

Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

- Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions

1. Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?
Storage is important In Python because without it all the information that for example a user enters would be lost after execution of python script. With file storage that information can be compiled.
2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?
Pickles are the package stream of bytes that Python converts complex data into. They would be used for complex data like dictionaries where it is difficult to maintain as a stream of text.
3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?
You can find out your current directory with the command `os.getcwd()`. You can change the directory you are in with the command `os.chdir("<path to desired folder>")`.
4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?
To approach a situation in which there might be an error, you can use the try-except-else-finally block method. You try a code and the except block execute code for certain errors. The else and finally blocks will execute if the code goes through without errors.
5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.
So far I feel that this achievement is going well. I need more practice this section as I feel a little shaky on pickles and try-except blocks. As I get more practice I believe I will get better at these concepts.