

# "offline" ipython notebooks for reproducible research

Pynxton meeting 14/10/2014

Marco Galardini  
[marco@ebi.ac.uk](mailto:marco@ebi.ac.uk)  
@mgalactus

# Ipython notebooks (personal?) use cases

- Have a (quick) look at data
- Keep analysis and results in the same place
  - Reduces the risk of forgetting how a certain plot has been done
  - Send batteries included analysis to collaborators as html (nbconvert)
  - Easily re-run an analysis when new data arrives

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    - Re-open the notebook
    - Run all cells
    - Close the notebook
    - Re-run `ipython nbconvert --to=html notebook.ipynb`

# Ipython notebooks as automatic reporting systems?

## **Easily re-run an analysis when new data arrives**

- Re-open the notebook
- Run all cells
- Close the notebook
- Re-run `ipython nbconvert --to=html notebook.ipynb`

**This requires to manually operate the notebook in a browser and wait for it to finish, while it could easily fit into a makefile (or a bash script)**

**Is there a way to run an ipython notebook from the command line?**

## Running an ipython notebook non-interactively

15

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Does anyone know if it is possible to run an ipython notebook non-interactively from the command line and have the resulting .ipynb file saved with the results of the run. If it isn't already possible, how hard would it be to implement with phantomJS, something to turn the kernel on and off, and something to turn the web server on and off?

To be more specific, let's assume I already have a notebook original.ipynb and I want to rerun all cells in that notebook and save the results in a new notebook new.ipynb, but do this with one single command on the command line with no requiring interaction either in the browser or to close the kernel or web server, and assuming no kernel or web server is already running.

example command:

```
$ ipython notebook run original.ipynb --output=new.ipynb
```

ipython ipython-notebook

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edited Jul 30 '13 at 3:37

asked Jul 28 '13 at 5:38

 davidshinn  
203 ● 2 ● 7

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### 3 Answers

active

oldest

votes

11

✓

Yes it is possible, and easy, it will (mostly) be in IPython core for 2.0, I would suggest looking at [those examples](#) for now.

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answered Jul 28 '13 at 23:04

 Matt  
4,825 ● 1 ● 9 ● 27

1 ↑ Thank you for pointing me in the right direction. Since the exact code wasn't posted, I forked one of the gists and added output code so that the following will run a notebook from the commandline just like a desired `$ ipynbdoctest.py original.ipynb new.ipynb` [gist.github.com/davidshinn/6110231](https://gist.github.com/davidshinn/6110231) – [davidshinn](#)  
Jul 30 '13 at 5:00

Great! this functionality will be added in nbconvert 2.0 with a nicer API, don't hesitate to edit wiki to add a link to your script. – [Matt](#) Jul 30 '13 at 8:52

1 @Matt Did this make it into ipython 2? If so, how do I use it? – [Simon Byrne](#) May 11 at 9:38

3 ↑ No not in IPython 2, on its way for IPython 3 – [Matt](#) May 11 at 12:28

Such a feature would be really interesting to make the notebooks a tool to perform reproducible analysis (like embedding the command in a makefile, i.e. running the notebook from the command line and then converting it to markdown/rst). Looking forward to it! – [mgalardini](#) Oct 1 at 16:02

it is now in master. – [Matt](#) Oct 2 at 8:22

<http://goo.gl/HkmlGD>

- Not yet available in released version
- Apparently is available in the master branch
  - (couldn't find it)
- A little hack of an utility script will do the trick!

Run IPython notebooks as command-line scripts, generate HTML reports

80 commits

2 branches

0 releases

15 contributors



branch: master ▾

runipy / +



Merge pull request #43 from zonca/patch-2 ...



paulgb authored 6 days ago

latest commit 4dcea74525

runipy	added progress_callback to README	4 months ago
tests	got tests passing with IPython 3.0.0-dev	5 months ago
.gitignore	updated gitignore	7 months ago
LICENSE	Added BSD license	a year ago
MANIFEST.in	license in manifest	a year ago
README.rst	Typo in credits	6 days ago
setup.py	added version numbers to requirements	5 months ago
test.py	tests for #31	5 months ago

README.rst

# runipy : run IPython as a script

The IPython notebook provides an interactive interface to a Python interpreter.

- **Literate programming:** the IPython notebook is an ideal format for writing "literate" programs, in which the code is part of a larger multi-media document. `runipy` lets you run such programs directly, without first converting to a pure Python script.
- **Report generation:** `runipy` can run the notebook and convert it into HTML in one go, making it an easy way to automate reports.
- **Data pipeline:** if you use IPython notebooks to create a data pipeline, `runipy` lets you automate that pipeline without losing the notebook formatting.

&lt;&gt; Code

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# Ipython notebooks as automatic reporting systems?

```
~/ $ runipy my_notebook.ipynb tmp.ipynb
```

```
~/ $ mv tmp.ipynb my_notebook.ipynb
```

```
~/ $ ipython nbconvert --to=html my_notebook.ipynb
```

That's it! You can add a couple of rules to a makefile to obtain the updated html (or pdf or markdown, or latex...) every time some data changes or you add some new cell to the notebook.

Happy reproducible research!