Practical Python on Odyssey

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Overview

- Learn python by debugging existing code
- See common errors and their solutions
- Learn how to search for programming solutions
- Odyssey-specific lessons, including Anaconda clones

Covered subjects

Not necessarily in this order

- Structure (if/then, for, tuples, arrays, dicts, functions)
- Regular expressions, dates
- Interacting with your environment (os, environment variables, files, executing other tools)
- Packages and virtual environments (pip, python setup.py, virtualenv, Anaconda, clones)
- Parallel programming (multiprocess)

Setup

- Login to Odyssey
- Get the course materials

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a~] \$ tar xvf /n/regal/informatics/workshops/python-workshop.tar.gz
```

Check python

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ python --version
Python 2.6.6
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ which python
/usr/bin/python
```

Hop in to the interpreter

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ python
Python 2.6.6 (r266:84292, Jan 22 2014, 09:42:36)
[GCC 4.4.7 20120313 (Red Hat 4.4.7-4)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
```

Use Ctl-d to get out

Course materials

- bin/hisnhers.py The broken script
- bin/megaAssembler The high memory assembler
- bin/hyperAssembler The fast, efficient assembler
- ha/annotate.py The annotation module
- https://github.com/harvardinformatics/lookkool.git The palindrome finder

hisnhers.py

Broken script that attempts to

- 1. read in a FASTQ file
- 2. report some information about the sequences
- 3. write to FASTA and feed to an assembler to create contigs
- 4. annotate the contigs

ha/annotate.py

Annotation module that will be called by hisnhers.py serially and, then, in parallel

The Python Language

- General purpose, interpreted scripting language in which everything (numbers, lists, strings, functions, classes, types) is an object.
- Code blocks (functions, loops, if/else, etc.) defined by colon and indent level
- Significant changes to the language from Python 2.x to Python 3.x
- Massive PyPI package repository (pip install <something from PyPI>)
- A file is a module, a directory can be a package

Run the script

[akitzmiller@holy2a python-workshop]\$ bin/hisnhers.py

#!/usr/bin/env python

#!/usr/bin/env python

• Indents must match - 4 spaces, do not use tabs

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a python-workshop]$ bin/hisnhers.py
File "bin/hisnhers.py", line 79
seqs = []
^
IndentationError: unexpected indent
```

• Use a proper return value for modules named __main__

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    sys.exit(main())
```

• import sys

Google Interlude: Magic Variables, Magic Functions

- Meta data about a python module or package
- Double underbar (dunder) designation, e.g. __name__, __ispkg__
- Google: python magic variables
- Python objects also have magic functions that allow you to override basic behaviors (e.g. __str__)

imports

- A name (function, class, variable, module) cannot be used unless it is imported, defined, or a *built-in*
- You can import a module (which is a file) and use it's named things

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ ls /usr/lib64/python2.6/os.py
/usr/lib64/python2.6/os.py

>>> import os
>>> os.makedirs('/tmp/a/j/k')
```

or you can import something from a module

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ grep "def makedirs" /usr/lib64/python2.7/os.py
def makedirs(name, mode=0777):

>>> from os import makedirs
>>> makedirs('/tmp/a/j/k')
```

• Imports are based on paths, where path separators, /, are converted to periods

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a python-workshop]$ find ha -name "annotate.py"
ha/annotate.py
```

from ha.annotate import annotateStartStopCodon

imports

• Valid paths depends on sys.path, including PYTHONPATH

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ echo $PYTHONPATH
/odyssey/rc_admin/sw/admin/rcpy:

[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ python
Python 2.6.6 (r266:84292, Jan 22 2014, 09:42:36)
[GCC 4.4.7 20120313 (Red Hat 4.4.7-4)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import sys
>>> print sys.path
['', '/odyssey/rc_admin/sw/admin/rcpy', '/n/home_rc/akitzmiller',
'/usr/lib64/python26.zip', '/usr/lib64/python2.6',
'/usr/lib64/python2.6/plat-linux2', '/usr/lib64/python2.6/lib-tk',
...
'/usr/lib64/python2.6/site-packages/webkit-1.0', '/usr/lib/python2.6/site-packages',
'/usr/lib/python2.6/site-packages/setuptools-0.6c11-py2.6.egg-info']
```

• Watch out for ~/.local

os and sys modules

os includes functions that vary between operating systems

```
# On Linux
>>> os.path.join(['usr','local','bin'])
usr/local/bin

# On Windows
>>> os.path.join(['usr','local','bin'])
usr\local\bin

# Interact with environment variables
>>> os.environ['PATH']
'/usr/local/bin:/usr/lib64/qt-3.3/bin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin'
>>> os.system('which module-query')
/usr/local/bin/module-query
0
>>> os.environ['PATH'] = '/n/sw/www/apps/apps/bin:%s' % os.environ['PATH']
>>> os.system('which module-query')
/n/sw/www/apps/apps/bin/module-query')
/n/sw/www/apps/apps/bin/module-query
```

- sys includes functions and data about the Python interpreter
 - ** sys.exit() exits the Python interpreter
 - ** sys.argv contains the arguments passed to the script

Fix the file reading error

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ bin/hisnhers.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "./bin/hisnhers.py", line 263, in <module>
        sys.exit(main())
    File "./bin/hisnhers.py", line 131, in main
        fastqToSequenceList(fqfilename)
    File "./bin/hisnhers.py", line 98, in fastqToSequenceList
        if fileh.closed:
AttributeError: 'str' object has no attribute 'closed'
```

• Stack trace shows you where to look

File reading error solution

```
# sys.argv == ['hisnhers.py', 'example.fq']
if len(sys.argv) < 2:
    print 'Must supply a file name'
    return 1

fqfilename = sys.argv[1]
if not os.path.exists(fqfilename):
    raise Exception('File %s does not exist' % fqfilename)</pre>
```

File reading error solution

```
with open(fqfilename, 'r') as f:
    seqs = fastqToSequenceList(f)
```

File processing with context managers

- f = open() returns a file handle
- with block is a context manager that closes the file handle on exit

```
# Code block defined by colon and indent
with open(fqfilename, 'r') as f:
    seqs = fastqToSequenceList(f)
```

• for loop on a handle iterates over file lines

```
# Code block defined by colon and indent
for line in fileh:
   line = line.strip()
   if line == '':
      continue
```

Convert the hardcoded file name into a command argument

```
# if block defined by colon, indent
if len(sys.argv) < 2:
    print 'Must supply a file name'
    return 1
fqfilename = sys.argv[1]</pre>
```

or use argparse to handle real arguments

```
from argparse import ArgumentParser, RawDescriptionHelpFormatter

parser = ArgumentParser(description='Python workshop tool', formatter_class=RawDescriptionHelpFormat parser.add_argument('FASTQ_FILE', help='Fastq file')
    args = parser.parse_args()

fqfilename = args.FASTQ_FILE
```

Add sequence length and base counts

• Print out base frequencies and sequence length for each sequence

```
>>> print seqs[0]
('HWUSI-EAS300R_0005_FC62TL2AAXX:8:30:18447:12115#0/1',
'CGTAGCTGTGTACAAGGCCCGGGAACGTATTCACCGTG',
'acdd^aa_Z^d^ddc`^_Q_aaa`_ddc\\dfdffff\\fff')
```

```
Sequence 1 Length: 106 A: 4, T: 4, C: 4, G: 4
```

Lists and tuples

• 0 indexed list of data items that is either modifiable (lists) or unmodifiable (tuples)

```
>>> bases = ['A','T','C','G']
>>> bases[1]
'T'
>>> bases.append('U')
>>> bases[4]
'U'
>>> bases = ('A','T','C','G')
>>> bases[1]
'T'
>>> bases.append('U')
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'append'
```

Lists and tuples

Iteration

```
for base in bases:
    print base

for i, base in enumerate(bases):
    print base
```

Indexing

```
>>> bases = ['A','T','C','G']
>>> print bases[1:2]
['T']
>>> print bases[1:3]
['T', 'C']
>>> print bases[-1:]
['G']
```

Lists and tuples

Concatenating

```
allbases = dnabases + rnabases
```

Counting

```
>>> bases
['A', 'T', 'C', 'G']
>>> len(bases)
4
>>> bases.count('A')
```

• Short hand list initialization by another iterable (list comprehension)

```
baselengths = [len(base) for base in bases]
complements = [dna.complement(base) for base in bases]
```

Strings

• Strings are lists of characters ...

```
>>> contig = 'ATCACTAGTCGTCG'
>>> contig[1:3]
'TC'
```

• ... that can be constructed with Python formatting tools

```
>>> reagent = 'SDS'
>>> 'You will need %.2f mg of %s in %d mL' % (.565,reagent,100)
'You will need 0.56 mg of SDS in 100 mL'
>>> 'You will need {reagentmass:.2f} of {reagent} in {volume} mL'.format(
    reagentmass=0.565,
    reagent='SDS',
    volume=100
)
'You will need 0.56 of SDS in 100 mL'
```

Add sequence length and base counts

Sequence length and base count

```
# >>> seqs[0]
# ('HWUSI-EAS300R_0005_F2AAXX:8:30:18447:12115#0/1\n', 'CGTAGCTAACGTATTCACCGTG', '')
for i,seqdata in enumerate(seqs):
    seqstr = seqdata[1]
    seqlen = len(seqstr)

basecountline = 'Sequence %d Length: %d ' % (i,seqlen)
    for base in ['A','T','C','G']:
        basecountline += '%s: %d ' % (base,seqstr.count(base))
    print basecountline
```

or

```
basecountstrs = ['Sequence %d Length: %d' % (i,seqlen)]
for base in ['A','T','C','G']:
   basecountstrs.append('%s: %d' % (base,seqstr.count(base)))
print ' '.join(basecountstrs)
```

Contigs file error

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a python-workshop]$ ./bin/hisnhers.py data/example.fq
Writing to data/example.fa
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "./hisnhers.py", line 210, in <module>
        sys.exit(main())
   File "./hisnhers.py", line 135, in main
        with open(contigfilename, 'r') as c:
IOError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'data/example.fa.contigs'
[akitzmiller@holy2a python-workshop]$
```

Running commands with os.system()

- There are about a dozen Python functions for running a command line tool, but only two of them are worth using.
- os.system() runs a command using the shell and returns only the return code. stdout and stderr are sent to the console. If you need to capture the contents, they must be redirected.

```
>>> os.system("echo 'hello' > hello.out")
0
>>> f = open('hello.out','r')
>>> print f.readlines()
['hello\n']
```

Running commands with Popen()

• subprocess.Popen supports all available options for synchronous execution

```
>>> import subprocess
>>> proc = subprocess.Popen(
    "echo 'hello'",
    shell=True,
    stdout=subprocess.PIPE,
    stderr=subprocess.PIPE
)
>>> stdoutstr,stderrstr = proc.communicate()
>>> print proc.returncode
0
>>> print stdoutstr
hello
```

Running commands

· Avoid bash shell processing if you need to

```
>>> args = ['/usr/bin/sed','-i','-e','s/$PATH/${PATH}/','/home/path with some spaces in it']
>>> proc = subprocess.Popen(args, shell=False)
```

Write to stdin

```
>>> lyrics = '''
... Sundown, you better take care
... If I find you been creepin
... Down my back stair
... '''
>>> args = ['/bin/grep', 'been creepin']
>>> from subprocess import PIPE, Popen
>>> proc = Popen(args, shell=False, stdin=PIPE, stdout=PIPE, stderr=PIPE)
>>> stdout, stderr = proc.communicate(input=lyrics)
>>> stdout
'If I find you been creepin\n'
>>>
```

Running commands

- You may need to alter the environment of the subprocess
- Loading modules can work with &&

```
proc = Popen('module load bowtie2 && bowtie2 -1 m1.in.bz2 -2 m2.in.bz2', shell=True)
```

You can set environment values in the parent

```
>>> path = os.environ.get('PATH','')
>>> os.environ['PATH'] = '/n/sw/fasrcsw/apps/Core/bowtie2/2.3.1-fasrc01/bin:%s' % path
>>> proc = Popen('bowtie2 -1 m1.in.bz2 -2 m2.in.bz2', shell=True)
```

or in the subprocess itself

```
>>> path = os.environ.get('PATH','')
>>> env = {'PATH' : '/n/sw/fasrcsw/apps/Core/bowtie2/2.3.1-fasrc01/bin:%s' % path}
>>> proc = Popen('bowtie2 -1 m1.in.bz2 -2 m2.in.bz2', shell=True, env=env)
```

Replace the call to megaAssembler with a Popen-based call to hyperAssembler.

Capture return code, stdout, and stderr

Call to hyperAssembler

Missing lookkool module

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "./bin/hisnhers.py", line 179, in <module>
    sys.exit(main())
File "./bin/hisnhers.py", line 160, in main
    annotations += annotatePalindromes(seqid, contig)
File "./ha/annotate.py", line 66, in annotatePalindromes
    from lookkool import findPalindromes
ImportError: No module named lookkool
```

Python packages

- A package is a set of Python modules and scripts (and possibly C, Fortran, etc. supporting code) that can be installed in a Python environment
- Python library called setuptools (son of distutils) allows packages of Python code to be installed in a standard fashion

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ tar xvf mpi4py-2.0.0.tar.gz
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ cd mpi4py-2.0.0
[akitzmiller@holy2a mpi4py-2.0.0]$ python setup.py install
```

• Install directly from PyPI with pip, including dependencies

Install from a git repository (including branch or tag)

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a~] \$ \ pip \ install \ git+https://github.com/harvardinformatics/MISO.git@slurm \ and \ an all \ git+https://github.com/harvardinformatics/MISO.git@slurm \ an all \ git+https://github.com/harvardinformatics/MISO.git
```

Anaconda

- Python distribution that includes the most popular scientific and utility packages (numpy, scipy, matplotlib, etc.)
- Package management system (conda install/remove/update)
 - ** pip-like dependency recursion
 - ** maintains compatible versions among dependencies
 - ** may include compiled C / Fortran libraries
 - ** supports multiple "channels"
 - ** update Python itself
- Odyssey python modules are Anaconda modules

```
[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ module load python/2.7.11-fasrc01

[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]$ module list

Currently Loaded Modules:
   1) Anaconda/2.5.0-fasrc01   2) python/2.7.11-fasrc01
```

Anaconda

Get the latest

[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]\$ conda install netcdf4

• or a specific version

[akitzmiller@holy2a ~]\$ conda install netcdf4==1.2.1

Virtual environments - virtualenv

- You don't have root so you can't install to system library paths.
- You can use install --prefix and PYTHONPATH, but it is a pain and some packages are poorly behaved
- Some packages depend on mutually exclusive versions of other packages
- virtualenv allows you to create one or more Python environments over which you have control

[akitzmiller@holy2a envs]\$ virtualenv workshop
New python executable in /n/home_rc/akitzmiller/envs/workshop/bin/python
Installing setuptools, pip, wheel...done.
[akitzmiller@holy2a envs]\$ source workshop/bin/activate
(workshop) [akitzmiller@holy2a envs]\$ which python

Anaconda virtual environments

• Make a clone of the parent environment (may take a while) so that all base packages are included

Clone names can be a full path

 $[akitzmiller@holy2a \sim] \ conda \ create \ -p \ /n/my_lab/shared/software/pyenv \ --clone \ \$PYTHON_HOME$

Install package from Continuum

```
(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] conda install Django --yes
```

• With some of our Anacondas, you may need to do this:*

```
(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] conda remove conda-env conda-build --yes
```

• Or from a particular conda channel

```
(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] conda install --channel conda-forge tensorflow
```

• Or do a pip install

• Compiled code in conda packages can be a problem

```
(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] conda install -c conda-forge tensorflow

(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] python
>>> import tensorflow as tf
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
File "/n/home_rc/akitzmiller/.conda/envs/clone/lib/python2.7/site-packages/tensorflow/python/python/python = imp.load_module('_pywrap_tensorflow', fp, pathname, description)
ImportError: /usr/lib64/libstdc++.so.6: version `GLIBCXX_3.4.19' not found (required by /n/home_>>>
```

Installing with pip instead of conda compiles source code, which may not be better

```
(clone)[akitzmiller@holy2a ~] pip install gattlib
Collecting gattlib
  Downloading gattlib-0.20150805.tar.gz (1.7MB)
                                            1.7MB 170kB/s
Building wheels for collected packages: gattlib
  Running setup.py bdist_wheel for gattlib ... error
  Complete output from command /n/home_rc/akitzmiller/.conda/envs/clone/bin/python -u -c "import
  running bdist_wheel
  running build
  running build_ext
  building 'gattlib' extension
  creating build
  creating build/temp.linux-x86_64-2.7/src/bluez/btio
  gcc -pthread -fno-strict-aliasing -g -02 -DNDEBUG -g -fwrapv -03 -Wall -Wstrict-prototypes -fP]
  cc1plus: warning: command line option "-Wstrict-prototypes" is valid for Ada/C/ObjC but not for
  src/gattservices.cpp:6:33: error: bluetooth/bluetooth.h: No such file or directory
  src/qattservices.cpp:7:27: error: bluetooth/hci.h: No such file or directory
  src/qattservices.cpp:8:31: error: bluetooth/hci_lib.h: No such file or directory
  In file included from src/gattlib.h:22,
                   from src/gattservices.cpp:12:
  src/bluez/attrib/qatt.h:25:27: error: bluetooth/sdp.h: No such file or directory
  In file included from src/gattlib.h:19,
                   from src/gattservices.cpp:12:
  src/bluez/lib/uuid.h:153: error: 'uint128_t' does not name a type
```

Fix the missing lookkool module by installing from the Harvard Informatics github repository into an Anaconda clone

pip install git+https://github.com/harvardinformatics/lookkool.git

Parallel Python - Multiprocessing

- The Python interpreter does not support real parallel threading
- The multiprocessing module simulates a typical threading library using forked processes
- Do something else, while a tool runs in the background

```
from multiprocessing import Process

def runAnalysis(parametersfile){
    cmd = 'OMA %s' % parametersfile
    os.system(cmd)
}
p = Process(target=runAnalysis, args=(parametersfile))
p.start()
# Do some other stuff
...
p.join()
```

Parallel Python - Multiprocessing Pool

• If you're doing a variable number of simultaneous processes, you may want to use a Pool

```
>>> from multiprocessing import Pool
>>> import os
>>> def echo(echoable):
        os.system('echo %s && sleep 10' % echoable)
>>> echoables = [
        'ajk',
        '123',
       'qwerty',
        'uiop',
        'lkjdsa',
>>> numprocs = os.environ.get('NUMPROCS',3)
>>> pool = Pool(numprocs)
>>> result = pool.map(echo, echoables)
123
ajk
qwerty
lkjdsa
uiop
```

Parallel Python - Multiprocessing Pool

- Pool.map does not work if you have more than one argument, so iterate through and use apply_async
- You'll need to "get" the return value from the result object(s)

```
>>> from multiprocessing import Pool
>>> import os
>>> def greet(name, message):
        os.system('echo "Hi %s, %s" && sleep 10' % (name, message))
        return '%s was greeted' % name
>>> greetings = [
        ('Aaron', "What's up?"),
       ('Bert', "Where's Ernie?"),
        ('Donald', "What're you thinking?"),
        ('folks','Chill!'),
>>> numprocs = os.environ.get('NUMPROCS',3)
>>> pool = Pool(numprocs)
>>> results = []
>>> for greeting in greetings:
       result = pool.apply_async(greet, greeting)
       results.append(result)
Hi Bert, Where's Ernie?
Hi Aaron, What's up?
Hi Donald, What're you thinking?
Hi folks, Chill!
>>> for result in results:
       print result.get()
Aaron was greeted
Bert was greeted
Donald was greeted
folks was greeted
```

Analyze the contigs using a multiprocessing pool. Compare the elapsed time with the for loop version.

Analyze contigs with a multiprocessing pool.

```
starttime = time.time()
from multiprocessing import Pool
numprocs = os.environ.get('ANNOTATION_PROC_NUM',2)
pool = Pool(numprocs)

annotations = []
results = []
for contig in contigs:
    result = pool.apply_async(annotateStartStopCodons, contig)
    results.append(result)
    result = pool.apply_async(annotatePalindromes, contig)
    results.append(result)

for result in results:
    annotations += result.get()
endtime = time.time()
```

Python dictionaries

- A dictionary is like a list, but can be indexed by non-integers (AKA hash map)
- Elements are not necessarily in the order you think

```
>>> basecounts = { 'A' : 230, 'T' : 120, 'C' : 999, 'G' : 100 }
>>> for base, count in basecounts.iteritems():
... print '%s: %d' % (base, count)
...
A: 230
C: 999
T: 120
G: 100
```

• OrderedDict is available in Python 2.7 and you can order output by sorting keys

• Dictionary of lists

```
# Make a dictionary keyed by contig name
annotatedcontigs = {}
for annotation in annotations:
    annotatedcontigs.setdefault(annotation['seqid'],[]).append(annotation)
```

Python can be used to submit Slurm jobs

• Use a "heredoc" and format method to write a Slurm script

```
>>> script = '''#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH -p {partition}
#SBATCH -t {time}
... #SBATCH --mem {mem}
#SBATCH -n {cores}
... #SBATCH -N {nodes}
... {cmd}
... '''.format(partition='gpu', time='100', mem='500', cores='1', nodes='1', cmd='hostname')
>>> print script
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH -p serial_requeue
#SBATCH -t 1-0:00
#SBATCH --mem 1000
#SBATCH -n 1
#SBATCH -N 1
hostname
>>>
```

- Use a subprocess to submit and monitor your job
- Catch the job id from sbatch output

and use it to check sacct

```
from subprocess import Popen, PIPE
def isDone(jobid):
    dones = ['COMPLETED', 'CANCELLED', 'FAILED', 'TIMEOUT', 'PREEMPTED', 'NODE_FAIL']
    proc = Popen('sacct --format state --noheader -j %d' % int(jobid), shell=True, stdout=PIPE, stdout, stdout, stderr = proc.communicate()
    if proc.returncode != 0:
        raise Exception('Error running sacct: %s' % stderr)
    if stdout.strip() == '':
        return False
    lines = stdout.split()
    if lines[0].strip() in dones:
        return True
    return False
```

Capture stdout and parse date information

Regular expressions

- Google: python regular expressions
- Python regular expressions are a full set of processing options (character classes, capture groups, quantifiers, etc)
- Match the beginning of your string. Use a "raw" string to avoid backslash proliferation

```
>>> teststr = 'w00t!'
>>> import re
>>> re.match(r'[a-z]\d+.*', teststr)
<_sre.SRE_Match object at 0x7f0e518c3098>
```

• Use re.search if your pattern is later in the string

```
>>> re.match(r'\d+.*',teststr)
>>> re.search(r'\d+.*',teststr)
<_sre.SRE_Match object at 0x7f0e518c3098>
```

Regular expressions

• Use parens to "capture" text

Split with a regex (with or without capture group)

```
>>> re.split(r'(A{3,})T',segment)
['TATGCGGCAAGTTAC', 'AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA', 'AAAGTT', 'AAAAAAAAAAAAAA', 'GCTA']
>>> re.split(r'A{3,}',segment)
['TATGCGGCAAGTTAC', 'T', 'GTT', 'TGCTA']
```

Process multiline text

Date handling

- Google python datetime
- The datetime and timedelta modules come with Python

```
>>> from datetime import datetime, timedelta
>>> datetime.now()
datetime.datetime(2017, 3, 16, 16, 52, 33, 639252)
>>> feb = datetime(2017,2,1)
>>> nextmonth = feb + timedelta(days=30)
>>> nextmonth
datetime.datetime(2017, 3, 3, 0, 0)
```

• strftime formats date objects

```
>>> nextmonth.strftime('%d/%m/%Y')
'03/03/2017'
```

• strptime parses dates according to a strict specification

```
>>> datetime.strptime('03/03/2017','%d/%m/%Y')
datetime.datetime(2017, 3, 3, 0, 0)
```

• python-dateutil package parses whatever you throw at it

```
>>> from dateutil import parser
>>> parser.parse('03/03/2017')
datetime.datetime(2017, 3, 3, 0, 0)
>>> parser.parse('March 3, 2017')
datetime.datetime(2017, 3, 3, 0, 0)
```

Get the start and end dates from the hyperAssembler output and calculate the time

```
Assembling genome in data/example.fa

Start time: 04:01:00 PM

280

140

Finished assembling data/example.fa. Writing contigs into data/example.fa.contigs.

End time: 04:01:05 PM
```

Get the start and end dates

```
# Get the start and end time from stdout
from dateutil import parser
match = re.search(r'Start time: (.*)\n', stdoutstr, re.MULTILINE)
if match:
    starttime = parser.parse(match.group(1))
match = re.search(r'End time: (.*)\n', stdoutstr, re.MULTILINE)
if match:
    endtime = parser.parse(match.group(1))
if starttime and endtime:
    delta = endtime - starttime
    print 'Elapsed assembly time %d seconds' % delta.total_seconds()
```