

Watch Part 1 as a video:

[Lesson 2A, Part 1: Script best practices, arcpy and running simple tools](#)

Accessing geoprocessing

arcpy

Running tools

Basic arcpy methods

Putting it together

Python Scripting for ArcGIS book
(Zandbergen),
Chapter 5

Python for ArcGIS Pro
(Toms/Parker),
Chapter 2

NR426

Programming for GIS I

Lesson 2 (a, b)

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What does Lesson 2 cover?



Two class sessions: Lessons 2a, 2b



Access ArcGIS functionality through Python



Understand capabilities of arcpy



Implement non-tool methods within arcpy



Run any Geoprocessing tool through Python

Lesson 2a

Writing a script

Introducing arcpy

Running tools

How do you start a script? What makes a good script?

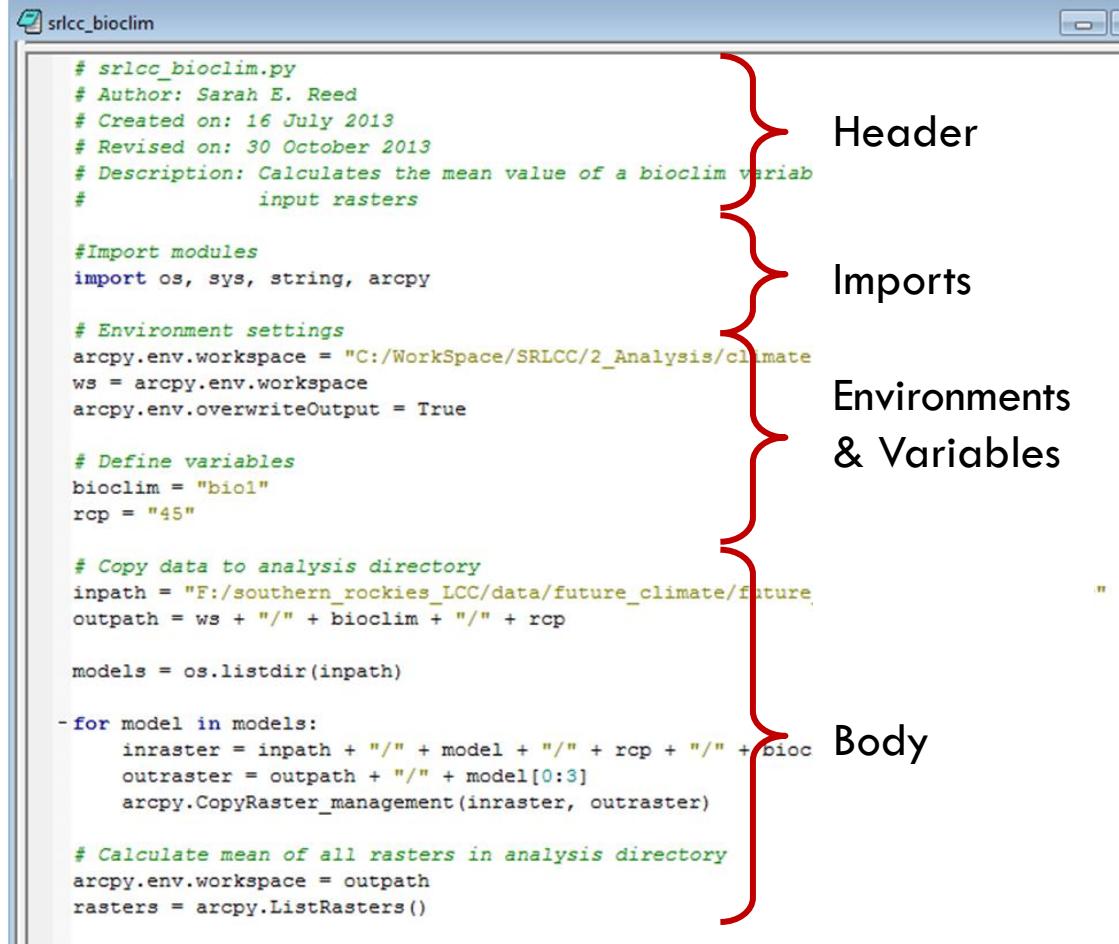
[How to Write Beautiful Python Code](#)
[With PEP 8 – Real Python](#)

□ Pseudocode

- Like an outline to help you organize script
- Written as comments
- Fill in the sections later with actual code

□ Script components

- Header
- Variables
- Body
- Comments, Messaging



The screenshot shows a Windows-style code editor window with a blue title bar containing the file name 'srbcc_bioclimate'. The main area contains a Python script. A red curly brace on the right side groups the first four lines as 'Header', the next two lines as 'Imports', the next three lines as 'Environments & Variables', and the remaining lines as 'Body'.

```
# srbcc_bioclimate.py
# Author: Sarah E. Reed
# Created on: 16 July 2013
# Revised on: 30 October 2013
# Description: Calculates the mean value of a bioclim variable
#               input rasters

# Import modules
import os, sys, string, arcpy

# Environment settings
arcpy.env.workspace = "C:/WorkSpace/SRLCC/2_Analysis/climate"
ws = arcpy.env.workspace
arcpy.env.overwriteOutput = True

# Define variables
bioclim = "biol"
rcp = "45"

# Copy data to analysis directory
inpath = "F:/southern_rockies_LCC/data/future_climate/future"
outpath = ws + "/" + bioclim + "/" + rcp

models = os.listdir(inpath)

for model in models:
    inraster = inpath + "/" + model + "/" + rcp + "/" + bioclim
    outraster = outpath + "/" + model[0:3]
    arcpy.CopyRaster_management(inraster, outraster)

# Calculate mean of all rasters in analysis directory
arcpy.env.workspace = outpath
rasters = arcpy.ListRasters()
```

What is arcpy?

- A “site package” - a giant collection of GIS-related functions
 - Methods and properties to work with GIS data
 - Enables access to ArcGIS functionality: every tool in the toolbox plus additional non-tool methods, properties, and classes
- Must be imported into your script

- Then you have access to ArcGIS functionality

```
import arcpy  
arcpy.method() #Tools  
arcpy.env.property = value #Env. settings  
print arcpy.property
```

Step 1: Importing arcpy

- **import arcpy**

- All code must be written as arcpy.method()

- Examples:

- ```
arcpy.Buffer_analysis(in, out, dist)
```

```
arcpy.analysis.Buffer (in, out, dist)
```

- **from arcpy import \***

- Simplify code to call by method name without the “arcpy.”

- ```
Buffer_analysis(in, out, dist)
```

Arcpy has modules within it for specific functions:

- `arcpy.mp, arcpy.sa, arcpy.na, arcpy.da`

- ```
from arcpy.mp import *
```

- Simplify code to call by method name without the “arcpy.”

# Step 2: Setting a default workspace

```
arcpy.env.workspace = r"C:\Documents\NR426\Lesson2"
```

## □ Why?

- Can reference data *without* the full path further down in script
- Makes code shorter, easier to read
- Not always required ...but some methods ( `arcpy.List_____ methods`) do require it (More in Lesson 3)

# With variables and a workspace vs. without

```
Import modules
import arcpy

Set environments and variables
arcpy.env.workspace = r"C:\Student\ProgrammingPro\Database\UnionCity.gdb"

census = "Census_Ttract_2000"
watersheds = "Watersheds"
clip_out = "census_clipped"
print ("variables set")
print ("Your workspace is:" + arcpy.env.workspace)

Clip(in_features, clip_features, out_feature_class, {cluster_tolerance})
print ("Starting clip.....")
arcpy.Clip_analysis(census, watersheds, clip_out)
```

```
Import modules
import arcpy

Clip(in_features, clip_features, out_feature_class, {cluster_tolerance})
print ("Starting clip.....")
arcpy.Clip_analysis(r"C:\Student\ProgrammingPro\Database\UnionCity.gdb\census",
 r"C:\Student\ProgrammingPro\Database\UnionCity.gdb\watersheds",
 r"C:\Student\ProgrammingPro\Database\UnionCity.gdb\clip_out")
```

# Step 3: Running tools

- Accessing geoprocessing functionality within a Python script ([Help doc](#))
- Generic syntax to run any tool in the toolbox

`arcpy.Toolname_toolboxalias (arg, arg, arg) *Required v. optional`  
-or-  `arcpy.toolboxalias.toolname (arg, arg, arg)`

- Examples:

```
import arcpy
arcpy.Buffer_analysis (input, Bufoutput, 2)
arcpy.analysis.Clip(Bufoutput, "County", clippedoutput)
```

- Every toolbox has an alias. Look at syntax in help.
- Tools, methods are case sensitive. Look at syntax in help.

# Demo

- Importing arcpy
- Finding syntax for tools
- Running a tool

# Running tools that need Spatial Analyst

- Must import the extension's module `import arcpy.sa`
- Should check that Spatial Analyst extension is available ([More info](#))

- Must run the tool and save output with `.save()`

```
import arcpy, env
from arcpy.sa import *
if not arcpy.CheckExtension("Spatial") == "Available":
 print ("License for SA tools not available")
env.workspace = "C:/sapyexamples/data"
outSlope = Slope("elevation", "DEGREE", 0.3043)
outSlope.save("C:/sapyexamples/output/outslope01")
```

- Maybe check out the extension with `arcpy.CheckOutExtension("Spatial")`
  - Depends on licensing: only needed with concurrent or single-use licensing
- [Help doc](#) for the spatial analyst tools
- Other “sub-modules” of arcpy exist: Network Analyst, Data Access, Mapping

# Demo

- Importing arcpy's Spatial Analyst functionality
- Running a raster analysis tool

Watch this part as a video:

[Lesson 2A, Part 3, Using the Help and a Brief Summary](#)



ArcGIS Help system: [Pro](#) [Python for Pro](#)

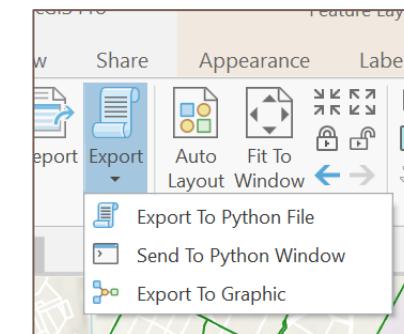
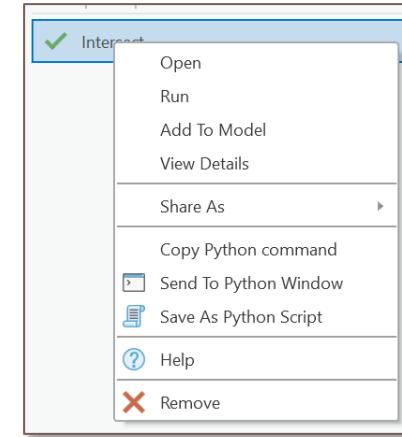
Use the search  
Tool help

From the Toolbox:

Right-click on tool, choose Help or Item Description

# Help tips

- Copy – paste the syntax from the Help into the code so you have it in front of you
- Get the code snippet generated for you!
  - Run a tool
  - Go to the Analysis Ribbon > History
  - Find the tool you want to use in Python
  - Right-click and copy Python command
- Turn that ModelBuilder model into Python code
  - From the ModelBuilder ribbon > Export



# Running simple tools

```
Process: Intersect
arcpy.Intersect_analysis(["maindir = "L:\\\\Projects_active\\\\TNC_Riparian\\\\Gunnison\\\\2015\\\\"
print "Ran all the intersect"
Process: Summary Statistics
arcpy.Statistics_analysis("ecddir")
print(ecddir)

arcpy.CheckOutExtension("Spatial")

arcpy.env.workspace = maindir
create segmented image for each tile
for tif in arcpy.ListRasters("*", "TIF"):
 inRast = tif
 spectral = "20"
 spatial = "20"
 min_seg_size = "1"
 bands = "4 1 2"
 if not os.path.exists(smsdir + "seg_" + str(tif)):
 seg_raster = SegmentMeanShift(inRast, spectral, spatial, min_seg_size, bands)
 seg_raster.save(smsdir + "seg_" + str(tif))
 else:
 print("SMS complete")
```

# What did you just learn?



1. How do you find the syntax for a tool you're not familiar with?
2. How can you make your code more readable for yourself or others?
3. Where do your “print” messages go?
4. What is the generic syntax for any tool in the toolbox?
5. How can you tell if your script ran successfully?

# Lab 2A: Accessing arcpy and running tools

## In-class hands-on activities

Finding syntax for tools

Setting up a script

Running tools in a script

## Self-directed activities

Write the code to perform some vector and raster analysis

Watch this part as a video:

[Lesson 2B, Part 1, Other arcpy Methods](#)

# Lesson 2b

Other arcpy methods

**Exists**

**GetCount**

**Messaging**

**Describe**

**...and more**

# arcpy Methods and Properties

- Methods on arcpy: `arcpy.method ()`
  - `arcpy.Exists(data)`
  - `arcpy.Toolname(<arguments>)`
- Properties: Environment settings, Describe
  - `arcpy.env.Environment = "value"`
  - `arcpy.env.workspace = "C:\NR426\LAB2"`
  - `arcpy.env.overwriteOutput = True`
- Another overwrite option
  - Not arcpy.... From ArcGIS Pro Options

Where's the Help for all the environment settings?

<https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/arcpy/classes/env.htm>

Search for *arcpy env class*

# Useful arcpy methods (and 1 property)

Not from the Toolbox...

□ **overwriteOutput**

□ **Exists**

□ **Describe**

From the Toolbox...

□ **GetCount**

□ **MakeFeatureLayer (Lesson 4)**

There is also an Exists property from the os module.

- It works on any file os can see
- Won't recognize spatial data within a GDB  
    **os.path.exists**

```
▶ import arcpy, os

#Set the workspace
path = r"C:\Student\MtnCampus_map\MtnCampus_map.gdb"
arcpy.env.workspace = path
lyr = "MtnCampus_streams"

print ("Does the os see the gdb file?")
print (os.path.exists(path))

print("-Does the workspace exist?")
print (arcpy.Exists(arcpy.env.workspace))

print ("-Does the layer exist?")
print (arcpy.Exists(lyr))

#Allow data to overwrite
arcpy.overwriteOutput = True

print ("-How many features are in the layer?")
countresult = arcpy.GetCount_management(lyr)
print (countresult[0])
```

Does the os see the gdb file?

True

-Does the workspace exist?

True

-Does the layer exist?

True

-How many features are in the layer?

782

# Messaging

- Create your own messages for the geoprocessing window

```
arcpy.AddMessage("your own text")
```

- print doesn't work with script tools (Lesson 6), must use AddMessage

- Retrieve messaging from the geoprocessor

```
arcpy.GetMessages()
```

# Demo

- A quick look at:
  - Workspace
  - Overwrite
  - Exists
  - GetCount
  - AddMessage

Watch this part as a video:

[Lesson 2B, Part 2, Describe and Lesson Conclusion](#)

# Lesson 2b

Other arcpy methods

Exists

GetCount

Messaging

Describe

...and more

# Describing data with arcpy.Describe()

- Retrieve data properties
- Describe [help doc](#)
- All data have access to the [Describe object properties](#)
- More in Lesson 3

```
▶ import arcpy, os

#Set the workspace
path = r"C:\Student\MtnCampus_map\MtnCampus_map.gdb"
arcpy.env.workspace = path
lyr = "MtnCampus_streams"

#Create a describe object
dsc = arcpy.Describe(lyr)

#Call on properties
print ("-Shape type / geometry type for the layer:")
print (dsc.shapetype)

print ("-Data type for the layer:")
print (dsc.datatype)

print ("-Dataset type for the layer:")
print (dsc.datasettype)

print ("-File path for the layer:")
print (dsc.catalogpath)

-Shape type / geometry type for the layer:
Polyline
-Data type for the layer:
FeatureLayer
-Dataset type for the layer:
FeatureClass
-File path for the layer:
C:\Student\MtnCampus_map\MtnCampus_map.gdb\MtnCampus_streams
```

# Describing data with arcpy.Describe()

## □ Examples:

```
import arcpy

Create a Describe object from the feature class
#
desc = arcpy.Describe("C:/data/arch.dgn/Point")

Print some feature class properties
#
print("Feature Type: " + desc.featureType)
print("Shape Type : " + desc.shapeType)
print("Spatial Index: " + str(desc.hasSpatialIndex))
```

```
desc = arcpy.Describe("C:/Data/chesapeake.gdb")

Print some Describe Object properties
#
if hasattr(desc, "name"):
 print("Name: " + desc.name)
if hasattr(desc, "dataType"):
 print("DataType: " + desc.dataType)
if hasattr(desc, "catalogPath"):
 print("CatalogPath: " + desc.catalogPath)
```

```
import arcpy

Set some variables # CHANGE THESE :
txtfile = r"C:\Users\MapGirl\Documents\NR426-427\describing.txt" #
arcpy.env.workspace = r"C:\Data\Beth_Data" # Full path to workspace
data = "NorthwestRoadTrip.gdb" # Name only of data to describe

Create and open output text file
outFile = open(txtfile, "w")

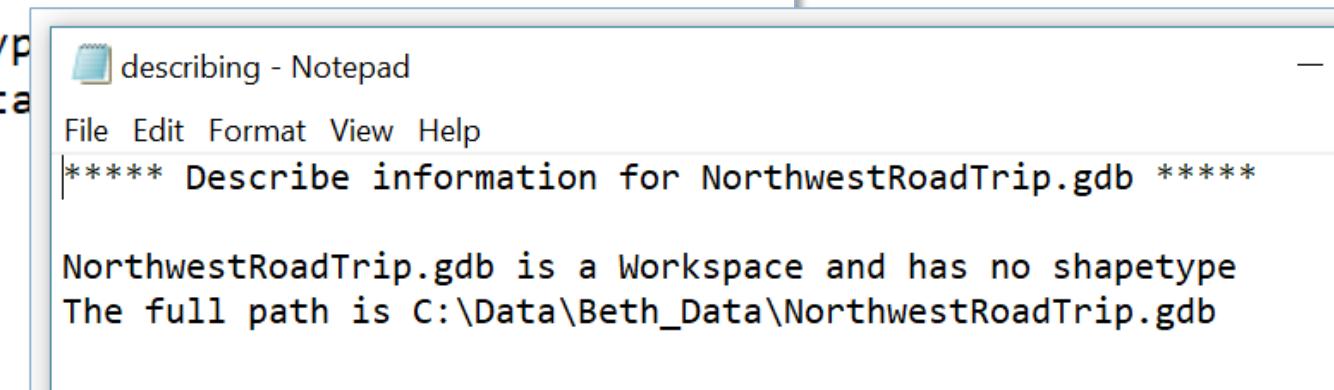
Describe the data
dsc = arcpy.Describe(data)

#Write information out to the text file
outFile.write("***** Describe information for "+data+" *****\n\n")
try:
 outFile.write(data+ " has " +dsc.shapetype+ " geometry\n")
except:
 outFile.write(data+ " is a "+dsc.datatype)
outFile.write("The full path is " + dsc.catalogPath)

Close files
outFile.close()

print ("Finished")
```

DEMO



The screenshot shows a Notepad window titled 'describing - Notepad'. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Format, View, and Help. The main content area displays the following text:

```
***** Describe information for NorthwestRoadTrip.gdb *****

NorthwestRoadTrip.gdb is a Workspace and has no shapetype
The full path is C:\Data\Beth_Data\NorthwestRoadTrip.gdb
```

# Putting it together

```
Import arcpy
Make variables for fake data as an example
inputFC = r"C:\Data\mydata.gdb\somedata"
outputFC = r"C:\Data\mydata.gdb\newdata"
myDistance = 100
1:
arcpy.Buffer_analysis (inputFC, outputfc, mydistance)
2:
arcpy.Buffer ("inputFC", "outputFC", 100)

It's always nice to print out some messaging to the run window:
print "The output data is: " + outputFC + "and the\
distance is: " + myDistance
```

There are 8 mistakes/issues in this small snippet of code.  
Can you find them?

# Putting it together

```
1 Import arcpy
Make variables for fake data as an example
inputFC = r"C:\Data\mydata.gdb\somedata"
outputFC = r"C:\Data\mydata.gdb\newdata"
myDistance = 100
1: 2 3
arcpy.Buffer_analysis (inputFC, outputFC, mydistance)
2: 4 5 6 7
arcpy.Buffer ("inputFC", "outputFC", 100)

It's 8 always nice to print out some messaging to the run window:
print "The output data is: " + outputFC + "and the\
distance is: " + myDistance
```

# Code example

What is each line doing?

Could you write something comparable on your own?

Variables  
if  
arcpy

```
import arcpy

Allow data to be overwritten if it's already there.
arcpy.env.overwriteOutput = True

Set current workspace (like a default workspace)
arcpy.env.workspace = r"C:\Data\MyHikingData.gdb"

Create a variable for a feature class in the above GDB
mydata = "Trailheads"

Print whether or not the data exists. Returns a boolean, True or False
print(arcpy.Exists(mydata))

Run a tool on the data but only if it exists
if arcpy.Exists(mydata):
 #run buffer tool
 print("Running buffer.....")
 arcpy.Buffer_analysis(mydata, mydata+"_buf", "3 Miles")
 print("Buffer completed")
else:
 print("That dataset doesn't exist")

print ("Script completed")
print()
```

# Lab 2B: Working with arcpy methods

## In-class hands-on activities

Run a tool on data only if it exists

Allow data to overwrite

Add messaging

## Self-directed activities

Write code to run basic geoprocessing while exploring some additional arcpy properties and methods