Programming Concepts

with instructor Colby Witherup Wood

Workshop originally created by Christina Maimone

This workshop is brought to you by

NUIT Research Computing Services

Have a programming or data question about your research?

We're here to help. bit.ly/rcsconsult

This workshop was designed for anyone who is about to start learning a coding language.

Build familiarity with:

Goals:

- 1. How to give computers instructions
- 2. Common terms and concepts

This workshop was designed for anyone who is about to start learning a coding language.

Goals:

3. At the very end, I will talk about which language you should learn, R or Python.

Downloading materials from GitHub

https://github.com/agithasnoname/programmingConcepts

Click on the green Clone or download button

then click on **Download ZIP**

During this workshop, ask questions in the chat. I will answer them periodically throughout the workshop.

If my internet goes out during this workshop, that means you get a 10 minute break! You may have to log back into Zoom. Sorry!

Programming languages

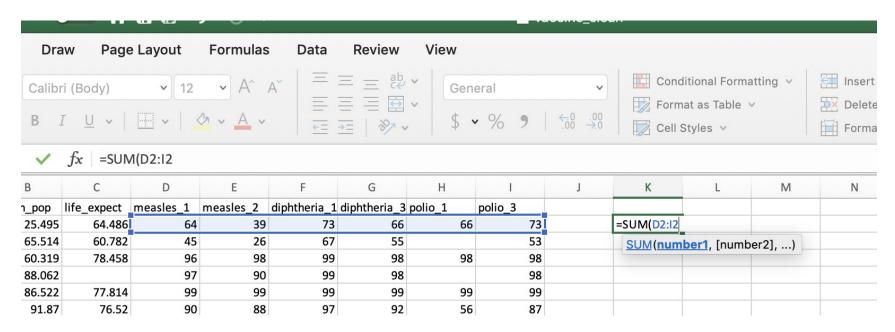
How you talk to your computer

Modern computers can interpret many different languages

GUIs (graphical user interfaces) allow you to talk to your computer without knowing any programming language

Programming languages

requires you to use specific words or characters in a specific order



Programming languages

The **command line** is how we can talk directly to our computer without a GUI.

Different computers have different **shells** to access the command line and different languages you use on the command line.

Mac: Terminal uses Unix Bash or zsh, PC: Windows PowerShell

These are designed for controlling your operating system and computer: installing programs, moving files, etc.

How do we talk to our computer in Python or R?

 Interactive programming - through a shell, one line at a time

- **Batch programming** - running a whole **script** (a plain text file that contains one to many lines of code)

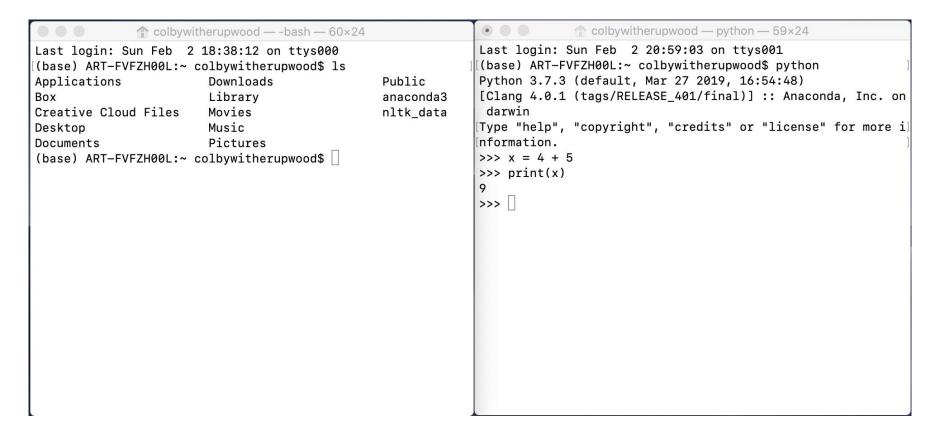
How do we talk to our computer in Python or R?

 Interactive programming - through a shell, one line at a time

- **Batch programming** - running a whole **script** (a plain text file that contains one to many lines of code)

With the help of a GUI. GUIs for coding are called
 IDEs - Integrated Development Environments. They allow both interactive and batch programming.

Command prompts



Time to Review!

Open the ProgrammingConceptsReview document from the folder you downloaded.

Filesystems

Filesystems

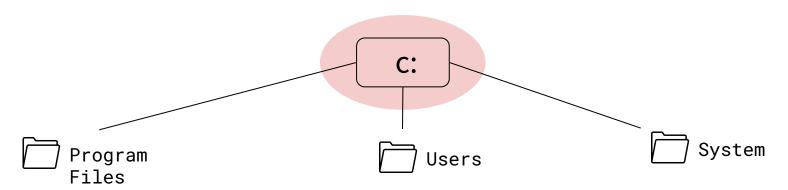
Coding requires us to move away from point and click.

We will want to work with files, so we need to know how to use words to guide the computer to the right files.

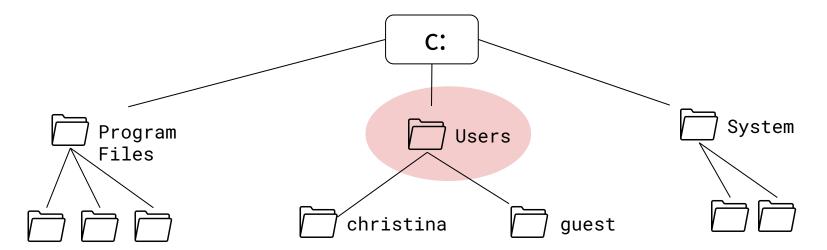
Every file has an **absolute path**, which starts with the **root**.

c:

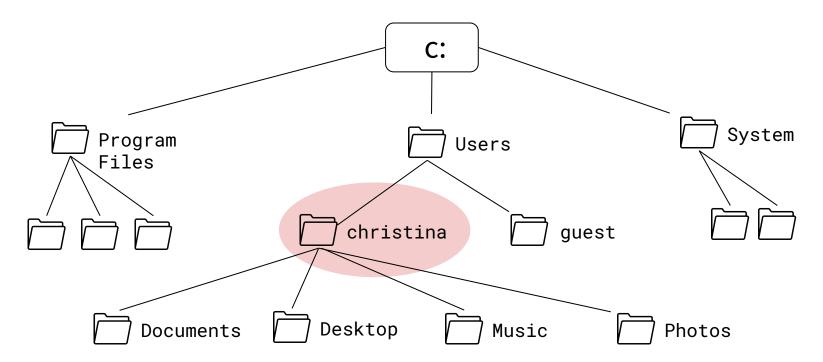
C:\



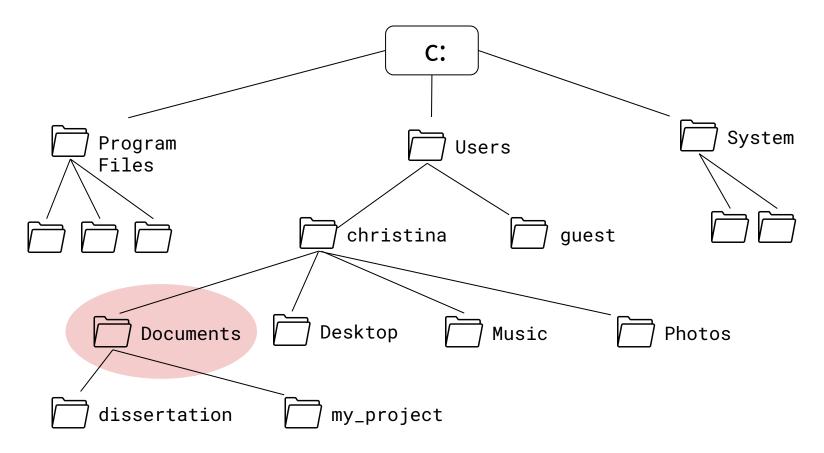
C:\Users\



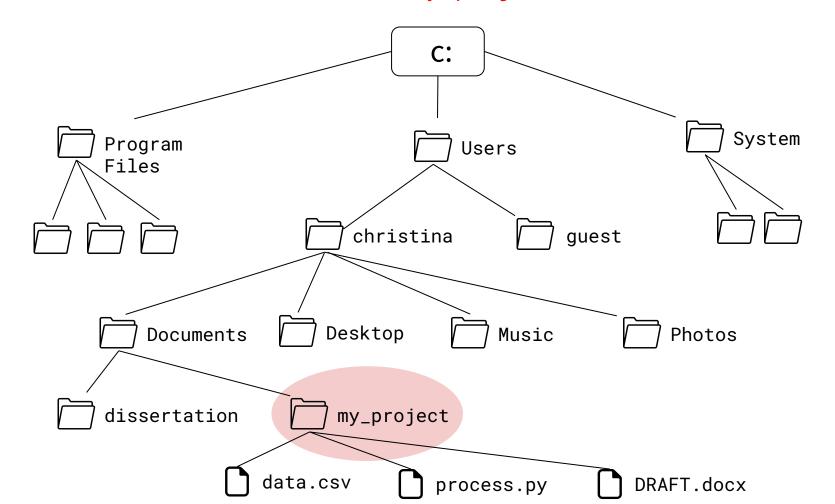
C:\Users\christina



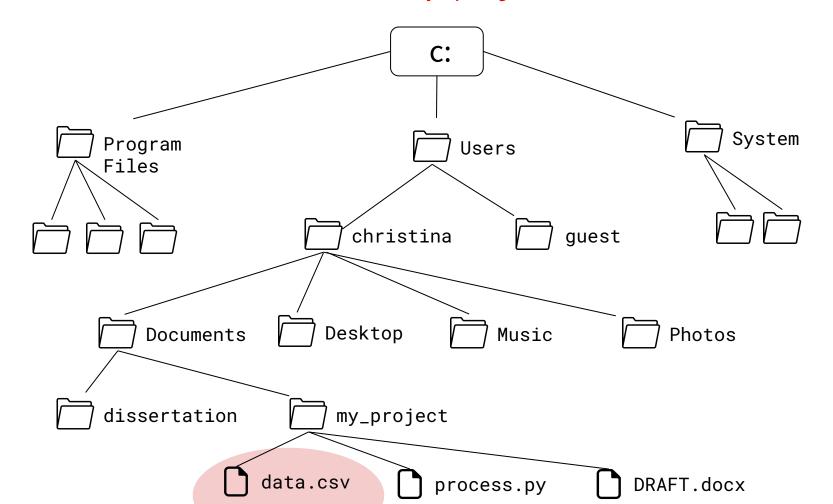
C:\Users\christina\Documents



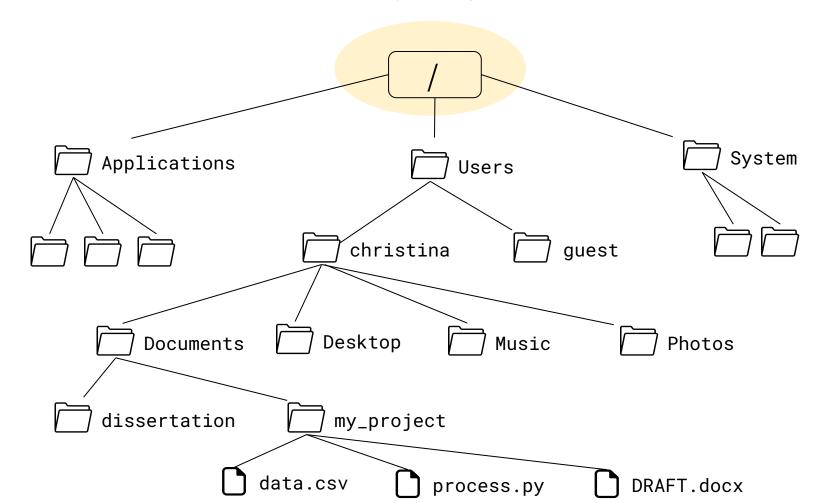
C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project



C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project\data.csv



/Users/christina/Documents/my_project/data.csv



Absolute Paths

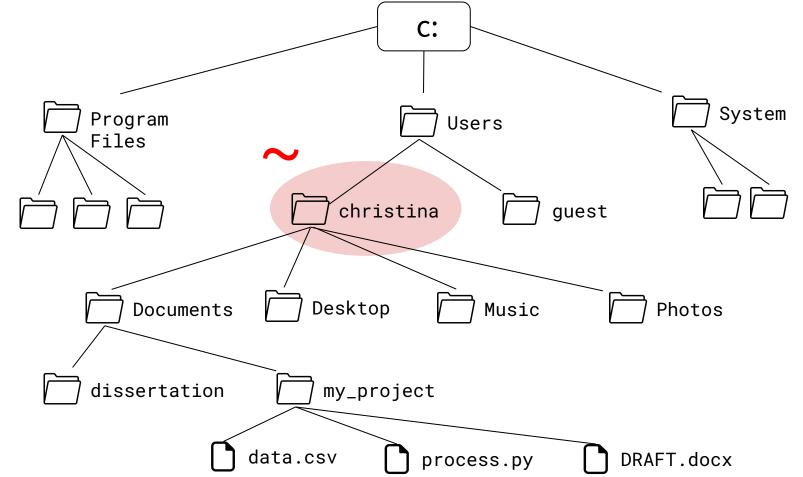
C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project\data.csv

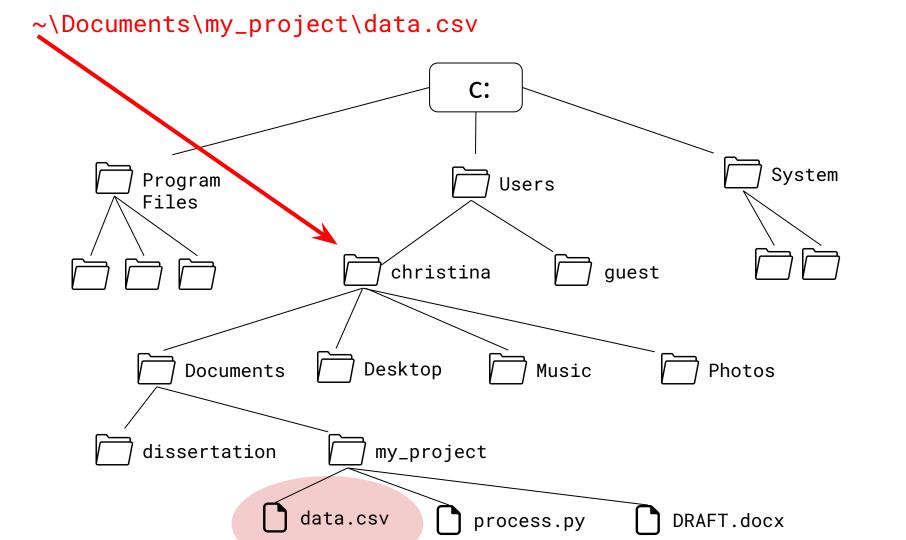
/Users/christina/Documents/my_project/data.csv

Home directory

In addition to a root directory, computers have a **home directory**. As a shortcut, you can refer to the home directory as ~

Home Directory: C:\Users\christina = ~





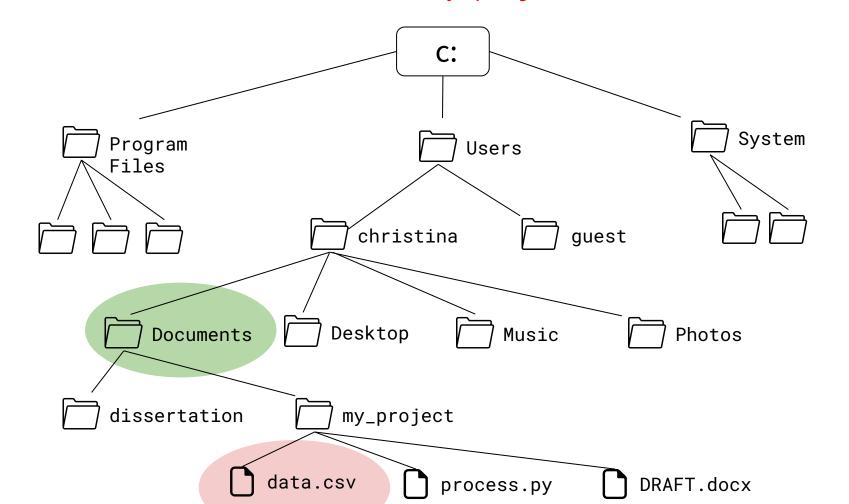
Working Directory

A working directory is the directory associated with a running process or program

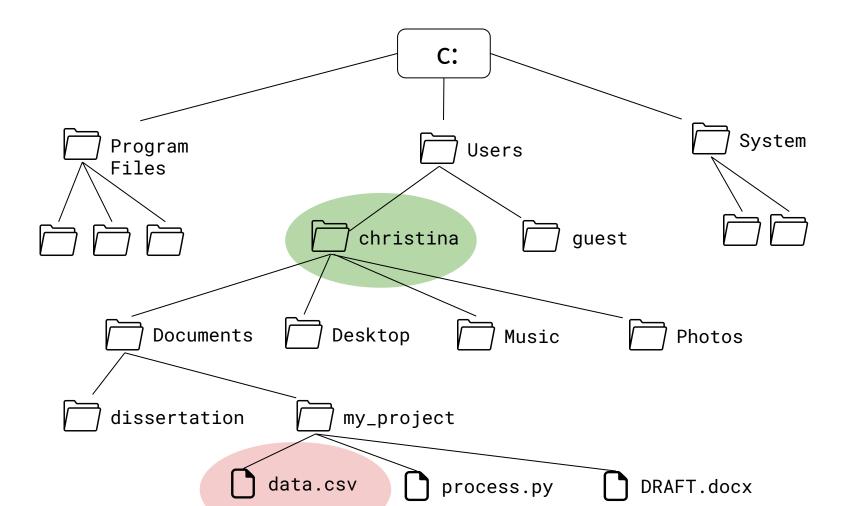
This is where the computer starts when looking for files

You can use **relative file paths** from your working directory

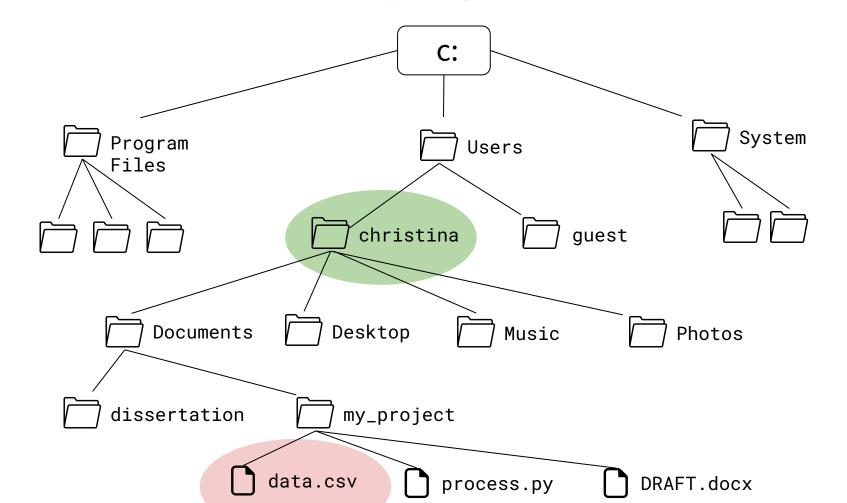
Relative Path from Documents: my_project/data.csv



From christina:



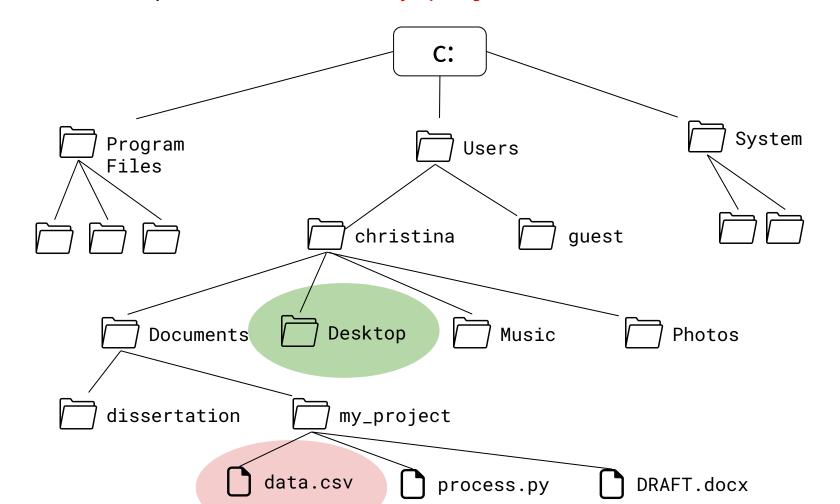
From christina: Documents/my_project/data.csv



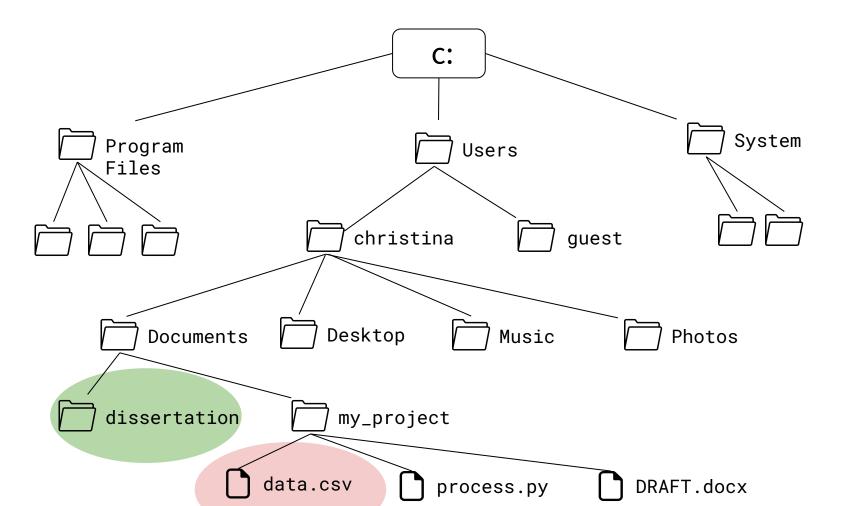
Another shortcut is .. which goes up one

directory.

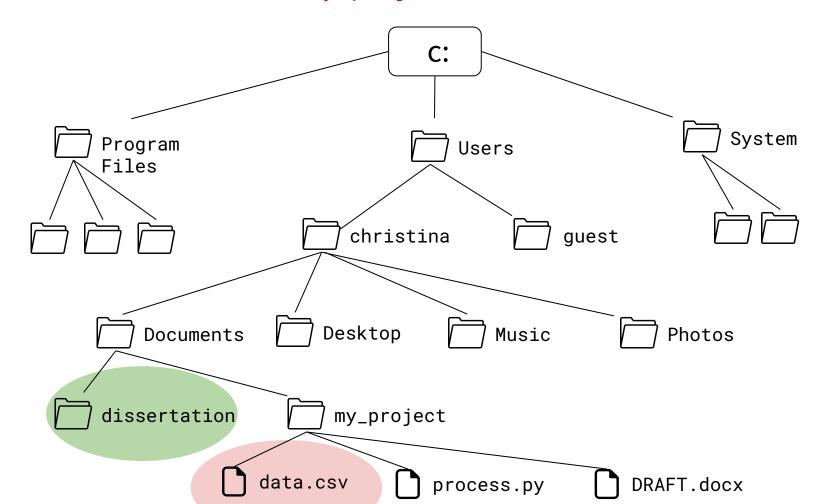
From Desktop: ../Documents/my_project/data.csv



From dissertation:



From dissertation: ../my_project/data.csv



But what is the default Working Directory?

Python:

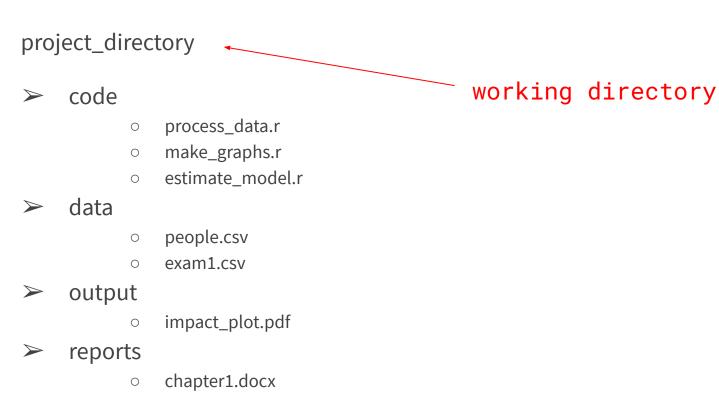
- Where you start Python from
- Where you call a Python script from

R

- Default: home directory
- RStudio Projects: the folder you associate with the project

You can always set or change the working directory

Store Project Files Together



Why this matters

When writing scripts, you'll want to think about how you include your file paths. Where will you be in your file system when you run the script? Will you always be running it from the same place? Will the script break if you ever reorganize your project directory?

Files

Reading and Writing

Read: Open a file to get the contents

Write: Open a file to put information in

Modes

Read: get information, can't change it

Write: empties the file! then allows writing

Append: add to the bottom of the file

File Types

Text: Restricted set of characters

>> Data can be opened and viewed directly

Binary: Custom data

>> Needs a program to interpret and
display the data

NO FORMATTING NO IMAGES

Plain Text Files

```
Common extensions: .txt, .tab, .csv
Also plain text:
  Data files: XML, JSON
  Markup: HTML, Markdown (.md), LaTeX (.tex)
  Code: R scripts (.r), Python scripts (.py)
```

Plain Text Files

The extension doesn't determine if it's a plain text file. The content does.

```
Common extensions: .txt, .tab, .csv
Also plain text:
  Data files: XML, JSON
  Markup: HTML, Markdown (.md), LaTeX (.tex)
  Code: R scripts (.r), Python scripts (.py)
```

```
# R Workshops
  This repository is a clearing house for resources for individual R workshops from [Resear
  # Workshops
  ## Current Workshops
  [Intro to R](https://github.com/nuitrcs/r intro june2018)
  [`ggplot2`](https://github.com/nuitrcs/r ggplot july2018)
  [Databases](https://github.com/nuitrcs/databases workshop/tree/master/r): Information on
  useful reference, but you'll need a database connection to run it. See that repository 1
  [R Markdown](https://github.com/nuitrcs/rmarkdown workshop)
  [R Shiny](https://github.com/nuitrcs/rshiny)
  # Software
  For workshops, it's best to install R and RStudio on your own laptop (both are free).
  [Install R](https://cran.rstudio.com/)
  [Install PStudio Deskton]/https://www.retudio.com/products/retudio/download/)
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/nuitrcs/rworkshops/master/README.md
```

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4	ATOM	2	Н	1	0.257	0.727	0.000
5	ATOM	3	Н	1	0.771	-0.727	0.890
5	ATOM	4	Н	1	0.771	-0.727	-0.890
7	TER	5		1			
8	END						

File: ammonia.pdb

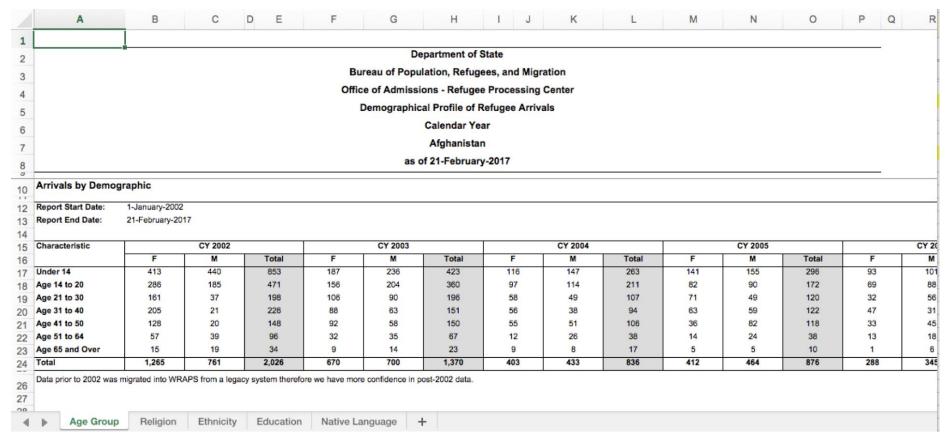
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      <<
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      /Filter /FlateDecode
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      >>
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```

?#?z?a

Is this a plain text file?



```
............
.............
Characteristic, CY 2002, ,,, CY 2003, ,, CY 2004, ,,, CY 2005, ,, CY 2006, ,,, CY 2007, ,, CY 2008, ,, CY 2009, ,, CY 2010, ,, CY
2011,,,CY 2012,,,CY 2013,,,CY 2014,,,CY 2015,,,CY 2016,,,CY 2017,,,Cumulative Total,%
,F ,M ,Total,,F ,M ,Total,F ,,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F
,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,Total
Under
14.413.440.853.187.236.423.116..147.263.141.155.296.93..101.194.65.55.120.78.85.163.55.51.106.75.78.153.44.61.105
.83.96.179.84.106.190.102.100.202.145.190.335.464.447.911.54.76.130."4.623".31.96%
Age 14 to
20.286.185.471..156.204.360.97..114.211.82.90.172.69..88.157.34.55.89.63.66.129.29.43.72.48.68.116.47.38.85.56.79.
135,63,92,155,97,87,184,120,197,317,311,385,696,36,58,94,"3,443",23.80%
Age 21 to
30, 161, 37, 198, 106, 90, 196, 58, 49, 107, 71, 49, 120, 32, 56, 88, 39, 24, 63, 50, 42, 92, 24, 32, 56, 45, 67, 112, 46, 37, 83, 41, 48, 89, 66
,64,130,82,52,134,119,91,210,303,277,580,39,25,64,"2,322",16.05%
Age 31 to
40, 205, 21, 226, 88, 63, 151, 56, 38, 94, 63, 59, 122, 47, 31, 78, 34, 26, 60, 47, 42, 89, 31, 26, 57, 35, 38, 73, 30, 32, 62, 50, 43, 93, 57, 37
.94.51.27.78.82.61.143.225.138.363.29.23.52."1.835".12.69%
Age 41 to
50, 128, 20, 148, 92, 58, 150, 55, 51, 106, 36, 82, 118, 33, 45, 78, 20, 23, 43, 38, 53, 91, 15, 22, 37, 24, 17, 41, 23, 12, 35, 31, 21, 52, 35, 2
```

Plain Text Editors

Integrated Development Environments (IDEs) for R and Python let you write plain text files.

Stand alone options:

https://workshops.rcs.northwestern.edu/install/texteditor/

Time to Review!

Data Types

Numbers

Integers

Decimal/Float

-38291423

3.0

-432.2343253

4.938e-10

Character

AKA: text, string

Enclosed in single or double quotation marks.

```
"This is a string"
```

'This is a string 2'

```
" " (empty string)
```

" (this is NOT an empty string)

Special Characters

\n New Line
\tag{"whitespace"}

"This is line 1.\nThis is line 2."

Case and type matter

```
"A" is not equal to "a"
"3" (string) is not the same as integer 3
```

Sorting Strings: Alphabetical Order

"110 cats"	"110 cats"	"110 cats"
"3 cats"	"3 cats"	"3 cats"
"apple"	"Apple"	"apple"
"mushroom"	"Mushroom"	"Apple"
"Apple"	"apple"	"mushroom"
"Mushroom"	"mushroom"	"Mushroom"

String Indexing (aka string slicing)

"String indexing is fun"

	S	t	r	i	n	g		i	n	d	е	X	i	n	g		i	s
Python	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

produces substrings

Joining Strings: Concatenate

```
"Red" + "bull" = "Redbull"

"Red" + " " + "bull" = "Red bull"
```

```
paste("Red", "bull", sep=" ") = "Red bull"
paste("Red", "bull", sep="") = "Redbull"
```

Boolean

TRUE

FALSE

TRUE FALSE T F True False

Boolean Operators

NOT: ! not AND: & and

OR: or

Boolean Operators: AND

TRUE and TRUE = TRUE

TRUE and FALSE = FALSE

FALSE and TRUE = FALSE

FALSE and FALSE = FALSE

Boolean Operators: OR

TRUE or TRUE = TRUETRUE or FALSE = TRUEFALSE or TRUE = TRUE FALSE or FALSE = FALSE

Boolean Operators: NOT

not TRUE = FALSE not FALSE = TRUE TRUE and not TRUE = FALSETRUE and not FALSE = TRUE

```
(TRUE and FALSE) or
not (FALSE and TRUE) =
```

FALSE or not FALSE =

FALSE or

TRUE =

FALSE or

TRUE = TRUE

Converting Between Data Types

```
TRUE as integer = 1

FALSE as integer = 0

3.5 as string = "3.5"
```

Special Types

NULL

None

Missing Data: NA

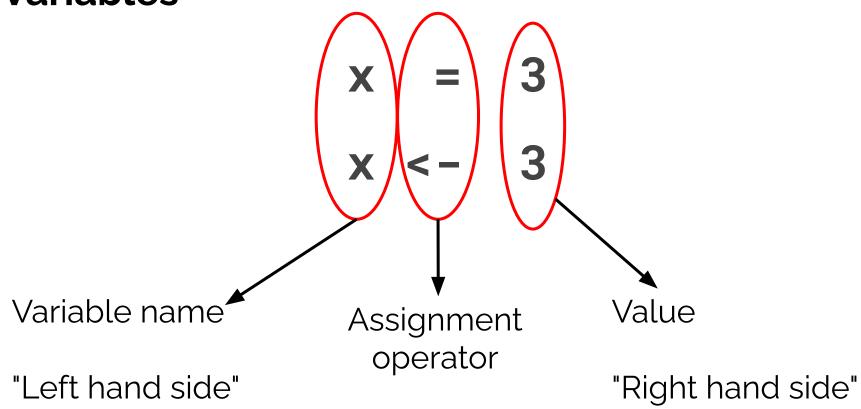
Time to Review!

Variables

Variables

Variables let us refer to a value with a name. We can use the same name, but change the value.

Variables can be used to name integers, floats, strings, lists, arrays, equations, dictionaries, dataframes, the text in files, and more.



$$x = 3 + 5$$

$$x$$

$$x = 3$$

$$x + 5$$

X

$$x = 3$$

$$x = x + 5$$

$$x$$

$$x = 3$$

$$x = x + 5$$

Everything on the right side is evaluated first - before the variable is assigned

$$x = 3$$

$$y = 5$$

$$x = x + y$$

```
cats = 3
     kittens = 5
cats = cats + kittens
     kittens = 7
                cats is 8
         cats
```

Variable Names

```
Case matters
Start with a letter
Make names meaningful
Style conventions
  camelCase
  separate_with_underscores
```

Multiple Related Values

Ages of students: 42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22

Stores the items in the order given.

Ages of students: 42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22

```
Python list - enclosed in square brackets
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
        0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
R vector
ages \leftarrow c(42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22)
```

 $sample_vals = [3.544, 10.0, 18.32]$

```
students = ["Michael", "Chen", "Yishu", "June", "Amy"]
evanston_resident = [True, False, True, False, True]
```

Nested Lists

```
[ [1, 2, 3], ["a", "b", "c", "d"] ]
```

```
Length = number of elements
length([42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]) = 8
```

```
Empty list or vector
[]
c()
```

List Indexing (Python)

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

o 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

ages[1]
```

30

List Indexing (Python)

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages[1:4] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
```

Vector Indexing (R)

```
ages <- c(42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22)
ages[1:4]

2 3 4 5 6 7 8
```

[42, 30, 24, 24] R indexing is *inclusive* of the end position

List Variables

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages[1] = 54
ages
```

[42, 54, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

List Variables

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages = 54
ages
```

54

Appending and Prepending

[42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

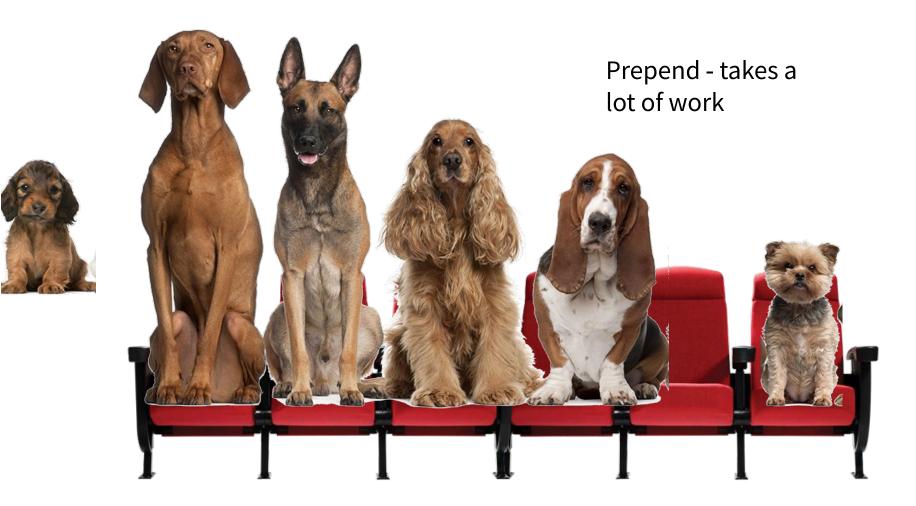
Append: [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22, **50**]

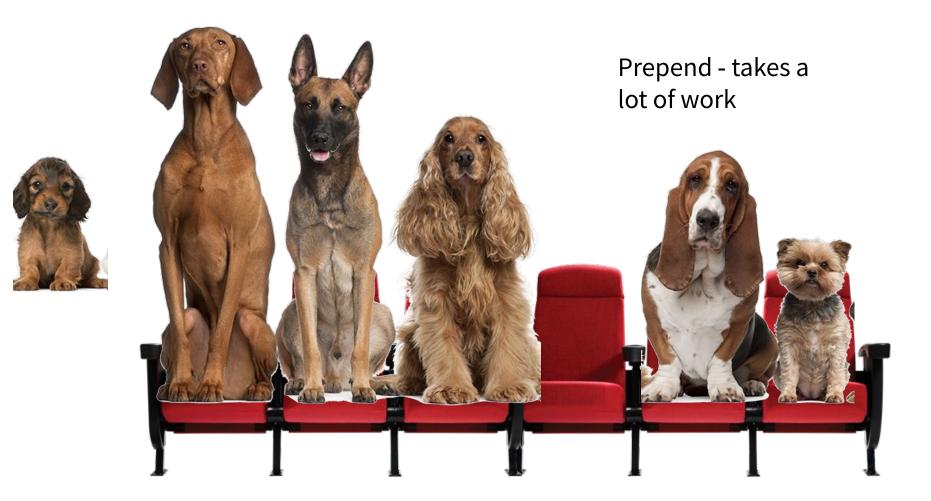
Prepend (R): [50, 42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]



















Time to Review!

Conditions

Conditions

Expressions that produce a boolean value:

True or False

Comparisons

Comparisons

age =
$$13$$

Assignment

age
$$== 14$$

Comparisons

Comparisons

age =
$$13$$

age
$$== 14$$

Comparisons

age =
$$13$$

age
$$== 14$$

Comparisons

age =
$$13$$

age < 21 TRUE

age == 14 FALSE

first_age < 21 or second_age < 21

```
first_age = 13
second_age = 15
```

```
first_age < 21 or second_age < 21
TRUE or TRUE = TRUE</pre>
```

$$first_age = 13$$

first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13

$$first_age = 13$$

```
first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13
    TRUE and FALSE = FALSE
```

$$first_age = 13$$

```
first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13
```

Notice that you have to include "first_age" on both sides of the "and"

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

evanston_resident == True and nu_staff == True

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

evanston_resident -- True and nu_staff -- True

evanston_resident and nu_staff

evanston_resident & nu_staff

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

not evanston_resident and nu_staff

!evanston_resident & nu_staff

```
evanston_resident = False
nu_staff = False
```

not evanston_resident and not nu_staff

!evanston_resident & !nu_staff

Exercise: Two Truths and a Lie

Open the exercise from the folder you downloaded.

Complete the top of the page first, and then write your three statements. (6 minutes)

Then, I will assign you to breakout rooms to share your Two Truths and a Lie with other participants. Share your screens one at a time and try to guess which of their statements are the lies. (7 minutes)

Control Flow: if/then/else

if condition
 do something

if condition
 do something

Evaluates to a single TRUE or FALSE value

```
if age >= 18
  print "Go Vote!"
```

if condition do something else do something different

```
if age >= 18
  print "Go Vote!"
else
  print "Too young!"
```

Chained If Statements

```
if condition
  do something
else if condition2
  do something different
else
  do a third thing
```

Chained If Statements

```
if age >= 18
  print "Go Vote!"
else if age >= 16
  print "Learn to drive"
else
  print "Too young!"
```

Chained If Statements

```
if age >= 18
                             18, 19, 20, 21...
  print "Go Vote!"
else if age >= 16
                             16, 17
  print "Learn to drive"
                             15, 14, 13, 12,
else
                             11, 10...
  print "Too young!"
```

If Statements: Multiple Actions

```
if age >= 18
   print "Go Vote!"
else if age >= 16
   print "Learn to drive"
   print "Stay in school"
else
   print "Too young!"
```

If Statements: Syntax

```
if (age >= 18) {
if age >= 18:
   print("Go Vote!")
                                      print("Go Vote!")
                                  } else if (age >= 16) {
elif age >= 16:
   print("Learn to drive")
                                      print("Learn to drive")
   print("Stay in school")
                                      print("Stay in school")
                                  } else {
else:
                                      print("Too young!")
   print("Too young!")
```

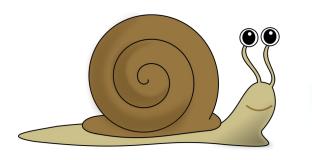
Writing Pseudocode

if color is green and has eye stalks

send to Mars

else

send to Earth









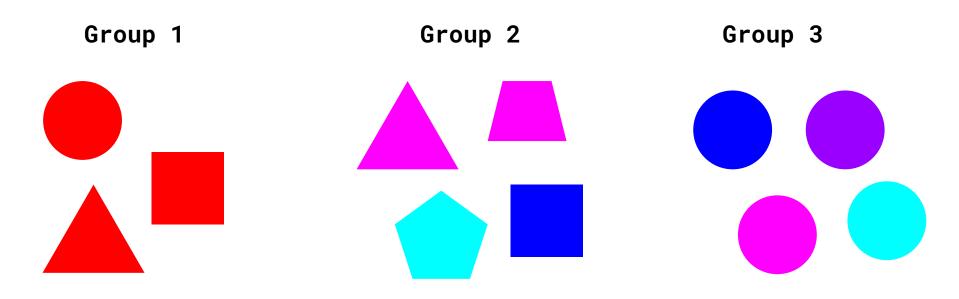






Exercise

Write an if/else statement that would sort the shapes below into the correct groups



Exercise

```
if shape is red
  Put in group 1
else if shape is circle
  Put in group 3
else
  Put in group 2
```

If Statements and Lists/Vectors

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
```

```
if ages > 18
  Do something
```

Time to Review!

Loops

For Loop

Loops are how we repeat the same action many times

for variable in list/vector of values
 do something

For Loop

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
                  Variable called age
for (age) in ages
  print(age)
                              for i in ages
                                 print(i)
```

for dog in row
 bark(dog)



Ruff!

for dog in row
bark(dog)





for dog in row
 bark(dog)



for dog in row
 bark(dog)



for dog in row
 bark(dog)



for dog in row
 bark(dog)



for dog in row
 bark(dog)



For Loop

```
total = 0

for i in 1:8

total = total + i

print total
```

For Loop total = 0

for i in 1:8

total = total + i

print total

total

6

10

15 21

28

36

For Loop total total = 0ages = [42,30,24,24,27,35,39,22]**→** 72 24 96 24 120 for i in ages 27 147 35 total = total + i182 39 221 print total 22 243

For Loop with if/else statements

```
shapes = [
```

```
for shape in shapes
if shape is red
Put in group 1
else if shape is circle
Put in group 3
else
Put in group 2
```







for dog in row if dog ears up bark(dog) Mung!



Functions

Functions

 Functions are commands that will do something to or with your data (integers, floats, strings, lists, vectors, etc.)

Functions

- Take input values called arguments
- Can return an output value
- Python and R functions usually don't alter their input values (but they sometimes do!)

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

abs(-3)

Returns 3

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

abs(-3)

Returns 3

-3 is an **argument** that we **passed** to the function abs()

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

```
abs(-3)
```

Returns 3

The return value can be assigned to a variable:

```
x = abs(-3)
```

x is 3

Calling Functions: No Return Value

Other functions do not return a value, but are called to do something:

```
print("Hello World!")
```

They cannot be assigned to a variable:

```
x = print("Hello World!")
```

Calling Functions: Variable Arguments

Arguments can be variables:

```
x = "Hello World!"
print(x)

file = "results.csv"
open(file)
```

Function Definitions

The open() function in Python only requires 1 argument - the file name

```
file = "results.csv"
open(file)
```

However, open() can take other optional arguments that will change the way the function works

Function Definitions

You can find lists of all the possible arguments that can be passed to a function in the function definition, which is found in the **documentation** for the language.

https://cran.r-project.org/manuals.html

https://docs.python.org/3/

Function Definitions

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

```
read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote = "\"", dec = ".", fill = TRUE, comment.char = "", ...)
```

Function Definitions: Function Name

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True,
opener=None)

Function Definitions: Parameters

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote = "\"", dec = ".", fill = TRUE, comment.char = "", ...)
```

Function Definitions: Parameter Names

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote = "\"", dec = ".", fill = TRUE, comment.char = "", ...)
```

Function Definitions: Default Values

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

```
read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote = "\"", dec = ".", fill = TRUE, comment.char = "", ...)
```

Function Definitions: Default Values

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

Function Definitions: Required Parameters

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

```
read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote = "\"", dec = ".", fill = TRUE, comment.char = "", ...)
```

Calling Functions

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: **Arguments**

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: Keyword Arguments

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: Non-Keyword Arguments

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
open("results.txt", 'w')
```

Calling Functions: Non-Keyword Arguments

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

```
open("results.txt", 'w')
```

You can pass a keyword argument without the keyword if the arguments are in the same order as they are in the function definition. **Order matters.** However...

Calling Functions: Argument order

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", 'w')
```

The rules about order work differently in Python than they do in R as you start adding more arguments.

Calling Functions: Argument order

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open(file="results.txt", mode='w')
```

If you are unsure, you can always use the parameter name with all your arguments.

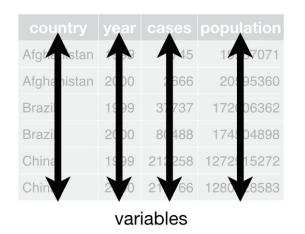
Packages/Libraries/Modules

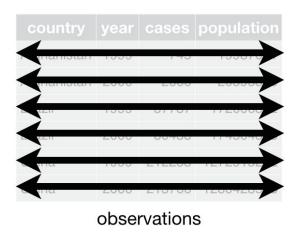
- Collections of functions, data, and other code
- Some must be installed, others are standard
- installed it has been downloaded to the computer
- **imported** it has been loaded into the current script or interactive instance (must happen before you can use it)
- Using packages/libraries/modules is expected!
- Look for pre-existing code/solutions
 - O How do you know it's good/correct?

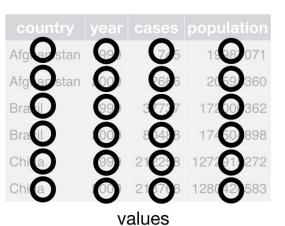
Time to Review!

Data

Rectangles of Data







Rows: Observations

```
Person (or mouse, worm, etc.)
Country
Year
Run/trial of an experiment
Chemical
```

Sample

Columns: Variables

Measurements

Grouping/identification variables:

- > trial/sample
- > condition
- > label for the observation (country name)

Each ID variable in its own column

Exercise - reshape this data

	1 min				5 min			
strain	normal		mutant		normal		mutant	
Α	111	170	375	384	277	234	207	466
В	336	169	491	233	392	341	213	472



strain	genotype	minute	trial	response
А	normal	1	1	111
А	normal	1	2	170
А	mutant	1	1	375
А	mutant	1	2	384
А	normal	5	1	277
А	normal	5	2	234
А	mutant	5	1	207
А	mutant	5	2	466
В	normal	1	1	336
В	normal	1	2	169
В	mutant	1	1	491
В	mutant	1	2	233
В	normal	5	1	392
В	normal	5	2	341
В	mutant	5	1	213
В	mutant	5	2	472

R or Python?

Are you learning how to code for research?

Or to be a software developer?

Are you learning how to code for research?

 Learn either R or Python - you can do pretty much everything now in either language

Or to be a software developer?

Learn Python, Java, JavaScript, or C++

Are you learning how to code for research?

- Learn either R or Python you can do pretty much everything now in either language
- Which language is already used in your lab? These are the people you will go to when you have questions and need help.
- Which language is commonly used in your field or subfield? This is the code you will borrow when you are trying to apply published research methods to your own data.

Are you learning how to code for research?

- Learn either R or Python you can do pretty much everything now in either language
- Did you already try and fail to learn one language? Try the other, maybe you will like it better.

How to learn R or Python

Options for all types of learners:

- In-person/set schedule NUIT Research Computing Services bootcamps,
 NICO Python course at NU
- Self-guided videos, books, interactive tutorials NUIT Research Computing Services materials, or check out our lists of recommended resources:
 - https://sites.northwestern.edu/researchcomputing/2020/03/31/onlin e-learning-resources-python/
 - https://sites.northwestern.edu/researchcomputing/2020/03/20/onlin e-learning-resources-r/