Discrete Mathematics

Topic 01 : Computational Thinking

Lecture 01 : Fundamentals of Computation

Dr Kieran Murphy

Computing and Mathematics, SETU (Waterford).
(kieran.murphy@setu.ie)

Autumn Semester, 2023

Outline

- Using PyTutor with Colab
- Storing data and data types
- Making decisions
- Looping

Outline

Using PyTutor with Colab

I

Before we start covering Python we want to show you PyTutor in action. The following slides shows screenshots of the process but you should verify the steps yourself on your phone/tablet.

Step 1 — Click/Scan on QR Code

The following code outputs powers of 2, don't worry about the actual code, just make sure that you can open and use PyTutor . . .

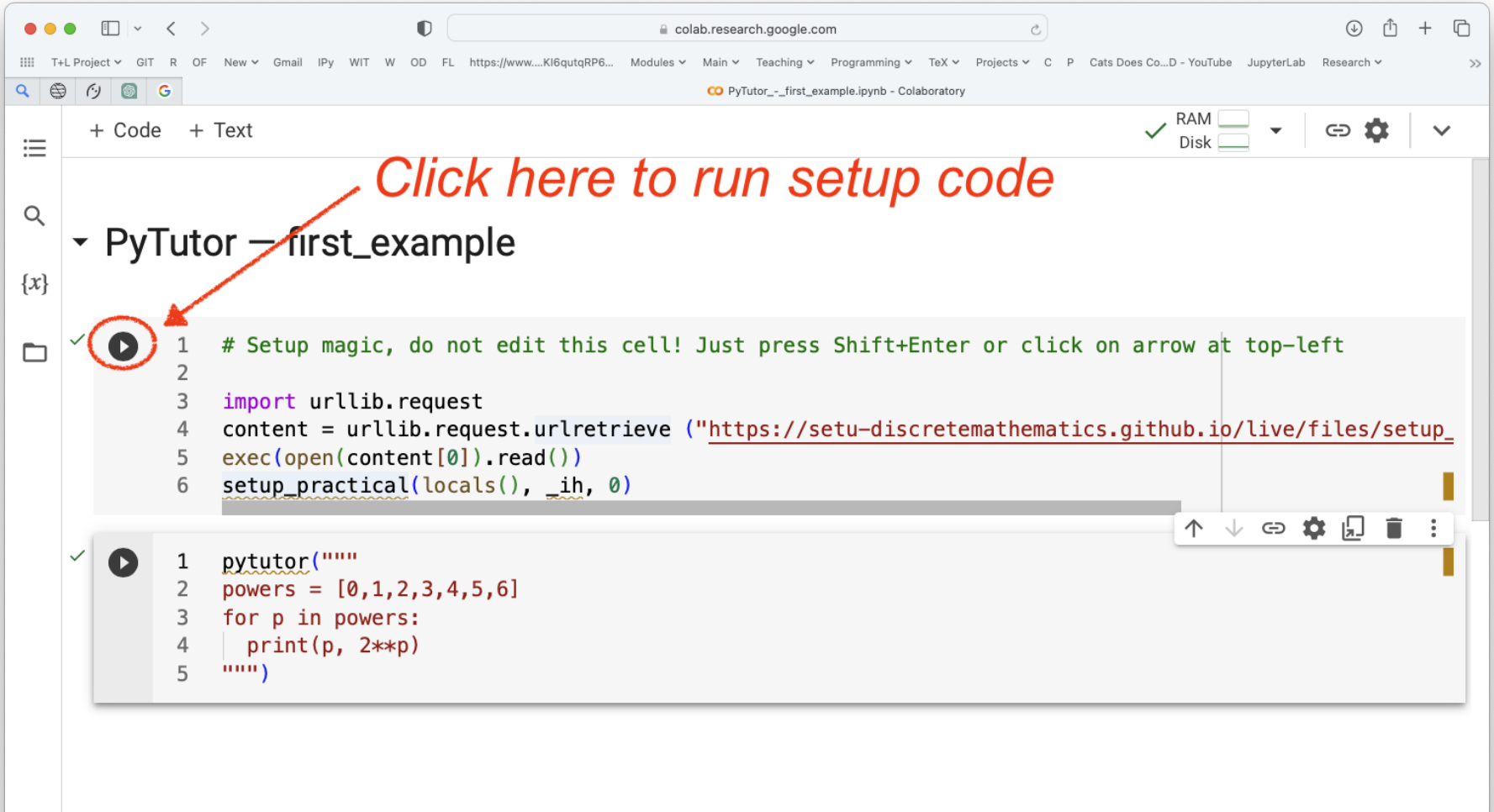
```
powers = [0,1,2,3,4,5,6]
for p in powers:
  print(p, 2**p)
```

```
0 1
1 2
2 4
3 8
4 16
5 32
6 64
```

Using PyTutor with Colab II

This should open in Colab the following notebook.
Unlike our practical notebooks, don't bother clicking on File → Save a copy in Drive.

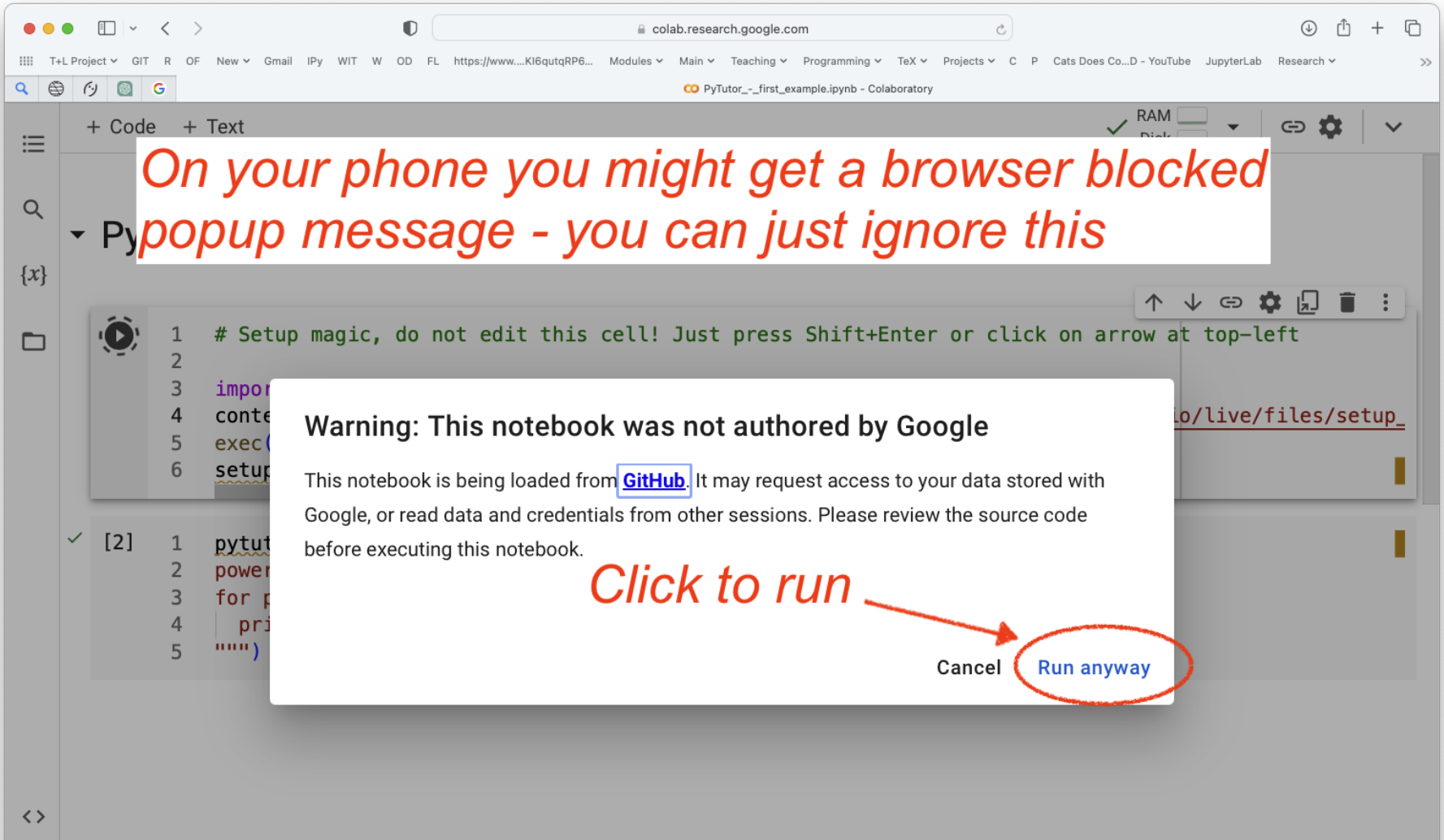
Step 2 — Execute the first cell to setup notebook.



Using PyTutor with Colab

On executing the first cell you will get the following message. Click on Run anyway.

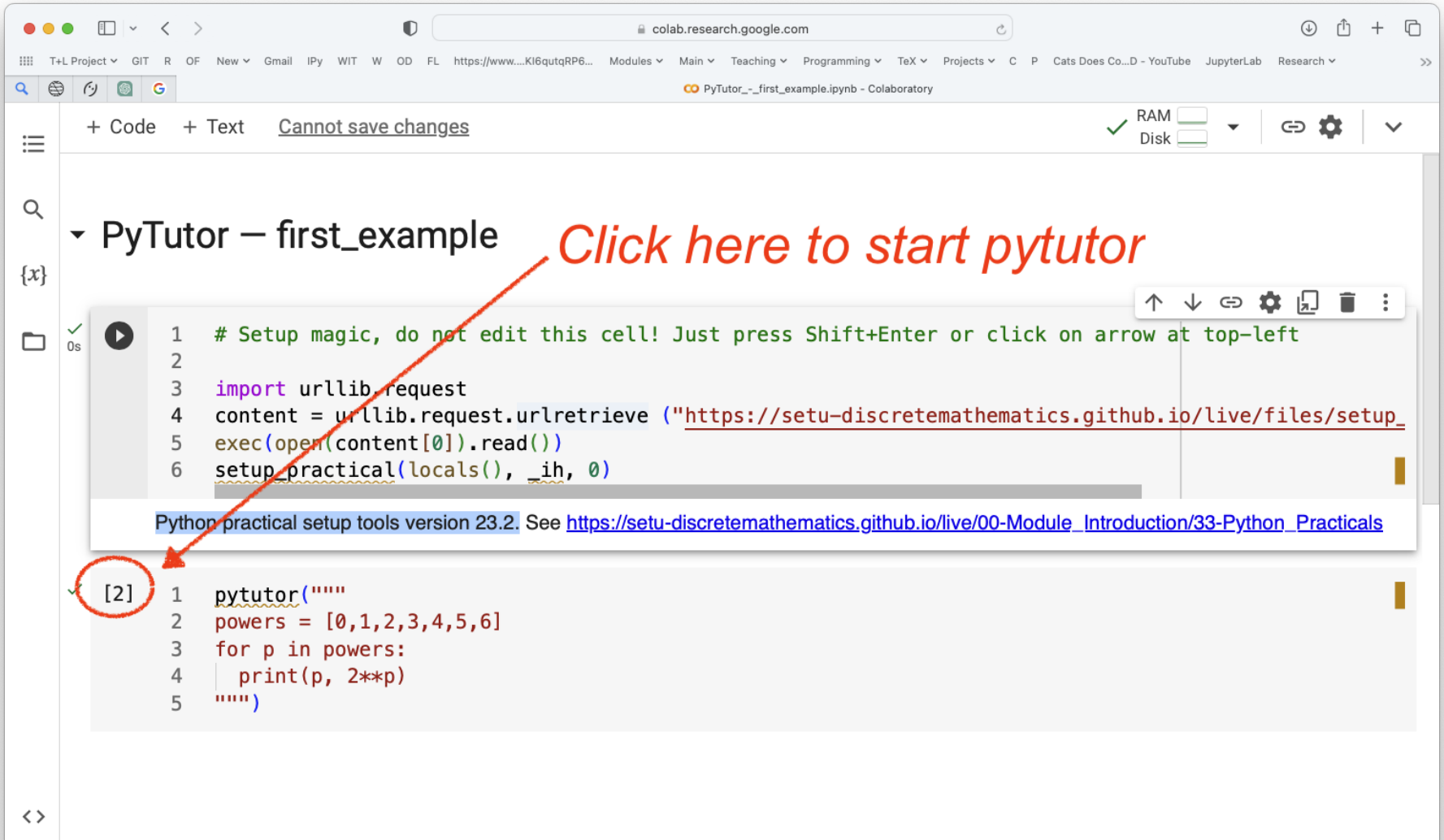
Step 3 — Click on Run anyway



Using PyTutor with Colab

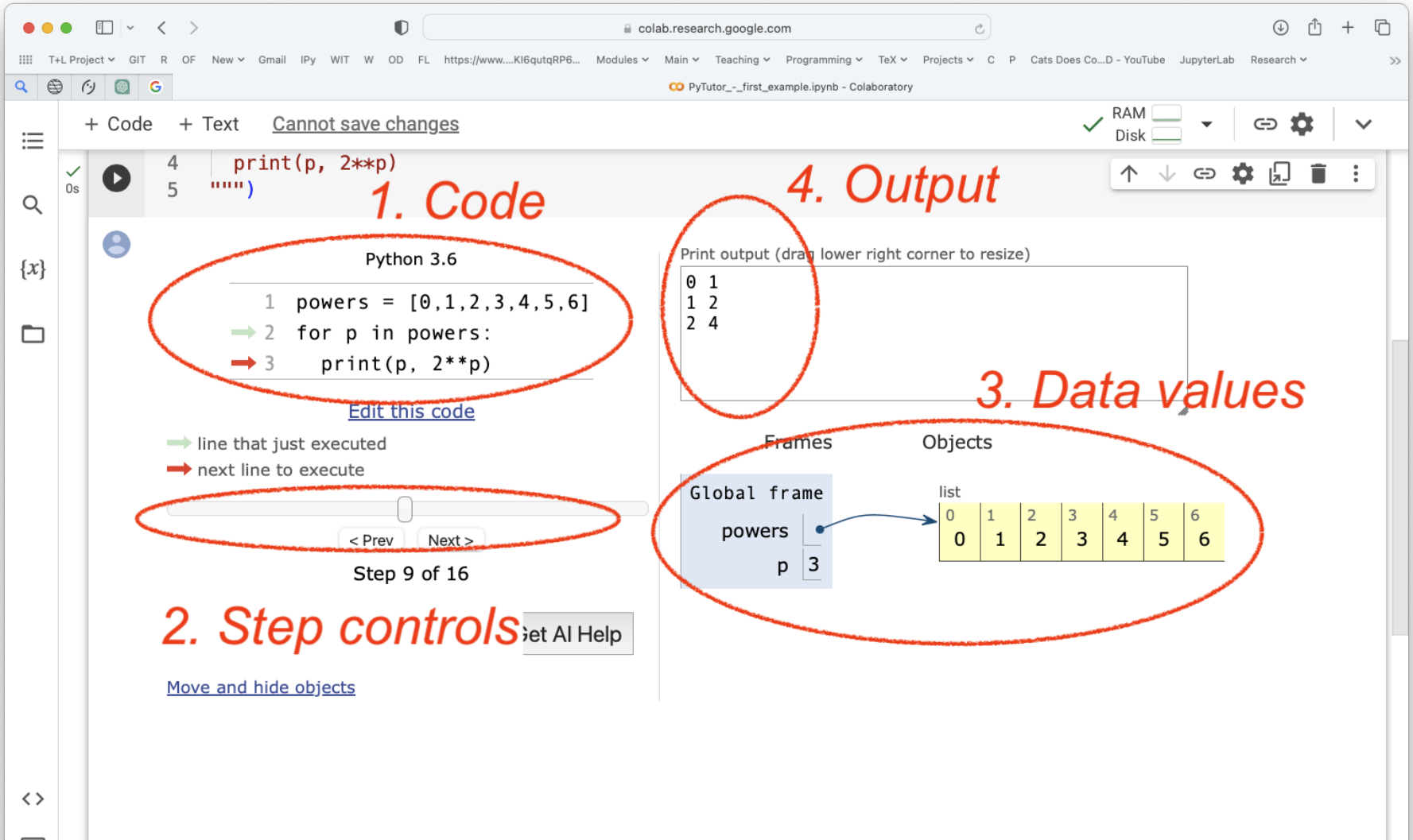
After executing the first cell you will get the usual "Python practical setup tools version 23.2".

Step 4 — Click on second cell to run code in PyTutor



Using PyTutor with Colab

You can now use PyTutor, to step back/forward through the code and see the current data values and resultinig output.



Outline

Brief History of Python

- Invented in the Netherlands, early 90s by Guido van Rossum.

  "Python is an experiment in how much freedom programmers need. Too much freedom and nobody can read another's code; too little and expressiveness is endangered."

  – Guido

- Named after Monty Python.
- Scalable, object oriented and functional from the beginning
- Python 3.0 was released in 2008, to rectify certain flaws in Python 2.*.
- Most popular language for machine learning and data mining.

Python's Benevolent Dictator For Life

First Look at Python Code

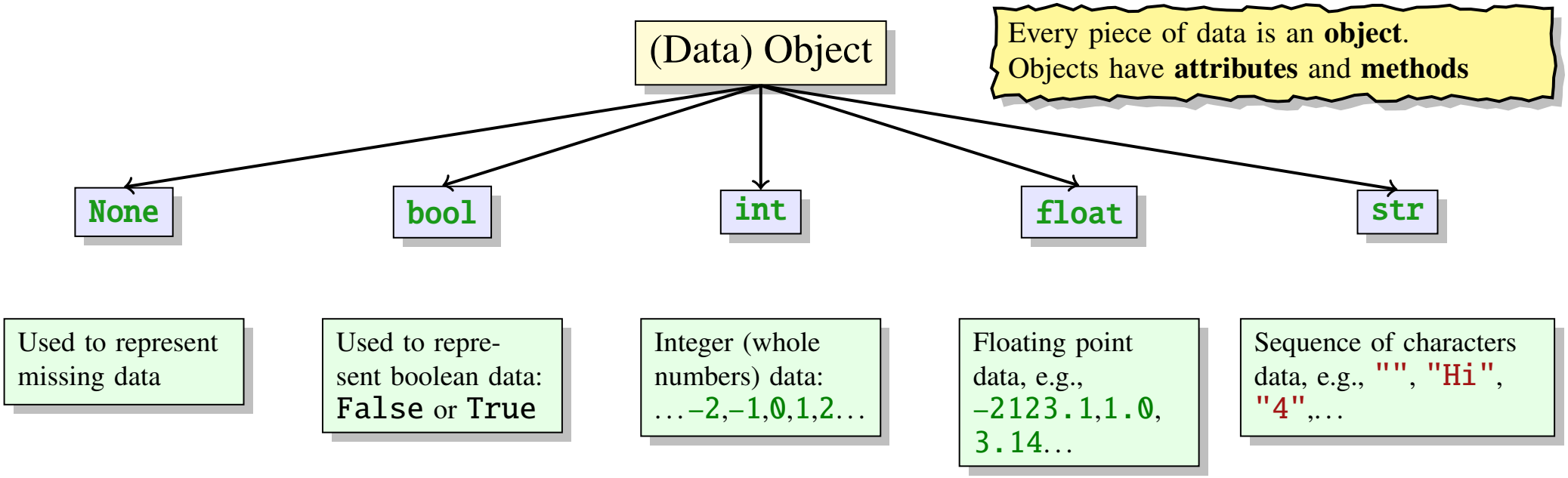
To get an idea of Python, we will take a small piece of code*

```
# Solution to Euler problem 2

# Calculate the sum of the even-values in the Fibonacci sequence
#    1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...
# value that do not exceed four million,

last = 1
current = 2

answer = 0
while current <= 4_000_000:
    if current % 2 == 0:
        answer += current
    last, current = current, last + current

print(answer)
```

*This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projecteuler.net.

Data and Data Types: `None`, `type`

Python has 5 main primitive data types:



- An **Object** stores data in its **attributes**, and **methods** are used to change an object.
- In Python, the type of the data is automatically determined (unlike Processing).
- The type determines what you are allowed to do to a piece of data.
- Function `type` will return the type of a piece of data.

Collections: `set`, `list`

We will cover collections in more detail later, but for now we have:

Sets

- A set is collection of **distinct**, **un-ordered** values.

Lists

Looping: `for`, `while`

Making Decisions: `if`, `elif`, `else`