ECS 32A - File I/O and Exceptions

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Overview

- Reading to files.
- Writing from files.
- Exceptions.

Why Files?

Motivating Example

```
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
account_total += deposit
```

- Program suffers from **transience**.
 - Program must turn off eventually -> account_total's value lost.

Other Uses

- Storing data.
- Transferring data.

Example: Reading Account Balance

Code

```
# Read balance from file.
file = open("balance.txt")
account_total = int(file.read())
print("Current balance: {}".format(account_total))

# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
account_total += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(account_total))
file.close()

bank-deposit-read-balance.py
```

Text File

80 balance.txt

Executions

Current balance: 80
How much do you wish to deposit: 7
Current balance: 87

Current balance: 80 How much do you wish to deposit: 15 Current balance: 95

Remarks

- Opened file with open() (next slide).
- balance.txt is assumed to be in same folder as this Python file.
- Reading values from file reads them in as strings.

Opening a File

Description of open()

- Takes two arguments.
 - 1. File name (more accurately called the "file path").
 - 2. (optional) The mode.
- Returns "file object" / "file handle".
- Four different modes (default is "r"):
 - 1. "r" Read Default value. Opens a file for reading, error if the file does not exist.
 - 2. "a" Append Opens a file for appending.
 - 3. "w" Write Opens a file for writing.
 - 4. "x" Create Creates the specified file. Returns an error if the file exists.
 - Both append and write create the file if it doesn't exist.

Opening a File

Only One Mode Allowed

```
>>> f = open("balance.txt", "rw")
...
ValueError: must have exactly one of create/read/write/append mode
>>> f = open("balance.txt", "aw")
...
ValueError: must have exactly one of create/read/write/append mode
```

Opening a File

If Have Wrong File Path

```
file = open("poem2.txt")
print(file.read())
file.close()

Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "/home/aaronistheman/.10demos/read-poem.py", line 1, in <module>
        file = open("poem2.txt")
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'poem2.txt'
```

read()

- Reads the file's entire contents (into one string).
- Each successive call returns an empty string, since the file has already been read.

Example

```
file = open("poem.txt")
print("=== File contents ===")
print(file.read())
print("=== File contents ===")
print(file.read())
print("=== File contents ===")
print(file.read())
file.close()
```

There once was a man from Peru; who dreamed he was eating his shoe. He woke with a fright in the middle of the night to find that his dream had come true.

```
=== File contents ===
There once was a man from Peru;
who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He woke with a fright
in the middle of the night
to find that his dream had come true.
=== File contents ===
=== File contents ===
```

readline()

- Requires while loop.
- Similar to how file is read in C programming language.

Example

```
file = open("poem.txt")
line = file.readline()
line_num = 1
while line != "":
    print("Line {}: {}".format(line_num, line),end='')
    line = file.readline()
    line_num += 1
file.close()
print("end")
```

```
Line 1: There once was a man from Peru;
Line 2: who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
Line 3: He woke with a fright
Line 4: in the middle of the night
Line 5: to find that his dream had come true.
end
```

readlines()¹

```
file = open("poem.txt")
lines = file.readlines()
print("From readlines(): {}\n".format(lines))
for line in lines:
    line = line[:-1] # cut off newline character
    print(line)
file.close()
read-poem-each-line-readlines.py
```

```
From readlines(): ['There once was a man from Peru;\n', 'who dreamed he was eating h is shoe.\n', 'He woke with a fright\n', 'in the middle of the night\n', 'to find that his dream had come true.\n']

There once was a man from Peru; who dreamed he was eating his shoe.

He woke with a fright in the middle of the night to find that his dream had come true.
```

for Loop Without readlines()

```
file = open("poem.txt")
for line in file:
    print(line,end='')
file.close()

There once was a man from Peru;
who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He woke with a fright
in the middle of the night
to find that his dream had come true.
```

Example: Print Lines Bigger Than 4

Prompt

• Write a function that takes a file name as argument and prints each line in that file that has a length greater than 4.

Solution #1

```
def print_bigger_than_4(filename):
    f = open(filename)
    for line in f:
        line = line[:-1]
        if len(line) > 4:
            print(line, end='')
        f.close()
```

Solution #2

```
def print_bigger_than_4(filename):
    f = open(filename)
    line = f.readline()
    while line != "":
        if len(line) > 5:
            print(line, end='')
        line = f.readline()
    f.close()
```

Writing to a File

write()

Example

```
file = open("testfile.txt","w")
file.write("abc")
file.write("def")
file.close()

my-first-write.py
blah blah blah
testfile.txt

my-first-write.py
```

• After running the above program, textfile.txt will contain:

abcdef testfile.txt

Remarks

- 1. Opening the file for writing *immediately* erases its contents.
- 2. write() doesn't automatically add newline character.

Closing a File

- Should always close a file once done using it.
- Doesn't always/consistently matter.
 - o If you don't close a file, your changes to it (if you write to the file) may not be saved.
 - Other reasons relating to operating systems concepts that you should close files.

• We'll modify bank account example to read old balance *and* write new balance.

Reading Old Balance

• Read current balance as before, but close because need to reopen with different mode.

```
# Read balance from file.
readfile = open("balance.txt")
balance = int(readfile.read())
readfile.close()
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
```

Ask For Deposit

• As before, ask for deposit and adjust accordingly.

```
# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
balance += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
```

Writing New Balance

• Open file for writing.

```
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
```

- Write the balance.
 - Must use str() because balance is integer.

```
# Save the balance to the file.
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
```

Final Program

```
# Read balance from file.
readfile = open("balance.txt")
balance = int(readfile.read())
readfile.close()
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))

# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
balance += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))

# Save the balance to the file.
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
```

Example: Copy and Sum

Prompt

Write a function that takes two file paths as its arguments. You may assume that the first file (i.e. the file whose path is given by the first argument) will *always only contain integers,* with one integer per line, as shown in the sample below:

```
5
8
1
2
```

copy_and_sum() should copy the contents of the first file into the second file (whose path is given by the second argument), completely overwriting the old contents of the second file¹. Additionally, the function should also return the sum of all integers copied over.

For example, if the sample file above is foo1.txt, then copy_and_sum("foo1.txt", "foo 2.txt") should return 16, because that is the sum of 5, 8, 1, and 2. Morever, after running the function, foo2.txt should have the exact same contents as foo1.txt.

Example: Copy and Sum

Solution

```
def copy_and_sum(filename1, filename2):
    readfile = open(filename1)
    writefile = open(filename2, "w")
    s = 0
    for line in readfile:
        s += int(line)
        writefile.write(line)
    readfile.close()
    writefile.close()
```

Note on Methods

- readline(), read(), readlines(), write(), and close() are methods.
 - Recall: calling a method is done with the notation object.method_name(arguments).

Failing to Open a File

Examples of Reasons

- 1. The file does not exist, or the file path was wrong.
- 2. Permission errors.
- 3. Opening a directory (i.e. the more commonly used word for "folder", in computer science).

As Python Code

From section 14.5 of your book¹:

```
>>> fin = open('bad_file')
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'bad_file'
>>> fout = open('/etc/passwd', 'w')
PermissionError: [Errno 13] Permission denied: '/etc/passwd'
>>> fin = open('/home')
IsADirectoryError: [Errno 21] Is a directory: '/home'
```

• Note: all of these are crashes; failing to open a file ends the program immediately.

1. The original slide had IOError where the slide shows FileNotFoundError, because the textbook that I copied the above example from used IOError. As far back as Python 3.3, IOError is no longer used, and since the book uses Python 3.4, I suspect that the book has a typo / example that needs to be updated. I have emailed the book's author about this.

Failing to Open a File

Why Crashing Immediately May be Undesirable

- May not ruin the goal of the program.
 - Example: program could use default values instead of what would've been read from the file.
- May want to print more informative error messages (end "gracefully").
- May have to clean up certain resources before ending.

Recovering from a Crash

• Let's take a look at exceptions.

Exceptions

• An **exception** indicates a certain kind of error (with an optional associated message) and forces a program to address the error or crash.

Example #1

```
a = 8
b = 0
print(a / b)
foo.py
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "foo.py", line 3, in <module>
    print(a / b)
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
```

• The line print(a / b) (specifically the operation a / b) raised/threw¹ a ZeroDivisi onError exception.

Example #2

```
a = b - 4 goo.py
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "goo.py", line 1, in <module>
    a = b - 4
NameError: name 'b' is not defined
```

• The line a = b - 4 raised/threw a NameError exception.

Catching Exceptions

- Usually, when an exception is thrown, the program crashes.
- Use try/except clauses to prevent this.
 - try clause: try to execute all of the code in this block. If successful, then ignore the except clause.
 - except clause: *immediately* go this clause the moment an exception is raised/thrown in the try clause.

Example #1

```
AAA
You divided by zero, dummy!
```

Catching Exceptions

• Avoids a crash, so lines after the try/except clauses can be executed.

Example #2

```
try:
    val = int(input("Enter: "))
    print("You entered:", val)
except:
    print("You did not enter an integer.")

print("This will always be printed.")

my-second-exception.py
```

Executions

```
Enter: 5
You entered: 5
This will always be printed.
```

```
Enter: 5
You entered: 5
This will always be printed.
```

```
Enter: 5a
You did not enter an integer.
This will always be printed.
```

Catching Exceptions

• Exceptions not thrown in a try block won't be caught.

Example

```
a = 5 / 0
try:
    print(a)
except:
    print("Dividing by zero is so not cool!")

print("This won't get printed.")

raised-too-early.py
```

Execution

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "raised-too-early.py", line 1, in <module>
        a = 5 / 0
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
```

Raising Exceptions Explicitly¹

- Can explicitly raise exception with raise keyword.
 - The specific exception that you raise (ZeroDivisionError, NameError, ValueError, etc.) doesn't have to make sense, but you should try to use an appropriate one.
- Useful when writing code for other people to use.
 - This will make more sense once we get to user-defined classes.

Example #1

```
print("This program will intentionally crash right about now.")
raise ValueError
print("This line won't be reached.")
raise0.py
```

• Output:

```
This program will intentionally crash right about now.

Traceback (most recent call last):

File "raise0.py", line 2, in <module>

raise ValueError

ValueError
```

1. These slides on raising exceptions explicitly did not exist during the 07/22 lecture, but I added them in order to clarify what I explained about the example on slide 34.

Raising Exceptions Explicitly

Example #2

```
try:
    print("AAA")
    raise ZeroDivisionError
    print("BBB")
except:
    print("CCC")
print("DDD")
```

```
AAA
CCC
DDD
```

Raising Exceptions Explicitly

- Can attach message to the exception and then raise it.
 - o Again, although the message needn't be relevant, you should try to make it relevant.

Example #3

```
print("This program will intentionally crash right about now.")
raise FileNotFoundError("Fish tacos!")
print("This line won't be reached.")
raise2.py
```

```
This program will intentionally crash right about now.
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "raise2.py", line 2, in <module>
     raise FileNotFoundError("Fish tacos!")
FileNotFoundError: Fish tacos!
```

Propagating¹

• An exception not caught in a function will *propagate* outside of the function, where it still can be caught. That is, the function that throws the exception does not need to be the one to catch it.

Example #1

```
def foo(a, b):
    c = a / b
    return c

try:
    print("AAA")
    foo(2, 0)
    print("BBB")

except:
    print("Caught exception.")
```

```
AAA
Caught exception.
```

Propagating

• If an exception is raised *and* caught within the same function, it won't propagate outside of the function. The caller will never know or be able to check that an exception was raised/caught in the function it called.

Example #2

```
def foo(a, b):
    try:
        c = a / b
        return c
    except:
        return -1

try:
    print("AAA")
    foo(2, 0)
    print("BBB")

except:
    print("Caught exception.")
```

AAA BBB

Catching Specific Exceptions

Example #1

```
try:
    a = int(input("Enter: "))
    b = int(input("Enter: "))
    c = a / b
    foo()  # nonexistent function

except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("You divided by zero!")

except ValueError:
    print("You did not enter a valid integer!")

except:
    print("Something truly bizarre happened!")
catching-specific-exceptions.py
```

Executions

```
Enter: 3
Enter: 0
You divided by zero!

Enter: 3a
You did not enter a valid integer!

Enter: 3
Enter: 5
Something truly bizarre happened!
```

Catching Specific Exceptions

Example #2

```
def bar():
    try:
        f = open("blajasjfklasjl")
    except:
        print("EXCEPTION")
        raise ValueFrror
try:
    a = int(input("Enter: "))
    b = int(input("Enter: "))
    c = a / b
    bar()
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("You divided by zero!")
except ValueError:
    print("You did not enter a valid integer!")
except:
    print("Something truly bizarre happened!")
                                                                                               catching-specific-exceptions2.py
```

Execution

```
Enter: 3
Enter: 5
EXCEPTION
You did not enter a valid integer!
```

Remarks

• If the raise ValueError were removed, then the except ValueError exception handler would not have been triggered, because no exception would *propagate* out of bar().

Raising/Throwing Exceptions

• When you raise an exception, you can specify the message associated with it. Compare the three scenarios shown below.

```
>>> a = 5 / 0
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "<pyshell#0>", line 1, in <module>
        a = 5 / 0
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
>>> raise ZeroDivisionError
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "<pyshell#1>", line 1, in <module>
        raise ZeroDivisionError
ZeroDivisionError
>>> raise ZeroDivisionError("iowjwiojioajls")
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "<pyshell#2>", line 1, in <module>
        raise ZeroDivisionError("iowjwiojioajls")
ZeroDivisionError: iowjwiojioajls
```

Failing to Open a File

Recovering with Exceptions

First Observation: Files Throw Exceptions

```
>>> fin = open('bad_file')
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'bad_file'
>>> fout = open('/etc/passwd', 'w')
PermissionError: [Errno 13] Permission denied: '/etc/passwd'
>>> fin = open('/home')
IsADirectoryError: [Errno 21] Is a directory: '/home'
```

• Since there are all kinds of different exceptions that can be thrown during an error in opening a file, it is usually best to just catch all exceptions, rather than specific ones.

Failing to Open a File

Recovering with Exceptions Example

```
try:
    f = open("non_existent_file")
    # ... read from file ...
except:
    print("Failed to open file, but let's keep going anyways.")
print("blah blah blah")
```

Execution

```
Failed to open file, but let's keep going anyways.
blah blah
```

Reacting to Nonexistent balance.txt File

• Assume default balance of 0 in this case.

```
# Read balance from file.
try:
    readfile = open("balance.txt")
    balance = int(readfile.read())
    readfile.close()
except:
    balance = 0
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
balance += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Save the balance to the file.
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
                                                                                                bank-deposit-exceptions.py
```

Executions

```
Current balance: 0
How much do you wish to deposit: 50
Current balance: 50

Current balance: 50

How much do you wish to deposit: 80
Current balance: 130
```

Reacting to Nonexistent balance.txt File

• Default value needn't be set in except clause.

```
# Read balance from file.
halance = 0
try:
    readfile = open("balance.txt")
    balance = int(readfile.read())
    readfile.close()
except:
    pass
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
balance += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Save the balance to the file.
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
                                                                         bank-deposit-exceptions2.py
```

• Still need except clause to prevent crash (i.e. to prevent exception from *propagating*).

Reacting to Nonexistent balance.txt File Note on Extensive Error-Checking

```
# Save the balance to the file.
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
bank-deposit-exceptions2.py
```

- May be beneficial to include try/except setup here, because creating a file can fail.
- In certain classes (e.g. ECS 150), rigorous error-checking may be expected. In this class, I will always ask for error-checking *explicitly* (if at all).

Example: Copy and Sum (Revisited)

Prompt

- Modify copy_and_sum() so that it doesn't crash if the file doesn't have an integer on certain lines.
 - Example: if the below file were the input, then only the 5 and 17 would be considered.

```
5
3a
abc
17
```

Solution

```
def copy_and_sum(filename1, filename2):
    readfile = open(filename1)
    writefile = open(filename2, "w")
    s = 0
    for line in readfile:
        try:
        s += int(line)
        writefile.write(line)
    except:
        pass
    readfile.close()
    writefile.close()
```

Appending to a File

Motivation

- Recall: opening a file for writing immediately clears contents, e.g. f = open("file.tx t", "w") immediately clears the contents of file.txt.
- Sometimes, may prefer to append to (i.e. write to the end of) a file instead. To do so, use the append mode, i.e. f = open("file.txt","a"). Opening file.txt will not clear the file immediately, and successive writes to file.txt will go to the end¹ of the file.

Logging

- Log each deposit to log.txt
 - Example: if user deposits 20 dollars, then the message "Deposit: 20" should be logged.

```
# Read balance from file.
balance = 0
try:
    readfile = open("balance.txt")
    balance = int(readfile.read())
    readfile.close()
except:
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Perform the user's deposit.
deposit = int(input("How much do you wish to deposit: "))
balance += deposit
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Save the balance to the file.
writefile = open("balance.txt", "w")
writefile.write(str(balance))
writefile.close()
# Log the deposit.
logfile = open("log.txt", "a")
logfile.write("Deposit: {}\n".format(deposit))
logfile.close()
                                                                                                 bank-deposit-logging.py
```

Logging

Executions

```
Current balance: 3
How much do you wish to deposit: 5
Current balance: 8

Current balance: 8
How much do you wish to deposit: 20
Current balance: 28
```

Log File Afterwards

```
Deposit: 5
Deposit: 20
```

The with Operator

• Can open a file that'll automatically close once exit with clause.

Example: Bank Account

```
# Read balance from file.
balance = 0
try:
    with open("balance.txt") as readfile:
        balance = int(readfile.read())
except:
    pass
print("Current balance: {}".format(balance))
# Perform the user's deposit.
...
bank-deposit-with.py
```

• Even if an exception is thrown during the call to int()¹, the with operator will *ensure* that balance.txt is properly closed.

The with Operator

• with operator is separate concept from exceptions.

Example

```
with open("balance.txt") as readfile:
    print("Closed 1: {}".format(readfile.closed))
    a = 5 / 0
    print("Closed 2: {}".format(readfile.closed))
print("Closed 3: {}".format(readfile.closed))
```

Execution

• File is closed, but ZeroDivisionError is uncaught.

```
Closed 1: False
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "/home/aaronistheman/Documents/education/teaching/32a/lectures/slides/10/demo
s/with.py", line 3, in <module>
        a = 5 / 0
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
>>> readfile.closed
True
```

The with Operator

Example

• Can add try/except clauses if we want to.

```
try:
    with open("balance.txt") as readfile:
        print("Closed 1: {}".format(readfile.closed))
        a = 5 / 0
        print("Closed 2: {}".format(readfile.closed))
        print("Closed 3: {}".format(readfile.closed))

except:
    print("Caught!")
```

Execution

```
Closed 1: False
Caught!
```

Appendix: finally Clause

• Python has a finally clause that allows the programmer to specify something that should *always* happen after a corresponding try clause finishes, regardless of whether an exception was raised in the try clause or not.

```
>>> try:
   a = 5 / 0
finally:
    print("Oh no!")
Oh no!
Traceback (most recent call last):
 File "<pyshell#16>", line 2, in <module>
    a = 5 / 0
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
>>> try:
   a = 5 / 3
finally:
   print("Oh no!")
Oh no!
```

Appendix: finally Clause

- I believe this is used more in languages like Java, for the purpose of closing files in cases of error. (Since Python has the with operator, which some consider to be a wrapper around finally, I can't think of reasons to use finally in Python.)
- Further reading: https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/errors.html#defining-clean-up-actions

Appendix: with and return

• When I say the with operator ensures the file is closed in *any* scenario, I do mean *any* scenario, and this includes returning.

```
readfile = None
def foo():
    qlobal readfile
    try:
        with open("balance.txt") as readfile:
            print("Closed 1: {}".format(readfile.closed))
            return
            a = 5 / 0
            print("Closed 2: {}".format(readfile.closed))
        print("Closed 3: {}".format(readfile.closed))
    except:
        print("Caught!")
    print("Closed 4: {}".format(readfile.closed))
foo()
print("Closed 5: {}".format(readfile.closed))
                                                                                             with3.py
```

Output:

```
Closed 1: False
Closed 5: True
```

Appendix: with and Multiple Files

• The with operator can be used with more than one file as well.

```
with open("balance.txt") as readfile, open("poem.txt") as readfile2:
    print("File #1 closed 1: {}".format(readfile.closed))
    print("File #2 closed 1: {}".format(readfile2.closed))

print("File #1 closed 2: {}".format(readfile.closed))

print("File #2 closed 2: {}".format(readfile2.closed))
with4.py
```

Output:

```
File #1 closed 1: False
File #2 closed 1: False
File #1 closed 2: True
File #2 closed 2: True
```

Appendix: Opening the Same File for Reading Multiple Times at Once

```
file = open("poem.txt")
print("=== File contents ===\n{}".format(file.read()))
file2 = open("poem.txt")
print("=== File contents ===\n{}".format(file2.read()))
file.close()
file2.close()
                                                                                     open-poem-twice.py
=== File contents ===
There once was a man from Peru;
who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He woke with a fright
in the middle of the night
to find that his dream had come true.
=== File contents ===
There once was a man from Peru;
who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He woke with a fright
in the middle of the night
to find that his dream had come true.
```

Appendix: Closing Twice Doesn't Raise Exception

• Closing a file twice does not raise an exception.

```
f = open("blah.txt")
print(f.read())
f.close()
f.close()
with open("blah.txt") as f:
    print(f.read())
    f.close()
AAA
AAA
```