

GEOG 432/832: Programming, Scripting, and Automation for GIS

Week 04.01: Even more geoprocessing in Python

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Today's schedule

- Open discussion
- Discussion and exercises
- For next class

Open discussion

Functions

- A function is a piece of code that performs a specific task.
- Geoprocessing tools are functions, *but* not all functions are geoprocessing tools.
- What else can functions do?
 - list datasets
 - retrieve properties
 - check for the existence/presence
 - validate names

What else have we used?

note, not all ArcPy functions are available as standard tools in ArcGIS Pro

Calling a function

- a lot like calling a tool (b/c a tool is a function)
 - has parameters (which take arguments)
 - returns values (assuming it returns)

The syntax of a function in ArcPy is the same as for tools:

```
arcpy.<functionname>(<arguments>)
```

For example, this prints either True or False:

```
import arcpy  
print(arcpy.Exists("C:/Data/streams.shp"))
```

what is the data type of the value `arcpy.Exists` returns?

Many, many, many ArcPy functions

Some categories (not the full list - see text)

- ArcGIS Online/Portal
- Cursors
- Geodatabase admin
- Publishing
- Raster
- Spatial references and transformations

These categories won't be in the Python syntax

Miscellany

- ArcPy functions are divided into 2 categories:
 - i. tool functions
 - ii. nontool functions

Why do we care (a good question)?:

- Documentation is in different sections. Nontool functions are *only* documented under the Python tab of the ArcGIS Pro help pages
- Tools are licensed by:
 - license level (Basic, Standard, and Advanced)
 - extension (e.g., 3D Analyst, Network Analyst, Spatial Analyst)

(All arcpy nontool functions are available independent of the license level)

- Tools produce geoprocessing messages, nontool functions do not

Classes for tool parameters

So far, we have passed relatively simple parameters in our functions

For example:

```
inFc = "State_Park_Locations.shp"  
clipFc = "lancaster_county.shp"  
outputFc = "myFirstOutput.shp"  
  
arcpy.Clip_analysis(inFc, clipFc, outputFc)
```

But parameters can be (and often are) more complex objects themselves

For example (any ideas...)???

Let's try this with the SpatialReference class

- Recall our discussion of object-oriented programming

What is a class?

Creating a new object from a class

Syntax:

```
arcpy.<classname>(parameters)
```

An actual example

```
import arcpy  
prjfile = "C:/Data/myprojection.prj"  
spatialref = arcpy.SpatialReference(prjfile)
```

Let's break it down... what does the above code block do?

- What is the name of the class?
- What is the name of the object we created from the class?

What can you do with objects?

- Get work done!
- In our spatial reference example:
 - parameters of the CRS
 - domains
 - more

```
import arcpy
prjfile = "C:/Data/streams.prj"
spatialref = arcpy.SpatialReference(prjfile)
print(spatialref.name)
```

what does the above code block do?

Many parameters are Strings

The previous code prints the name of the spatial reference

```
NAD_1983_StatePlane_Florida_East_FIPS_0901_Feet
```

What is the CRS?

- Any potential issues using a String representation of the CRS like this in your code?
- What does a .prj file look like?
 - Open one in Notepad (or another text editor)

Alternative to working directly with Strings

- Much easier to refer to CRS by using the name of the coordinate system or referencing the .prj file that contains the string value
- Can do so using the SpatialReference class

For example, the syntax to call Create Feature Class tool:

```
CreateFeatureclass(out_path, out_name, {geometry_type},  
                  {template}, {has_m}, {has_z},  
                  {spatial_reference}, {config_keyword},  
                  {spatial_grid_1}, {spatial_grid_2},  
                  {spatial_grid_3})
```

what are the parameters?

Substituting the spatial reference object for the string

```
import arcpy
out_path = "C:/Data"
out_name = "lines.shp"
prjfile = "C:/Data/streams.prj"
spatialref = arcpy.SpatialReference(prjfile)
arcpy.CreateFeatureclass_management(out_path, out_name, "POLYLINE",
                                   "", "", "", spatialref)
```

MUCH easier using the SpatialReference object than using actual string value contained in the .prj file

other stuff we're not going to cover in class

See your textbook for:

- tool messages
- dealing with licenses
- spatial references
- environments

Getting by with a little help (from our ESRI friends)

- Main support page for ArcGIS Pro is <http://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/help>
- The Python tab brings up the ArcGIS Pro Python reference, which includes the official documentation of all the functionality of ArcPy.
- All ArcPy functions and classes are listed and described in detail, with sample code
- Separate sections on the various modules of ArcPy (`arcpy.da`, `arcpy.ia`, `arcpy.sa`, and `arcpy.mp`)

Today's in-class exercise

Using your `week03inclass` data, calculate:

1. The number of municipalities in Lancaster County
2. How many 303d streams are (at least partially) inside of Lincoln

Before you start, create a generalized workflow/process/pseudocode

For next class

- Readings
 - Wilson et al. 2020. Come with **at least one** (more is ok/great) discussion questions. We are going to discuss the paper as in a seminar
- Practice!
- Lab 01 is due on 2/11