

Learning Objectives

After the completion of this chapter, the student will be able to

- Understand what is CSV?
- Able to import CSV files in python programs
- Execute and debug python programs



13.1 Introduction

Python has a vast library of modules that are included with its distribution. One among the module is the **CSV module** which gives the Python programmer the ability to parse **CSV (Comma Separated Values)** files. A **CSV file is a human readable text file where each line has a number of fields, separated by commas or some other delimiter**. You can assume each line as a row and each field as a column. The CSV module will be able to read and write the vast majority of CSV files.

13.2 Difference between CSV and XLS file formats

The difference between **Comma-Separated Values (CSV)** and **eXcel Sheets(XLS)** file formats is

Excel	CSV
Excel is a binary file that holds information about all the worksheets in a file, including both content and formatting	CSV format is a plain text format with a series of values separated by commas.
XLS files can only be read by applications that have been especially written to read their format, and can only be written in the same way.	CSV can be opened with any text editor in Windows like notepad, MS Excel, OpenOffice, etc.
Excel is a spreadsheet that saves files into its own proprietary format viz. xls or xlsx	CSV is a format for saving tabular information into a delimited text file with extension .csv
Excel consumes more memory while importing data	Importing CSV files can be much faster, and it also consumes less memory