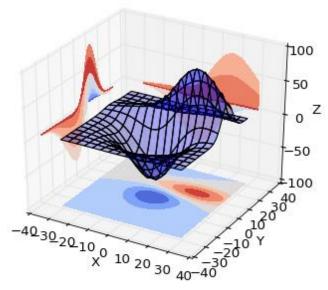
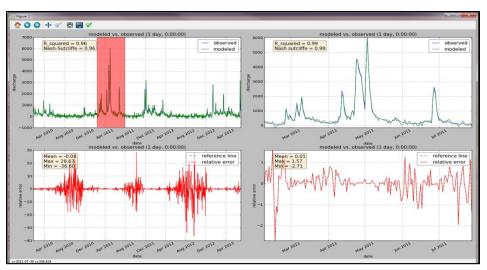
Introduction to Scientific Computing Meeting 22 Programming with Python







Jeremiah Lant, Hydrologist USGS Kentucky Water Science Center jlant@usgs.gov

Last Meeting

- Learned about:
 - modules
 - import statement
 - sys module
 - sys.argv
- Learn how to get user input using command line arguments via the sys module; sys.argv

Last meeting – sys module

 The sys is a built in Python module/library that has great utility for talking to and working with a machines operating system.

Last meeting – modules

- Modules allow you to logically organize your Python code.
 - Grouping related code into a module makes the code easier to understand and use.
- A **module** is just a file consisting of Python code. A module can define functions, classes, and variables. A module can also include runnable code like scripts.
- Modules are a great way to create an advanced library with complex code instead of using the interpreter or simple scripts that are used to explore a problem and experiment with a problem.
- **Much more on modules and organizing code in the near future after learning about functions when we build more complex programs.

Last meeting – import statement

- import statement gives you access to a module
 - Use import statements at the top of a Python file
 - When the Python interpreter encounters an import statement, searches the search path (via sys.path) for the module

import <module_name>

>>> import sys

some_file.py
import sys

Last meeting – sys.argv function

- For user input, we are going to use a function contained in the sys module called argv (we will be learning about functions next after file input and output).
- sys.argv is a list, which contains the commandline arguments passed to the script.
- https://docs.python.org/2/library/sys.html

Recall from Unix: bash scripts

```
$ HELLO="Hello World"
$ echo $HELLO
```

- Sample script that reads command line arguments and user input
 - readinput.sh

```
# read command line arguments from command line
ARG0=$0
ARG1=$1
ARG2=$2
echo "Argument 0 is: " $ARG0
echo "Argument 1 is: " $ARG1
echo "Argument 2 is: " $ARG2
# read user input from command line
echo -n "Enter your name and press [ENTER]: "
read name
echo $name
```

Demo – sys.argv function

 Let's create a new file called sys-argv.py to learn more about sys.argv.

Today's Objectives

- Use sys.argv a little more
- Learn how to read and write files; File Input and output (File I/O).

Practice Objectives

- Finish working on sys-argv.py
- Open a file called cities.txt

Next meeting

- Learn how to read and write files; File Input and output (File I/O).
- Learn how to write functions.