Summary – Data Wrangling with Python

This chapter started off by explaining how to launch the python interpreter as well as discussing the different basic data types. The first type of data type is a string, which is text containing of letters, numbers, and symbols and is denoted by using quotes (either single or double quotes). The next kind of data type discussed is integers and the different way numbers can be presented. An integer is a whole number but to represent numbers such as decimals, the data type float should be used.

This chapter also talks about the different types data containers, which include variables, lists and dictionaries. Variables are a way to store values of any type (string, int) to a string of characters. Lists can store a group of values in common, and these values can be of any data type. Lists are helpful when wanting to establish a group of values that are related to each other. Dictionaries are useful for looking up keys and values that have been assigned. A dictionary is assigned to a variable, where there is a key and a corresponding value attached to it.

This chapter also covers string methods – such as strip and upper. Upper converts the string from lower case to upper case letter and strip the whitespace from a string. Numerical methods can add, subtract, multiply etc. numbers and add strings or lists. The different usual methods for lists are append, pop, counts, keys etc.

The next section talks about the different built in tools that can be extremely helpful in writing python code. The built-in tool type will identify the data type of the specified object, whether it be a string, integer etc. A dir is another built in tool that will return a list of methods and properties of a data type. The help method will return documentation for the specified component – an object, method, module etc.

This chapter taught me a lot of the foundations of python and the different built in functions and methods that can be used in the process of creating a coding project.