

# DSS5201 DATA VISUALIZATION

## WEEK 1

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# INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON

**Computing programming**, or **coding**, is the process of issuing a series of commands that a computer can understand and execute in order to perform a task.

- Imagine a computer as a particularly mischievous genie.
- We need to write out the instruction (code) very explicitly so the computer will do it in the way we anticipate.



# WHY SHOULD WE LEARN CODING?



Today, almost all work with some quantitative aspect involves coding.

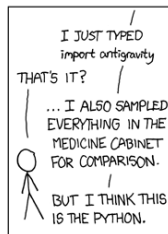
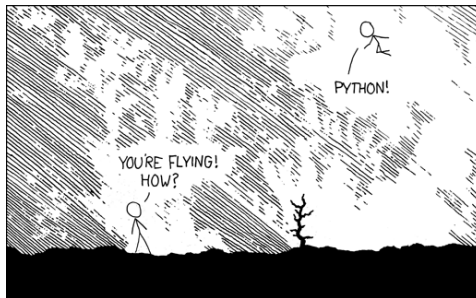
- An **essential skill** across a wide range of domains.
  - Widely used across industry, academia, and the public sector.
- Many of the tools and packages that have been developed will help you **do better work more productively**.

Learning basic programming concepts in *any* programming language is useful for almost any other language.



This course uses Python, which is ranked as the first or second most popular programming language in the world.

- It's a general purpose language – can perform a wide range of tasks.
- Also, one of the easiest to learn.



Now, let's introduce the key elements of a computational environment for coding.

- A computer with an **operating system**.
- An **installation of Python**, so the computer can interpret and execute Python code.
- An **integrated development environment (IDE)**, a place to write and run code.
- **Packages**, which extends the functionality of Python.

Let's talk through each of these in more details.

# PYTHON, IDE, AND PYTHON PACKAGES

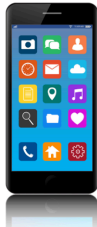
**Python: Engine**



**VSCode: Dashboard**



**Python: A new phone**



**Python packages: Apps you can download**







Python is both a programming language that human can read, and a language that computers can read, interpret, and then carry out instructions.

- For a computer to read and execute Python code, it needs a Python interpreter.
- We can download the latest version from [Python.org](https://python.org).
- Then install Python with default settings.

An **integrated development environment (IDE)** is a software that provides tools to make coding easier.

We will use Microsoft's **VSCode**.

- A way to run code interactively.
- Automatic code checking for basic errors.
- Coloring your brackets in pairs so you can keep track of the logical order of execution of your code.
- A quick way to access help documentations about common packages.

- We can install the stable build of VSCode from the [official website](#).

The image shows the Visual Studio Code website and a screenshot of the code editor. The website header includes links for Docs, Updates, Blog, API, Extensions, FAQ, and Learn, along with a Download button. A banner for Version 1.90 is visible. The main content area features the text 'Code editing. Redefined.' and 'Free. Built on open source. Runs everywhere.' with a 'Download for Windows Stable Build' button. Below this, it says 'Web, Insiders edition, or other platforms' and 'By using VS Code, you agree to its license and privacy statement.'

The screenshot of the code editor shows a file named 'index.js' with the following code:

```
src > # serviceWorker.js > @register > @window.addEventListener(load) callback
checkValidServiceWorker(swUrl, config);

// Add some additional logging to localhost, pointing developers
// service worker/PWA documentation.
navigator.serviceWorker.ready.then(() => {
  console.log('product
    'this > productSub
    'wor > removeSiteSpecificTrackingException
    'removeWebIdleTrackingException
    'requestMediaKeySystemAccess
  }) else {
    'sendBeacon
    // Is not > serviceWorker (property) Navigator.serviceWorker
    registerSW > storage
    'storeSiteSpecificTrackingException
    'storeWebIdleTrackingException
    'userAgent
    'vendor
  }
}

function registerValidSW(swUrl, config) {
  navigator.serviceWorker
    .register(swUrl)
    .then(registration => {
```

The bottom status bar of the code editor shows 'router', '45', 'Col 19', 'Spaces: 2', 'UTF-8', 'LF', 'JavaScript'.

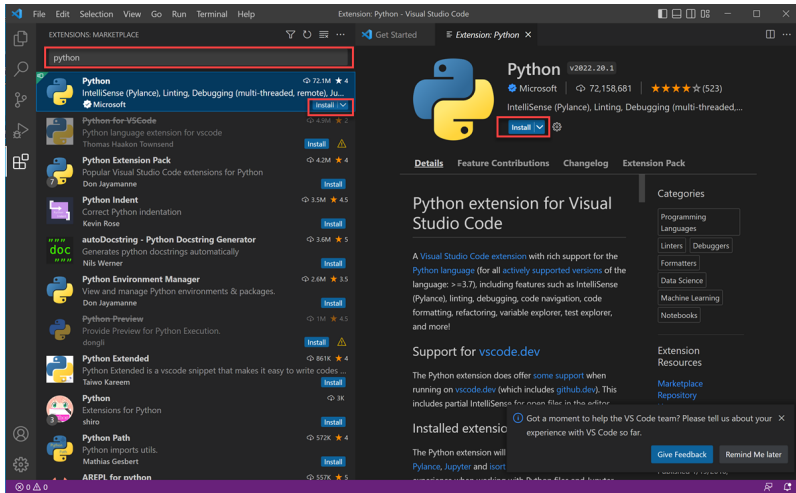
# ESSENTIAL VSCode PYTHON EXTENSIONS

The following extensions will provide us helpful functionalities in VSCode.

- Click on the activity bar or use a keyboard shortcut (*Cmd + Shift + X*) to open the extension panel.
- Type the following keywords to search for these extensions:
  - Python
  - Python Indent
  - Jupyter
  - Jupyter Notebook Renderers
  - Data Wrangler

# ESSENTIAL VS CODE PYTHON EXTENSIONS

Install the following extensions: Python, Python Indent, Jupyter, Jupyter Notebook Renderers, Data Wrangler.



A Python **package** is a collection of function, data, and documentation that extends the capabilities of Python.

```
import numpy as np
```

You will see statements like the above at the start of many Python code scripts.

- Instructions to use an installed package and give it a shortened name in the rest of the script.
- We will see more on how to install and use packages soon.

## ① Install Python

- Go to [Python.org](https://python.org) and download the latest version for your operating system.

## ② Install Visual Studio Code (VSCode)

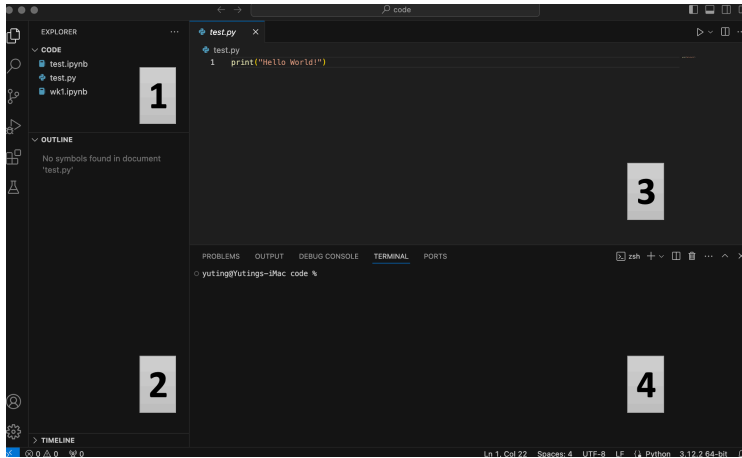
- Visual Studio Code is a free and open-source IDE from Microsoft that is available on all major operating systems.
- Download and install [VS Code](#).
- After that, we also need to install several essential VScode Python extensions.

The **typical workflow** for analysis with code might be something like this:

- Open up your IDE.
- Write some code in a script in your IDE.
- If necessary for the analysis that you are doing, install some packages.
- Use the IDE to execute the code by Python and the add-on packages, and to display the results.
- Ensure the script can be run from top to bottom to reproduce your analysis.



# VSCODE INTERFACE



- ① The Explorer, showing the content of the folder that's currently open.
- ② The Outline of key parts of the file that is open in Panel 3.
- ③ A VS Code Editor, showing a Python script (with an extension of `.py`).
  - Shortly, we can select code and press `Shift + Enter` to execute the code.
  - The result will appear in Panel 4.
- ④ The Terminal, a place where you can type in commands and your computer will execute.

## RUNNING PYTHON CODE

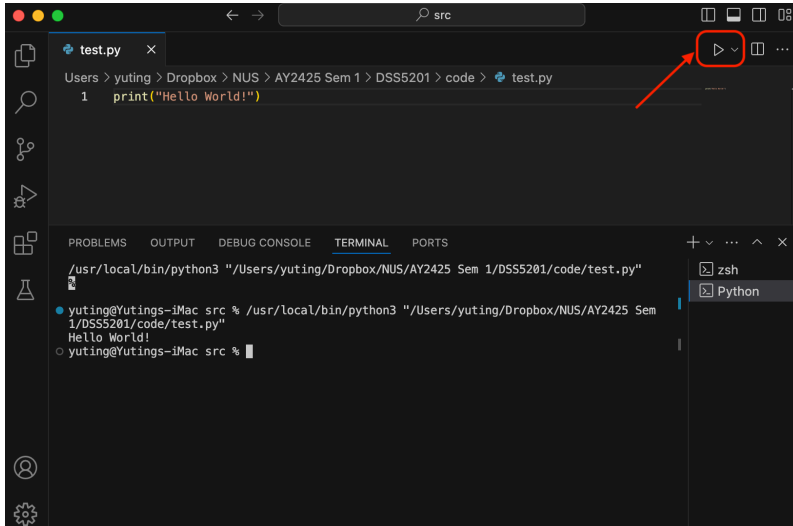
**Now we will create and run our first code.**

- Go to *File > New Text File* or use the keyboard shortcut (*Cmd + N*) to create a new file.
- Write a simple print expression to display “Hello World!”.

```
print("Hello World!")
```

- Save the file using *Cmd + S*. Select the file directory and type the file name.
  - Make sure to add `.py` at the end of the file name.
- To run the Python file, click on the *Run* button on the top right.
  - The output will display in the terminal.

# RUNNING PYTHON CODE



The screenshot shows a code editor window with a file named `test.py` open. The code in the file is:

```
1 print("Hello World!")
```

A red arrow points to a play button icon in the top right corner of the editor, indicating the run command. Below the editor, the **TERMINAL** panel is active, showing the command and output:

```
/usr/local/bin/python3 "/Users/yuting/Dropbox/NUS/AY2425 Sem 1/DSS5201/code/test.py"  
yuting@Yutings-iMac src % /usr/local/bin/python3 "/Users/yuting/Dropbox/NUS/AY2425 Sem 1/DSS5201/code/test.py"  
Hello World!  
yuting@Yutings-iMac src %
```

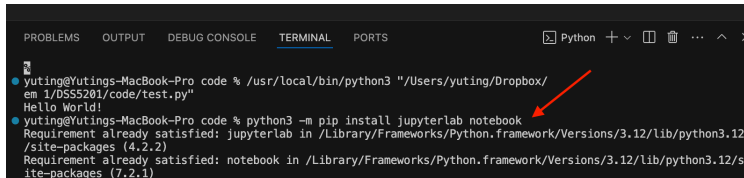
On the right side of the terminal panel, there is a dropdown menu with two options: `zsh` and `Python`. The `Python` option is currently selected.

# JUPYTER NOTEBOOK IN VS CODE

VSCode allows users to run code in Jupyter Notebook.

- That is, we can run the cell and visualize the result within VSCode.
- To use it, we need to install a few packages in the **Terminal**.

```
# For MacOS
python3 -m pip install jupyterlab notebook
# For Windows
py -m pip install jupyterlab notebook
```

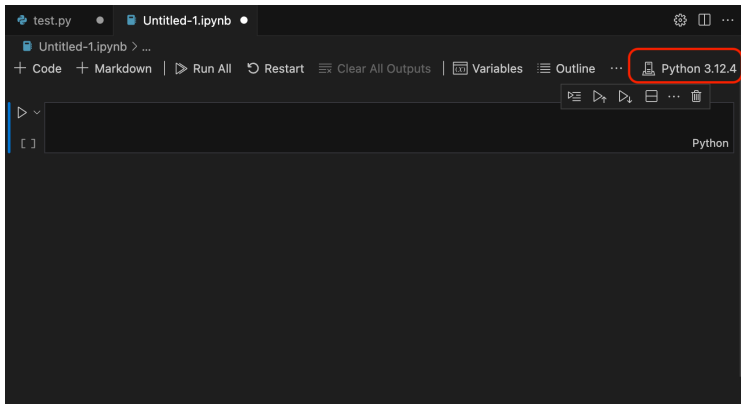


The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the 'TERMINAL' tab selected. The terminal output shows two commands being executed. The first command runs a Python script that prints 'Hello World!'. The second command installs 'jupyterlab' and 'notebook' using pip. A red arrow points to the second command line.

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS Python + - [ ] [ ] ... ^ x
yuting@Yutings-MacBook-Pro code % /usr/local/bin/python3 "/Users/yuting/Dropbox/em 1/DSS5201/code/test.py"
Hello World!
yuting@Yutings-MacBook-Pro code % python3 -m pip install jupyterlab notebook
Requirement already satisfied: jupyterlab in /Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/3.12/lib/python3.12/site-packages (4.2.2)
Requirement already satisfied: notebook in /Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/3.12/lib/python3.12/site-packages (7.2.1)
```

# JUPYTER NOTEBOOK IN VSCODE

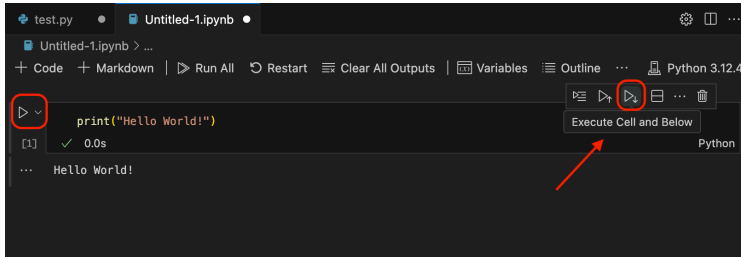
- Create a new file with `.ipynb` extension.
- Click on the *kernel picker* on the top right and select the Python version.



# JUPYTER NOTEBOOK IN VSCODE

Write a print expression to display “Hello World!” and press the run button.

- Run current cell.
- Run current cell and below.
- Run above cells.





**Packages** (also known as **libraries**) are key to extending the functionality of Python.

- Written by core maintainers of the Python language, as well as enthusiasts, firms, researchers, academics, etc.
  - Because everyone can write packages, they vary widely in quality and usefulness.
- Today we will install a three key packages for data science workflow.
  - `numpy`, `pandas`, and `matplotlib`.



vicki  
@vboykis

...

Name a more iconic trio, I'll wait.

```
In [2]: import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
```

10:10 PM · Aug 23, 2018

These three packages cover numerical, data, and plotting functionality.

- We need to install them (just once, like installing any other applications) in the Terminal.
- Then import them into our script.

On MacOS, here's how to install the three packages in the Terminal:

```
python3 -m pip install numpy pandas matplotlib
```

Here's how to install them on Windows:

```
py -m pip install numpy pandas matplotlib
```

After installation, we are able to load the packages in the notebook:

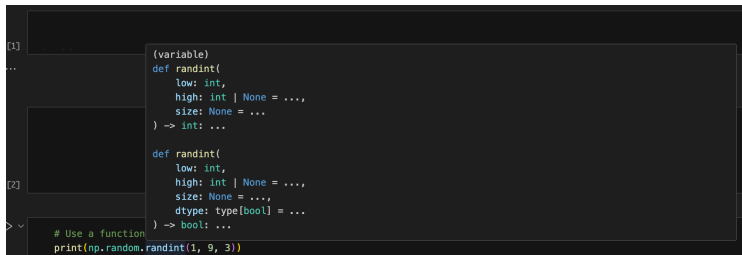
```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

The code below uses numpy function to print three random integers between 1 and 9:

```
print(np.random.randint(1, 9, 3))
```

```
[1 2 4]
```

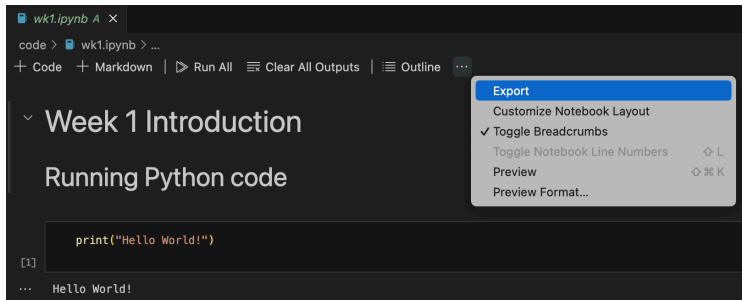
If you are ever unsure about a function on VSCode, hover your mouse over the function name to read its documentation.



# EXPORTING A JUPYTER NOTEBOOK

We can export a Jupyter Notebook as a Python script (.py) or an HTML file.

- Select ... > Export on the main tool bar.
- Then select from a drop-down list for file format options.
- If encounter issues while exporting, go to system Terminal and install nbconvert.





Lectures for this course will be highly **interactive** and requires **lots of learning-by-doing**.

- We recommend that you create a notebook to following along on your own laptop.
- As the lecture progresses, type the code from the lecture notes in your Code Editor.
- Run the code to see the outputs.

### Setting up Python with VSCode

- ① Install and configure VSCode for Python development, by [Microsoft](#).  
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/modules/python-install-vscode/1-introduction>
- ② Setting Up VSCode For Python: A Complete Guide, by [DataCamp](#).  
<https://www.datacamp.com/tutorial/setting-up-vscode-python>
- ③ Working with Jupyter Notebook in VS Code, by [VS Code](#).  
<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/datascience/jupyter-notebooks>
- ④ Python interactive window, by [VS Code](#).  
<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/python/jupyter-support-py>



# PYTHON BASICS

- Basic Python data types
- Lists and tuples
- Dictionaries
- Conditionals and repeated executions

When working in Python, it is useful to remember two principles:

- Everything in Python is an object.
- Every object has a type (class).

Basically, Python uses an object-oriented style of programming.

Understanding the type of an object helps determine what methods and attributes are available for that object, and how it will behave under different conditions.

When working in Python, it is necessary to create new objects, either to store data or the output of functions.

- Remember to avoid the reserved and predefined words/letters.
- Examples include:

```
# Some reserved words in Python
False True else import from
None break except in is
def pass continue return
```

- Also, Python is case sensitive: avg and Avg refer to different objects.

## snake\_case

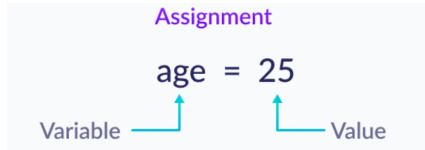
when all the words in a compound word are lower case but delimited by an underscore

- 1 Use descriptive names.
  - Choose names that describe the purpose of the variable or function.
  - Example: Instead of `x`, use `temperature` or `age`.
- 2 Use underscores for readability.
  - Use **underscores** to separate words in names for better readability.
  - **Explicit** is better than implicit.
  - Example: Use `avg_temperature` rather than `avgtemperature`.

# ASSIGNMENT OPERATOR

It can be helpful to think of a variable as a box that stores information:

- A single number, a vector, a string, etc.
- We use the **assignment operator** (=) to assign a value to a variable.



In Python, variables can be of different types. Throughout your work, you will encounter several **common data types**:

- **Numeric (float)**: numbers that contain a decimal.
- **Integers (int)**: whole numbers.
- **Logical (bool)**: data that take on the value of either TRUE or FALSE.
- **String (str)**: data that are used to represent string values.
  - A special type of character string is called a **category** in pandas.

We can check the type of any object using the `type()` function.

```
# Assign a floating-point number to variable 'a'  
a = 2.7  
type(a)
```

```
<class 'float'>
```

```
# Assign a string to variable 'b'  
b = "hello"  
type(b)
```

```
<class 'str'>
```

```
# Assign a boolean value to variable 'c'  
c = True  
# Check if 'c' is an instance of 'bool'  
isinstance(c, bool)
```

```
True
```



- Use the `type()` function to find out the type of an object.
- Use the following functions to conduct logical test and coerce objects.

Type	Checking	Coercing
numeric	<code>isinstance(var, (int, float))</code>	<code>float(var)</code> or <code>int(var)</code>
logical	<code>isinstance(var, bool)</code>	<code>bool(var)</code>
character	<code>isinstance(var, str)</code>	<code>str(var)</code>
categorical	<code>isinstance(var, pd.Categorical)</code>	<code>pd.Categorical(var)</code>

**Arithmetic operations** are performed element by element.

- All of the basic operators in mathematics are available to use.

Operator	Description
+	addition
-	subtraction
*	multiplication
/	division
**	exponentiation
//	integer division
%	modulo

Let's apply these operators to **numeric** types:

```
# addition
```

```
1 + 2 + 3
```

6

```
# multiplication
```

```
2 * 3.1415926
```

6.2831852

```
# exponentiation
```

```
3 ** 2
```

9

Division, integer division, and modulo:

```
# division
```

```
100 / 2
```

50.0

```
# integer division (always rounds down)
```

```
100 // 3
```

33

```
# modulo (remainder after division)
```

```
100 % 3
```

1

NoneType is a unique data type in Python.

- Represents an object with no value.

```
# Create a NoneType object  
x = None  
print(x)
```

None

```
type(x)
```

```
<class 'NoneType'>
```

We can write strings as characters enclosed with either single quotes or double quotes.

- If the string contains a quotation or apostrophe, we can use a combination of single and double quotes to define it.

```
# A string with apostrophe  
str1 = "It is a rainy day."  
print(str1)
```

It is a rainy day.

```
# A string with quotation  
str2 = 'Rosa: "Hello."'   
print(str2)
```

Rosa: "Hello."

There are various useful **string manipulation methods** in Python.

```
# Convert into lower case  
str2 = str1.lower()  
print(str2)
```

it is a rainy day.

```
# Split strings into words  
str3 = str1.split()  
print(str3)
```

```
['It', 'is', 'a', 'rainy', 'day.']
```

The boolean (`bool`) has two values: `True` and `False`.

- If we compare objects using **comparison operators**, we will get a boolean result.

Operator	Description
<code>x == y</code>	is x equal to y?
<code>x != y</code>	is x not equal to y?
<code>x &gt; y</code>	is x greater than y?
<code>x &gt;= y</code>	is x greater or equal to y?
<code>x &lt; y</code>	is x smaller than y?
<code>x &lt;= y</code>	is x smaller or equal to y?
<code>x is y</code>	is x the same object as y?



We also have so-called **boolean operators**, which also returns either True or False.

Operator	Description
x and y	are x and y both True?
x or y	Is at least one of x and y True?
not x	is x False?

True and True

True

True or False

True

**Lists** and **tuples** allows us to store multiple elements in a single object.

- List are defined with square brackets [].

```
# Create a list of length 3, containing values 1, 2, 3
list1 = [1, 2, 3]
print(list1)
```

[1, 2, 3]

- Now your environment contains the object `list1`. Go and click on the **Variables** tab. You should see it there.

A list can contain values of mixed types.

```
# Create a list with mixed data types
list2 = [1, "hello", True, 3.14]
print(list2)
```

```
[1, 'hello', True, 3.14]
```

```
# Length of the list
len(list2)
```

Tuples look similar to lists, but have a key difference.

- They are defined with parentheses ().

```
# Create a tuple with mixed data types
tuple1 = (1, "hello", True, 3.14)
print(tuple1)
```

```
(1, 'hello', True, 3.14)
```

```
type(tuple1)
```

```
<class 'tuple'>
```

We can access values inside a list or tuple using square-bracket syntax.

- Python uses **zero-based indexing**: The first element of the list is in position 0.



The diagram illustrates zero-based indexing by showing two vertical columns. The left column is titled 'Index' and contains the values 0, 1, 2, and 3. The right column is titled 'Data' and contains the values x0, x1, x2, and x3. A horizontal arrow points from the index value 1 to the data value x1, demonstrating that the index corresponds to the position of the data element.

Index		Data
0		x0
1	→	x1
2		x2
3		x3

- Python uses **zero-based indexing**: The first element of the list is in position 0.

<b>P</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>o</b>	<b>n</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>hello</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>3.14</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

```
# The first element (index starts from 0)  
list2[0]
```

1

```
# The last element (with index -1)  
list2[-1]
```

3.14

```
# Modify the second element  
list2[1] = 10  
list2
```

[1, 10, True, 3.14]

Now `list2` becomes:

<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>3.14</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

We can use the colon (`:`) to access a sub-sequence.

- This is called **slicing**.
- Note that the ending index is **not inclusive**.

```
# Slice the first three elements  
list2[0:3]
```

```
[1, 10, True]
```



Other list methods to perform operations with the data.

- Defined on the object itself and accessed using a period (.).

```
# Add element to the end of the list
list2.append("one more entry")
list2
```

```
[1, 10, True, 3.14, 'one more entry']
```

```
# Remove the second element
del list2[1]
list2
```

```
[1, True, 3.14, 'one more entry']
```

A **dictionary** is a mapping between **key and value** pairs.

- The key is a unique identifier; the value can be of any data type.
- Defined with curly brackets.

```
# Define a dictionary
dict1 = {
    "A": 2024,
    "B": ["Stats", "Data Science"],
    "C": [True, False, True]
}
```

```
# Check the type of the dictionary  
type(dict1)
```

```
<class 'dict'>
```

```
# Display the dictionary  
dict1
```

```
{'A': 2024, 'B': ['Stats', 'Data Science'], 'C': [True, False, True]}
```

## ACCESSING COMPONENTS IN DICTIONARIES

```
# Access the keys of the dictionary  
dict1.keys()
```

```
dict_keys(['A', 'B', 'C'])
```

```
# Access the values associated with the key "B"  
dict1["B"]
```

```
['Stats', 'Data Science']
```

## ACCESSING COMPONENTS IN DICTIONARIES

```
# Modify an existing value  
dict1["A"] = 5201  
dict1
```

```
{'A': 5201, 'B': ['Stats', 'Data Science'], 'C': [True, False, True]}
```

```
# Delete a key-value pair  
del dict1["C"]  
dict1
```

```
{'A': 5201, 'B': ['Stats', 'Data Science']}
```

We've introduced several types of brackets. They can play different roles depending on the context.

The most common uses are:

- `[]` is used to denote a list, or to signify accessing a position with an index.
  - `vec[0]` gets the first entry of a variable named `vec`.
- `{}` is used to denote a set or a dictionary.
  - `{"first_name": "a", "last_name": "b"}`.
- `()` is used to denote arguments of a function.
  - `type(x)` where `x` is the input passed to the function `type()`.

## CHECK OBJECTS IN THE WORKSPACE

In Python, we can list the objects currently defined in the environment.

- We can inspect them in the **Variables** tab.

As we work, we may find that you accumulate a number of objects within the workspace.

- We can remove them with the `del` statement.

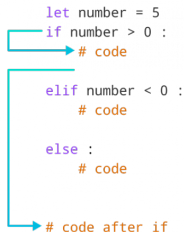
```
# Remove objects in environment  
del a, b, c, list1, list2, str1, str2, str3, dict1
```

**Conditional executions** and **loops** are essential for controlling the flow of a program.

- The `if` statement is used to execute a block of code only if a specified condition is true.
- Optionally, we can use an `else` block to execute code if the condition is false.
- Additionally, we can use `elif` (short for else if) to check multiple conditions sequentially.

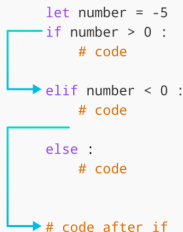
1st Condition is True

```
let number = 5
if number > 0 :
    # code
elif number < 0 :
    # code
else :
    # code
# code after if
```



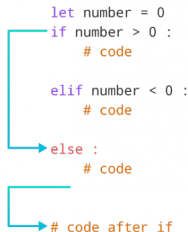
2nd Condition is True

```
let number = -5
if number > 0 :
    # code
elif number < 0 :
    # code
else :
    # code
# code after if
```



All Conditions are False

```
let number = 0
if number > 0 :
    # code
elif number < 0 :
    # code
else :
    # code
# code after if
```





Here is a simple example:

```
w = 10

if w > 0:
    w1 = 2
else:
    w1 = -2

print(w1)
```

Certain part of the code examples are **indented by 4 empty spaces**.

- Code that is part of a function, a conditional clause, or a loop is indented.
- **Not** a code-style choice, but a way to tell Python that some code is to be executed as part of, say, a loop, and not to be executed after the loop is finished.
- Consistent indentation is crucial.

- If we don't need the else block, we can omit it:

```
w = 10

if w > 0:
    w1 = 2

print(w1)
```

We can use `elif` to check multiple conditions.

```
w = 0

if w > 0:
    w1 = 2
elif w == 0:
    w1 = 0
else:
    w1 = -2

print(w1)
```

0

## EXAMPLE: A DICE GAME

Suppose that we wish to simulate a game of dice between two players, A and B.

- They each have a fair six-sided die. The player with the higher roll is the winner. If they both get the same number, the result is a draw.

```
# Simulate a single roll of a six-sided die
roll = np.random.randint(1, 7)
print(roll)
```

4

- If they wish to roll two dice, then

```
# Simulate two rolls of a six-sided die
roll = np.random.randint(1, 7, size = 2)
print(roll)
```

[5 3]

Now let's simulate the dice game – roll the dice for both players and determine the winner.

### **Step-by-step implementation:**

- ① Set the random seed to ensure reproducibility.
- ② Simulate the dice rolls for both players.
- ③ Compare the results and determine the winner using conditional statements.

## EXAMPLE: A DICE GAME

```
# Set seed for reproducibility
np.random.seed(5201)

# Simulate rolling a die for players A and B
A = np.random.randint(1, 7)
B = np.random.randint(1, 7)

# Compare the result and determine the winner
if A > B:
    print("A is the winner.")
elif A == B:
    print("It is a draw.")
else:
    print("B is the winner.")
```

B is the winner.

Now suppose we want to simulate the game for 1000 times.

We can use a **for loop**. For each iteration,

- ① Roll the dice for both players.
- ② Determine the winner.
- ③ Store the result in a list named `results`.



```
np.random.seed(5201)           # For reproducibility
results = [0] * 1000           # Initiate a list to store results

for i in range(1000):
    A = np.random.randint(1, 7)
    B = np.random.randint(1, 7)

    if A > B:
        results[i] = "A"
    elif A == B:
        results[i] = "Draw"
    else:
        results[i] = "B"

# Print the first 5 results
print(results[:5])
```

```
['B', 'A', 'A', 'B', 'B']
```

To summarize the results:

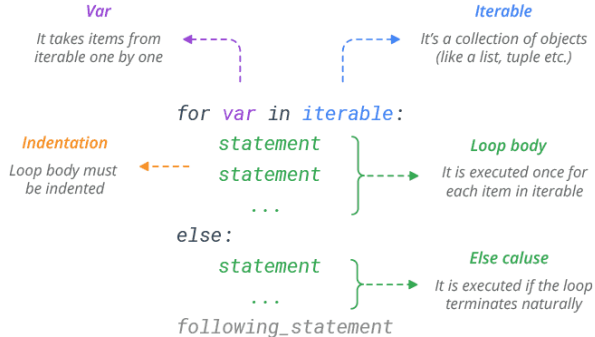
```
# Import a function from a built-in module
from collections import Counter

# Summarize the results
results_counter = Counter(results)
print(results_counter)
```

```
Counter({'A': 429, 'B': 413, 'Draw': 158})
```

What we just saw is a for loop.

- We specify what has to be done and how many times.



What if we want to stop the game as soon as A wins the first time?

- In this case, we use a `while` loop with a `break` statement, to break out of the loop.
- It will continue to execute until a specific condition is met – in this case, until player A wins.

## EXAMPLE: FIRST WIN FOR PLAYER A

```
np.random.seed(5201) # For reproducibility

# Initialize variables
iterations = 0

while True:
    iterations += 1
    A = np.random.randint(1, 7)
    B = np.random.randint(1, 7)

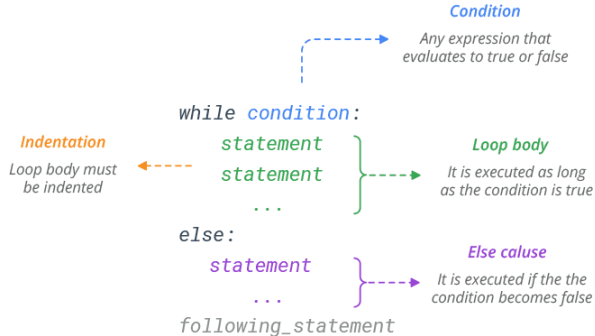
    if A > B:
        break

print("First win for A occurs at game", iterations)
```

First win for A occurs at game 2

What we just saw in the outer loop is a `while` loop.

- It is used when we want to perform a task indefinitely, **until** a certain condition is met.



## Basics in Python programming

- Basic Python data types
- List and tuples
- Dictionaries
- Conditionals and repeated executions

## Assignment:

- Pre-course reflections on Canvas by **Friday of Week 2 11:59pm**.

## SUMMARY: VS CODE INTERFACE

