

# find\_files: Find files based on substring matches

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A function that finds files in a given directory based on substring matches and returns a list of the file names found.

```
from mlxtend.file_io import find_files
```

## Overview

This function finds files based on substring search. This is especially useful if we want to find specific files in a directory tree and return their absolute paths for further processing in Python.

## References

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## Example 1 - Grouping related files in a dictionary

Given the following directory and file structure

```
dir_1/
  file_1.log
  file_2.log
  file_3.log
dir_2/
  file_1.csv
  file_2.csv
  file_3.csv
dir_3/
  file_1.txt
  file_2.txt
  file_3.txt
```

we can use `find_files` to return the paths to all files that contain the substring `_2` as follows:

```
from mlxtend.file_io import find_files

find_files(substring='_2', path='./data_find_filegroups/', recursive=True)
```

```
['./data_find_filegroups/dir_1/file_2.log',
 './data_find_filegroups/dir_2/file_2.csv',
 './data_find_filegroups/dir_3/file_2.txt']
```

## API

`find_files(substring, path, recursive=False, check_ext=None, ignore_invisible=True, ignore_substring=None)`

Find files in a directory based on substring matching.

### Parameters

- `substring` : `str`

Substring of the file to be matched.

- `path` : `str`

Path where to look.

- `recursive` : `bool`

If true, searches subdirectories recursively.

- `check_ext` : `str`

If string (e.g., '.txt'), only returns files that match the specified file extension.

- `ignore_invisible` : `bool`

If `True`, ignores invisible files (i.e., files starting with a period).

- `ignore_substring` : `str`

Ignores files that contain the specified substring.

## Returns

- `results` : `list`

List of the matched files.

## Examples

For usage examples, please see [https://rasbt.github.io/mlxtend/user\\_guide/file\\_io/find\\_files/](https://rasbt.github.io/mlxtend/user_guide/file_io/find_files/)

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