

# Python Introduction

## Part 2

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# Part 1: Files

## Files ▷ Mental Model

A file has:

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- ▶ Some set of permissions.
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Special characters are used to indicate linebreaks.

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```

Write using:

```
fo.writelines(lines)
```

## Files ▷ Implicit Closing of File Objects

```
with open(input_filename) as fo:  
    lines = fo.readlines()
```

```
with open(output_filename, 'w') as fo:  
    fo.writelines(lines)
```

## Files ▷ Reading from a Stream of Lines

```
with open(filename) as fo:  
    for line in fo:  
        print(line)
```

## Files ▷ Directories

```
>>> from os import listdir, path
>>> listdir('/')
['var', 'etc', 'run', 'proc', 'media', 'home', 'sbin', 'srv', 'lost+found',
'boot', 'tmp', 'sys', 'lib32', 'bin', 'dev', 'snap', 'cdrom', 'libx32',
'root', 'usr', 'lib', 'lib64', 'opt', 'mnt']
>>> listdir(path.sep.join(['', 'usr']))
['src', 'local', 'sbin', 'libexec', 'share', 'lib32', 'bin', 'libx32', 'lib',
'lib64', 'include', 'games']
>>> path.isfile('/etc')
False
>>> path.isdir('/etc')
True
>>> path.exists('/etc')
True
>>> path.islink('/etc')
False
>>> import os
>>> os.mkdir('/tmp/dir')
>>> os.unlink('/tmp/somefile')
```

Part 2:  
Regular Expressions

# Regular Expressions

```
import re

urls = [
    'https://www.gutenberg.org/files/11/11-h/11-h.htm',
    'https://golang.org',
    'http://www.google.com:80/',
    'definitely not a URL',
]

pattern = re.compile('(?:[^\:]+)://(?:[^\:\/]+)(?:\d+|)(/.*|)')

for url in urls:
    mo = pattern.match(url)

    if mo:
        print('proto="%s" domain="%s" port="%s" path="%s"' %
              (mo.group(1), mo.group(2), mo.group(3), mo.group(4)))
```

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proto="https" domain="www.gutenberg.org" port="" path="/files/11/11-h/11-h.htm"
proto="https" domain="golang.org" port="" path=""
proto="http" domain="www.google.com" port=":80" path="/"
```

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Documentation for the re module:

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A few notes:

- ▶ One can match individual characters or character classes.
- ▶ A period matches any character.
- ▶ One can match the beginning of a string and the end of a string.
- ▶ Regular expressions are often used along with string slicing and splits.

# Part 3: Marshalling and JSON

## Marshalling and JSON ▷ Marshalling

```
>>> import json
>>> data = {'a': 1, 'b': [1,2,3], 'c': 'abc'}
>>> data
{'a': 1, 'b': [1, 2, 3], 'c': 'abc'}

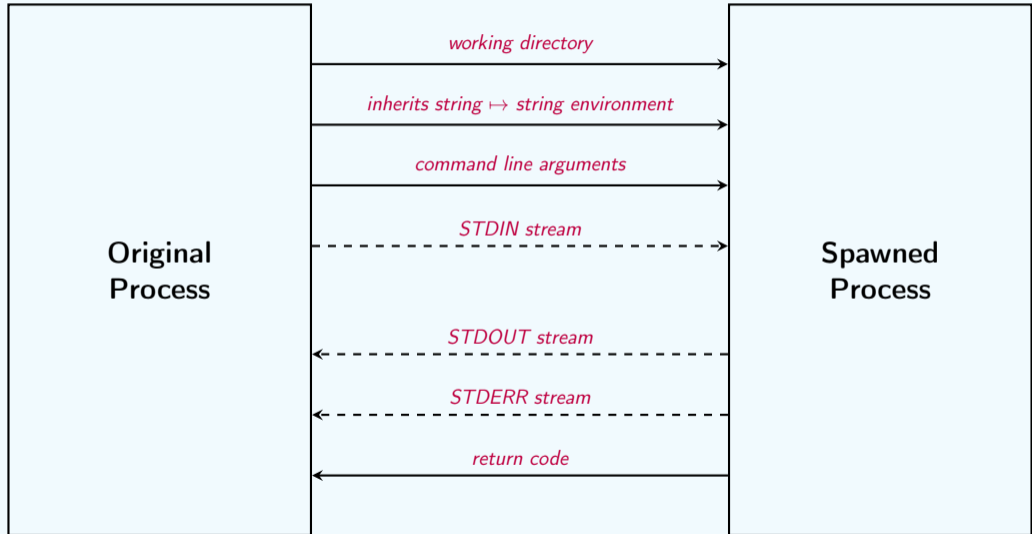
>>> json.dumps(data)
'{"a": 1, "b": [1, 2, 3], "c": "abc"}'
>>> s = json.dumps(data, sort_keys=True, indent=4, separators=(',', ': '))
>>> s
'{\n    "a": 1,\n    "b": [\n        1,\n        2,\n        3\n    ],\n    "c": "abc"\n}'
>>> print(s)
{
    "a": 1,
    "b": [
        1,
        2,
        3
    ],
    "c": "abc"
}
```

## Marshalling and JSON ▷ Unmarshalling

```
>>> data2 = json.loads(s)
>>> data2
{'a': 1, 'b': [1, 2, 3], 'c': 'abc'}
```

# Part 4: Processes

## Processes ▷ Interface



## Processes ▷ Working Directory

```
>>> import os
>>> os.getcwd()
'/home/aslak/myproject'
```

## Processes ▷ Environment Variables

```
from os import environ

for key in environ:
    print("%s -> %s" % (key, environ[key]))
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```

```
$ python3 ../src/env.py
```

```
SHELL -> /bin/bash
```

```
SESSION_MANAGER -> local/gaia:@/tmp/.ICE-unix/3401,unix/gaia:/tmp/.ICE-unix/3401
```

```
QT_ACCESSIBILITY -> 1
```

```
COLORTERM -> truecolor
```

```
XDG_MENU_PREFIX -> gnome-
```

```
GNOME_DESKTOP_SESSION_ID -> this-is-deprecated
```

```
HOSTALIASES -> /home/aslak/.hosts
```

```
SSH_AUTH_SOCK -> /run/user/1000/keyring/ssh
```

```
DOTNET_CLI_TELEMETRY_OPTOUT -> 1
```

## Processes ▷ Command-Line Arguments

```
from sys import argv, exit

if len(argv) != 3:
    print('Syntax: %s INPUT_FILENAME OUTPUT_FILENAME' % argv[0])
    print('          %s log.txt analysis.csv' % argv[0])
    exit(1)
input_filename = argv[1]
output_filename = argv[2]

print('%s -> %s' % (input_filename, output_filename))
```

## Processes ▷ Process Interaction

```
from subprocess import Popen, STDOUT, PIPE

def system (command, err=STDOUT, out=PIPE):
    p = Popen(command, shell=True, stderr=err, stdout=out)
    output = p.communicate()[0]
    return output.decode('utf-8')

output = system('ls /') # perhaps 'dir c:' on windows
print(output)
```

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output = system('ls /') # perhaps 'dir c:' on windows
print(output)
```

```
$ python3 processexample.py
```

```
bin
boot
cdrom
dev
etc
home
lib
...
```

# Part 5: Python Environments

## Python Environments ▷ Installing Modules

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Version are defined according to PEP 440 (which is not quite semantic versioning): <https://peps.python.org/pep-0440/>

## Python Environments ▷ Module Management ▷ Installation

```
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ pip3 install rdflib
Collecting rdflib
  Downloading rdflib-7.6.0-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (12 kB)
Collecting pyparsing<4,>=2.1.0 (from rdflib)
  Downloading pyparsing-3.3.2-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (5.8 kB)
Downloading rdflib-7.6.0-py3-none-any.whl (615 kB)
Downloading pyparsing-3.3.2-py3-none-any.whl (122 kB)
Installing collected packages: pyparsing, rdflib
Successfully installed pyparsing-3.3.2 rdflib-7.6.0
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ du -h . | tail -n 1
19M      .
```

## Python Environments ▷ Module Management ▷ Uninstall

```
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ pip3 uninstall rdflib
Found existing installation: rdflib 7.6.0
Uninstalling rdflib-7.6.0:
  Would remove:
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/csv2rdf
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/rdf2dot
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/rdfgraphisomorphism
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/rdfpipe
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/rdfs2dot
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/bin/sparqlquery
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/lib/python3.13/site-packages/rdflib-7.6.0.dist-info/*
    /home/aslak/myproject/.venv/lib/python3.13/site-packages/rdflib/*
Proceed (Y/n)? y
  Successfully uninstalled rdflib-7.6.0
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ du -h . | tail -n 1
14M      .
```

## Python Environments ▷ Module Management ▷ Freezing Versions

```
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ pip freeze > requirements.txt  
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ cat requirements.txt  
pyparsing==3.3.2  
rdflib==7.6.0  
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$
```

## Python Environments ▷ Module Management ▷ Reestablishing Versions

```
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ pip3 install -r requirements.txt
Requirement already satisfied: pyparsing==3.3.2 in
  ↳ ./venv/lib/python3.13/site-packages (from -r requirements.txt
  ↳ (line 1)) (3.3.2)
Collecting rdflib==7.6.0 (from -r requirements.txt (line 2))
  Using cached rdflib-7.6.0-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (12 kB)
Using cached rdflib-7.6.0-py3-none-any.whl (615 kB)
Installing collected packages: rdflib
Successfully installed rdflib-7.6.0
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$
```

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Python code tend to be rather picky when it comes to module versions.

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The more python codebases you have lying around the more likely you are to run into a versioning conflict. That is, **one piece of python code depends on a version of a module while a different piece of python code depends of an incompatible version of the same module.**

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But ...

## Python Environments ▷ Virtual Environments ▷ Creating

```
aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ python -m venv .venv
```

```
aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ ls -a
```

```
. .. .venv
```

```
aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ ls -a .venv
```

```
. .. bin .gitignore include lib lib64 pyvenv.cfg
```

## Python Environments ▷ Virtual Environments ▷ Activating

Linux/macOS (bash/zsh):

```
source .venv/bin/activate
```

Windows (cmd):

```
.venv\Scripts\activate.bat
```

Windows (PowerShell):

```
.venv\Scripts\Activate.ps1
```

## Python Environments ▷ Virtual Environments ▷ Deactivating

```
aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ source .venv/bin/activate  
(.venv) aslak@gaia:~/myproject$ deactivate  
aslak@gaia:~/myproject$
```

## Python Environments ▷ Alternative Tooling

pip has a number of downsides:

- ▶ A *freeze* generates platform-specific list of module versions.
- ▶ It operates at a low granularity of control.
- ▶ It can be slow and resource hungry in CI/CD pipelines.

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The uv project tries to address this: <https://docs.astral.sh/uv/>

It claims to be compatible with pip.

# Part 6: Exercises

## Exercises ▷ Marshalling

Make some complex data structure that consists of integers, floats, booleans, strings, lists, tuples and dictionaries.

Marshall that to JSON and store the resulting string in a file.

Unmarshall the contents of that file to a new datastructure.

How similar is the new datastructure to the old?

## Exercises ▷ Regular Expressions

You input text: *“Avocados are considered expensive but delicious. In the US they are about 1\$. In Denmark they are approx 15 kr and in Holland they are roughly 1.5€. In the UK the price is 1.5 £.”*

Here we have a string containing 4 different prices for avocados. The exercise is to find the average price.

Specifically:

1. Define a dictionary that maps currencies to conversion factors.
2. Define a regular expression that matches a number followed by a currency.
3. Find all matches of this regular expression.
4. For each match, look up the conversions factor, parse the number and multiply these.
5. Find the average value.

## Exercises ▷ CSV Corrections

The CSV file format can hold tabular data. The format:

- ▶ Rows are separated by linebreaks.
- ▶ Columns are separated by commas.

Excel is infamous for misinterpreting the CSV format. It uses semicolons instead of commas for separation.

The exercise:

1. Make a script that takes three parameters so that it can be called like this:

```
python3 csv_reformatter.py fix input.csv output.csv
```

```
python3 csv_reformatter.py unfix input.csv output.csv
```

2. Decide on a reasonable intermediate format.
3. Write functions for fundamental operations like reading, adjusting and writing data.
4. Write the main code that parses the command line arguments, reads the input, adjusts it and writes the output.
5. What could go wrong when converting between the two versions of the format?

## Exercises ▷ Offloading to Other Processes

Write a script called `read.py` that takes a filename as a parameter and prints out the contents of that file.

Write a script called `write.py` that takes a filename as a parameter and write whatever it gets on STDIN to this file.

Write a script called `filter.py` that takes a word as a parameter and forwards every line that gets from STDIN to STDOUT if the word is present.

Write a script that calls `read.py`, uses `filter.py` to filter the result and finally uses `write.py` to store the result.

Hint:

<https://docs.python.org/3/library/subprocess.html#replacing-shell-pipeline>

## Where to Find



<https://python.asjo.dk>

# Questions and Comments?

