Kapok Windows Installation Guide

A brief description of the installation procedure and package dependencies is given in the main Kapok user's manual. Here we provide a more in depth installation guide, particularly aimed at those unfamiliar with Python, or who do not have Python (or a Python package manager) installed. This guide is for Windows operating systems. See "install_guide_mac.pdf" in this folder for the Mac OS X installation guide.

1 Installing Python

The first step is to install Python. In this guide, we use the miniconda Python distribution, available at: http://conda.pydata.org/miniconda.html.

Choose the Python 3.5 version, not the Python 2.7 version. Choose the Windows version appropriate to your system (either 32-bit or 64-bit).

When installing miniconda, it is recommended that you choose the default option to install the program for the current user, rather than for "All Users". Note that if you do install the software for all users, you will need administrator rights in order to install any of the required Python packages in the following steps.

2 Opening a Terminal

Open the Windows PowerShell, if available on your system. To find it, go to the Start Menu, and type PowerShell in the box, then click Windows PowerShell, as shown in Fig. 1.

If Windows PowerShell is not available, you can use the Command Prompt instead.

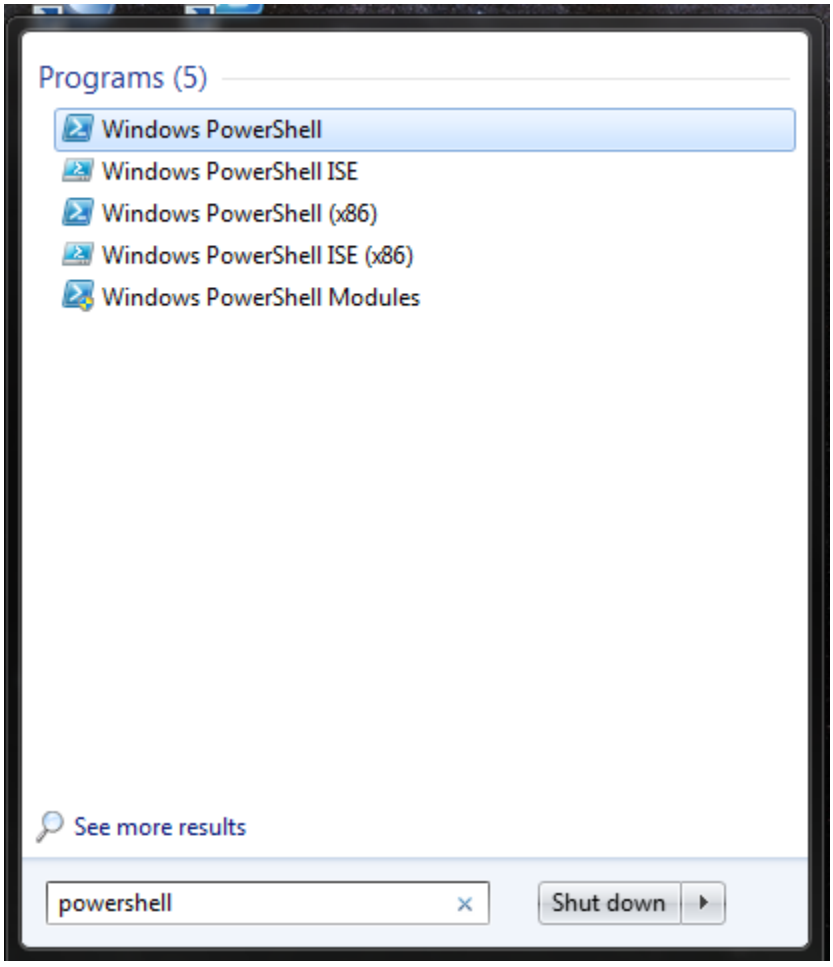

Figure 1: Opening Windows PowerShell from the Start Menu.

3 Install Python Packages

In Windows PowerShell or the Command Prompt, type the following: "conda install numpy scipy matplotlib cython h5py ipython" (minus the quotes). You should see something similar to Fig. 2. You will have to type "y" to confirm the installation. It may take some time to download and install the packages. You may have to hit the Enter key periodically to keep the installation progressing.

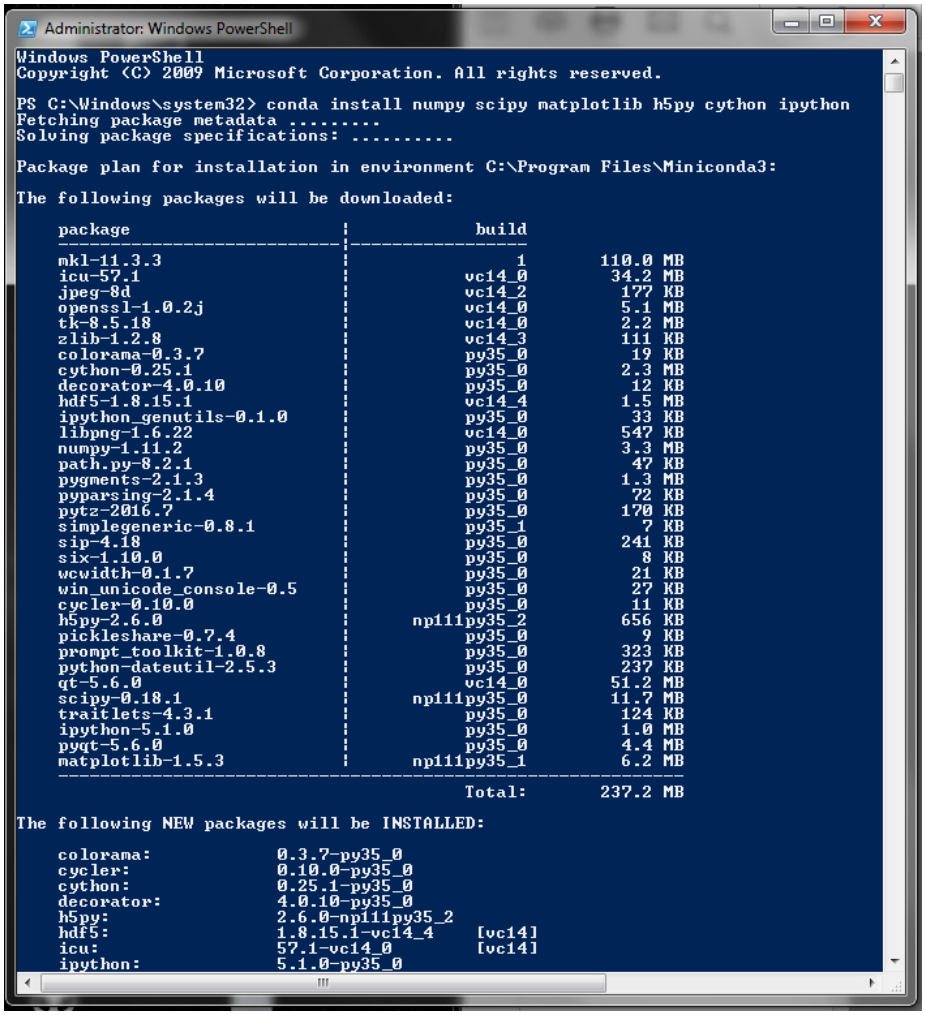

Figure 2: Installing Python packages using conda.

4 Install GDAL

The next step is to install the Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL). This software is used by Kapok to output geocoded rasters of the PolInSAR-derived parameters. Windows binaries of GDAL can be downloaded as part of the open source OSGeo4W package, available here: https://trac.osgeo.org/osgeo4w/.

When installing, it is recommended to choose the option for "Express Install". During the installation, the software will ask which packages you wish to install. Make sure that the checkbox next to GDAL is checked. Take note of the installation location (the default is "C:\OSGeo4W64\", for the 64-bit version), as we will need to add it to the system PATH in order to use GDAL from the command line.

5 Add GDAL to the System Path

To edit environment variables in Windows, right click on My Computer and go to Properties. Go to Advanced System Properties. You should see a Window similar to that shown in Fig. 3. Click the Environment Variables button in the bottom right corner.

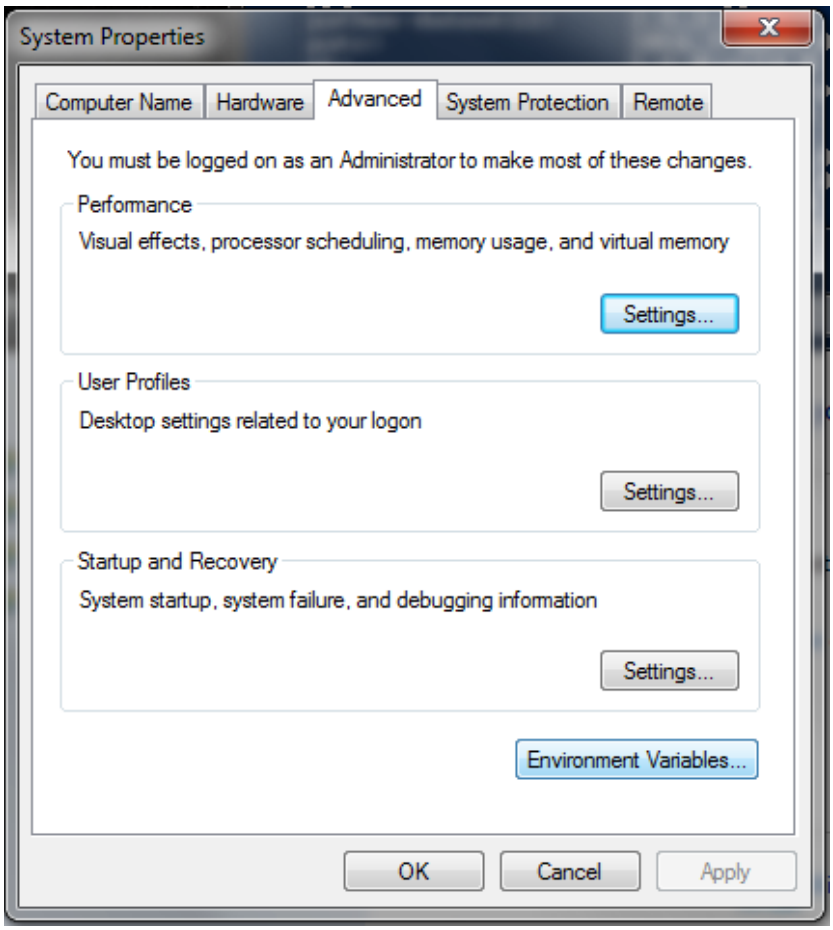

Figure 3: The Environment Variables can be accessed by clicking the button in Advanced System Properties.

Highlight the PATH environment variable, then click the Edit button. The GDAL binaries are located in the \bin \subfolder of the location where GDAL was installed. For the default installation location, this will be in "C:\OSGeo4W64\bin". Add the path to the front of the PATH environment variable, separated from any other pre-existing paths by a semicolon, as shown in Fig. 4.

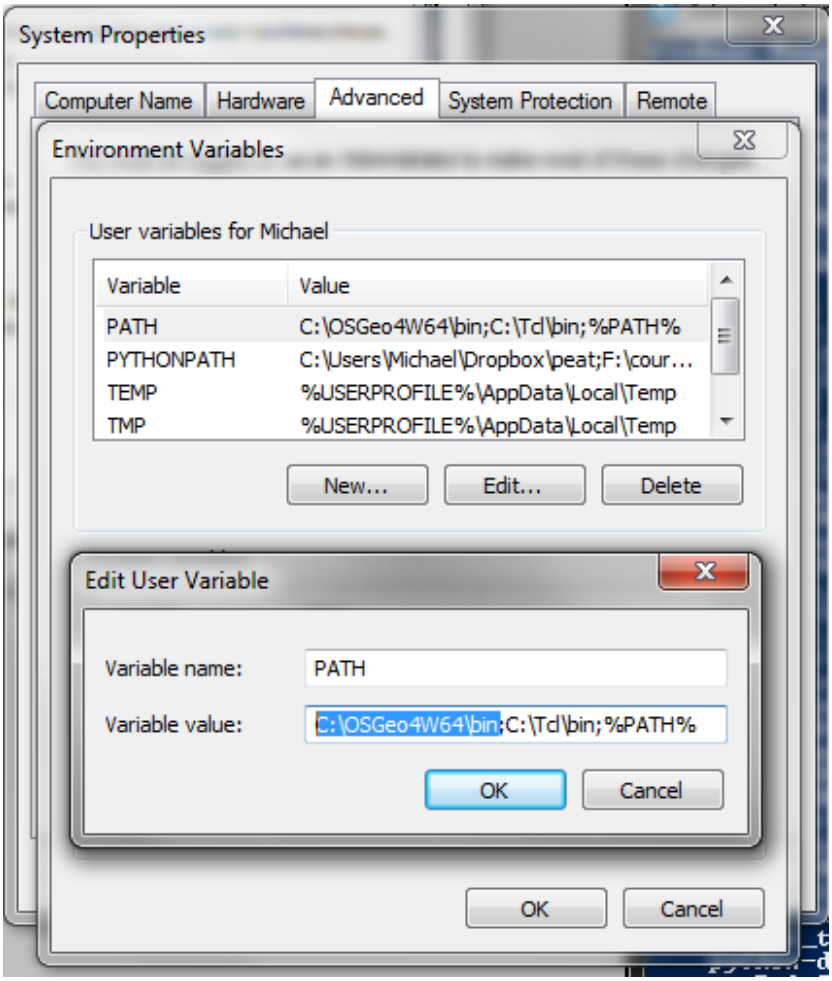

Figure 4: Adding GDAL to the system path. The newly added text is highlighted.

6 Set GDAL_DATA

We now need to add a new environment variable called "GDAL_DATA" which points to the \share\gdal\subfolder of the location where GDAL was installed. By default, this will be in "C:\OSGeo4W64\share\gdal". Click the New button under the Environment Variables box, then fill in the variable name as "GDAL_DATA" and the variable value as the path, as shown in Fig. 5.

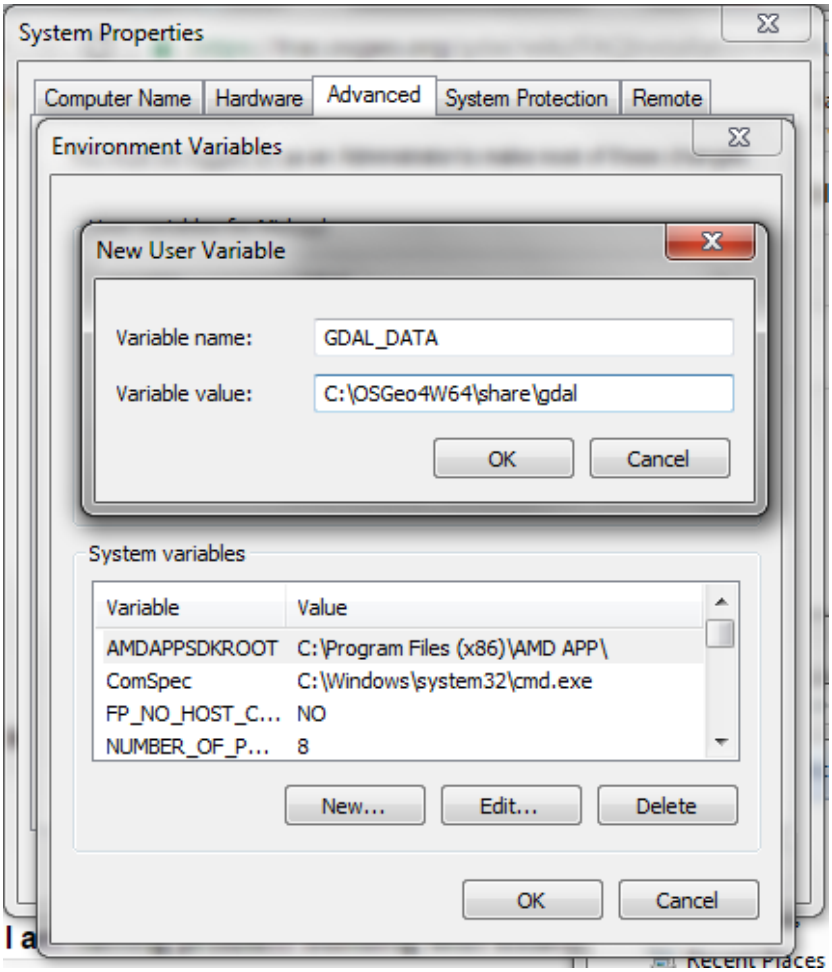

Figure 5: Adding a new GDAL_DATA environment variable.

7 Add Kapok to the Python Path

We now add the path where Kapok is located to the PYTHONPATH environment variable, so that the Python console will know where the software is installed. The PYTHONPATH environment variable must point to the main \kapok\directory, not the kapok subfolder containing the actual Python code files (.py and .pyx). Note that I extracted the Kapok software to the folder "F:\course\kapok\". Adding this folder to the PYTHONPATH is shown in Fig. 6.

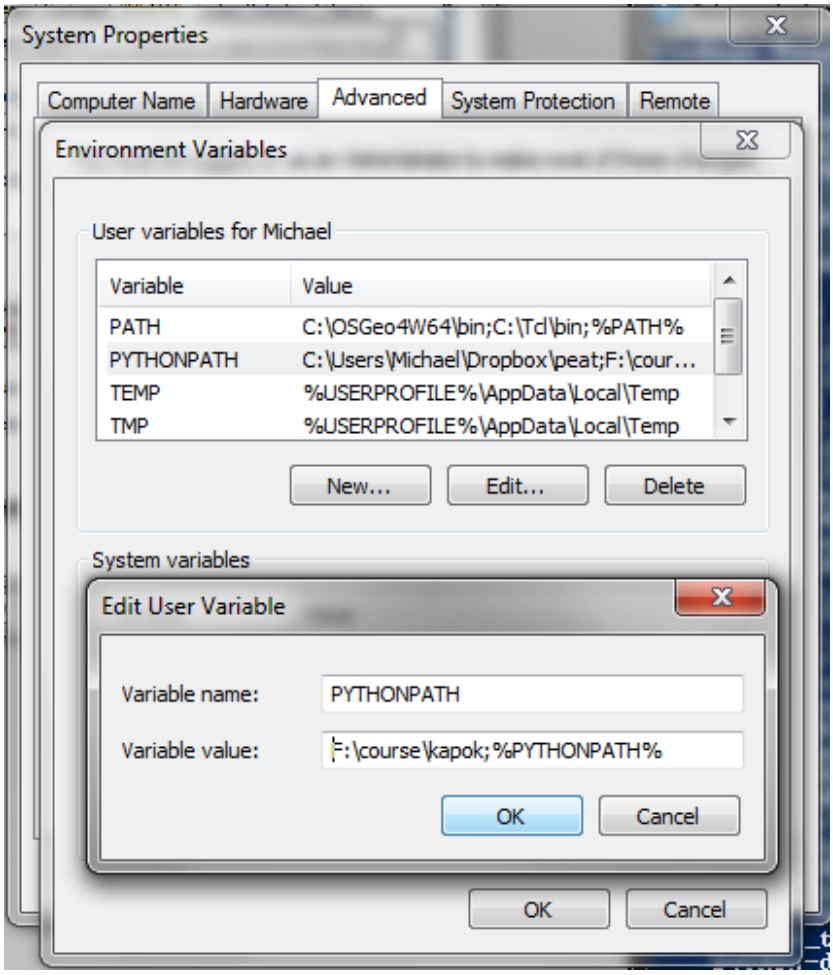

Figure 6: Adding Kapok to the Python path environment variable.

8 Install a C Compiler for Cython

The Cython Python package which we installed in step 3 requires a C compiler to run. Assuming you are running the Python 3.5 version recommended in step 1, you can use the Visual C++ Build Tools, available for download from: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=691126.

9 Test the Installation

Open up Windows PowerShell or a Command Prompt again as in step 2. Enter "ipython" into the terminal. This should open the Interactive Python console.

Enter "import kapok" into the console in order to import the Kapok software.

Enter "import kapok.cohopt" in order to import the kapok.cohopt module, which will test that the Cython package is installed and configured correctly. If the Cython version of the module cannot be imported, a warning message will be displayed, and Kapok will import a native Python implementation instead. The functionality will be the same, but the code will run much slower in this case. Note that even if the software is working correctly, there may be some compiler warnings displayed to the screen, such as those shown in Fig. 7. As long as the console does not display an "ImportError", this is fine.

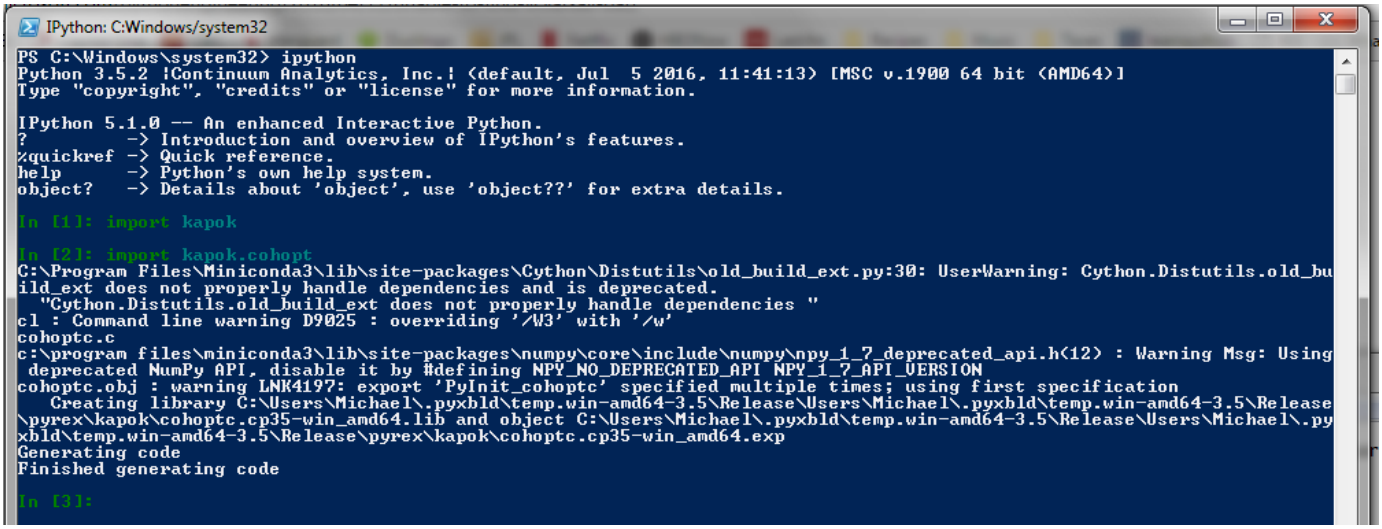

Figure 7: Importing Kapok and the kapok.cohopt module.

10 Load Sample Data

While in IPython, you can navigate between folders using the commands "cd" as in a normal command prompt. Navigate to the folder containing the sample data. One of the sample data files should be called "Kapok_Simulated.hdf5". We are going to load this file to ensure that things are working correctly. Execute the command "import kapok" to import the software.

Then execute the command "scene = kapok.Scene('Kapok_Simulated.hdf5')". This should load the Kapok simulated sample data. An example is shown in Fig. 8. In the figure, I import Kapok, navigate to the folder containing the sample data, then load the sample data into a Kapok Scene object.

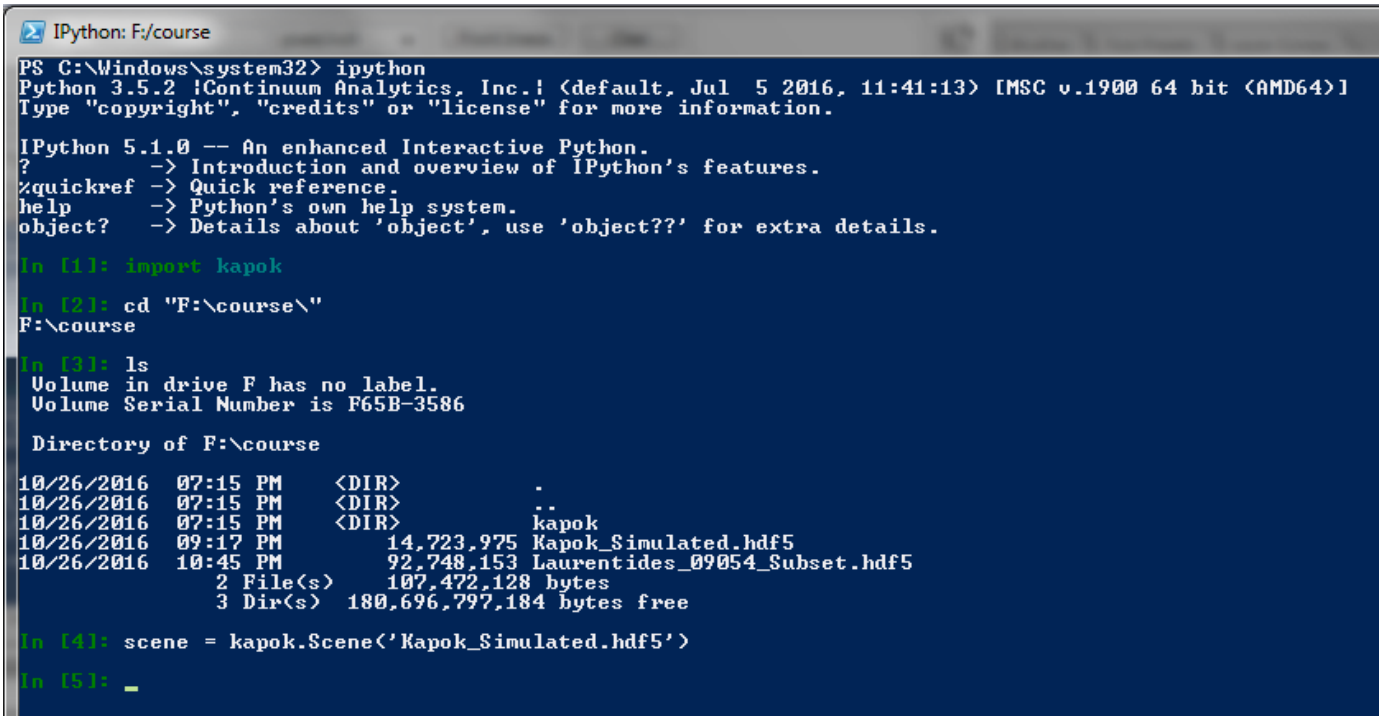

Figure 8: Loading sample data into Kapok.

To display a Pauli RGB image of the loaded data, we can use the command "scene.show()". An example of the output is shown in Fig. 9.

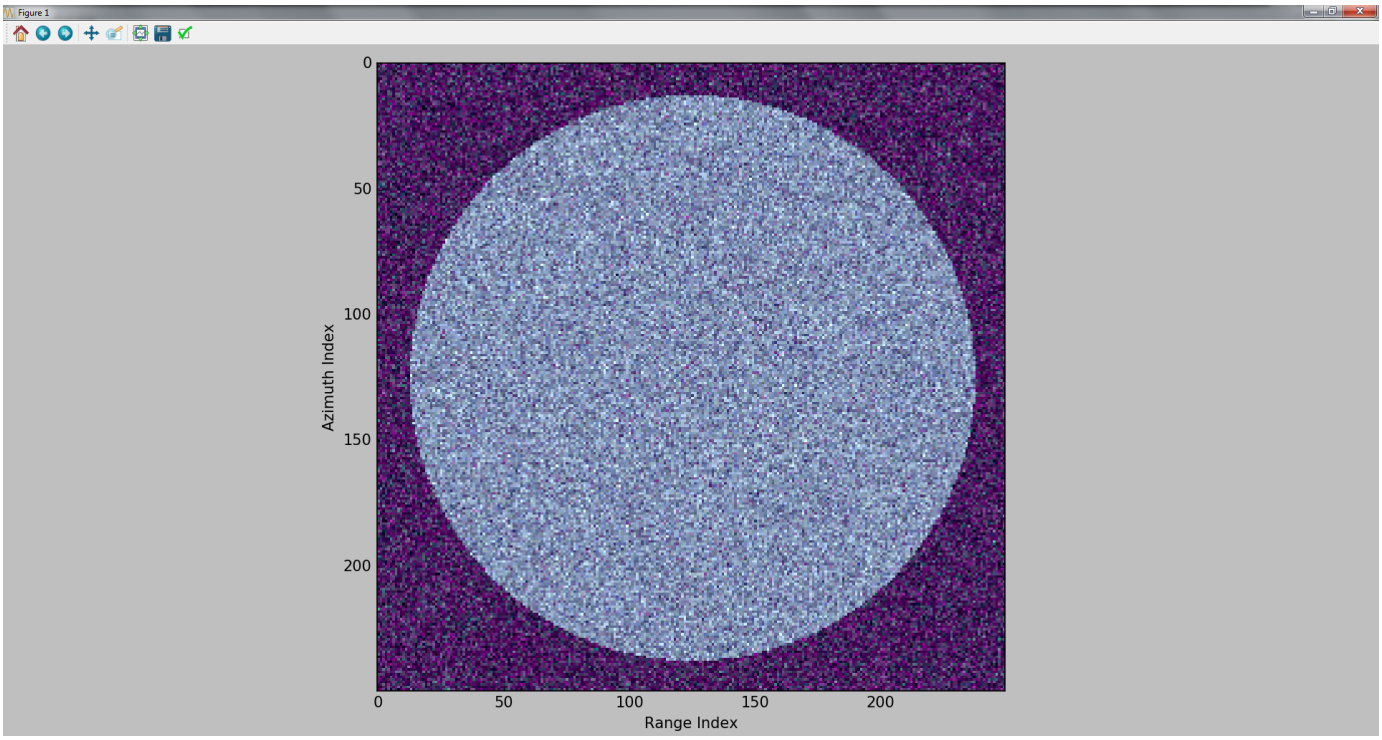

Figure 9: Displaying sample data.