Python Programming Concepts

with instructor Colby Witherup Wood

Workshop originally created by Christina Maimone

This workshop is brought to you by

Northwestern IT Research Computing and Data Services

Have a programming or data question about your research?

We're here to help. bit.ly/rcsconsult

This workshop was designed for anyone who is about to start learning a coding language.

Build familiarity with:

Goals:

- 1. How to give computers instructions
- 2. Common terms and concepts

How to ask questions

Just ask!

The bathrooms are...
The emergency exits are...

Downloading materials from GitHub

https://github.com/agithasnoname/programmingConcepts

Click on the green Code button

then click on **Download ZIP**

GitHub makes it difficult to download single files, so you should generally always download the entire Repo (repository).

Programming languages

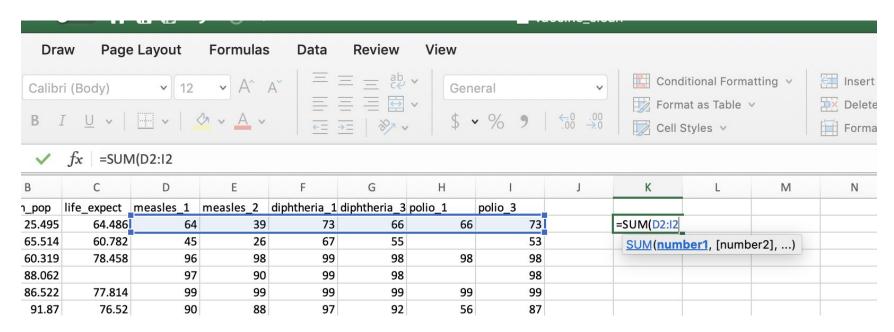
How you talk to your computer

Modern computers can interpret many different languages

GUIs (graphical user interfaces) allow you to talk to your computer without knowing any programming language

Programming languages

requires you to use specific words or characters in a specific order



Programming languages

The **command line** is how we can talk directly to our computer without a GUI.

Different computers have different **shells** to access the command line and different languages you use on the command line.

Mac: Terminal uses Unix Bash or zsh, PC: Windows PowerShell

These are designed for controlling your operating system and computer: installing programs, moving files, etc.

How do we talk to our computer in Python or R?

 Interactive programming - through a shell, one line at a time

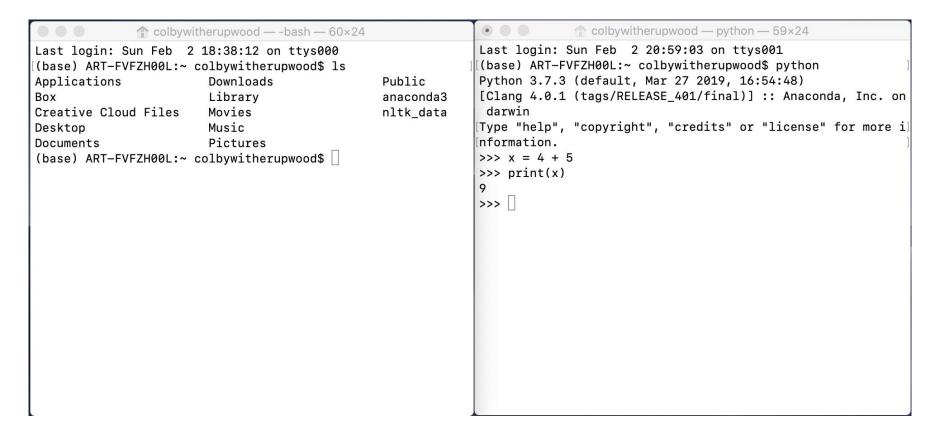
- **Batch programming** - running a whole **script** (a plain text file that contains one to many lines of code)

- Coding notebooks allow you to run code in chunks and view output directly below.

How do we talk to our computer in Python or R?

With the help of a GUI. GUIs for coding are called
 IDEs - Integrated Development Environments. They
 allow both interactive and batch programming.

Command prompts



Time to Review!

Open the ProgrammingConceptsReview document from the folder you downloaded.

Filesystems

Filesystems

Coding requires us to move away from point and click.

We will want to work with files, so we need to know how to use words to guide the computer to the right files.

Every file has an **absolute path**, which starts with the **root**.

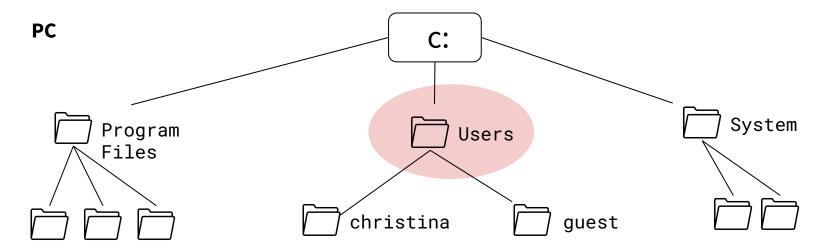
PC

c:

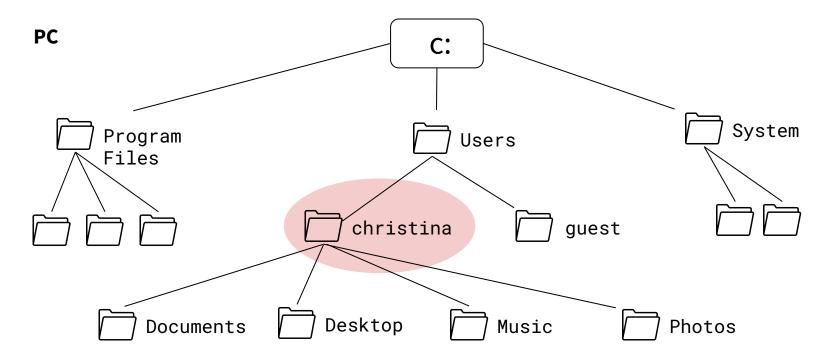
C:\ PC c: System Program Files

Users

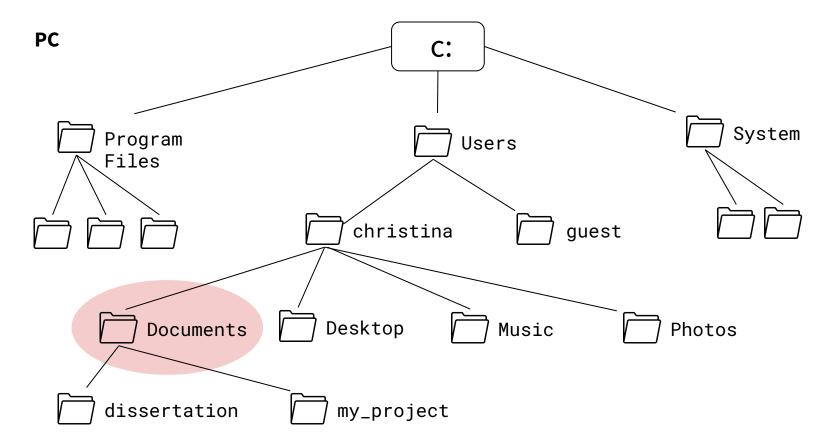
C:\Users\



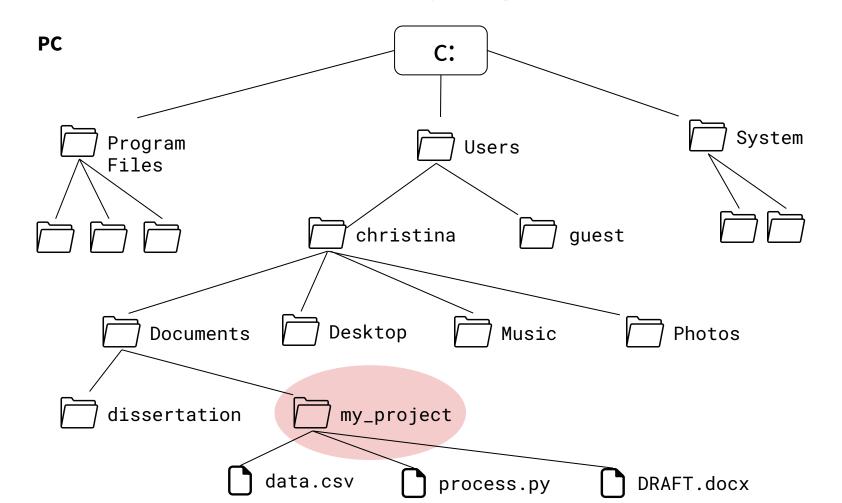
C:\Users\christina



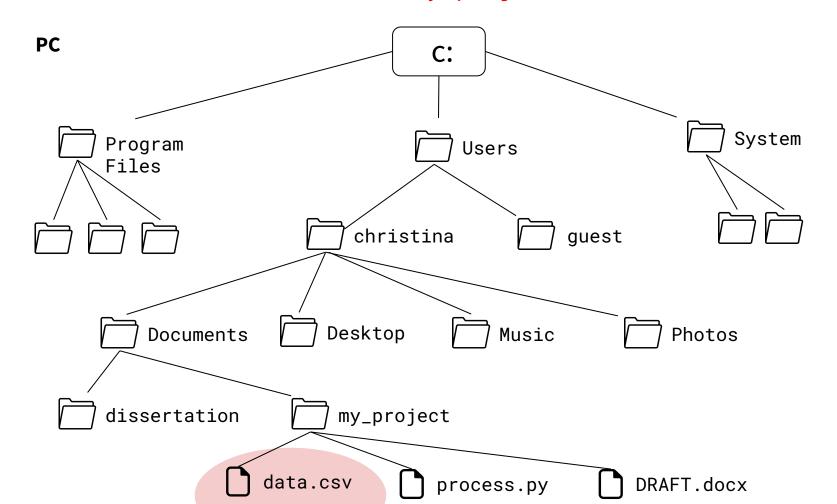
C:\Users\christina\Documents



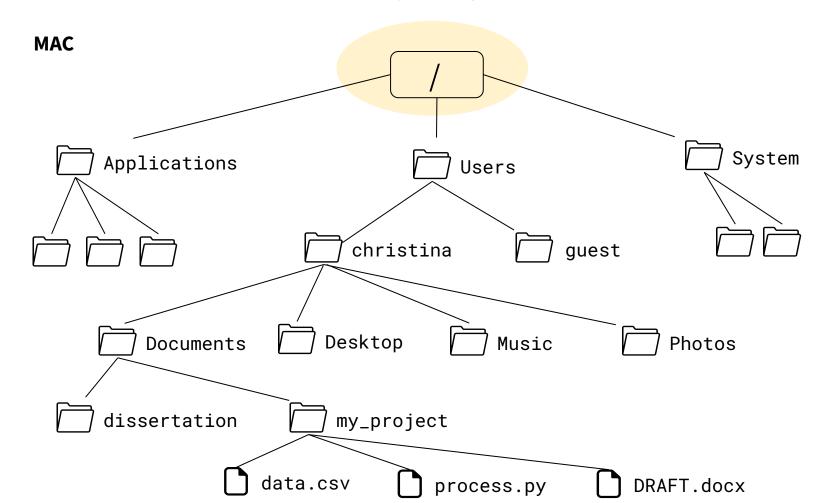
C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project



C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project\data.csv



/Users/christina/Documents/my_project/data.csv



Absolute Paths

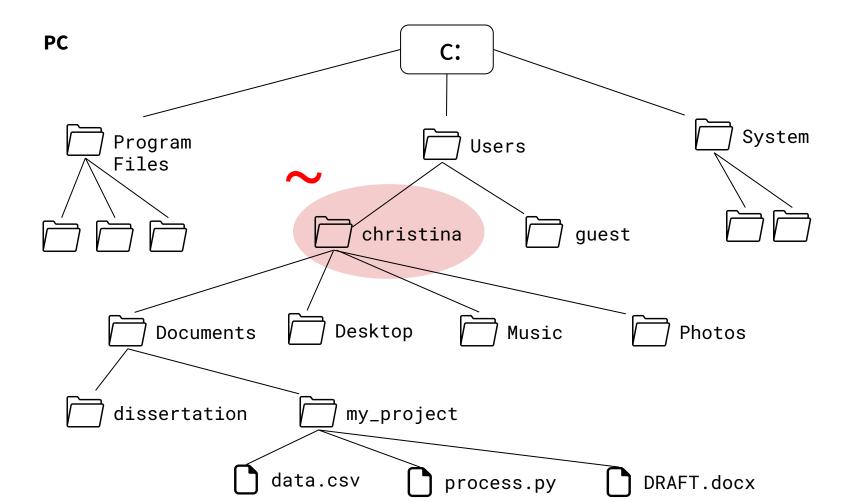
C:\Users\christina\Documents\my_project\data.csv

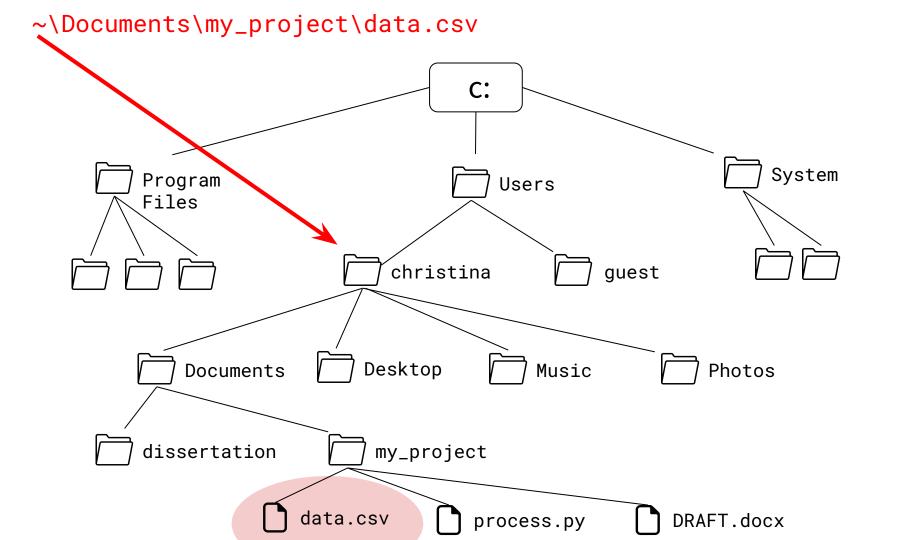
/Users/christina/Documents/my_project/data.csv

Home directory

In addition to a root directory, computers have a **home directory**. As a shortcut, you can refer to the home directory as ~

Home Directory: C:\Users\christina =





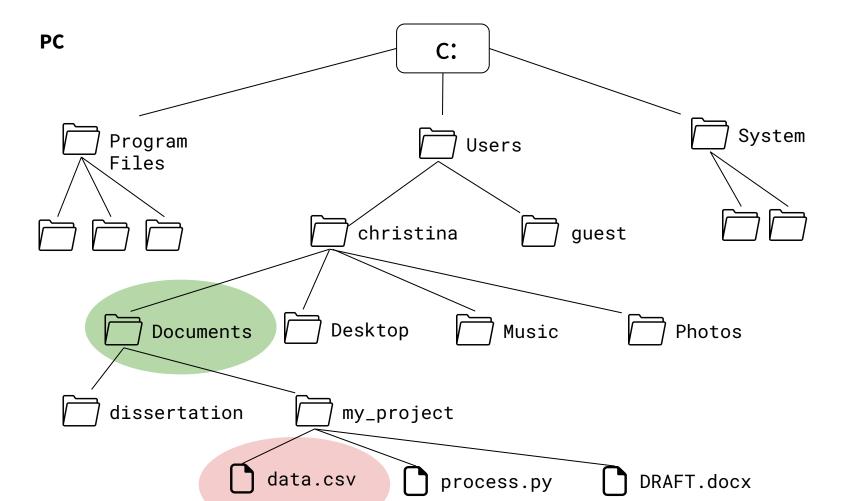
Working Directory

A working directory is the directory associated with a running process or program

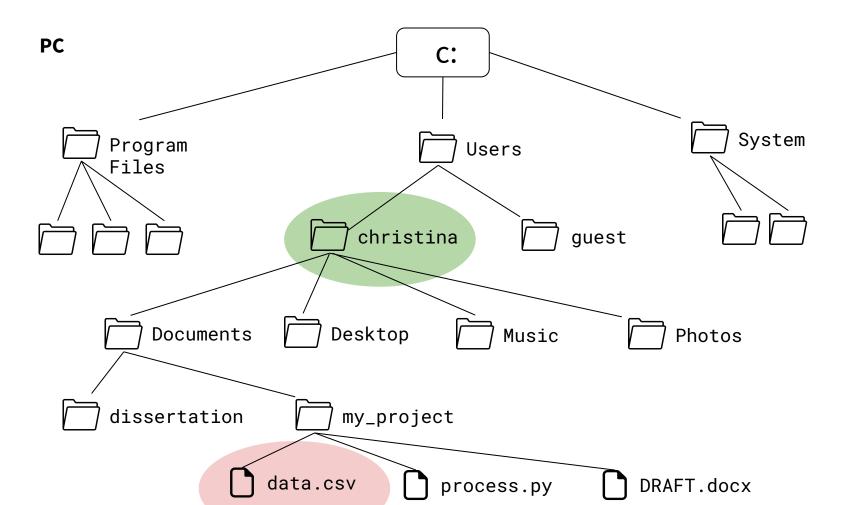
This is where the computer starts when looking for files

You can use **relative file paths** from your working directory

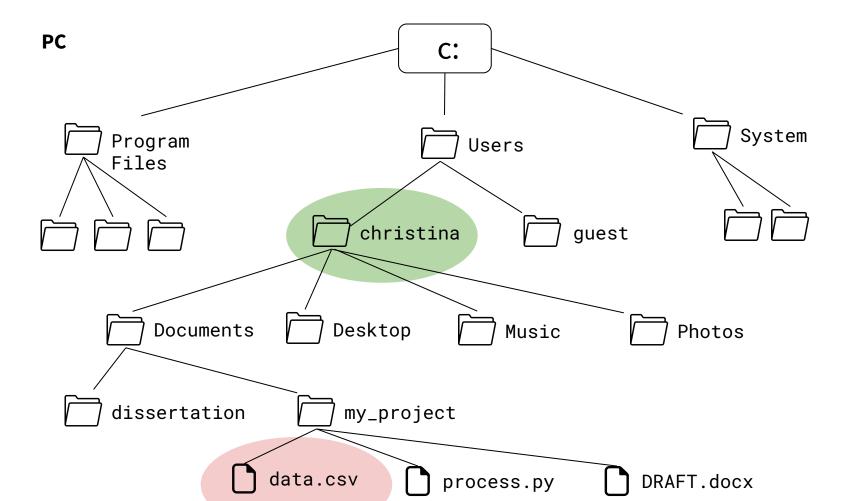
Relative Path from Documents: my_project/data.csv



From christina:



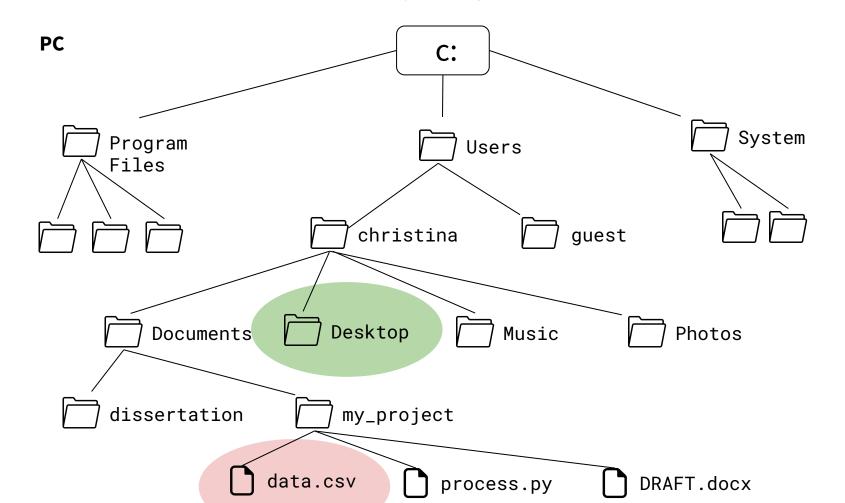
From christina: Documents/my_project/data.csv



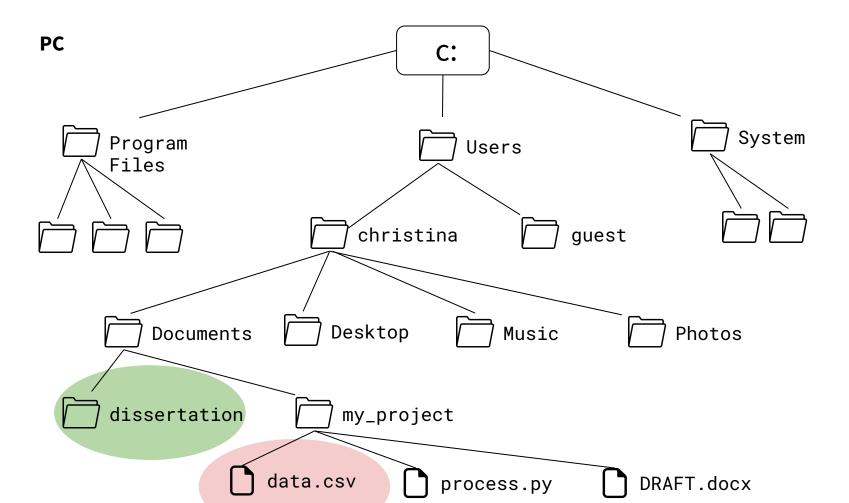
Another shortcut is .. which goes up one

directory.

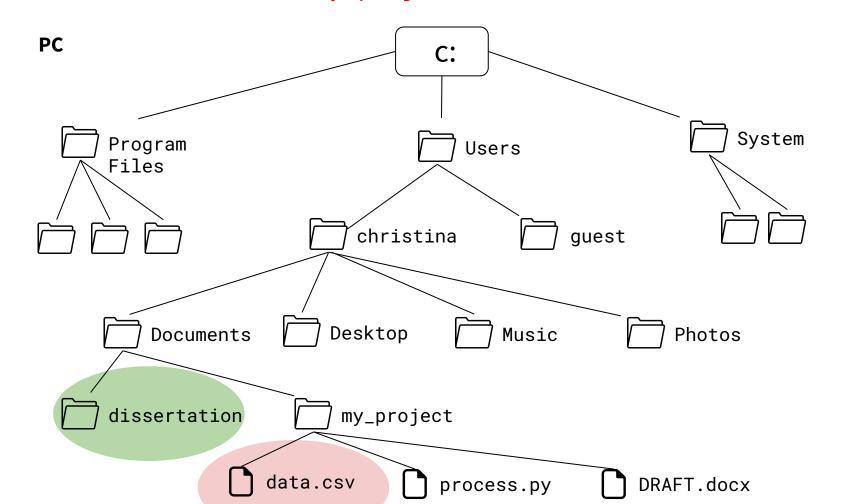
From Desktop: ../Documents/my_project/data.csv



From dissertation:



From dissertation: ../my_project/data.csv



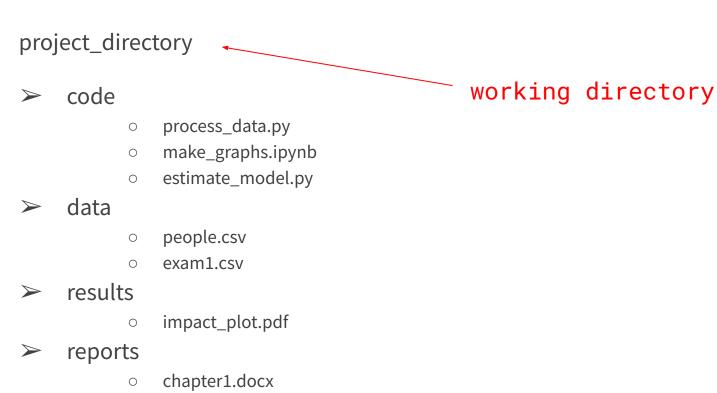
But what is the default Working Directory?

Python:

- Where you start Python from
- Where you call a Python script from
- Where your notebook is saved

You can always set or change the working directory

Store Project Files Together



Why this matters

When writing scripts, you'll want to think about how you include your file paths. Where will you be in your file system when you run the script? Will you always be running it from the same place? Will the script break if you ever reorganize your project directory?

Bonus tip

Stop using spaces in your folder and file names. Mac and Linux machines don't read spaces in file names the same way as Windows. Use an underscore_instead. Or camelCase. This will make your code more portable in case you need a friend to test it or you want to run it on a server like Quest.

Files

Reading and Writing

Read: Open a file to get the contents

Write: Open a file to put information in

Modes

Read: get information, can't change it

Write: empties the file! then allows writing

Append: add to the bottom of the file

File Types

Text: Restricted set of characters

>> Data can be opened and viewed directly

Binary: Custom data

>> Needs a program to interpret and
display the data

NO FORMATTING NO IMAGES

Plain Text Files

```
Common extensions: .txt, .tab, .csv
Also plain text:
  Data files: XML, JSON
  Markup: HTML, Markdown (.md), LaTeX (.tex)
  Code: R scripts (.r), Python scripts (.py)
```

Plain Text Files

The extension doesn't determine if it's a plain text file. The content does.

```
Common extensions: .txt, .tab, .csv
Also plain text:
  Data files: XML, JSON
  Markup: HTML, Markdown (.md), LaTeX (.tex)
  Code: R scripts (.r), Python scripts (.py)
```

```
# R Workshops
  This repository is a clearing house for resources for individual R workshops from [Resear
  # Workshops
  ## Current Workshops
  [Intro to R](https://github.com/nuitrcs/r intro june2018)
  [`ggplot2`](https://github.com/nuitrcs/r ggplot july2018)
  [Databases](https://github.com/nuitrcs/databases workshop/tree/master/r): Information on
  useful reference, but you'll need a database connection to run it. See that repository 1
  [R Markdown](https://github.com/nuitrcs/rmarkdown workshop)
  [R Shiny](https://github.com/nuitrcs/rshiny)
  # Software
  For workshops, it's best to install R and RStudio on your own laptop (both are free).
  [Install R](https://cran.rstudio.com/)
  [Install PStudio Deskton]/https://www.retudio.com/products/retudio/download/)
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/nuitrcs/rworkshops/master/README.md
```

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3	ATOM	1	N	1	0.257	-0.363	0.000
4	ATOM	2	Н	1	0.257	0.727	0.000
5	ATOM	3	Н	1	0.771	-0.727	0.890
5	ATOM	4	Н	1	0.771	-0.727	-0.890
7	TER	5		1			
8	END						

File: ammonia.pdb

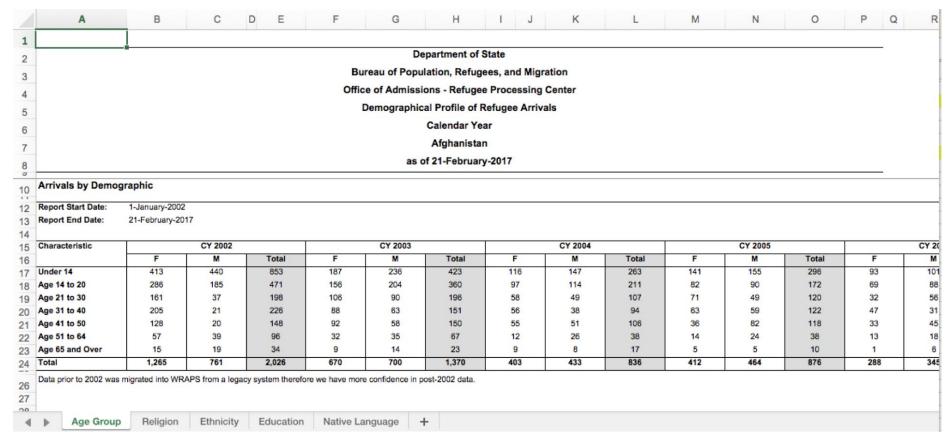
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      <<
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      /Filter /FlateDecode
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      >>
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```

?#?z?a

Is this a plain text file?



```
............
Characteristic, CY 2002, ,,, CY 2003, ,, CY 2004, ,,, CY 2005, ,, CY 2006, ,,, CY 2007, ,, CY 2008, ,, CY 2009, ,, CY 2010, ,, CY
2011,,,CY 2012,,,CY 2013,,,CY 2014,,,CY 2015,,,CY 2016,,,CY 2017,,,Cumulative Total,%
,F ,M ,Total,,F ,M ,Total,F ,,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F
,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,F ,M ,Total,Total
Under
14.413.440.853.187.236.423.116..147.263.141.155.296.93..101.194.65.55.120.78.85.163.55.51.106.75.78.153.44.61.105
.83.96.179.84.106.190.102.100.202.145.190.335.464.447.911.54.76.130."4.623".31.96%
Age 14 to
20.286.185.471..156.204.360.97..114.211.82.90.172.69..88.157.34.55.89.63.66.129.29.43.72.48.68.116.47.38.85.56.79.
135,63,92,155,97,87,184,120,197,317,311,385,696,36,58,94,"3,443",23.80%
Age 21 to
30, 161, 37, 198, 106, 90, 196, 58, 49, 107, 71, 49, 120, 32, 56, 88, 39, 24, 63, 50, 42, 92, 24, 32, 56, 45, 67, 112, 46, 37, 83, 41, 48, 89, 66
,64,130,82,52,134,119,91,210,303,277,580,39,25,64,"2,322",16.05%
Age 31 to
40, 205, 21, 226, 88, 63, 151, 56, 38, 94, 63, 59, 122, 47, 31, 78, 34, 26, 60, 47, 42, 89, 31, 26, 57, 35, 38, 73, 30, 32, 62, 50, 43, 93, 57, 37
.94.51.27.78.82.61.143.225.138.363.29.23.52."1.835".12.69%
Age 41 to
50, 128, 20, 148, 92, 58, 150, 55, 51, 106, 36, 82, 118, 33, 45, 78, 20, 23, 43, 38, 53, 91, 15, 22, 37, 24, 17, 41, 23, 12, 35, 31, 21, 52, 35, 2
```

Plain Text Editors

Integrated Development Environments (IDEs) for coding in Python let you write plain text files.

Popular Python IDEs: Jupyter Lab, PyCharm, VSCode, Spyder

You can also choose a standalone text editor:

Built-in options: Mac: TextEdit PC: Notepad

Other options: Nano, Vim, Atom, Emacs, Sublime, BBEdit, TextWrangler, many more

Time to Review!

Data Types

Numbers

-38291423 Integers 0

Floats

3.0

-432.2343253

4.938e-10

String

AKA: text, characters

Enclosed in single or double quotation marks.

```
"This is a string"
'This is a string 2'
""(empty string)
```

" (this is NOT an empty string)

Special Characters

\n New Line
\tag{"whitespace"}

"This is line 1.\nThis is line 2."

Case and type matter

```
"A" is not equal to "a"
"3" (string) is not the same as integer 3
```

Sorting Strings: Alphabetical Order

```
"110 cats"
"3 cats"
"Apple"
"Mushroom"
"apple"
"mushroom"
```

String Indexing (aka string slicing)

"String indexing is fun"

	S	t	r	i	n	g		i	n	d	е	X	i	n	g		i	s
Python	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

String Indexing (aka string slicing)

"String indexing is fun"

	S	t	r	i	n	g		i	n	d	е	X	i	n	g		i	s
Python	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

```
"Apple"[4] returns "e"
```

"Apple"[-1] returns "e"

String Indexing (aka string slicing)

"String indexing is fun"

	S	t	r	i	n	g		i	n	d	е	X	i	n	g		i	s
Python	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

produces substrings

"Apple"[0:3] returns "App"

Joining Strings: Concatenate

```
"Red" + "bull" = "Redbull"

"Red" + " " + "bull" = "Red bull"
```

Boolean

TRUE

FALSE

TRUE FALSE T F True False

Boolean Operators

NOT: ! not AND: & and

OR: or

Boolean Operators: AND

TRUE and TRUE = TRUE

TRUE and FALSE = FALSE

FALSE and TRUE = FALSE

FALSE and FALSE = FALSE

Boolean Operators: OR

TRUE or TRUE = TRUETRUE or FALSE = TRUEFALSE or TRUE = TRUE FALSE or FALSE = FALSE

Boolean Operators: NOT

not TRUE = FALSE not FALSE = TRUE TRUE and not TRUE = FALSETRUE and not FALSE = TRUE

```
(TRUE and FALSE) or
not (FALSE and TRUE) =
```

FALSE or not FALSE =

FALSE or

TRUE =

FALSE or

TRUE = TRUE

Converting Between Data Types

```
TRUE as integer = 1

FALSE as integer = 0

3.5 as string = "3.5"
```

Special Types

NULL

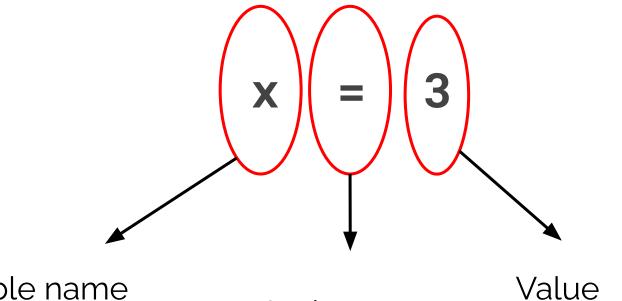
None

Missing Data: NA

Time to Review!

Variables let us refer to a value with a name. We can use the same name, but change the value.

Variables can be used to name integers, floats, strings, lists, arrays, equations, dictionaries, dataframes, the text in files, and more.



Variable name

"Left hand side"

Assignment operator

"Right hand side"

$$x = 3 + 5$$

$$x$$

$$x = 3$$

$$x + 5$$

X

$$x = 3$$

$$x = x + 5$$

$$x$$

$$x = 3$$

$$x = x + 5$$

Everything on the right side is evaluated first - before the variable is assigned

$$x = 3$$

$$y = 5$$

$$x = x + y$$

$$x$$

```
cats = 3
     kittens = 5
cats = cats + kittens
     kittens = 7
                cats is 8
         cats
```

Variable Names

```
Case matters
Start with a letter
Make names meaningful
Style conventions
  camelCase
  separate_with_underscores
```

Time to Review!

Multiple Related Values

Ages of students: 42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22

Stores the items in the order given.

Ages of students: 42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22

```
Python list - enclosed in square brackets ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
```

```
R vector - created with the c() function ages <- c(42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22)
```

```
students = ["Michael", "Chen", "Yishu", "June", "Amy"]
evanston_resident = [True, False, True, False, True]
sample_vals = [3.544, 10.0, 18.32]
```

Nested Lists

```
[ [1, 2, 3], ["a", "b", "c", "d"] ]
```

```
Length = number of elements len([42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]) = 8
```

```
Empty list
```

[]

List Indexing (Python)

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

o 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

ages[1]
```

30

List Indexing (Python)

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages[1:4]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
```

List Variables

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages[1] = 54
ages
```

[42, 54, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

List Variables

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
ages = 54
ages
```

54

Appending and Prepending

[42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]

Append: [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22, 50]

There is no prepending in Python.

Time to Review!

Conditions

Conditions

Expressions that produce a boolean value:

True or False

age =
$$13$$

Assignment

age < 21

age == 14

Comparisons

age =
$$13$$

age
$$== 14$$

age =
$$13$$

age < 21 TRUE

age == 14

age =
$$13$$

age < 21 TRUE

age == 14 FALSE

```
first_age = 13
second_age = 15
```

first_age < 21 or second_age < 21

```
first_age = 13
second_age = 15
```

```
first_age < 21 or second_age < 21
TRUE or TRUE = TRUE</pre>
```

$$first_age = 13$$

first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13

$$first_age = 13$$

```
first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13
    TRUE and FALSE = FALSE
```

Compound Conditions

$$first_age = 13$$

```
first_age <= 19 and first_age > 13
```

Notice that you have to include "first_age" on both sides of the "and"

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

evanston_resident == True and nu_staff == True

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

evanston_resident -- True and nu_staff -- True

evanston_resident and nu_staff

evanston_resident & nu_staff

```
evanston_resident = True
nu_staff = True
```

not evanston_resident and nu_staff

!evanston_resident & nu_staff

```
evanston_resident = False
nu_staff = False
```

not evanston_resident and not nu_staff

!evanston_resident & !nu_staff

Control Flow: if/then/else

if condition:
 do something

if condition:
do something

Evaluates to a single TRUE or FALSE value

```
if age >= 18:
   print("Go Vote!")
```

```
if condition:
  do something
else:
  do something different
```

```
if age >= 18:
  print("Go Vote!")
else:
  print("Too young!")
```

Chained If Statements

```
if condition:
  do something
else if condition2:
  do something different
else:
  do a third thing
```

Chained If Statements

```
if age >= 18:
  print("Go Vote!")
elif age >= 16:
  print("Learn to drive")
else:
  print("Too young!")
```

Chained If Statements

```
if age >= 18:
                             18, 19, 20, 21...
  print("Go Vote!")
elif age >= 16:
                             16, 17
  print("Learn to drive")
                             15, 14, 13, 12,
else:
                             11, 10...
  print("Too young!")
```

If Statements: Multiple Actions

```
if age >= 18:
   print("Go Vote!")
elif age >= 16:
   print("Learn to drive")
   print("Stay in school")
else:
   print("Too young!")
```

If Statements: includes indentation

```
if age >= 18:
   print("Go Vote!")
elif age >= 16:
   print("Learn to drive")
    print("Stay in school")
else:
   print("Too young!")
```

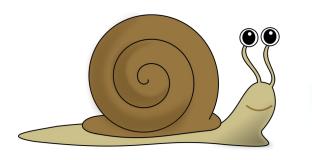
Writing Pseudocode

if color is green and has eye stalks

send to Mars

else

send to Earth

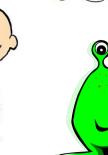






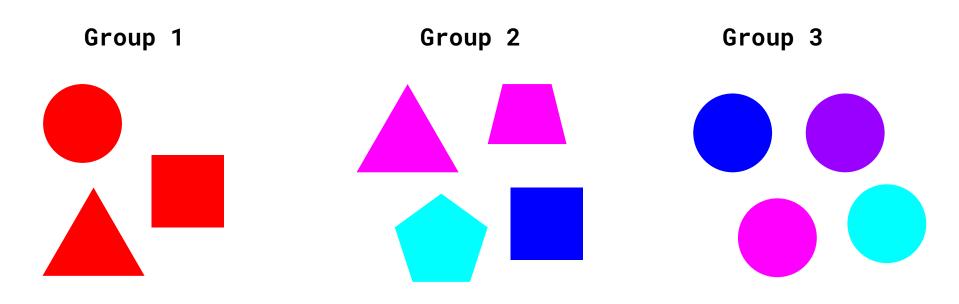






Exercise

Write an if/else statement that would sort the shapes below into the correct groups



Exercise

```
if shape is red:
  Put in group 1
else if shape is circle:
  Put in group 3
else:
  Put in group 2
```

If Statements and Lists/Vectors

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
```

```
if ages > 18
  Do something
```

Time to Review!

Loops

For Loop

Loops are how we repeat the same action many times

for variable in list of values:

do something to or with the variable

For Loop

```
ages = [42, 30, 24, 24, 27, 35, 39, 22]
                  Variable called age
for (age) in ages:
  print(age)
                              for i in ages:
                                 print(i)
```



Ruff!











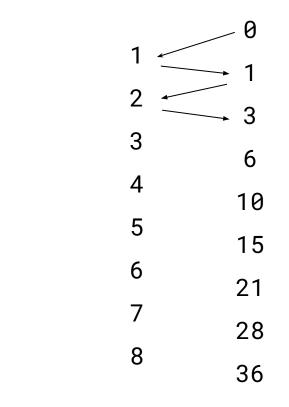




For Loop

For Loop total = 0 for i in range(1:8): total = total + i

print(total)



total

For Loop total total = 0ages = [42,30,24,24,27,35,39,22]for i in ages: total = total + iprint(total)

For Loop with if/else statements

```
shapes = [
```

```
for shape in shapes:
   if shape is red:
      Put in group 1
   else if shape is circle:
      Put in group 3
   else:
      Put in group 2
```

pseudocode!

for dog in row:

if dog ears up: bark(dog)







for dog in row if dog ears up bark(dog) Muue;



Exercise for practicing loops at home:

https://www.google.com/logos/2017/logo17/logo17.html

Or search Google for "google doodle coding".

Time to Review!

Functions

Functions

 Functions are commands that will do something to or with your data (integers, floats, strings, lists, etc.)

Functions

- Take input values called arguments
- Can return an output value
- Python and functions don't alter their input values when working with numbers and strings (some functions alter lists - we'll talk about this in the boot camp.)

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

abs(-3)

Returns 3

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

```
abs(-3)
-3 is an argument
that we passed to
the function abs()
```

Calling Functions: Return Values

Some functions return a value:

```
abs(-3)
```

Returns 3

The return value can be assigned to a variable:

```
x = abs(-3)
```

x is 3

Calling Functions: No Return Value

Other functions do not return a value, but are called to DO something:

```
print("Hello World!")
Hello World!
```

They cannot be assigned to a variable:

```
x = print("Hello World!")
```

Calling Functions: Variable Arguments

Arguments can be variables:

```
x = "Hello World!"
print(x)

file = "results.csv"
open(file)
```

Function Definitions

The open() function in Python only requires 1 argument - the file name

```
file = "results.csv"
open(file)
```

However, open() can take other optional arguments that will change the way the function works

Function Definitions

You can find lists of all the possible arguments that can be passed to a function in the function definition, which is found in the **documentation** for the language.

https://docs.python.org/3/

Function Definitions

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

Function Definitions: Function Name

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True,
opener=None)

Function Definitions: Parameters

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

Function Definitions: Parameter Names

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

Function Definitions: Default Values

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

Function Definitions: Required Parameters

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

Function Definitions: Default Values

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

If a parameter has a default value, you do not have to pass an argument for that parameter. It will just use the default.

Calling Functions

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: **Arguments**

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: Keyword Arguments

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
```

Calling Functions: Non-Keyword Arguments

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open("results.txt", mode='w')
open("results.txt", 'w')
```

Calling Functions: Non-Keyword Arguments

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

open("results.txt", 'w')

open("w", 'results.txt')

You can pass a keyword argument without the keyword if the arguments are in the same order as they are in the function definition. **Order matters.**

Calling Functions: Argument order

```
open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None,
errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)
```

```
open(file="results.txt", mode='w')
```

If you are unsure of the order, you can always use the parameter name with all your arguments.

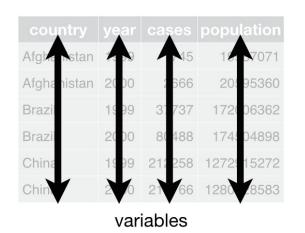
Packages/Libraries/Modules

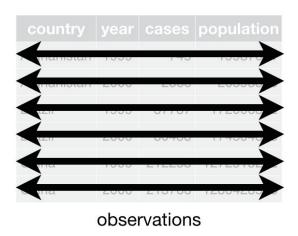
- Collections of functions, data, and other code
- Some must be installed, others are standard
- installed it has been downloaded to the computer
- **imported** it has been loaded into the current script or interactive instance (must happen before you can use it)
- Using packages/libraries/modules is expected!
- Look for pre-existing code/solutions
 - O How do you know it's good/correct?

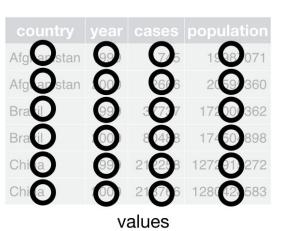
Time to Review!

Data

Rectangles of Data







Rows: Observations

```
Person (or mouse, worm, etc.)
Country
Year
Run/trial of an experiment
Chemical
```

Sample

Columns: Variables

Measurements

Grouping/identification variables:

- > trial/sample
- > condition
- > label for the observation (country name)

Each ID variable in its own column

Exercise - reshape this data

	1 min				5 min			
strain	normal		mutant		normal		mutant	
Α	111	170	375	384	277	234	207	466
В	336	169	491	233	392	341	213	472



strain	genotype	minute	trial	response
А	normal	1	1	111
А	normal	1	2	170
А	mutant	1	1	375
А	mutant	1	2	384
А	normal	5	1	277
А	normal	5	2	234
А	mutant	5	1	207
А	mutant	5	2	466
В	normal	1	1	336
В	normal	1	2	169
В	mutant	1	1	491
В	mutant	1	2	233
В	normal	5	1	392
В	normal	5	2	341
В	mutant	5	1	213
В	mutant	5	2	472

QUESTIONS?