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PDF Parsing (PyPDF2 + pdfplumber)

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What is PDF Parsing

PDF Parsing = Programmatically reading, understanding, and extracting information from a PDF file.

Why do we parse PDFs?

- PDFs are not plain text.
- They store data in structured objects (pages, fonts, annotations, streams).
- Humans can read them easily, but computers need code to read and extract data.

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What Can PDF Parsing Extract?

Extractable Item**Text****Tables****Images****Metadata****Layout structure****Example**

Paragraphs, headings, resumes

Invoice tables, report tables

Diagrams, scanned pages

Author, creation date

Page numbers, positions

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How Python Parses PDFs

Libraries like **PyPDF2** and **pdfplumber** do the following:

✓ **Step 1 — Load the PDF**

The PDF is opened, and each page is accessed internally.

✓ **Step 2 — Read the objects inside the PDF**

These objects can be:

text streams

image streams

vector drawings

font objects

layout coordinates

✓ **Step 3 — Extract readable text or data**

The library converts encoded PDF text into normal strings.

✓ **Step 4 — Return it to you in Python**

You get the extracted content as plain text.

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Example of PDF Parsing

Input PDF:

A page containing:
Employee Name: John Doe
Role: Software Engineer
Experience: 5 Years
Python Code:
from PyPDF2 import PdfReader

```
reader = PdfReader("resume.pdf")
text = reader.pages[0].extract_text()
print(text)
```

Output:

Employee Name: John Doe
Role: Software Engineer
Experience: 5 Years

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PyPDF2

- PyPDF2 is a Python library used to read, extract text, split, merge, and manipulate PDF files.
- It helps you work with PDFs without needing Adobe Acrobat.

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What PyPDF2 Can Do

Feature	Meaning
Read PDFs	Open PDF files in Python
Extract text	Get text from each page
Split PDFs	Break one PDF into many pages
Merge PDFs	Combine multiple PDFs into one
Rotate pages	Turn pages left/right
Read metadata	Title, author, creation date

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What PyPDF2 Cannot Do

Cannot read **scanned PDFs** (because they are images)

Cannot extract images very well

Cannot detect the layout like tables

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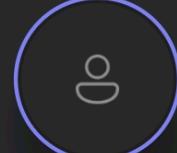
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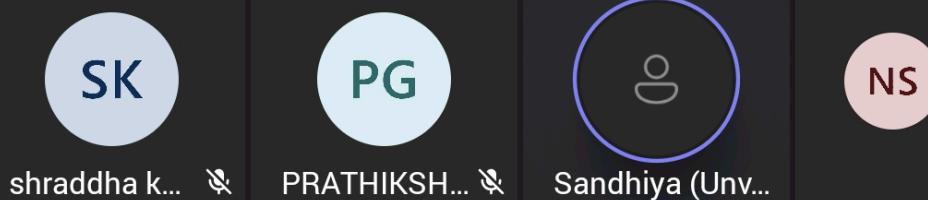
Simple Syntax Example

```
from PyPDF2 import PdfReader  
  
reader = PdfReader("sample.pdf")  
page = reader.pages[0]  
text = page.extract_text()  
  
print(text)
```

Output Example

This is a sample PDF text extracted using PyPDF2.

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pdfplumber

- pdfplumber is a Python library used to extract text, tables, and layout information from PDF files with high accuracy.
- It gives more structured and cleaner output than PyPDF2.

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What pdfplumber Can Do

Feature	Explanation
Extract text	Very accurate text extraction
Extract tables	Reads rows & columns from PDFs
Extract bounding boxes	Finds exact position of text on page
Extract images	Can detect embedded images
Page layout analysis	Understands columns, spacing, lines

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Why pdfplumber is better than PyPDF2?

Task	PyPDF2	pdfplumber
Extract simple text	Good	Excellent
Extract tables	No	Yes
Extract with layout structure	No	Yes
Scanned PDF support	No	No (needs OCR)

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Syntax

```
import pdfplumber  
  
with pdfplumber.open("sample.pdf") as pdf:  
    page = pdf.pages[0]  
    text = page.extract_text()  
    print(text)
```

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Output

Functionality: Check if two variables refer to the same object.

- **Syntax:**
- a is b
- a is not b

Example:

a = [1,2]

b = a

print(a is b) True

Output

Item	Quantity	Price
Apple	2	40
Mango	5	120

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