

# Advanced School in Artificial Intelligence

## Introduction to Python

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**Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara**

## Outline

- Introduction to Python
- Introduction to Neural Networks
- Convolutional NN
- Recurrent NN
- Autoencoders and self supervised learning

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## Modules

- Modules allow to define a group of functions and variables that are related.
- The name of the module is the name of the file without **.py**
- To use a module, one needs to **import** it.
  - NOTE: Importing a module causes python to run each line of code in the module, i.e., if there are operations outside functions they are executed.
- To call a function in a module: **module\_name.function\_name()**

```
import my_module
```

```
my_module.function_name()
```

## Modules



- Each module has an implicit variable `__name__`.
- If we import a module called `module_m`, then  
`module_m.__name__ == "module_m"`
- But if we run a module, then  
`__name__ == "main"`
- Recall that if we are running a module, we don't need the module name as a prefix.
- By checking if the module is the running module we can define a sort of function `main` per module that will be performed only if the module is the running one.

## Modules

a.py

```
import b

def f(x):
    return x * 2

if __name__ == "__main__":
    print(1)
    print(b.f(10))
    print(f(10))
```

b.py

```
import a

def f(x):
    return x / 2

if __name__ == "__main__":
    print(1)
    print(a.f(10))
    print(f(10))
```



## Modules

```
from module_name import fn_name1, fn_name2
```

- Import only functions **fn\_name1** and **fn\_name2**
- The imported functions can be called using their name
- Can also use **\*** as a wildcard to import all the functions.

```
from module_name import *
```

- If two modules have a function with the same name, the most recent one stays.

## Modules

a.py

```
import b

def f(x):
    return x * 2

if __name__ == "__main__":
    print(1)
    print(b.f(10))
    print(f(10))
```

b.py

```
from a import f

def f(x):
    return x / 2

if __name__ == "__main__":
    print(1)
    print(a.f(10))
    print(f(10))
```



## More on modules

- Importing a module means creating a variable having the name of the module and containing the reference to the module itself.
- The `import from` can be simulated also by assigning the reference of the function to a variable.

```
func=a.f
```

```
func(10)
```

## More on modules

- Importing a module means creating a variable having the name of the module and containing the reference to the module itself.
- We can use `as` to rename this variable.

```
import a as module_a  
module_a.f(10)
```

```
from a import f as func  
func(10)
```

## Functions

- The definition of a function is

```
def function_name (arguments) :  
    # statements
```

- def is a python keyword
- Arguments are 0 or more variables.
- The body of the function (statements) must be **indented**.
- If the block contains the keyword **return**, it returns a value; otherwise it returns the special value **None**.

## NumPy e other useful modules

- sys
- NumPy
- Scikit-learn
- Managing CSVs (csv and Pandas)



## Module `sys`

- It is a built-in module giving functions and parameters `useful to interact with the operating system.`
- It is usually used to get command arguments from CLI

```
import sys
```

```
print("Script name: " + sys.argv[0])
```

`argv[0]` is the name of the file

```
for i in range(1, len(sys.argv)) :
```

```
    print("Arg " + str(i) + ":" + sys.argv[i])
```

## Module sys


- It can be used to redirect standard IO

```
import sys
save_stdout = sys.stdout # keep previous streams
save_stderr = sys.stderr
file1 = open("output.log", "w")
file2 = open("error.log", "w")
sys.stdout = file1 # redirection
sys.stderr = file2
print("This is the output message\n") # print on file1
sys.stderr.write("This is the error message\n") # print on file2
sys.stdout = save_stdout # redirection to original streams
sys.stderr = save_stderr
file1.close()
file2.close()
```



**`sys.stderr.write()` and `sys.stdout.write()`**  
to write on standard output and error

## Module sys

- Interesting parameters: 
  - `sys.executable` path of Python interpreter
  - `sys.maxint` `max` value for integers
  - `sys.modules` dictionary containing all modules loaded by the interpreter
  - `sys.path` list of folders where Python looks for modules
  - `sys.platform` name of the SO
  - ...



## Module NumPy



- NumPy is the fundamental package for scientific computing with Python. It contains among other things:
  - a powerful N-dimensional array object
  - sophisticated (broadcasting) functions
  - tools for integrating C/C++ and Fortran code
  - useful linear algebra, Fourier transform, and random number capabilities
  - Part of the SciPy framework (<https://www.scipy.org/>)
  - Do you remember arrays? We will use NumPy especially for that.
- See <https://www.numpy.org/> for documentation and tutorials. We will explain what we need step by step.

## Module Scikit-learn

- Machine Learning in Python
  - Simple and efficient tools for data mining and data analysis
  - Accessible to everybody, and reusable in various contexts
  - Built on NumPy, SciPy, and matplotlib
  - Open source, commercially usable - BSD license
- Allows performing classification, regression, clustering, ...
- See <https://scikit-learn.org/stable/> for documentation and examples.

## Module for working with csv

- CSV files are often used to store data in machine learning.
- To read and write CSV we can use the module **pandas**, a module from the SciPy framework.

## Reading a CSV with **pandas**

- Pandas can read a CSV and save it into its **DataFrame**

```
import pandas
```

```
df = pandas.read_csv('my.csv')
```

```
print(df)
```

- **DataFrames** have many attributes (for example containing the types of the columns) and methods.
- As NumPy and SciPy, Pandas uses its own types that are automatically translated into built-in Python types but that bring more power.

## Reading a CSV with **pandas**

- Pandas automatically uses the first line as header of the table and represents it as a matrix where the column index is the name of the column while the row index is an integer from 0.
  - If we need to use a different indexing for rows, using the values contained in a certain column (for example an ID) we can set this during reading

```
import pandas
```

```
df = pandas.read_csv('my.csv', index_col='ID')
```



```
print(df)
```

Name of the column

## Reading a CSV with **pandas**

- Pandas is usually able to automatically convert special types. In case it isn't (for example with dates), we can force the conversion.

```
import pandas
df = pandas.read_csv('my.csv',
                     parse_dates=['Date Column'])
print(df)
```

- Pandas will use the **Timestamp** datatype

## Reading a CSV with **pandas**

- We can also read CSV managing the header row and passing the name of the columns as argument

```
import pandas
df = pandas.read_csv('my.csv',
                     header=0,
                     names=['My', 'Column', 'Names'])
print(df)
```

- **header** argument tells the row where the headers are. Used in combination with **names** we can replace headers of the CSV. If the CSV doesn't contain headers we can use **names** alone to define the headers (or assigning **None** to **header**).



## Writing a CSV with pandas

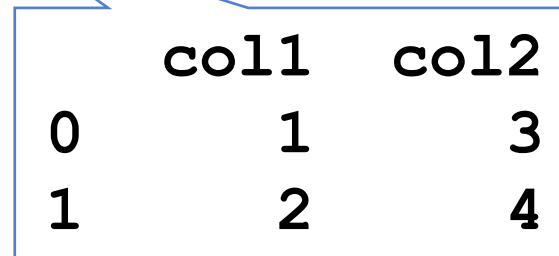
- Writing with pandas can be done easily by **instantiating a DataFrame** and **write it into a file**

```
import pandas
```

```
d = {'col1': [1, 2], 'col2': [3, 4]}
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame(data=d)
```

```
df.to_csv('my.csv')
```



	col1	col2
0	1	3
1	2	4

## Exercise 1

- Define the following variables:  $n1 = 1$ ,  $n2 = 2$ ,  $s1 = 'hi'$ ,  $s2 = 'hello'$
- Use the if statement to test whether the type assigned to  $n1$  and  $n2$  is the same. If this is true, print the values of the variables and their relation for example in this way: «1 is greater than 2»
- Use the if statement to test whether  $s1$  and  $s2$  are of the same type. If this is true, check if  $s1$  is a substring of  $s2$  (if true print the result), else if  $s2$  is contained in  $s1$ . Otherwise print that  $s1$  and  $s2$  are different.

## Exercise 2

1. Create a list of integers containing numbers from 2 to 7
2. Loop on the list to sum the values contained, print this value (don't use function `sum()`)
3. Print the content of the list
4. Loop on the list to change its values by summing every element with the sum computed before
5. Print the content of the list

## Exercise 3

1. As exercise 2 but use arrays.
2. Create an array of integers containing numbers from 2 to 7
3. Loop on the array to sum the values contained, print this value (don't use function `sum()`)
4. Print the content of the array
5. Change the elements of the array's values by summing every element with the sum computed before
6. Print the content of the array
7. Try with the different definitions of array

## Exercise 4

- Sometimes we want to figure out what the key corresponding to a given value is.
  - This is impossible to do naively.
- We need to build a dictionary where values are used as keys.
- Problems?

## Exercise 4

- Sometimes we want to figure out what the key corresponding to a given value is.
  - This is impossible to do naively.
- We need to build a dictionary where values are used as keys.
- Problems?
  - While the keys in a dictionary must be unique, the values don't have this restriction.
  - So multiple keys can have the same value.
- So?

## Exercise 4

- Dictionary can take everything as value (mutable and immutable objects – remember keys are immutable)
- We can use for example a list.
- Try it by creating a dictionary containing the following pairs

`'Boss Nass': 'Star Wars'`

`'Tom Bombadil': 'The Lord of the Rings'`

`'Hari Seldon': 'Foundation series'`

`'Polliver': 'Game of Thrones'`

`'Jules Winnfield': 'Pulp Fiction'`

`'The Mule': 'Foundation series'`

`'Flynn Rider': 'Rapunzel'`

`'Yoda': 'Star Wars'`

`'Vince Vega': 'Pulp Fiction'`



## Exercise 4

- Print the dictionary created.
- Invert the dictionary.
- Print the new dictionary.

## Exercise 5

1. Create two Python modules called respectively **module\_one** and **module\_two**.
2. **module\_one** defines the functions:
  1. **f** takes one or two arguments  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $y$  having the default value 10 and returns their sum.
  2. **g** takes one argument  $x$  and computes  $x^3$  (use the exponentiation).
  3. Define a main that calls **f(2)** and **f(g(2))** and prints their results.
3. **module\_two** imports only function **f** from **module\_one** and calls **f(10,5)** printing its result.