

1 Practical Bioinformatics – Day 2

1.1 Defining functions

Defining a function for the mean calculation:

```
def mean(x):  
    """Return the mean of a list of numbers."""  
    s = 0.  
    for i in x:  
        s += i  
    return s/len(x)
```

```
L1 = [.5,10,17,3]
```

```
mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

Should we report our result with **return** or **print**?

```
def mean2(x):  
    """Print the mean of a list of numbers."""  
    s = 0.  
    for i in x:  
        s += i  
    print s/len(x)
```

```
x = mean(L1)  
y = mean2(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

mean uses **return**, so the result is stored in **x**.

```
x
```

```
7.625
```

mean2 uses **print** with no **return** statement, so it returns the default return value, which is **None**.

```
y
```

```
z = None
```

```
z
```

Normal test for equality: **z** and **y** both point to **None**, so their values are equal.

```
z == y
```

```
True
```

Test for identity: **z** and **y** point to the same location in memory (because the **None** value is unique and lives in a single location)

```
z is y
```

```
True
```

Advanced exercise: The “%p” format string returns an object's address in memory. Can you use this to figure out how python handles memory management for **int** and **float** values. Is there a difference?

Should we document our function with a string or a comment?

```
def mean3(x):  
    #Return the mean of a list  
    s = 0.  
    for i in x:  
        s += i  
    return s/len(x)
```

Because **mean** is documented with a docstring, its documentation is visible to IPython via **mean?** or tab-completion on **mean**.

mean3 uses a comment, which is invisible to the built in help.

Functions for creating integer sequences:

- **range(n)**

```
1000 loops, best of 3: 570 µs per loop
```

```
%time?
```

Demonstrating that IPython magics are converted to python function calls when logging:

```
%logstart -o day2.log
```

```
Activating auto-logging. Current session state plus future input saved.
```

```
Filename      : day2.log
Mode          : backup
Output logging : True
Raw input log  : False
Timestamping  : False
State         : active
```

```
%less day2.log
```

Using introspection to find the source of the `sqrt` function in the pylab environment:

```
sqrt.__class__
```

```
numpy.ufunc
```

Ah, it's the version from **numpy** (not part of standard Python. Standard Python includes a slightly different `sqrt` implementation in the **math** module)

```
sqrt.__class__.__module__
```

```
'numpy'
```

`?` is an IPython-specific way to look up the documentation and source for an object:

```
sqrt?
```

1.2 Importing functions from external modules

- Module filenames end with `*.py`
- Place your modules in the same directory that you launch IPython from, for ease of import
- Use **import** until a module loads successfully
- After a successful load, use **reload** to force Python to re-read the contents of the `\.py` file.

Advanced: There are several ways to import modules from directories other than the current directory. The most common is to modify the `PYTHONPATH` environment variable. You can inspect and modify the current import path via `sys.path`.

```
import stats
```

```
stats?
```

`dir` lists the contents of an object:

```
dir(stats)
```

```
['__builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__', '__name__', '__package__', 'mean']
```

```
stats.mean?
```

```
stats.mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

```
from stats import mean
```

```
mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

Here, we edited the definition of `mean` in `stats.py` and experimented with how to make the change visible to Python:

```
mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

```
stats.mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

```
import stats
```

```
stats.mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

```
reload(stats)
```

```
<module 'stats' from 'stats.py'>
```

```
stats.mean(L1)
```

```
'Oops!'
```

```
mean(L1)
```

```
7.625
```

```
from stats import mean
```

```
mean(L1)
```

```
'Oops!'
```

1.3 File I/O

Opening a file in read-only mode:

```
fp = open("stats.py")
```

Read the first 10 bytes:

Python scripts and modules are simple text files, so Python translates the bytes to text using its default text encoding

```
fp.read(10)
```

```
'""Some de'
```

Read the next 10 bytes (note that read has a *side effect*: the file pointer moves through the file as it is read, so sequential calls to read produce different results)

```
fp.read(10)
```

```
'scriptive '
```

Read the rest of the file:

```
fp.read()
```

```
'statistics""\n\ndef mean(x):\n    """Return the mean of a list of numbers."""\n    s = 0.\n    for i
```

Rewind by reopening the file

```
fp = open("stats.py")
```

Because stats.py is a text file, we can use **readline** in place of **read** to read a whole line of text (including the end-of-line character)

```
fp.readline()
```

```
'""Some descriptive statistics""\n'
```

```
fp.readline()
```

```
'\n'
```

```
fp.readline()
```

```
'def mean(x):\n'
```

For **file** objects, **next** has the same behavior as **readline**.

```
fp.next()
```

```
'    ""Return the mean of a list of numbers.""\n'
```

Objects with a **next** method are *iterators*, which can be used by a **for** loop

To be more precise: **for** loops operate on **iterables**, which are objects with an **iter** method, which is responsible for generating or pointing to the appropriate **iterator** object

```
for i in open("stats.py"):
    print i
```

```
""Some descriptive statistics""
```

```
def mean(x):
```

```
    ""Return the mean of a list of numbers.""
```

```
    s = 0.
```

```
    for i in x:
```

```
        s += i
```

```
    #return s/len(x)
```

```
    return "Oops!"
```

The example above is double spaced, because **print** adds its own newline ($\backslash n$) character. We can use the **rstrip** string method to remove the redundant newline (and any other trailing whitespace) from each line of the file:

```
for i in open("stats.py"):
    print i.rstrip()
```

```

"""Some descriptive statistics"""
def mean(x):
    """Return the mean of a list of numbers."""
    s = 0.
    for i in x:
        s += i
    #return s/len(x)
    return "Oops!"

```

To write data to disk, we can open a file in write mode:

```
out = open("example.txt", "w")
```

```

out.write("This is some text")
out.write("this is some other text")
out.close()

```

```

for line in open("example.txt"):
    print line.rstrip()

```

```
This is some textthis is some other text
```

If we want to write output to separate lines, we need to add explicit newlines:

```

out = open("example.txt", "w")
out.write("This is some text\n")
out.write("this is some other text\n")
out.close()

```

```

for line in open("example.txt"):
    print line.rstrip()

```

```
This is some text
this is some other text
```

We have been using relative paths, which look for files relative to the current directory. We can specify absolute paths instead, by starting with a forward slash (/).

Windows uses backslash (\) as its default path separator, but Python will do the correct conversion of forward slash on Windows, so you don't need to worry about this

```

for line in open("/home/mvoorhie/Projects/Courses/PracticalBioinformatics/python/May2013
/example.txt"):
    print line.rstrip()

```

```
This is some text
this is some other text
```


'-0.12',
'-0.03',
'-0.2',
'-0.06',
'-0.06',
'-0.14',
'-0.18',
'-0.06',
'-0.25',
'0.06',
'-0.12',
'0.25',
'0.43',
'0.21',
'-0.04',
'-0.15',
'-0.04',
'0.21',
'-0.14',
'-0.03',
'-0.07',
'-0.36',
'-0.14',
'-0.42',
'-0.34',
'-0.23',
'-0.17',
'0.23',
'0.3',
'0.41',
'-0.07',
'-0.23',
'-0.12',
'0.16',
'0.74',
'0.14',
'-0.49',
'-0.32',
'0.19',
'0.23',
'0.24',
'0.28',
'1.13',
'-0.12',
'0.1',
'0.66',
'0.62',
'0.08',
'0.62',
'0.43',
'0.5',
'-0.25',

```
'-0.51',  
'-0.67',  
'0.21',  
'-0.74',  
'-0.36',  
'-0.01',  
'0.38',  
'0.15',  
'-0.22',  
'-0.09',  
'0.33',  
'0.08',  
'0.39',  
'-0.17',  
'0.23',  
'0.2',  
'0.2',  
'-0.17',  
'-0.69',  
'0.14',  
'-0.27']
```

Here's how to split on tabs:

```
data[1].split("\t")[:10]
```

```
['YBR166C',  
'TYR1 TYROSINE BIOSYNTHESIS PREPHENATE DEHYDROGENASE (NADP+',  
'0.33',  
'-0.17',  
'0.04',  
'-0.07',  
'-0.09',  
'-0.12',  
'-0.03',  
'-0.2']
```

```
data[1].split("\t")[2:10]
```

```
['0.33', '-0.17', '0.04', '-0.07', '-0.09', '-0.12', '-0.03', '-0.2']
```

Coercing strings to floats:

```
float(data[1].split("\t")[2])
```

```
0.33
```

Handling missing values with a `try..except` block:

```
r = []  
for i in data[1].split("\t")[2:]:
```

