

Practical Astroinformatics

... or what I wish to knew when I was younger

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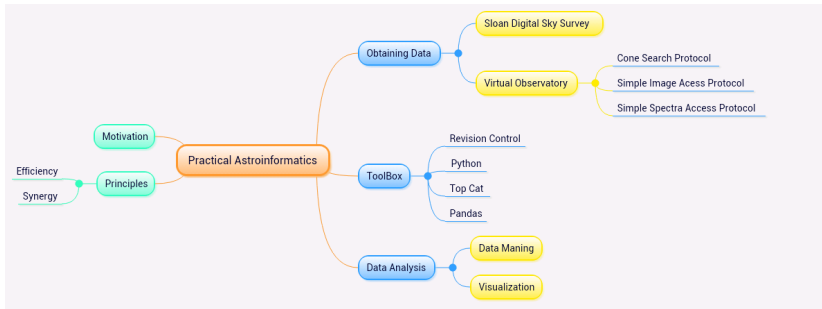
Masarykova univerzita

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Prelude

motto: The only way to keep away from computers in science is to understand them ...

Concepts introduced in this talk



Virtual Observatory

- Why is it important?
 - Uniform access to astronomy data
 - Based on Web standards
 - Nice GUI applications;-)
- Where I can learn it?
 - http://physics.muni.cz/~vazny/wiki/index.php/Diploma_work

Example: Virtual Observatory Protocols

Cone Search Protocol

```
1 http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/simbad-conesearch.pl?RA=24.5&  
   DEC=-57.2&SR=0.1
```

Simple Image Access Protocol

```
1 http://hubblesite.org/cgi-bin/sia/hst_pr_sia.pl?POS  
   =83.6,22.0&SIZE=1.0
```

Simple Spectra Access Protocol

```
1 http://archive.eso.org/apps/ssaserver/EsoProxySsap?  
   REQUEST=queryData&POS=83.63,22&SIZE=1
```

Command Line

- Why is it important?
 - Efficient dialog computer \iff human
 - In all advanced tools (Programming, mathematica, CAD, ...)
 - Cooperation, reusability, automatization
- Where I can learn it?
 - MUNI: PV004, F4270, PV065
 - PEEPCODE: Meet the Command Line, Advanced Command Line

Examples

- TAB
- !! Repeat last command
- !\$ Repeat last argument
- history command history
- CTRL+R search in history

Text tools

- Why is it important?
 - "Everything" is a text
 - head, tail, sed, awk, join, paste, vim, emacs ...
- Where I can learn it?
 - PEEPCODE: Meet Emacs, Smash Into Vim, Vim Emacs tutorials !!!

Examples

- `echo "AlDeBaraN" | tr "[:upper:]" "[:lower:]"`
- `vimdiff file1 file2`

Revision Control Systems

- Why is it important?
 - Content history
 - Non-Linear Development
 - Cooperation
- Where I can learn it?
 - PEEPCODE: Git, Mercurial
 - <https://github.com>

Python

- Why is it important?
 - Real language (\neq MATLAB)
 - Easy to learn, Flexible
- Where I can learn it?
 - <http://www.archive.org>, Perez: Scientific Python, Google: Python in 2 days

iPython

- Why is it important?
 - Interactive Shell
 - Uniform access to system
 - New flexible design
- Where I can learn it?
 - <http://www.archive.org>, Perez: Scientific Python
 - <http://www.showmedo.org>

Example: Working with FITs in Python

```
1 In [1]: import atpy
2 In [2]: tbl = atpy.Table('spSpec-53401-2052-458.fit')
3 Auto-detected input type: fits
4 In [3]: tbl.write('votableExample.xml')
5 Auto-detected input type: vo
```

Updating FITS file.

```
1 In [1]: prihdr = hdulist[0].header
2 In [2]: prihdr.update('observer', 'Astar')
3 In [3]: prihdr.add_history('Updated 3/27/11')
```

Data Mining

- Why is it important?
 - Astrology of data
 - Data preprocessing
- Where I can learn it?
 - Stanford(Andrew Ng)
 - `www.avc.cvut.cz`

Example: Decison Tree

```

1  ug <= 0.663668
2  |   gr <= -0.191208: 1 (7.0)
3  |   gr > -0.191208: 3 (104.0/5.0)
4  ug > 0.663668
5  |   ri <= 0.285854: 1 (88.0/5.0)
6  |   ri > 0.285854
7  |   |   ri <= 0.314657
8  |   |   |   gr <= 0.692108: 2 (6.0)
9  |   |   |   gr > 0.692108: 1 (3.0)
10 |   |   ri > 0.314657: 2 (90.0/2.0)
    
```

FITs

- Why is it important?
 - De-Facto standard in Astronomy
 - Flexible, Efficient, ASCII MetaData
- Where I can learn it?
 - <http://fits.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Example: Reading FITS file

```

1 In [1]: import pyfits
2 In [2]: hdulist = pyfits.open('spSpec-53237-1886-248.fit')
3 In [3]: hdulist.info()
4 Filename: spSpec-53237-1886-248.fit
5
6 No.      Name          Type          Cards  Dimensions  Format
7 0        PRIMARY      PrimaryHDU    213    (3874, 5)   float32
8 1                   BinTableHDU   54     6R x 23C   [1E, 1E, ...
9 2                   BinTableHDU   54     44R x 23C  [1E, 1E, ...
10 3                   BinTableHDU   18     1R x 5C    [1E, 1E, ...
11 4                   BinTableHDU   32     53R x 12C  [1J, 1J, ...
12 5                   BinTableHDU   26     36R x 9C   [19A, 1E,
    ...
    6                   BinTableHDU   14    3874R x 3C [1J, 1J, 1E]
    
```

Relational Databases

- Why is it important?
 - Sweetspot 100GiB – 1TiB
 - SQL = Efficient way to manipulate data
- Where I can learn it?
 - <http://www.sdss.org>

Example:Spectra from SEGUE project

```
1 SELECT objid,dbo.fGetUrlFitsSpectrum(s.specObjID)
2 FROM SpecPhotoAll s, platex p
3 WHERE s.specObjID is not null
4 AND s.plateid = p.plateid
5 AND p.programname LIKE 'segue%'
6 AND specClass = 1
```

VOTable

- Why is it important?
 - Standard in Virtual Observatory
 - Flexible, Efficient, XML
- Where I can learn it?
 - <http://www.ivoa.org>

Example: VOTable

```

1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
3   xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="http://www.ivoa.net/xml/
   VOTable/v1.0"
4   xmlns="http://www.ivoa.net/xml/VOTable/v1.0">
5   <RESOURCE type="results" >
6     <TABLE >
7       <FIELD ID="col0" name="wave" datatype="float" unit=""
8         precision="F9"/>
9       <DATA>
10        <TABLEDATA>
11          <TR>
12            <TD>4012.50757</TD>
13          </TR>
14        </TABLEDATA>
15      </DATA>
  
```

The power of T_EX

- Why is it important?
 - Typography
 - Mathematics
 - Thesis, articles, presentations, posters, . . .
- Where I can learn it?
 - MUNI: Plch, Sojka

Wake up!

Discussion