PYTHON DEBUGGING FUNDAMENTALS

Python Debugging Fundamentals Saturday, October 20, 2012 **PyCarolinas UNC School of Pharmacy** Chapel Hill, NC Chris Calloway University of North Carolina Department of Marine Sciences







WHAT IS DEBUGGING

A method for isolating

program errors







WHAT IS DEBUGGING

- Execute program one statement at a time
- Inspect the state of objects bound to identifiers
- Lather, rinse, repeat





PDB MODULE

Python's pdb module to the rescue!







\$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py







Run a module as a script

\$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py







```
Module to run

as a script

$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py
```







```
Argument to pdb:
script to debug

$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py
```







```
$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """
(Pdb)
```













```
$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7) <module>()
-> """
(Pdb)
Line number of next
statement to execute
```













next statement to execute







```
$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """

(Pdb)

Debugger prompt
```







```
(Pdb) help
```

```
Documented commands (type help <topic>):
```

EOF	cl	disable	interact	next	return	u	where
a	clear	display	j	p	retval	unalias	
alias	commands	down	jump	pp	run	undisplay	
args	condition	enable	1	print	rv	unt	
b	cont	exit	list	q	s	until	
break	continue	h	11	quit	source	up	
bt	d	help	longlist	r	step	w	
С	debug	ignore	n	restart	tbreak	whatis	

Miscellaneous help topics:

exec pdb

(Pdb)







```
(Pdb) help list
l(ist) [first [,last] | .]
```

List source code for the current file. Without arguments, list 11 lines around the current line or continue the previous listing. With . as argument, list 11 lines around the current line. With one argument, list 11 lines starting at that line. With two arguments, list the given range; if the second argument is less than the first, it is a count.

The current line in the current frame is indicated by "->".

If an exception is being debugged, the line where the exception was originally raised or propagated is indicated by ">>", if it differs from the current line.

(Pdb)







```
(Pdb) h l
l(ist) [first [,last] | .]
```

List source code for the current file. Without arguments, list 11 lines around the current line or continue the previous listing. With . as argument, list 11 lines around the current line. With one argument, list 11 lines starting at that line. With two arguments, list the given range; if the second argument is less than the first, it is a count.

The current line in the current frame is indicated by "->".

If an exception is being debugged, the line where the exception was originally raised or propagated is indicated by ">>", if it differs from the current line.

(Pdb)







```
(Pdb) 1
 2
        Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
 3
 4
        Usage:
 5
 6
        > python fizzbuzz.py n
 8
 9
        import sys
10
11
        def fizzbuzz(n):
12
             ** ** **
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) 1 6
 1
         11 11 11
 2
        Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
 3
 4
        Usage:
 5
 6
        > python fizzbuzz.py n
 8
 9
        import sys
10
11
        def fizzbuzz(n):
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) 1
 2
        Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
 3
 4
        Usage:
 5
 6
        > python fizzbuzz.py n
 8
 9
        import sys
10
11
        def fizzbuzz(n):
12
             ** ** **
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) 3 ** (1 / 2)
1.7320508075688772
(Pdb) dir()
['_builtins__', '__file__', '__name__']
(Pdb) print( name )
 main '
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) !list
<class 'list'>
(Pdb)
```







WHAT IS DEBUGGING

- Execute program one statement at a time
- Inspect the state of objects bound to identifiers
- Lather, rinse, repeat





```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(9)<module>()
-> import sys
(Pdb)
```





```
(Pdb) l
         Usage:
  5
  6
         > python fizzbuzz.py n
         11 11 11
 8
  9
     -> import sys
10
11
         def fizzbuzz(n):
12
              ** ** **
13
              fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
              ** ** **
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) dir()
['_builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__', '__name__']
(Pdb) !print( doc )
Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
Usage:
> python fizzbuzz.py n
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(11)<module>()
-> def fizzbuzz(n):
(Pdb) dir()
['__builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__', '__name__', 'sys']
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) 1
  6
         > python fizzbuzz.py n
         11 11 11
  8
  9
         import sys
10
11
     -> def fizzbuzz(n):
12
              11 11 11
13
              fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
              ** ** **
15
16
              answers = []
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) l
            for x in range(1,n+1):
17
18
                 answer = ""
19
                 if not x%3:
20
                     answer += "Fizz"
21
                 if not x%5:
22
                     answer += "Buzz"
23
                 if not answer:
24
                     answer = x
25
                 answers.append(answer)
26
            return answers
27
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) 1
  6
         > python fizzbuzz.py n
         11 11 11
  8
  9
         import sys
10
11
     -> def fizzbuzz(n):
12
              11 11 11
13
              fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
              ** ** **
15
16
              answers = []
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(28) < module > ()
-> if __name__ == '__main__':
    (Pdb) dir()
['__builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__',
    '__name__', 'fizzbuzz', 'sys']
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) l
23
                if not answer:
24
                    answer = x
25
                answers.append(answer)
26
            return answers
27
    -> if name == ' main ':
28
29
            try:
30
                if len(sys.argv) != 2:
31
                    raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
32
                answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
33
                print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(29)<module>()
-> try:
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(30)<module>()
-> if len(sys.argv) != 2:
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(31)<module>()
-> raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
(Pdb) s
ValueError: Incorrect number of arguments
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(31)<module>()
-> raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(34)<module>()
-> except:
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(35)<module>()
-> print(__doc__)
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
Usage:
> python fizzbuzz.py n
--Return--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(35)<module>()->None
-> print( doc )
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
--Return--
> <string>(1) < module>() -> None
(Pdb) l
[EOF]
(Pdb)
```







SINGLE STEPPING

```
(Pdb) s
> /opt/python330/lib/python3.3/bdb.py(409)run()
-> self.quitting = True
(Pdb) s
The program finished and will be restarted
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """
(Pdb) dir()
['__builtins__', '__file__', '__name__']
(Pdb)
```







SINGLE STEPPING

(Pdb) q \$





INVOKING PYTHON'S DEBUGGER

\$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py 100







INVOKING PYTHON'S DEBUGGER

```
$ python -m pdb fizzbuzz.py 100
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """
(Pdb)
```







PYTHON'S DEBUGGER PROMPT

```
(Pdb) 1
        Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
  3
        Usage:
 4
  5
  6
        > python fizzbuzz.py n
     -> """
 8
  9
        import sys
10
        def fizzbuzz(n):
11
12
             11 11 11
(Pdb)
```







PYTHON'S DEBUGGER PROMPT

```
(Pdb) l
13
             fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
             11 11 11
15
16
             answers = []
17
             for x in range (1, n+1):
18
                 answer = ""
                 if not x%3:
19
20
                      answer += "Fizz"
21
                 if not x%5:
22
                      answer += "Buzz"
23
                 if not answer:
(Pdb)
```







PYTHON'S DEBUGGER PROMPT

```
(Pdb) l
24
                    answer = x
25
                answers.append(answer)
26
            return answers
27
28
          name == ' main ':
29
            try:
30
                if len(sys.argv) != 2:
31
                    raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
32
                answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
33
                print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
34
            except:
(Pdb)
```







SETTING A BREAKPOINT

```
(Pdb) b 30
Breakpoint 1 at /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py:30
(Pdb) 1 30
 25
                answers.append(answer)
 26
            return answers
 27
 28
           name == ' main ':
 29
            try:
 30 B
                if len(sys.argv) != 2:
 31
                    raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
 32
                answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
 33
                print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
 34
            except:
 35
                print( doc )
(Pdb)
```







SETTING A BREAKPOINT

```
(Pdb) l
  2
        Generate the first n Fizz Buzz answers.
  3
        Usage:
  4
  5
  6
        > python fizzbuzz.py n
  8
  9
         import sys
10
        def fizzbuzz(n):
11
12
             11 11 11
(Pdb)
```







SETTING A BREAKPOINT

```
(Pdb) c
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(30)<module>()
-> if len(sys.argv) != 2:
(Pdb) l
 25
                answers.append(answer)
 26
            return answers
 27
 28
        if name == ' main ':
 29
            try:
 30 B->
                if len(sys.argv) != 2:
                    raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
 31
 32
                answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
                print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
 33
            except:
 34
 35
                print( doc )
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) len(sys.argv)
2
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(32)<module>()
-> answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) s
--Call--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(11)fizzbuzz()
-> def fizzbuzz(n):
(Pdb) l
  6
         > python fizzbuzz.py n
         11 11 11
  8
         import sys
 10
 11
     -> def fizzbuzz(n):
 12
              11 11 11
 13
             fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
 14
              11 11 11
 15
 16
             answers = []
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) p n
100
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(16)fizzbuzz()
-> answers = []
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(17)fizzbuzz()
\rightarrow for x in range(1,n+1):
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(18)fizzbuzz()
-> answer = ""
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) l
13
             fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
             11 11 11
15
16
             answers = []
17
             for x in range (1, n+1):
18
                 answer = ""
     ->
                 if not x%3:
19
20
                      answer += "Fizz"
21
                 if not x%5:
22
                      answer += "Buzz"
23
                 if not answer:
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) dir()
['answers', 'n', 'x']
(Pdb) where
  /opt/python330/lib/python3.3/bdb.py(405)run()
-> exec(cmd, globals, locals)
  <string>(1)<module>()
  /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(32)<module>()
-> answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(18)fizzbuzz()
-> answer = ""
(Pdb)
```







STACK FRAMES

```
(Pdb) up
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(32)<module>()
-> answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
(Pdb) dir()
['__builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__',
 ' name ', 'fizzbuzz', 'sys']
(Pdb) down
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(18)fizzbuzz()
-> answer = ""
(Pdb) down
*** Newest frame
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) l
13
             fizzbuzz(n) -> [first n Fizz Buzz answers]
14
             11 11 11
15
16
             answers = []
17
             for x in range (1, n+1):
18
     ->
                 answer = ""
                 if not x%3:
19
20
                      answer += "Fizz"
21
                 if not x%5:
22
                      answer += "Buzz"
23
                 if not answer:
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) c
1 2 Fizz 4 Buzz Fizz 7 8 Fizz Buzz 11 Fizz 13 14 FizzBuzz 16 17
Fizz 19 Buzz Fizz 22 23 Fizz Buzz 26 Fizz 28 29 FizzBuzz 31 32
Fizz 34 Buzz Fizz 37 38 Fizz Buzz 41 Fizz 43 44 FizzBuzz 46 47
Fizz 49 Buzz Fizz 52 53 Fizz Buzz 56 Fizz 58 59 FizzBuzz 61 62
Fizz 64 Buzz Fizz 67 68 Fizz Buzz 71 Fizz 73 74 FizzBuzz 76 77
Fizz 79 Buzz Fizz 82 83 Fizz Buzz 86 Fizz 88 89 FizzBuzz 91 92
Fizz 94 Buzz Fizz 97 98 Fizz Buzz
The program finished and will be restarted
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """
(Pdb)
```







LISTING BREAKPOINTS







```
(Pdb) n
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(33)<module>()
-> print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb) pp answers
[1,
 2,
 'Fizz',
 98,
 'Fizz',
 'Buzz']
(Pdb)
```





```
(Pdb) c
1 2 Fizz 4 Buzz Fizz 7 8 Fizz Buzz 11 Fizz 13 14 FizzBuzz 16 17
Fizz 19 Buzz Fizz 22 23 Fizz Buzz 26 Fizz 28 29 FizzBuzz 31 32
Fizz 34 Buzz Fizz 37 38 Fizz Buzz 41 Fizz 43 44 FizzBuzz 46 47
Fizz 49 Buzz Fizz 52 53 Fizz Buzz 56 Fizz 58 59 FizzBuzz 61 62
Fizz 64 Buzz Fizz 67 68 Fizz Buzz 71 Fizz 73 74 FizzBuzz 76 77
Fizz 79 Buzz Fizz 82 83 Fizz Buzz 86 Fizz 88 89 FizzBuzz 91 92
Fizz 94 Buzz Fizz 97 98 Fizz Buzz
The program finished and will be restarted
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(7)<module>()
-> """
(Pdb)
```













```
(Pdb) s
--Call--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(11)fizzbuzz()
-> def fizzbuzz(n):
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(16)fizzbuzz()
-> answers = []
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(17)fizzbuzz()
-> for x in range(1,n+1):
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(18)fizzbuzz()
-> answer = ""
(Pdb)
```







```
(Pdb) r
--Return--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(26)fizzbuzz()->
  [1, 2, 'Fizz', 4, 'Buzz', 'Fizz', ...]
-> return answers
(Pdb)
```







STEPPING OVER A LIST COMPREHENSION

```
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(33)<module>()
-> print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb) s
--Call--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(33)<listcomp>()
-> print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb) s
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(33)<listcomp>()
-> print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb)
```







STEPPING OVER A LIST COMPREHENSION

```
(Pdb) r
--Return--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(33)<listcomp>()->
    ['1', '2', 'Fizz', '4', 'Buzz', 'Fizz', ...]
-> print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
(Pdb)
```







CLEAR BREAKPOINTS

```
(Pdb) h clear
cl(ear) filename:lineno
cl(ear) [bpnumber [bpnumber...]]
    With a space separated list of breakpoint numbers, clear
        those breakpoints. Without argument, clear all breaks (but
        first ask confirmation). With a filename:lineno argument,
        clear all breaks at that line in that file.

(Pdb)
```







DISABLE BREAKPOINTS

```
(Pdb) h disable
disable bpnumber [bpnumber ...]
    Disables the breakpoints given as a space separated list of
    breakpoint numbers. Disabling a breakpoint means it cannot
    cause the program to stop execution, but unlike clearing a
    breakpoint, it remains in the list of breakpoints and can be
    (re-)enabled.
(Pdb)
```







ENABLE BREAKPOINTS







MONITOR OBJECTS FOR CHANGES

```
(Pdb) h display
display [expression]

Display the value of the expression if it changed, each time execution stops in the current frame.

Without expression, list all display expressions for the current frame.
(Pdb)
```







CONDITIONAL BREAKPOINTS







SKIP OVER BREAKPOINTS

```
(Pdb) h ignore
```

ignore bpnumber [count]

Set the ignore count for the given breakpoint number. If count is omitted, the ignore count is set to 0. A breakpoint becomes active when the ignore count is zero. When non-zero, the count is decremented each time the breakpoint is reached and the breakpoint is not disabled and any associated condition evaluates to true.

(Pdb)







DEBUGGER MACROS

```
(Pdb) help alias

alias [name [command [parameter parameter ...] ]]

Create an alias called 'name' that executes 'command'. The command must *not* be enclosed in quotes. Replaceable parameters can be indicated by %1, %2, and so on, while %* is replaced by all the parameters. If no command is given, the current alias for name is shown. If no name is given, all aliases are listed.
```







ONE TIME BREAKPOINTS







WHAT IS DEBUGGING

- Execute entire program one step at the time
- Execute only suspect portions of program
- Isolate suspect portions of program





SETTING A TRACE

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        if len(sys.argv) != 2:
            import pdb; pdb.set_trace()
            raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
        answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
        print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
    except:
        print(__doc__)
```







SETTING A TRACE

```
$ python fizzbuzzNG.py
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzzNG.py(32)<module>()
-> raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
(Pdb)
```







POST-MORTEM DEBUGGING

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
    answers = fizzbuzz(int(sys.argv[1]))
    print(" ".join([str(answer) for answer in answers]))
```







POST-MORTEM DEBUGGING

```
$ python -i fizzbuzzNG2.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "fizzbuzzNG2.py", line 30, in <module>
      raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
ValueError: Incorrect number of arguments
```







POST-MORTEM DEBUGGING

```
>>> import pdb; pdb.pm()
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzzNG2.py(30)<module>()
-> raise ValueError("Incorrect number of arguments")
(Pdb)
```







DEBUGGER RUNNER

```
>>> import fizzbuzz
>>> import pdb
>>> pdb.run('fizzbuzz.fizzbuzz(100)')
> <string>(1) <module>()
(Pdb) s
--Call--
> /Users/cbc/pycarolinas/fizzbuzz.py(11)fizzbuzz()
-> def fizzbuzz(n):
(Pdb)
```







PYTHON DEBUGGING FUNDAMENTALS

Questions?

cbc@chriscalloway.org

http://drunkenpython.org/pycarolinas.zip

http://drunkenpython.org/pycarolinas.tgz

http://docs.python.org/py3k/library/pdb.html#module-pdb





