model1 checkBox.checked = True
   self.ui.opacityValueSliderWidget 1.value = 100
                                                                         To write the new code, take a look at the
# ---- FILL ----
                                                                          parallel function. The new code will be
# def onLoadModel2Button(self): ...
                                                                         almost the same.
def onModel1VisibilityChecked(self, checked):
   model1 = slicer.util.getNode('Model1') # retrieve Model1
   self.logic.updateVisibility(model1, checked)
# ---- FILL ----
# def onModel2VisibilityChecked(self, checked): ...
```

```
def onOpacityValueSliderWidget1Changed(self, opacityValue):
 model1 = slicer.util.getNode('Model1') # retrieve Model1
 opacityValue norm = opacityValue/100.0
 print opacityValue norm
 self.logic.updateModelOpacity(model1, opacityValue norm) # Update model opacity
def onOpacityValueSliderWidget2Changed(self, opacityValue):
def onApplyTransformButton(self):
 model2 = None # retrieve Model2   
 transform name = 'transform'
 data_path = " # indicate the path from which we want to load the transform \leftarrow
 transform node = self.logic.loadTransformFromFile(data path, transform name)
 model2.SetAndObserveTransformNodeID(transform node.GetID())
 self.undoTransformButton.enabled = True
 self.applyTransformButton.enabled = False
def onUndoTransformButton(self):
 model2.SetAndObserveTransformNodeID(None)
```



NOTE: A **transform** is a mathematical operation used to move, rotate, or scale an object (such as a model or image) in space.

Complete the code for this function so that the transform given to you in this workshop (*transform.h5*) is loaded and applied to Model2

- e) Implement the function *onUndoTransformButton* to move Model2 outside the transform
- ← Applying the transform *None* moves Model2 outside any transform tree (undo the transform)



```
def onApplyTransformButton(self):
  model2 = None # retrieve Model2
  transform name = 'transform'
  data path = '' # indicate the path from which we want to load the model
  transform node = self.logic.loadTransformFromFile(data_path, transform_name)
  model2.SetAndObserveTransformNodeID(transform node.GetID())
 self.undoTransformButton.enabled = True
self.applyTransformButton.enabled = False
When clicking on applyTransformButton we change the
                                                undoTransformButton to enabled = True and we disable
                                                applyTransformButton
                                                This way the user will only be able to undo the transform once
def onUndoTransformButton(self):
                                                it is applied
                                                f) In onUndoTransformButton add some lines so that, when
  model2.SetAndObserveTransformNodeID(None)
 # self.undoTransformButton.enabled = ...
                                                clicking on undo, the button becomes disabled and apply
  # self.applyTransformButton.enabled = ...
                                                becomes enabled
```

You can access other parameters of the widgets from the functions to modify their appereance, text, if they are enabled,... and also if a collapsible button is collapsed.

OPTIONAL: Make the section LOAD DATA collapse after loading Model 2.



4. Code implementation: logic

Finally, lets take a look at the functions implemented in the Logic class:

```
class MyModuleLogic(ScriptedLoadableModuleLogic):
 def __init__(self):
 def loadModelFromFile(self, modelFilePath, modelFileName, colorRGB_array, visibility_bool):
       node = slicer.util.getNode(modelFileName)
       [success, node] = slicer.util.loadModel(modelFilePath + '/' + modelFileName + '.stl', returnNode=True)
           node.GetModelDisplayNode().SetColor(colorRGB array)
           node.GetModelDisplayNode().SetVisibility(visibility_bool)
           print modelFileName + ' model loaded'
           print 'ERROR: ' + modelFileName + ' model not found in path'
   return node
 def loadTransformFromFile(self, transformFilePath, transformFileName):
       node = slicer.util.getNode(transformName)
       [success, node] = slicer.util.loadTransform(transformFilePath + '/' + transformFileName + '.h5', returnNode = True)
       if success:
           print transformFileName + ' transform loaded'
           node=slicer.vtkMRMLLinearTransformNode()
           node.SetName(transformFileName)
           slicer.mrmlScene.AddNode(node)
           print 'ERROR: ' + transformFileName + ' transform not found in path. Creating node as identity...'
   return node
 def updateVissibility(modeLNode, show):
     modelNode.GetDisplayNode().SetVisibility(1) # show
     modelNode.GetDisplayNode().SetVisibility(0) # hide
 def updateModelOpacity(self, inputModel, opacityValue norm):
   inputModel.GetDisplayNode().SetOpacity(opacityValue_norm)
 def changeColor(self, inputModel, color):
```



4. Code implementation: logic

Until now we have only implemented functions in the widget which capture the interaction of the user with the buttons and call functions already defined in the logic.

In this step we are going to define a new function in the logic to change the color of the models.

```
def updateVissibility(modelNode, show):
    if show:
        modelNode.GetDisplayNode().SetVisibility(1) # show
    else:
        modelNode.GetDisplayNode().SetVisibility(0) # hide

def updateModelOpacity(self, inputModel, opacityValue_norm):
    inputModel.GetDisplayNode().SetOpacity(opacityValue_norm)

def changeColor(self, inputModel, color):
    pass
Complete the code for this function

HINT: All the code you need is already in the file
```





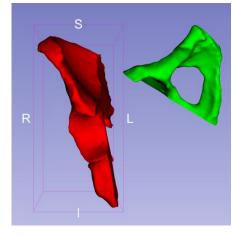
3D Slicer

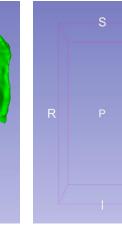


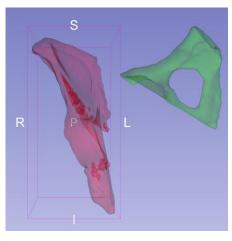
4. Code implementation: logic

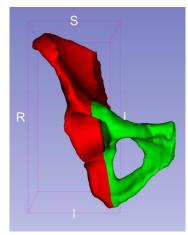
• Now load your module in Slicer and check every button works.

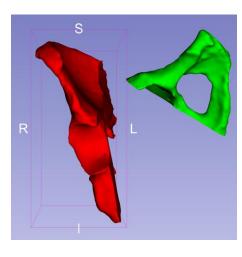












Load Model 1

Load Model 2

Hide Model 1/2

Change Opacity

Apply Transform

Undo Transform





Now you know the basics to create a module in 3D Slicer for whatever application you want.



Enjoy exploring all the possibilities!

