Learn the Python interpreter

COMMAND LINE AUTOMATION IN PYTHON



Noah Gift

Lecturer, Northwestern & UC Davis & UC Berkeley | Founder, Pragmatic Al Labs



Three Laws of Automation

- 1. Any task that is talked about being automated, will eventually be automated
- 2. If it isn't automated it is broken
- 3. If a human is doing it, a machine eventually will do it better

Major Learning Objectives

- IPython shell commands
- Shell commands with subprocess
- Walking the file system
- Command-line functions



Using IPython with shell commands

• The ! syntax executes shell commands

```
# Show free disk
!df -h
```

```
Filesystem
              Size
                    Used Avail Use% Mounted on
                         159G
overlay
              335G
                    176G
                               53% /
                                0% /dev
               64M
                         64M
tmpfs
              7.7G
                       0 7.7G
                                0% /sys/fs/cgroup
tmpfs
/dev/nvme0n1p1 335G 176G 159G 53% /etc/hosts
```

Capturing output from IPython shell commands

• Output of command can be assigned to a variable

```
ls = !ls
```

• The type is an SList

```
type(ls)
```

IPython.utils.text.SList

Pure Python vs IPython

• The ! character will throw a syntax error in Python

```
? ~ python foo.py
File "foo.py", line 1
  !ls
  ^
SyntaxError: invalid syntax
```

• The subprocess module can perform equivalent actions

Passing programs to the Python interpreter

- Two ways to execute Python code to an interpreter
- Passing a script to the Python interpreter

```
python hello.py
```

Passing a program to the Python interpreter via -c

```
python -c "import datetime;print(datetime.datetime.utcnow())"
```

2019-04-01 01:04:47.17224

Practicing with the IPython shell

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Capture IPython Shell output

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Unix Pipes

- Unix Philosophy
- Simple Tools
- Combine for Sophisticated Solutions



Understand Unix Pipes

Using Unix Pipes to count the size of python files

```
# Sum them up using `awk`
ls -l | awk '{ SUM+=$5} END {print SUM}'
8040
```

```
# Pipe multiple outputs using Pipe operators
ls -l | grep .py | awk '{ SUM+=$5} END {print SUM}'
3776
```

Capturing shell output with bash magic function

Magic function %%bash --output

```
%%bash --out output
ls -l | awk '{ SUM+=$5} END {print SUM}
```

The type of this command is a string

```
type(output)
```

```
`str`
```

output

```
['8070']
```



Capturing shell output with! Syntax

- Alternate method of invoking shell commands
- The ! operator invokes shell commands in IPython

```
ls_count = !ls -l | awk '{ SUM+=$5} END {print SUM}'
```

• The type of this command is an SList

```
type(ls_count)

IPython.utils.text.SList

ls_count

['8070']
```



Bash and STDERR

• This is a command that will create output to STDERR

```
%%bash --out output
ls --turbo
```

STDERR isn't captured

Capture both STDOUT and STDERR

%magic allows STDOUT and STDERR capture

```
%%bash --out output --err error

ls -l | awk '{ SUM+=$5} END {print SUM}'

echo "no error so far" >&2
```

• The output of error

```
error
'no error so far\n'
```

Practicing with the Captured Output

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Automate with SList

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SList methods

- Three main methods
- fields
- grep
- sort

Using SList fields

• List the items in a directory and save the variable

```
ls = !ls -l /usr/bin
```

Collect whitespace-separated fields

```
ls.fields(1,5)[1:4]
['1 Jan', '1 Jul', '1 Sep']
```

Using SList grep

• Assign ls output to an SList

```
ls = !ls -l /usr/bin
```

Grep a pattern

```
ls.grep("kill")
```

Only results matching pattern are displayed

```
['lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 5 May 14 2018 pkill -> pgrep',
'-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 26704 May 14 2018 skill']
```

Using SList sort

Capture df unix command

```
disk_usage = !df -h
```

Sort by usage

SList and regular Python lists

An SList can be popped using .pop()

```
var = ls.pop()
print(var)
'pear84.txt'
```

• slicing operations work on SLists

```
ls[-4:]
['pear5.txt', 'pear52.txt', 'pear56.txt', 'pear6.txt']
```

Wrapping up SList

SList to list workflow

```
type(ls)
'IPython.utils.text.SList'
newls = list(ls)
'list'
```

• SList to set

```
sls = set(ls)
```

• SList to dictionary

```
dls = dict(vals=ls)
```

Practicing with SList

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