



NUS Fintech Society

Machine Learning Department
Training Wing

Session 5: Web Scraping (10/10/2020)

Content

- HTML Basics
- Web Scraping



HTML Basics

HTML

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Page Title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>This is a Heading</h1>
    <p>This is a paragraph.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

- The `<!DOCTYPE html>` declaration defines that this document is an HTML5 document

- The `<html>` element is the root element of an HTML page

- The `<head>` element contains meta information about the HTML page

HTML

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Page Title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>This is a Heading</h1>
    <p>This is a paragraph.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

- The `<title>` element specifies a title for the HTML page (which is shown in the browser's title bar or in the page's tab)

- The `<body>` element defines the document's body, and is a container for all the visible contents, such as headings, paragraphs, images, hyperlinks, tables, lists, etc.

- The `<p>` element defines a paragraph

- The `<h1>` element defines a large heading

Commonly Used Tags

`<h1>`

Defines HTML headings

`<p>`

Defines a paragraph

` : `

Unordered list, ordered list, list item

`<table>:<tr>:<td>`

Defines a table, row in table, cell in table

`<div>`

Defines a section in a document

``

`<div>This a large main division, with a small bit of spanned text!</div>`

Difference between class and id

`<div id = "first"></div>`

ID's are unique

- Each element can have only one ID
- Each page can have only one element with that ID

`<div class = "footer"></div>`

Classes are not unique

- You can use the same class on multiple elements.
- You can use multiple classes on the same element.

Inspect element

The screenshot shows a web browser with search results for 'html tag'. The search results include links to 'html tags list with examples' and 'what is i css'. Below the search results, there is a section titled 'People also ask' with questions like 'What is the tag in HTML?', 'What is HTML tag example?', 'How do you add a tag in HTML?', and 'What are the 4 basic HTML tags?'. The bottom of the search results shows links to 'www.w3schools.com > TAGS' and 'www.w3schools.com > tags > ref_byfunc', both leading to 'HTML Tags Ordered Alphabetically - W3Schools'. The bottom of the search results shows links to 'www.w3schools.com > html > html_elements' and 'HTML Elements - W3Schools', both leading to 'HTML Elements. An HTML element is defined by a start tag, some content, <tagname> ...'.

The Chrome DevTools 'Elements' panel is open, showing the HTML structure of the page. The selected element is a `div` with the following attributes: `id="main"`, `class="y yp">`, and `data-async-context="reviewDialog"`. The `div` contains a `h1` element with the text 'html tag' and a `h2` element with the text 'html tags list with examples'.

The 'Styles' panel on the right shows the default styles for the `h1` element, including `display: block`, `margin: 0`, `padding: 0`, `font-family: arial, sans-serif`, and `font-size: 16px`.

CSS Selectors

Selector	Example	Example description
<u>.class</u>	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"
<u>.class1.class2</u>	.name1.name2	Selects all elements with both <i>name1</i> and <i>name2</i> set within its class attribute
<u>.class1 .class2</u>	.name1 .name2	Selects all elements with <i>name2</i> that is a descendant of an element with <i>name1</i>
<u>#id</u>	#firstname	Selects the element with id="firstname"
<u>*</u>	*	Selects all elements
<u>element</u>	p	Selects all <p> elements
<u>element.class</u>	p.intro	Selects all <p> elements with class="intro"
<u>element,element</u>	div, p	Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements
<u>element element</u>	div p	Selects all <p> elements inside <div> elements
<u>element>element</u>	div > p	Selects all <p> elements where the parent is a <div> element
<u>element+element</u>	div + p	Selects all <p> elements that are placed immediately after <div> elements
<u>element1~element2</u>	p ~ ul	Selects every element that are preceded by a <p> element



Intro to Web Scrapping



Fetching Data from the Web – API

The most commonly used, widely available source of data is the web. Many organisations (profit and non-profit alike) provide tons of data that come in a multitude of formats.

Fetching Data from the Web – API Example

```
import quandl
Df = quandl.get("YAHOO/AAPL")

df.head(5)
```

	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	
Date						
1980-12-12	28.75	28.87	28.75	28.75	2093900.0	
1980-12-15	27.38	27.38	27.25	27.25	785200.0	
1980-12-16	25.37	25.37	25.25	25.25	472000.0	
1980-12-17	25.87	26.00	25.87	25.87	385900.0	
1980-12-18	26.63	26.75	26.63	26.63	327900.0	

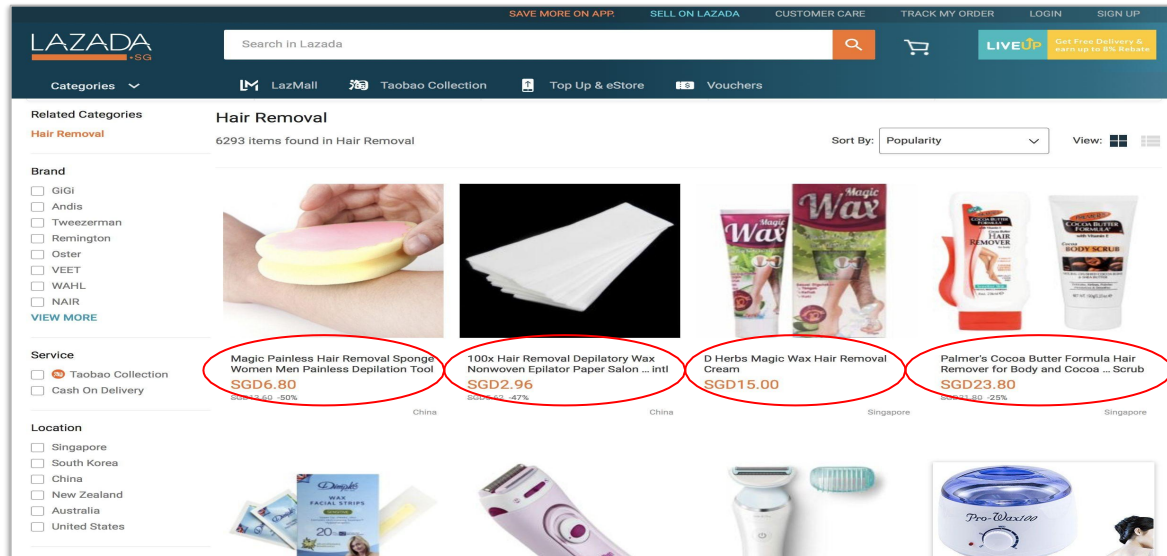
With open source APIs like this, we can easily obtain and play with datasets, even dynamically.

Data providers make our lives extremely easy when they set up clean, user-friendly APIs like this.

But not everybody is so kind!

Fetching Data from the Web – NoAPI?

What if we don't have a nice API / dataset for us to use? The data we want exists on some webpage, but there's no *data.csv* to download?



Beautiful Soup!!





Beautiful Soup

Hugely popular framework for web scraping. It provides very easy-to-use functionality through pythonic, readable, memorable syntax.

<Step 1a> Using BeautifulSoup

Import the 2 required libraries

Import requests

`requests.get(url)`

We need this function in the requests library to retrieve the HTML page into memory, then we can process it.

If you provide this get() function with a url, it fetches the HTML just like how your browser does.

<Step 1b> Using BeautifulSoup

Import the 2 required libraries

Import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

bs4.BeautifulSoup

A BeautifulSoup object -- code written by others -- provides very useful HTML processing functionality.

Processing HTML as one long string is a pain. BeautifulSoup makes the task tremendously easier. You will see why in a bit!

<Step 2> Using BeautifulSoup

Fetch the HTML page using `urlopen`

```
Import requests  
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
```

```
response = requests.get('      ')
```

```
requests.get(url)
```

It takes in a URL (`string`) as an argument, and returns the HTTP response stored in a HTTP object (another special object with useful functionality), containing the HTML. To see this raw HTML, `print(response.text)`.

<Step 3> Using BeautifulSoup

Turn the response into a **BeautifulSoup** object

```
Import requests  
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup  
response = requests.get('    ')  
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text)
```

[bs4.BeautifulSoup\(x, ...\)](#)

*x can be a **HTML** string, or a **file-like object** such as `response` in this case.*

<Step 4> Using BeautifulSoup

Look for the **tags** you want from the html page, and ask your soup for it.

```
Import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
response = requests.get('    ')
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text)
for div in soup.findAll('div'):
    print(div)
```

`bs4.BeautifulSoup.findAll(name, ...)`
*name refers to the name of the HTML tag
you're looking for. In this case, let's use the
div tag as an example.*

<Step 5> Using BeautifulSoup

Process! Extract the relevant data from the `div` variable in the for-loop.

```
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
response = requests.get(' ')
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text)
data = []
for div in soup.findAll('div'):
    data.append(div.text)
```

This gets me ALL the *div* tags' *texts*. But what if I want *divs* with only a specific **class**? How do I filter the search?

<Step 5> Using BeautifulSoup

If I want to narrow down the search to just div tags with a class “a”,

```
Import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
response = requests.get(' ')
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text)
data = []
for div in soup.findAll('div', attrs={'class': 'a'}):
    data.append(div.text)
```

bs4.BeautifulSoup.findAll(name, attrs)

The **attrs** parameter takes in a dictionary of {attribute: value}. In this case, we specify that we want div tags with the class attribute as 'a'.

<Step 6> Using BeautifulSoup

Etc etc etc...

```
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
response = requests.get(' ')
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text)
data = []
for div in soup.findAll('div', attrs={'class': 'a'}):
    data.append(div.text)
```

#Process `data`...



Activity Time!

Activity Time!

- You will now be split into breakout rooms of 4-5 people! This discussion session will last for about 20 minutes.
 - These questions are based on <https://www.testpapersfree.com/>
 - The files should be downloaded through web scraping (code) only.
 - The code is only allowed to start at the link above, and not sublinks.
 - Each group will send a representative to answer these questions:
1. Download *P2-Chinese-2014-SA2-Tao-Nan.pdf* (Difficulty: Easy, Hint: It is one of the pdfs available on the main website)
 2. Download *P6_Maths_SA2_2018_Raffles_Exam_Paper.pdf* (Difficulty: Challenging)



THANKS!

And much thanks to these ppl :D

- Hackwagon
- https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css_selectors.asp