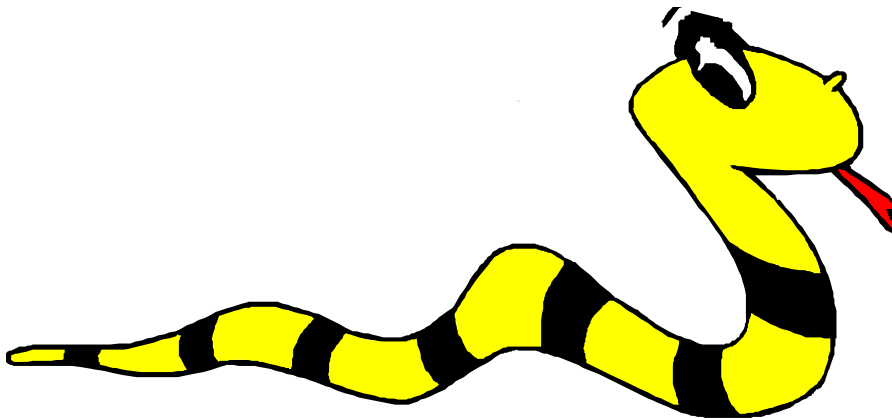


Programming with Python -2

Sequence types: Tuples, Lists, and Strings



Sequence Types

1. Tuple: ('john', 32, [CMSC])

- A simple *immutable* ordered sequence of items
- Items can be of mixed types, including collection types

2. Strings: "John Smith"

- *Immutable*
- Conceptually very much like a tuple

3. List: [1, 2, 'john', ('up', 'down')]

- *Mutable* ordered sequence of items of mixed types

Similar Syntax

- All three sequence types (tuples, strings, and lists) share much of the same syntax and functionality.
- Key difference:
 - Tuples and strings are *immutable*
 - Lists are *mutable*
- The operations shown in this section can be applied to *all* sequence types
 - most examples will just show the operation performed on one

Sequence Types 1

- Define tuples using parentheses and commas

```
>>> tu = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2, 3),  
          'def')
```

- Define lists are using square brackets and commas

```
>>> li = ["abc", 34, 4.34, 23]
```

- Define strings using quotes ("", ' ', or """).

```
>>> st = "Hello World"
```

```
>>> st = 'Hello World'
```

```
>>> st = """This is a multi-line  
string that uses triple quotes."""
```

Sequence Types 2

- Access individual members of a tuple, list, or string using square bracket “array” notation
- *Note that all are 0 based...*

```
>>> tu = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
>>> tu[1]      # Second item in the tuple.
'abc'
```

```
>>> li = ["abc", 34, 4.34, 23]
>>> li[1]      # Second item in the list.
34
```

```
>>> st = "Hello World"
>>> st[1]      # Second character in string.
'e'
```



Positive and negative indices

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2, 3),  
'def')
```

Positive index: count from the left, starting with 0

```
>>> t[1]  
'abc'
```

Negative index: count from right, starting with -1

```
>>> t[-3]  
4.56
```



Slicing: return copy of a subset

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56,  
(2, 3), 'def')
```

Return a copy of the container with a subset of the original members. Start copying at the first index, and stop copying before second.

```
>>> t[1:4]  
( 'abc', 4.56, (2, 3) )
```

Negative indices count from end

```
>>> t[1:-1]  
( 'abc', 4.56, (2, 3) )
```


Slicing: return copy of a =subset

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56,  
         (2, 3), 'def')
```

Omit first index to make copy starting from beginning of the container

```
>>> t[:2]  
(23, 'abc')
```

Omit second index to make copy starting at first index and going to end

```
>>> t[2:]  
(4.56, (2, 3), 'def')
```

Copying the Whole Sequence

- `[:]` makes a *copy* of an entire sequence

```
>>> t[ : ]
```

```
(23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

- Note the difference between these two lines for mutable sequences

```
>>> l2 = l1 # Both refer to 1 ref,  
           # changing one affects  
           both
```

```
>>> l2 = l1[ : ] # Independent copies,  
                two refs
```

The 'in' Operator

- Boolean test whether a value is inside a container:

```
>>> t = [1, 2, 4, 5]
>>> 3 in t
False
>>> 4 in t
True
>>> 4 not in t
False
```

- For strings, tests for substrings

```
>>> a = 'abcde'
>>> 'c' in a
True
>>> 'cd' in a
True
>>> 'ac' in a
False
```

- Be careful: the *in* keyword is also used in the syntax of *for loops* and *list comprehensions*



The + Operator

The + operator produces a *new* tuple, list, or string whose value is the concatenation of its arguments.

```
>>> (1, 2, 3) + (4, 5, 6)
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
```

```
>>> [1, 2, 3] + [4, 5, 6]
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

```
>>> "Hello" + " " + "World"
'Hello World'
```

The * Operator

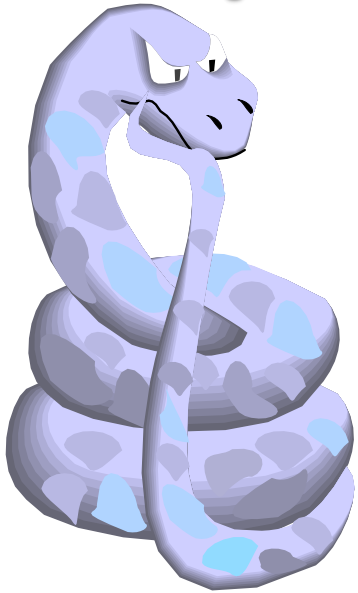
- The * operator produces a *new* tuple, list, or string that “repeats” the original content.

```
>>> (1, 2, 3) * 3  
(1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3)
```

```
>>> [1, 2, 3] * 3  
[1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
```

```
>>> "Hello" * 3  
'HelloHelloHello'
```

Mutability: Tuples vs. Lists



Lists are mutable

```
>>> li = ['abc', 23, 4.34, 23]
```

```
>>> li[1] = 45
```

```
>>> li  
['abc', 45, 4.34, 23]
```

- We can change lists *in place*.
- Name *li* still points to the same memory reference when we're done.

Tuples are immutable

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
>>> t[2] = 3.14
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#75>", line 1, in -toplevel-
    tu[2] = 3.14
TypeError: object doesn't support item assignment
```

- You can't change a tuple.
- You can make a fresh tuple and assign its reference to a previously used name.

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 3.14, (2,3), 'def')
```

- *The immutability of tuples means they're faster than lists.*

Operations on Lists Only

```
>>> li = [1, 11, 3, 4, 5]
```

```
>>> li.append('a')    # Note the  
    method syntax
```

```
>>> li  
[1, 11, 3, 4, 5, 'a']
```

```
>>> li.insert(2, 'i')  
>>> li  
[1, 11, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a']
```



The *extend* method vs *+*

- *+* creates a fresh list with a new memory ref
- *extend* operates on list `li` in place.

```
>>> li.extend([9, 8, 7])
>>> li
[1, 2, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a', 9, 8, 7]
```

- *Potentially confusing:*

- *extend* takes a list as an argument.
- *append* takes a singleton as an argument.

```
>>> li.append([10, 11, 12])
>>> li
[1, 2, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a', 9, 8, 7, [10, 11,
12]]
```

Operations on Lists Only

Lists have many methods, including index, count, remove, reverse, sort

```
>>> li = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'b']
```

```
>>> li.index('b')    # index of 1st  
occurrence
```

1

```
>>> li.count('b')    # number of  
occurrences
```

2

```
>>> li.remove('b')   # remove 1st  
occurrence
```

```
>>> li  
['a', 'c', 'b']
```



Operations on Lists Only

```
>>> li = [5, 2, 6, 8]
```

```
>>> li.reverse()      # reverse the list *in place*
```

```
>>> li
[8, 6, 2, 5]
```

```
>>> li.sort()         # sort the list *in place*
```

```
>>> li
[2, 5, 6, 8]
```

```
>>> li.sort(some_function)
# sort in place using user-defined comparison
```

Tuple details

- The comma is the tuple creation operator, not parens

```
>>> 1,  
(1,)
```

- Python shows parens for clarity (best practice)

```
>>> (1,)   
(1,)
```

- Don't forget the comma!

```
>>> (1)   
1
```

- Trailing comma only required for singletons
others

- Empty tuples have a special syntactic form

```
>>> ()   
()  
>>> tuple()   
()
```



Summary: Tuples vs. Lists

- Lists slower but more powerful than tuples
 - Lists can be modified, and they have lots of handy operations and methods
 - Tuples are immutable and have fewer features
- To convert between tuples and lists use the `list()` and `tuple()` functions:

```
li = list(tu)
```

```
tu = tuple(li)
```