Contents

Preface xi
Acknowledgments xiv

Part 1: Learning the fundamentals of Python and geoprocessing 1

Chapter 1: Introducing Python 3
1.1 Introduction 3
1.2 Exploring the features of Python 3
1.3 Comparing scripting vs. programming 4
1.4 Using scripting in ArcGIS 5
1.5 Python history and versions 5
1.6 About this book 6
1.7 Exploring how Python is used 8
1.8 Choosing a Python script editor 13
Points to remember 19

Chapter 2: Geoprocessing in ArcGIS 21
2.1 Introduction 21
2.2 What is geoprocessing? 21
2.3 A note on ArcObjects 23
2.4 Using toolboxes and tools 24
2.5 Learning types and categories of tools 25
2.6 Running tools using tool dialog boxes 26
2.7 Specifying environment settings 30
2.8 Using batch processing 32
2.9 Using models and ModelBuilder 34
2.10 Using scripting 38
2.11 Running scripts as tools 41
2.12 Converting a model to a script 44
2.13 Scheduling a Python script to run at prescribed times 45
Points to remember 47

Chapter 3: Using the Python window 49
3.1 Introduction 49
3.2 Opening the Python window 49
3.3 Writing and running code 50
3.4 Getting assistance 52
3.5 Exploring Python window options 54
3.6 Saving your work 55
3.7 Loading code into the Python window 56
Points to remember 57

Chapter 4: Learning Python language fundamentals 59
4.1 Introduction 59
4.2 Locating Python documentation and resources 59
4.3 Working with data types and structures 60
4.4 Working with numbers 60
4.5 Working with variables and naming 62
4.6 Writing statements and expressions 63
4.7 Using strings 64
4.8 Using lists 66
4.9 Working with Python objects 66
4.10 Using functions 68
4.11 Using methods 69
4.12 Working with strings 70
4.13 Working with lists 74
4.14 Working with paths 78
4.15 Working with modules 79
4.16 Controlling workflow using conditional statements 81
4.17 Controlling workflow using loop structures 83
4.18 Getting user input 85
4.19 Commenting scripts 86
4.20 Working with code in the PythonWin editor 88
4.21 Following coding guidelines 89
Points to remember 90

Part 2: Writing scripts 93

Chapter 5: Geoprocessing using Python 95
5.1 Introduction 95
5.2 Using the ArcPy site package 95
5.3 Importing ArcPy 96
5.4 Working with earlier versions of ArcGIS 97
5.5 Using tools 98
5.6 Working with toolboxes 104
5.7 Using functions 106
5.8 Using classes 107
5.9 Using environment settings 110
5.10 Working with tool messages 112
5.11 Working with licenses 115
5.12 Accessing ArcGIS Desktop Help 119
Points to remember 122

Chapter 6: Exploring spatial data 123
6.1 Introduction 123
6.2 Checking for the existence of data 123
6.3 Describing data 125
6.4 Listing data 127
6.5 Using lists in `for` loops 131
6.6 Working with lists 132
6.7 Working with tuples 133
6.8 Working with dictionaries 134
Points to remember 137

Chapter 7: Manipulating spatial data 139
7.1 Introduction 139
7.2 Using cursors to access data 139
7.3 Using SQL in Python 144
7.4 Working with table and field names 146
7.5 Parsing table and field names 148
7.6 Working with text files 149
Points to remember 158

Chapter 8: Working with geometries 159
8.1 Introduction 159
8.2 Working with geometry objects 159
8.3 Reading geometries 160
8.4 Working with multipart features 164
8.5 Working with polygons with holes 167
8.6 Writing geometries 169
8.7 Using cursors to set the spatial reference 172
8.8 Using geometry objects to work with geoprocessing tools 174
Points to remember 175

Chapter 9: Working with rasters 177
9.1 Introduction 177
9.2 Listing rasters 177
9.3 Describing raster properties 178
9.4 Working with raster objects 182
9.5 Working with the ArcPy Spatial Analyst module 183
9.6 Using map algebra operators 184
9.7 Using the `ApplyEnvironment` function 187
9.8 Using classes of the `arcpy.sa` module 188
9.9 Using raster functions to work with NumPy arrays 192
Points to remember 193

Part 3: Carrying out specialized tasks 195

Chapter 10: Map scripting 197
10.1 Introduction 197
10.2 Working with the ArcPy mapping module 197
10.3 Opening map documents 198
10.4 Accessing map document properties and methods 200
10.5 Working with data frames 201
10.6 Working with layers 203
10.7 Fixing broken data sources 208
10.8 Working with page layout elements 213
10.9 Exporting maps 216
10.10 Printing maps 218
10.11 Working with PDFs 219
10.12 Creating map books 220
10.13 Using sample mapping scripts 222
Points to remember 225

Chapter 11: Debugging and error handling 227
11.1 Introduction 227
11.2 Recognizing syntax errors 227
11.3 Recognizing exceptions 230
11.4 Using debugging 230
11.5 Using debugging tips and tricks 237
11.6 Error handling for exceptions 238
11.7 Raising exceptions 239
11.8 Handling exceptions 241
11.9 Handling geoprocessing exceptions 244
11.10 Using other error-handling methods 247
11.11 Watching for common errors 247
Points to remember 249

Chapter 12: Creating Python functions and classes 251
12.1 Introduction 251
12.2 Creating functions 251
12.3 Calling functions from other scripts 255
12.4 Organizing code into modules 258
12.5 Using classes 260
12.6 Working with packages 264
Points to remember 267

Part 4: Creating and using script tools 269

Chapter 13: Creating custom tools 271
13.1 Introduction 271
13.2 Why create your own tools? 271
13.3 Steps to creating a tool 273
13.4 Editing tool code 279
13.5 Exploring tool parameters 280
13.6 Setting tool parameters 285
13.7 Examining an example script tool 290
13.8 Customizing tool behavior 293
13.9 Working with messages 294
13.10 Handling messages for stand-alone scripts and tools 297
13.11 Customizing tool progress information 297
13.12 Running a script in process 301
Points to remember 302

Chapter 14: Sharing tools 303
14.1 Introduction 303
14.2 Choosing a method for distributing tools 303
14.3 Handling licensing issues 304
14.4 Using a standard folder structure for sharing tools 305
14.5 Working with paths 306
14.6 Finding data and workspaces 308
14.7 Creating a geoprocessing package 310
14.8 Embedding scripts and password-protecting tools 311
14.9 Documenting tools 312
14.10 Example tool: Market analysis 315
Points to remember 321

Appendix A Data source credits 323
Appendix B Data license agreement 327
Appendix C Installing the data and software 331
Index 337