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How to Load Data in Python with Scikit-Learn

by **Jason Brownlee** on July 9, 2014 in **Python Machine Learning**



Before you can build machine learning models, you need to load your data into memory.

In this post you will discover how to load data for machine learning in Python using [scikit-learn](#).

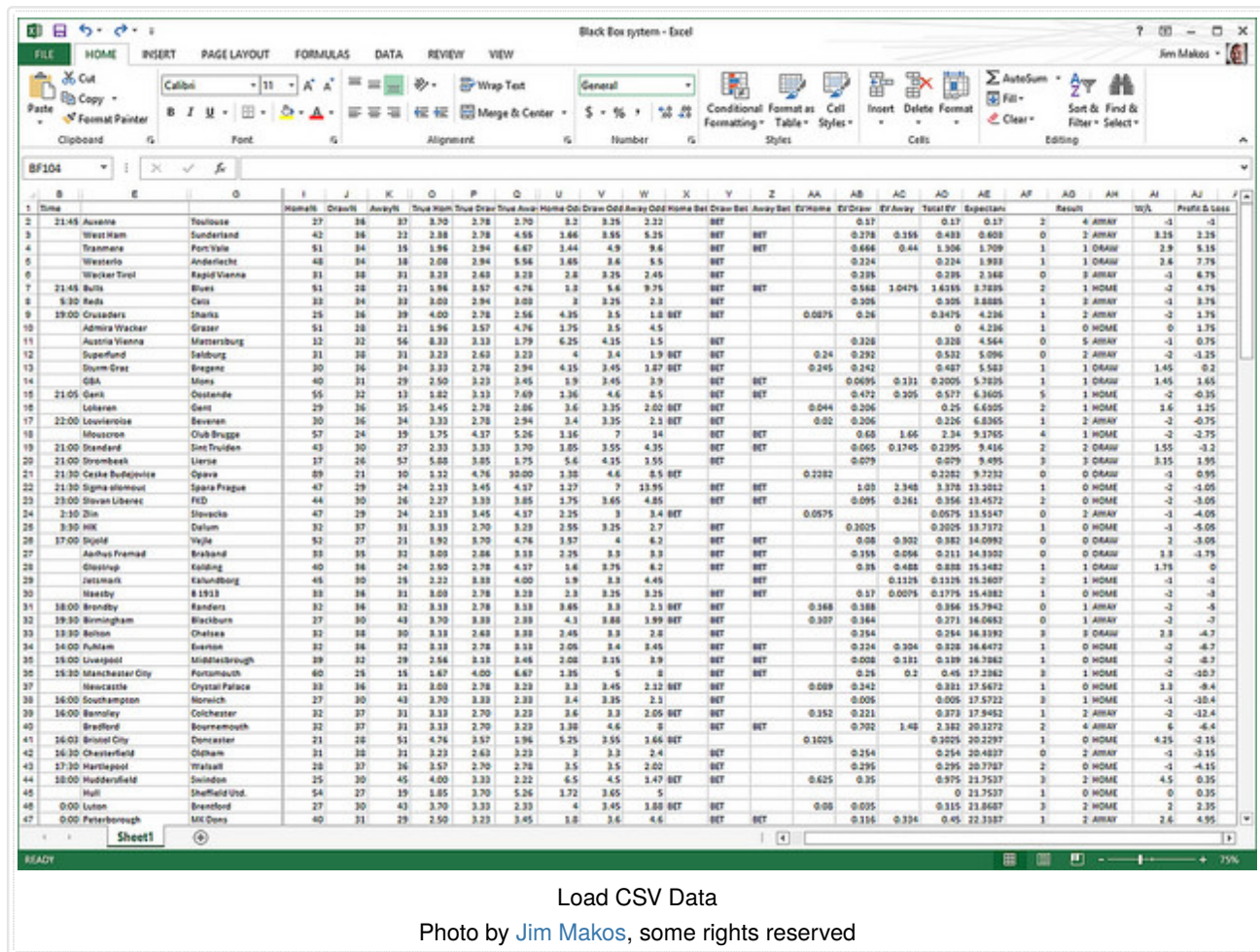
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Load CSV Data

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Packaged Datasets

The scikit-learn library is [packaged with data](#)

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on a given machine learning algorithm or library feature before using it in your own work.

This recipe demonstrates how to load the famous [Iris flowers dataset](#).

```
1 # Load the packaged iris flowers dataset
2 # Iris flower dataset (4x150, reals, multi-label classification)
3 iris = load_iris()
4 print(iris)
```

Load from CSV

It is very common for you to have a dataset as a CSV file on your local workstation or on a remote server.

This recipe show you how to load a CSV file from a URL, in this case the [Pima Indians diabetes classification dataset](#) from the [UCI Machine Learning Repository](#).

From the prepared X and y variables, you can train a machine learning model.

```
1 # Load the Pima Indians diabetes dataset from CSV URL
2 import numpy as np
3 import urllib
4 # URL for the Pima Indians Diabetes dataset (UCI Machine Learning Repository)
5 url = "http://goo.gl/j0Rvxq"
6 # download the file
7 raw_data = urllib.urlopen(url)
8 # load the CSV file as a numpy matrix
9 dataset = np.loadtxt(raw_data, delimiter=",")
10 print(dataset.shape)
11 # separate the data from the target attributes
12 X = dataset[:,0:7]
13 y = dataset[:,8]
```

Summary

In this post you discovered that the scikit-learn library provides the `load_iris` function to load the iris flowers dataset. These datasets can be used to experiment with different machine learning models.

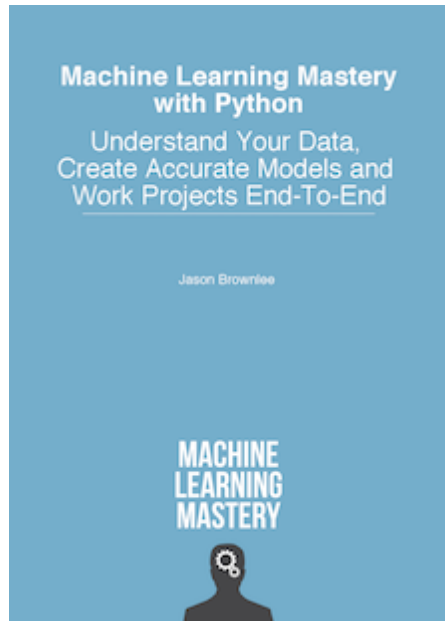
You also saw how you can load CSV data with `np.loadtxt` from files from the web using the [urllib library](#) and use in scikit-learn.

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About Jason Brownlee

Dr. Jason Brownlee is a husband, proud father, academic researcher, author, professional developer and a machine learning practitioner. He is dedicated to helping developers get started and get good at applied

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12 Responses to *How to Load Data*

retsreg January 12, 2015 at 7:10 am #

REPLY ↩



It's great to see how to load data from a URL. Do you have an example of how to actually load text from a file?



Tarik February 24, 2015 at 8:21 am #

REPLY ↩

I think there is a small bug.
When code separating features to X array, it is missing the 8th features.
So the twelfth line should be : `X = dataset[:,0:8]`
This way it will consist last features right before the targets given in the dataset.



Robin April 5, 2015 at 6:32 am #

REPLY ↩

Hi, thanks for this. Just a note, for Python 3*, it should be "import urllib.request" with "raw_data = urllib.request.urlopen(url)" and for Python 2* it should be "import urllib2" with "raw_data = urllib2.urlopen(url)".



emilia June 10, 2015 at 4:35 am #

REPLY ↩

I am preparing a file for scikit learn and I would like to know how to build this file, I have my instances, features and classes. I am not sure how to make the file that is uploaded with scikit learn. Could you please clarify that?



abhinav August 31, 2017 at 11:36 pm #

great blog! thanks helped a lot



Jason Brownlee September 1, 2017 at 11:36 pm #

Thanks.

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shivaprasad October 22, 2017 at 5:16 pm #

REPLY ↩

hello sir i am a new bee to the data science i have gon through the books written by you,like machie learning mastery,machine learning algorithms from scratch and master machine learnong algorithms,i have gon through the books,next steps what i need to follow please guide me



Jason Brownlee October 23, 2017 at 5:42 am #

REPLY ↩

Perhaps focus on developing a portfolio of completed projects:
<http://machinelearningmastery.com/build-a-machine-learning-portfolio/>



shivaprasad October 24, 2017 at 3:20 am #

REPLY ↩

glad to have your reply sir,thank u very much



shivaprasad October 24, 2017 at 4:12 am #

REPLY ↩

sir will you please suggest me some data science projects with python for a beginner



Jason Brownlee

Yes, see here:

<http://machinelearningmastery.com/memory-datasets-from-the-internet/>



shivaprasad October 24, 2017 at 2:48

thanks a lot sir

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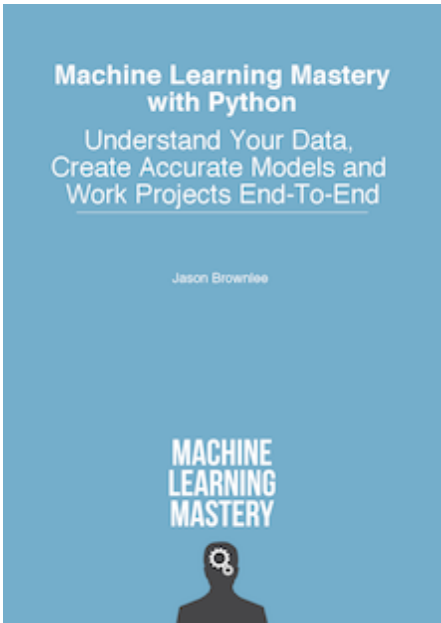
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