**Experiment 9**

Aim: To implement different file handling operations using pickle.

Theory:

**What is a file?**

File is a named location on disk to store related information. It is used to permanently store data in a non-volatile memory (e.g. hard disk).

When we want to read from or write to a file we need to open it first. When we are done, it needs to be closed, so that resources that are tied with the file are freed.

Hence, in Python, a file operation takes place in the following order.

1. Open a file
2. Read or write (perform operation)
3. Close the file

**How to open a file?**

Python has a built-in function open() to open a file. This function returns a file object, also called a handle, as it is used to read or modify the file accordingly.

>>> f = open("test.txt") # open file in current directory

>>> f = open("C:/Python33/README.txt") # specifying full path

We can specify the mode while opening a file. In mode, we specify whether we want to read 'r', write 'w' or append 'a' to the file. We also specify if we want to open the file in text mode or binary mode.

The default is reading in text mode. In this mode, we get strings when reading from the file.

On the other hand, binary mode returns bytes and this is the mode to be used when dealing with non-text files like image or exe files.

| Python File Modes | |
| --- | --- |
| Mode | Description |
| 'r' | Open a file for reading. (default) |
| 'w' | Open a file for writing. Creates a new file if it does not exist or truncates the file if it exists. |
| 'x' | Open a file for exclusive creation. If the file already exists, the operation fails. |
| 'a' | Open for appending at the end of the file without truncating it. Creates a new file if it does not exist. |
| 't' | Open in text mode. (default) |
| 'b' | Open in binary mode. |
| '+' | Open a file for updating (reading and writing) |

**How to close a file Using Python?**

When we are done with operations to the file, we need to properly close the file.

Closing a file will free up the resources that were tied with the file and is done using Python close() method.

Python has a garbage collector to clean up unreferenced objects but, we must not rely on it to close the file.

f = open("test.txt",encoding = 'utf-8')

# perform file operations

f.close()

**Conclusion:** Thus we studied how to handle file in python.