

Skdaccess: The Scikit Data Access Python Package

Quick Start Guide

v1.9.10 for Python 3.6 https://pypi.python.org/pypi/scikit-dataaccess

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1 Overview

The Scikit Data Access package simplifies the handling of scientific data sets in Python. It provides a common interface across all data sets, based on a data fetcher and iterator pattern, as illustrated in the Figure below.



This paradigm places the requirements for parsing and interpreting the data inside of the data fetcher, which returns a data wrapper that provides a uniform method for accessing the data. In particular, the data wrapper implements an iterator which returns the next segment of data when requested by another function or by the user.

Advantages of Scikit Data Access

- Import scientific data from various sources through one easy Python API.
- Use iterator patterns for each data source (configurable data generators + functions to get next data chunk).
- Skip parser programming and file format handling.
- Enjoy a common namespace for all data and unleash the power of data fusion.
- Handle data distribution in different modes: (1) local download, (2) caching of accessed data, or (3) online stream access.
- Easily pull data on cloud servers through Python scripts and facilitate large-scale parallel processing.
- Build on an extensible plattform: Adding access to a new data source only requires addition of its "DataFetcher.py".
- Open source (MIT License).

2 Supported Data Sets

The package introduces a common namespace and currently supports the following data sets:

Name- space	Data structure	Original Source	Data Size	Description
skdaccess. astro. kepler	Dictionary of Data Frames	Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (ftp://archive.stsci.edu/pub/kepler/lightcurves/)	≈ 1TB	Light curves for stars imaged by the Kepler Space Telescope (https://keplerscience.arc.nasa.gov/). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess. astro. voyager	Dictionary of Data Frames	Space Physics Data Facility (https://spdf.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/data/voyager/)	≈ 0.1GB	Data from the Voyager mission (https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. groundwater	Dictionary of Data Frames	USGS National Water Information System (https://waterservices. usgs.gov/rest/ DV-Service.html)	≈ 1GB	United States groundwater monitoring wells measuring the depth to water level (https://waterservices.usgs.gov/). This data set uses a download data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. pbo	Dictionary of Data Frames	UNAVCO Plate Boundary Observatory (ftp: //data-out.unavco. org/pub/products/position/pbo.nam08.pos.tar.gz and https://www.unavco. org/data/gps-gnss/derived-products/derived-products.html)	≈ 1GB	Daily GPS displacement time series measurements throughout the United States (http://www.unavco.org/projects/major-projects/pbo/pbo.html). This data set uses a download data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. grace	Dictionary of Data Frames	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (ftp: //podaac-ftp.jpl. nasa.gov/allData/ tellus/L3/land_mass/ RL05/netcdf)	≈ 0.1GB	GRACE Tellus Monthly Mass Grids. 30-day measurements of changes in Earth's gravity field to quantify equivalent water thickness (https://grace.jpl.nasa.gov/data/get-data/monthly-mass-grids-land/). This data set uses a download data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. gldas	Dictionary of Data Frames	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (ftp: //podaac-ftp.jpl. nasa.gov/allData/ tellus/L3/gldas_ monthly/netcdf)	$\approx 0.1 \text{GB}$	Land hydrology model produced by NASA. This version of the data is generated to match the GRACE temporal and spatial characteristics and is available as a complementary data product (https://grace.jpl.nasa.gov/data/get-data/land-water-content/). This data set uses a download data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. modis	Dictionary of Numpy arrays	NASA MODIS (https: //ladsweb.modaps. eosdis.nasa.gov/ tools-and-services/)	≈ 100MB /image	Spectroradiometer aboard the NASA Terra and Aqua satellites that generates approximately daily images of the Earth's surface (https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/). This data set uses a cache and stream data fetcher.

skdaccess. geo. magnetometer	Dictionary of Data Frames	USGS National Geo- magnetism Program (https://geomag. usgs.gov/products/ downloads.php)	≈ 1GB	Measurement of Earth's magnetic field from the USGS geomagnetism program (https://geomag.usgs.gov/). This data set uses a stream data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. mahali .rinex	List of rinex file paths	MIT-Haystack Observa- tory (http://apollo. haystack.mit.edu/ mahali-data/)	≈ 10GB	Rinex files from the MIT led NSF project studying the Earth's ionosphere with GPS (http://mahali.mit.edu). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. mahali .tec	Dictionary of Data Frames	MIT-Haystack Observa- tory (http://apollo. haystack.mit.edu/ mahali-data/)	≈ 1GB	TEC measurements from the MIT led NSF project studying the Earth's ionosphere with GPS (http://mahali.mit.edu). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. mahali .temperature	Dictionary of Data Frames	MIT-Haystack Observa- tory (http://apollo. haystack.mit.edu/ mahali-data/)	≈ 0.1GB	Temperature measurements from the MIT led NSF project studying the Earth's ionosphere with GPS (http://mahali.mit.edu). This data set uses a stream data fetcher.
skdaccess. solar. sdo	Dictionary of Numpy arrays	Solar Dynamics Observatory (https://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/assets/img/browse/) and the Joint Science Operations Center (http://jsoc2.stanford.edu/data/aia/synoptic/	Data product depen- dent	Images from the Solar Dynamics Observatory (https://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov). This data set uses a stream data fetcher.

3 Installation and Modes of Operation

The package can easily installed by using the standard Python "pip install" command:

```
> pip install scikit-dataaccess
```

After successful installation, a script called "skdaccess" allows users to specify the data sets that should be downloaded from their original sources to the local machine. The PBO, GRACE and groundwater data sets must be downloaded using this script before they can be used. For example, to download the PBO data use:

```
> skdaccess pbo
```

The script also completes all necessary configurations to make the data access seamlessly available in the Python environment.

3.1 Modes of Operation

There are three modes of operation available for accessing the data through the skdaccess package. The two local options are "Download" and "Cache". Using the "Download" option, the dataset is downloaded to local disk before use. The "Cache" option allows for data of interest to be downloaded during use and stored in case of future use. The online option is "Stream", which accesses the data without storing a local copy.

3.2 The Skdaccess Script

This script downloads scientific data sets from preconfigured Web sources, makes them available offline on the users machine, and configures the Python environment for data access.

For the following data sets, the skdaccess script must be used to download and prepare the data.

- GPS data from the Plate Boundary Observatory
- Depth to groundwater for wells in California
- Equivalent water thickness from GRACE Tellus Monthly Land Grids
- Equivalent water thickness from GLDAS

The skdaccess script does not download Kepler data, as the data is downloaded for each star individually the first time the star is accessed by the data fetcher.

To download a dataset, use the command with the dataset name as the argument. For example, to download groundwater data available from California type

```
> skdaccess groundwater
```

The data will be downloaded into the current directory, and the .skdaccess config file located in the users home directory will be updated. Each data set can be downloaded into different directories depending on the user preferences.

To list all supported data sets, call

```
> skdaccess -l
This utility can install one of the following data sets:

    PBO - Plate Boundary Observatory GPS Time Series
    GRACE - Monthly Mass Grids
    GLDAS - Monthly estimates from GDLAS model in same resolution as GRACE
    Groundwater - Ground water daily values from across the US
```

Calling the script without any arguments provides a list of available commands as shown below.

```
> skdaccess
usage: skdaccess [-h] [-l] [-i LOCAL_DATA] [-c] [data_set]
The Sci-kit Data Access (skdaccess) package is a tool for integrating various
scientific data sets into the Python environment using a common interface.
This script can download different scientific data sets for offline analysis.
positional arguments:
  data set
                        Name of data set
optional arguments:
  -h, --help
                       show this help message and exit
  -l, --list
                       List data sets
  -i LOCAL_DATA, --input LOCAL_DATA
                       Use LOCAL_DATA that has already been downloaded
  -c, --check
                       Print data location for data set
```

4 Scientific Data Access in Python

Data is retrieved in a Python program via a DataFetcher object. Each data set has its own data fetcher. There are two ways of handling the data: (1) directly accessing the data structure created by the DataFetcher, or (2) through an iterator interface provided by a data wrapper.

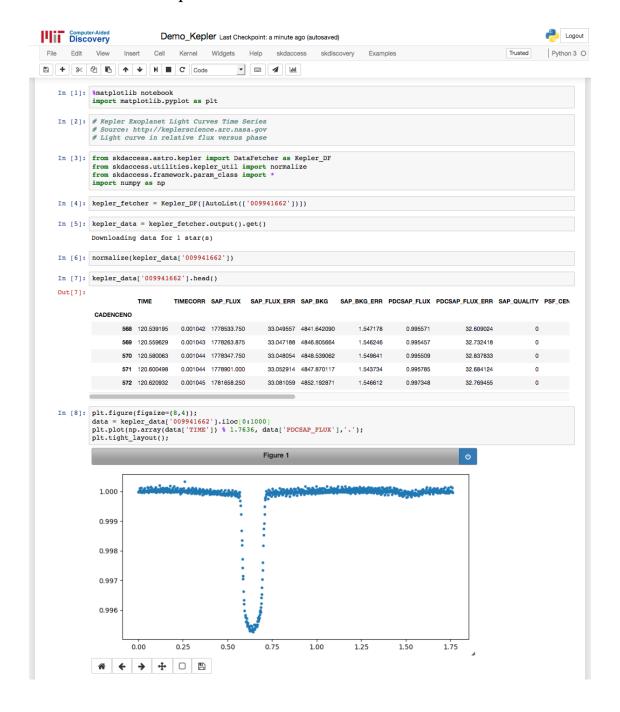
Data Access Example:

```
# First import the data generator for water
# Note: This assumes the groundwater data has been downloaded
from skdaccess.geo.groundwater import DataFetcher as waterDF
# Create a data fetcher and get the data wrapper:
fullDF = waterDF(start_date='2007-01-01', end_date='2011-01-01')
wdata = fullDG.output().get()
```

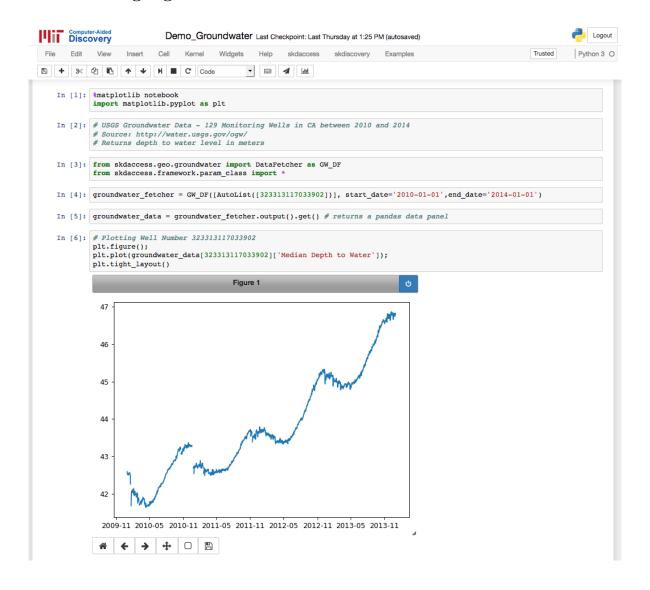
5 Usage Examples

The following examples show how to use the data fetcher for the data sets described earlier and displaying / plotting the data. These notebooks can be accessed at https://github.com/MITHaystack/scikit-dataaccess/tree/master/skdaccess/examples.

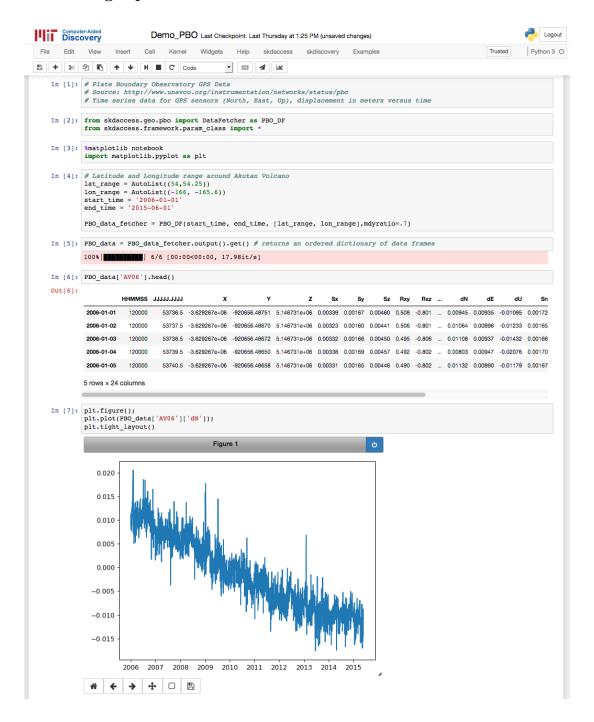
5.1 skdaccess.astro.kepler



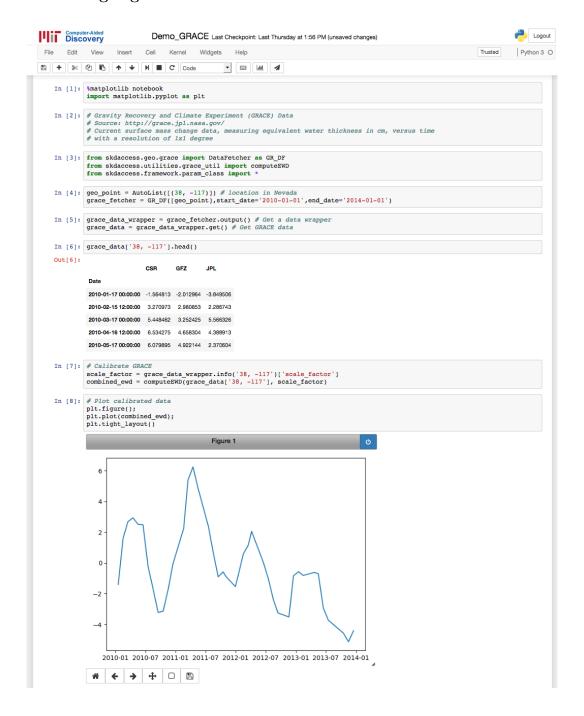
5.2 skdaccess.geo.groundwater



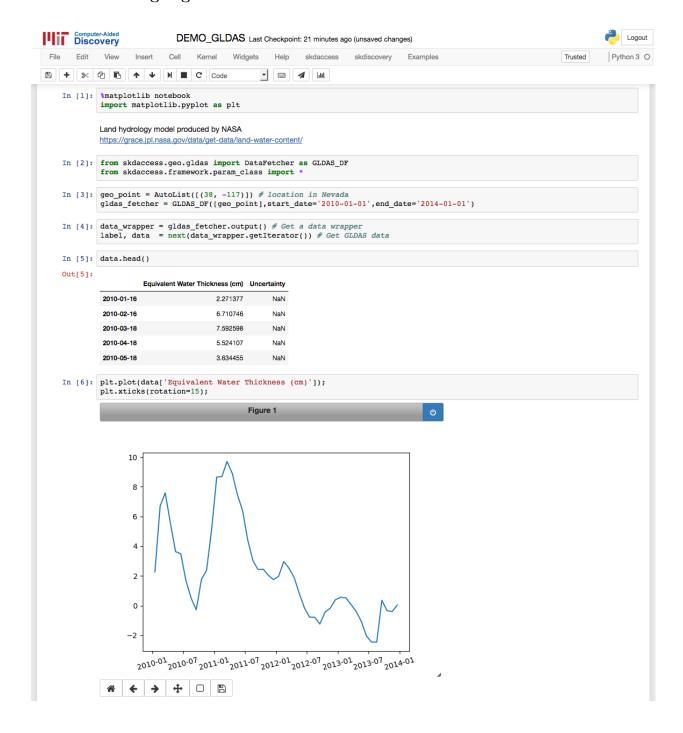
5.3 skdaccess.geo.pbo



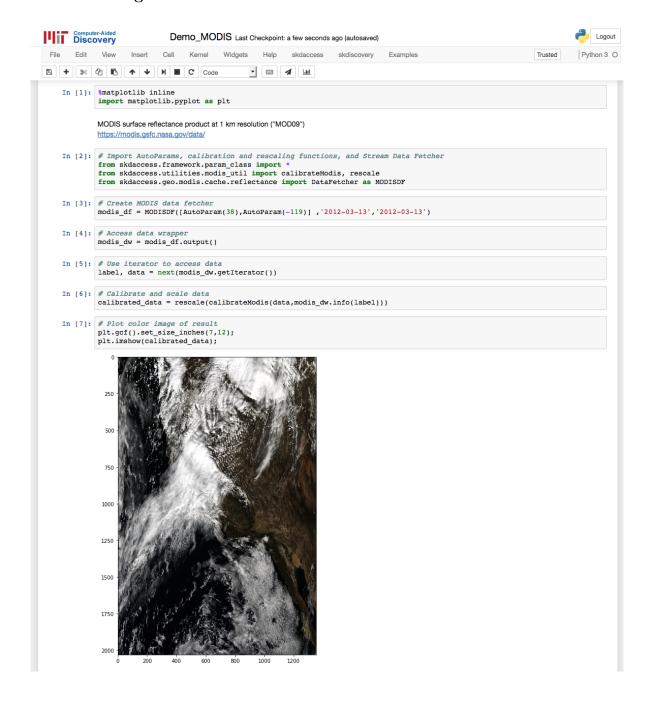
5.4 skdaccess.geo.grace



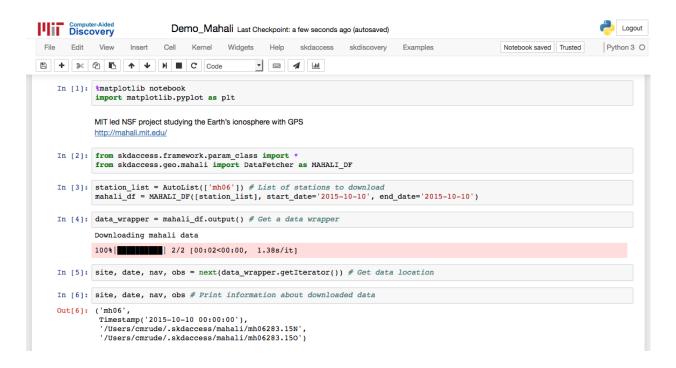
5.5 skdaccess.geo.gldas



5.6 skdaccess.geo.modis.cache.reflectance



5.7 skdaccess.geo.mahali



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