

The tip of the iceberg

MOD510: Mandatory project 1

Deadline: 11. September 2022 (23:59)

Aug 28, 2022

Learning objectives. By completing this project, the student will:

- Get experience in structuring and writing a report.
- Write new functions and classes in Python.
- Explore numerical round-off and truncation errors.
- Be introduced to useful Python libraries for scientific computing.

Abstract

Because computers have finite memory, numerical errors must always be taken into account when doing calculations, especially when working with floating-point numbers [2]. In the first parts of this project we investigate round-off errors and truncation errors using the Python programming language, and we discuss how different implementation strategies affect code efficiency and code clarity. In particular, we show how coding with classes can simplify the implementation of numerical algorithms. Finally, we highlight the power of available Python libraries to quickly visualize and manipulate large data sets. To this end, we look at how ice melting in Antarctica could affect sea level rise [1].

Remember to take a look in the Appendix for some tips, and read the guidelines for project submission at the end!

1 Exercise 1: Finite-precision arithmetic

Part 1. Run the following code snippet:

```
import sys  
sys.float_info
```

- Explain the meaning of the printed-out numbers.

Hint: Read the lecture material on the IEEE Standard for floating-point arithmetic.

Part 2.

- Show how you can calculate the printed-out values `max`, `min`, `epsilon` yourself (again, based on the IEEE standard).

Part 3. In Python, typing `0.1+0.2` does not (typically) produce the same output as `0.3`.

- Why not?

Part 4.

- Should you use the `==`-operator to test whether two floating-point numbers are equal?
- Why / why not? Can you think of alternative ways to do floating-point number comparison?

2 Exercise 2: Get up to speed with NumPy

The purpose of this exercise is to learn a little bit about NumPy¹, which is an incredibly useful Python library. A major reason for its popularity is efficiency: doing computations with NumPy arrays (objects of the type `ndarray`) instead of using native Python lists can, by itself, speed up a program by several orders of magnitude! The mechanism for speed-up is vectorized computation².

Vectorized functions.

Using NumPy arrays allows you to create vectorized functions; functions that operate on a whole array at once, rather than looping over the elements one-by-one inside a custom written loop.

The way vectorization works behind the scenes is still via loops (optimized, pre-compiled C code), but as Python programmer you do not need to worry about the details.

Part 1. The following code block gives an example of a vectorized function:

```
x = np.linspace(0, 1, 10)
np.exp(x) # Apply f(t)=exp(t) to each element in the array x.
np.exp(-x) # Apply the function f(t)=exp(-t) to each element of x.
```

¹<https://numpy.org/>

²<https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/python-for-data/9781449323592/ch04.html>

Notice the usage of `np.exp` instead of using the exponential function provided in the built-in `math`³ library; this is an example of a universal function⁴.

- Create a native Python list of the same size as `x` and holding the same values. Apply the same two function calls to the list. Explain what happens.
- How would you generally evaluate a function on all elements of a native Python list? (as opposed to a NumPy array)

Part 2. As already hinted at, the NumPy library comes with a plethora of useful features and functions. The code snippets below show some examples:

```
np.zeros(20)
```

```
np.ones(20)
```

```
np.linspace(0, 10, 11)
```

```
np.linspace(0, 10, 11, endpoint=False)
```

```
vector = np.arange(5) + 1  
2*vector
```

- Explain what each line of code does.
- How would you produce the same output using native Python lists?

Part 3. Frequently you will want to extract a subset of values from an array based on some kind of criterion. For example, you might want to count the number of non-zero numbers, or identify all values exceeding a certain threshold. With NumPy, such tasks are easily achieved using boolean masking⁵, e.g.:

```
array_of_numbers = np.array([4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42])  
nnz = np.count_nonzero(array_of_numbers)  
print(f'There are {nnz} non-zero numbers in the array.')  
is_even = (array_of_numbers % 2 == 0)  
is_greater_than_17 = (array_of_numbers > 17)  
is_even_and_greater_than_17 = is_even & is_greater_than_17
```

³<https://docs.python.org/3/library/math.html>

⁴<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/ufuncs.html>

⁵<https://jakevdp.github.io/PythonDataScienceHandbook/02.06-boolean-arrays-and-masks.html>

However, neither of the following codes lines will execute:

```
is_even_and_greater_than_17 = is_even and is_greater_than_17
print(array_of_numbers % 2 == 0 & array_of_numbers > 17)
```

- Explain why this code fails.

Part 4. The function `np.where`⁶ can also be used to select elements from an array.

- Explain the output of the following two lines of code:

```
np.where(array_of_numbers > 17) [0]
```

```
np.where(array_of_numbers > 17, 1, 0)
```

3 Exercise 3, Part I: Finite Differences (FD) with Functions

In scientific computing one often needs to calculate derivatives of functions. For problems encountered in practice, exact formulas may not be available, in which case numerical estimates are needed. However, to evaluate the correctness of our programmed numerical methods, it is still a very good idea to test the code on simple functions where the derivative is known.

In this exercise, we consider a function that is relevant for describing wave phenomena:

$$f(x) = \sin(bx) \cdot e^{-ax^2} \quad (1)$$

One way to implement the function in Python⁷ is:

```
def f(x, a=0.1, b=10):
    return np.sin(b*x)*np.exp(-a*x*x)
```

We have chosen to define `a` and `b` as *default arguments*, which allows us to evaluate the function at $x = 1$ by simply typing `f(1)`; this is equivalent to the command `f(1, 0.1, 10)`. If you want to change the `b` parameter, you can do, e.g., `f(1, b=2)`. Note also that the function works both when `x` is a single number *and* when it is a Numpy array. This is because we use the Numpy versions of the sine (`np.sin`) and exponential (`np.exp`) functions.

⁶<https://numpy.org/doc/stable/reference/generated/numpy.where.html>

⁷<https://realpython.com/defining-your-own-python-function/>

Python functions are first-class!

An important feature of Python is that functions are first-class objects^a, meaning that you can assign them to variables, you can store them inside various containers and data structures, they can be passed as input arguments to other functions, and they may be return values of other functions.

^ahttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First-class_function

We will exploit this property of Python several times during this project.

Part 1. It is always a good idea to start by visualizing the function in a plot.

- Make a Python function that plots $f(x)$ from equation (1) over an arbitrary closed interval.
- Use the function to plot $f(x)$ in the range $[-10, 10]$. Try to make your figure similar to the one shown in figure 1

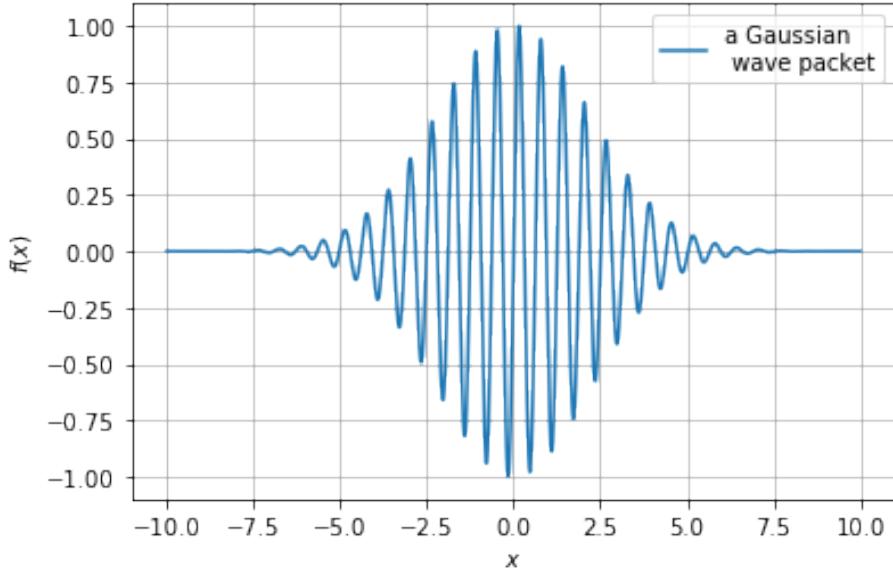


Figure 1: A plot of $f(x)$.

Part 2. The analytical derivative of $f(x)$ is

$$f'(x) = b \cos(bx) \cdot e^{-ax^2} - 2ax \sin(bx) \cdot e^{-ax^2} \quad (2)$$

- Write a Python function that calculates the derivative defined in equation (2) (*not* the numerical derivative)

Part 3. Next, you are going to write a Python function that calculates the numerical derivative of an *arbitrary* single-variable function f at a point x using finite differences.

- Write a Python function that calculates the derivative of an arbitrary function using the *forward difference* method (see section 3.3 in [3]).
- Apply your function to the particular case of equation (1) and $x = 1$. Use a suitable value of h , e.g. $h = 1e - 2$, and check that your estimate agrees reasonably well with the *analytical solution*.

Hint: Check out some tips in Appendix A, we would recommend to use the args⁸ possibility in Python to write a numerical derivative function. See also section 1.3.4 in [3].

Part 4.

- Write another Python function that calculates $f'(x)$ with the *central difference* method (see section 3.4 in [3]).

Part 5. Next, we wish to quantify the error in our numerical derivative approximations for the point $x = 1$.

- For each of the two derivative approximations to $f'(1)$ (forward difference and central difference), make a scatter plot that shows the *absolute error* of the approximation on the y -axis versus the step size, h , on the x -axis. Include both error curves in the same figure. The step sizes should be varied logarithmically between $h = 10^{-16}$ and $h = 10^0 = 1$.
- Comment on what you observe in the figure you made. When is the numerical error smallest, and why? Is it what you expect from a theoretical analysis using Taylor's formula?

⁸<https://realpython.com/python-kwargs-and-args/>

4 Exercise 3, Part II: FD with Classes

Implementing numerical algorithms with free functions, as we did in the previous exercise, is perfectly fine, and you can complete MOD510 by only coding in this way. However, experience has taught us that it is easy to introduce unnecessary errors when using this approach. In many cases you are better off by also using classes, and maybe object-oriented design⁹. In this exercise, you will get some practice in coding with classes. This knowledge will come in handy in later projects, and in any case it is a good tool to have in your programming toolkit.

Previously, we worked with a function having two input parameters, *a* and *b*. Implementing numerical algorithms using free functions was then simple. However, in a more complicated situation there could be dozens, or even hundreds, of parameters to keep track of. Most of these parameters might have fixed values, but frequently you will want to re-run a model with slightly different parameters than before. If you are not using classes, it is very easy to use the wrong parameters. This is especially true when working in a Jupyter notebook, because then it is possible to run code blocks in any order. If you forget to execute a cell that is responsible for updating one of your variables, your subsequent calculations might use incorrect input, and thus end up being wrong!

Key take-away: Classes provide encapsulation.

By wrapping parts of your code into classes, and particular realizations of classes (objects), you facilitate code re-use, and it can make your code easier to understand and work with, thus reducing the probability of introducing bugs which may be hard to track down.

4.1 A Crash Course on Classes

To get started, there are really only a couple of things you need to know. First, all of your classes should include a special function called `__init__`, in which you declare the variables (attributes) you wish an instance / object of the class to keep track of.

Second, when setting, updating, or fetching attributes stored within the class, you should always use the prefix `self`, followed by a dot. Furthermore, the functions you define inside the class should have `self` as the first function argument (there are exceptions¹⁰, but we will not consider that in this project). All of this is best understood via an example:

```
class WavePacket:  
    """  
        A class representation of a wave packet-function.  
    """
```

⁹<https://realpython.com/python3-object-oriented-programming/>
¹⁰<https://realpython.com/python3-object-oriented-programming/>

```

def __init__(self, a, b):
    self.a = a
    self.b = b

def f(self, x):
    return np.sin(self.b*x)*np.exp(-self.a*x*x)

def plot(self, x_min=-10, x_max=10, dx=0.01):
    """
    A simple plotting routine for plotting f(x) in some range.
    """
    x = np.arange(x_min, x_max, dx)
    y = self.f(x)
    fig = plt.figure()
    plt.plot(x, y)
    plt.grid()

```

Besides the initialization method and a function that calculates $f(x)$ from equation (1), the class includes a simple plotting routine. A major difference from before is the following: when our function $f(x)$ is defined inside a class, we do not have to pass around a and b as arguments to the function `f`. Instead, we simply access a and b from inside the class itself (using the `self`-prefix).

Below is an example of how to use the class:

```

# Create two WavePacket objects, having their own parameter values
WP1 = WavePacket(0.1, 2) # a=0.1, b=2
WP2 = WavePacket(0.1, 10) # a = 0.1, b=10

# Evaluate the two functions at a specific point
x = 1
print(WP1.f(x))
print(WP2.f(x))

# Plot the two functions
WP1.plot()
WP2.plot()

```

Although we had to write slightly more code, we hope you appreciate how easy this makes running parallel simulations with different parameters. Actually, Python provides a way for us to simplify even further, by defining the special `__call__`¹¹ method for the class:

```

class FancyWavePacket:
    """
    A slightly more fancy class representation of a wave packet-function.

    In this version, we define the dunder (double-underscore) method __call__,
    which lets us treat objects of the class as if they were real functions!

```

¹¹<https://www.realpythonproject.com/python-magic-oop-dunder/>

```

"""
def __init__(self, a, b):
    self.a = a
    self.b = b

def __call__(self, x):
    return np.sin(self.b*x)*np.exp(-self.a*x*x)

```

Compared to the first example of the class, observe that we have replaced the function `f` by `__call__` (with two underscores on both sides of "call"). This way, we can write our code *as if FancyWavePacket was a function*:

```

WP1 = FancyWavePacket(0.1, 2) # a=0.1, b=2
WP2 = FancyWavePacket(0.1, 10) # a = 0.1, b=10

# Evaluate the two functions at a specific point
x = 1
print(WP1(x)) # If WP1 had been a function, the syntax would be the same here!
print(WP2(x)) # Again, we no longer have to type "WP2.f(x)", we can do "WP2(x)".

```

READ THIS BEFORE ANSWERING THE EXERCISES BELOW.

To avoid code duplication, you should only submit a single version of the WavePacket class. In other words, while different exercises will ask you to add a new function to the class, your final delivery should only include the full class which contains all of the functions.

Part 1.

- Add a function (instance method¹²) to the class that returns the forward difference approximation to the derivative of the function `f` at a point `x`. Include both `x` and the step-size `h` as input arguments to the function.
- Add another second function which calculates the central difference approximation.

Part 2.

- Make a third class function that, for any input `x`, creates scatter plots showing the absolute error of the two finite difference approximations of $f'(x)$ versus step size. As before, choose step sizes in the range from 10^{-16} to 1 (with logarithmic spacing).

Hint: You should re-use the first two functions when making the third one.

¹²<https://realpython.com/instance-class-and-static-methods-demystified/>

5 Exercise 4: A song of ice and fire?

There is currently a great deal of concern about global warming. Some critical issues are whether we are more likely to observe extreme local temperatures, increased frequencies of natural disasters like forest fires and droughts, and if there are "tipping points" in the climate system that are, at least on the human timescale, irreversible [4]. One particular question to ask is: How much ice is likely to melt? And, what would be the consequence of ice melting for sea level rise (SLR)?

Since most of the ice on Planet Earth is located in Antarctica, substantial effort has been spent in mapping the ice and the bedrock of this continent. Most of the data is freely available, and we can use them to investigate different scenarios.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU START THIS EXERCISE.

In the last part of this project you are going to work with ice data from the *bedmap2* dataset [1]. The *rockhound*^a library can be used to load the data. As an aid to plotting, you might also want to use color maps from the *cmocean*^b package [6]. Therefore, you should start by making sure that you have both *cmocean* and *rockhound* installed in the Python version that you use. On some platforms it can be a challenge to install *rockhound*, hence we strongly recommend that you to create a fresh conda environment where you install the packages you need. This way, you also minimize the risk that you mess up your existing Python installation(s).

See Appendix B for information on how to do this.

^a<https://github.com/fatiando/rockhound>

^b<https://pypi.org/project/cmocean/>

5.1 Theory

To calculate SLR, we need to know not only how thick the ice is, but also its elevation above the bedrock. In this exercise you will see how we can use Python, together with available data and libraries, to do quite advanced calculations.

Melting of an iceberg. Let us start by deriving a result that you may have seen before. We shall consider an iceberg that is floating and which is not impacted by any other forces than gravity. The total volume of ice in figure 2 is $V_f + V_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{disp}}$, where V_f is the ice volume floating above the sea, and $V_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{disp}}$ is the volume of displaced sea water (submerged ice). According to Newton's 2nd law, the total weight of ice is therefore

$$W = m_{\text{ice}}g = \rho_{\text{ice}}V_{\text{ice}}g = \rho_{\text{ice}}(V_f + V_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{disp}})g, \quad (3)$$

where ρ_{ice} is the density (mass divided by volume), and $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ the gravitational constant. On the other hand, the Archimedean principle tells us

that buoyancy is proportional to *the mass of displaced water*, hence another expression for the same weight is

$$W = \rho_w V_{H_2O}^{\text{disp}} g, \quad (4)$$

where ρ_w is the density of the surrounding sea-water. As the ice melts, it must be turned into an equal mass of liquid ice-water:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\text{ice}} &= m_{\text{ice water}} \\ \rho_{\text{ice}} V_{\text{ice}} &= \rho_{\text{ice water}} V_{\text{ice water}}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

By combining the above equations, we therefore get:

$$V_{H_2O}^{\text{disp}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{ice water}}}{\rho_w} V_{\text{ice water}}. \quad (6)$$

Therefore, the net contribution to SLR is captured by the volume change

$$\Delta V \equiv V_{\text{ice water}} - V_{H_2O}^{\text{disp}} = \left(1 - \frac{\rho_{\text{ice water}}}{\rho_w}\right) V_{\text{ice water}}. \quad (7)$$

If the melted ice has the same density as seawater, it follows that there is *no increase in sea level*. On the other hand, if the density is lower than that of seawater, there is a contribution. Typically, the melting of ice dilutes the salinity of the ocean, which leads to a small increase in sea level [5].

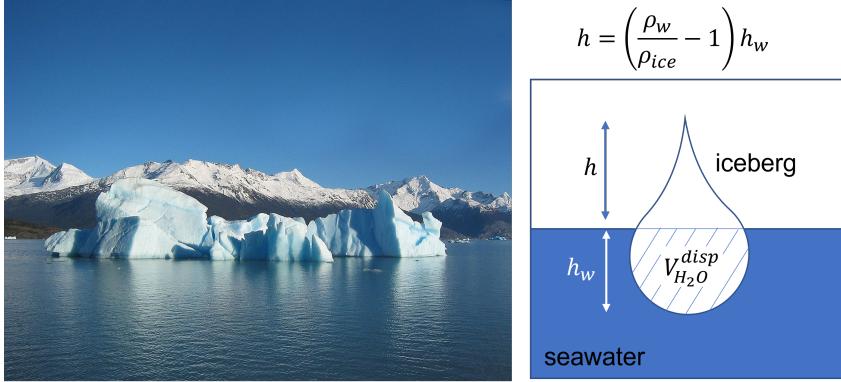


Figure 2: A schematic illustration of an iceberg. $V_{H_2O}^{\text{disp}}$ is the volume of water displaced by the iceberg.

Freeboard. The vast majority of ice in Antarctica is not freely floating. In addition to the salinity effect described above, the main contribution to SLR is from ice located above *hydrostatic equilibrium*. It is useful to introduce the

concept of the *freeboard*, which is the height above seawater of a floating iceberg. Again referring to figure 2, the freeboard height, h , is

$$h = \left(\frac{\rho_w}{\rho_{ice}} - 1 \right) h_w . \quad (8)$$

For the *bedmap2* dataset, the freeboard level can be computed from (figure 3)

$$h = -(\text{surface} - \text{thickness}) \cdot \left(\frac{\rho_w}{\rho_{ice}} - 1 \right) \quad (9)$$

Note that this formula assumes that the bedrock is below sea-level.

Part 1. The code below is taken from the rockhound library documentation¹³:

```
bedmap = rh.fetch_bedmap2(datasets=["thickness", "surface", "bed"])
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 7))
ax = plt.subplot(111)
bedmap.surface.plot.pcolormesh(ax=ax, cmap=cmocean.cm.ice,
                                cbar_kwargs=dict(pad=0.01, aspect=30))
plt.title("Bedmap2 Antarctica")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

- Run the code and reproduce figure 3.

This may take quite some time, so it is recommended that you do not execute the cell generating the plot more often than you have to.

Part 2. The Thwaites glacier, named after Fredrik T. Thwaites, is of particular interest. Also referred to as the Doomsday glacier, it is a fast moving glacier (up to 4 km/year) at the coast of Antarctica, roughly 120 km wide. It is called the Doomsday glacier because it is believed that it may trigger a collapse of west Antarctica¹⁴. We can use the *bedmap2* dataset to view a cross section of the glacier, $y = -0.5 \cdot 10^6$ and $x \in [-1.6 \cdot 10^6, -1.35 \cdot 10^6]$:

```
# Extract cross section using the original coordinates
bed1d = bedmap.sel(y=-0.5e6, x=slice(-1.6e6,-1.35e6))

# Add a second x-coordinate to make prettier plots
# (shift x-axis to start at zero, and convert from m to km)
bed1d = bed1d.assign_coords({"x2":((bed1d.x+1.6e6)/1e3)})
```

It is now possible to plot the values in the `bed1d` data array by simply typing

¹³https://www.fatiando.org/rockhound/latest/api/generated/rockhound.fetch_bedmap2.html
¹⁴<https://interactive.pri.org/2019/05/antarctica/doomed-glacier-race.html>

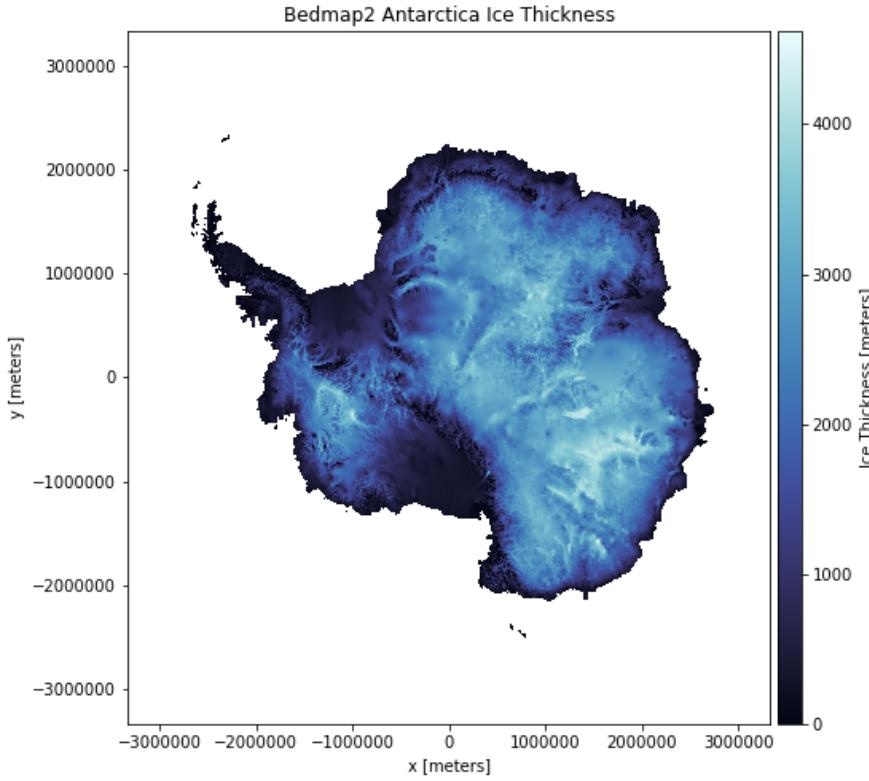


Figure 3: Visualization of the ice thickness in Antarctica.

```
bed1d.surface.plot(x='x2')
```

A note concerning the xarray library.

The *bedmap2* data is stored in data structures provided by the xarray^a package, which is built on top of NumPy^b and pandas^c. While xarray allows you to apply plot commands directly to Datasets^d and DataArrays^e, it might be easier to use the `matplotlib.pyplot` module manually. To this end, you might also want to extract the underlying NumPy arrays containing the data you are interested in. This can easily be done as in the following example: `surface_elevation_values = bed1d['surface'].values`.

^a<http://xarray.pydata.org/en/stable/>

^b<https://numpy.org>

^c<https://pandas.pydata.org>

^d<http://xarray.pydata.org/en/stable/generated/xarray.Dataset.html#xarray.Dataset>

^e<http://xarray.pydata.org/en/stable/generated/xarray.DataArray.html#xarray.DataArray>

- Use equation (9) to calculate the freeboard level.
- Make a cross section plot of the ice thickness, bed rock, and freeboard level, similar to (the right) figure (4)
- Explain what you see. Is the shape of the bedrock important for sea level rise?

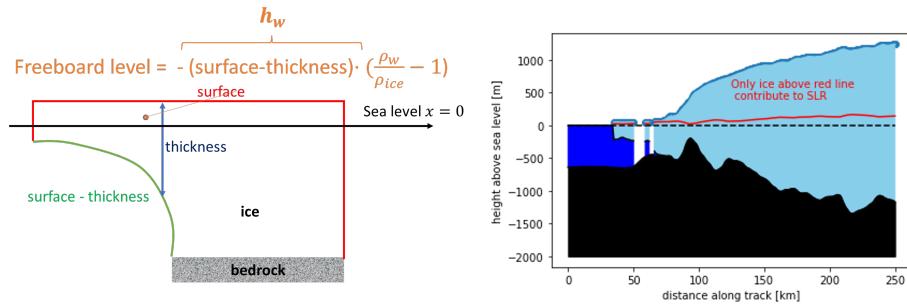


Figure 4: (left) How to calculate the freeboard level. (right) Cross section plot of Thwaites glacier.

Part 3.

- Use the whole data set to estimate the total SLR if all the ice of Antarctica melts.

Hints to get you started:

1. Start by calculating, for each grid cell in the dataset, the height of ice that can contribute to SLR.
2. Multiply the height with the area of each cell (1000×1000 meters) in order to estimate the volume of ice.

Part 4.

- How can we use the bedmap data to improve decision making?
- What are some limitations in your estimated calculation of sea level rise?

Self reflections.

At the end include self reflections. Who did what, what did you learn etc. What will you do better next time. Any critique of the project, suggestions for improvements, and so on.

6 Appendix A: Passing arguments to functions

In this project one of the tasks is to write a function that can calculate the numerical derivative of a function that needs two additional parameters (**a** and **b**) to be evaluated (see equation (1)). Let us first take a look on how the call signature would be if **f** only depends on **x** (i.e. if **a** and **b** was fixed), this is extremely easy: we can simply take **f**, **x**, and **h** (or Δx) (step-size) as input arguments to our derivative function. Assuming it is called `calc_derivative`, it could work something like this:

```
df_x = calc_derivative(f, x=1.0, h=1.0e-3)
```

However, the function in equation (1) depends on two additional input parameters, **a** and **b**. We can of course add these two as extra arguments to the derivative function, but then we would lose generality, for not every function has the same two parameters. One way out of this dilemma could be to create a new function for each combination of **a** and **b** that you use, for example:

```
def one_version_of_f(x):
    """
    The function f(x) = sin(10x) * exp(-0.1x^2).
    """
    return f(x, 0.1, 10.0)

def another_version_of_f(x):
    """
    The function f(x) = sin(3.14x) * exp(-0.5x^2).
    """
    return f(x, 0.5, 3.14)
```

Since both of these example functions have their own values for **a** and **b** hard-coded inside them, we do not need to pass anything extra to `calc_derivative`, that is, we can do:

```
df1_x = calc_derivative(one_version_of_f, x=1.0, h=1.0e-3)
df2_x = calc_derivative(another_version_of_f, x=1.0, h=1.0e-3)
```

Another possibility is to use the `args`¹⁵ mechanism, which lets you pass around a variable number of parameters to a function. An example of how this works is:

¹⁵<https://realpython.com/python-kwarg-and-args/>

```
def calc_derivative(f, x, h, *args):
    return (f(x, *args) - f(x-h, *args))/h
```

If you use this method, you need to pass the values of `a` and `b` to the function that calculates the derivative, e.g.:

```
calc_derivative(f, x=1.0, h=1.0e-3, a=0.1, b=10.0)
calc_derivative(another_version_of_f, x=1.0, h=1.0e-3, a=0.5, b=3.14)
```

7 Appendix B: Package management with `conda`

Package installation in Python can be quite tricky, and it is easy to make mistakes, especially if the packages you wish to use have many dependencies. A good way of avoiding unnecessary installation problems is to work with *virtual environments*; isolated installations of Python on your computer. This allows you to switch between different Python versions depending on the needs of a particular project. We prefer to use the `conda`¹⁶ package manager that follows along with the Anaconda¹⁷ Python distribution.

7.1 Getting `conda` up and running

It is possible to use a graphical user interface (GUI) to work with `conda`, but we will work exclusively from the command line. On Windows, this will probably require some additional setup, to make the relevant file paths available to `cmd.exe`. Alternatively, you can use the Anaconda Prompt that comes with the Anaconda distribution. To get started, it is recommended to check out the official user guide¹⁸, as well as cheat sheets¹⁹ with an overview of the most frequently used commands.

Assuming that you have `conda` installed and available to you from the terminal, typing the following command should report back the version number of `conda` on your system:

```
conda --version
```

If everything works, you will get something like this as output:

```
conda 4.10.3
```

You can list all of your available `conda` environments by typing:

```
conda info --envs
```

¹⁶<https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/>

¹⁷<https://www.anaconda.com>

¹⁸<https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/user-guide/>

¹⁹<https://conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/cheatsheet.html>

A star asterisk points to the currently active environment. For a fresh Anaconda installation, you will only have one, the base environment. You can find out exactly which packages that belongs to this environment by writing

```
conda list
```

7.2 How to install rockhound and cmocean into a new environment

If you are on Windows, we recommend you start by opening the Anaconda prompt. Next, it might be a good idea to update conda by typing this in the shell:

```
conda update conda
```

(You can of course do this in another terminal as well, provided conda is available in your PATH environment variable²⁰.) The `rockhound` library and `cmocean` libraries are not present in the default conda channel, hence you probably need to do:

```
conda config --add channels conda-forge
```

Finally, we are ready to create a new conda environment. You can choose any name you want for the environment, here we use `project1`:

```
conda create -n project1 python matplotlib numpy scipy xarray pandas rockhound cmocean pip jupyter
```

Entering all the package names in one go when creating the environment forces conda to check for dependencies between the packages, and thus makes sure that there are no conflicts. After confirming that you want to install the packages, and waiting for some time, you can activate the new environment from the terminal like this:

```
conda activate project1
```

Note that you can install additional packages later if you wish. Often, it is as simple as typing

```
conda install <package-name>
```

Of course, you should always check the installation instructions for the package in question. If `conda install` fails it might be that you can install it via `pip` (`pip install <package-name>`), but sometimes mixing conda and pip can cause conflicts, so you should be a bit careful.

²⁰[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PATH_\(variable\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PATH_(variable))

7.3 Selecting the correct Python version

Each conda environment comes with its own installation directory, and with its own Python executable. As we have seen, on the command-line you can easily switch between different environments with the `conda activate` command.

On the other hand, if you program in an integrated development environment (IDE), like Spyder²¹, PyCharm²², or Visual Studio Code²³ (VS Code), you will need to select which version of Python to use by changing the project settings in the IDE. For example, on VS Code, you can do this by opening the Command Palette, and then clicking on "Python: Select Interpreter".

Similarly, if you are working with Jupyter notebooks in the web browser you will most likely have to do some extra work to be able to select your custom Python environments. This link²⁴ might help you, e.g., you can try to type this in the terminal:

```
conda activate project1
python -m ipykernel install --name project1
```

If everything works, the new environment will now show up in the list of possible Python kernels for your Jupyter notebooks.

8 Guidelines for project submission

You should bear the following points in mind when working on the project:

- Write the name of all persons working in the group at the top of the notebook.
- The final project report must start with an abstract, the abstract is a self contained summary of the project and should contain quantitative statements.
- Start your notebook by providing a short introduction in which you outline the nature of the problem(s) to be investigated.
- End your notebook with a brief summary of what you feel you learned from the project (if anything). Also, if you have any general comments or suggestions for what could be improved in future assignments, this is the place to do it.
- All code that you make use of should be present in the notebook, and it should ideally execute without any errors (especially run-time errors). If you are not able to fix everything before the deadline, you should give your best understanding of what is not working, and how you might go about fixing it.

²¹<https://www.spyder-ide.org>

²²<https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/>

²³<https://code.visualstudio.com>

²⁴<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/39604271/conda-environments-not-showing-up-in-jupyter-notebook>

- Avoid duplicating code! If you find yourself copying and pasting a lot of code, it is a strong indication that you should define reusable functions and/or classes.
- If you use an algorithm that is not fully described in the assignment text, you should try to explain it in your own words. This also applies if the method is described elsewhere in the course material.
- In some cases it may suffice to explain your work via comments in the code itself, but other times you might want to include a more elaborate explanation in terms of, e.g., mathematics and/or pseudocode.
- In general, it is a good habit to comment your code (though it can be overdone).
- When working with approximate solutions to equations, it is very useful to check your results against known exact (analytical) solutions, should they be available.
- It is also a good test of a model implementation to study what happens at known 'edge cases'.
- Any figures you include should be easily understandable. You should label axes appropriately, and depending on the problem, include other legends etc. Also, you should discuss your figures in the main text.
- It is always good if you can reflect a little bit around *why* you see what you see.

References

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- [4] V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Pean, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J. B. R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekci, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.). Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Technical report, Cambridge University Press. In Press., August 2021.

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