Programming fundamentals with Python

Using files with Python

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Plan for today

- Learn about handling files with Python

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- Learn about handling files with Python
- Learn about CSV

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- Learn about JSON

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the **open** function

We can use **open()** to open a file in Python, we only need to pass the path of the file we want to open. Let's say there's a file named hello.txt in my desktop that I want to open and read from Python, I can do it as follows:

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file = open("hello.txt")
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Reading the contents of a file

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for line in file:
    print(line)

file.close()
```

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Reading the contents of a file

Now that we know how to open and close files, we can read the contents of a file. Let's do that line by line.

```
file = open("hello.txt")

for line in file:
    print(line)

file.close()
```

As you can see, we're treating `file` as a list of lines.

Interlude, **with**

there is a useful Python keyword that one can use to make sure that the file will always be closed, **with**:

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```
with open("file_path") as file:

    for line in file:
        #do something with line
        print(line)
```

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Handling files. modes

When opening a file, we can choose in which **mode** we open it depending on how we're going to use it.

I/O Mode	Syntax	Behavior
Read	'r'	Opens the contents of a file for reading into the file interface, allowing for lines to be read-in successively.
Write	'w'	Creates a file with the specified name and allows for text to be written to the file; note that specifying a pre-existing filename will overwrite the existing file.
Append	'a'	Opens an existing file and allows for text to be written to it, starting at the conclusion of the original file contents.
Read and Write	'r+'	Opens a file such that its contents can be both read-in and written-to, thus offering great versatility.

Python's available file-access modes are summarized here.

doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1004867.t004

Figure 1: file modes

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Writing files

We can write into files in a way similar to the one used for reading them.

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```
with open('goodbye.txt', 'w') as file:
    file.write("goodbye y'all!")
```

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CSV

CSV is a data interchange format used for representing tabular data.

CSV - how does it look like?

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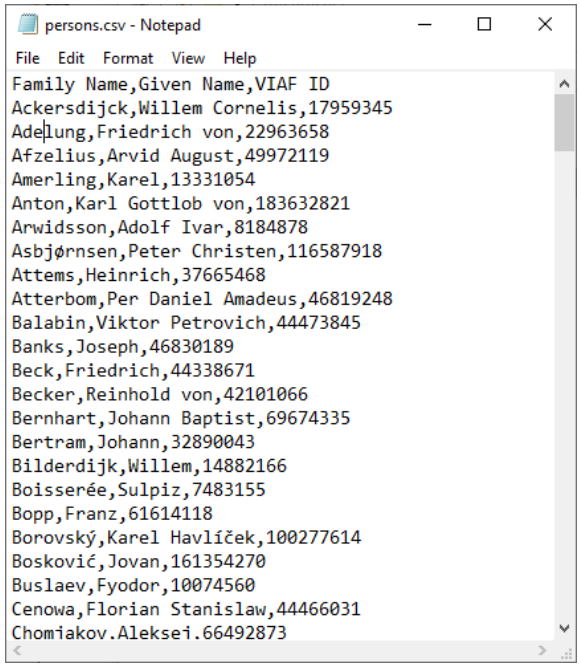
- **syntax** is, just the values separated by commas



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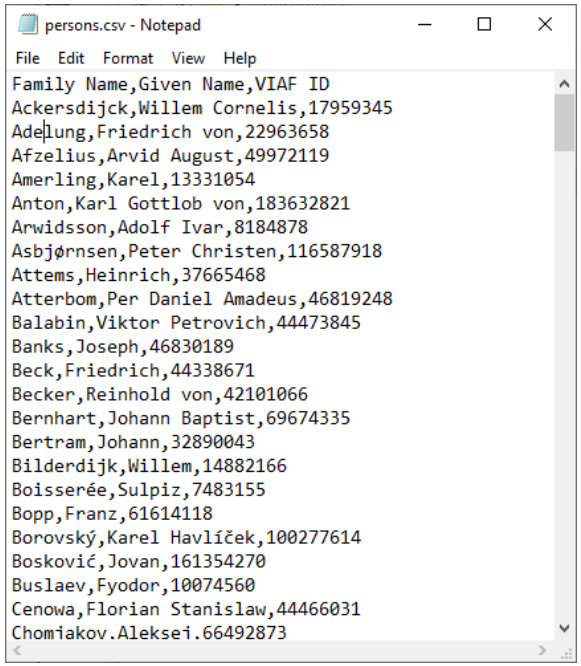
CSV - how does it look like?

- **syntax** is, just the values separated by commas
- We separate entries by adding a new line



CSV files - reading

The **csv** library is based on the idea of readers and writers. One can read all lines in a file like so:

```
import csv

with open("file.csv") as f:
    reader = csv.reader(f)
    for line in reader:
        print(line)  #line is a list
```

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```

- first we open the file normally
- Then we create a reader using **csv.reader()**
- Finally, we operate with the reader

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CSV files - writing

writing is not very different from reading:

```
lines = [
   ["asdf", "qwer"],
   ["hello", "world"]
]

with open("file.csv", "a") as f:
    writer = csv.writer(f)
    for line in lines:
        writer.writerow(line)
```

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CSV exercises

Download `all_stocks_5yr.csv` from data/ folder in Blackboard. Then:

1. create a function `find_cheapest_buy_day` that receives a ticker (like 'MSFT' or 'AAPL') and returns which is the day from the dataset to buy that stock the cheapest.
2. create a function that receives:
   - A ticker (example 'GOOG')
   - A buy date (example 2023-01-20)
   - A sell date (example 2023-12-25)
   - and an amount in dollars (example 1000)

And returns the selling amount.

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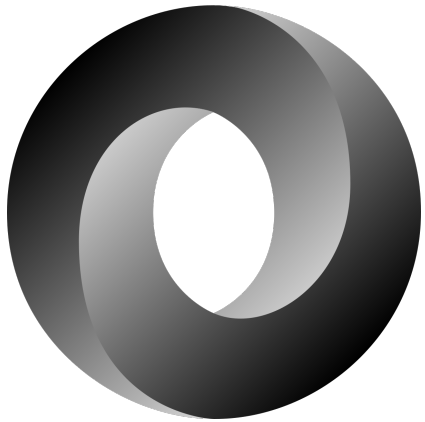
Plan for today

- Files refresher
- CSV refresher
- Learn about JSON

JSON

JSON (http://json.org) is a data interchange format, like CSV. The name JSON stands for **Javascript Object Notation**, because the way of writing it is very similar to Javascript.
The main difference is that **JSON can represent arbitrary data, not only tabular data**.



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JSON - how does it look like?


```
{
    "orders": [
        {
            "orderno": "748745375",
            "date": "June 30, 2088 1:54:23 AM",
            "trackingno": "TN0039291",
            "custid": "11045",
            "customer": [
                {
                    "custid": "11045",
                    "fname": "Sue",
                    "lname": "Hatfield",
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                    "zip": "68003"
                }
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        }
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- **syntax** similar to Python data structures

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- **syntax** similar to Python data structures
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- **syntax** similar to Python data structures
- supports **primitive** datatypes (**int, str, bool, float**).
- supports collections of elements with **lists**
- supports mapping of elements with **dictionaries**

JSON

JSON can contain

```
[1, 2, 3]
1
true
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{"first":"Pepe","last":"Garcia"}
```

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- null (an empty value)
- dictionaries

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JSON

JSON is very similar to how we declare our data in Python but the cool thing about it is that it can be used **from any language**. In Python we will be able to use JSON using the `json` module

```
import json
```

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JSON - reading JSON data in Python

As with other formats we've seen so far, in order to operate with json files we will first **open()** the file.

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As with other formats we've seen so far, in order to operate with json files we will first **open()** the file.

```
import json

with open("data.json") as file:
    json_data = json.load(file)

    for key in json_data:
        print(key)
```

`json.load` is a function from the json module that takes a **file object** as parameter and returns the contents of that file **parsed as JSON**.

JSON - writing JSON files

The process of writing JSON files is similar to what we know already.

```
import json

data = {
  "name": "Pepe",
  "last_name": "Garcia"
}

with open("data.json", "w") as file:
    json.dump(data, file)
```

As you can see, we're calling **`json.dump`** from the **`json`** library, and passing first the data we want to write to the file and then the file object as parameters.

Exercises

You will find the data files for these exercises in the repository

- Let's get personal data from the person represented in `luke.json`. Print the `name`, `height`, `eye_color`, and `mass`.
- Let's create a **format conversor**. Our function `convert_format` will read all the data from `data/data.csv` and write it to a new **JSON** file named `converted.json`