



DSCI 510

PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAMMING FOR DATA SCIENCE

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JavaScript Object Notation

JSON



JSON: JavaScript Object Notation

- Lightweight data interchange format
- JSON data is structured as key-value pairs
- **Keys are always strings** enclosed in double quotes
- Values can be strings, numbers, objects {}, arrays [], booleans, null, or nested JSON objects

```
{
  "name": "John",
  "age": 30,
  "city": "New York",
  "birth_date": {
    "day": 14,
    "month": 4,
    "year": 1993
  },
  "skills": [
    "Python",
    "Machine Learning",
    "Databases"
  ],
  "awards": null,
  "male": true
}
```

JSON: Values Data Types

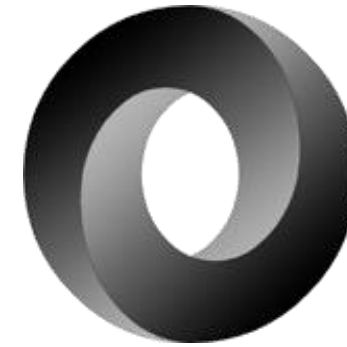


- **Strings:** Enclosed in double quotes.
- **Numbers:** Integer or floating-point values.
- **Objects:** Comma separated key-value pairs enclosed in curly braces.
- **Arrays:** Ordered lists of comma separated items enclosed in square brackets.
- **Booleans:** true or false.
- **null:** Represents empty or missing data.



JSON: Key Features

- **Simplicity:** JSON is easy for both humans to read and write and for machines to parse and generate
- **Interoperability:** It is supported by most programming languages
- **Data Exchange:** JSON is widely used for data exchange in web applications and APIs



<https://www.json.org/json-en.html>



XML vs JSON

XML:

```
<person>  
  <name> John </name>  
  <phone> 303-4456 </phone>  
</person>
```

JSON:

```
{"name": "John", "phone": "303-4456"}
```



JSON in Python

- The **json module** is a built-in Python library that allows us to encode (serialize) and decode (deserialize) data using the JSON format.
- It's the standard way to exchange structured data between Python programs and web APIs, configuration files, etc.
- It has 4 main core functions:

Function	Direction	Description
<code>json.loads(str)</code>	JSON → Python	Parse a JSON string into a Python object
<code>json.load(file)</code>	JSON → Python	Parse JSON from a file
<code>json.dumps(obj)</code>	Python → JSON	Convert a Python object to a JSON string
<code>json.dump(obj, file)</code>	Python → JSON	Write JSON to a file



JSON in Python

JSON Type	Example	Python Type
object	<code>{"a": 1, "b": 2}</code>	<code>dict</code>
array	<code>[1, 2, 3]</code>	<code>list</code>
string	<code>"hello"</code>	<code>str</code>
number	<code>42</code>	<code>int</code> or <code>float</code>
true / false	<code>true</code> / <code>false</code>	<code>True</code> / <code>False</code>
null	<code>null</code>	<code>None</code>



json.loads()

- Purpose: Parse a JSON string into a Python object.
- Input: JSON string (e.g., '{"a": 1, "b": 2}')
- Output: Python object (usually dict or list)

```
import json

# JSON data as a string
data = '{"name": "Ariela", "age": 13, "subjects": ["Math", "Science"]}'

# Convert JSON string → Python object
person = json.loads(data)
```



What type is person?



json.loads()

- Purpose: Parse a JSON string into a Python object.
- Input: JSON string (e.g., '{"a": 1, "b": 2}')
- Output: Python object (usually dict or list)

```
import json

# JSON data as a string
data = '{"name": "Ariela", "age": 13, "subjects": ["Math", "Science"]}'

# Convert JSON string → Python object
person = json.loads(data)
```

```
# Access elements like a normal Python dict
print(person["name"])      # Output: Ariela
print(person["age"])       # Output: 13
print(person["subjects"])  # Output: ['Math', 'Science']
```

dict:

json.load()



- Purpose: Parse JSON data directly from a file.
- Input: File object containing JSON text
- Output: Python object (dict, list, etc.)

```
import json

# Open and read JSON data directly from a file
with open("data.json", "r") as f:
    person = json.load(f)

# Access values as a normal Python dict
print(person["name"])      # Output: Ariela
print(person["age"])       # Output: 13
print(person["subjects"])  # Output: ['Math', 'Science']
```

json.dumps()



- Purpose: Convert a Python object into a JSON string.
- Input: Python dict, list, etc.
- Output: JSON string
- Options:

indent

Pretty-print

indent=4

sort_keys

Sort output keys

sort_keys=True

separators

Control punctuation
spacing

separators=(",", ":")

```
import json
```

```
# A normal Python dictionary
```

```
person = {
```

```
    "name": "Ariela",
```

```
    "age": 13,
```

```
    "subjects": ["Math", "Science"],
```

```
    "enrolled": True
```

```
}
```

```
# Convert to a JSON-formatted string
```

```
json_str = json.dumps(person)
```

```
print(json_str)
```

- Output:

```
{"name": "Ariela", "age": 13, "subjects": ["Math", "Science"], "enrolled": true}
```

json.dump()



- Purpose: Write JSON representation of a Python object to a file.
- Input: Python object and open file handle
- Output: JSON text written to file

```
import json

# A normal Python dictionary
person = {
    "name": "Ariela",
    "age": 13,
    "subjects": ["Math", "Science"],
    "enrolled": True
}

# Write the dictionary to a JSON file
with open("person.json", "w") as f:
    json.dump(person, f, indent=4)
```



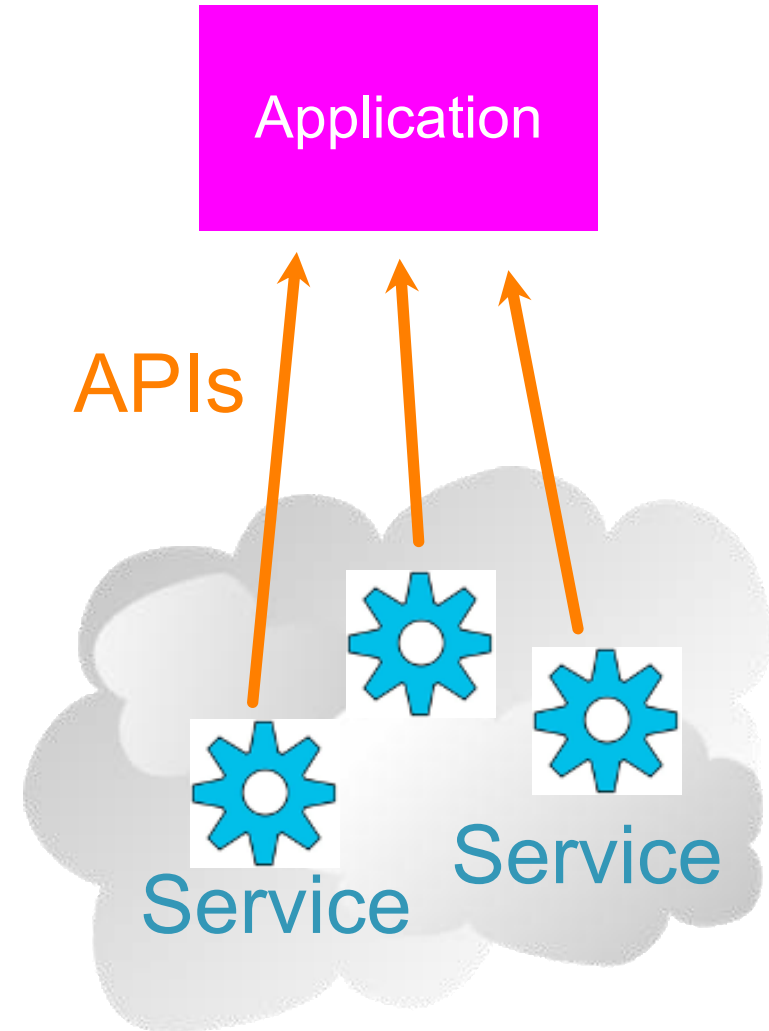
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service-oriented_architecture

SERVICE ORIENTED APPROACH



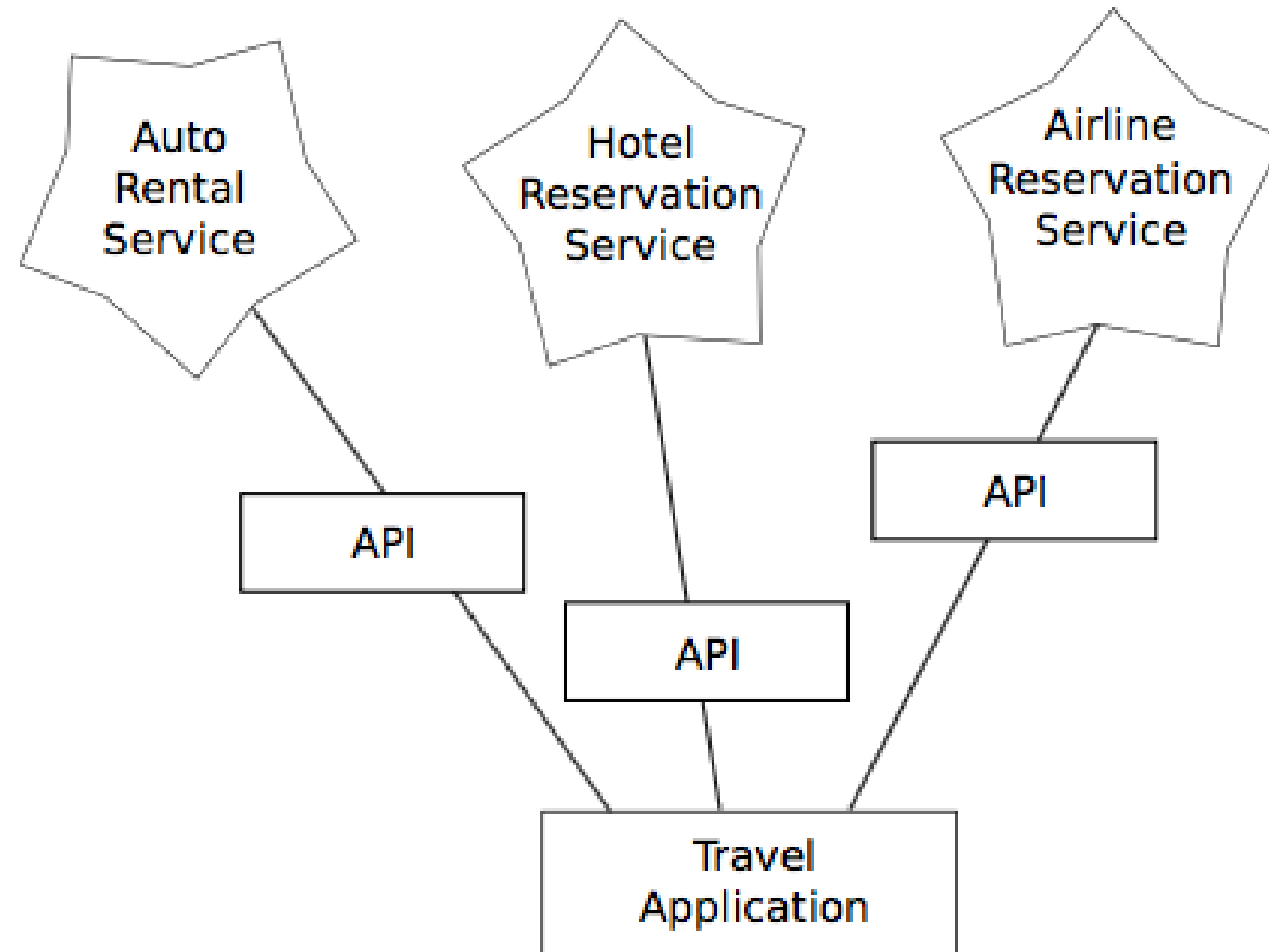
Service Oriented Approach

- Most non-trivial web applications use services
- They use services from other applications
 - Credit Card Charge
 - Hotel Reservation System
- Services publish the "rules", other applications must follow to make use of the service (API)





A Service Oriented Architecture





http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_services

WEB SERVICES

Application Program Interface (API)



- The API itself is largely abstract in that it specifies an interface and controls the behavior of the objects specified in that interface.
- The software that provides the functionality described by an API is said to be an “implementation” of the API.
- An API is typically defined in terms of the programming language used to build an application.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/API>



Application Program Interface (API)

- We interact with APIs every day:
 - Weather apps fetching forecasts from meteorological services
 - Payment processing with PayPal, or Square
 - Social media sharing buttons on websites
 - Google Maps integration in ride-sharing apps
 - Cloud storage services syncing your files
- Popular API services:
 - **Google Cloud APIs** – Maps, YouTube Data, Drive, Gmail, Translate, etc.
 - **Microsoft Graph API** – Integrates with Outlook, OneDrive, Teams, and more.
 - **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** – Provides programmatic access to cloud computing resources.
 - **Twitter (X) API** – Post, read, and analyze tweets.
 - **Facebook Graph API** – Access user posts, pages, and advertising data.
 - **Instagram Graph API** – For professional account insights and content.

Making GET Requests to an API service

GET requests retrieve data from an API endpoint.



```
import requests

response = requests.get('https://api.example.com/users')

# With parameters
params = {'page': 1, 'limit': 10}
response = requests.get('https://api.example.com/users', params=params)
```

Common use cases:

Fetching user data, retrieving lists



Example: Fetching Weather Data via an API

```
import requests

# Define the base URL for the OpenWeatherMap API
base_url = "https://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather"

# Define query parameters
params = {
    "q": "Los Angeles",    # city name
    "appid": "YOUR_API_KEY_HERE", # your API key
    "units": "metric"      # or 'imperial' for Fahrenheit
}

# Make the GET request with parameters
response = requests.get(base_url, params=params)
```

Very similar to fetching an HTML



Example: Fetching Weather Data via an API

1. **Base URL:** The API endpoint — here it's `https://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather`.
2. **Parameters (`params` dict):**

- `q` : The city name.
- `appid` : Your personal API key (you get this after registering on the site).
- `units` : Optional parameter to control units.

3. `requests.get(url, params=params)` automatically encodes the parameters into a proper query string, e.g.

```
https://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather?q=Los%20Angeles&appid=YOUR_API_KEY_I
```

4. `response.json()` converts the JSON data returned by the API into a Python dictionary.



Example: Fetching Weather Data via an API

```
# Check if the request was successful (HTTP 200 OK)
if response.status_code == 200:
    data = response.json() # Parse JSON response
    # Extract useful information
    city = data["name"]
    temp = data["main"]["temp"]
    weather = data["weather"][0]["description"]

    print(f"City: {city}")
    print(f"Temperature: {temp}°C")
    print(f"Weather: {weather}")
else:
    print(f"Error {response.status_code}: {response.text}")
```

We can do whatever we want with the data; our own analysis

Another example: retrieve data from YouTube



```
import requests

# Replace with your actual API key
API_KEY = "YOUR_YOUTUBE_API_KEY"
query = "Quantum Computing"

url = "https://www.googleapis.com/youtube/v3/search"

# Passing parameters using the 'params' argument (clear)
params = {
    "part": "snippet",
    "q": query,
    "type": "video",
    "maxResults": 5,
    "key": API_KEY
}
```

How do we know what parameters are legit?

- Look at the API documentation
- Visit the API's developer portal

```
if response.status_code == 200:
    results = response.json()
    for item in results["items"]:
        title = item["snippet"]["title"]
        channel = item["snippet"]["channelTitle"]
        print(f"{title} - {channel}")
else:
    print("Error:", response.status_code)
```




Search queries/ query parameters

```
import requests

url = "https://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather"
params = {
    "q": "Los Angeles",
    "units": "metric",
    "appid": "12345"
}

response = requests.get(url, params=params)
print(response.url)
```

Same as URL with a query string (often just “a query URL”):

```
https://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather?q=Los+Angeles&units=metric&appid=12345
```

API tokens/keys



An **API token** (or **API key**) is a **unique identifier** that lets an API server know *who you are* and what you're allowed to do.

It's essentially your **digital pass** to access an API — like a password, but used programmatically.

APIs issue tokens to:








1. **Authenticate** – Verify that the request is coming from an authorized user or app.
2. **Authorize** – Decide what that user/app is allowed to do (e.g. read-only vs. write access)
3. **Rate-limit** – Track how many requests you're making (to prevent abuse).
4. **Audit/log** – Record who did what and when.

Without a token, most APIs will reject your requests with something like:

- Registering for an API token is often **free** for basic or educational use.
- Many services like **OpenWeatherMap**, **YouTube Data API**, and **NASA APIs** provide free tokens with limited request quotas.

APIs Beyond fetching data (beyond scope of class)



-  **Send or update data** — e.g., create new GitHub issues, post tweets, upload files to Google Drive, or push data to a database using `POST` or `PUT` requests.
-  **Automate workflows** — chain multiple APIs together (e.g., get weather → update smart lights → send a Slack alert).
-  **Control hardware or devices** — trigger IoT devices, smart thermostats, or sensors using REST or MQTT APIs.
-  **Integrate services** — connect systems like Stripe (payments), Twilio (SMS), and Notion (notes) into your own app or backend.
-  **Send notifications** — use APIs to send emails, text messages, or push notifications automatically.
-  **Use AI and analytics** — call APIs for language models, image recognition, or sentiment analysis (like OpenAI's GPT or Google Vision).
-  **Manage user accounts** — authenticate users, manage sessions, or access OAuth-protected resources (Google, Facebook, GitHub logins).



RESTful APIs: Key concepts

- **REST** stands for **Representational State Transfer** — an architectural style for building web services.
- A **RESTful API** follows REST principles to allow clients and servers to communicate over HTTP in a simple, stateless way.
- It uses **standard HTTP methods** — `GET`, `POST`, `PUT`, `DELETE`, (and sometimes `PATCH`, `HEAD`, `OPTIONS`) — each with a specific semantic meaning.
- **Resources** are the core concept — everything (users, files, posts, etc.) is treated as a *resource* identified by a unique **URL** (endpoint).
 - Example: `/users`, `/users/42`, `/posts/17/comments`
- Communication is **stateless** — each request from the client contains all necessary information; the server doesn't remember previous interactions.
- **Uniform interface**: the same structure and conventions are used for all resources (e.g., `/resource/id`).
- **Data formats**: JSON is most common, but XML, YAML, or plain text can also be used.



RESTful APIs: Key concepts

- **Query parameters** (after `?`) can refine or filter data, e.g. `/users?role=admin&active=true`.
- **HTTP status codes** indicate results (e.g. `200 OK`, `201 Created`, `404 Not Found`, `500 Internal Server Error`).
- **REST APIs are stateless and cacheable**, improving scalability and performance.
- They are **language-agnostic** — any client (Python, JavaScript, C++, etc.) can interact with them as long as it can send HTTP requests.
- The **server** exposes endpoints, and the **client** consumes them using HTTP requests and responses.
- Example REST interaction:
 - `GET /users/42` → retrieve user data
 - `PUT /users/42` → update user data
 - `DELETE /users/42` → remove the user



DATA ANALYSIS



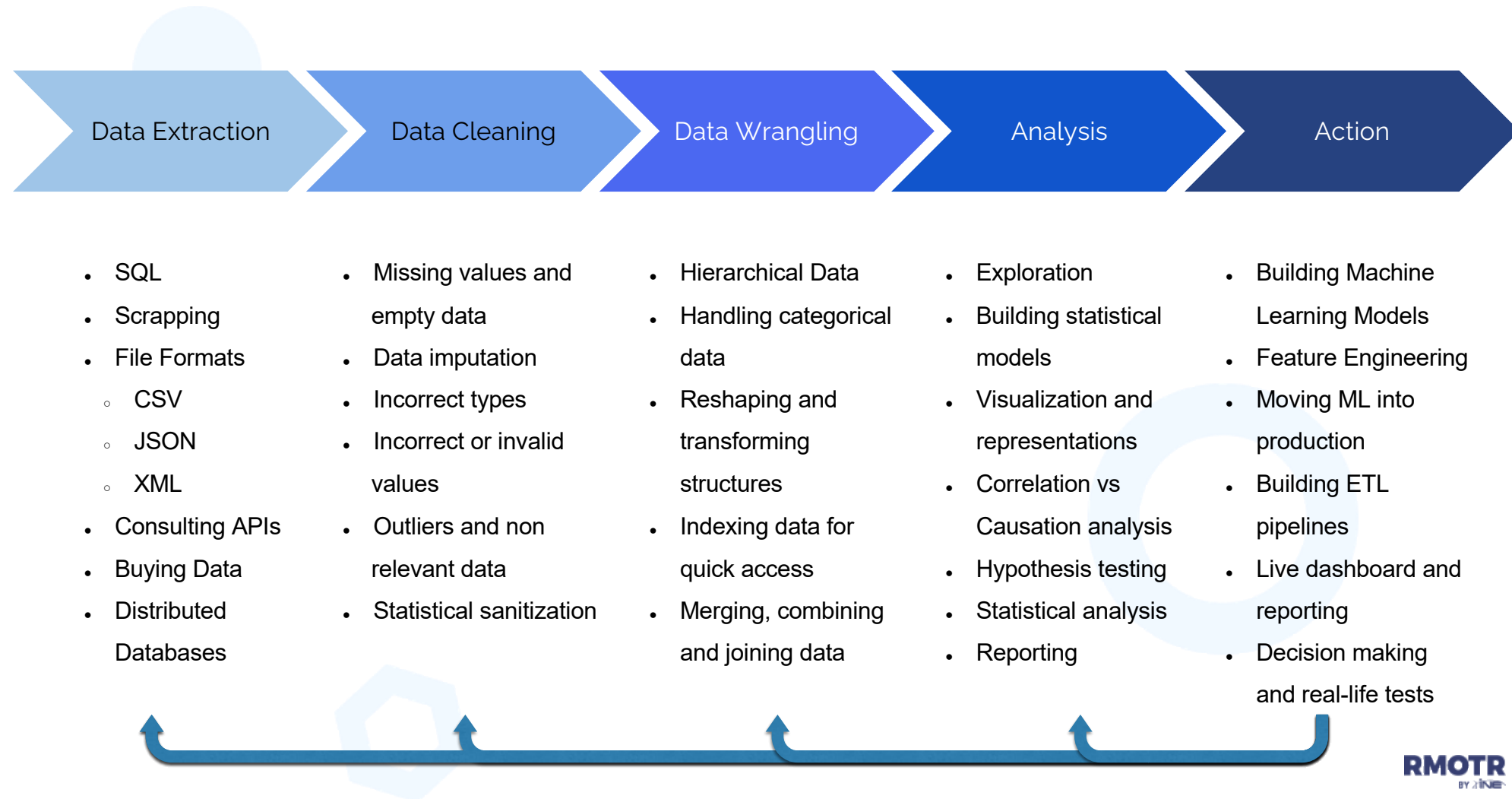
What is Data Analysis?

- The process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming and modeling data to discover useful information and make informed decisions.
- Key Steps
 - Data Collection
 - Data Cleaning
 - Data Analysis and Exploration
 - Data Visualization

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_analysis



Data Analysis Process





Python Libraries for Data Analysis

- [pandas](#): tabular data manipulation
- [numpy](#): numeric library for n-dimensional arrays, many mathematical functions: linear algebra, random numbers
- [matplotlib](#): data visualization, many plots.
- [seaborn](#): statistical visualization, built on top of matplotlib
- [statsmodels](#): advanced statistical functions
- [scipy](#): advanced scientific computing, including functions for optimization, linear algebra, differential equations, integration
- [scikit-learn](#): most popular machine learning library for Python (not DL)
- [TensorFlow](#), [PyTorch](#): deep learning



```
pip install numpy
```

NUMPY



What Is NumPy?

- **NumPy = Numerical Python** — the fundamental package for scientific computing in Python.
- Provides powerful **multi-dimensional arrays** (`ndarray`).
- Enables **fast, vectorized** operations (written in C under the hood).
- Core of the **Python scientific stack** — used by SciPy, Pandas, TensorFlow, and more.

Why use NumPy?


- Much **faster** than native Python lists for numerical operations.
- Offers **element-wise arithmetic** and broadcasting.
- Has built-in **linear algebra, FFT, and random number** capabilities.
- Seamless **integration with C/C++ and Fortran code**.
- Key for **data analysis, machine learning, and simulation** workflows.

Core Data Structure: ndarray



- Represents a **homogeneous, n-dimensional** array of fixed-type elements.
- Example:

```
import numpy as np
a = np.array([[1, 2, 3],
              [4, 5, 6]])
```

 What kind of array is this? What are its dimensions?

- Attributes:
 - `a.shape` → dimensions (2, 3)
 - `a.ndim` → number of axes (2)
 - `a.dtype` → element type (int, float, etc.)
 - `a.size` → total number of elements



ndarray attributes

- `.dtype`: an object describing the type of the elements in the array. One can create or specify dtype's using standard Python types. Additionally, NumPy provides types of its own. `numpy.int32`, `numpy.int16`, and `numpy.float64` are some examples.
- `.itemsize`: the size in bytes of each element of the array. For example, an array of elements of type `float64` has `itemsize 8 (=64/8)`, while one of type `complex32` has `itemsize 4 (=32/8)`. It is equivalent to `dtype.itemsize`.



ndarray caveats

- Watch out for this error:

```
>>> a = np.array(1, 2, 3, 4)  # WRONG
```

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4]) # RIGHT
```

- `array` transforms sequences of sequences into two-dimensional arrays, sequences of sequences of sequences into three-dimensional arrays, and so on.

```
>>> b = np.array([(1.5, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6)])
```

```
>>> b
```

```
array([[ 1.5,  2. ,  3. ],  
       [ 4. ,  5. ,  6. ]])
```



ndarray caveats

Often, the elements of an array are originally unknown, but its size is known. NumPy makes creating arrays with placeholder content easy.

```
>>> np.zeros( (3,4) )
array([[ 0.,  0.,  0.,  0.],
       [ 0.,  0.,  0.,  0.],
       [ 0.,  0.,  0.,  0.]])

>>> np.ones((2,3,4), dtype=np.int16) # can also specify dtype
array([[[[ 1,  1,  1,  1],
         [ 1,  1,  1,  1],
         [ 1,  1,  1,  1]],
       [[ 1,  1,  1,  1],
         [ 1,  1,  1,  1],
         [ 1,  1,  1,  1]]], dtype=int16)
```

ndarray caveats



- arrays can be generated with `.arange`, similar to using `range` to get a list.

```
>>> np.arange( 10, 30, 5 )
```

```
array([10, 15, 20, 25])
```

```
# it accepts float arguments
```

```
>>> np.arange( 0, 2, 0.3 )
```

```
array([ 0. ,  0.3,  0.6,  0.9,  1.2,  1.5,  1.8])
```




Vectorization & Broadcasting

- NumPy eliminates explicit Python loops by performing **vectorized operations**:

```
x = np.array([1, 2, 3])
y = np.array([10, 20, 30])
z = x + y          # → array([11, 22, 33])
```

- Broadcasting automatically expands smaller arrays to match shapes:

```
x = np.array([1, 2, 3])
y = 10
x + y          # → array([11, 12, 13])
```



Common functions

- Array creation

```
np.zeros((3,3)), np.ones(5), np.arange(0,10,2), np.linspace(0,1,5)
```

- Statistics

```
a.mean(), a.std(), a.sum(), a.min(), a.max()
```

- Linear algebra

```
np.dot(A, B), np.linalg.inv(A), np.linalg.eig(A)
```

- Random

```
np.random.rand(3,3), np.random.normal(0,1,100)
```



Example

```
import numpy as np
```

```
# Create 1000 random points and compute distances
```

```
x = np.random.rand(1000)
```

creates a 1-D array of length 1000 with values uniformly sampled from **[0, 1)**.

```
y = np.random.rand(1000)
```

```
dist = np.sqrt(x**2 + y**2)
```

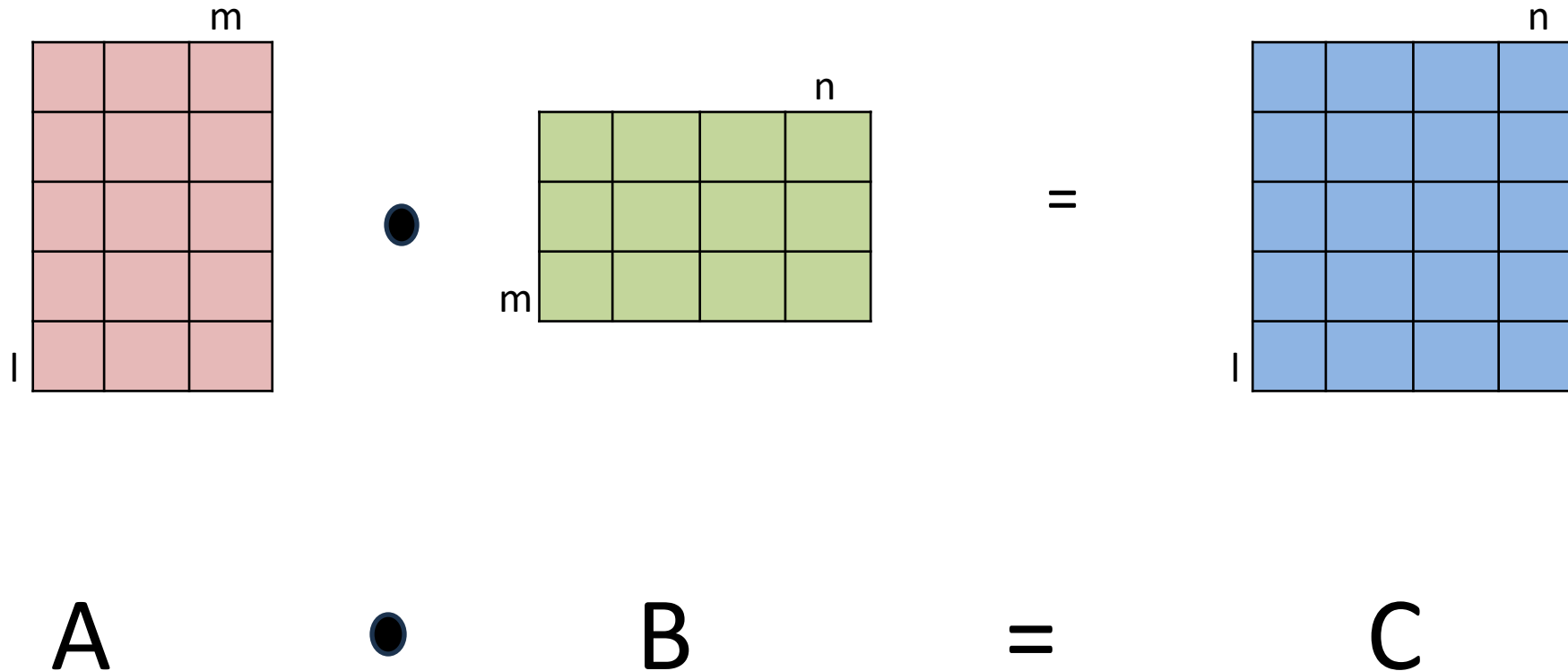
```
print(np.mean(dist))
```

For each sample:

$$\text{dist}_i = \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2}$$



Matrix Multiplication





Matrix Multiplication Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 11 \\ 20 & 21 \\ 30 & 31 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 10 + 2 \times 20 + 3 \times 30 & 1 \times 11 + 2 \times 21 + 3 \times 31 \\ 4 \times 10 + 5 \times 20 + 6 \times 30 & 4 \times 11 + 5 \times 21 + 6 \times 31 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 10+40+90 & 11+42+93 \\ 40+100+180 & 44+105+186 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 140 & 146 \\ 320 & 335 \end{bmatrix}$$



- `import numpy as np`
- `matrix1 = np.array([[1, 2], [3, 4]])`
- `matrix2 = np.array([[5, 6], [7, 8]])`
- `result = np.dot(matrix1, matrix2)`
- The number of columns in the first matrix must equal the number of rows in the second matrix.
- Resulting matrix dimensions: (rows1, columns2)



Matrix Multiplication Applications

- Computer Graphics (Video Games, Video Editing)
- Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning, Deep Learning)
- Linear algebra
- Network theory
- Bitcoin mining
- ...and many more