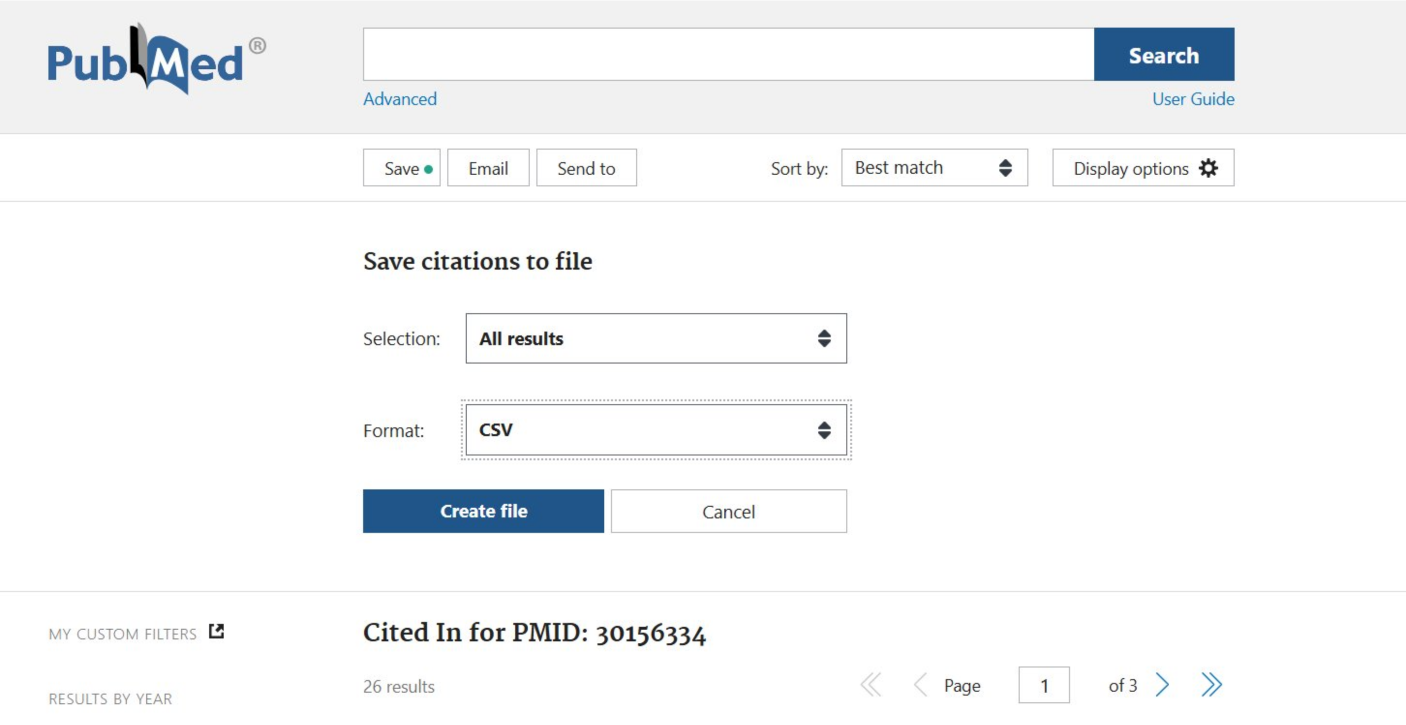
csvcut

Extracting relevant columns from csv and tab delimited files.

Exemplary workflow for quick look of papers from pubmed “similar or cited by”

Download the citation/similar articles in csv format from pubmed



Sort by: Best match

Save citations to file

Selection: All results

Format: CSV

Cited In for PMID: 30156334

26 results

Check the number of lines in the file

```
wc -l file.csv
```

See the names of columns of the file

```
csvcut -n file.csv
```

Create an output for a quick visual check with title and doi, most recent first

Option 1: for the output in terminal, comma separated

```
cat file.csv |csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l
```

Option 2: for the output in terminal, a bit more nice (?)

```
cat file.csv |csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l | csvlook
```

Option 3: create a table using pandoc in landscape format

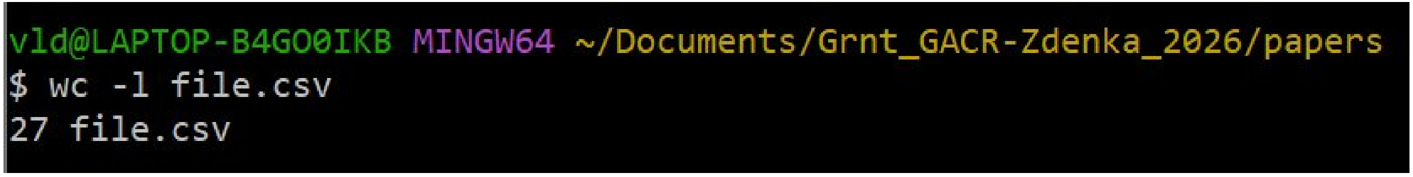
```
cat file.csv | csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l | csvlook | pandoc --variable geometry:"landscape, margin=
```

Option 4: create a table using pandoc in default (portrait) format

```
cat file.csv | csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l | csvlook | pandoc -o table_portrait.pdf
```

Outputs:

1. Articles count

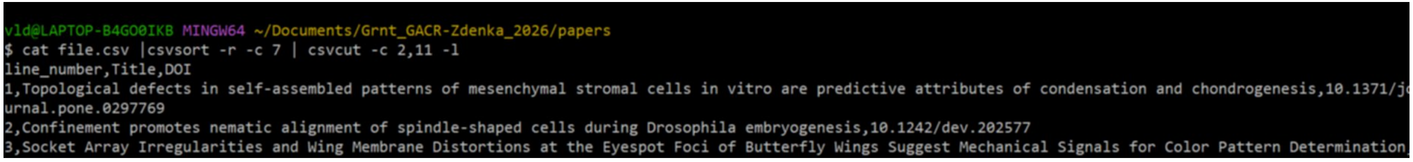


```
vld@LAPTOP-B4GO0IKB MINGW64 ~/Documents/Grnt_GACR-Zdenka_2026/papers
$ wc -l file.csv
27 file.csv
```

2. Column names

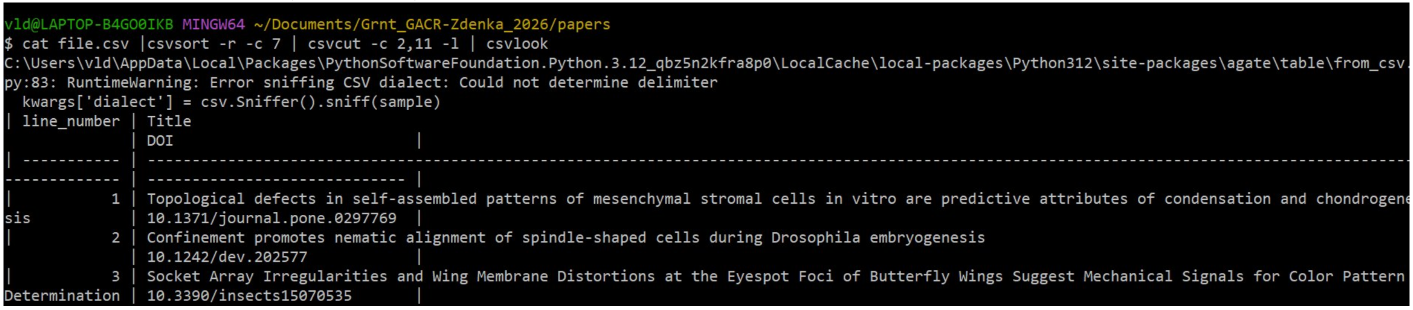
```
vld@LAPTOP-B4GO0IKB MINGW64 ~/Documents/Grnt_GACR-Zdenka_2026/papers
$ csvcut -n file.csV
  1: PMID
  2: Title
  3: Authors
  4: Citation
  5: First Author
  6: Journal/Book
  7: Publication Year
  8: Create Date
  9: PMCID
 10: NIHMS ID
 11: DOI
```

3. Table in terminal (Option 1)



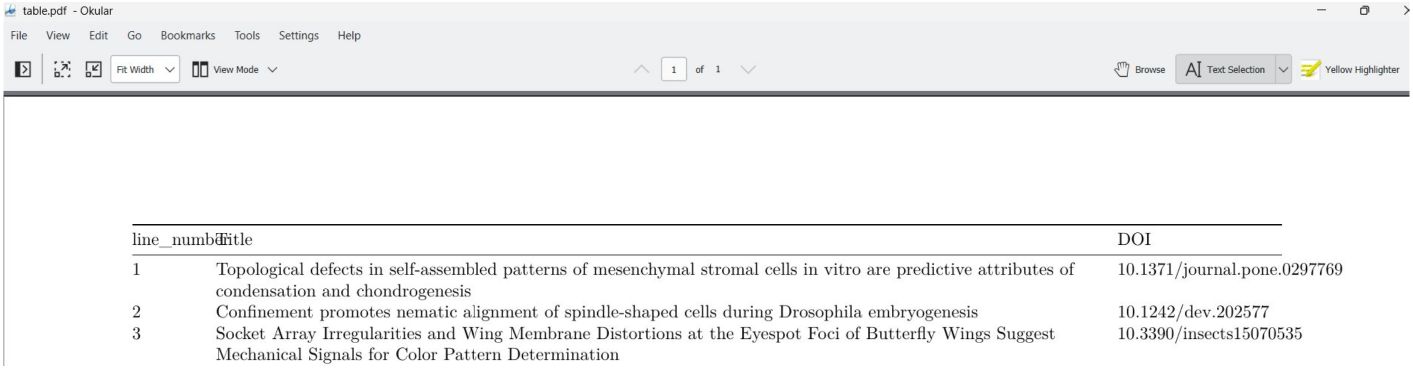
```
vld@LAPTOP-B4GO0IKB MINGW64 ~/Documents/Grnt_GACR-Zdenka_2026/papers
$ cat file.csv |csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l
line_number,Title,DOI
1,Topological defects in self-assembled patterns of mesenchymal stromal cells in vitro are predictive attributes of condensation and chondrogenesis,10.1371/j
urnal.pone.0297769
2,Confinement promotes nematic alignment of spindle-shaped cells during Drosophila embryogenesis,10.1242/dev.202577
3,Socket Array Irregularities and Wing Membrane Distortions at the Eyespot Foci of Butterfly Wings Suggest Mechanical Signals for Color Pattern Determination
```

3. Table in terminal (Option 2)



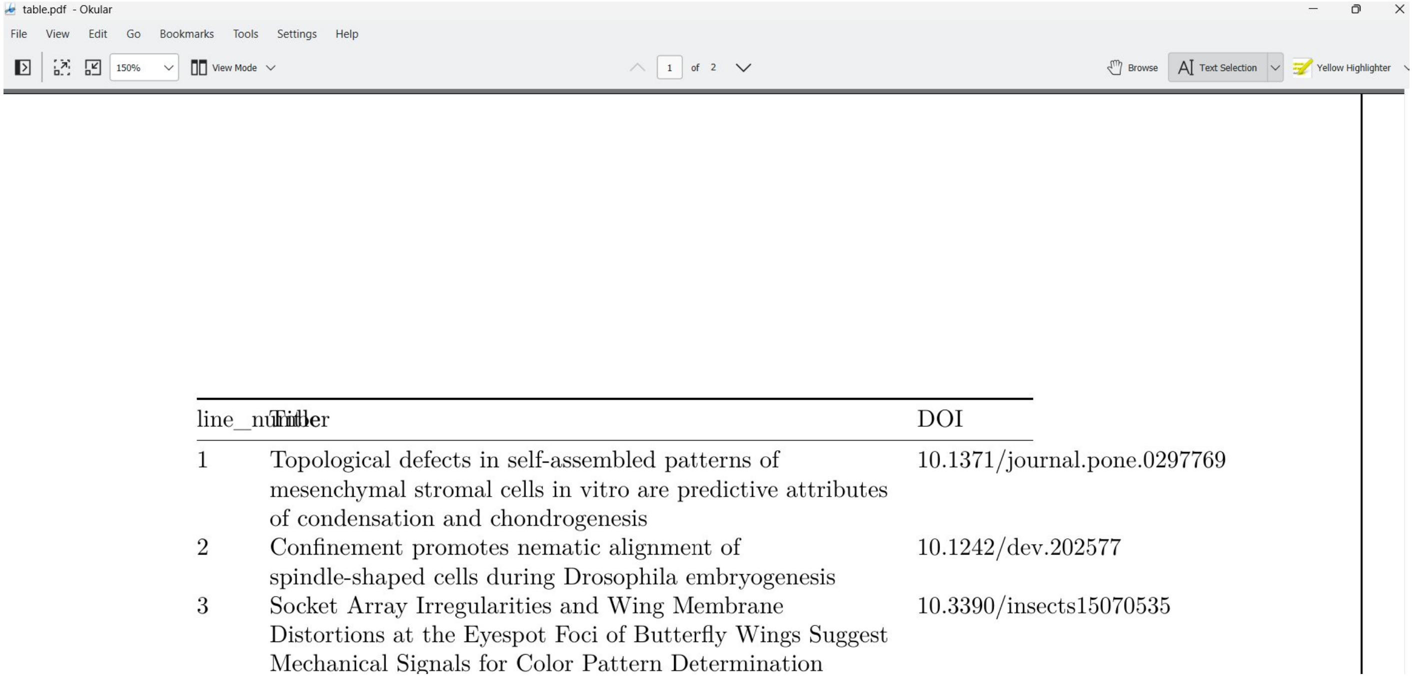
```
vld@LAPTOP-B4GO0IKB MINGW64 ~/Documents/Grnt_GACR-Zdenka_2026/papers
$ cat file.csv |csvsort -r -c 7 | csvcut -c 2,11 -l | csvlook
C:\Users\vld\AppData\Local\Packages\PythonSoftwareFoundation.Python.3.12_qbz5n2kfra8p0\LocalCache\local-packages\Python312\site-packages\agate\table\from_csv.
py:83: RuntimeWarning: Error sniffing CSV dialect: Could not determine delimiter
  kwargs['dialect'] = csv.Sniffer().sniff(sample)
| line_number | Title
              | DOI                           |
| ----------- | ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
------------- | ----------------------------- |
|           1 | Topological defects in self-assembled patterns of mesenchymal stromal cells in vitro are predictive attributes of condensation and chondrogene
sis           | 10.1371/journal.pone.0297769  |
|           2 | Confinement promotes nematic alignment of spindle-shaped cells during Drosophila embryogenesis
              | 10.1242/dev.202577            |
|           3 | Socket Array Irregularities and Wing Membrane Distortions at the Eyespot Foci of Butterfly Wings Suggest Mechanical Signals for Color Pattern
Determination | 10.3390/insects15070535       |
```

3. Table in pdf landscape (Option 3)



line_number	Title	DOI
1	Topological defects in self-assembled patterns of mesenchymal stromal cells in vitro are predictive attributes of condensation and chondrogenesis	10.1371/journal.pone.0297769
2	Confinement promotes nematic alignment of spindle-shaped cells during Drosophila embryogenesis	10.1242/dev.202577
3	Socket Array Irregularities and Wing Membrane Distortions at the Eyespot Foci of Butterfly Wings Suggest Mechanical Signals for Color Pattern Determination	10.3390/insects15070535

3. Table in pdf portrait (Option 4)



line_number	Title	DOI
1	Topological defects in self-assembled patterns of mesenchymal stromal cells in vitro are predictive attributes of condensation and chondrogenesis	10.1371/journal.pone.0297769
2	Confinement promotes nematic alignment of spindle-shaped cells during Drosophila embryogenesis	10.1242/dev.202577
3	Socket Array Irregularities and Wing Membrane Distortions at the Eyespot Foci of Butterfly Wings Suggest Mechanical Signals for Color Pattern Determination	10.3390/insects15070535

TROUBLESHOOTING

The tutorial is very good

1. Set the correct encoding

When parsing the csv files from pubmed, some characters are not recognized by default => proper encoding need to be set
> UnicodeEncodeError: ‘charmap’ codec can’t encode character ‘0̆144’ in position 110: character maps to <undefined>

Solution:
Set the encoding variable for csvkit in the current terminal, would be used by shell for all other commands.

```
export PYTHONUTF8=1
```