LEARN CODING

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github.com/ale66/learn-coding

FILES

RECAP SEQUENCES

- lists and dictionaries are mutable data structures
- lenght is variable
- elements are directly accessed via the `[i]` or `['key']` notation
- we iterate on them with `for` or `while`

RECAP L/D VS. D/L

```
my_data = {'name':['Andrea', 'Tom'],
           'age':[32,35],
           'location':['London', 'Brighton']
}
```

```
my_data = [
           {'name':'Andrea', 'Age':32, 'location':'London'}
           {'name':'Tom', 'Age':35, 'location':'Brighton'}
]
```

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

- Python run-time data structures are *impermanent*
- data is made permanent con computer devices via the file system
- specific *formats* support memorization and exchange

FILES

A permanent entry into the file system: `pg100.txt` or `C:/Users/aless/git/learn-code/60-files/pg100.txt`

Type is unspecified: a sequence of characters. Even for AV files.

The Python `with file:` instruction

- copies the content to the (volatile) work memory and
- associates it with a variable

We iterate on the variable to access data, following our model of what the data truly represents

TEXT FILES

A natural organization in *rows*: sequences terminated by a `enter` character: `\n`

Also `space`, , and `tab` characters are relevant: `\t`

By default, reading a file returns a list of strings.

```
1 MYFILE = './data/incipt.txt'
2
3 with open(MYFILE) as f:
4   mytext = f.read()
```

```
1 with open(MYFILE) as f:
2     mytext = f.read()
3
4 print(mytext)
```

File operation is confined to the block under `with`

`f` represents the file itself in our code, in a way similar to iterators like `range(n)`

`f.read()` **copies** the whole text from the computer permanent memory to our `mytext` variable

Changes to `mytext` do not reflect on the file (see below)

CHARACTER-ORIENTED

We receive a string and we parse it at the level of characters:

```
1 with open(MYFILE) as f:
2     mytext = f.read()
3
4 for c in mytext:
5   print(C.upper())
```

LINE-ORIENTED

The \n are used as separators to create a list of strings.

```
1 with open(MYFILE) as f:
2     mytext = f.readlines()
3
4 for line in mytext:
5   print(line)
```

ITERATIVE FILE ACCESS

Handling large files, like `pg100.txt`, is better done by treating `f` as an iterator

Example: read text file one line at a time (the default setup)

```
1 with open(MYFILE) as f:
2   for line in f:
3     print(line)
```

Notice how `print` adds an extra `\n` each time

WRITING ON FILES

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To keep a permanent copy of our results we need to write them on a file

Writing is more complex than reading:

- create a new file, write into it
- append new text at the bottom of an existing file
- overwrite an existing file with new material (irreversible)

By default, open( ) simply reads

```
1  with open(MYFILE, 'r') as f:
2    mytext = f.read()
```

parameter	effect
r	read
w	overwrite
x	create then write
a	append to existing f.

WRITING FILES

```
1  FILE = 'test-writing.txt'
2
3  with open(FILE, 'w') as f:
4
5      for num in range(10):
6          f.write(num)
```

0123456789

Printing is but writing into a special file which represents the output window

Use the same format rules

```
1  with open(FILE, 'w') as f:
2
3      for num in range(10):
4          f.write(f'This is value {num}\n')
```

CSV/TSV

A text file with extra assumptions on how data is organised

Each line is a data point, described by an *interpretation structure* that is normally on the first line

Let's have another look at `biostats.csv`

```
1  Name, Sex, Age, Height(in), Weight(lbs)
2  Alex, M, 41, 74, 170
3  Bert, M, 42, 68, 166
4  ...
5  Ruth, F, 28, 65, 131
```

Line 1 supplies the *keys* for a dictionary while further lines supply the values

`,` or `\t` separate values while `\n` separates datapoints (or *records*)

Often `"`s are used for text, e.g., `"Jean Jacques"`

Python supports CVS files via a extra *module* (details later)

```
1  import csv
2
3      with open(FILE) as f:
4
5          lines = csv.reader(f, delimiter=',')
6
7          for l in lines:
8            print(l)
```

The first line is special

```
1  # get the first line out
2  header = next(lines)
3
4  for l in lines:
5    print(f'Patient: {l}')
```

FROM CSV TO DICTIONARY

Function `DictReader` uses the first line to guide the creation of dictionaries

```
1 with open(FILE) as f:
2
3     lines = csv.DictReader(f,  delimiter=',')
4
5     for l in lines:
6       print(f'Patient: {l}')
```

A list of key names can also be supplied, to facilitate data migration (see code)

```
1     lines = csv.DictReader(f,  fieldnames=mapping_es, delimiter=',')
```

DISCUSSION

CSV/TSV make exchanging data fast and reliable

However, they assume that for each datapoint we a *fixed* description that will fill the exact number of colums

Lack of data implies filling a *placeholder* or `null` value

Bert is NOT 68 years old

```
1 Name, Sex, Age, Height(in), Weight(lbs)
2 Alex, M, 41, 74, 170
3 Bert, M, NULL, 68, 166
```

But what if we know Alex's shoe size and Bert's lung capacity (and not vice versa)

JSON

FROM CSV TO JSON BY EXAMPLE

JSON is essentially *a list of nested Python dictionaries.*

Different levels of details are easily accomodated

so do data thas is naturally non-atomic, e.g., `passed_exams`

```
[{
    "Financial Institution": "Financial Institution",
    "ABANCACorporacinBancariaS.txt": {
        "energy": 51,
        "environmental": 32.5378277861242,
        "management": 15.735531168780 63,
        "party": 35.37153650105044,
        "buildings": 1.1823215567939547,
        "sustainability": 29.48740643117 5053
    },
    // more and more...
}]
```

```
[{
    "Financial Institution": "Financial Institution",
    "ABANCACorporacinBancariaS.txt": {},
    "ABN_AMRO_2015_External_review_report.txt": {},
}]
```

```
[{
    "Financial Institution": "Financial Institution",
    "ABANCACorporacinBancariaS.txt": {},
    "ABN_AMRO_2015_External_review_report.txt": {
      "ABN_AMRO_2015_External_review_report.txt": {"energy": 89,
      "environmental": 34.571442022756 96,
      "management": 7.867765584390315,
      "party": 7.737523609604784,
      "buildings": 141.87858681527456,
      "sustainability": 39.655477614338864},
    }
}]
```

NON-TEXT FILES

By default, `open()` simply reads **text files**

```
1 with open(MYFILE, 'tr') as f:
2   mytext = f.read()
```

parameter	effect
t	text
w	binary
+	double read/write use

Images, sound and video are treated as binary

DATA CLEANING AND *DATA WRANGLING*

An informal introduction through a real project on *Green finance*: look at cells up to [5].

CHALLENGE

Can you get fresh data from data.spectator.co.uk/category/energy and diplay it?