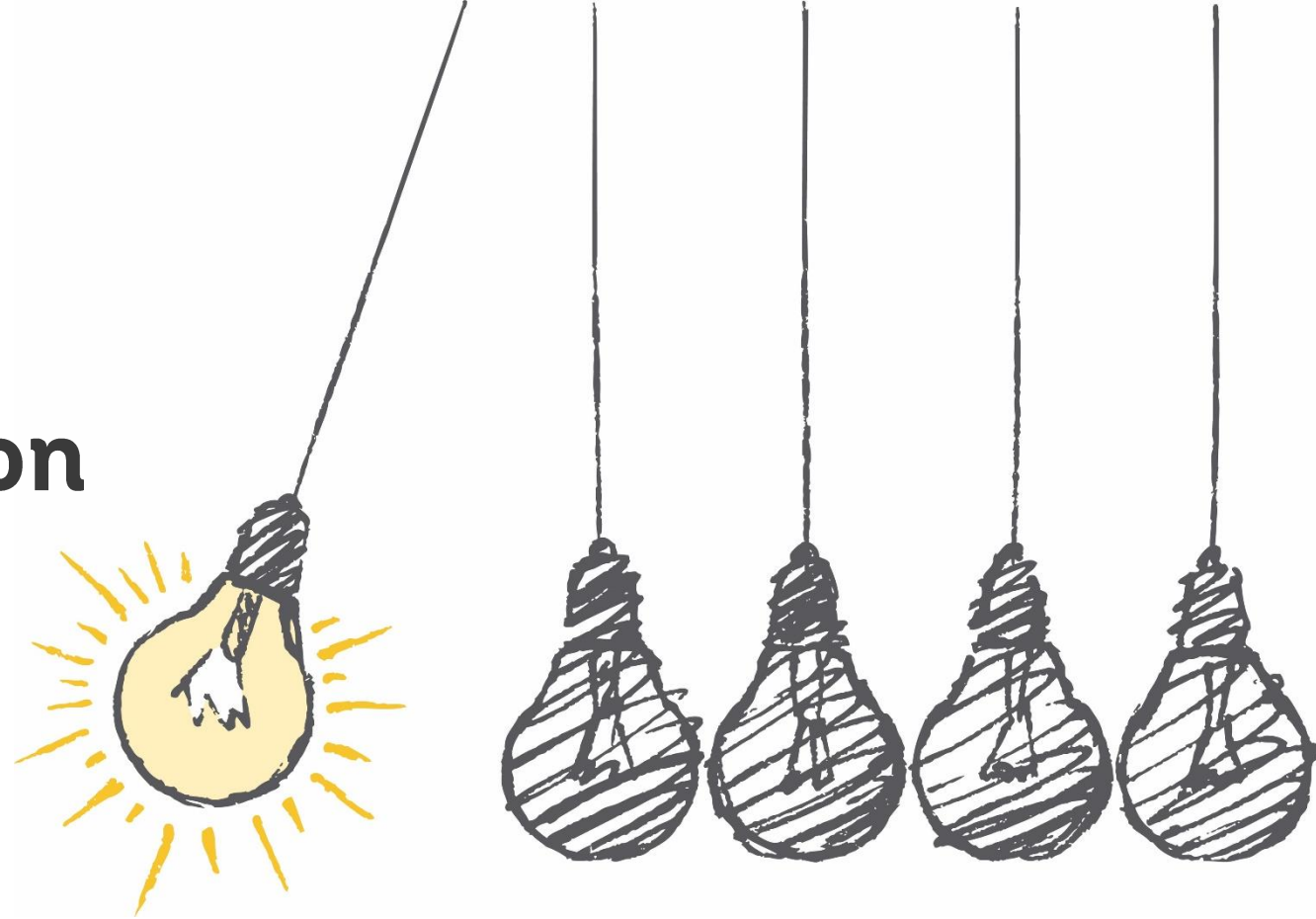


Session 4 - Introduction to APIs

Foundations of Python for Data Science



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The World Bank | [WB GitHub](#)

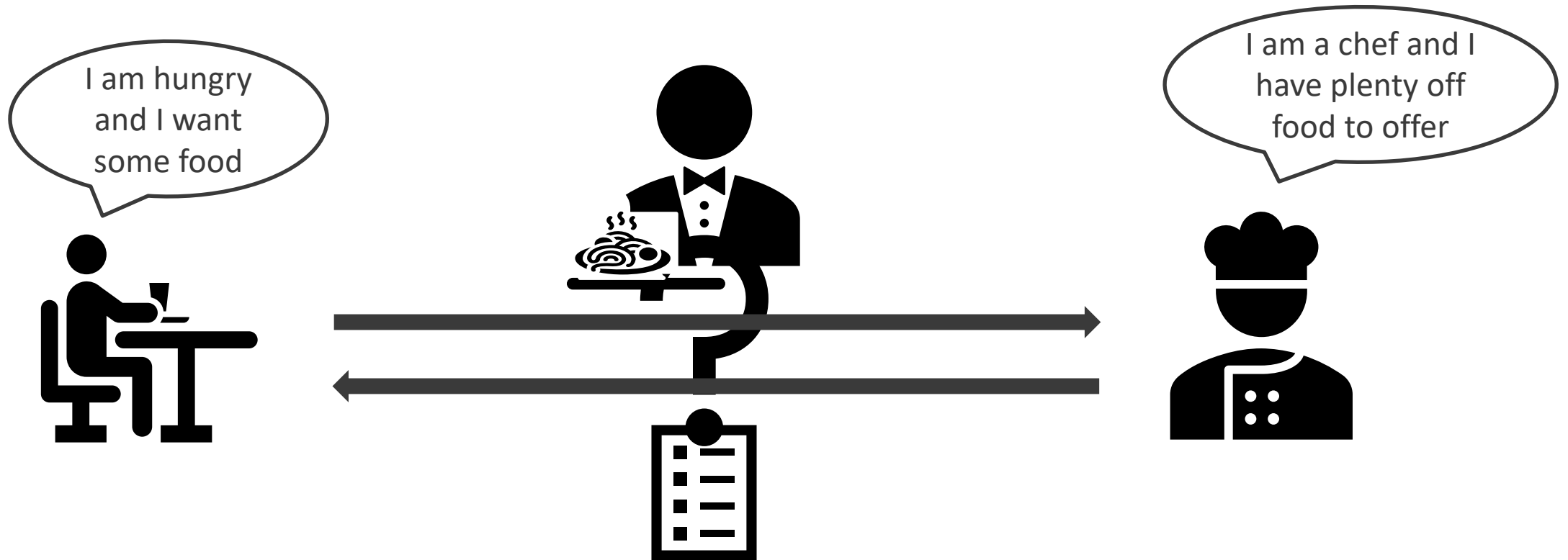
August 2022



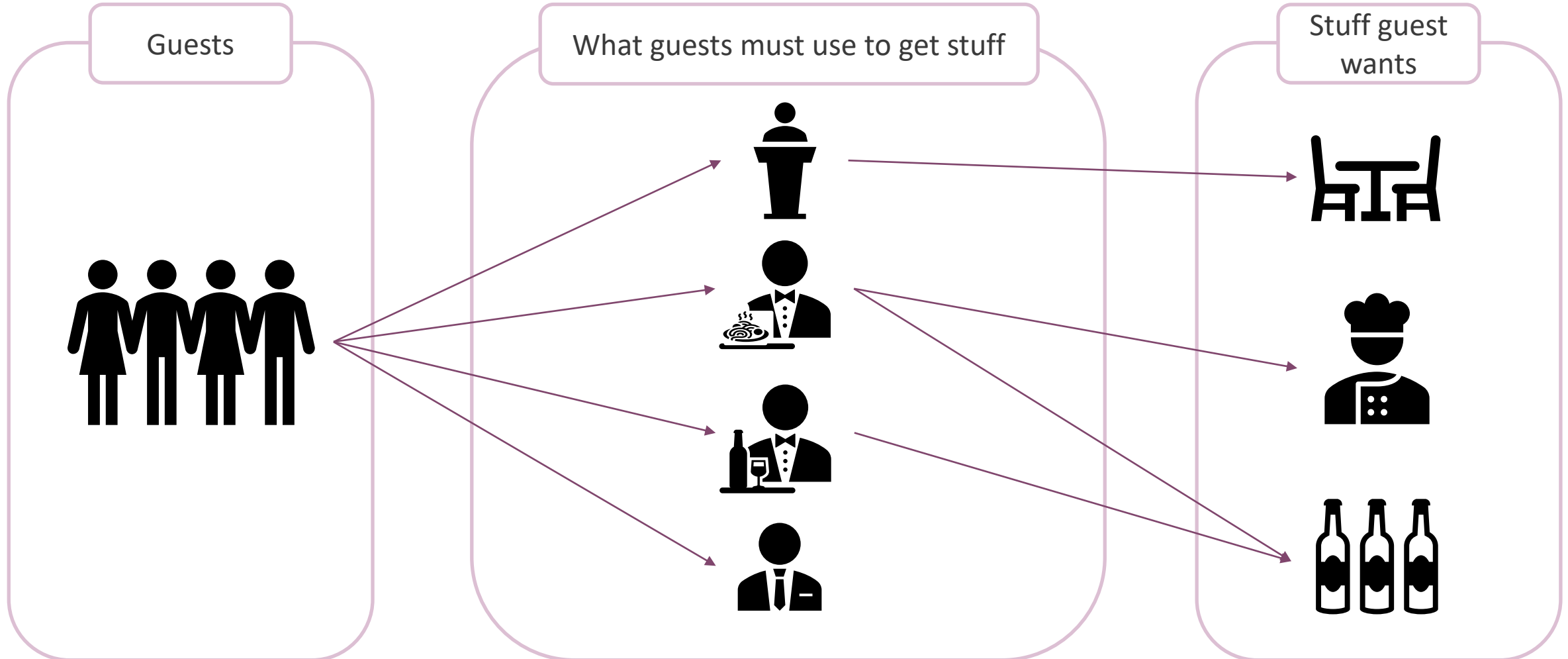
What is an API?
(Application Programming
Interface)



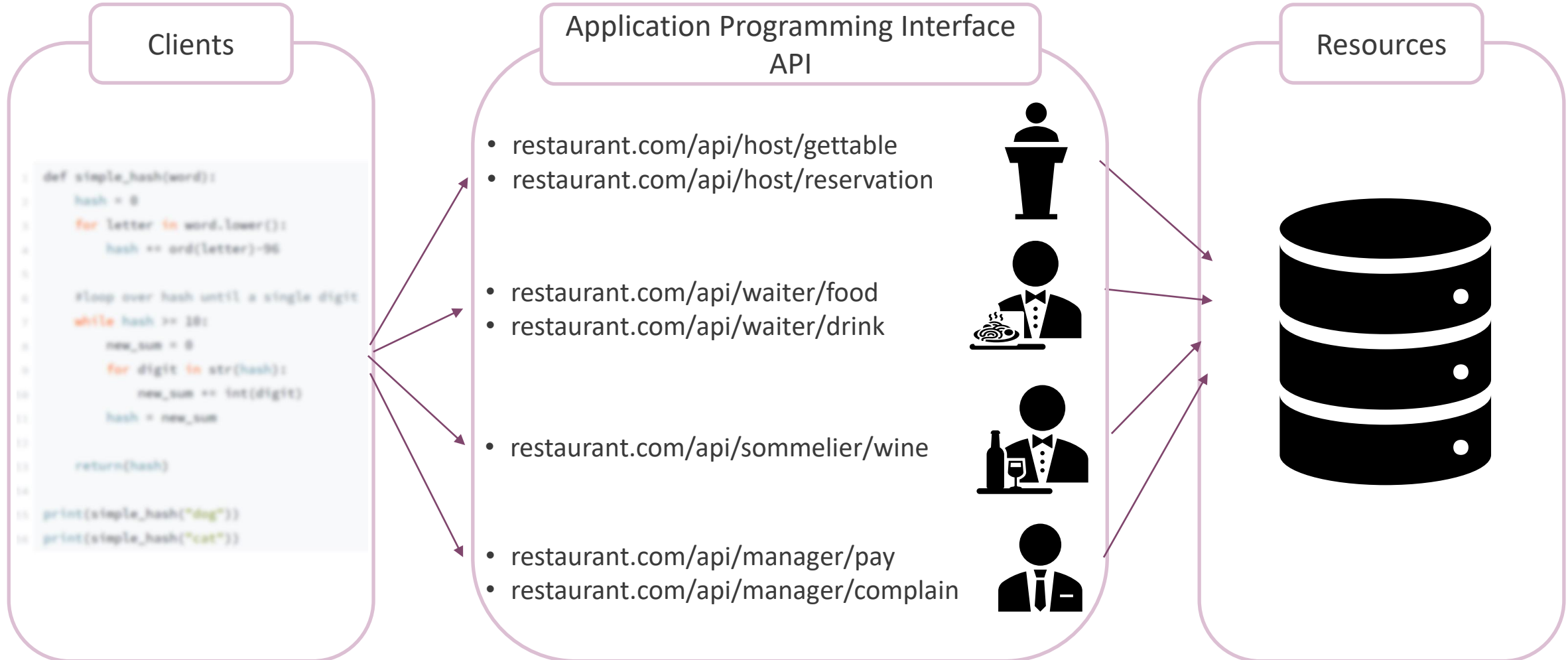
restaurant.com



restaurant.com



restaurant.com



Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

- An API is a channel to interact with a web server
- In data science, these interactions are mostly used to retrieve data from data bases

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

- How to use an API
 1. Read the API documentation
 2. Find the API endpoint
 3. Explore the endpoint
 - Start by trying a simple query in your web browser
 4. Explore the API result
 - JSON is a widely used data format. It consists of nested dictionaries and lists
 5. Write code to send custom API requests

Example 1: <http://open-notify.org/>

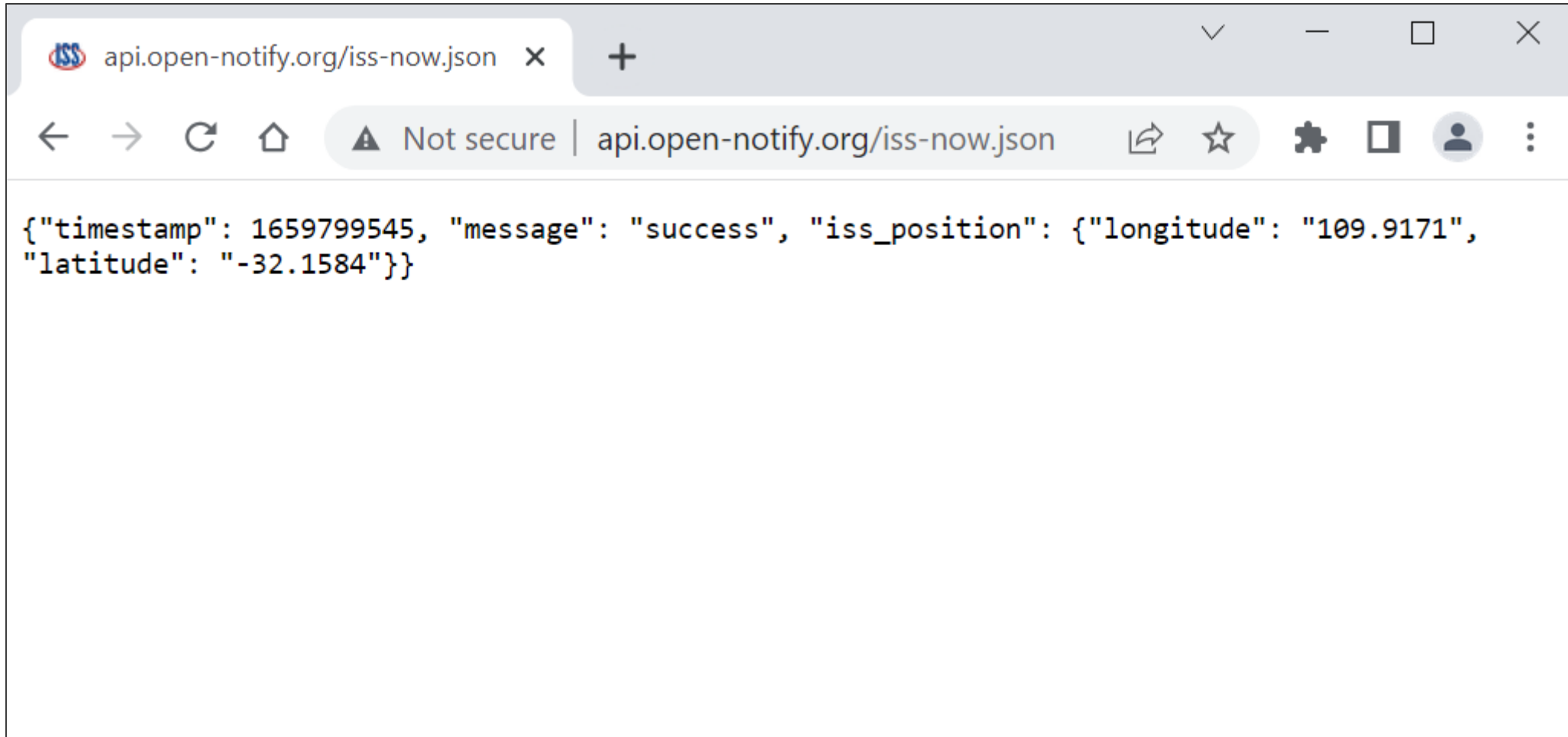
A very simple API to get real time data about the International Space Station

You can find the documentation here: <http://open-notify.org>

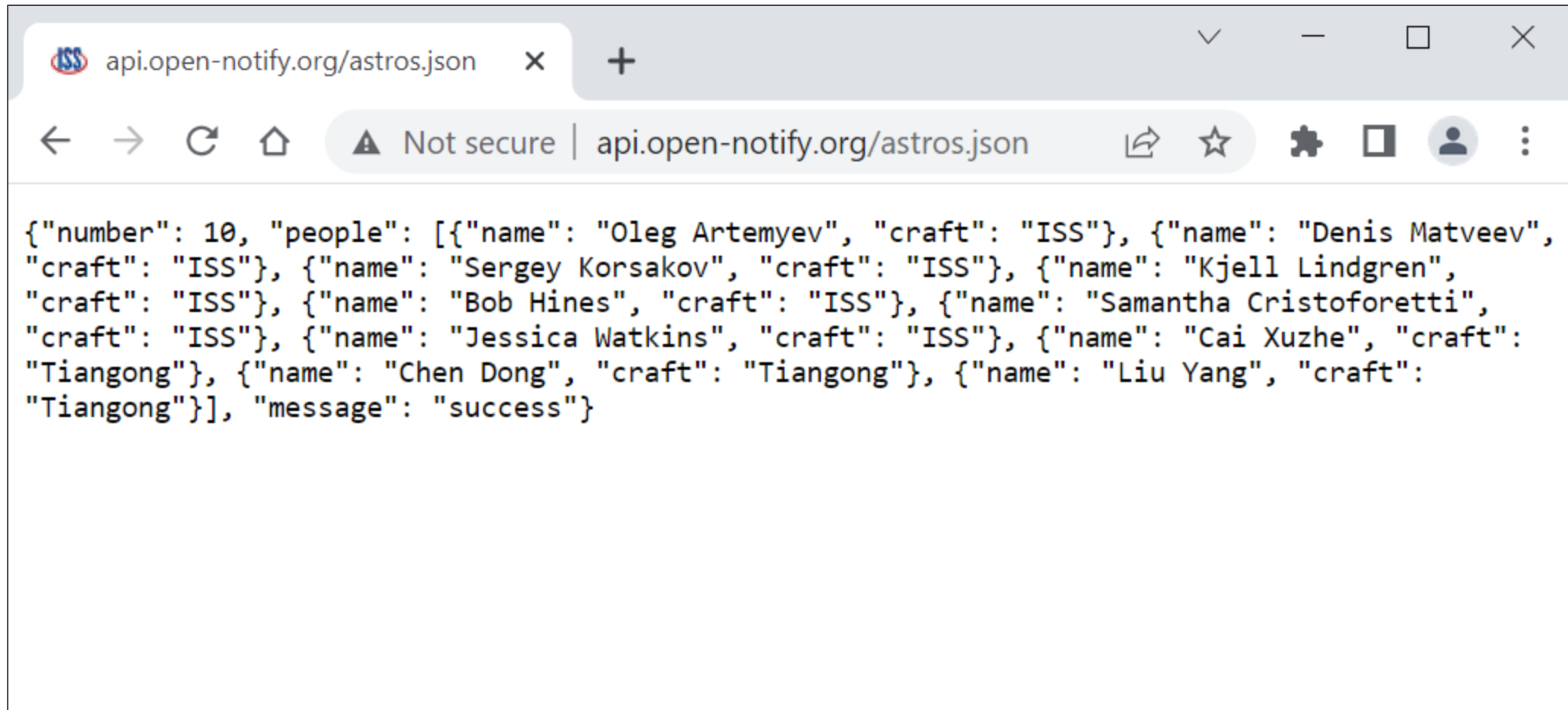
Two endpoints:

- Current location of the ISS: <http://api.open-notify.org/iss-now.json>
- Astronauts in space now: <http://api.open-notify.org/astros.json>

Example 1: http://open-notify.org/



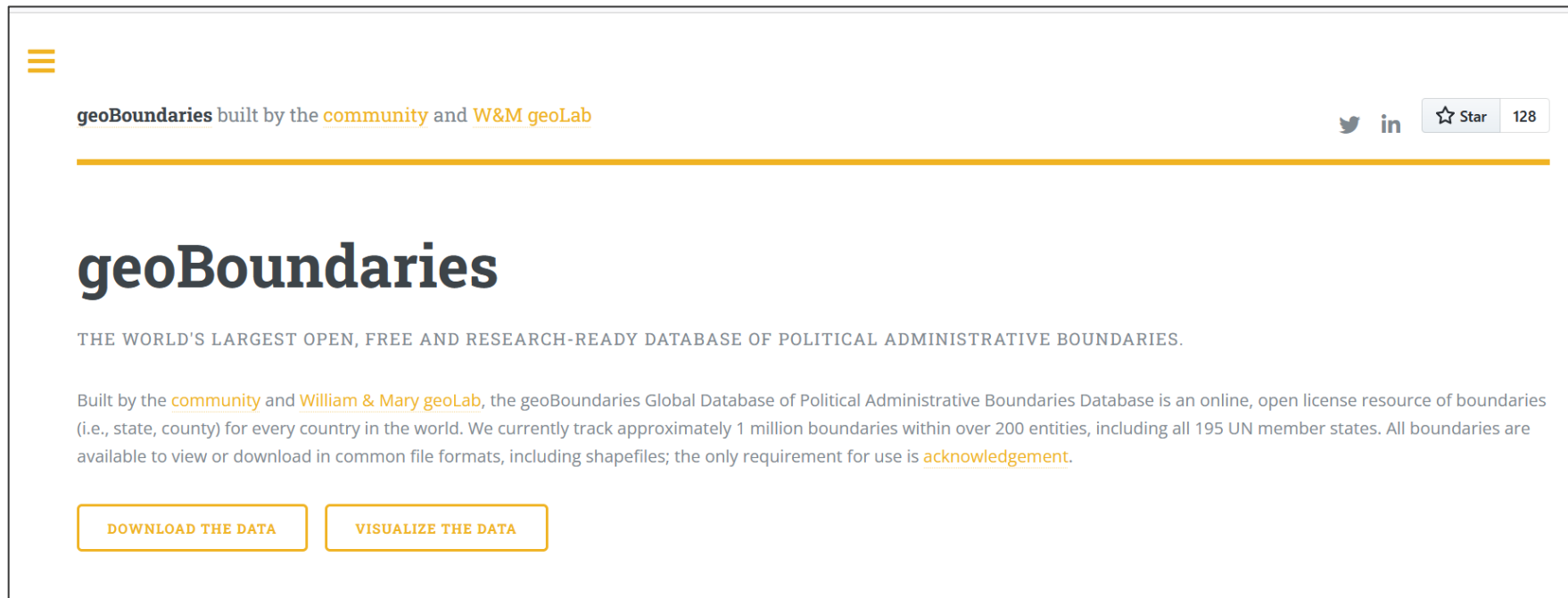
Example 1: <http://open-notify.org/>



Example 2: <https://www.geoboundaries.org/>

API to fetch geographic country data.

Documentation: <https://www.geoboundaries.org/api.html>



Example 2: <https://www.geoboundaries.org/>

From the documentation:

To find information on the most up-to-date boundaries available:

```
https://www.geoboundaries.org/api/current/gbOpen/[3-LETTER-ISO-CODE]/[ADM-LEVEL]/
```

Users can also enter the special phrase "ALL" for either "[ADM-LEVEL]" or "[3-LETTER-ISO-CODE]" to get a multi-boundary return. Each requested boundary returns all metadata available for that boundary in the gBOpen release, including a link to both the full-resolution, large-file size and the minor simplification (~5%), small-file size versions. In cases where a gbHumanitarian or gbAuthoritative release is available for a boundary, that information is provided in sub-objects within the returned json. Users can additionally replace "gbOpen" with either "gbAuthoritative" or "gbHumanitarian" to filter results to only include boundaries from those two respective releases. Finally, "current" can be replaced with a major version to retrieve information specific to that major release (e.g., "v4" will provide the IDs of v4 boundaries, which can be used with the below historic API to retrieve the boundary metadata for a specific version).

Custom API calls

Most APIs require users to pass information through the URL to specify how they want to interact with the web server.

Examples:

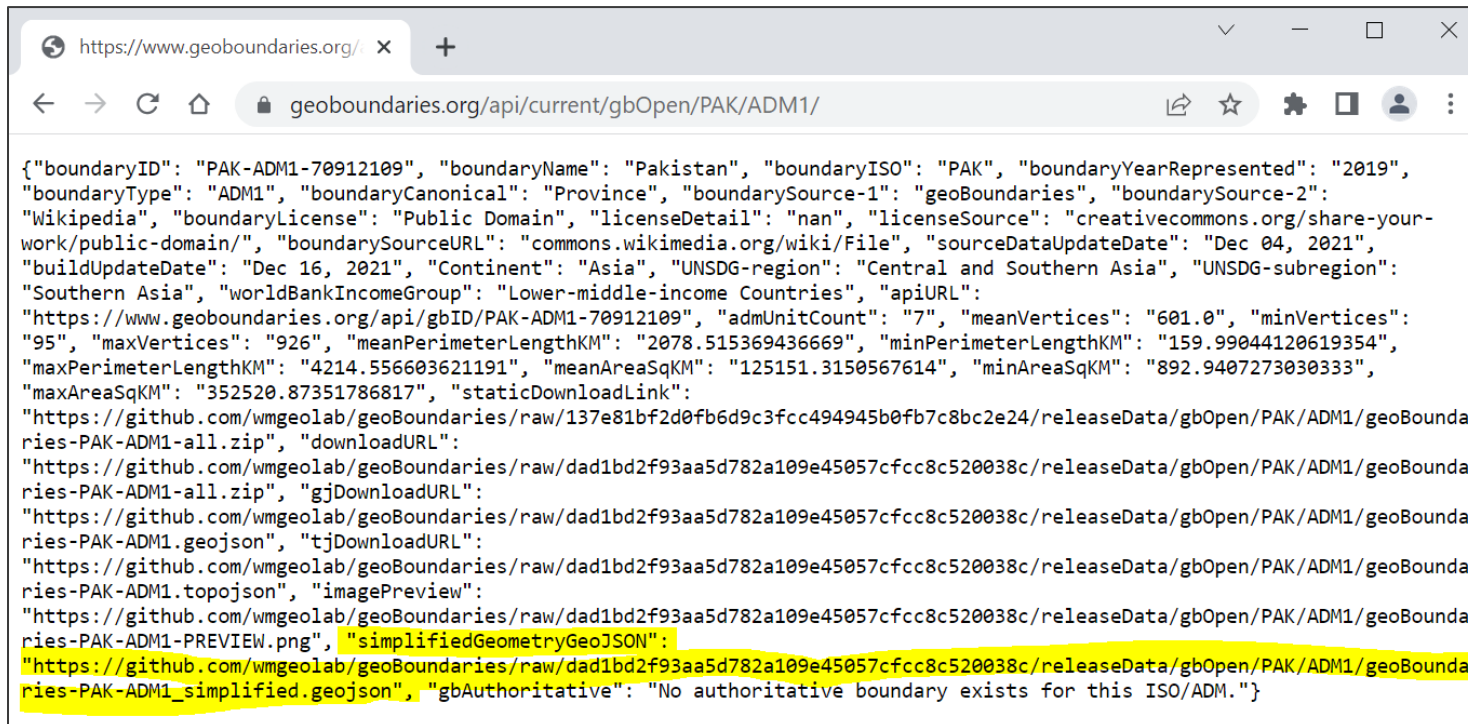
To find information on the most up-to-date boundaries available:

```
https://www.geoboundaries.org/api/current/gbOpen/[3-LETTER-ISO-CODE]/[ADM-LEVEL]/
```

- Colombia national boundaries:
<https://www.geoboundaries.org/api/current/gbOpen/COL/ADM0/>
- Pakistan first-level administrative boundaries:
<https://www.geoboundaries.org/api/current/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/>

Exploring API results

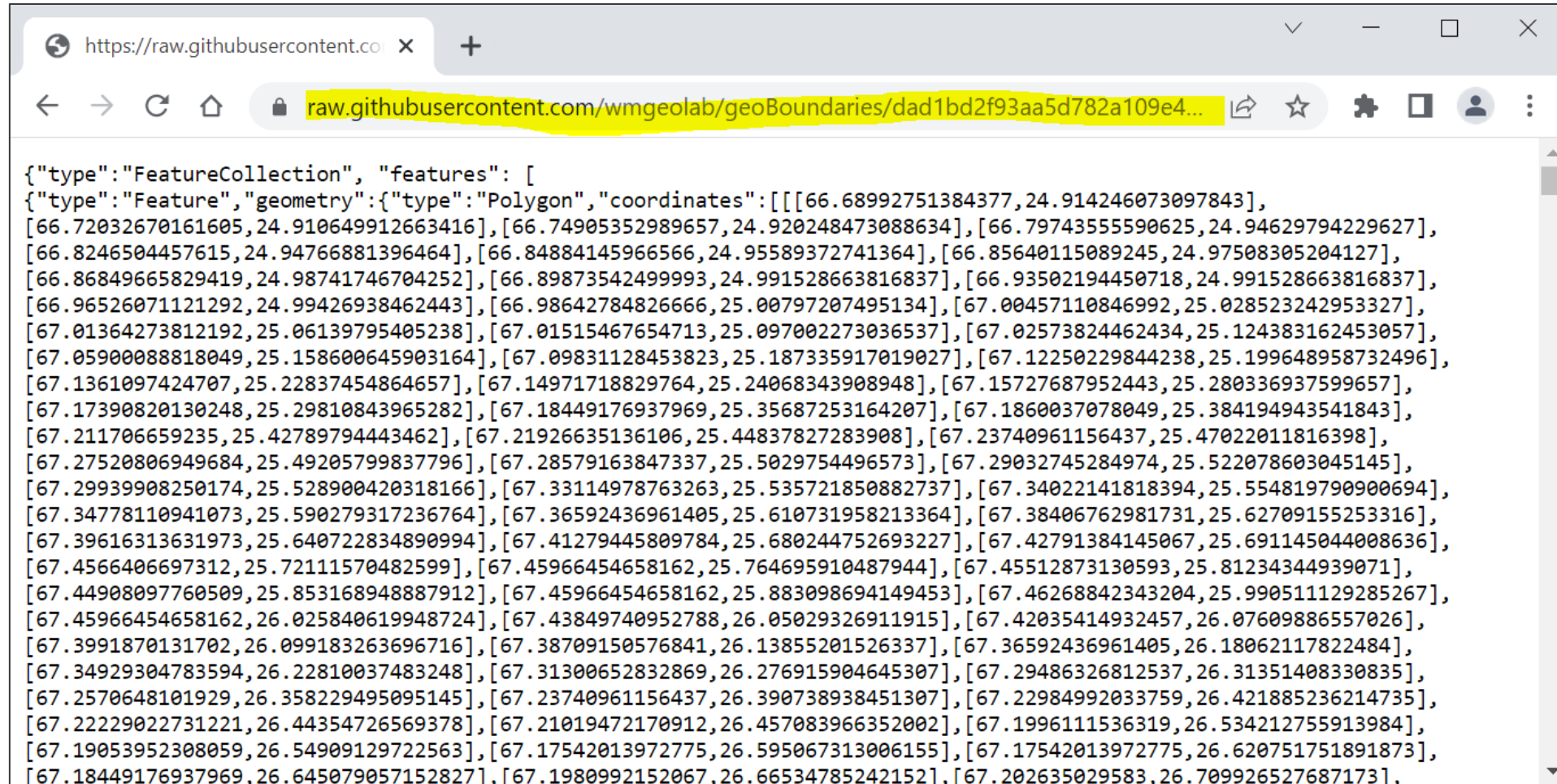
- Many APIs will return extra information and metadata we don't always need
- You should explore the returning JSON to locate relevant information and data



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `https://www.geoboundaries.org/` and the page URL `geoboundaries.org/api/current/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/`. The main content area displays a large JSON object representing the API response. The JSON includes fields for boundary ID, name, ISO code, year, type, canonical name, source, license, update dates, continent, region, subregion, income group, API URL, unit count, vertices, perimeter, area, static download link, and various download URLs for different data formats (zip, geojson, topojson, preview image). The `simplifiedGeometryGeoJSON` field is highlighted in yellow, showing a URL to a simplified geometry file and a note that no authoritative boundary exists for this ISO/ADM.

```
{
  "boundaryID": "PAK-ADM1-70912109",
  "boundaryName": "Pakistan",
  "boundaryISO": "PAK",
  "boundaryYearRepresented": "2019",
  "boundaryType": "ADM1",
  "boundaryCanonical": "Province",
  "boundarySource-1": "geoBoundaries",
  "boundarySource-2": "Wikipedia",
  "boundaryLicense": "Public Domain",
  "licenseDetail": "nan",
  "licenseSource": "creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/",
  "boundarySourceURL": "commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File",
  "sourceDataUpdateDate": "Dec 04, 2021",
  "buildUpdateDate": "Dec 16, 2021",
  "Continent": "Asia",
  "UNSDG-region": "Central and Southern Asia",
  "UNSDG-subregion": "Southern Asia",
  "worldBankIncomeGroup": "Lower-middle-income Countries",
  "apiURL": "https://www.geoboundaries.org/api/gbID/PAK-ADM1-70912109",
  "admUnitCount": "7",
  "meanVertices": "601.0",
  "minVertices": "95",
  "maxVertices": "926",
  "meanPerimeterLengthKM": "2078.515369436669",
  "minPerimeterLengthKM": "159.99044120619354",
  "maxPerimeterLengthKM": "4214.556603621191",
  "meanAreaSqKM": "125151.3150567614",
  "minAreaSqKM": "892.9407273030333",
  "maxAreaSqKM": "352520.87351786817",
  "staticDownloadLink": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/137e81bf2d0fb6d9c3fcc494945b0fb7c8bc2e24/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1-all.zip",
  "downloadURL": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/dad1bd2f93aa5d782a109e45057cfcc8c520038c/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1-all.zip",
  "gjDownloadURL": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/dad1bd2f93aa5d782a109e45057cfcc8c520038c/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1.geojson",
  "tjDownloadURL": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/dad1bd2f93aa5d782a109e45057cfcc8c520038c/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1.topojson",
  "imagePreview": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/dad1bd2f93aa5d782a109e45057cfcc8c520038c/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1-PREVIEW.png",
  "simplifiedGeometryGeoJSON": "https://github.com/wmgeolab/geoBoundaries/raw/dad1bd2f93aa5d782a109e45057cfcc8c520038c/releaseData/gbOpen/PAK/ADM1/geoBoundaries-PAK-ADM1_simplified.geojson",
  "gbAuthoritative": "No authoritative boundary exists for this ISO/ADM."
}
```

Exploring API results



```
{
  "type": "FeatureCollection",
  "features": [
    {
      "type": "Feature",
      "geometry": {
        "type": "Polygon",
        "coordinates": [
          [
            [
              66.68992751384377, 24.914246073097843,
              66.72032670161605, 24.910649912663416,
              66.74905352989657, 24.920248473088634,
              66.79743555590625, 24.94629794229627,
              66.8246504457615, 24.94766881396464,
              66.84884145966566, 24.95589372741364,
              66.85640115089245, 24.97508305204127,
              66.86849665829419, 24.98741746704252,
              66.89873542499993, 24.991528663816837,
              66.93502194450718, 24.991528663816837,
              66.96526071121292, 24.99426938462443,
              66.98642784826666, 25.00797207495134,
              67.00457110846992, 25.028523242953327,
              67.01364273812192, 25.06139795405238,
              67.01515467654713, 25.097002273036537,
              67.02573824462434, 25.124383162453057,
              67.05900088818049, 25.158600645903164,
              67.09831128453823, 25.187335917019027,
              67.12250229844238, 25.199648958732496,
              67.1361097424707, 25.22837454864657,
              67.14971718829764, 25.24068343908948,
              67.15727687952443, 25.280336937599657,
              67.17390820130248, 25.29810843965282,
              67.18449176937969, 25.35687253164207,
              67.1860037078049, 25.384194943541843,
              67.211706659235, 25.42789794443462,
              67.21926635136106, 25.44837827283908,
              67.23740961156437, 25.47022011816398,
              67.27520806949684, 25.49205799837796,
              67.28579163847337, 25.5029754496573,
              67.29032745284974, 25.522078603045145,
              67.29939908250174, 25.528900420318166,
              67.33114978763263, 25.535721850882737,
              67.34022141818394, 25.554819790900694,
              67.34778110941073, 25.590279317236764,
              67.36592436961405, 25.610731958213364,
              67.38406762981731, 25.62709155253316,
              67.39616313631973, 25.640722834890994,
              67.41279445809784, 25.680244752693227,
              67.42791384145067, 25.691145044008636,
              67.4566406697312, 25.72111570482599,
              67.45966454658162, 25.764695910487944,
              67.45512873130593, 25.81234344939071,
              67.44908097760509, 25.853168948887912,
              67.45966454658162, 25.883098694149453,
              67.46268842343204, 25.990511129285267,
              67.45966454658162, 26.025840619948724,
              67.43849740952788, 26.05029326911915,
              67.42035414932457, 26.07609886557026,
              67.3991870131702, 26.099183263696716,
              67.38709150576841, 26.13855201526337,
              67.36592436961405, 26.18062117822484,
              67.34929304783594, 26.22810037483248,
              67.31300652832869, 26.276915904645307,
              67.29486326812537, 26.31351408330835,
              67.2570648101929, 26.358229495095145,
              67.23740961156437, 26.390738938451307,
              67.22984992033759, 26.421885236214735,
              67.22229022731221, 26.44354726569378,
              67.21019472170912, 26.457083966352002,
              67.1996111536319, 26.534212755913984,
              67.19053952308059, 26.54909129722563,
              67.17542013972775, 26.595067313006155,
              67.17542013972775, 26.620751751891873,
              67.18449176937969, 26.645079057152827,
              67.1980992152067, 26.66534785242152,
              67.202635029583, 26.709926527687173,
              66.68992751384377, 24.914246073097843
            ]
          ]
        ]
      }
    ]
  ]
}
```

Thank you!

