

Module 4: Debugging & AI Error Correction

Turning Runtime Failures into Learning Opportunities

01. Decoding Python Errors

Recognizing patterns in the chaos of a traceback.

| Common Beginner Mistakes



SyntaxError

Occurs when Python doesn't understand your "grammar"—missing colons, mismatched parentheses, or typoed keywords.



ModuleNotFoundError

The "Library Slip." You're trying to use a tool (like pandas) before telling Python to import it.



IndentationError

Specific to Python: your code blocks (loops, functions) aren't aligned correctly. AI is an expert at fixing these.

Anatomy of a Traceback

Reading the Red Text

Tracebacks provide the roadmap to the problem. To an AI, this wall of text is a set of precise instructions for a fix.

- **Line Number:** Exactly where it broke.
- **Error Type:** The technical category.
- **Error Message:** The specific reason.

Don't be intimidated by the length; the most important info is usually at the **very bottom**.

```
SageMath version 9.3, Release Date: 2021-05-09
Using Python 3.7.10. Type "help()" for help.

sage: jupyter
-----
NameError:                                Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-1-69c353747166> in <module>
----> 1 jupyter

NameError: name 'jupyter' is not defined
sage: -n jupyter
      File "<ipython-input-2-2f714a6e1e6a>", line 1
        -n jupyter
            ^
SyntaxError: invalid syntax

sage: njupyter
-----
NameError:                                Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-3-081d64c7a041> in <module>
----> 1 njupyter

NameError: name 'njupyter' is not defined
sage: █
```

02. The Copy-Paste Fix Method

Your fastest route from failure to functionality.

| AI Debugging Workflow

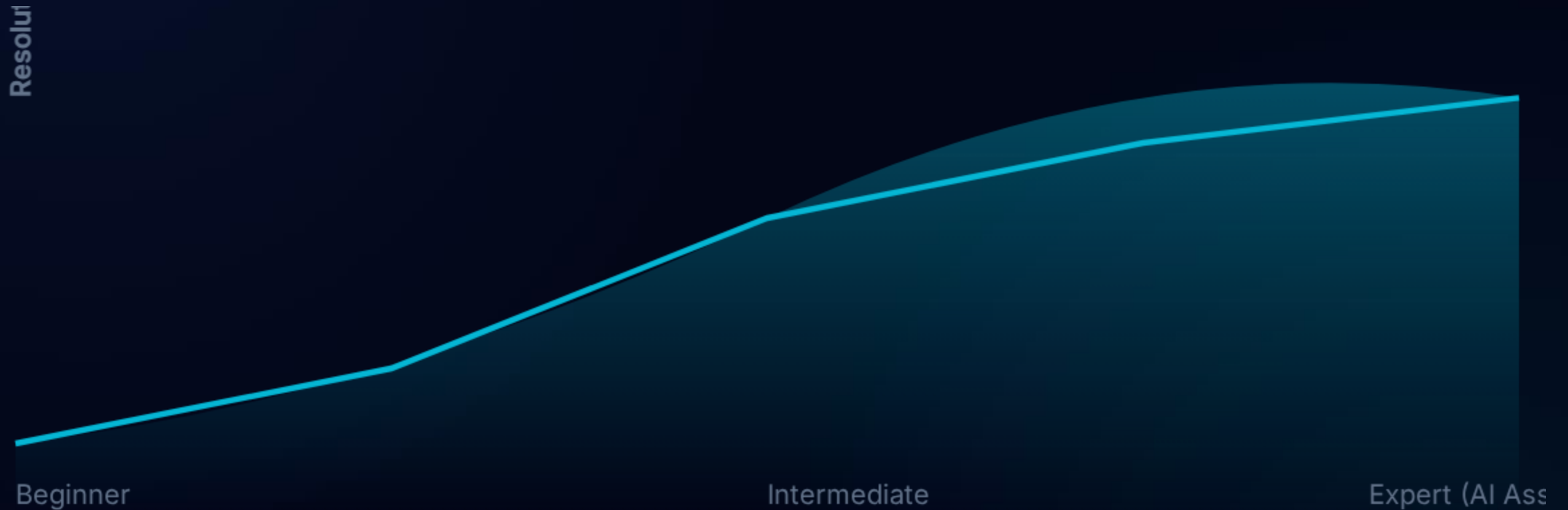
Step 1: Capture

Copy the **entire** error message from Jupyter, from the top of the traceback to the final error description.

Step 2: Command

Prompt the AI: "I am getting this error in my Jupyter cell. Here is my current code [paste code] and the error [paste error]. Please fix it."

Debugging Speed: AI vs. Manual



AI-assisted debugging allows beginners to bypass the "frustration plateau" of syntax troubleshooting.

03. Code Interrogation

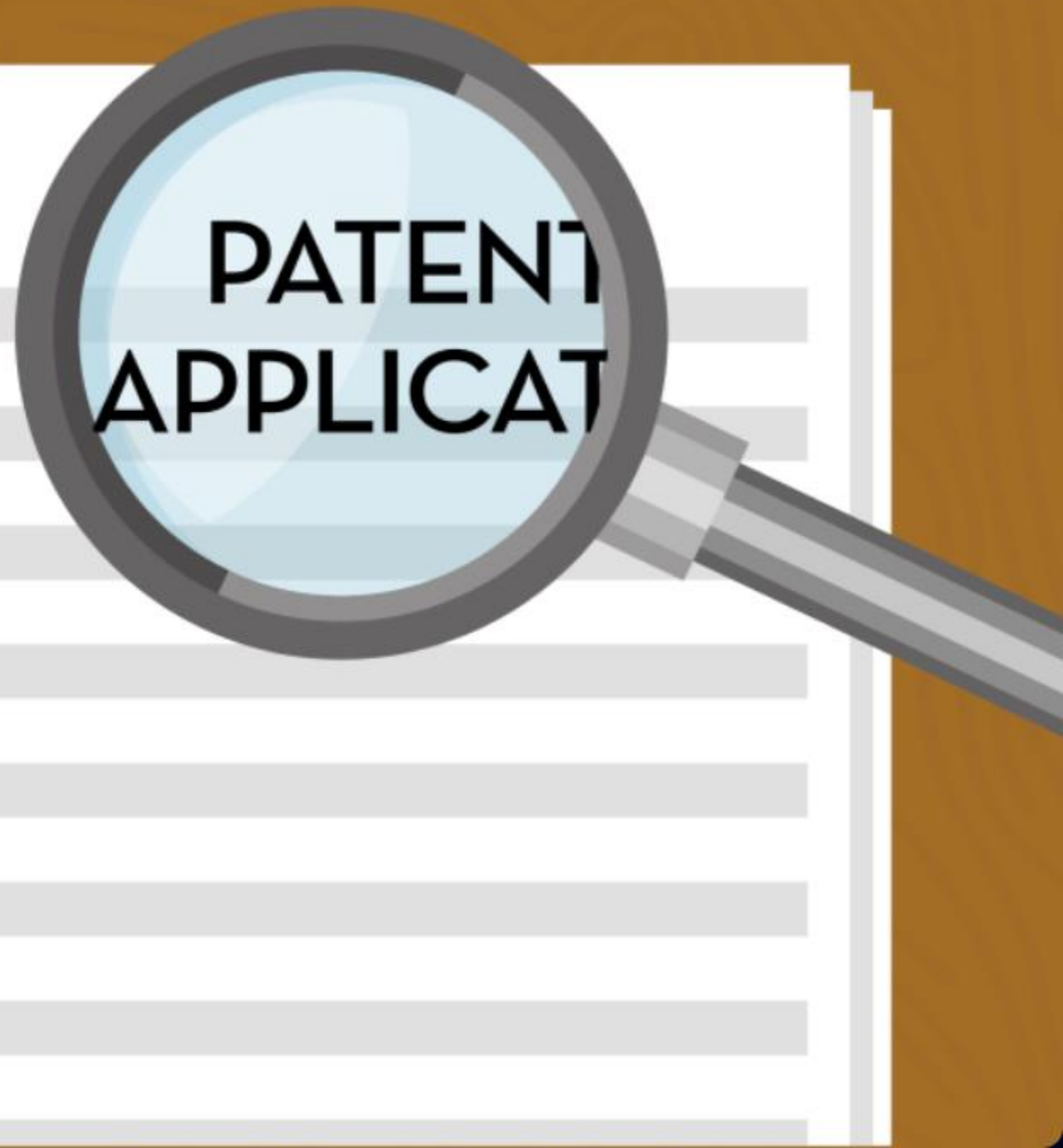
Don't just fix it—understand why it works.

| The Line-by-Line Dive

Decoding Generated Logic

When the AI provides a fix, don't just blind-paste. Ask:
"Can you explain this fix line-by-line?"

This "interrogation" turns the AI into a private tutor,
revealing the underlying Python logic that you can
apply next time without assistance.



| Learning from the Fix

- ❓ **"Why did this break?"** Ask for the root cause to prevent repeating the same mistake.
- 🔄 **"Is there a simpler way?"** AI often writes complex code; ask for the "beginner-friendly" version.
- 💡 **"Comment this code."** Request the AI to add internal notes to each line so your future self understands the logic.

Hands-On Exercise

Objective: Break, Feed, and Fix.

1. Intentionally remove a colon from a code cell.
2. Copy the resulting error message.
3. Prompt the AI to fix it and **explain** the error type.

Questions?

Next Module: Advanced Visual Formatting

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| Image Sources



<https://i.sstatic.net/83jVp.png>

Source: stackoverflow.com



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Source: actonline.org