

Writing your own python modules ¶

You will soon realize that for every project there are always a few lines of code that end up being extremely helpful and handy to keep around. These lines end up being the ones applied multiple times and for multiple purposes.

Repeating operations and reusing lines of code is key to programming.

In this tutorial we will learn how to write python [modules](https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/modules.html) (<https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/modules.html>). A module is nothing more than a file (ending in `.py`) containing collection of functions. A module can be as simple as containing a few functions, or as complicated as `numpy` or `seaborn`.

We have learned so far how to write functions. Functions are a handy way to reuse the same lines of code.

As the data science projects become more complex, or you become more expert at data science projects, the number of functions that end up needing to be carried around can grow fast.

For any sizable project, the number of functions needed to be kept around is larger than the number of functions we are willing to copy and paste in every new script or jupyter notebook.

To avoid copying and pasting dozens of functions we can use python modules. Modules are collections of functions (and other python assertions, such as variables definitions) in a file saved on the current path accessible to `python`.

Just like functions facilitate reusing dozens of lines of code, modules facilitates reusing dozens of functions.

Learning goals:

- Understanding Python Modules
- Practice building Python Modules
- grouped data: aggregation and pivot tables

Our first module

Python offers a convenient way to keep useful code and functions around by writing and importing modules.

What is a module? Python modules are libraries of functions. We have encountered modules all along our tutorials. Indeed everytime we were invoking an `import` statement we were effectively loading a module.

How is a module defined? A module is a python file (ending with extension `.py`) with a series of functions definitions (i.e., statement starting with `def`) they live in the current path where your python code is running and because of that it can be imported.

How does a module work? Python allows importing any `.py` file containing `def` statements. Importing a module file makes the functions in the file callable and usable (for example in Jupyter notebook).

How to write a python module

Let's learn how to write and use Python modules! (we will start simple.)

In a nutshell, the general process to write and use a python modules can be summarized as follows:

To write a module we need to: A) Create a file with extension `.py`. B) Write functions inside the file. C) Save the file on the path accessible to python (for simplicity say the current working directory).

To use python modules we need to: A) Make sure the module is in the current working directory. B) import the module by typing `import` and `<moduleName>` C) Call the functions in the module with the syntax `moduleName.functionName`

MyModule

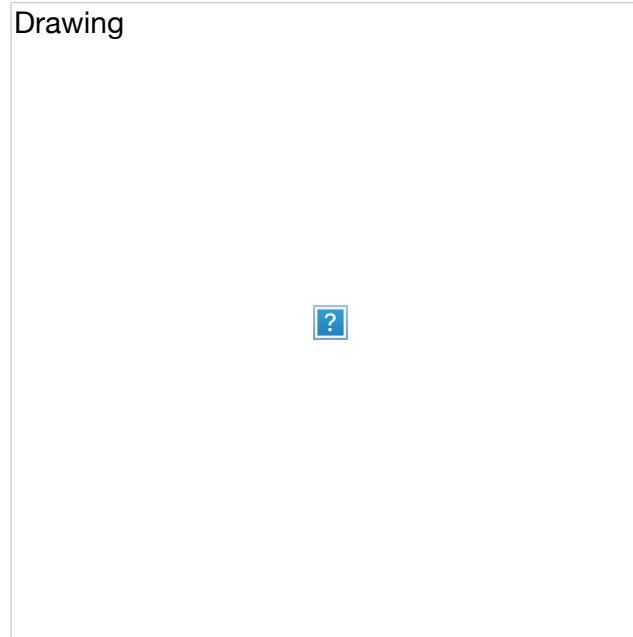
Hereafter, we will practice with the process described above. Write a module and then import and use the module.

This means that we will write a file outside this jupyter notebook. This is something we have not done before and might feel a bit awkward (are we really leaving our safe Jupyter Notebooks heaven? Yes).

Just as a heads start, our module will be called `mymodule`. The module will contain a function that will print the first few words of [Billie Eilish's song "Ocean Eyes"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viimfQi_pUw&ab_channel=BillieEilish) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viimfQi_pUw&ab_channel=BillieEilish).

So, to learn how to create a module, we will perform the following exercise.

- Open a new Jupyter Notebook (from the File menu, select "New Notebook")



- Edit the name of the new notebook and rename it from "untitled" to `mymodule`

Drawing

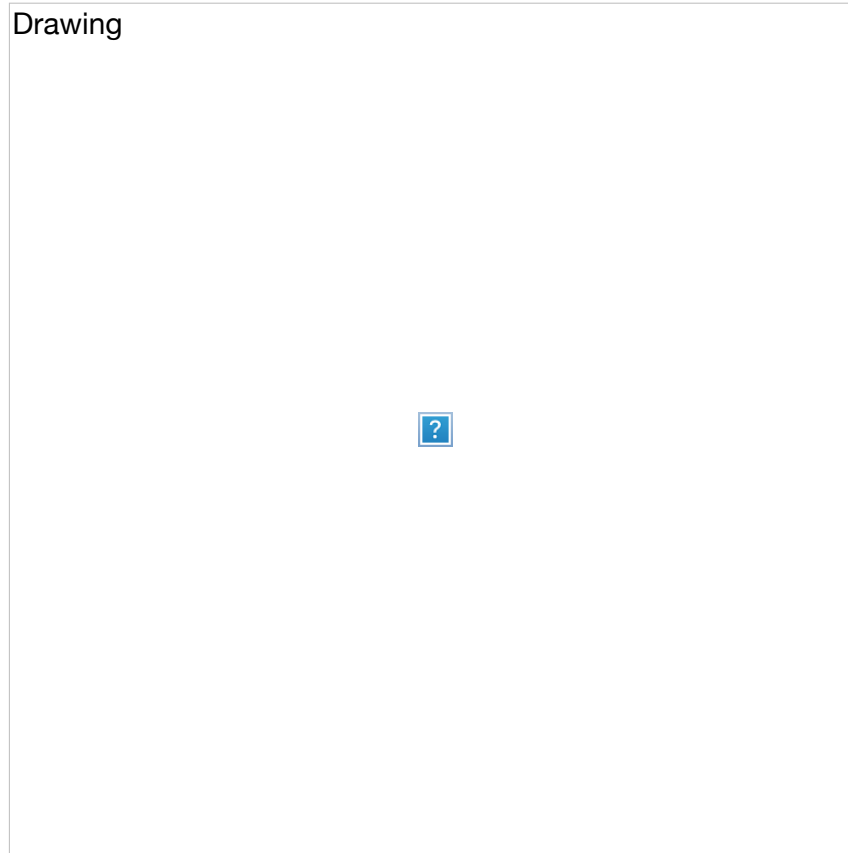


- Copy and paste the code for the function provided below (OceanEyes) into the mymodule Jupyter Notebook. Note. Only create a single cell in the new notebook. Make sure no other cell is there.

Drawing



- Download the `mymodule` notebook into the current directory with the `.py` file extension. To do so, from the File menu navigate to "Downloads as" and select the file type "Python *.py*."



- Save the file in the same directory of the current tutorial.

```
In [29]: 1 def OceanEyes():  
          2     print('Can''t stop starin'' at those ocean eyes')
```

Alright, after following the instructions above, and if all went well, we should be ready to load the module and use its function.

To load the module we will tell python to import it. This is as simple as running the following statements:

```
In [30]: 1 import mymodule
```

If the previous cell executed without errors the module is loaded! (If error were returned, please read the errors and try to repeat the previous steps.)

Next, let's use the module! The module we created will "only" print the first few words of a song. But let's try it.

Our module is called is just like any other modules we have used before. For example, we have used `Pandas`, and `Numpy`, those are also modules.

So, let's take a look at our syntax! Our module is called `myModule` and the function it contains `OceanEyes` so the call goes as follows

```
In [31]: 1 myModule.OceanEyes()
```

```
Cant stop starin at those ocean eyes
```

Did you get it? Did you get the words from the song? If you did, congratulations you just wrote a python module.

More complex modules just contains more functions, more complex functions etc. But the process (given what we have covered so far) can be summarized as above.

[Complete the following exercise.](#)

- Make your module:
 - Pick a song you like
 - Make a new python module that is called with the first two words in the title of the song
 - When invoked, the module should print the first phrase of the song you picked
 - Import the module and show it works

```
In [32]: 1 import High_Hopes
```

```
In [33]: 1 High_Hopes.HighHopes()
```

```
Had to have high, high hopes for a living
```

More about modules

Note now that, the file name is also the name of the module (`mymodule`). The file name has the suffix `.py` appended, that suffix is not used in the code, when calling the module (in other words we do not `import mymodule.py` but we `import mymodule`).

The name for modules imported in the current workspace is always available as the value of the global variable **`__name__`** (a string).

We can extract the module name into a string as follows:

```
In [34]: 1 mymodule.__name__ #a built-in variable which evaluates to the name of the current module.
```

```
Out[34]: 'mymodule'
```

Just like we have done in the past with Pandas and Numpy also our module can be imported with a different (shorter) name:

```
In [35]: 1 import mymodule as mm
```

Now the function in mymodule should be called using `mm` , give it a try:

```
In [36]: 1 mm.OceanEyes()
```

Cant stop starin at those ocean eyes

Functions inside a module can be imported directly and assigned a callable name. We have seen this before ...

```
In [37]: 1 from mymodule import OceanEyes as oe
```

Now we can call the function directly, avoiding the syntax `mymodule.<functionName>` . Try the following, it should work:

In [38]:

```
1 oe()
```

Cant stop starin at those ocean eyes

Let's break this

OK now let's try something that should break things for us, but perhaps also help us understand. Move the file `mymodule.py` out of the current directory, for example, move it to your desktop instead.

After doing that try importing the module again.

In [39]:

```
1 import mymodule
```

Did that work? Why?

Yes, I think it works because we use `__name__` function, which imprints `mymodule` into this jupyter notebook.

Modules can import other modules.

It is possible to add import operations inside a module. Say for example you want to load `Numpy` every time you load your module. You could add `import numpy as np` at the beginning of your module and the module will automatically add `numpy` to your current workspace as soon as you call your module.

The standard modules in Python

Python comes with a library of modules called standard: The [python standard modules library \(https://docs.python.org/3/library/\)](https://docs.python.org/3/library/). These modules are shipped with the Python3 distribution. This means that you can simply import them without saving, or moving files. The files are pythonmagically there for you.

A list of standard modules can be found [here \(https://docs.python.org/3/py-modindex.html\)](https://docs.python.org/3/py-modindex.html). The lis

In sum

Writing python modules is as easy as writing a file ending with the `.py` extension. The file should contain function definitions. The file could also contain variable definitions or other code statements, an aspect of modules that we have not experimented with in this tutorial.

Make the best rat lab module

To practice with modules we will make an exercise and make a module out of the code from a previous tutorial.

Your goal will be to take these functions save a the module and demonstrate that it runs from within this jupyter notebook

First of all we will break down the code into the basic steps and make one function per step. After that, we will make a module, save it to disk and call it to use the function.

Let's get started.

In a previous tutorial, we loaded data from files given to us from a lab and performed a series of operations to reorganize the data into a Tidy Data Format. In that tutorial (Tutorial 17 using 'datasets/017DataFile.csv') we performed four independent operations to reorganize the data.

- We loaded reaction time data into a specific format.
- We organized the labels for the strains of rats into the appropriate format for the data.
- We organized the labels for the sexes of rats into the appropriate format for the data.
- We combined the data and labels into a tidy format (one column per variable/label)

Below we have four functions written to implement the operations described above and used in the previous tutorial. These functions can now be conveniently called multiple times within this Jupyter notebook. Yet, to call the functions in a new notebook, or in future (many) notebooks, they must be copied and pasted into each new Jupyter notebook. Boring...

Wouldn't it be easier if we could call them directly from a module? Let's do this.

Below we first describe how we functionalized the code from the previous tutorial. We describe each function and what it does and then use them after loading the data.

After that, we will open a new notebook and save it as a module. We will then repeat the data processing performed with the functions by loading the module we just created.

```
In [ ]: 1 def get_data(filename) :  
        2     '''  
        3     get_data()  
        4     Loads the data from a filename.  
        5     Organizes the data and returns key data values  
        6     '''  
        7     import numpy as np  
        8     import pandas as pd  
        9  
       10     my_input_data = pd.read_csv(filename) # read the data  
       11  
       12     raw_data = my_input_data.to_numpy() # convert to numpy array  
       13     obs, grps = raw_data.shape # get the number of rows and columns  
       14     new_length = obs*grps # compute total number of observations  
       15     values_col = np.reshape(raw_data, (new_length, 1),  
       16                             order = 'F') # reshape the array  
       17     values_col = np.squeeze(values_col) # squeeze to make 1D  
       18  
       19     return values_col, obs
```

```

In [ ]: 1 def get_strains(obs=10, names=['wildtype', 'mutant']) :
        2     '''
        3     get_strains()
        4     Takes names of rat types (e.g., names=['wildtype', 'mutant']) and
        5     the number of observation per group (obs_per_grp=10).
        6     Returns the variable `strain` containing.
        7     User specifies a filename string.
        8     '''
        9     import pandas as pd
       10
       11     strain = pd.Series(names)                                # make the short series
       12     strain = strain.repeat([2*obs])                        # repeat each over two cell's worth of data
       13     strain = strain.reset_index(drop=True)                # reset the series's index value
       14
       15     return strain

```

```

In [ ]: 1 def get_sexes(obs, sexLabels=['male', 'female']) :
        2     '''
        3     tidyMyData() Takes one-column-per-cell rat reaction time data as input.
        4     Returns tidy one-column-per-variable data.
        5     User specifies a filename string.
        6     '''
        7     import pandas as pd
        8
        9     sexes = pd.Series(sexLabels)                            # make the short series
       10     sexes = sexes.repeat(obs)                               # repeat each over one cell's worth of data
       11     sexes = pd.concat([sexes]*2, ignore_index=True)         # stack or "concatonate" two copies
       12
       13     return sexes

```

In []:

```
1 def tidy_data(values_col, strain, sexes) :
2     '''
3     tidyMyData() Takes
4     1. A one-column-per-cell rat reaction time data (values_col).
5     2. A sexes variables labelling each entry in values_col by rat-sex
6     3. A strain variable labelling entries in values_col by rat strain
7
8     Returns one-column-per-variable data adhering to the tidy format.
9
10    '''
11
12    import pandas as pd
13
14    # construct the data frame
15    my_new_tidy_data = pd.DataFrame(
16        {
17            "RTs": values_col,           # make a column named RTs and put the values in there
18            "sex": sexes,                 # ditto for sex
19            "strain": strain              # and for genetic strain
20        }
21    )
22
23    return my_new_tidy_data
```

Complete the following exercise.

- Your goal is to make a module called `bestratlab.py` out of the above functions and to demonstrate that it can run from this notebook.

```
In [1]: 1 import bestratlab
```

```
In [2]: 1 bestratlab.get_data('datasets/017DataFile.csv')
```

```
Out[2]: (array([10.48545088, 11.74794775, 13.41258004, 12.91009526, 10.36777045,  
                11.69842177, 11.58315277, 11.44734892, 10.85227619, 11.28589742,  
                8.2500131 , 8.45383932, 9.70660484, 9.52211638, 8.58321246,  
                9.83500171, 10.53209602, 9.39416641, 8.73947266, 10.89239399,  
                20.12706278, 20.06814699, 21.21514789, 20.70641578, 18.07479515,  
                20.36762403, 20.15252058, 19.39247581, 18.52434071, 20.32502629,  
                25.94638414, 23.46487013, 22.98948034, 25.32437595, 22.60748688,  
                23.05218737, 25.3690367 , 23.37270897, 25.21564644, 24.99050453]),  
        10)
```

```
In [3]: 1 bestratlab.get_strains(obs=10, names=['wildtype', 'mutant'])
```

```
21      mutant  
22      mutant  
23      mutant  
24      mutant  
25      mutant  
26      mutant  
27      mutant  
28      mutant  
29      mutant  
30      mutant  
31      mutant  
32      mutant  
33      mutant  
34      mutant  
35      mutant  
36      mutant  
37      mutant  
38      mutant  
39      mutant  
dtype: object
```

```
In [4]: 1 bestratlab.get_sexes(obs = 10, sexLabels=['male', 'female'])
```

```
Out[4]: 0      male
        1      male
        2      male
        3      male
        4      male
        5      male
        6      male
        7      male
        8      male
        9      male
       10     female
       11     female
       12     female
       13     female
       14     female
       15     female
       16     female
       17     female
       18     female
       19     female
```

```

In [10]: 1 def get_data2(filename) :
          2     '''
          3     get_data()
          4     Loads the data from a filename.
          5     Organizes the data and returns key data values
          6     '''
          7     import numpy as np
          8     import pandas as pd
          9
         10     my_input_data = pd.read_csv(filename) # read the data
         11
         12     raw_data = my_input_data.to_numpy() # convert to numpy array
         13     obs, grps = raw_data.shape # get the number of rows and columns
         14     new_length = obs*grps # compute total number of observations
         15     values_col = np.reshape(raw_data, (new_length, 1),
         16                             order = 'F') # reshape the array
         17     values_col = np.squeeze(values_col) # squeeze to make 1D
         18
         19     return values_col

```

```

In [13]: 1 values_col = get_data2('datasets/017DataFile.csv')
          2 values_col

```

```

Out[13]: array([10.48545088, 11.74794775, 13.41258004, 12.91009526, 10.36777045,
                11.69842177, 11.58315277, 11.44734892, 10.85227619, 11.28589742,
                8.2500131 , 8.45383932, 9.70660484, 9.52211638, 8.58321246,
                9.83500171, 10.53209602, 9.39416641, 8.73947266, 10.89239399,
                20.12706278, 20.06814699, 21.21514789, 20.70641578, 18.07479515,
                20.36762403, 20.15252058, 19.39247581, 18.52434071, 20.32502629,
                25.94638414, 23.46487013, 22.98948034, 25.32437595, 22.60748688,
                23.05218737, 25.3690367 , 23.37270897, 25.21564644, 24.99050453])

```



```
In [15]: 1 strain = bestratlab.get_strains(obs=10, names=['wildtype', 'mutant'])
          2 strain
```

```
Out[15]: 0    wildtype
          1    wildtype
          2    wildtype
          3    wildtype
          4    wildtype
          5    wildtype
          6    wildtype
          7    wildtype
          8    wildtype
          9    wildtype
         10    wildtype
         11    wildtype
         12    wildtype
         13    wildtype
         14    wildtype
         15    wildtype
         16    wildtype
         17    wildtype
         18    wildtype
         19    wildtype
```

```
In [17]: 1 sexes = bestratlab.get_sexes(obs = 10, sexLabels=['male', 'female'])
          2 sexes
```

```
Out[17]: 0      male
          1      male
          2      male
          3      male
          4      male
          5      male
          6      male
          7      male
          8      male
          9      male
         10     female
         11     female
         12     female
         13     female
         14     female
         15     female
         16     female
         17     female
         18     female
         19     female
```

```
In [18]: 1 bestratlab.tidy_data(values_col, strain, sexes)
```

```
Out[18]:
```

	RTs	sex	strain
0	10.485451	male	wildtype
1	11.747948	male	wildtype
2	13.412580	male	wildtype
3	12.910095	male	wildtype
4	10.367770	male	wildtype
5	11.698422	male	wildtype
6	11.583153	male	wildtype
7	11.447349	male	wildtype

8	10.852276	male	wildtype
9	11.285897	male	wildtype
10	8.250013	female	wildtype
11	8.453839	female	wildtype
12	9.706605	female	wildtype
13	9.522116	female	wildtype
14	8.583212	female	wildtype
15	9.835002	female	wildtype
16	10.532096	female	wildtype
17	9.394166	female	wildtype
18	8.739473	female	wildtype
19	10.892394	female	wildtype
20	20.127063	male	mutant
21	20.068147	male	mutant
22	21.215148	male	mutant
23	20.706416	male	mutant
24	18.074795	male	mutant
25	20.367624	male	mutant
26	20.152521	male	mutant
27	19.392476	male	mutant
28	18.524341	male	mutant
29	20.325026	male	mutant
30	25.946384	female	mutant
31	23.464870	female	mutant
32	22.989480	female	mutant

33	25.324376	female	mutant
34	22.607487	female	mutant
35	23.052187	female	mutant
36	25.369037	female	mutant
37	23.372709	female	mutant
38	25.215646	female	mutant
39	24.990505	female	mutant

A note on recycling code

We have learned early in our journey towards Data Science that it is convenient to keep helpful code around and recycle it. So far, we have learned of at least three ways to recycle code:

- *Loops*. Loops facilitate reusing hundreds of operations. Loops allow repeating the same operations over and over avoiding actually copying and pasting the same lines of code.
- *Functions*. Functions facilitate reusing hundreds of lines of code. Functions allow reusing the same lines of code for different instances of the same situation.
- *Modules*. Modules allow facilitates reusing hundreds of functions. Modules provide a convenient way to save good work, functions, in an accessible file. Module files can be loaded the, or better imported in the current working python stack and that allow accessing and using the functions saved in the module.