

# Proper style

## Accessing files

When building a notebook you might find the need to reference other files

- data files
- files that you use to move code out of your notebook

The proper way to reference files is via *relative* path names, not *absolute* path names.

- The current working directory can be referenced with a single dot: "."
  - On your machine "." might be equivalent to  
R: /user/ken/ML\_Course/Assignment\_1
  - On the GA's machine, "." might be equivalent to  
/home/GA/Students/Ken
- The *absolute* path name for a file is a path from the root of the file systems to a file
  - e.g., R: /user/ken/ML\_Course/Assignment\_1
- The problem with absolute path names for files is that this complete path *probably doesn't exist* on anyone else's machine
  - So if your notebook references a file  
R: /user/ken/ML\_Course/Assignment\_1/Data/stock.csv it  
*will not run on the GA's machine*
- You can reference the same file by a path name that is *relative* to the current directory
  - ./Data/stock.csv
  - That is because "." on your machine refers to  
R: /user/ken/ML\_Course/Assignment\_1
- But this also means that if the GA copies your entire directory (which you may submit) to a machine where "." means /home/GA/Students/Ken
  - ./Data/stock.csv will lead to

## Use markdown

Jupyter notebooks allow you to add formatted text cells ("markdown").

You should make generous use of these cells to describe your thought process.

- Your notebook is a movie of your work, not the final snapshot

**Do not** use code comments to describe anything other than programming fine-points

## Submitting your assignment

1. Please zip your files into a single archive file before submission.

- name it as {Net\_ID}\_{date}\_{version number}\_HW{HW\_number}.zip.
  - where
    - {Net\_ID} should be replaced by your userid
    - {date} should be replaced by the date of your submission in YYYYMMDD format
    - {version number} should be replaced by an integer
      - starting with 1
      - increasing every time you submit an additional file on the **same date**
    - {HW\_number} should be replaced by the identifier of the assignment
- Do NOT use .rar, .7z, etc.

Failure to follow this convention increases the burden on the grader and points will be deducted !



## 1. The only kinds of files necessary to be included in the zip file.

- (a) external files such as "Data" folder, you can add your own data here
- (b) jupyter notebook file
  - The name of your notebook should be Assignment\_[#].ipynb
- (c) Any other files that you have created which are necessary to run your notebook
  - e.g., your own modules or separate files (for any other reason)
- **Avoid** (if possible) un-needed directories, particularly if they are large !
  - anything not needed to run/evaluate your notebook
  - e.g., checkpoints, backups

