

607 - Week 7

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Working with XML and JSON in R

For this homework, I created a table in Numbers from MacOS and then exported the table as an .CSV file. Then I used the following online conversion tools to load the .CSV file and convert it to the required formats.

Convert CSV to JSON, XML

<http://www.convertcsv.com/csv-to-json.htm> <http://www.convertcsv.com/csv-to-xml.htm> <http://www.convertcsv.com/csv-to-html.htm>

Loading HTML Table

```
# Load HTML file
HTML.File <- "/Users/josemawyin/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/Data Science Masters /607/"
# Parse HTML data
HTML.Table <- readHTMLTable(HTML.File)
```

The easiest load was from `HTM` into a `data.frame` using “`readHTMLTable`” from the `XML` package. Right away, you could use the created `data.frame` for further analysis.

HTML.Table

```
## $`NULL`
##           Title
## 1           Evolution
## 2 The Player of Games
## 3           Eye of Terra
##
##                                     Authors
## 1                                     Stephen Baxter
## 2                                     Iain M. Banks
## 3 Graham McNeill, Aaron Dembski-Bowden, Chris Wraight, Gav Thorpe, Matthew Farrer, Rob Sanders
##   Published Date      Publisher      ISBN Pages
## 1 January 1, 2003      Del Rey    345457838   672
## 2 March 26, 2008      Orbit     316005401   416
## 3 June 27, 2017 Black Library B074R7ZCDF   480
```

Loading XML File

Extracting data from a XML file is a bit more elaborate because we need to specify the XML tag that defines the individual entries. To load the .XML file we use the “xmlParse” function from the XML package.

```
# Load XML file
XML.File <- "/Users/josemawyin/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/Data Science Masters /607/6
# Parse XML data
xmlfile <- xmlParse(XML.File)
xmlfile
```

```
## <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
## <root>
##   <row>
##     <Title>Evolution</Title>
##     <Authors>Stephen Baxter</Authors>
##     <Published_Date>January 1, 2003</Published_Date>
##     <Publisher>Del Rey</Publisher>
##     <ISBN>345457838</ISBN>
##     <Pages>672</Pages>
##   </row>
##   <row>
##     <Title>The Player of Games</Title>
##     <Authors>Iain M. Banks</Authors>
##     <Published_Date>March 26, 2008</Published_Date>
##     <Publisher>Orbit</Publisher>
##     <ISBN>316005401</ISBN>
##     <Pages>416</Pages>
##   </row>
##   <row>
##     <Title>Eye of Terra</Title>
##     <Authors>Graham McNeill, Aaron Dembski-Bowden, Chris Wraight, Gav Thorpe, Matthew Farrer, Rob Sanders</Authors>
##     <Published_Date>June 27, 2017</Published_Date>
##     <Publisher>Black Library</Publisher>
##     <ISBN>B074R7ZCDF</ISBN>
##     <Pages>480</Pages>
##   </row>
## </root>
##
```

Here we define the XML tag that defines a node or entry from the encoded table using the “xmlToDataFrame” function from the XML package.

```
# Get place nodes
XML.Table <- xmlToDataFrame(nodes=getNodeSet(xmlfile,"//row"))
XML.Table
```

```
##           Title
## 1           Evolution
## 2 The Player of Games
## 3           Eye of Terra
##
##                                     Authors
## 1                                     Stephen Baxter
## 2                                     Iain M. Banks
## 3 Graham McNeill, Aaron Dembski-Bowden, Chris Wraight, Gav Thorpe, Matthew Farrer, Rob Sanders
##   Published_Date   Publisher   ISBN Pages
## 1 January 1, 2003   Del Rey   345457838   672
## 2 March 26, 2008   Orbit    316005401   416
## 3 June 27, 2017 Black Library B074R7ZCDF   480
```

```
colnames(XML.Table)
```

```
## [1] "Title"          "Authors"         "Published_Date" "Publisher"
## [5] "ISBN"           "Pages"
```

Loading JSON File

Working with a .JSON file was the most difficult from all the file types. I used the “fromJSON” function from the rJSON package to load the file into a table.

```
#Load JSON file
JSON.File <- "/Users/josemawyin/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple-CloudDocs/Data Science Masters /607/
# You can pass directly the filename
my.JSON <- fromJSON(file=JSON.File)
str(my.JSON)

## List of 3
## $ :List of 6
## ..$ Title      : chr "Evolution"
## ..$ Authors    : chr "Stephen Baxter"
## ..$ Published Date: chr "January 1, 2003"
## ..$ Publisher  : chr "Del Rey"
## ..$ ISBN       : chr "345457838"
## ..$ Pages      : num 672
## $ :List of 6
## ..$ Title      : chr "The Player of Games"
## ..$ Authors    : chr "Iain M. Banks"
## ..$ Published Date: chr "March 26, 2008"
## ..$ Publisher  : chr "Orbit"
## ..$ ISBN       : chr "316005401"
## ..$ Pages      : num 416
## $ :List of 6
## ..$ Title      : chr "Eye of Terra"
## ..$ Authors    : chr "Graham McNeill, Aaron Dembski-Bowden, Chris Wraight, Gav Thorpe, Matthew I
## ..$ Published Date: chr "June 27, 2017"
## ..$ Publisher  : chr "Black Library"
## ..$ ISBN       : chr "B074R7ZCDF"
## ..$ Pages      : num 480
```

The “fromJSON” function creates a list of list that now we need to parse through to create a data.frame. This we do below through the function “lapply”.

```
df <- lapply(my.JSON, function(play) # Loop through each "play"
{
  # Convert each group to a data frame.
  # This assumes you have 6 elements each time
  data.frame(matrix(unlist(play), ncol=6, byrow=T))
})

# Now you have a list of data frames, connect them together in
# one single dataframe
df <- do.call(rbind, df)

# Make column names nicer, remove row names
#colnames(df) <- names(my.JSON[[1]][[1]])
colnames(df) <- colnames(XML.Table)
rownames(df) <- NULL

df
```

##	Title	Authors
## 1	Evolution	Stephen Baxter
## 2	The Player of Games	Iain M. Banks
## 3	Eye of Terra	
## 3	Graham McNeill, Aaron Dembski-Bowden, Chris Wraight, Gav Thorpe, Matthew Farrer, Rob Sanders	

##	Published_Date	Publisher	ISBN	Pages
## 1	January 1, 2003	Del Rey	345457838	672
## 2	March 26, 2008	Orbit	316005401	416
## 3	June 27, 2017	Black Library	B074R7ZCDF	480

We have shown how loaded data from 3 different formats (HTML, XML and JSON) and successfully loaded the data into a data.frame. The conversion was easier with the HML and XML formats. However, JSON encapsulation of data into a string makes it suitable as a vehicle for tabulated data as well.