

Skdaccess: The **Scikit Data Access** Python Package

Quick Start Guide

v1.9.14 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 struc- ture	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/)	$\approx 0.1 \text{GB}$	Data from the Voyager mission (https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess. geo. era_interim	XArray Dataset	The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds627.0/)	≈??TB	Atmospheric weather information from the ERA-Interim project at various pressure levels (https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/datasets/archive-datasets/reanalysis-datasets/era-interim). This data set uses a cache 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)	≈ 0.1GB	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. 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. grace. mascon	Dictionary of Data Frames	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (ftp://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/allData/tellus/L3/mascon/RL05/JPL/CRI/netcdf)	≈ 1GB	GRACE Tellus Monthly Mass Grids - Global Mascons. 30-day mea- surements of changes in Earth's gravity field to quantify equiv- alent water thickness (https: //grace.jpl.nasa.gov/data/ get-data/jpl_global_mascons). This data set uses a download data fetcher.

skdaccess.	Dictionary	USGS National Wa-	≈ 1GB	United States groundwater monitor-
geo.	of Data	ter Information		ing wells measuring the depth to wa-
groundwater	Frames	System (https:		ter level (https://waterservices.
		//waterservices.		usgs.gov/). This data set uses a
		usgs.gov/rest/		download data fetcher.
		DV-Service.html)		
skdaccess.	Dictionary	USGS National Geo-	$\approx 1 \text{GB}$	Measurement of Earth's magnetic field
geo.	of Data	magnetism Program		from the USGS geomagnetism program
magnetometer	Frames	(https://geomag.		(https://geomag.usgs.gov/).
		usgs.gov/products/		This data set uses a stream data
1 1	T	downloads.php)	1000	fetcher.
skdaccess.	List of	MIT-Haystack Observa-	$\approx 10 \text{GB}$	Rinex files from the MIT led NSF
geo.	rinex file	tory (http://apollo.		project studying the Earth's iono-
mahali. rinex	paths	haystack.mit.edu/		sphere with GPS (http://mahali. mit.edu). This data set uses a cache
rinex		mahali-data/)		data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	MIT-Haystack Observa-	≈ 1GB	TEC measurements from the MIT led
geo.	of Data	tory (http://apollo.	.0101	NSF project studying the Earth's iono-
mahali.	Frames	haystack.mit.edu/		sphere with GPS (http://mahali.
tec	Traines	mahali-data/)		mit.edu). This data set uses a cache
		,		data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	MIT-Haystack Observa-	$\approx 0.1 \text{GB}$	Temperature measurements from the
geo.	of Data	tory (http://apollo.		MIT led NSF project studying the
mahali.	Frames	haystack.mit.edu/		Earth's ionosphere with GPS (http:
temperature		mahali-data/)		//mahali.mit.edu). This data set
				uses a stream data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	NASA MODIS (https:	$\approx 100 MB$	Spectroradiometer aboard the NASA
geo.	of Numpy	//ladsweb.modaps.	/image	Terra and Aqua satellites that gen-
modis	arrays	eosdis.nasa.gov/		erates approximately daily images of
		tools-and-services/)		the Earth's surface (https://modis.
				gsfc.nasa.gov/). This data set uses
1 1	D: .:	LIMANGO DI L. D. I	1.00	a cache and stream data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary of Data	UNAVCO Plate Bound-	$\approx 1 \text{GB}$	Daily GPS displacement time series measurements through-
geo. pbo	Frames	ary Observatory (ftp: //data-out.unavco.		series measurements throughout the United States (http:
pbo	Frames	org/pub/products/		//www.unavco.org/projects/
		position/pbo.nam08.		major-projects/pbo/pbo.html).
		pos.tar.gz and		This data set uses a download data
		https://www.unavco.		fetcher.
		org/data/gps-gnss/		
		derived-products/		
		derived-products.		
		html)		
skdaccess.	Dictionary	Alaska Satellite	≈	Synthetic Aperture Radar data from
geo.	of Numpy	Facility (https:	1-10GB	the Sentinel 1 satellites operated
sentinel_1	arrays	//www.asf.alaska.	/ image	by the European Space Agency
		edu/sentinel/)		(https://www.esa.int/Our_
				Activities/Observing_the_
				Earth/Copernicus/Sentinel-1). This data set uses a cache data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	United States Ge-	≈ 100GB	Digital elevation data from the Shuttle
geo.	Dictionary of Numpy	ological States Ge-	~ 100GD	Radar Topography Mission (https://
srtm	arrays	(https://e4ftl01.cr.		www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/). This
	3110,5	usgs.gov/MEASURES/)		data set uses a cache data fetcher.
1	l .	~~go.gov/::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		data see ases a caerre data reterrer.

skdaccess.	Dictionary	NASA Jet Propulsion	Data	Synthetic Aperture Radar Single Look
geo.	of Numpy	Laboratory (https:	product	Complex data from the Uninhab-
uavsar	arrays	//uavsar.jpl.nasa.	depen-	ited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture
		<pre>gov/cgi-bin/data.pl)</pre>	dent	Radar (https://uavsar.jpl.nasa.
				gov/). This data set uses a cache data
				fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	University of Wyoming	$\approx 10 \text{GB}$	Sounding data from The University of
geo.	of Data	(http://weather.		Wyoming (http://weather.uwyo.
wyoming	Frames	uwyo.edu/upperair/		edu/upperair/sounding.html).
sounding		sounding.html)		This data set has a cache and stream
				data fetcher.
skdaccess.	Dictionary	Orbital Data Explorer	Data	Planetary data from PDS Geo-
planetary.	of Numpy	at the University of	product	sciences Node's Orbital Data Explorer
ode	arrays	Washington in St. Louis	depen-	(http://pds-geosciences.wustl.
		(http://oderest.rsl.	dent	edu/default.htm). This data set
		wustl.edu)		uses a cache data fetcher
skdaccess.	Dictionary	Solar Dynamics Ob-	Data	Images from the Solar Dy-
solar.	of Numpy	servatory (https:	product	namics Observatory (https:
sdo	arrays	//sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/	depen-	//sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov). This
		assets/img/browse/)	dent	data set uses a stream data fetcher.
		and the Joint Science Op-		
		erations Center (http://		
		jsoc2.stanford.edu/		
		data/aia/synoptic/		

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 user's 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 user's 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:

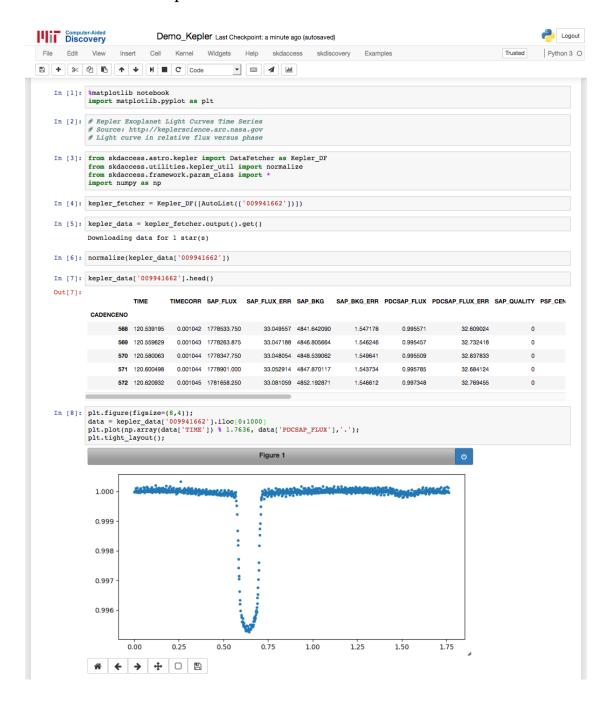
```
# First import the data generator for water
# Note: This assumes the groundwater data has been downloaded
from skdaccess.geo.groundwater import DataFetcher as waterDF

# Create a data fetcher and get the data wrapper:
fullDF = waterDF(start_date='2007-01-01', end_date='2011-01-01')
wdata = fullDF.output().get()
```

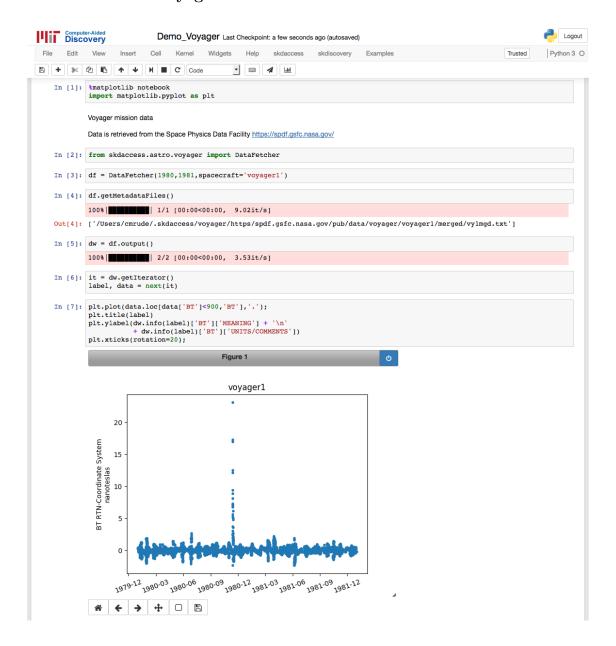
5 Usage Examples

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.

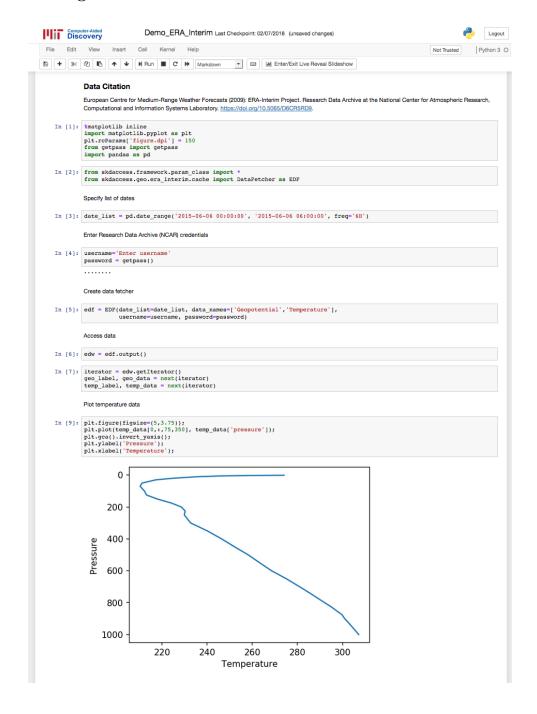
5.1 skdaccess.astro.kepler



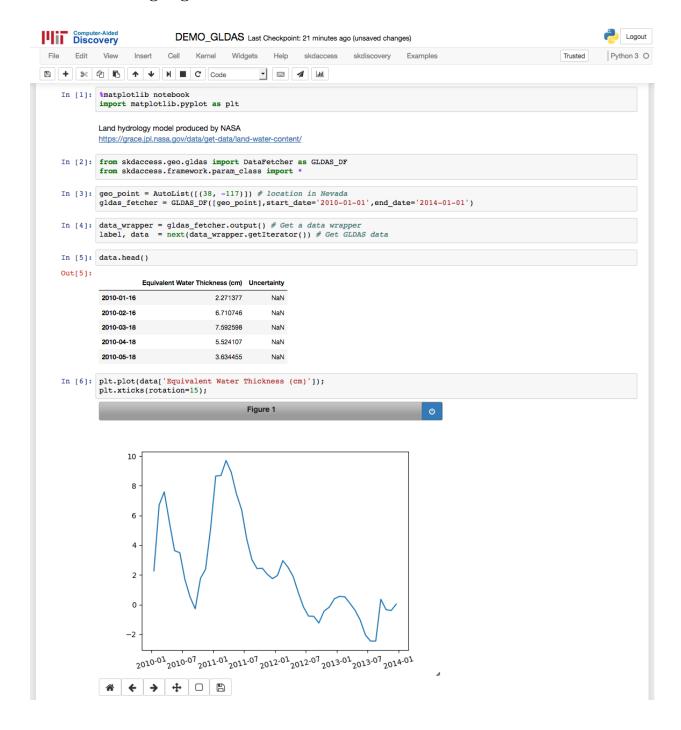
5.2 skdaccess.astro.voyager



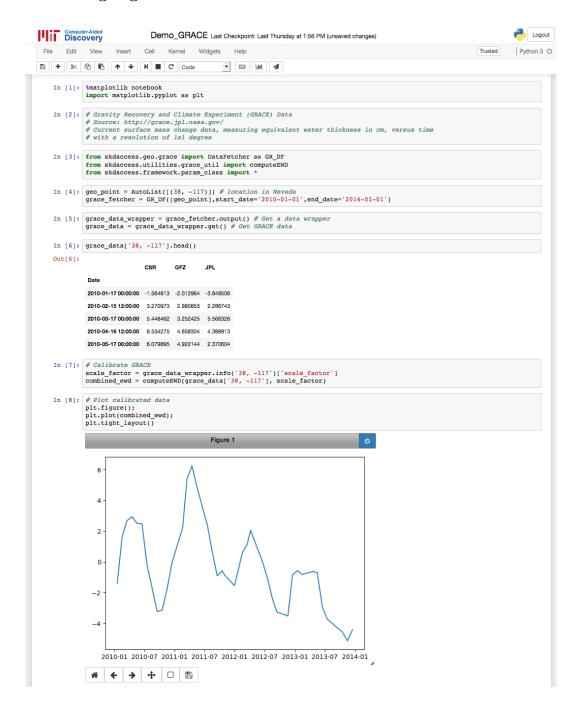
5.3 skdaccess.geo.era_interim



5.4 skdaccess.geo.gldas



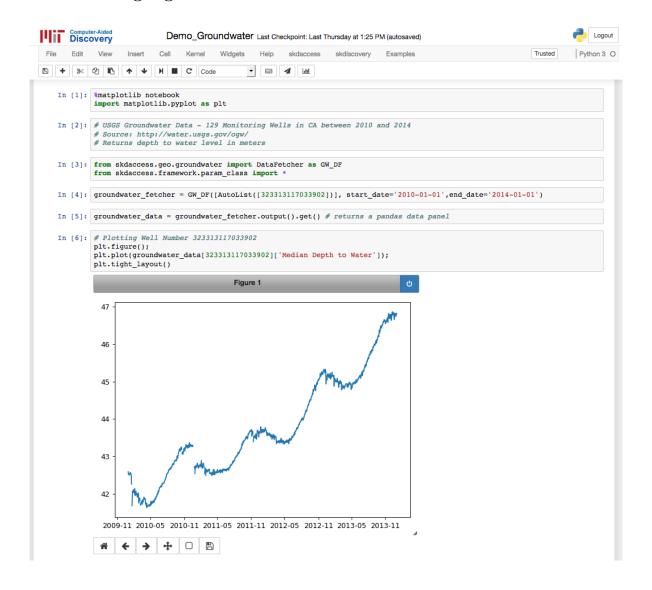
5.5 skdaccess.geo.grace



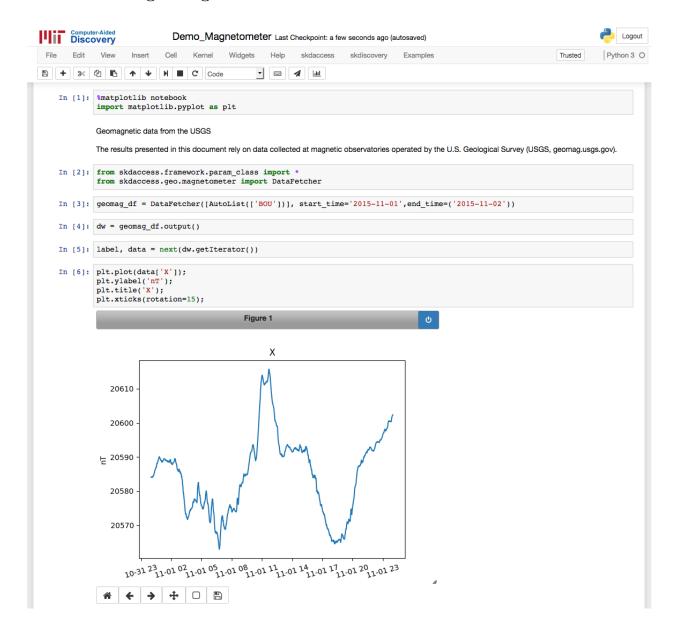
5.6 skdaccess.geo.grace.mascon



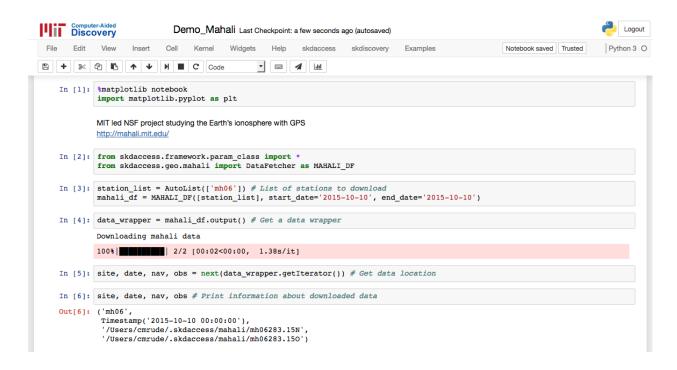
5.7 skdaccess.geo.groundwater



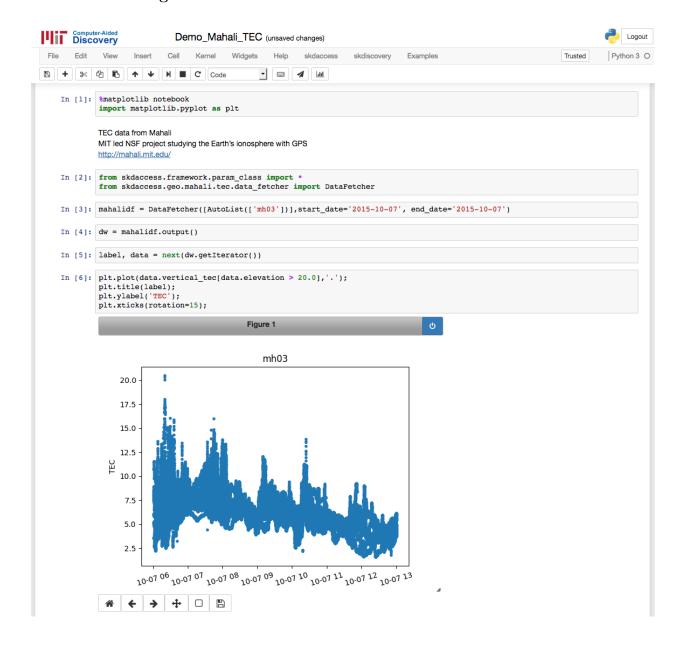
5.8 skdaccess.geo.magnetometer



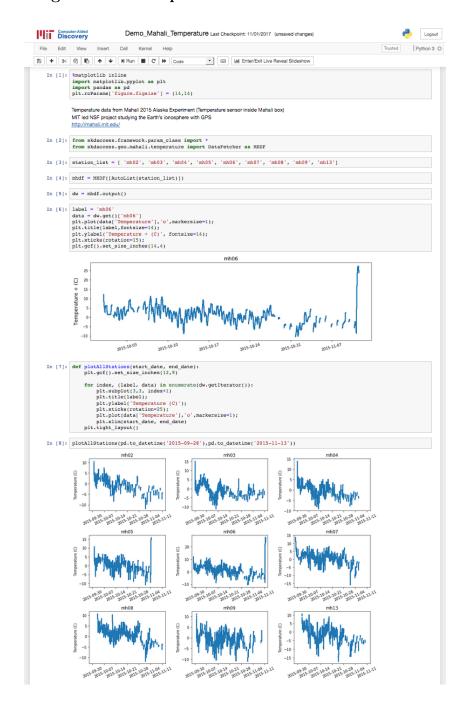
5.9 skdaccess.geo.mahali.rinex



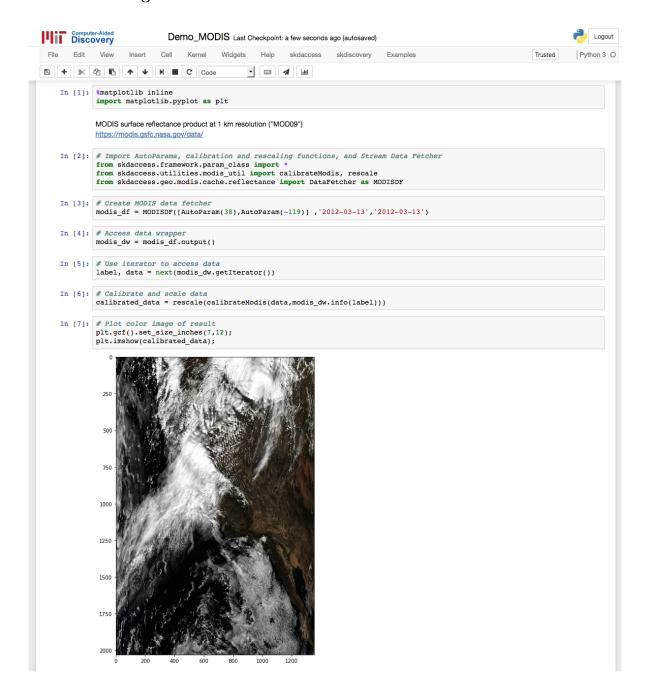
5.10 skdaccess.geo.mahali.tec



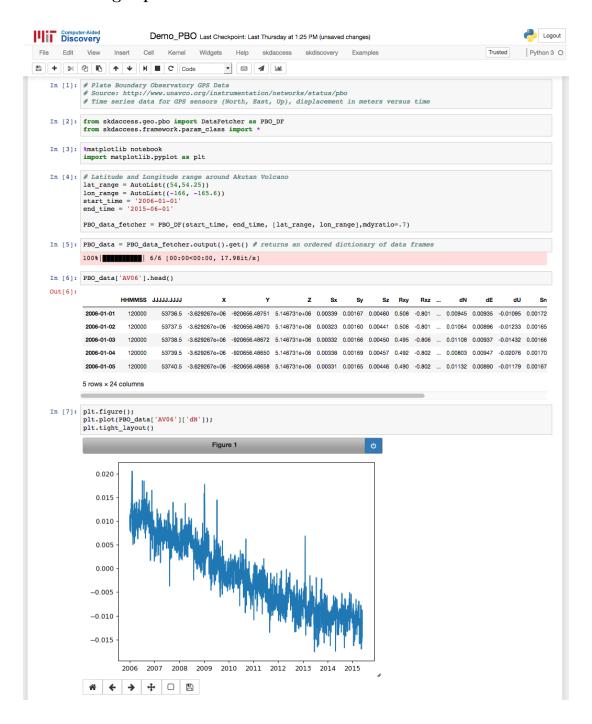
5.11 skdaccess.geo.mahali.temperature



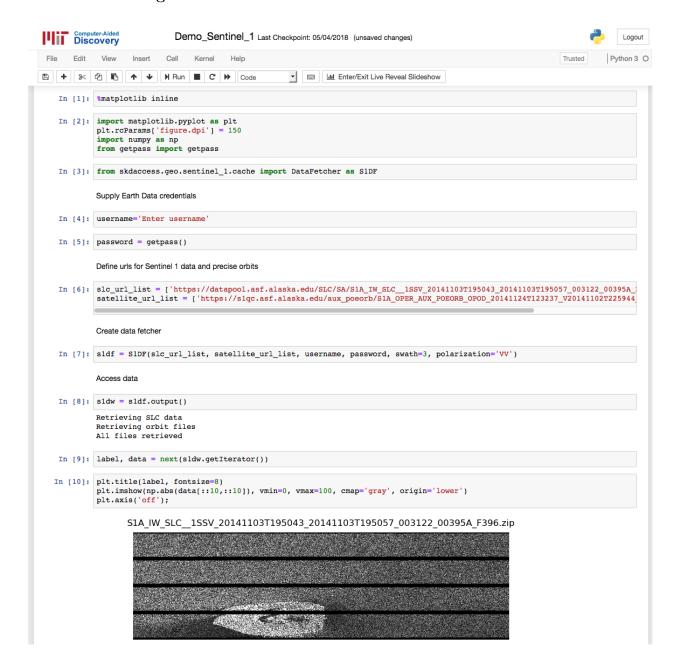
5.12 skdaccess.geo.modis.cache.reflectance



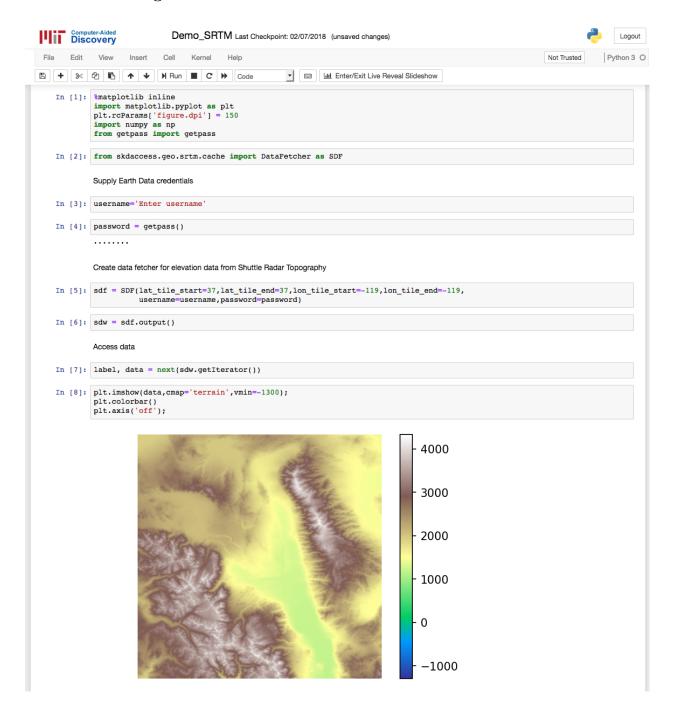
5.13 skdaccess.geo.pbo



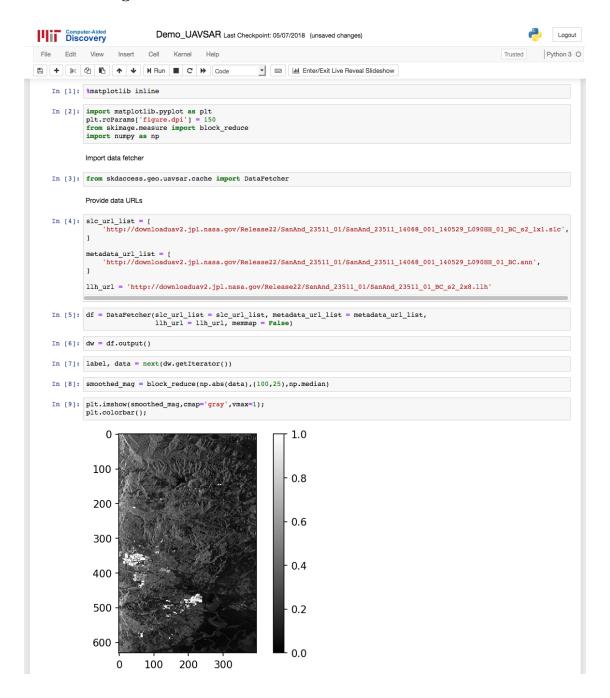
5.14 skdaccess.geo.sentinel_1



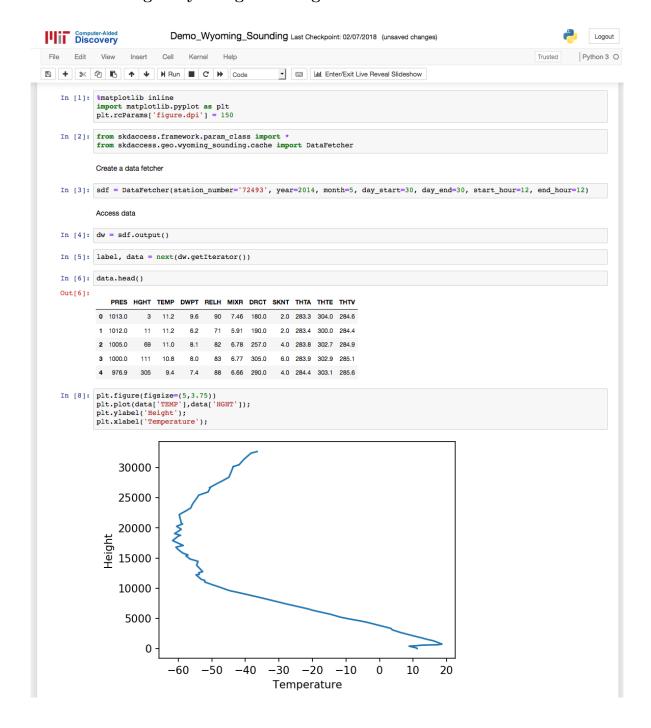
5.15 skdaccess.geo.srtm



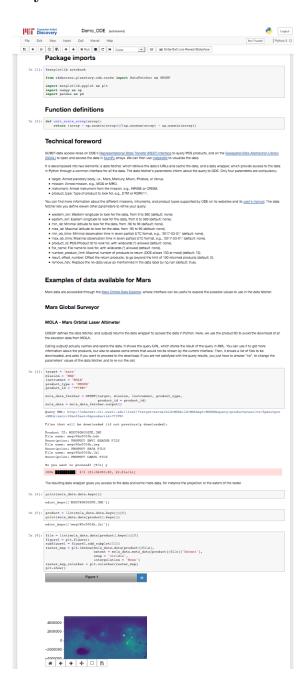
5.16 skdaccess.geo.uavsar



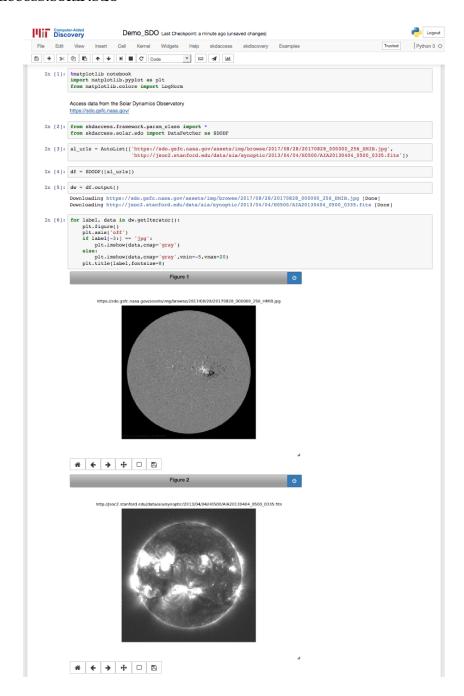
5.17 skdaccess.geo.wyoming_sounding



5.18 skdaccess.planetary.ode



5.19 skdaccess.solar.sdo



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