

Python Introduction IMCBio

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2025-05-28

Table of contents

Python introduction	3
1 Lesson 1 - Introduction, representing and manipulating data	4
2 Introduction	5
2.1 Aim of the class	5
2.2 What is Python?	5
2.3 Why use Python?	6
2.4 How can I program in Python?	6
2.4.1 Interactive mode	6
2.4.2 Script mode	7
3 Basic concepts	9
3.1 Values and variables	9
3.2 Function calls	10
3.3 Getting help	12
3.4 Comment your code	12
4 How can I represent data?	13
4.1 Simple data types	13
4.1.1 Boolean	13
4.1.2 Numeric	13
4.1.3 Text	14
4.2 Data structures	16
4.2.1 List	16
4.2.2 Tuple	19
4.2.3 Set	20
4.2.4 Dictionary	21
4.3 Conversion between types	22
5 How can I manipulate data?	24
5.1 Operators	24
5.1.1 Arithmetic operators	24

5.1.2	Assignment operators	25
5.1.3	Comparison operators	25
5.1.4	Logical operators	27
5.1.5	Membership operators	27
5.1.6	Operator precedence	28
5.2	Conditionals	29
5.3	Notes on indentation	30
5.4	Iterations	32
5.4.1	For loops	32
5.4.2	Iterators	34
5.4.3	While loops	36
5.4.4	Break statement	38
5.4.5	Continue statement	38
5.4.6	Exercises	40
6	Conclusion	42
References		43
7	Lesson 2 - Functions, file handling, dataframe and plots	44
8	Introduction	45
8.1	Aim of the class	45
9	Function	46
9.1	Syntax	46
9.2	Documentation	47
9.3	Arguments	48
9.4	Output	49
9.5	Exercise	50
10	File Handling	51
10.1	Reading	51
10.2	Writting	54
10.3	os module	55
10.4	Exercise	56
11	Scientific packages	58
11.1	Pandas	59
11.1.1	Create pandas data	59
11.1.2	Index and columns	60

11.1.3 Useful methods	65
11.1.4 Learn More	67
11.1.5 Exercise	67
11.2 Matplotlib	68
11.2.1 Create a plot	68
11.2.2 Matplotlib anatomy	72
11.2.3 Save a figure	74
11.2.4 Matplotlib documentation	75
11.3 Exercise	76
11.4 More packages	78
12 Final tips and resources	80
References	81
13 Lesson 3 - Jupyter Notebook	82
14 Introduction	83
14.1 Aim of the class	83
15 Jupyter Notebook	84
15.1 What is Jupyter Notebook	84
15.2 How can I program in a Jupyter Notebook	84
15.2.1 In your text editor	84
15.2.2 On a local server	84
15.2.3 Inside a JupyterLab	85
16 Conda environment as a kernel	86
17 Structure of a Jupyter Notebook	89
17.1 Cells	89
17.2 Markdown	89
18 Magic Commands	92
19 Exporting notebook	94
20 Interactive notebook	95
20.1 Widgets	95
20.2 Plotly express	97
21 Final exercise	98

References	101
I Archive 2024	102
22 Lesson 1 - Introduction, Data types, Operators	103
23 Introduction	104
23.1 Aim of the class	104
23.2 Requirements	104
23.3 What is Python?	105
23.4 Why use Python?	105
23.5 How can I program in Python?	106
23.5.1 Interactive mode	106
23.5.2 Script mode	107
24 Basic concepts	109
24.1 Values and variables	109
24.2 Function calls	110
24.3 Getting help	112
24.4 Comment your code	112
25 How can I represent data?	114
25.1 Simple data types	114
25.1.1 Boolean	114
25.1.2 Numeric	114
25.1.3 Text	115
25.2 Data structures	117
25.2.1 List	117
25.2.2 Tuple	119
25.2.3 Set	120
25.2.4 Dictionary	121
25.3 Conversion between types	122
26 How can I manipulate data?	124
26.1 Operators	124
26.1.1 Arithmetic operators	124
26.1.2 Assignment operators	125
26.1.3 Comparison operators	125
26.1.4 Logical operators	127
26.1.5 Membership operators	127
26.1.6 Operator precedence	128

26.2 Conditionals	129
26.3 Notes on indentation	131
26.4 Iterations	132
26.4.1 For loops	132
26.4.2 Iterators	134
26.4.3 While loops	136
26.4.4 Break statement	137
26.4.5 Continue statement	138
26.4.6 Exercises	139
27 Conclusion	141
References	142
28 Lesson 2 - Functions, Errors, File Handling, Scientific Packages	143
29 Introduction	144
29.1 Aim of the class	144
29.2 Requirements	144
30 Function	145
30.1 Syntax	145
30.2 Documentation	146
30.3 Arguments	146
30.4 Output	147
30.5 Exercise	149
31 Exceptions Handling	150
31.1 Syntax	150
31.2 Raising exceptions	151
31.3 Exercise	153
32 User-defined input	155
32.1 input	155
32.2 sys.argv	156
32.3 argparse	156
33 File Handling	158
33.1 Reading	158
33.2 Writting	161
33.3 os module	162

33.4 Regular expression	163
33.5 Exercise	165
34 Scientific packages	167
34.1 Pandas	168
34.1.1 Create pandas data	168
34.1.2 Useful methods	170
34.1.3 Learn More	171
34.1.4 Exercise	171
34.2 Matplotlib	172
34.3 Exercise	175
34.4 More packages	175
35 Final tips and resources	177
References	178
36 Lesson 3 - Conway's Game of Life	179
37 Introduction	180
37.1 Aim of the class	180
37.2 Requirements	180
38 Conway's Game of Life (basic)	181
38.1 Instructions	181
38.2 Rules	181
38.3 Functions to create	182
38.4 Optional function	182
38.5 Exemple of input and output	183
38.6 Tips	186
39 Conway's Game of Life (advanced)	187
39.1 Instructions	187
40 Solutions	188

Python introduction

This course is part of the [IMCBio PhD Program courses](#).

You will need your computer, and a way to work with Python.
I have two possible solutions for you, either:

- A) create a [GitHub](#) account. Then [create a new codespace](#) with the repository `vgilbart/python-intro` (everything else should be default). With a bit of patience, you should end up with a Visual Studio Code window (looking somewhat [like this](#)).

NB: This does not require installing anything on your computer. It is the preferred solution for this class, as we will all be working on the same environment. This is a free solution up to 60 hours and 15 GB of computing per month (we won't do as much during this class!).

OR

- B) install both [Python](#) (v3 or above), and an [IDE](#) (an improved text editor) on your computer. So that we are all on the same page, I recommend installing [Visual Studio Code](#). If for some reason, you are already familiar with another IDE that can be used for Python, you can work with it, but I won't be able to help you as much with it.

NB: It can be useful for your future works to make sure that you have managed to correctly install Python and an IDE on your computer. But for the purpose of this class, the solution A) is sufficient and more convenient.

1 Lesson 1 - Introduction, representing and manipulating data

2 Introduction

2.1 Aim of the class

At the end of this class, you will:

- Be familiar with the Python environment
- Understand the major data types in Python
- Manipulate variables with operators and built-in functions

2.2 What is Python?

Python is a programming language first released in 1991 and implemented by Guido van Rossum.

It is widely used, with various applications, such as:

- software development
- web development
- data analysis
- ...

It supports different types of programming paradigms (i.e. way of thinking) including the procedural programming paradigm. In this approach, the program moves through a linear series of instructions.

```
# Create a string seq
seq = 'ATGAAGGGTCC'
# Call the function len() to retrieve the length of the string
size = len(seq)
# Call the function print() to print a text
print('The sequence has', size, 'bases.')
```

The sequence has 11 bases.

2.3 Why use Python?

- Easy-to-use and easy-to-read syntax
- Large standard library for many applications (`pandas` for tables, `matplotlib` for graphs, `scikit-learn` for machine learning...)
- Interactive mode making it easy to test short snippets of code
- Large community ([stackoverflow](#))

2.4 How can I program in Python?

Python is an interpreted language, this means that it is not directly compiled into machine code (binary instructions that the computer hardware understands). It is executed by an interpreter program that “translates” each line of the code, into instructions that the computer can understand. By extension, the interpreter that is able to read Python scripts is also called Python. So, whenever you want your Python code to run, you must call the Python interpreter.

2.4.1 Interactive mode

One way to launch the Python interpreter is to type the following, on the command line of a terminal:

```
python3
```

i Note

You can also try `python`, `/usr/bin/env python3`, `/usr/bin/python3...`. There are many ways to call python! You can see where your current python is located by running `which python3`.

From this, you can start using python interactively, e.g. run:

```
print("Hello world")
```

Hello world

To get out of the Python interpreter, type `quit()` or `exit()`, followed by `enter`. Alternatively, on Linux/Mac press [`ctrl + d`], on Windows press [`ctrl + z`].

```
(base) MB1-4074-A:~ gilbartv$ python3
Python 3.11.5 (main, Sep 11 2023, 08:31:25) [Clang 14.0.6 ] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello world")
Hello world
>>> quit()
(base) MB1-4074-A:~ gilbartv$
```

Figure 2.1: Interactive mode

2.4.2 Script mode

To run a script, create a folder named `script`, in which a file named `intro.py` contains:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
# -*- coding: UTF-8 -*-

print("Hello world")
```

and run

```
./script/intro.py
```

You should get the same output as before, that is:

Hello world

The shebang `#!` followed by the interpreter `/usr/bin/env python3` can be put at the beginning of the script in order to omit calling `python3` in command-line. If you don't put it, you will have to run `python3 script/intro.py` instead of simply `./script/intro.py`.

The `-*- coding: UTF-8 -*-` specify the type of encoding to use. UTF-8 is used by default (which means that this line in the script is not necessary). This accepts characters from all languages. Other valid `encoding` are available, such as `ascii` (English characters only).

Warning

Some common errors can occur at this step:

- `bash: script/intro.py: No such file or directory` i.e. you are not in the right directory to run the file.

Solution: run `ls */` and make sure you can find `script/: intro.py`, if not go to the correct directory by running `cd <insert directory name here>`

- `bash: script/intro.py: Permission denied` i.e. you don't have the right to execute your script.

Solution: run `ls -l script/intro.py` and make sure you have at least `-rwx` (read, write, execute rights) as the first 4 characters, if not run `chmod 744 script/intro.py` to change your rights.

3 Basic concepts

3.1 Values and variables

You will manipulate values such as integers, characters or dictionaries. These values can be stored in memory using variables. To assign a value to a variable, use the `=` operator as follow:

```
seq = 'ATGAAGGGTCC'
```

To output the variable value, either type the variable name or use a function like `print()`:

```
seq
```

```
'ATGAAGGGTCC'
```

```
print(seq)
```

```
ATGAAGGGTCC
```

We can change a variable value by assigning it a new one:

```
seq = seq + 'AAAA' # The + operator can be used to concatenate strings
seq
```

```
'ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA'
```

A variable can have a short name (like `x` and `y`) or a more descriptive name (`seq`, `motif`, `genome_file`). Rules for Python variable names:

- must start with a letter or the underscore character
- cannot start with a number
- can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and _)
- are case-sensitive (seq, Seq and SEQ are three different variables)
- cannot be any of the Python keywords (run `help('keywords')` to find the list of keywords).

! Exercise

Are the following variable names legal?

- `2_sequences`
- `_sequence`
- `seq-2`
- `seq 2`

You can try to assign a value to these variable names to be sure of your answer!

3.2 Function calls

A function stores a piece of code that performs a certain task, and that gets run when called. It takes some data as input (parameters that are required or optional), and returns an output (that can be of any type). Some functions are predefined (but we will also learn how to create our own later on).

To run a function, write its name followed by parenthesis. Parameters are added inside the parenthesis as follow:

```
# round(number, ndigits=None)
x = round(number = 5.76543, ndigits = 2)
print(x)
```

5.77

Here the function `round()` needs as input a numerical value. As an option, one can add the number of decimal places to be used with digits. If an option is not provided, a default value is given. In the case of the option `ndigits`, `None` is the default. The function returns a numerical value, that corresponds to the rounded value. This value, just like any other, can be stored in a variable.

To get more information about a function, use the `help()` function.

i Note

If you provide the parameters in the exact same order as they are defined, you don't have to name them. If you name the parameters you can switch their order. As good practice, put all required parameters first.

```
round(5.76543, 2)
```

5.77

```
round(ndigits = 2, number = 5.76543)
```

5.77

In Table 24.1 you will find some basic but useful python functions:

Table 3.1: List of useful Python functions.

Function	Description
<code>print()</code>	Print into the screen the values given in argument.
<code>help()</code>	Execute the built-in help system
<code>quit()</code> or <code>exit()</code>	Exit from Python
<code>len()</code>	Return the length of an object
<code>round()</code>	Round a numbers

3.3 Getting help

To get more information about a function or an operator, you can use the `help()` function. For example, in interactive mode, run `help(print)` to display the help of the `print()` function, giving you information about the input and output of this function. If you need information about an operator, you will have to put it into quotes, e.g. `help('+')`

💡 Browse the help

If the help is long, press `[enter]` to get the next line or `[space]` to get the next ‘page’ of information.

To quit the help, press `q`.

❗ Exercise

Read the help of the `print()` function. Add a point at the end of the last value using the parameters available.

3.4 Comment your code

Except for the shebang and coding specifications seen before, all things after a hashtag `#` character will be ignored by the interpreter until the end of the line. This is used to add comments in your code.

Comments are used to:

- explain assumptions
- justify decisions in the code
- expose the problem being solved
- inactivate a line to help debug
- ...

4 How can I represent data?

Each programming language has its own set of data types, from the most basics (`bool`, `int`, `string`) to more complex structures (`list`, `tuple`, `set`...).

4.1 Simple data types

4.1.1 Boolean

Booleans represent one of two values: `True` or `False`.

When you compare two values, the expression is evaluated and Python returns the Boolean answer:

```
print(10 > 9)
```

True

4.1.2 Numeric

Python provides three kinds of numerical type:

- `int` (\mathbb{Z}), integers
- `float` (\mathbb{R}), real numbers
- `complex` (\mathbb{C}), complex numbers

Python will assign a numerical type automatically.

```
x = 1
y = 2.8
z = 1j + 2 # j is the convention in electrical engineering
```

```
type(x)
```

```
int
```

```
type(y)
```

```
float
```

```
type(z)
```

```
complex
```

4.1.3 Text

String type represents textual data composed of letters, numbers, and symbols. The character string must be expressed between quotes.

```
"""my string"""
'''my string'''
"my string"
'my string'
```

are all the same thing. The difference with triple quotes is that it allows a string to extend over multiple lines. You can also use single quotes and double quotes freely within the triple quotes.

```
# A multi-line string
my_str = '''This is a multi-line string. This is the first line.
This is the second line.
"What's your name?," I asked.
He said "Bond, James Bond."
'''

print(my_str)
```

```
This is a multi-line string. This is the first line.  
This is the second line.  
"What's your name?," I asked.  
He said "Bond, James Bond."
```

You can get the number of characters inside a string with `len()`.

```
print(seq)  
len(seq)
```

ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA

15

Strings have specific methods (i.e. functions specific to this class of object). Here are a few:

Method	Description
<code>.count()</code>	Returns the number of times a specified value occurs in a string
<code>.startswith()</code>	Returns true if the string starts with the specified value
<code>.endswith()</code>	Returns true if the string ends with the specified value
<code>.find()</code>	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found
<code>.replace()</code>	Returns a string where a specified value is replaced with a specified value

They are called like this:

```
seq.count('A')
```

7

💡 Tip

To get the `help()` of the `.count()` method, you need to run `help(str.count)`.

❗ Exercise

1. Check if the sequence `seq` starts with the codon ATG
2. Replace all T into U in `seq`

4.2 Data structures

Data structures are a collection of data types and/or data structures, organized in some way.

4.2.1 List

List is a collection which is ordered and changeable. It allows duplicate members. They are created using square brackets `[]`.

```
seq = ['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'AGTCCCCGTATGAT', 'ACCT', 'ACCT']
```

List items are indexed, the first item has index `[0]`, the second item has index `[1]` etc.

```
seq[1]
```

```
'AGTCCCCGTATGAT'
```

💡 Tip

You can count backwards, with the index `[-1]` that retrieves the last item.

As a list is changeable, we can change, add, and remove items in a list after it has been created.

```
seq[1] = 'ATG'  
seq
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG', 'ACCT', 'ACCT']
```

You can specify a range of indexes by specifying the start (included) and the end (not included) of the range.

```
seq[0:2]
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG']
```

💡 Tip

By leaving out the start value, the range will start at the first item:

```
seq[:2]
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG']
```

Similarly, by leaving out the end value, the range will end at the last item.

ℹ Note

Indexes also conveniently work on `str` types.

```
print(seq[0])
print(seq[0][0:5])
print(seq[0][2])
print(seq[0][-1])
```

```
ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA
ATGAA
G
A
```

Tip

One way to remember how slices work is to think of the indices as pointing between characters, with the left edge of the first character numbered 0. Then the right edge of the last character of a string of n characters has index n, for example:

```
+---+---+---+---+---+
| P | y | t | h | o | n |
+---+---+---+---+---+
 0   1   2   3   4   5   6
-6  -5  -4  -3  -2  -1
```

The first row of numbers gives the position of the indices 0...6 in the string; the second row gives the corresponding negative indices. The slice from i to j consists of all characters between the edges labeled i and j, respectively.

You can get how many items are in a list with `len()`.

```
len(seq)
```

4

Lists have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.append()	Inserts an item at the end
.insert()	Inserts an item at the specified index
.extend()	Append elements from another list to the current list
.remove()	Removes the first occurrence of a specified item
.pop()	Removes the specified (by default last) index

! Exercise

1. Create a list `l = ['AAA', 'AAT', 'AAC']`, and add AAG at the end, using `.append()`.
2. Replace all T into U in the element AAT, using `.replace()`.

4.2.2 Tuple

Tuple is a collection which is ordered and unchangeable. It allows duplicate members. Tuples are written with round brackets () .

```
my_favorite_amino_acid = ('Y', 'Tyr', 'Tyrosine')
```

Just like for the list, you can get items with their index. The only difference is that you cannot change a tuple that has been created.

Tuples have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.count()	Returns the number of times a specified value occurs
.index()	Searches for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found

! Exercise

Try to change the value of the first element of `my_favorite_amino_acid` and see what happens.

4.2.3 Set

Set is a collection which is unordered and unindexed. It does not allow duplicate members (they will be ignored). Sets are written with curly brackets {}.

```
seq = {'BRCA1', 'TP53', 'EGFR', 'MYC'}
```

Once a set is created, you cannot change its items directly (as they don't have index), but you modify the set by removing and adding items.

Sets have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
<code>.add()</code>	Adds an element to the set
<code>.difference()</code>	Returns a set containing the difference between two sets
<code>.intersection()</code>	Returns a set containing the intersection between two sets
<code>.union()</code>	Returns a set containing the union of two sets
<code>.remove()</code>	Remove the specified item
<code>.pop()</code>	Removes a random element

! Exercise

Get the common genes between the following sets:

```
organism1_genes = {'BRCA1', 'TP53', 'EGFR', 'MYC'}
organism2_genes = {'TP53', 'MYC', 'KRAS', 'BRAF'}
```

4.2.4 Dictionary

Dictionaries are used to store data values in key: value pairs. A dictionary is a collection which is ordered (as of Python >= 3.7), changeable and does not allow duplicates keys. Dictionaries are written with curly brackets {}, with keys and values.

```
organism1_genes = {  
    #key: value;  
    'BRCA1': 'DNA repair',  
    'TP53': 'Tumor suppressor',  
    'EGFR': 'Cell growth',  
    'MYC': 'Regulation of gene expression'  
}
```

Dictionary items can be referred to by using the key name.

```
organism1_genes["BRCA1"]
```

```
'DNA repair'
```

Dictionaries have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.items()	Returns a list containing a tuple for each key value pair
.keys()	Returns a list containing the dictionary's keys
.values()	Returns a list of all the values in the dictionary
.pop()	Removes the element with the specified key
.get()	Returns the value of the specified key

! Exercise

From the dictionary `organism1_genes` created as example, get the value of the key `BRCA1`. If the key does not exist, return `Unknown` by default. Try your code before **and after** removing the `BRCA1` key:value pair.

Check the help of `get` by running `help(dict.get)`.

4.3 Conversion between types

You can get the data type of any object by using the function `type()`. You can (more or less easily) convert between data types.

Function	Description
<code>bool()</code>	Convert to boolean type
<code>int()</code> , <code>float()</code>	Convert between integer or float types
<code>complex()</code>	Convert to complex type
<code>str()</code>	Convert to string type
<code>list()</code> , <code>tuple()</code> , <code>set()</code>	Convert between list, tuple, and set types
<code>dict()</code>	Convert a tuple of order (key, value) into a dictionary type

```
bool(1)
```

True

```
int(5.8)
```

5

```
str(1)
```

'1'

```
list({1, 2, 3})
```

```
[1, 2, 3]
```

```
set([1, 2, 3, 3])
```

```
{1, 2, 3}
```

```
dict([('a', 1),  
      ('f', 2),  
      ('g', 3)))
```

```
{'a': 1, 'f': 2, 'g': 3}
```

5 How can I manipulate data?

In the previous section we have learned how data can be represented in different types and gathered in various data structures. In this section we will see how we can manipulate data in order to do more complex tasks.

5.1 Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values. We will present a few common ones here.

5.1.1 Arithmetic operators

Arithmetic operators are used with numeric values to perform common mathematical operations:

Operator	Name
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
*	Multiplication
/	Division
**	Power

⚠ Warning

Do not use the `^` operator to raise to a power. That is actually the operator for bitwise XOR, which we will not cover.

Python will convert data type according to what is necessary. Thus, when you divide two `int` you will obtain a `float` number, if you add a `float` to an `int`, you will get a `float`, ...

```
# Example  
2/10
```

0.2

i Note

- + also conveniently work on `str` types.

```
'AC' + 'AT'
```

```
'ACAT'
```

5.1.2 Assignment operators

Assignment operators are used to assign values to variables:

Operator	Example as	Same as
=	<code>x = 5</code>	<code>x = 5</code>
<code>+=</code>	<code>x += 5</code>	<code>x = x + 5</code>
<code>-=</code>	<code>x -= 5</code>	<code>x = x - 5</code>

i Note

The same principle applies to multiplication, division and power, but are less commonly used.

5.1.3 Comparison operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two values:

Operator	Name
<code>==</code>	Equal
<code>!=</code>	Not equal
<code>></code>	Greater than
<code>>=</code>	Greater than or equal to
<code><</code>	Less than
<code><=</code>	Less than or equal to

```
# Example
2 == 1 + 1
```

True

⚠ Warning

You should never use equality operators (`==` or `!=`) with floats or complex values.

```
# Example
2.1 + 3.2 == 5.3
```

False

This is a floating point arithmetic problem seen in other programming languages. It is due to the difficulty of having a fixed number of binary digits (bits) to accurately represent some decimal number. This leads to small rounding errors in calculations.

```
2.1 + 3.2
```

5.300000000000001

If you need to use equality operators, do it with a degree of freedom:

```
tol = 1e-6 ; abs((2.1 + 3.2) - 5.3) < tol
```

True

5.1.4 Logical operators

Logical operators are used to combine conditional statements:

Operator	Description
and	Returns True if both statements are true
or	Returns True if one of the statements is true
not	Reverse the result, returns False if the result is true

```
# Example  
False and False, False and True, True and False, True and True
```

(False, False, False, True)

```
# Example  
False or False, False or True, True or False, True or True
```

(False, True, True, True)

```
# Example  
True or not True
```

True

5.1.5 Membership operators

Operator	Description
in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is present in the object
not in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is not present in the object

```
# Example  
'ACCT' in seq
```

```
False
```

5.1.6 Operator precedence

Operator precedence describes the order in which operations are performed.

The precedence order is described in the table below, starting with the highest precedence at the top:

Operator	Description
()	Parenthesis
**	Power
* /	Multiplication, division
+ -	Addition, subtraction
==, !=, >, >=, <, <=, is, is not, in, not in,	Comparisons, identity, and membership operators
not	Logical NOT
and	AND
or	OR

If two operators have the same precedence, the expression is evaluated from left to right.

! Exercise

Try to guess what will output the following expressions:

- `1+1 == 2 and "actg" == "ACTG"`
- `True or False and True and False`
- `"Homo sapiens" == "Homo" + "sapiens"`
- `'Tumor suppressor' in organism1_genes`

Verify with Python.

5.2 Conditionals

Conditionals allows you to make decisions in your code based on certain conditions.

```
if something is true:  
    do task a  
otherwise:  
    do task b
```

The comparison (==, !=, >, >=, <, <=), logical (and, or, not) and membership (in, not in) operators can be used as conditions.

In Python, this is written with an if ... elif ... else statement like so:

```
# Define gene expression levels  
gene1_expression = 100  
gene2_expression = 50  
  
# Analyze gene expression levels  
if gene1_expression > gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 1 has higher expression level.")  
elif gene1_expression < gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 2 has higher expression level.")  
else:  
    print("Gene 1 and Gene 2 have the same expression level.")
```

Gene 1 has higher expression level.

The elif keyword is Python's way of saying "if the previous conditions were not true, then try this condition". The following code is equivalent to the one before:

```
# Analyze gene expression levels  
if gene1_expression > gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 1 has higher expression level.")  
else:
```

```
if gene1_expression < gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 2 has higher expression level.")  
else:  
    print("Gene 1 and Gene 2 have the same expression level.")
```

Gene 1 has higher expression level.

! Exercise

Are these two codes equivalent?

```
# Code A  
if "ATG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Start codon found.")  
elif "TAG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Stop codon found.")  
else:  
    print("No interesting codon found.")
```

```
# Code B  
if "ATG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Start codon found.")  
    if "TAG" in dna_sequence:  
        print("Stop codon found.")  
else:  
    print("No interesting codon found.")
```

5.3 Notes on indentation

i Note

Python relies on **indentation** (the spaces at the beginning of the lines).

Indentation is not just for readability. In Python, you use spaces or tabs to indent code blocks. Python uses it to determine the scope of functions, loops, conditional statements, and classes.

Any code that is at the same level of indentation is considered part of the same block. Blocks of code are typically defined by starting a line with a colon (:) and then indenting the following lines.

When you have nested structures like a conditional statement inside another conditional statement, you must further to show the hierarchy. Each level of indentation represents a deeper level of nesting.

It's essential to be consistent with your indentation throughout your code. The [styling guide of Python PEP8](#) recommends 4 spaces as indentation.

! Exercise

Here are three codes, they all are incorrect, can you tell why?

Of course, you can run them and read the error that Python gives!

```
amino_acid_list = ["MET", "ARG", "THR", "GLY"]

if "MET" in amino_acid_list:
    print("Start codon found.")
    if "GLY" in amino_acid_list:
        print("Glycine found.")
else:
    print("Start codon not found.")
```

```
dna_sequence = "ATGCTAGCTAGCTAG"

if "ATG" in dna_sequence:
    print("Start codon found.")
if "TAG" in dna_sequence
    print("Stop codon found.")
```

```
x = 7

if x > 5:
    print("x is greater than 5")
    if x > 10:
        print("x is greater than 10")
    elif x == 10:
        print("x equals 10")
    else:
        print("x is less than 10")
```

5.4 Iterations

Iteration involves repeating a set of instructions or a block of code multiple times.

There are two types of loops in python, `for` and `while`.

Iterating through data structures like lists allows you to access each element individually, making it easier to perform operations on them.

5.4.1 For loops

When using a for loop, you iterate over a sequence of elements, such as a list, tuple, or dictionary.

```
for item in data_structure:
    do task a
```

The loop will execute the indented block of code for each element in the sequence until all elements have been processed. This is particularly useful when you know the number of times you need to iterate.

```

all_codons = [
    'AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAT',
    'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACT',
    'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGT',
    'ATA', 'ATC', 'ATG', 'ATT',
    'CAA', 'CAC', 'CAG', 'CAT',
    'CCA', 'CCC', 'CCG', 'CCT',
    'CGA', 'CGC', 'CGG', 'CGT',
    'CTA', 'CTC', 'CTG', 'CTT',
    'GAA', 'GAC', 'GAG', 'GAT',
    'GCA', 'GCC', 'GCG', 'GCT',
    'GGA', 'GGC', 'GGG', 'GGT',
    'GTA', 'GTC', 'GTG', 'GTT',
    'TAA', 'TAC', 'TAG', 'TAT',
    'TCA', 'TCC', 'TCG', 'TCT',
    'TGA', 'TGC', 'TGG', 'TGT',
    'TTA', 'TTC', 'TTG', 'TTT'
]

count = 0
for codon in all_codons:
    if codon[1] == 'T':
        count += 1

print(count, 'codons have a T as a second nucleotide.')

```

16 codons have a T as a second nucleotide.

What it does is the following: it processes each element in the list `all_codons`, called in the following code `codon`. If the `codon` has as a second character a T, it adds 1 to a counter (the variable called `count`).

Warning

You cannot modify an element of a list that way.

```
for codon in all_codons:  
    if 'T' in codon:  
        codon = codon.replace('T', 'U')  
  
print(all_codons)
```

['AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAT', 'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACT', 'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGT', 'ATA',

This is `codon` is a copy of the item in a list, not a reference to it. So changing it does not do anything to the original list.

5.4.2 Iterators

An iterator is a special object that gives values in succession.

A way to modify the list would be to use an iterator to access the original data. The `range(start, stop)` function creates an iterator to count from one integer to another.

```
for i in range(2, 10):  
    print(i, end=' ')
```

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

We could count from 0 to the size of the list, loop through every element of the list by calling them by their index, and modify them if necessary. That's what the following code does:

```
for i in range(0, len(all_codons)):
    if 'T' in all_codons[i] :
        all_codons[i] = all_codons[i].replace('T', 'U')

print(all_codons)
```

['AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAU', 'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACU', 'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGU', 'AUA', 'AUU']

Warning

A list is iterable but not an iterator. The difference is that they are reusable, see:

```
l = [1,2,3,4]

for i in l:
    print(i)

for i in l:
    print(i)
```

```
1
2
3
4
1
2
3
4
```

```
# Convert to iterable
il = iter(l)

for i in il:
    print(i)

for i in il:
    print(i)
```

```
1
2
3
4
```

Another useful function that returns an iterator is `enumerate()`. It is an iterator that generates pairs of index and value. It is commonly used when you need to access both the index and value of items simultaneously.

```
seq = 'ATGCATGC'

# Print index and identity of bases
for i, base in enumerate(seq):
    print(i, base)
```

```
0 A
1 T
2 G
3 C
4 A
5 T
6 G
7 C
```

```
# Loop through sequence and print index of G's
for i, base in enumerate(seq):
    if base in 'G':
        print(i, end=' ')
```

```
2 6
```

5.4.3 While loops

A while loop continues executing a set of statement as long as a condition is true.

```
while condition is true:
    do task a
```

This type of loop is handy when you're not sure how many iterations you'll need to perform or when you need to repeat a block of code until a certain condition is met.

```
seq = 'TACTCTGTCGATCGTACGTATGCAAGCTGATGCATGATTGACTTCAGTATCGAGCGCAGCA'
start_codon = 'ATG'

# Initialize sequence index
i = 0
# Scan sequence until we hit the start codon
while seq[i:i+3] != start_codon:
    i += 1

# Show the result
print('The start codon begins at index', i)
```

The start codon begins at index 19

 Warning

Remember to increment `i`, or you'll get stuck in a loop.

Actually, the previous code is quite dangerous. You can also get stuck in a loop... if the `start_codon` does not appear in `seq` at all.

Indeed, even when you go above the given length of `seq`, the condition `seq[i:i+3] != start_codon` will still be true because `seq[i:i+3]` will output an empty string.

```
seq[9999:9999+3]
```

..

So, once the end of the sequence is reached, the condition `seq[i:i+3] != start_codon` will always be true, and you'll get stuck in an infinite loop.

 Note

To interrupt a process, press `[ctrl + c]`.

5.4.4 Break statement

Iteration stops in a `for` loop when the iterator is exhausted. It stops in a `while` loop when the conditional evaluates to `False`. There is another way to stop iteration: the `break` keyword. Whenever `break` is encountered in a `for` or `while` loop, the iteration stops and execution continues outside the loop.

```
seq = 'ACCATTTTGGGGGGCGGGGGAGGGGGG'
start_codon = 'ATG'

# Initialize sequence index
i = 0
# Scan sequence until we hit the start codon
while seq[i:i+3] != start_codon:
    i += 1
    if i+3 > len(seq): # Get out of the loop if we parsed the full seq
        print('Codon not found in sequence.')
        break
else:
    print('The start codon starts at index', i)
```

Codon not found in sequence.

i Note

Also, note that the `else` statement can be used in `for` and `while` loops. In `for` loops it is executed when the **loop is finished**. In `while` loops, it is executed when the condition is **no longer true**. In both cases, the loops need to **not** encounter a `break` to enter in the `else` block.

5.4.5 Continue statement

In addition to the `break` statement, there is also the `continue` statement in Python that can be used to alter the flow of iteration in loops. When `continue` is encountered within a loop, it skips the remaining code inside the loop for the current iteration and moves on to the next iteration.

Here's an example showcasing the continue statement in a loop:

```
# List of DNA sequences
dna_sequences = ['ATGCTAGCTAG', 'ATCGATCGATC', 'ATGGCTAGCTA', 'ATGTAGCTAGC']

# Find sequences starting with a start codon
for sequence in dna_sequences:
    if sequence[:3] != 'ATG': # Check if the sequence does not start with a start codon
        print(f"Sequence '{sequence}' does not start with a start codon. Skipping analysis.")
        continue # Skip further analysis for this sequence
    print(f"Analyzing sequence '{sequence}' for protein coding regions...")
    # Additional analysis code here
else:
    print('All sequences were processed.')
```

```
Analyzing sequence 'ATGCTAGCTAG' for protein coding regions...
Sequence 'ATCGATCGATC' does not start with a start codon. Skipping analysis.
Analyzing sequence 'ATGGCTAGCTA' for protein coding regions...
Analyzing sequence 'ATGTAGCTAGC' for protein coding regions...
All sequences were processed.
```

The continue statement in this example skips the analysis code for sequence that does not start with a start codon.

i Note

The `f"some text followed by a {variable}"` annotation is a straight-forward and clear way to format strings called **F-Strings**. `{variable}` will be interpreted so that its value is output.

5.4.6 Exercises

! Exercise 1

Given a list of DNA sequences, find the first sequence that contains a specific motif 'TATA', print the sequence, and stop the process. If no sequence contains the motif, print a message accordingly. You must use only one `for` loop. With the input given below, the output should look like this:

```
# List of DNA sequences with a TATA
dna_sequences = [
    'ATGCTACAGCTAG',
    'ATCGATATAATC', # TATA
    'ATGGCTAGCTA',
    'ATGTAGCTAGC',
    'ATGTAGCTATA'   # TATA
]

for ...
    # Your code here
```

Sequence 'ATCGATATAATC' contains the 'TATA' motif.

```
# List of DNA sequences without a TATA
dna_sequences = [
    'ATGCTACAGCTAG',
    'ATCGATACAATC',
    'ATGGCTAGCTA',
    'ATGTAGCTAGC'
]

for ...
    # Your code here
```

No sequence contains the 'TATA' motif.

! Exercise 2

Analyze a DNA sequence to count the number of consecutive 'A' nucleotides. You must use only one `while` loop. With the input given below, the output should look like this:

```
# DNA sequence to analyze
dna_sequence = 'ATGATAAGAGAAAGTAAAAGCGATCGAAAAAA'

while ...
    # Your code here

Number of consecutive 'A's: 6
```

6 Conclusion

Congrats! You now know the (very) basics of Python programming.

If you want to keep on practising with simple exercises, you can check out [w3schools](#).

For more biology-related exercises check out [pythonforbiologist.org](#), they have exercises available in each chapters.

For french speakers, the AFPy (Association Francophone Python) has a learning tool called [HackInScience](#).

Or keep on googling for more python exercises!

References

Here are some references and ressources that inspired this class

:

- [Python doc](#)
- [w3schools](#)
- [pythonforbiologists](#)
- [justinbois's Bootcamp](#)
- [Software carpentry 1](#)
- [Software carpentry 2](#)

7 Lesson 2 - Functions, file handling, dataframe and plots

8 Introduction

8.1 Aim of the class

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Create simple functions
- Upload, modify and download files into Python
- Install and import packages
- Basic use of pandas (manipulate data)
- Basic use of matplotlib.pyplot (visualize data)

9 Function

A function stores a piece of code that performs a certain task, and that gets run when called. It takes some data as input (parameters that are required or optional), and returns an output (that can be of any type).

💡 Tip

We already learned how to run a predefined function in the last lesson. You need to write its name followed by parenthesis. Parameters are added inside the parenthesis as follow:

```
# round(number, ndigits=None)
x = round(number = 5.76543, ndigits = 2)
print(x)
```

5.77

To get more information about a function, use the `help()` function.

We will now learn how to create our own function.

9.1 Syntax

In python, a function is declared with the keyword `def` followed by its name, and the arguments inside parenthesis. The next block of code, corresponding to the content of the function, must be indented. The output is defined by the `return` keyword.

```
def hello(name):
    """Presenting myself.

    Parameters:
        name (str): My name.
    """

    presentation = f"Hello, my name is {name}."
    return presentation
```

```
text = hello(name = "Valentine")
print(text)
```

Hello, my name is Valentine.

9.2 Documentation

As you may have noticed, you can also add a description of the function directly after the function definition. It is the message that will be shown when running `help()`. As it can be along text over multiple lines, it is common to put it inside triple quotes `"""`.

```
help(hello)
```

Help on function hello in module `__main__`:

```
hello(name)
    Presenting myself.

    Parameters:
        name (str): My name.
```

9.3 Arguments

You can have several arguments. They can be mandatory or optional. To make them optional, they need to have a default value assigned inside the function definition, like so:

```
def hello(name, french = True):
    """Presenting myself.

    Parameters:
    name (str): My name.
    french (bool, optional): Whether to greet in french (True) or not (False).
    """

    if french:
        presentation = f"Bonjour, je m'appelle {name}."
    else:
        presentation = f"Hello, my name is {name}."
    return presentation
```

The parameter `name` is mandatory, but `french` is optional.

```
hello("Valentine")
```

```
"Bonjour, je m'appelle Valentine."
```

```
hello(french = False)
```

```
TypeError: hello() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

```
-----
```

```
TypeError Traceback (most recent call last)
```

```
Cell In[7], line 1
```

```
----> 1 hello(french = False)
```

```
TypeError: hello() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```



Note

Reminder: if you provide the parameters in the exact same order as they are defined, you don't have to name

them. If you name the parameters you can switch their order. As good practice, put all required parameters first.

```
hello(french = False, name = "Valentine")
```

```
'Hello, my name is Valentine.'
```

```
hello("Valentine", False)
```

```
'Hello, my name is Valentine.'
```

9.4 Output

If no `return` statement is given, then no output will be returned, but the function will still be run.

```
def hello(name):
    """Presenting myself."""
    print("We are inside the 'hello()' function.")
    presentation = f"Hello, my name is {name}."

print(hello("Valentine"))
```

```
We are inside the 'hello()' function.  
None
```

The output can be of any type. If you have a lot of things to return, you might want to return a `list` or a `dict` for example.

```
def multiple_of_3(list_of_numbers):
    """Returns the numbers that are multiples of 3."""
    multiples = []
    for num in list_of_numbers:
        if num % 3 == 0:
            multiples.append(num)
```

```
return multiples

multiple_of_3(range(1, 20, 2))
```

```
[3, 9, 15]
```

i Note

This could be written as a one-liner.

```
def multiple_of_3(list_of_numbers):
    """Returns the numbers that are multiples of 3."""
    multiples = [num for num in list_of_numbers if num % 3 == 0]
    return multiples

multiple_of_3(range(1, 20, 2))
```

```
[3, 9, 15]
```

9.5 Exercise

! Exercise 1

Write a function called `nucl_freq` to compute nucleotide frequency of a sequence. Given a sequence as input, it outputs a dictionary with keys being the nucleotides A, T, C and G, and values being their frequency in the sequence. With the input given below, the output should be:

```
def ...
# Your code here

nucl_freq("ATTCCCGGGG")
{'C': 0.3, 'A': 0.1, 'G': 0.4, 'T': 0.2}
```

10 File Handling

The key function to work with files is `open()`. It has two parameters `file` and `mode`.

```
# Write the correct path for you!
fasta_file = 'exercise/data/example.fasta'
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')
```

The modes can be one of the following:

Mode	Description
r	Opens a file for reading, error if the file does not exist (default)
a	Opens a file for appending, creates the file if it does not exist
w	Opens a file for writing, creates the file if it does not exist
x	Creates the specified file, returns an error if the file exists

10.1 Reading

The `open()` function returns a file object, which has a `read()` method for reading the content of the file:

```
print(f.read())
```

```
>seq1
TTAGCTAAATAGCTAGCAAACTAGCTAGCTAAAAAAAAACTAGCTAGCT
>seq2
ATGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCTCGCTCGCCAGCCAGCTAGCTA
```

```
>seq3  
CCGGGCGGTGATGGATGGAGGGAGCGAGCGATCGATCGTCGATCGTG  
>seq4  
GATCGATCGATCTTTATCGATCGATTGTTCTTCGATCGTCTATCGA  
>seq5  
ACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTAT
```

The parameter `size =` can be added to specify the number of bytes (~ characters) to return.

```
# We need to re-open it because we have already parsed the whole file  
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')  
print(f.read(2))
```

```
>s
```

You can return one line by using the `.readline()` method. By calling it two times, you can read the two first lines:

```
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')  
print(f.readline())  
print(f.readline())
```

```
>seq1
```

```
TTAGCTAAATAGCTAGCAAAGTAGCTAGCTAAAAAAACTAGCTAGCT
```

By looping through the lines of the file, you can read the whole file, line by line:

```
for i, line in enumerate(f):  
    print(i, line)
```

```
0 >seq2
```

```
1 ATGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCTCGCTCGCCAGCCAGCTAGCTA
```

```
2 >seq3
```

```
3 CCGGGCGGTCGATGGATGGAGGGAGCGAGCGATCGATCGGTGATCGGTG
```

```
4 >seq4
```

```
5 GATCGATCGATTTTATCGATCGATTGTTCTTCGATCGTTCTATCGA
```

```
6 >seq5
```

```
7 ACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTAT
```

It is a good practice to close the file when you are done with it.

```
f.close()
```

 Warning

In some cases, changes made to a file may not show until you close the file.

 Note

A common syntax to handle files that you might encounter is:

```
with open(fasta_file, 'r') as f:  
    print(f.readline())
```

```
>seq1
```

This code is equivalent to

```
f = open(fasta_file, 'r')  
try:  
    print(f.readline())  
finally:  
    f.close()
```

```
>seq1
```

The `with` statement is an example of a context manager, i.e. it allows to allocate and release resources precisely, by cleaning up the resources once they are no longer needed.

10.2 Writing

To write into a file, you must have it open under a `w`, a mode.

Then, the method `write()` can be used.

```
txt_file = "exercise/data/some_file.txt"
f = open(txt_file, "w")
f.write("Woops! I have deleted the content!\n")
f.close()

# Read the current content of the file
f = open(txt_file, "r")
print(f.read())
```

Woops! I have deleted the content!

⚠ Warning

Be very careful when opening a file in `write` mode as you can delete its content without any way to retrieve the original file!

As you may have noticed, `write()` returns the number of characters written. You can prevent it from being printed by assigning the return value to a variable that will not be used.

```
f = open(txt_file, "a")
_ = f.write("Now the file has more content!\n")
f.close()

# Read the current content of the file
f = open(txt_file, "r")
print(f.read())
```

Woops! I have deleted the content!
Now the file has more content!

i Note

You must specify a newline with the character:

- \n in Linus/MacOS
- \r\n in Windows
- \r in MacOS before X

10.3 os module

Python has a built-in package called `os`, to interact with the operating system.

```
import os
```

Here are some useful functions from the `os` package.

Function	Description
<code>getcwd()</code>	Returns the current working directory
<code>chdir()</code>	Change the current working directory
<code>listdir()</code>	Returns a list of the names of the entries in a directory
<code>mkdir()</code>	Creates a directory
<code>makedirs()</code>	Creates a directory recursively

These functions can be useful if you don't manage to open a file, or don't find where you created it. Because it might just be that you are not in the directory you think:

```
# Verify your working directory  
os.getcwd()
```

```
'/home/runner/work/python-intro/python-intro'
```

```
# Change you working directory if needed  
os.chdir("/Users/gilbartv/Documents/git")
```

In other cases, to create a file, the folder it belongs to must already exist, so you need to create it automatically via python:

```
# Create a new directory recursively (if Documents/ does not exist it would be created)  
# If the directory is already created, don't raise an error  
os.makedirs("/Users/gilbartv/Documents/NewFolder", exist_ok=True)
```

10.4 Exercise

! Exercise 2

Create a function that:

- read the fasta file,
- calculate the nucleotide frequency for each sequence
(using the previously defined function)
- create a new file as follow:

```
Seq A C T G
seq1 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
seq2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1
...
```

To make this easier, consider that the sequences in the fasta file are only in one line.

You might make good use of the method `str.strip()`.
You can take as input the file in `exercise/data/example.fasta` you should get the same result as `exercise/data/example.txt`.

```
def analyse_fasta(input_file, output_file):
    ...

input_file = "exercise/data/example.fasta"
output_file = "exercise/data/example.txt"

analyse_fasta(input_file, output_file)
```

11 Scientific packages

A python package contains a set of function to perform specific tasks.

A package needs to be **installed** to your computer one time.

 Warning

Installing a package is done outside of the python interpreter, in command line in a terminal.

You can install a package with `pip`. It should have been automatically installed with your python, to make sure that you have it you can run:

```
# In Linux/MacOS
python -m pip --version
# In Windows
py -m pip --version
```

If it does not work, check out [pip documentation](#)

To install a package called `pandas`, you must run:

```
# In Linux/MacOS
python -m pip install pandas
# In Windows
py -m pip install pandas
```

To get more information about `pip`, check out the full [documentation](#).

When you wish to use a package in a python script, you'll need to import it, by writing inside of you script:

```
import pandas
```

11.1 Pandas

Pandas is a package used to work with data sets, in order to easily clean, manipulate, explore and analyze data.

11.1.1 Create pandas data

Pandas provides two types of classes for handling data:

- **Series**: a one-dimensional labeled array holding data of any type such as integers or strings. It is like a column in a table.

```
# If nothing else is specified, the values are labeled with their index number (starting from 0)
myseries = pandas.Series([1, 7, 2], index = ["x", "y", "z"])
print(myseries)
```

```
x    1
y    7
z    2
dtype: int64
```

- **DataFrame**: a two-dimensional data structure that holds data like a two-dimension array or a table with rows and columns. It is like a table.

```
data = {
    "calories": [420, 380, 390],
    "duration": [50, 40, 45]
}

df = pandas.DataFrame(data)

print(df)
```

```
    calories  duration
0        420        50
1        380        40
2        390        45
```

You can also create a DataFrame from a file.

```
# Make sure this is the correct path for you! You are in the directory from where you execute this code
df = pandas.read_csv('exercise/data/sample.csv')

print(df)
```

```
      Gene  Expression_Level  Tissue
0  GeneA             8.7   Heart
1  GeneB             3.2   Heart
2  GeneA             7.0  Brain
3  GeneB            10.2  Brain
4  GeneA             6.6  Liver
5  GeneB             7.6  Liver
```

11.1.2 Index and columns

You get access to the index and column names with:

```
df.columns
Index(['Gene', 'Expression_Level', 'Tissue'], dtype='object')

df.index
RangeIndex(start=0, stop=6, step=1)
```

You can rename index and column names:

```
df = df.rename(index={0: 'a', 1: 'b', 2: 'c',
                      3: 'd', 4: 'e', 5: 'f'})

df.index
```

```
Index(['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f'], dtype='object')
```

You can select rows:

```
# Select one row by its label  
df.loc[['a']]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart

```
# Select one row by its index  
df.iloc[[0]]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart

```
# Select several rows by labels  
df.loc[['a', 'c']]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain

```
# Select one row by index  
df.iloc[[0, 2]]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain

You can select columns:

```
# Select one column by label  
df['Tissue'] # Series
```

	Tissue
a	Heart
b	Heart
c	Brain
d	Brain
e	Liver
f	Liver

```
df[['Tissue']] # DataFrame
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
    return method()
```

	Tissue
a	Heart
b	Heart
c	Brain
d	Brain
e	Liver
f	Liver

```
# Select several columns  
df[['Gene','Expression_Level']]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level
a	GeneA	8.7
b	GeneB	3.2
c	GeneA	7.0
d	GeneB	10.2
e	GeneA	6.6
f	GeneB	7.6

```
# Select several columns by index
df.iloc[:,[0,1]]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level
a	GeneA	8.7
b	GeneB	3.2
c	GeneA	7.0
d	GeneB	10.2
e	GeneA	6.6
f	GeneB	7.6

You can select rows and columns as follows:

```
df.loc[['b'], ['Gene','Expression_Level']]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level
b	GeneB	3.2

You can filter based on a condition as follows:

```
df[df['Expression_Level'] > 6]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain
d	GeneB	10.2	Brain
e	GeneA	6.6	Liver
f	GeneB	7.6	Liver

i Note

To better understand how `df[df['Expression_Level'] > 6]` works, let's break it down.

```
df['Expression_Level']
```

	Expression_Level
a	8.7
b	3.2
c	7.0
d	10.2
e	6.6
f	7.6

```
rows_to_keep = df['Expression_Level'] > 6
rows_to_keep
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Expression_Level
a	True
b	False
c	True
d	True
e	True
f	True

Each value in `df['Expression_Level']` is being tested against the condition `> 6` and a boolean is being returned.

```
df[rows_to_keep]
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain
d	GeneB	10.2	Brain
e	GeneA	6.6	Liver
f	GeneB	7.6	Liver

Rows of the DataFrame are being filtered by boolean values. If `True` the row is kept, if `False` it is dropped.

11.1.3 Useful methods

To explore the data set, use the following methods:

```
df.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
Index: 6 entries, a to f
Data columns (total 3 columns):
 #   Column           Non-Null Count  Dtype  
---  --  
 0   Gene              6 non-null      object 
 1   Expression_Level  6 non-null      float64
 2   Tissue            6 non-null      object 
dtypes: float64(1), object(2)
memory usage: 364.0+ bytes
```

```
df.describe()
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

Expression_Level	
count	6.000000
mean	7.216667
std	2.358319
min	3.200000
25%	6.700000
50%	7.300000
75%	8.425000
max	10.200000

```
df.head()
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
b	GeneB	3.2	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain
d	GeneB	10.2	Brain
e	GeneA	6.6	Liver

```
df.sort_values(by="Gene")
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py
    return method()
```

	Gene	Expression_Level	Tissue
a	GeneA	8.7	Heart
c	GeneA	7.0	Brain
e	GeneA	6.6	Liver
b	GeneB	3.2	Heart
d	GeneB	10.2	Brain
f	GeneB	7.6	Liver

```
df ['Expression_Level'].mean()  
df.groupby("Gene")[['Expression_Level']].mean()
```

```
/opt/hostedtoolcache/Python/3.10.17/x64/lib/python3.10/site-packages/IPython/core/formatters.py  
    return method()
```

Expression_Level	
Gene	
GeneA	7.433333
GeneB	7.000000

11.1.4 Learn More

To get more information on how to use pandas, check out:

- the [documentation](#)
- the [cheat sheet](#)
- any [useful tutorial](#)

11.1.5 Exercise

! Exercise 3

1. Create a pandas DataFrame from the file containing the frequency of each nucleotide per sequences ([exercise/data/example.txt](#)).
2. Make sure that `df.index` contains the name of the sequences, and `df.columns` contains the nucleotides.
3. Use `pandas.melt()` (see the [example in the doc](#)) to get the data in the following format:

```
nucl freq  
Seq  
seq1 A 0.46  
seq2 A 0.20
```

```
seq3    A  0.16
seq4    A  0.18
seq5    A  0.26
seq1    T  0.22
seq2    T  0.12
...

```

4. Get the mean value of all nucleotide frequencies.
5. Get the mean value of frequencies per nucleotide.
6. Filter to remove values of seq1.
7. Recompute the mean value of frequencies per nucleotide.

11.2 Matplotlib

Matplotlib is a package to create visualizations in Python widely used in science.

To shorten the name of the package when we call its functions, we can import it with a nickname, as follows:

```
import pandas as pd

df = pd.read_csv('exercise/data/sample.csv')
```

For matplotlib, we usually import like so:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

pyplot is one of the modules of matplotlib. It contains functions to generate basic plots.

11.2.1 Create a plot

To create your first plot, you can use the function `plt.plot()` that draws points to plot, and by default draws a line from point to points:

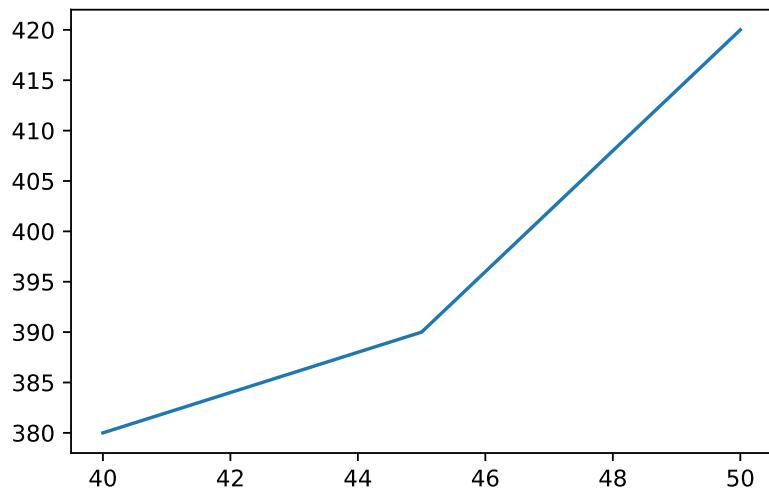
```

data = {
    "calories": [420, 380, 390],
    "duration": [50, 40, 45]
}
df = pd.DataFrame(data).sort_values(by="duration")

x = df['duration']
y = df['calories']

plt.plot(x, y)
plt.show()

```



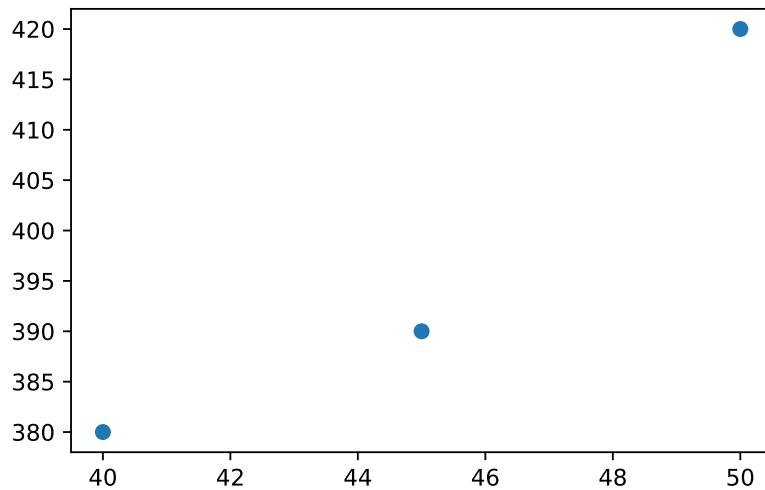
The first parameter is for the x-axis, and the second for the y-axis

To only plot the points, one can add the format (it can be color, marker, linestyle):

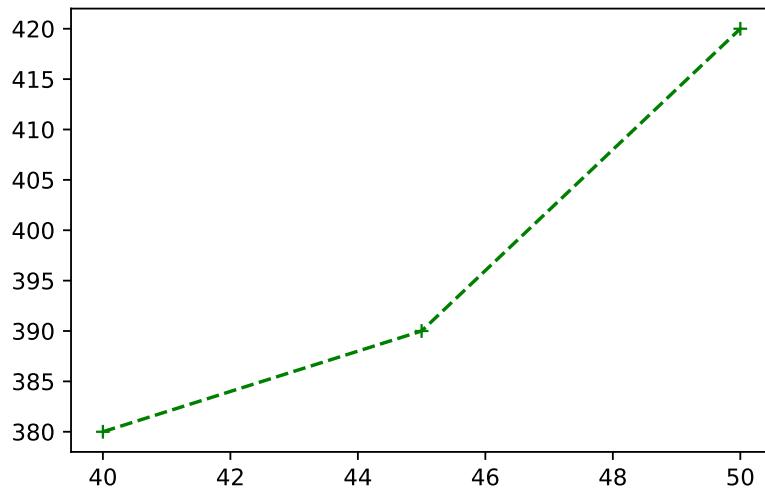
```

plt.plot(x, y, 'o') # point as markers
plt.show()

```



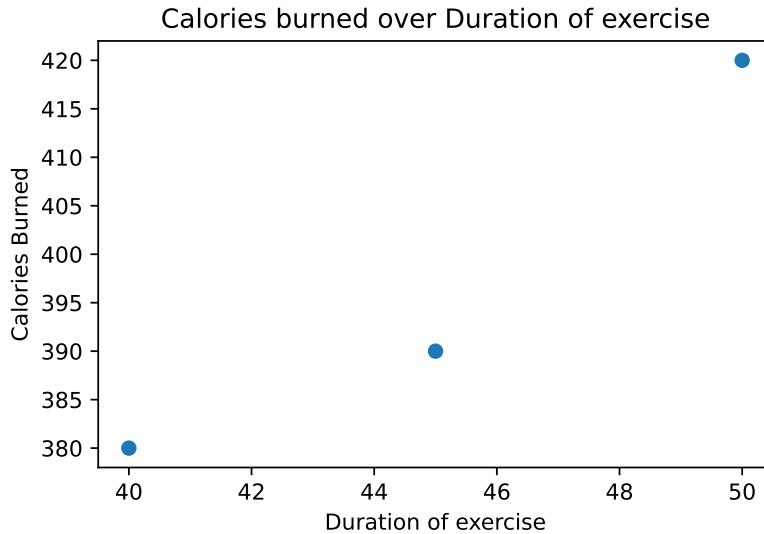
```
plt.plot(x, y, 'g+--') # Green as color, plus as marker, dash as line  
plt.show()
```



X and y labels and plot title can be added:

```
plt.plot(x, y, 'o')  
  
plt.xlabel("Duration of exercise")  
plt.ylabel("Calories Burned")  
plt.title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")
```

```
plt.show()
```



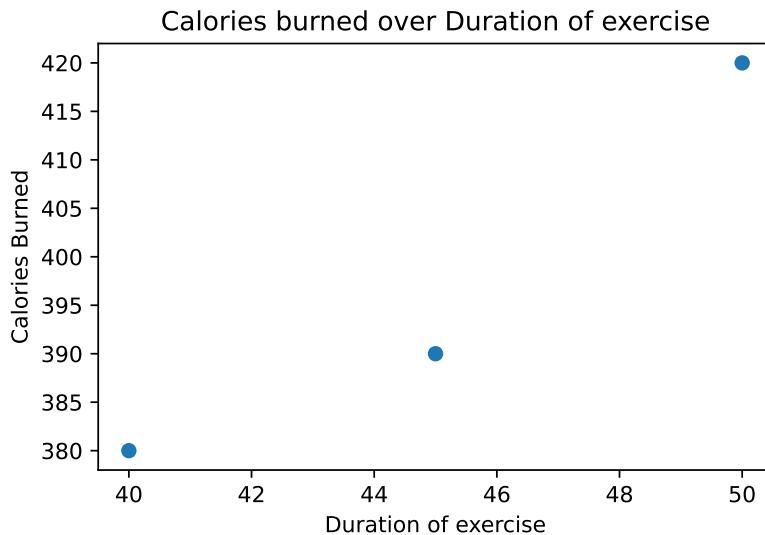
The first way of plotting is function-oriented. It relies on pyplot to implicitly create and manage the Figures and Axes, and use pyplot functions for plotting.

There is a second way of plotting called object-oriented. It needs to explicitly create Figures and Axes, and call methods on them (the “object-oriented (OO) style”).

You might encounter both styles of coding.

In object-oriented, the plot above would be created like so:

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1) # Create the Figure and Axes  
  
ax.plot(x, y, 'o') # Apply methods on the axes  
  
ax.set_xlabel("Duration of exercise")  
ax.set_ylabel("Calories Burned")  
ax.set_title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")  
  
plt.show()
```



In the line `fig, ax = plt.subplots(1)`, `fig` refers to the overall figure — the entire canvas that holds everything, including one or more plots. `ax` is the specific subplot (axes) where your data is drawn. In simple plots, we often interact only with `ax` to label axes or plot data. However, `fig` becomes useful when you want to set the overall figure title, adjust layout, or save the figure to a file.

i Note

Notice that the names of the functions/methods called are not the same: the function `xlabel()` is used for the function-oriented manner and the method `set_xlabel()` is used for the object-oriented.

11.2.2 Matplotlib anatomy

Matplotlib graphs your data on Figures, each of which can contain one or more Axes. An Axes is an area where points can be specified in terms of x-y coordinates.

Axes contains a region for plotting data and includes generally two Axis objects (2D plots), a title, an x-label, and a y-label.

The Axes methods (e.g. `.set_xlabel()`) are the primary interface for configuring most parts of your plot (adding data, controlling axis scales and limits, adding labels etc.).

An Axis sets the scale and limits and generate ticks (the marks on the Axis) and ticklabels (strings labeling the ticks).

i Note

Be aware of the difference between Axes and Axis.

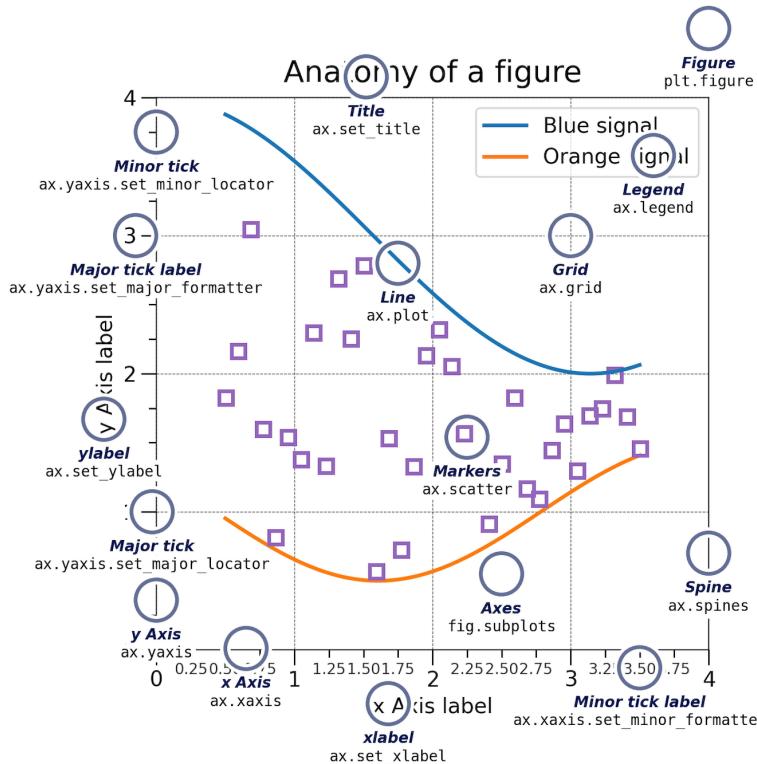


Figure 11.1: Anatomy of a matplotlib plot

To create a Figure with 2 Axes, run:

```
# a figure with a 1x2 (nrow x ncolumn) grid of Axes
# and of defined size figsize=(width,height)
fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(9,2))
```

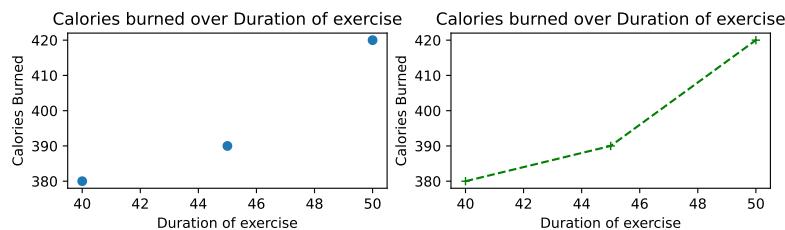
```

axs[0].plot(x, y, 'o') # Apply methods on the axes
axs[0].set_xlabel("Duration of exercise")
axs[0].set_ylabel("Calories Burned")
axs[0].set_title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")

axs[1].plot(x, y, 'g+--') # Apply methods on the axes
axs[1].set_xlabel("Duration of exercise")
axs[1].set_ylabel("Calories Burned")
axs[1].set_title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")

plt.show()

```



There are many other plot available: `.scatter()`, `.bar()`, `.hist()`, `.pie()`, `.boxplot()`...

11.2.3 Save a figure

You can save a figure with the `savefig()` function:

```
fig.savefig('exercise/data/figure.png')
```

i Note

One could also run:

```
plt.savefig('exercise/data/figure.png')
```

```
<Figure size 1650x1050 with 0 Axes>
```

The `matplotlib.pyplot` module works by automatically referencing the current active figure (i.e., the most recently created or interacted-with figure).

But be careful, after a figure has been displayed to the screen (e.g. with `plt.show()`) matplotlib will make this variable refer to a new empty figure. Therefore, make sure you call `plt.savefig()` before the plot is displayed to the screen, otherwise you may find a file with an empty plot.

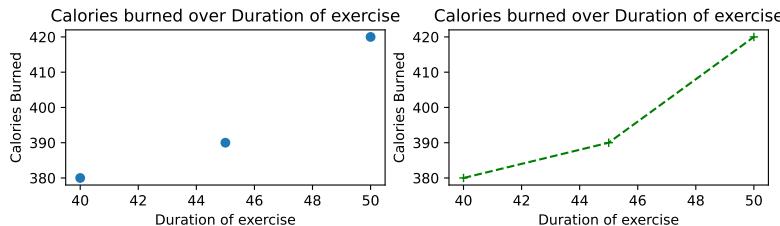
```
# a figure with a 1x2 (nrow x ncolumn) grid of Axes
# and of defined size figsize=(width,height)
fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(9,2))

axs[0].plot(x, y, 'o') # Apply methods on the axes
axs[0].set_xlabel("Duration of exercise")
axs[0].set_ylabel("Calories Burned")
axs[0].set_title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")

axs[1].plot(x, y, 'g+--') # Apply methods on the axes
axs[1].set_xlabel("Duration of exercise")
axs[1].set_ylabel("Calories Burned")
axs[1].set_title("Calories burned over Duration of exercise")

fig.savefig('exercise/data/figure.png')

plt.show()
```



The plot can also be saved as ps, pdf or svg. Moreover, the resolution can be modified. See the documentation of `savefig`.

11.2.4 Matplotlib documentation

For more information, check out the following resources:

- the [documentation](#)

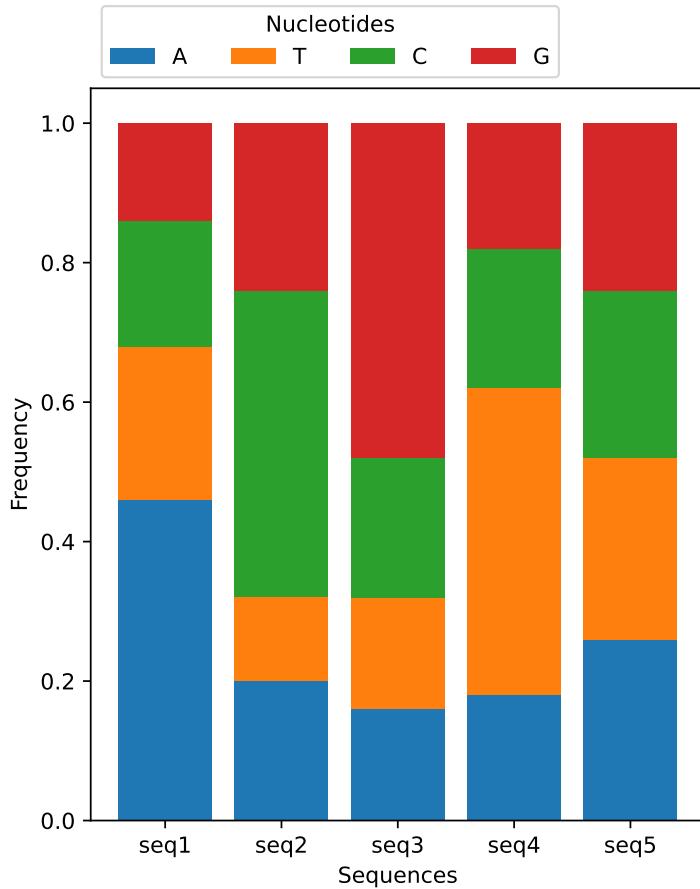
- the [cheat sheet](#)
- any [useful tutorial](#)
- some [inspiration](#)

11.3 Exercise

! Exercise 4

Create a script that gets nucleotide frequency data from a file in the format of `exercise/data/example.txt`, and visualizes it using Matplotlib and Pandas.

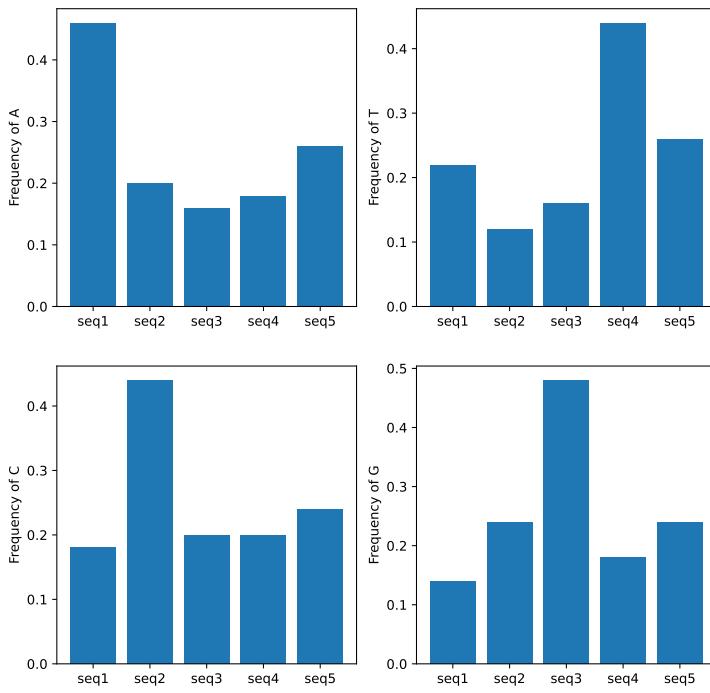
Your script should read the data, create a stacked bar chart showing the nucleotide frequencies for each sequence, and label the axes appropriately. Finally, save your plot as a png file. Here's the expected plot:



Take a look at matplotlib set of [examples](#) to try to reproduce it.

! Exercise 5

Create a figure of 4 bar plots, where each bar plot contains the frequency of one nucleotide for each sequences. Label the axes appropriately. Finally, save your plot as a png file. Here's the expected plot:



See how matplotlib deals with 2D axis in [this plot example](#) or [this one](#).

11.4 More packages

There are MANY packages available, here's a short list of some that might interest you:

Package	Usage	Example of usage
BioPython	Computational molecular biology	Sequence handling, access to NCBI databases
NumPy	Numerical arrays	Data manipulation, mathematical operations, linear algebra
Seaborn	High-level interface for drawing plots	Data visualization, statistical graphics

Package	Usage	Example of usage
HTSeq	High throughput sequencing	Quality and coverage, counting reads, read alignment
Scanpy	Single-Cell Analysis	Preprocessing, visualization, clustering
SciPy	Mathematical algorithms	Clustering, ODE, Fourier Transforms
Scikit-image	Image processing	Image enhancement, segmentation, feature extraction
Scikit-learn	Machine learning	Classification, regression, clustering, dimensionality reduction
TensorFlow and PyTorch	Deep learning	Neural networks, natural language processing, computer vision

12 Final tips and resources

Here are a couple of tips:

- Leave comments (think of your future self)
- Be consistent (quotes, indents...)
- Break down one complex task into lots of (easy) small tasks
- When using functions you are not comfortable with, verify the output and make sure it does what you expect in with small examples
- Don't re-invent the wheel, for common tasks, it's likely that a function already exists
- Read the documentation when using a new package or function
- Google It! Use the correct programming vocabulary to increase your chances of finding an answer. If you don't find anything, try wording it differently.
- Prompt it to AI! It works generally well to explain a code, and for small tasks using famous packages.
- The easiest way to learn is by example, so follow a tutorial with the example data, and then try to apply it to your own

You can follow some free tutorials on:

- [Code Academy](#)
- [EdX](#)
- [Youtube!](#)

References

Here are some references and ressources that inspired this class

:

- [Python doc](#)
- [w3schools](#)
- [pythonforbiologists](#)
- [justinbois's Bootcamp](#)
- [Software carpentry 1](#)
- [Software carpentry 2](#)

13 Lesson 3 - Jupyter Notebook

14 Introduction

14.1 Aim of the class

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Create your own environment to run your Jupyter Notebook
- Create, run, export your own Jupyter Notebook
- Know about magic commands
- Use interactivity with a Jupyter Notebook

This last class is also to keep on practicing the notions learned in the previous lessons.

15 Jupyter Notebook

15.1 What is Jupyter Notebook

A Jupyter Notebook is a computational notebook with the file extension `.ipynb`. It is a document that can combine text (formatted in plain text or Markdown), code (python, R, bash) and various visualizations (such as graphs, tables). It provides a friendly environment to format, explain and explore the results of a data analysis. Jupyter Notebooks can be exported to `.pdf` or `.html` to share them easily.

It is part of the [Project Jupyter](#), which is an umbrella project providing tools for interactive computing. JupyterLab provides an environment and user interface for Jupyter Notebooks.

15.2 How can I program in a Jupyter Notebook

15.2.1 In your text editor

To use Jupyter Notebook outside of a JupyterLab, your text editor must be compatible with the Jupyter Notebook format. In Visual Studio Code, you will need to install the [Jupyter extension](#). Some other extensions can be useful, for example [Jupyter Cell Tags](#).

15.2.2 On a local server

If Jupyter Notebook or Jupyter Lab is installed (report to [installation doc](#)) on your computer, you can start running a local notebook server by running in the terminal:

```
jupyter notebook
```

or

```
jupyter lab
```

This will print some information about the notebook server in your console, and open a web browser to the URL of the local web application.

15.2.3 Inside a JupyterLab

In the IGBMC, you can for example have access to a JupyterLab on the cluster with [Open OnDemand](#).

For test purpose, you can also create a Jupyter Notebook in [JupyterLab](#).

16 Conda environment as a kernel

A Kernel is a computational engine for running and interacting with the Jupyter code. By default, Jupyter only knows about the base Python environment. This Python environment needs to have the necessary python library installed (e.g. `pandas`, `matplotlib`).

In some cases, it might be useful to create different Python environments for different usage or projects. This ensures that you can install specific packages and Python versions without affecting your base system or other environments. For this purpose, a common tool used is `conda`.

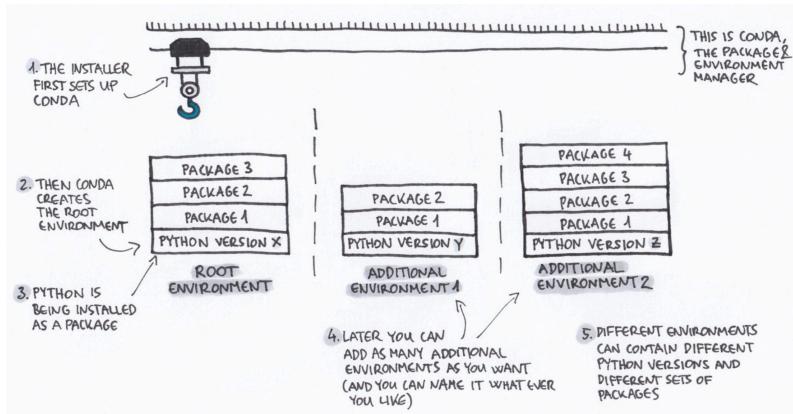


Figure 16.1: Conda schema from <https://angus.readthedocs.io/>

You can see it as a closed setup with its own Python interpreter and packages.

Some basic library like `pandas` or `matplotlib` are included in most already existing Kernels. But other library that are

domain-specific won't be included by default. Also, you might want to work with a specific version of python or python packages.

It is possible to register a Conda environment as a Kernel (so that Jupyter can use an environment with adequate packages to run code).

```
# Run just once after installing conda, to actually start working in conda-mode
conda init

# Open a new terminal (for conda init to be effective)
conda create -n python_intro python
conda activate python_intro
conda install ipykernel notebook

# In some JupyterLab instances you need to run the following:
python -m ipykernel install --user --name=python_intro
```

! Exercise

Create the conda environment like above. The environment should now be available as a Kernel in the selection. Run the command `print('Hello World!')` in a cell. Run the command `import pandas` in a cell. If it does not work run in the terminal `conda install pandas` or `pip install pandas`, and once it's installed, try re-running the command `import pandas`.

As we are using conda, we might as well get familiar with some basic commands in conda.

Command	Description
<code>conda create -n env_name</code>	Create a new environment
<code>conda create -n env_name package</code>	Create a new environment with a specific package
<code>conda create -n env_name package==version</code>	Create a new environment with a specific package and version

Command	Description
<code>conda activate env_name</code>	Activate an environment
<code>conda deactivate</code>	Deactivate the current environment
<code>conda list</code>	List all installed packages in the current env
<code>conda env list</code>	List all available environments
<code>conda install package_name</code>	Install a package in the current environment
<code>conda remove package_name</code>	Remove a package from the current environment
<code>conda remove -n env_name --all</code>	Remove an entire environment
<code>conda update package_name</code>	Update a specific package
<code>conda update conda</code>	Update conda itself
<code>conda search package_name</code>	Search for a package in conda repositories
<code>conda info</code>	Display information about the conda installation

! Exercise

Try the commands `conda list` and `conda env list`. Do you understand what they output?

Create an environment with pandas at version 1.5.3. You can verify the version of pandas with the following python code `print(pandas.__version__)`.

17 Structure of a Jupyter Notebook

17.1 Cells

In practice, a notebook consists of cells. A cell can contain Markdown or code. The execution of a code cell is dependent on the kernel used (for example, the kernel needs to have the adequate python packages installed). The results and warnings returned are displayed as the cell's output. The output can be text, table, plot...

! Exercise

Let's create our first Jupyter Notebook. For this create a new file and name it `lesson-3-companion.ipynb`. Before creating your Jupyter Notebook, (or before running your first cell) you will get asked to choose a Kernel. For the moment let's use the first one provided, we'll explain later what it is.

Write a command in the first cells that says `print("Hello Jupyter")` and execute it.

Write a command that will generate an error, for example `print("Hello Jupyter", end=1)` and execute it.

17.2 Markdown

The aim of a Jupyter Notebook is also to explain code. For this, we can write in the Markdown format descriptions of the experiment, the dataset, or general useful information about the analysis.

In markdown, you can:

Create headers (i.e. titles with hierarchy):

```
# Header 1  
# Header 2  
## Subheader 1
```

Write in *italics*: ***italics***

Write in **bold**: ****bold****

Write **links**: [links] (<https://igbmc.fr>)

Add images  : ! [alt text] (img/jupyter.png){width=10%}

Create (nested) lists:

- Item 1
 - Item 2
 - Subitem 1
 - Item 1
 - Item 2
 - Subitem 1

Write in html:

This is in red.

```
<p style="color:red;">This is in red.</p>
```

! Exercise

Let's rewrite some code of Exercise 3 of lesson 2 below into a Jupyter Notebook, with some explanation of the dataset and the code, using Markdown formatting.

Use at least the following Markdown elements:

- header
- bold
- list
- link

And execute at least the following code (seperate it in different cells).

```
import pandas as pd

df = pd.read_csv('exercise/data/example.txt', index_col=0, sep=' ')
df = pd.melt(df, var_name='nucl', value_name='freq', ignore_index=False)

df.index
df.columns

df.head()

df['freq'].mean()
df.groupby("nucl")[['freq']].mean()
```

18 Magic Commands

Magic commands are handy commands built into the IPython kernel. You can get an explanation of all magic commands and usages in the [IPython doc](#). Here are a few that can be useful:

Command	Usage
whos	Show a table of all variables defined within the current notebook
history	Display command history
time	Measure execution time a Python statement or expression (line or cell)
writefile	Write the content of a cell into a file
load	Load content of an external python script into a cell
run	Execute an external python script
pip	Run the pip package manager within the current kernel

To use it in line mode add the prefix % before the command (e.g. `%time`). To use it in cell mode add the prefix %% (e.g. `%%time`). Some commands can only be used in one or the other mode.

! Exercise

1. Load the file `analyse_fasta.py` that contains the functions `nucl_freq()` and `analyse_fasta()` into the next cell. Run the command `nucl_freq("AACTTG")` to verify that it worked.
2. Use a magic command to get all the variables currently defined. Remove the functions `nucl_freq`

and `analyse_fasta` variable using `del <variable>` in python and rerun the magic command to output all variables currently defined.

3. Run the file `analyse_fasta.py` that contains the functions `nucl_freq()` and `analyse_fasta()`. Run the command `nucl_freq("AACTTG")` to verify that it worked.

19 Exporting notebook

JupyterLab allows you to export your jupyter notebook files (.ipynb) into other file formats such as:

- HTML .html
- LaTeX .tex
- Markdown .md
- PDF .pdf
- Executable Script .py

Converting the notebook uses the module `nbconvert` and the availability of certain conversions will depend on `nbconvert` configuration.

On a JupyterLab instance, you will be able to export your notebook with `File > Save and Export Notebook As`.

In the Visual Studio Code, exporting can be done with the button (on the same bar as + Code) ... > `Export` or via the `Command Palette >Jupyter: Export to`

! Exercise

Export `lesson-3-companion.ipynb` in a `.html` format.
Open the `.html` file into a browser.

20 Interactive notebook

20.1 Widgets

An interesting thing about notebook is to make them interactive. For this we will use the `interact` function of `ipywidgets`.

It can take different values as input (integer, boolean, string):

```
from ipywidgets import interact

def f(x):
    return x

interact(f, x=10)

interact(f, x=True)

interact(f, x='Hi there!')

interact(f, x=['Choice A', 'Choice B'])
```

Or more than one value:

```
def f(w, x, y, z):
    return (w, x, y, z)

interact(f, w=10, x=True, y='Hi there!', z=['Choice A', 'Choice B'])
```

The type of value given calls for a specific widget (slider, check box, text box), that can be parametered. Here is a summary:

Type of value	Widget function	Usage example
Boolean	Checkbox()	True or False
String	Text()	'Hi there'
Integer	IntSlider()	value or (min,max) or (min,max,step) if integers are passed
Float	FloatSlider()	value or (min,max) or (min,max,step) if floats are passed
List	Dropdown()	['orange', 'apple'] or [('one', 1), ('two', 2)]

There are actually many more widgets, they can be found in [ipywidget documentation](#).

⚠ Warning

The interactivity is only kept in the Jupyter Notebook format `.ipynb` as it needs the Kernel to be run. That means that these interactive elements will not be exported in the `.html` format for example.

Which is also why the examples given in this website are not interactive!

❗ Exercise

Create an interactive plot based on the stacked bar chart from lesson 2. It should show the frequencies of only one (interactively) selected nucleotide for each sequence.

Export it in `.html`.

Bonus: allow for the choice of multiple nucleotides.

```
interactive(children=(Dropdown(description='columns', options=('A', 'T', 'C', 'G'), value='A',  
  
interactive(children=(SelectMultiple(description='Nucleotides', index=(0, 1), options=('A',  
  
<function __main__.interactive_plot(columns)>
```

20.2 Plotly express

`plotly.express` is a module used to create figures that are interactive. Refer to its [documentation](#) for more information.

⚠ Warning

It does not rely on the same grammar as `matplotlib`, so you have to get used to new objects and functions to create plots. We will not cover it here, but it is useful to know that `plotly.express` exists when creating Jupyter Notebooks

```
import plotly.express as px
import pandas as pd

df = pd.read_csv('exercise/data/example.txt', sep=' ')
df = pd.melt(df, var_name='nucl', value_name='freq', id_vars=['Seq'])

fig = px.bar(df, x="Seq", y="freq", color = "nucl", title="Nucleotide frequency")
fig.show()
```

21 Final exercise

! Exercise

Download the `GSE165691_DEG_result_table.xlsx` file from [GEO](#).

Create a new Jupyter Notebook to analyze this dataset. Use markdown cells as necessary to explain the process and results of the analysis. Throughout the notebook, use the following markdown elements:

- header
- bold
- links
- lists

1. Load the dataset into the Notebook using pandas.

Hint

Run the magic command `%pip install openpyxl` inside a cell of the Notebook. Now you can use `pd.read_excel()`!

2. Explore the datatable and describe it (number of rows, columns, column names and what they contain...). Importantly, get the following information:

- are there any value that are null? If so in which columns?
- number of unique genes
- min, max and mean of log2FC
- number genes with of `padj < 0.05`
- number of significantly up- and down-regulated genes (up: `log2FC > 1` and `padj < 0.05` and down: `log2FC < -1` and `padj < 0.05`)

Hint

For the last two information, you can make good use of either `.sum()` or `.value_counts()`.

3. Get the following values:

- the expression in both samples of the genes: Il31ra, Sox9, Lbp
- the gene with the highest log2FoldChange, and the gene with the lowest log2FoldChange.

Hint

For the last one, you can use `.idxmin()`, see [doc](#)

4. Make a histogram plot of the log2FoldChange.

Hint

pandas has built-in `plot` functions that are based on matplotlib.

5. Make a pie plot that gives the proportion of positive-log2FoldChange genes and negative-log2FoldChange genes.

Hint

Compute the number of positive and negative log2FoldChange first. Then use `plt.pie()`.

6. Make a volcano plot where up-regulated genes are red points, down-regulated genes are blue points, and other are grey.

Hint

Create a new column called `color` that has the value `red` for up-regulated genes, `blue` for down-regulated genes, and `grey` for others.

7. Just like 6 but make it interactive with widgets so that you can change the threshold of log2FoldChange and padj.
8. Just like 6 but make it interactive with plotly expression so that you can hoover your mouse on a point and get the name of the gene, and some other informations available about that gene (e.g. 'ensembl_gene_id', 'log2FoldChange', 'padj', 'symbol', 'PR661W_Vec', 'PR661W_TRPM1').

Hint

`plotly.express` behaves differently than `matplotlib`. You can create a new column called `color` that has the value `up-regulated` for up-regulated genes, `down-regulated` for down-regulated genes, and `Non-significant` for others.

9. Make a heatmap of the top 5 up-regulated and top 5 down-regulated (based on `log2FoldChange`) genes where the color corresponds to the log value of `norm.count.mean` column.

Hint

One way to order by absolute value of a column is: `df.sort_values(..., key=lambda x: abs(x))`.

Use `np.log()` from `numpy` package.

10. Export the notebook in html.

References

Here are some references and ressources that inspired this class:

- [Jupyter doc](#)
- [NIG course](#)

Part I

Archive 2024

22 Lesson 1 - Introduction, Data types, Operators

23 Introduction

23.1 Aim of the class

At the end of this class, you will:

- Be familiar with the Python environment
- Understand the major data types in Python
- Manipulate variables with operators and built-in functions



23.2 Requirements

Figure 23.1: Python logo

You need to have a computer, and either:

- [install Python 3.0.0](#) (or above) and install a text editor (Word is not a text editor!).

i Note

An IDE (integrated development environment) is an improved text editor. It is a software that provides functionalities like syntax highlighting, auto completion, help, debugger... For example Visual Studio Code ([install](#) and learn [how to use it with Python](#)), but [any other IDE](#) will work.

- have a github account, [create a new codespace](#), and select the Repository `vgilbart/python-intro` to copy from. This is a free solution up to 60 hours of computing and 15 GB per month.

23.3 What is Python?

Python is a programming language first released in 1991 and implemented by Guido van Rossum.

It is widely used, with various applications, such as:

- software development
- web development
- data analysis
- ...



Figure 23.2: Guido van Rossum

It supports different types of programming paradigms (i.e. way of thinking) including the procedural programming paradigm. In this approach, the program moves through a linear series of instructions.

```
# Create a string seq
seq = 'ATGAAGGGTCC'
# Call the function len() to retrieve the length of the string
size = len(seq)
# Call the function print() to print a text
print('The sequence has', size, 'bases.')
```

The sequence has 11 bases.

23.4 Why use Python?

- Easy-to-use and easy-to-read syntax
- Large standard library for many applications (`numpy` for tables/matrices, `matplotlib` for graphs, `scikit-learn` for machine learning...)
- Interactive mode making it easy to test short snippets of code
- Large community ([stackoverflow](#))

Me when people ask
me how I learned
programming:



Figure 23.3: Just google it!

23.5 How can I program in Python?

Python is an interpreted language, this means that all scripts written in Python need a software to be run. This software is called an interpreter, which “translate” each line of the code, into instructions that the computer can understand. By extension, the interpreter that is able to read Python scripts is also called Python. So, whenever you want your Python code to run, you give it to the Python interpreter.

23.5.1 Interactive mode

One way to launch the Python interpreter is to type the following, on the command line of a terminal:

```
python3
```

i Note

You can also try `python`, `/usr/bin/env python3`, `/usr/bin/python3`... There are many ways to call python! You can see where your current python is located by running `which python3`.

From this, you can start using python interactively, e.g. run:

```
print("Hello world")
```

```
Hello world
```

To get out of the Python interpreter, type `quit()` or `exit()`, followed by `enter`. Alternatively, on Linux/Mac press `[ctrl + d]`, on Windows press `[ctrl + z]`.

```
(base) MB1-4074-A:~ gilbartv$ python3
Python 3.11.5 (main, Sep 11 2023, 08:31:25) [Clang 14.0.6 ] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello world")
Hello world
>>> quit()
(base) MB1-4074-A:~ gilbartv$
```

Figure 23.4: Interactive mode

23.5.2 Script mode

To run a script, create a folder named `script`, in which a file named `intro.py` contains:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
# -*- coding: UTF-8 -*-

print("Hello world")
```

and run

```
./script/intro.py
```

You should get the same output as before, that is:

```
Hello world
```

The shebang `#!` followed by the interpreter `/usr/bin/env python3` can be put at the beginning of the script in order to omit calling `python3` in command-line. If you don't put it, you will have to run `python3 script/intro.py` instead of simply `./script/intro.py`.

The `-*- coding: UTF-8 -*-` specify the type of encoding to use. `UTF-8` is used by default (which means that this line in the script is not necessary). This accepts characters from all languages. Other valid `encoding` are available, such as `ascii` (English characters only).

Warning

Some common errors can occur at this step:

- `bash: script/intro.py: No such file or directory` i.e. you are not in the right directory to run the file.

Solution: run `ls */` and make sure you can find `script/`: `intro.py`, if not go to the correct directory by running `cd <insert directory name here>`

- `bash: script/intro.py: Permission denied` i.e. you don't have the right to execute your script.

Solution: run `ls -l script/intro.py` and make sure you have at least `-rwx` (read, write, execute rights) as the first 4 characters, if not run `chmod 744 script/intro.py` to change your rights.

24 Basic concepts

24.1 Values and variables

You will manipulate values such as integers, characters or dictionaries. These values can be stored in memory using variables. To assign a value to a variable, use the `=` operator as follow:

```
seq = 'ATGAAGGGTCC'
```

To output the variable value, either type the variable name or use a function like `print()`:

```
seq
```

```
'ATGAAGGGTCC'
```

```
print(seq)
```

```
ATGAAGGGTCC
```

We can change a variable value by assigning it a new one:

```
seq = seq + 'AAAA' # The + operator can be used to concatenate strings
seq
```

```
'ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA'
```

A variable can have a short name (like `x` and `y`) or a more descriptive name (`seq`, `motif`, `genome_file`). Rules for Python variable names:

- must start with a letter or the underscore character
- cannot start with a number
- can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and _)
- are case-sensitive (seq, Seq and SEQ are three different variables)
- cannot be any of the Python keywords (run `help('keywords')` to find the list of keywords).

! Exercise

Are the following variable names legal?

- `2_sequences`
- `_sequence`
- `seq-2`
- `seq 2`

You can try to assign a value to these variable names to be sure of your answer!

24.2 Function calls

A function stores a piece of code that performs a certain task, and that gets run when called. It takes some data as input (parameters that are required or optional), and returns an output (that can be of any type). Some functions are predefined (but we will also learn how to create our own later on).

To run a function, write its name followed by parenthesis. Parameters are added inside the parenthesis as follow:

```
# round(number, ndigits=None)
x = round(number = 5.76543, ndigits = 2)
print(x)
```

5.77

Here the function `round()` needs as input a numerical value. As an option, one can add the number of decimal places to be used with digits. If an option is not provided, a default value is given. In the case of the option `ndigits`, `None` is the default. The function returns a numerical value, that corresponds to the rounded value. This value, just like any other, can be stored in a variable.

To get more information about a function, use the `help()` function.

i Note

If you provide the parameters in the exact same order as they are defined, you don't have to name them. If you name the parameters you can switch their order. As good practice, put all required parameters first.

```
round(5.76543, 2)
```

5.77

```
round(ndigits = 2, number = 5.76543)
```

5.77

In Table 24.1 you will find some basic but useful python functions:

Table 24.1: List of useful Python functions.

Function	Description
<code>print()</code>	Print into the screen the values given in argument.
<code>help()</code>	Execute the built-in help system
<code>quit()</code> or <code>exit()</code>	Exit from Python
<code>len()</code>	Return the length of an object
<code>round()</code>	Round a numbers

Note

In python, you will also hear about methods. This vocabulary belongs to a programming paradigm called “Object-oriented programming” (OOP).

A method is a function that belongs to a specific class of objects. It is defined within a class and operates only on objects from that class. Methods can access and modify the object’s state.

24.3 Getting help

To get more information about a function or an operator, you can use the `help()` function. For example, in interactive mode, run `help(print)` to display the help of the `print()` function, giving you information about the input and output of this function. If you need information about an operator, you will have to put it into quotes, e.g. `help('+')`

Browse the help

If the help is long, press `[enter]` to get the next line or `[space]` to get the next ‘page’ of information.

To quit the help, press `q`.

24.4 Comment your code

Except for the shebang and coding specifications seen before, all things after a hashtag `#` character will be ignored by the interpreter until the end of the line. This is used to add comments in your code.

Comments are used to:

- explain assumptions
- justify decisions in the code
- expose the problem being solved
- inactivate a line to help debug

• ...

25 How can I represent data?

Each programming language has its own set of data types, from the most basics (`bool`, `int`, `string`) to more complex structures (`list`, `tuple`, `set`...).

25.1 Simple data types

25.1.1 Boolean

Booleans represent one of two values: `True` or `False`.

When you compare two values, the expression is evaluated and Python returns the Boolean answer:

```
print(10 > 9)
```

True

25.1.2 Numeric

Python provides three kinds of numerical type:

- `int` (\mathbb{Z}), integers
- `float` (\mathbb{R}), real numbers
- `complex` (\mathbb{C}), complex numbers

Python will assign a numerical type automatically.

```
x = 1
y = 2.8
z = 1j + 2 # j is the convention in electrical engineering
```

```
type(x)
```

int

```
type(y)
```

float

```
type(z)
```

complex

25.1.3 Text

String type represents textual data composed of letters, numbers, and symbols. The character string must be expressed between quotes.

```
"""my string"""
'''my string'''
"my string"
'my string'
```

are all the same thing. The difference with triple quotes is that it allows a string to extend over multiple lines. You can also use single quotes and double quotes freely within the triple quotes.

```
# A multi-line string
my_str = '''This is a multi-line string. This is the first line.
This is the second line.
"What's your name?," I asked.
He said "Bond, James Bond."
'''

print(my_str)
```

```
This is a multi-line string. This is the first line.  
This is the second line.  
"What's your name?," I asked.  
He said "Bond, James Bond."
```

You can get the number of characters inside a string with `len()`.

```
print(seq)  
len(seq)
```

ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA

15

Strings have specific methods (i.e. functions specific to this class of object). Here are a few:

Method	Description
<code>.count()</code>	Returns the number of times a specified value occurs in a string
<code>.startswith()</code>	Returns true if the string starts with the specified value
<code>.endswith()</code>	Returns true if the string ends with the specified value
<code>.find()</code>	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found
<code>.replace()</code>	Returns a string where a specified value is replaced with a specified value

They are called like this:

```
seq.count('A')
```

7

💡 Tip

To get the `help()` of the `.count()` method, you need to run `help(str.count)`.

❗ Exercise

1. Check if the sequence `seq` starts with the codon ATG
2. Replace all T into U in `seq`

25.2 Data structures

Data structures are a collection of data types and/or data structures, organized in some way.

25.2.1 List

List is a collection which is ordered and changeable. It allows duplicate members. They are created using square brackets `[]`.

```
seq = ['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'AGTCCCCGTATGAT', 'ACCT', 'ACCT']
```

List items are indexed, the first item has index `[0]`, the second item has index `[1]` etc.

```
seq[1]
```

```
'AGTCCCCGTATGAT'
```

💡 Tip

You can count backwards, with the index `[-1]` that retrieves the last item.

As a list is changeable, we can change, add, and remove items in a list after it has been created.

```
seq[1] = 'ATG'  
seq
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG', 'ACCT', 'ACCT']
```

You can specify a range of indexes by specifying the start (included) and the end (not included) of the range.

```
seq[0:2]
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG']
```

💡 Tip

By leaving out the start value, the range will start at the first item:

```
seq[:2]
```

```
['ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA', 'ATG']
```

Similarly, by leaving out the end value, the range will end at the last item.

ℹ Note

Indexes also conveniently work on `str` types.

```
print(seq[0])
print(seq[0][0:5])
print(seq[0][2])
print(seq[0][-1])
```

```
ATGAAGGGTCCAAAA
ATGAA
G
A
```

You can get how many items are in a list with `len()`.

```
len(seq)
```

4

Lists have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
<code>.append()</code>	Inserts an item at the end
<code>.insert()</code>	Inserts an item at the specified index
<code>.extend()</code>	Append elements from another list to the current list
<code>.remove()</code>	Removes the first occurrence of a specified item
<code>.pop()</code>	Removes the specified (by default last) index

! Exercise

1. Create a list `l = ['AAA', 'AAT', 'AAC']`, and add AAG at the end, using `.append()`.
2. Replace all T into U in the element AAT, using `.replace()`.

25.2.2 Tuple

Tuple is a collection which is ordered and unchangeable. It allows duplicate members. Tuples are written with round brackets () .

```
my_favorite_amino_acid = ('Y', 'Tyr', 'Tyrosine')
```

Just like for the list, you can get items with their index. The only difference is that you cannot change a tuple that has been created.

Tuples have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.count()	Returns the number of times a specified value occurs
.index()	Searches for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found

! Exercise

Try to change the value of the first element of `my_favorite_amino_acid` and see what happens.

25.2.3 Set

Set is a collection which is unordered and unindexed. It does not allow duplicate members (they will be ignored). Sets are written with curly brackets {}.

```
seq = {'BRCA1', 'TP53', 'EGFR', 'MYC'}
```

Once a set is created, you cannot change its items directly (as they don't have index), but you modify the set by removing and adding items.

Sets have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.add()	Adds an element to the set

Method	Description
.difference()	Returns a set containing the difference between two sets
.intersection()	Returns a set containing the intersection between two sets
.union()	Returns a set containing the union of two sets
.remove()	Remove the specified item
.pop()	Removes a random element

! Exercise

Get the common genes between the following sets:

```
organism1_genes = {'BRCA1', 'TP53', 'EGFR', 'MYC'}
organism2_genes = {'TP53', 'MYC', 'KRAS', 'BRAF'}
```

25.2.4 Dictionary

Dictionaries are used to store data values in `key: value` pairs. A dictionary is a collection which is ordered (as of Python >= 3.7), changeable and does not allow duplicates keys. Dictionaries are written with curly brackets {}, with keys and values.

```
organism1_genes = {
    #key: value;
    'BRCA1': 'DNA repair',
    'TP53': 'Tumor suppressor',
    'EGFR': 'Cell growth',
    'MYC': 'Regulation of gene expression'
}
```

Dictionary items can be referred to by using the key name.

```
organism1_genes["BRCA1"]
```

```
'DNA repair'
```

Dictionaries have specific methods. Here are a few:

Method	Description
.items()	Returns a list containing a tuple for each key value pair
.keys()	Returns a list containing the dictionary's keys
.values()	Returns a list of all the values in the dictionary
.pop()	Removes the element with the specified key
.get()	Returns the value of the specified key

! Exercise

From the dictionary `organism1_genes` created as example, get the value of the key `BRCA1`. If the key does not exist, return `Unknown` by default. Try your code before **and after** removing the `BRCA1` key:value pair.

Check the help of `get` by running `help(dict.get)`.

25.3 Conversion between types

You can get the data type of any object by using the function `type()`. You can (more or less easily) convert between data types.

Function	Description
<code>bool()</code>	Convert to boolean type
<code>int(), float()</code>	Convert between integer or float types
<code>complex()</code>	Convert to complex type
<code>str()</code>	Convert to string type
<code>list(), tuple(), set()</code>	Convert between list, tuple, and set types

Function	Description
<code>dict()</code>	Convert a tuple of order (key, value) into a dictionary type

```
bool(1)
```

True

```
int(5.8)
```

5

```
str(1)
```

'1'

```
list({1, 2, 3})
```

[1, 2, 3]

```
set([1, 2, 3, 3])
```

{1, 2, 3}

```
dict([('a', 1),
      ('f', 2),
      ('g', 3)))
```

{'a': 1, 'f': 2, 'g': 3}

26 How can I manipulate data?

In the previous section we have learned how data can be represented in different types and gathered in various data structures. In this section we will see how we can manipulate data in order to do more complex tasks.

26.1 Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values. We will present a few common ones here.

26.1.1 Arithmetic operators

Arithmetic operators are used with numeric values to perform common mathematical operations:

Operator	Name
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
*	Multiplication
/	Division
**	Power

⚠ Warning

Do not use the `^` operator to raise to a power. That is actually the operator for bitwise XOR, which we will not cover.

Python will convert data type according to what is necessary. Thus, when you divide two `int` you will obtain a `float` number, if you add a `float` to an `int`, you will get a `float`, ...

```
# Example  
2/10
```

0.2

i Note

- + also conveniently work on `str` types.

```
'AC' + 'AT'
```

```
'ACAT'
```

26.1.2 Assignment operators

Assignment operators are used to assign values to variables:

Operator	Example as	Same as
=	<code>x = 5</code>	<code>x = 5</code>
<code>+=</code>	<code>x += 5</code>	<code>x = x + 5</code>
<code>-=</code>	<code>x -= 5</code>	<code>x = x - 5</code>

i Note

The same principle applies to multiplication, division and power, but are less commonly used.

26.1.3 Comparison operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two values:

Operator	Name
<code>==</code>	Equal
<code>!=</code>	Not equal
<code>></code>	Greater than
<code>>=</code>	Greater than or equal to
<code><</code>	Less than
<code><=</code>	Less than or equal to

```
# Example
2 == 1 + 1
```

True

⚠ Warning

You should never use equality operators (`==` or `!=`) with floats or complex values.

```
# Example
2.1 + 3.2 == 5.3
```

False

This is a floating point arithmetic problem seen in other programming languages. It is due to the difficulty of having a fixed number of binary digits (bits) to accurately represent some decimal number. This leads to small rounding errors in calculations.

```
2.1 + 3.2
```

5.300000000000001

If you need to use equality operators, do it with a degree of freedom:

```
tol = 1e-6 ; abs((2.1 + 3.2) - 5.3) < tol
```

True

26.1.4 Logical operators

Logical operators are used to combine conditional statements:

Operator	Description
and	Returns True if both statements are true
or	Returns True if one of the statements is true
not	Reverse the result, returns False if the result is true

```
# Example  
False and False, False and True, True and False, True and True
```

(False, False, False, True)

```
# Example  
False or False, False or True, True or False, True or True
```

(False, True, True, True)

```
# Example  
True or not True
```

True

26.1.5 Membership operators

Operator	Description
in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is present in the object
not in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is not present in the object

```
# Example  
'ACCT' in seq
```

```
False
```

26.1.6 Operator precedence

Operator precedence describes the order in which operations are performed.

The precedence order is described in the table below, starting with the highest precedence at the top:

Operator	Description
()	Parenthesis
**	Power
* /	Multiplication, division
+ -	Addition, subtraction
==, !=, >, >=, <, <=, is, is not, in, not in,	Comparisons, identity, and membership operators
not	Logical NOT
and	AND
or	OR

If two operators have the same precedence, the expression is evaluated from left to right.

! Exercise

Try to guess what will output the following expressions:

- `1+1 == 2 and "actg" == "ACTG"`
- `True or False and True and False`
- `"Homo sapiens" == "Homo" + "sapiens"`
- `'Tumor suppressor' in organism1_genes`

Verify with Python.

26.2 Conditionals

Conditionals allows you to make decisions in your code based on certain conditions.

```
if something is true:  
    do task a  
otherwise:  
    do task b
```

The comparison (==, !=, >, >=, <, <=), logical (and, or, not) and membership (in, not in) operators can be used as conditions.

In Python, this is written with an if ... elif ... else statement like so:

```
# Define gene expression levels  
gene1_expression = 100  
gene2_expression = 50  
  
# Analyze gene expression levels  
if gene1_expression > gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 1 has higher expression level.")  
elif gene1_expression < gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 2 has higher expression level.")  
else:  
    print("Gene 1 and Gene 2 have the same expression level.")
```

Gene 1 has higher expression level.

The elif keyword is Python's way of saying "if the previous conditions were not true, then try this condition". The following code is equivalent to the one before:

```
# Analyze gene expression levels  
if gene1_expression > gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 1 has higher expression level.")  
else:
```

```
if gene1_expression < gene2_expression:  
    print("Gene 2 has higher expression level.")  
else:  
    print("Gene 1 and Gene 2 have the same expression level.")
```

Gene 1 has higher expression level.

! Exercise

Are these two codes equivalent?

```
# Code A  
if "ATG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Start codon found.")  
elif "TAG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Stop codon found.")  
else:  
    print("No interesting codon not found.")
```

```
# Code B  
if "ATG" in dna_sequence:  
    print("Start codon found.")  
    if "TAG" in dna_sequence:  
        print("Stop codon found.")  
else:  
    print("No interesting codon not found.")
```

An `if` statement cannot be empty, but if for some reason you have an `if` statement with no content, put in the `pass` statement to avoid getting an error.

```
a = 33  
b = 200  
  
if b > a:  
    pass
```

26.3 Notes on indentation

i Note

Python relies on **indentation** (the spaces at the beginning of the lines).

Indentation is not just for readability. In Python, you use spaces or tabs to indent code blocks. Python uses it to determine the scope of functions, loops, conditional statements, and classes.

Any code that is at the same level of indentation is considered part of the same block. Blocks of code are typically defined by starting a line with a colon (:) and then indenting the following lines.

When you have nested structures like a conditional statement inside another conditional statement, you must further to show the hierarchy. Each level of indentation represents a deeper level of nesting.

It's essential to be consistent with your indentation throughout your code. Mixing tabs and spaces can lead to errors, so it's recommended to choose one and stick with it.

! Exercise

Here are three codes, they all are incorrect, can you tell why?

Of course, you can run them and read the error that Python gives!

```
amino_acid_list = ["MET", "ARG", "THR", "GLY"]

if "MET" in amino_acid_list:
    print("Start codon found.")
    if "GLY" in amino_acid_list:
        print("Glycine found.")
else:
    print("Start codon not found.")
```

```
dna_sequence = "ATGCTAGCTAGCTAG"

if "ATG" in dna_sequence:
    print("Start codon found.")
if "TAG" in dna_sequence
    print("Stop codon found.")
```

```
x = 7

if x > 5:
    print("x is greater than 5")
    if y > 10:
        print("x is greater than 10")
    elif y == 10:
        print("x equals 10")
    else:
        print("x is less than 10")
```

26.4 Iterations

Iteration involves repeating a set of instructions or a block of code multiple times.

There are two types of loops in python, `for` and `while`.

Iterating through data structures like lists allows you to access each element individually, making it easier to perform operations on them.

26.4.1 For loops

When using a for loop, you iterate over a sequence of elements, such as a list, tuple, or dictionary.

```
for item in data_structure:
    do task a
```

The loop will execute the indented block of code for each element in the sequence until all elements have been processed. This is particularly useful when you know the number of times you need to iterate.

```
all_codons = [
    'AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAT',
    'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACT',
    'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGT',
    'ATA', 'ATC', 'ATG', 'ATT',
    'CAA', 'CAC', 'CAG', 'CAT',
    'CCA', 'CCC', 'CCG', 'CCT',
    'CGA', 'CGC', 'CGG', 'CGT',
    'CTA', 'CTC', 'CTG', 'CTT',
    'GAA', 'GAC', 'GAG', 'GAT',
    'GCA', 'GCC', 'GCG', 'GCT',
    'GGA', 'GGC', 'GGG', 'GGT',
    'GTA', 'GTC', 'GTG', 'GTT',
    'TAA', 'TAC', 'TAG', 'TAT',
    'TCA', 'TCC', 'TCG', 'TCT',
    'TGA', 'TGC', 'TGG', 'TGT',
    'TTA', 'TTC', 'TTG', 'TTT'
]

count = 0
for codon in all_codons:
    if codon[1] == 'T':
        count += 1

print(count, 'codons have a T as a second nucleotide.')
```

```
16 codons have a T as a second nucleotide.
```

What it does is the following: it processes each element in the list `all_codons`, called in the following code `codon`. If the codon has as a second character a T, it adds 1 to a counter (the variable called `count`).



Warning

You cannot modify an element of a list that way.

```
for codon in all_codons:  
    if 'T' in codon :  
        codon = codon.replace('T', 'U')  
  
print(all_codons)
```

['AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAT', 'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACT', 'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGT', 'ATA',

This is because `all_codons` was converted to an iterator in the `for` statement.

26.4.2 Iterators

An iterator is a special object that gives values in succession.

In the previous example, the iterator returns a copy of the item in a list, not a reference to it. Therefore, the `codon` inside the `for` block is not a view into the original list, and changing it does not do anything.

A way to modify the list would be to use an iterable to access the original data. The `range(start, stop)` function creates an iterable to count from one integer to another.

```
for i in range(2, 10):  
    print(i, end=' ')
```

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

We could count from 0 to the size of the list, loop through every element of the list by calling them by their index, and modify them if necessary. That's what the following code does:

```
for i in range(0, len(all_codons)):
    if 'T' in all_codons[i] :
        all_codons[i] = all_codons[i].replace('T', 'U')

print(all_codons)
```

```
['AAA', 'AAC', 'AAG', 'AAU', 'ACA', 'ACC', 'ACG', 'ACU', 'AGA', 'AGC', 'AGG', 'AGU', 'AUA', 'AU
```

Another useful function that returns an iterator is `enumerate()`. It is an iterator that generates pairs of index and value. It is commonly used when you need to access both the index and value of items simultaneously.

```
seq = 'ATGCATGC'

# Print index and identity of bases
for i, base in enumerate(seq):
    print(i, base)
```

```
0 A
1 T
2 G
3 C
4 A
5 T
6 G
7 C
```

```
# Loop through sequence and print index of G's
for i, base in enumerate(seq):
    if base in 'G':
        print(i, end=' ')
```

```
2 6
```

26.4.3 While loops

A while loop continues executing a set of statement as long as a condition is true.

```
while condition is true:  
    do task a
```

This type of loop is handy when you're not sure how many iterations you'll need to perform or when you need to repeat a block of code until a certain condition is met.

```
seq = 'TACTCTGTCGATCGTACGTATGCAAGCTGATGCATGATTGACTTCAGTATCGAGCGCAGCA'  
start_codon = 'ATG'  
  
# Initialize sequence index  
i = 0  
# Scan sequence until we hit the start codon  
while seq[i:i+3] != start_codon:  
    i += 1  
  
# Show the result  
print('The start codon begins at index', i)
```

The start codon begins at index 19



Warning

Remember to increment `i`, or you'll get stuck in a loop.

Actually, the previous code is quite dangerous. You can also get stuck in a loop... if the `start_codon` does not appear in `seq` at all.

Indeed, even when you go above the given length of `seq`, the condition `seq[i:i+3] != start_codon` will still be true because `seq[i:i+3]` will output an empty string.



Figure 26.1: Hopefully not you!

```
seq[9999:9999+3]
```

..

So, once the end of the sequence is reached, the condition `seq[i:i+3] != start_codon` will always be true, and you'll get stuck in an infinite loop.

i Note

To get interrupt a process, press [ctrl + c].

26.4.4 Break statement

Iteration stops in a `for` loop when the iterator is exhausted. It stops in a `while` loop when the conditional evaluates to `False`. There is another way to stop iteration: the `break` keyword. Whenever `break` is encountered in a `for` or `while` loop, the iteration stops and execution continues outside the loop.

```
seq = 'ACCATTTTGGGGGGGGAGGGGGG'
start_codon = 'ATG'

# Initialize sequence index
i = 0
# Scan sequence until we hit the start codon
while seq[i:i+3] != start_codon:
    i += 1
    if i+3 > len(seq): # Get out of the loop if we parsed the full seq
        print('Codon not found in sequence.')
        break
else:
    print('The start codon starts at index', i)
```

Codon not found in sequence.

i Note

Also, note that the `else` statement can be used in `for` and `while` loops. In `for` loops it is executed when the **loop is finished**. In `while` loops, it is executed when the condition is **no longer true**. In both cases, the loops need to **not** encounter a `break` to enter in the `else` block.

26.4.5 Continue statement

In addition to the `break` statement, there is also the `continue` statement in Python that can be used to alter the flow of iteration in loops. When `continue` is encountered within a loop, it skips the remaining code inside the loop for the current iteration and moves on to the next iteration.

Here's an example showcasing the `continue` statement in a loop:

```
# List of DNA sequences
dna_sequences = ['ATGCTAGCTAG', 'ATCGATCGATC', 'ATGGCTAGCTA', 'ATGTAGCTAGC']

# Find sequences starting with a start codon
for sequence in dna_sequences:
    if sequence[:3] != 'ATG': # Check if the sequence does not start with a start codon
        print(f"Sequence '{sequence}' does not start with a start codon. Skipping analysis.")
        continue # Skip further analysis for this sequence
    print(f"Analyzing sequence '{sequence}' for protein coding regions...")
    # Additional analysis code here
else:
    print('All sequences were processed.')
```

```
Analyzing sequence 'ATGCTAGCTAG' for protein coding regions...
Sequence 'ATCGATCGATC' does not start with a start codon. Skipping analysis.
Analyzing sequence 'ATGGCTAGCTA' for protein coding regions...
Analyzing sequence 'ATGTAGCTAGC' for protein coding regions...
All sequences were processed.
```

The `continue` statement in this example skips the analysis code for sequence that does not start with a start codon.

26.4.6 Exercises

! Exercise 1

Given a list of DNA sequences, find the first sequence that contains a specific motif 'TATA', print the sequence, and stop the process. If no sequence contains the motif, print a message accordingly. You must use only one `for` loop. With the input given below, the output should look like this:

```
# List of DNA sequences with a TATA
dna_sequences = [
    'ATGCTACAGCTAG',
    'ATCGATATAATC', # TATA
    'ATGGCTAGCTA',
    'ATGTAGCTAGC',
    'ATGTAGCTATA'   # TATA
]

for ...
    # Your code here
```

Sequence 'ATCGATATAATC' contains the 'TATA' motif.

```
# List of DNA sequences without a TATA
dna_sequences = [
    'ATGCTACAGCTAG',
    'ATCGATACAATC',
    'ATGGCTAGCTA',
    'ATGTAGCTAGC'
]

for ...
    # Your code here
```

No sequence contains the 'TATA' motif.

! Exercise 2

Analyze a DNA sequence to count the number of consecutive 'A' nucleotides. You must use only one `while` loop. With the input given below, the output should look like this:

```
# DNA sequence to analyze
dna_sequence = 'ATGATAAGAGAAAGTAAAAGCGATCGAAAAAA'

while ...
    # Your code here
```

```
Number of consecutive 'A's: 6
```

27 Conclusion

Congrats! You now know the (very) basics of Python programming.

If you want to keep on practising with simple exercises, you can check out [w3schools](#).

For more biology-related exercises check out [pythonforbiologist.org](#), they have exercises available in each chapters.

For french speakers, the AFPy (Association Francophone Python) has a learning tool called [HackInScience](#).

Or keep on googling for more python exercises!

To continue your learning journey, follow [lesson 2](#).

References

A [python conference](#) organized by the AFPy (Association Francophone Python) is held in Strasbourg in the end of October 2024!

Here are some references and ressources that (greatly) inspired this class:

- [Python doc](#)
- [w3schools](#)
- [pythonforbiologists](#)
- [justinbois's Bootcamp](#)

28 Lesson 2 - Functions, Errors, File Handling, Scientific Packages

29 Introduction

29.1 Aim of the class

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Create simple functions
- Handle some errors
- Ask for input from the user
- Upload, modify and download files into Python
- Import packages (and use in a simple manner some scientific packages)

29.2 Requirements

Remembering some of [lesson 1](#).

30 Function

A function stores a piece of code that performs a certain task, and that gets run when called. It takes some data as input (parameters that are required or optional), and returns an output (that can be of any type).

💡 Tip

We already learned how to run a predefined function in the last lesson. You need to write its name followed by parenthesis. Parameters are added inside the parenthesis as follow:

```
# round(number, ndigits=None)
x = round(number = 5.76543, ndigits = 2)
print(x)
```

5.77

To get more information about a function, use the `help()` function.

We will now learn how to create our own function.

30.1 Syntax

In python, a function is declared with the keyword `def` followed by its name, and the arguments inside parenthesis. The next block of code, corresponding to the content of the function, must be indented. The output is defined by the `return` keyword.

```
def hello(name):
    """Presenting myself."""
    presentation = "Hello, my name is {0}.".format(name)
    return presentation

text = hello(name = "Valentine")
print(text)
```

Hello, my name is Valentine.

30.2 Documentation

As you may have noticed, you can also add a description of the function directly after the function definition. It is the message that will be shown when running `help()`. As it can be along text over multiple lines, it is common to put it inside triple quotes """.

```
help(hello)
```

Help on function hello in module __main__:

```
hello(name)
    Presenting myself.
```

30.3 Arguments

You can have several arguments. They can be mandatory or optional. To make them optional, they need to have a default value assigned inside the function definition, like so:

```
def hello(name, french = True):
    """Presenting myself."""
    if french:
        presentation = "Bonjour, je m'appelle {0}."
    else:
```

```
    presentation = "Hello, my name is {0}."  
    return presentation.format(name)
```

The parameter `name` is mandatory, but `french` is optional.

```
hello("Valentine")
```

"Bonjour, je m'appelle Valentine."

```
hello(french = False)
```

```
TypeError: hello() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

```
-----  
TypeError                                 Traceback (most recent call last)  
Cell In[7], line 1  
----> 1 hello(french = False)  
TypeError: hello() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

i Note

Reminder: if you provide the parameters in the exact same order as they are defined, you don't have to name them. If you name the parameters you can switch their order. As good practice, put all required parameters first.

```
hello(french = False, name = "Valentine")
```

'Hello, my name is Valentine.'

```
hello("Valentine", False)
```

'Hello, my name is Valentine.'

30.4 Output

If no `return` statement is given, then no output will be returned, but the function will still be run.

```
def hello(name):
    """Presenting myself."""
    print("We are inside the 'hello()' function.")
    presentation = "Hello, my name is {}".format(name)

print(hello("Valentine"))
```

We are inside the 'hello()' function.

None

The output can be of any type. If you have a lot of things to return, you might want to return a list or a dict for example.

```
def multiple_of_3(list_of_numbers):
    """Returns the number that are multiple of 3."""
    multiples = []
    for num in list_of_numbers:
        if num % 3 == 0:
            multiples.append(num)
    return multiples

multiple_of_3(range(1, 20, 2))
```

[3, 9, 15]

i Note

This could be written as a one-liner.

```
def multiple_of_3(list_of_numbers):
    """Returns the number that are multiple of 3."""
    multiples = [num for num in list_of_numbers if num % 3 == 0]
    return multiples

multiple_of_3(range(1, 20, 2))
```

[3, 9, 15]

30.5 Exercise

! Exercise

Write a function called `nucl_freq` to compute nucleotide frequency of a sequence. Given a sequence as input, it outputs a dictionary with keys being the nucleotides A, T, C and G, and values being their frequency in the sequence. With the input given below, the output should be:

```
def ...  
    # Your code here  
  
nucl_freq("ATTCCCGGGG")  
  
{'A': 0.1, 'T': 0.2, 'G': 0.4, 'C': 0.3}
```

31 Exceptions Handling

31.1 Syntax

It is possible to handle errors (in python, they are also called exceptions), using the following statements:

- `try` to test a block of code for errors
- `except` to handle the error
- `else` to execute code if there is no error
- `finally` to execute code, regardless of the result of the try and except blocks

```
# The try block will generate an exception, because some_undefined_variable is not defined:  
try:  
    print(some_undefined_variable)  
except:  
    print("Oops... Something went wrong")
```

Oops... Something went wrong

```
# Without the try block, the program will crash and raise an error:  
print(some_undefined_variable)
```

```
NameError: name 'some_undefined_variable' is not defined
```

```
NameError Traceback (most recent call last)  
Cell In[17], line 2  
      1 # Without the try block, the program will crash and raise an error:  
----> 2 print(some_undefined_variable)  
NameError: name 'some_undefined_variable' is not defined
```

```

try:
    print(some_undefined_variable)
except:
    print("Oops... Something went wrong")
else:
    print("Nothing went wrong")
finally:
    print("The 'try except' is finished")

```

Oops... Something went wrong
 The 'try except' is finished

31.2 Raising exceptions

Here is a table of some of the built-in exceptions in python.

Exception	Description
IndexError	Raised when the index of a sequence is out of range.
KeyError	Raised when a key is not found in a dictionary.
KeyboardInterrupt	Raised when the user hits the interrupt key (Ctrl+c or Delete).
NameError	Raised when a variable is not found in the local or global scope.
TypeError	Raised when a function or operation is applied to an object of an incorrect type.
ValueError	Raised when a function receives an argument of the correct type but of an incorrect value.
RuntimeError	Raised when an error occurs that do not belong to any specific exceptions.
Exception	Base class of exceptions.

You can use them to be more specific about the type of exception occurring.

```
try:  
    print(some_undefined_variable)  
except NameError:  
    print("A variable is not defined")  
except:  
    print("Oops... Something went wrong")  
else:  
    print("Nothing went wrong")  
finally:  
    print("The 'try except' is finished")
```

```
A variable is not defined  
The 'try except' is finished
```

You can also use them to throw an exception if a condition occurs, by using the `raise` keyword.

```
x = "hello"  
try:  
    if not isinstance(x, int):  
        raise TypeError("Only integers are allowed")  
    if x < 0:  
        raise ValueError("Sorry, no numbers below zero")  
    print(x, "is a positive integer.")  
except NameError:  
    print("A variable is not defined")  
else:  
    print("Nothing went wrong")  
finally:  
    print("The 'try except' is finished")
```

```
The 'try except' is finished
```

```
TypeError: Only integers are allowed
```

```
TypeError
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last)
```

```
Cell In[20], line 4
  2 try:
  3     if not isinstance(x, int):
----> 4         raise TypeError("Only integers are allowed")
  5     if x < 0:
  6         raise ValueError("Sorry, no numbers below zero")
TypeError: Only integers are allowed
```

31.3 Exercise

! Exercise

Let's make our previous function even better by adding some exception handling. Raise a `TypeError` if the input is not a string. Raise a `ValueError` if the input string contains something else than the nucleotides A, C, T, G.

With the input given below, the output and errors should be:

```
def ...
    # Your code here

nucl_freq(5474)
nucl_freq("ATTCXCCGGGG")
nucl_freq("ATTCCCAGGGG")
```

`TypeError: Input must be a string.`

```
TypeError                                         Traceback (most recent call last)
Cell In[21], line 15
  12     freq[nucl] = seq.count(nucl)/n
  13     return freq
----> 15 nucl_freq(5474)
  16 nucl_freq("ATTCXCCGGGG")
  17 nucl_freq("ATTCCCAGGGG")
Cell In[21], line 3, in nucl_freq(seq)
  1 def nucl_freq(seq):
  2     if not isinstance(seq, str):
```

```
----> 3     raise TypeError("Input must be a string.")
      4     valid_nucl = {"A", "T", "C", "G"}
      5     seq_nucl = set(seq)
TypeError: Input must be a string.
```

32 User-defined input

There are some interesting ways to get input from the user:

- `input()` receives input from the keyboard. This means that the input is defined *while* the python script is being executed.
- `sys.argv` takes arguments provided in command line after the name of the program. This means that the input is defined *before* the python script is being executed.
- `argparse` is similar to `sys.argv`, with the advantage of being able to give specific names to arguments.

32.1 `input`

Python stops executing when it comes to the `input()` function, and continues when the user has given some input.

In a file called `username-1.py`, write the following:

```
username = input("Enter username: ")
print("Username is: " + username)
```

Then in the terminal, run:

```
#| eval: False
python username-1.py
```

You should be asked, in command line, to enter a username. When you write it, and press Enter, it gets printed.

```
Enter username: vgilbart
Username is: vgilbart
```

32.2 sys.argv

To use `sys.argv` you need to import a module called `sys`. It is part of the standard python library, so you should not have to install anything in particular.

In a file called `username-2.py`, write the following:

```
import sys  
  
print("Username is: " + sys.argv[1])
```

Then in the terminal, run:

```
#| eval: False  
python username-2.py vgilbart
```

Arguments are given in command line, separated by [space].

Username is: vgilbart

i Note

What is the type of `sys.argv`? Remember that in python index begins at 0. What do you think is `sys.argv[0]`? Verify!

Also, what happens if you run `python username-2.py valentine gilbart` ?

32.3 argparse

Just like for `sys`, you need to import `argparse`.

In a file called `username-3.py`, write the following:

```
import argparse
parser = argparse.ArgumentParser()
parser.add_argument('--username', action="store")

args = parser.parse_args()
print("Username is: " + args.username)
```

Then in the terminal, run:

```
#| eval: False
python username-3.py --username vgilbart
```

Arguments are given in command line, but they have specific names.

i Note

`argparse` is a very useful module when creating programs! You can easily specify the expected type of argument, whether it is optional or not, and create a help for your script. Check their [tutorial](#) for more information.

33 File Handling

The key function to work with files is `open()`. It has two parameters `file` and `mode`.

```
# Write the correct path for you!
fasta_file = 'exercise/data/example.fasta'
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')
```

The modes can be one of the following:

Mode	Description
r	Opens a file for reading, error if the file does not exist (default)
a	Opens a file for appending, creates the file if it does not exist
w	Opens a file for writing, creates the file if it does not exist
x	Creates the specified file, returns an error if the file exists

33.1 Reading

The `open()` function returns a file object, which has a `read()` method for reading the content of the file:

```
print(f.read())
```

```
>seq1
TTAGCTAAATAGCTAGCAAACTAGCTAGCTAAAAAAAAACTAGCTAGCT
>seq2
ATGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCTCGCTCGCCAGCCAGCTAGCTA
```

```
>seq3
CCGGGCGGTGATGGATGGAGGGAGCGAGCGATCGATCGTCGATCGGTG
>seq4
GATCGATCGATCTTTATCGATCGATTGTTCTTCGATCGTCTATCGA
>seq5
ACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTAT
```

The parameter `size =` can be added to specify the number of bytes (~ characters) to return.

```
# We need to re-open it because we have already parsed the whole file
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')
print(f.read(2))
```

>s

You can return one line by using the `.readline()` method. By calling it two times, you can read the two first lines:

```
f = open(fasta_file, mode = 'r')
print(f.readline())
print(f.readline())
```

>seq1

TTAGCTAAATAGCTAGCAAATAGCTAGCTAAAAAAACTAGCTAGCT

By looping through the lines of the file, you can read the whole file, line by line:

```
for i, line in enumerate(f):
    print(i, line)
```

0 >seq2

1 ATGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCCAGCTCGCTCGCCAGCCAGCTAGCTA

2 >seq3

```
3 CCGGGCGGTCGATGGATGGAGGGAGCGAGCGATCGATCGGTGATCGGTG
```

```
4 >seq4
```

```
5 GATCGATCGATTTTATCGATCGATTGTTCTTCGATCGTTCTATCGA
```

```
6 >seq5
```

```
7 ACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTACGTAT
```

It is a good practice to close the file when you are done with it.

```
f.close()
```

 Warning

In some cases, changes made to a file may not show until you close the file.

 Note

A common syntax to handle files that you might encounter is:

```
with open(fasta_file, 'r') as f:  
    print(f.readline())
```

```
>seq1
```

This code is equivalent to

```
f = open(fasta_file, 'r')  
try:  
    print(f.readline())  
finally:  
    f.close()
```

```
>seq1
```

The `with` statement is an example of a context manager, i.e. it allows to allocate and release resources precisely, by cleaning up the resources once they are no longer needed.

33.2 Writing

To write into a file, you must have it open under a `w`, a mode.

Then, the method `write()` can be used.

```
txt_file = "exercise/data/some_file.txt"
f = open(txt_file, "w")
f.write("Woops! I have deleted the content!\n")
f.close()

# Read the current content of the file
f = open(txt_file, "r")
print(f.read())
```

Woops! I have deleted the content!

⚠ Warning

Be very careful when opening a file in `write` mode as you can delete its content without any way to retrieve the original file!

As you may have noticed, `write()` returns the number of characters written. You can prevent it from being printed by assigning the return value to a variable that will not be used.

```
f = open(txt_file, "a")
_ = f.write("Now the file has more content!\n")
f.close()

# Read the current content of the file
f = open(txt_file, "r")
print(f.read())
```

Woops! I have deleted the content!
Now the file has more content!

i Note

You must specify a newline with the character:

- \n in Linus/MacOS
- \r\n in Windows
- \r in MacOS before X

33.3 os module

Python has a built-in package called `os`, to interact with the operating system.

```
import os

print("Current working directory:", os.getcwd())
os.chdir('../')
print("Current working directory:", os.getcwd())
```

```
Current working directory: /home/runner/work/python-intro/python-intro
Current working directory: /home/runner/work/python-intro
```

Here are some useful functions from the `os` package.

Function	Description
<code>getcwd()</code>	Returns the current working directory
<code>chdir()</code>	Change the current working directory
<code>listdir()</code>	Returns a list of the names of the entries in a directory
<code>mkdir()</code>	Creates a directory
<code>mkdirs()</code>	Creates a directory recursively

33.4 Regular expression

A regular expression is a sequence of characters that forms a search pattern.

Python has a built-in package called `re`, to work with regular expressions.

```
import re

x = re.findall("hello", "hello world, hello you!")
print(x)

['hello', 'hello']
```

Here are some useful functions from the `re` package.

Function	Description
<code>findall()</code>	Returns a list containing all matches
<code>search()</code>	Returns a Match object if there is a match anywhere in the string
<code>split()</code>	Returns a list where the string has been split at each match
<code>sub()</code>	Replaces one or many matches with a string

To be more specific about a sequence search, regular expression uses metacharacters (i.e characters with special meaning)

Metacharacter	Description	Example
<code>[]</code>	A set of characters	<code>[a-m]</code>
<code>\</code>	Signals a special sequence (can also be used to escape special characters)	<code>\n</code>
<code>.</code>	Any character (except newline character)	<code>he..o</code>
<code>^</code>	Starts with	<code>^hello</code>
<code>\$</code>	Ends with	<code>hello\$</code>
<code>*</code>	Zero or more occurrences	<code>he.*o</code>

Metacharacter	Description	Example
+	One or more occurrences	he.+o
?	Zero or one occurrences	he.?o
{}	Exactly the specified number of occurrences	he.{2}o
	Either or	hello bonjour
()	Captures and group	hello (.+) \1 in which \1 correspond to what is being captured in (.+)

i Note

To build and test a regex, you can use regex101.com, or any website equivalent, in which you can write your regex, and some string to test, to see how it matches.

A Match Object is an object containing information about the search and the result.

```
x = re.search("hello .*",
"""
hello world
hello you
bonjour
""")
print(x)
```

```
<re.Match object; span=(1, 12), match='hello world'>
```

The Match object has methods used to retrieve information about the search, and the result:

- `.span()` returns a tuple containing the start and end positions of the match.
- `.group()` returns the part of the string where there was a match

```
print(x.group())
```

```
hello world
```

! Exercise

From the list `dna_sequences = ["ATGCGAATTCAC", "ATGAC", "ATGCCCGGGTAA", "ATGACGTACGTC", "ATGAGGGGTTCA"]`,

1. Extract all sequences that start with ATG and end with AC or AA.
2. Extract all sequences that contain either G or C repeated three times consecutively.

You should get the following results:

Sequences starting with 'ATG' and ending with 'AC' or 'AA':
['ATGCGAATTCAC', 'ATGAC', 'ATGCCCGGGTAA']

Sequences containing 'G' or 'C' repeated three times consecutively:
['ATGCCCGGGTAA', 'ATGAGGGGTTCA']

33.5 Exercise

! Exercise

Create a program, that you can run on command line as follow `./analyse_fasta.py path/to/fasta/file path/to/output/file`. It should:

- read the fasta file,
- calculate the nucleotide frequency for each sequence (using the previously defined function)
- create a new file as follow:

```
Seq A C T G
seq1 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
seq2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1
```

...

To make this easier, consider that the sequences in the fasta file are only in one line.

You might make good use of the method `str.strip()`.

You can take as input the file in `exercise/data/example.fasta` you should get the same result as `exercise/data/example.txt`.

34 Scientific packages

A python package contains a set of function to perform specific tasks.

A package needs to be **installed** to your computer one time.

You can install a package with `pip`. It should have been automatically installed with your python, to make sure that you have it you can run:

```
#| eval: false
# In Linux/MacOS
python -m pip --version
# In Windows
py -m pip --version
```

If it does not work, check out [pip documentation](#).

To install a package called `pandas`, you must run:

```
#| eval: false
# In Linux/MacOS
python -m pip install pandas
# In Windows
py -m pip install pandas
```

To get more information about `pip`, check out the full [documentation](#).



Warning

Installing a package is done outside of the python interpreter, in command line in a terminal.

When you wish to use a package in a python script, you'll need to import it, by writing inside of your script:

```
import pandas
```

34.1 Pandas

Pandas is a package used to work with data sets, in order to easily clean, manipulate, explore and analyze data.

34.1.1 Create pandas data

Pandas provides two types of classes for handling data:

- **Series**: a one-dimensional labeled array holding data of any type such as integers or strings. It is like a column in a table.

```
# If nothing else is specified, the values are labeled with their index number (starting from 0)
myseries = pandas.Series([1, 7, 2], index = ["x", "y", "z"])
print(myseries)
```

```
x    1
y    7
z    2
dtype: int64
```

- **DataFrame**: a two-dimensional data structure that holds data like a two-dimension array or a table with rows and columns. It is like a table.

```
data = {
    "calories": [420, 380, 390],
    "duration": [50, 40, 45]
}

df = pandas.DataFrame(data)

print(df)
```

```
    calories  duration
0        420        50
1        380        40
2        390        45
```

You can also create a DataFrame from a file.

```
# Make sure this is the correct path for you! You are in the directory from where you execute this script
df = pandas.read_csv('exercise/data/sample.csv')

print(df)
```

You get access to the index and column names with:

```
df.columns
df.index
```

You can rename index and column names:

```
df = df.rename(index={0: 'a', 1: 'b', 2: 'c', 3: 'd', 4: 'e', 5 : 'f'})

df.index
```

You can select rows:

```
# Select one row by its label
print(df.loc[['a']])

# Select one row by its index
print(df.iloc[[0]])

# Select several rows by labels
print(df.loc[['a','c']])

# Select one row by index
print(df.iloc[[0,2]])
```

You can select columns:

```
# Select one column by label  
df['Tissue'] # Series  
df[['Tissue']] # DataFrame  
  
# Select several columns  
df[['Gene','Expression_Level']]  
  
# Select several columns by index  
df.iloc[:,[0,1]]
```

You can select rows and columns as follows:

```
df.loc[['b'], ['Gene','Expression_Level']]
```

You can filter based on a condition as follows:

```
df[df['Expression_Level'] > 6]
```

34.1.2 Useful methods

To explore the data set, use the following methods:

```
df.info()
```

```
df.describe()
```

```
df.head()
```

```
#| eval: false  
df.sort_values(by="Gene")
```

```
df['Expression_Level'].mean()  
df.groupby("Gene")[['Expression_Level']].mean()
```

34.1.3 Learn More

To get more information on how to use pandas, check out:

- the [documentation](#)
- the [cheat sheet](#)
- any [useful tutorial](#)

34.1.4 Exercise

! Exercise

1. Create a pandas DataFrame from the file containing the frequency of each nucleotide per sequences (`exercise/data/example.txt`).
2. Make sure that `df.index` contains the name of the sequences, and `df.columns` contains the nucleotides.
3. Use `pandas.melt()` (see the [doc](#)) to get the data in the following format:

```
nucl freq
Seq
seq1 A 0.46
seq2 A 0.20
seq3 A 0.16
seq4 A 0.18
seq5 A 0.26
seq1 T 0.22
seq2 T 0.12
...
```

4. Get the mean value of all nucleotide frequencies.
5. Get the mean value of frequencies per nucleotide.
6. Filter to remove values of seq1.
7. Recompute the mean value of frequencies per nucleotide.

34.2 Matplotlib

Matplotlib is a package to create visualizations in Python widely used in science.

To shorten the name of the package when we call its functions, we can import it as follows:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

df = pandas.read_csv('exercise/data/sample.csv')

# The data for GeneA and GeneB is extracted from the DataFrame 'df'
serieA = df[df['Gene'] == 'GeneA']['Expression_Level']
serieB = df[df['Gene'] == 'GeneB']['Expression_Level']

# Create a new figure
fig = plt.figure()

# Create a boxplot showing the expression levels of GeneA and GeneB
plt.boxplot([serieA, serieB], # List of series
            labels=['GeneA', 'GeneB'])

# Set the label for the x-axis
plt.xlabel('Gene')
# Set the label for the y-axis
plt.ylabel('Expression Level')
# Set the title of the plot
plt.title('Expression of Genes in Different Tissues')
# Display the boxplot
plt.show()
# Save the plot as a PNG file with a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi)
# The file will be saved in the specified location
fig.savefig('exercise/data/my-figure.png', dpi=300)
```

The following code is equivalent.

```
# Create a new figure
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, figsize=(5, 4))
```

```
ax.boxplot([serieA, serieB], # List of series
           labels=['GeneA', 'GeneB'])
ax.set_xlabel('Gene')
ax.set_ylabel('Expression Level')
ax.set_title('Expression of Genes in Different Tissues')
ax.legend()
plt.show()

# Save the plot as a PNG file with a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi)
# The file will be saved in the specified location
fig.savefig('exercise/data/my-figure-2.png', dpi=300)
```

i Note

The first way of plotting is function-oriented, and the second is object-oriented. You might encounter both styles of coding.

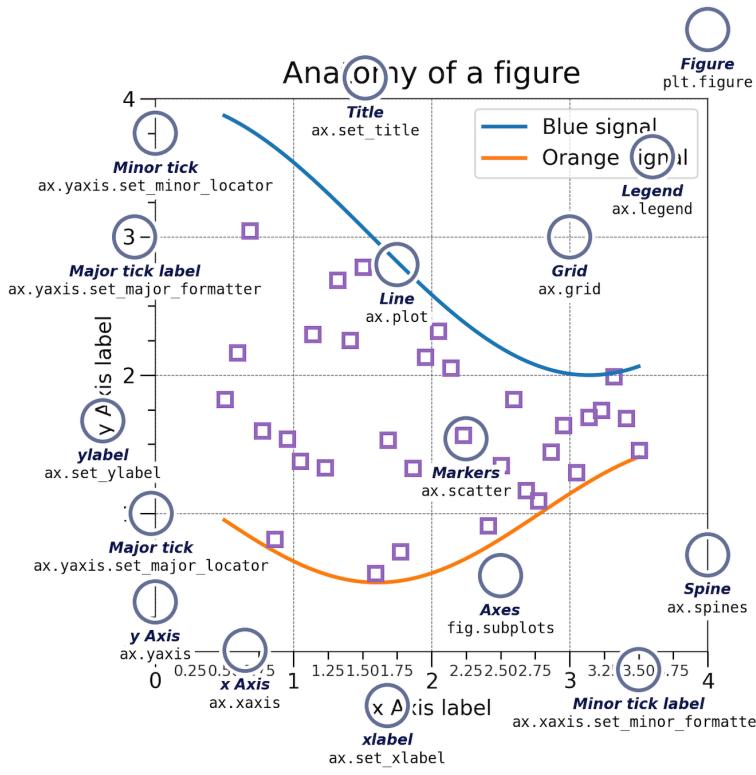


Figure 34.1: Anatomy of a matplotlib plot

Many visualizations are available (static, animated, interactive). For more information, check out:

- the [documentation](#)
- the [cheat sheet](#)
- any [useful tutorial](#)
- some [inspiration](#)

34.3 Exercise

! Exercise

Create a script that gets nucleotide frequency data from a file in the format of `exercise/data/example.txt`, and visualizes it using Matplotlib and Pandas.

Your script should read the data, create a stacked bar chart showing the nucleotide frequencies for each sequence, and label the axes appropriately. Here's the expected plot:

34.4 More packages

There are MANY packages available, here's a short list of some that might interest you:

Package	Usage	Example of usage
BioPython	Computational molecular biology	Sequence handling, access to NCBI databases
NumPy	Numerical arrays	Data manipulation, mathematical operations, linear algebra
Seaborn	High-level interface for drawing plots	Data visualization, statistical graphics
HTSeq	High throughput sequencing	Quality and coverage, counting reads, read alignment
Scanpy	Single-Cell Analysis	Preprocessing, visualization, clustering
SciPy	Mathematical algorithms	Clustering, ODE, Fourier Transforms
Scikit-image	Image processing	Image enhancement, segmentation, feature extraction

Package	Usage	Example of usage
Scikit-learn	Machine learning	Classification, regression, clustering, dimensionality reduction
TensorFlow and PyTorch	Deep learning	Neural networks, natural language processing, computer vision

35 Final tips and resources

Here are a couple of tips:

- Leave comments (think of your future self!)
- Be consistent (quotes, indents...)
- Don't re-invent the wheel, for common tasks, it's likely that a function already exists
- Read the documentation when using a new package or function!
- Google It! Use the correct programming vocabulary to increase your chances of finding an answer. If you don't find anything, try wording it differently.
- The easiest way to learn is by example, so follow a tutorial with the example data, and then try to apply it to your own!

You can follow some free tutorials on:

- [Code Academy](#)
- [EdX](#)
- [Youtube!](#)

Finally, you should able to use Github Copilot (AI coding assistant), as it is free for students: <https://education.github.com/benefits>.

Trying random stuff for hours instead of reading the documentation



Figure 35.1: Please, read the doc

References

A [python conference](#) organized by the AFPy (Association Francophone Python) is held in Strasbourg in the end of October 2024!

Here are some references and ressources that inspired this class:

- [Python doc](#)
- [w3schools](#)
- [pythonforbiologists](#)
- [justinbois's Bootcamp](#)

36 Lesson 3 - Conway's Game of Life

37 Introduction

37.1 Aim of the class

This last class is to practice the notions learned on a couple of (larger) exercises.

The exercises have one provided solution, but it is not the only one. We all have a different coding style, and it evolves with time. So do not worry if you have a different solution, as long as your result is correct, that's already great!

"the best way to learn a language
is to speak to natives"
the guy learning Python:



Figure 37.1: *psssss*

37.2 Requirements

Remembering some of [lesson 1](#) and [2](#).

38 Conway's Game of Life (basic)

38.1 Instructions

Create an implementation of Conway's Game of Life in a script called `conway_life_basic.py`.

The game consists in initializing a 2D matrix of binary value (0 or 1), and, by following certain rules, observing its evolution at each generation.

Each value represent a cell, that can either be live (0) or dead (1).

38.2 Rules

Cells interact with their neighbors such that:

- Any live cell with fewer (<) than two live neighbors dies (as if by underpopulation)
- Any live cell with more than three (>) live neighbors dies (as if by overpopulation)
- Any live cell with two or three live neighbors lives on to the next generation
- Any dead cell with exactly three live neighbors becomes a live cell (as if by reproduction)

The new matrix created corresponds to a new generation.

The original game is played on a infinite board, but we'll implement it to a finite board. When a cell is in a corner, it has 3 neighbors. When a cell is on a side it has 5 neighbors.

38.3 Functions to create

You should create:

- a `count_neighbors` function that counts the number of live neighbors around a cell
- a `survival` function that determines if a cell survives or dies based on the rules of the game
- a `generation` function that generate the next generation of the game
- an `animate_life` function that animate the game of life

You should use basic python, and print each generation to the terminal as follows:

- live cells are represented by a `*`
- dead cells are represented by a `.`

e.g. the following 3-by-3 2D matrix has one live cell in the center:

```
. . .
. * .
. . .
```

You will need to initialize a matrix to begin the game, then it should run on its own for a defined amount of generations.

38.4 Optional function

As an option, you can create a function called `initialize_universe` to initialize the grid with one of the following seeds that have specific properties:

```
# Dictionary containing different seed patterns for the game
seeds = {
    "diehard": [
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
        [1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
```

```

        [0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1,
    ],
    "boat": [[1, 1, 0], [1, 0, 1], [0, 1, 0]],
    "r_pentomino": [[0, 1, 1], [1, 1, 0], [0, 1, 0]],
    "pentadecathlon": [
        [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1],
        [1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1],
        [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1],
    ],
    "beacon": [[1, 1, 0, 0], [1, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 1], [0, 0, 1, 1]],
    "acorn": [[0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0], [1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1]],
    "spaceship": [[0, 0, 1, 1, 0], [1, 1, 0, 1, 1], [1, 1, 1, 1, 0], [0, 1, 1, 0, 0]],
    "block_switch_engine": [
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1],
        [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0],
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0],
        [0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0],
        [1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0],
    ],
    "infinite": [
        [1, 1, 1, 0, 1],
        [1, 0, 0, 0, 0],
        [0, 0, 0, 1, 1],
        [0, 1, 1, 0, 1],
        [1, 0, 1, 0, 1],
    ],
],
}

```

38.5 Exemple of input and output

Here's an example of input, and the desired output:

```
# Initialize by hand
universe = [
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
[0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0],
[0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
```

```
[0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0],  
[0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0],  
[0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0],  
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],  
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],  
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]  
]  
  
animate_life(universe, generations = 3, delay=0.5)
```

```
.....  
. . * .. . . .  
. . * * .. . . .  
. . * . * . * ..  
. . . * * * . . .  
. . . * * . * * ..  
. . . . * .. . . .  
. . . . . .. . . .  
. . . . . . .. . .  
. . . . . . . .. .  
. . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..  
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..
```

```
.... * * * . .
.... * . . . .
. . . . . . . .
. . . . . . . .
```

The same matrix can be initialized by the following (if you are doing the optional `initialize_universe` function):

```
# Initialize with a seed
universe = initialize_universe(universe_size = (10, 10), seed = "infinite", seed_position = (2, 2))
for row in universe:
    print(row)
```

```
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
```

With this matrix, if the number of generations increases (> 30), it should stabilize over:

```
.... . . . . .
.... . . . . .
.... . . . . .
.... . . . . .
.... . . . * .
.. * . . * . *
.. * . . * . *
.... . . . * .
.... . . . . .
.... . . . . .
```

38.6 Tips

- Take an exemple and do it by hand to better understand the game.
- Before jumping into coding, try to have a plan of how you will implement it all. Imagine what will be the input and output of each function.
- To visualize the evolution of the grid, you can print it, and then can clean the terminal by using `os.system('cls' if os.name == 'nt' else 'clear')` (you will need to `import os` at the beginning of your script).
- To wait between two generations you can use `time.sleep(delay)` (you will need to `import time` at the beginning of your script).

39 Conway's Game of Life (advanced)

39.1 Instructions

Create another implementation of Conway's Game of Life, with the following characteristics:

- the file parses arguments from command line (if you use argparse, you can check the help of your function by running in the terminal `python conway_life_advanced.py --help`)
- use pandas (or numpy as there it is only numerical data) to deal with the matrix
- use matplotlib to plot each generation, and create a final gif

[Example of a final gif generated from the same universe matrix as the one from basic implementation](#)

40 Solutions

Both solutions are available in the folder `exercise/script/`.