

[220] Error Handling

Learning Objectives Today

How to crash more

- turn semantic bugs into runtime bugs with assert

How to crash less

- catch exceptions with try/except



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pizza>



Example: Pizza Analyzer

```
import math

def pizza_size(radius):
    return (radius ** 2) * math.pi

def slice_size(radius, slice_count):
    total_size = pizza_size(radius)
    return total_size * (1 / slice_count)

def main():
    for i in range(10):
        # grab input
        args = input("Enter pizza diameter(inches), slice count: ")
        args = args.split(',')
        radius = float(args[0].strip()) / 2
        slices = int(args[1].strip())

        # pizza analysis
        size = slice_size(radius, slices)
        print('PIZZA: radius={}, slices={}, slice square inches='
              .format(radius, slices, size))

main()
```

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def main():
    for i in range(10):
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        args = args.split(',')
        radius = float(args[0].strip()) / 2
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        # pizza analysis
        size = slice_size(radius, slices)
        print('PIZZA: radius={}, slices={}, slice square inches={}'
              .format(radius, slices, size))

main()
```

Exercise: what are possible bad inputs for

- diameter
- slice count
- other?

Does it cause a runtime error or semantic error?

Assert

Syntax:

```
assert BOOLEAN_EXPRESSION
```

Purpose:

Force program to crash if something is non-sensible, rather than run and produce garbage.

semantic errors
(hard to debug)



runtime errors
(easier to debug)

Assert

Warning: sometimes people disable assertions when running your code to improve performance

Syntax:

`assert` **BOOLEAN_EXPRESSION**

True

nothing happens

False

Crash!

```
Enter pizza diameter(inches), slice count): -10, 8
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "pizza.py", line 24, in <module>
    main()
  File "pizza.py", line 20, in main
    size = slice_size(radius, slices)
  File "pizza.py", line 8, in slice_size
    total_size = pizza_size(radius)
  File "pizza.py", line 4, in pizza_size
    assert(radius > 0)
AssertionError
```

Assert

Syntax:

```
assert BOOLEAN_EXPRESSION
```

Examples:

```
assert x > 0
```

```
assert items != None
```

```
assert "age" in person
```

```
assert len(nums) % 2 == 1
```

Pizza Example: add asserts to crash upon

- diameter <= 0
- slices <= 0

What if we want to keep running even
if there is an error?

Try/Except

Syntax:

```
flaky_function( )
```

Try/Except

Syntax:

try:

`flaky_function()`

except:

`print("error!") # or some other handling`

Try/Except

Syntax:

```
try:  
    flaky_function()  
except:  
    print("error!") # or some other handling
```

Description:

try and **except** blocks come in pairs (runtime errors are “exceptions”)

Try/Except

Syntax:

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try:  
    flaky_function()  
except:  
    print("error!") # or some other handling
```

Description:

try and **except** blocks come in pairs (runtime errors are “exceptions”)

Python tries to run the code in the **try** block. If there’s an exception, it just runs the **except** block (instead of crashing). This is called “**catching**” the exception.

If there is no exception, the **except** block does not run.

Try/Except

Syntax:

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try:
    flaky_function()
except:
    print("error!") # or some other handling
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Description:

try and **except** blocks come in pairs (runtime errors are “exceptions”)

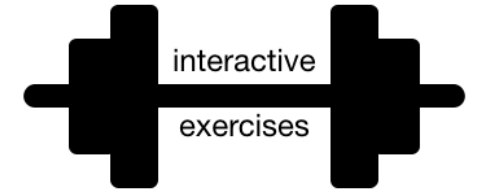
Python tries to run the code in the **try** block. If there’s an exception, it just runs the **except** block (instead of crashing). This is called “**catching**” the exception.

If there is no exception, the **except** block does not run.

Pizza Example: try/except to continue running upon

- parse errors
- analysis errors

Exceptions are Exceptions to Regular Control Flow

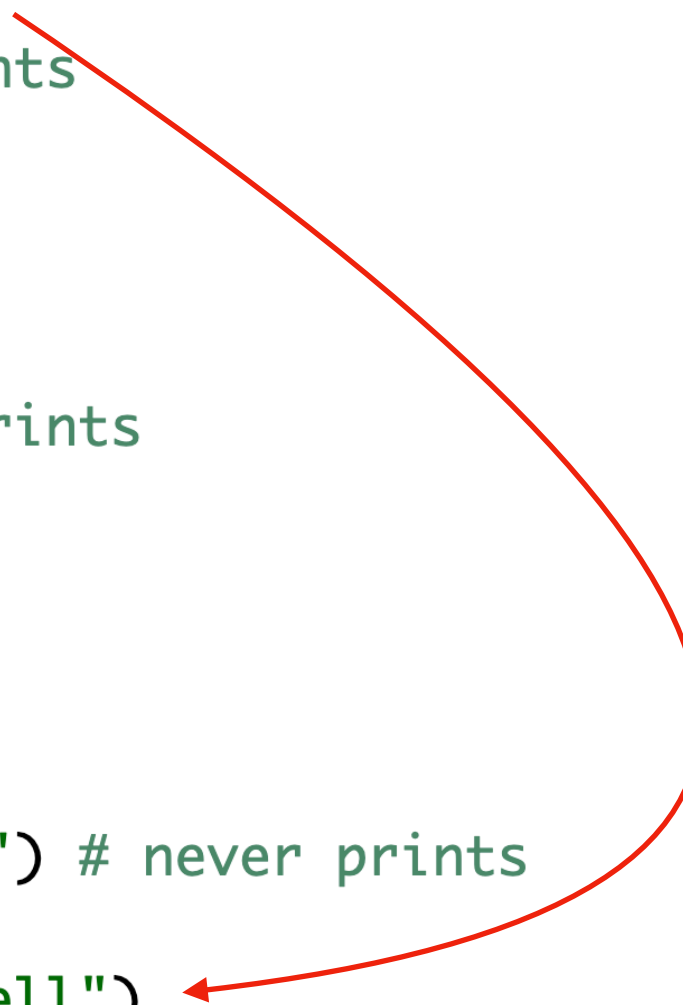


```
try:
    print("2 inverse is", 1/2)
    print("1 inverse is", 1/1)
    print("0 inverse is", 1/0)
    print("-1 inverse is", -1/1)
    print("-2 inverse is", -1/1)
except:
    print("that's all, folks!")
```

never runs

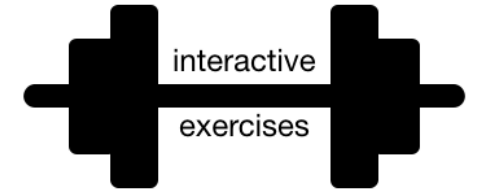
Exceptions are Exceptions to Regular Control Flow

```
def buggy():  
    print("buggy: about to fail")  
    print("buggy: infinity is ", 1/0)  
    print("buggy: oops!") # never prints  
  
def g():  
    print("g: before buggy")  
    buggy()  
    print("g: after buggy") # never prints  
  
def f():  
    try:  
        print("f: let's call g")  
        g()  
        print("f: g returned normally") # never prints  
    except:  
        print("f: that didn't go so well")
```



f()

Exceptions are Exceptions to Regular Control Flow



```
def buggy():  
    print("buggy: about to fail")  
    print("buggy: infinity is ", 1/0)  
    print("buggy: oops!") # never prints
```

```
def g():  
    print("g: before buggy")  
    try:  
        buggy()  
    except:  
        print("g: caught an exception from buggy")  
    print("g: after buggy")
```

```
def f():  
    try:  
        print("f: let's call g")  
        g()  
        print("f: g returned normally")  
    except:  
        print("f: that didn't go so well")
```

*g catches, so f never knows
about the exception*

```
f()
```


What if we want to know
the reason for the exception?

Crash Cause


Version 1:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except:
    print("error!") # or some other handling
```

Version 2:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except Exception as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

get exception object
describing the problem



Crash Cause

Version 1:

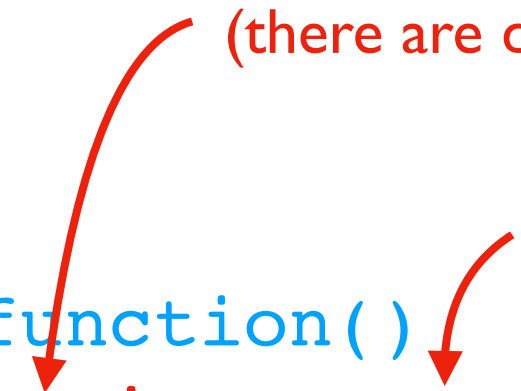
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try:
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Version 2:

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try:
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except Exception as e:
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```

e is of type Exception (very general)
(there are different types of exceptions)

get exception object
describing the problem



Crash Cause

Pizza Example: print failure reasons

- for parse errors
- for analysis errors

Version 1:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except:
    print("error!") # or some other handling
```

Version 2:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except Exception as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

e is of type Exception (very general)
(there are different types of exceptions)

get exception object
describing the problem

why it failed

What if we only want to catch
certain exceptions?

Narrow Catching

Version 2:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except Exception as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

Version 3:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except (ValueError, IndexError) as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```


Narrow Catching


Version 2:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except Exception as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
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Version 3:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except (ValueError, IndexError) as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

only catch these two
(not NameError and others)



Narrow Catching

Pizza Example: catch only real parse errors

- strings when want ints
- not enough values
- NOT typos in variable names


Version 2:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except Exception as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

Version 3:

```
try:
    flaky_function()
except (ValueError, IndexError) as e:
    print("error because:", str(e))
```

only catch these two
(not NameError and others)



General Rule: always catch specific types of exceptions,
and/or make sure the user knows there was an error
(unexpected silent errors are the worst!)

Exception Hierarchy

Documentation: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/exceptions.html#exception-hierarchy>

```
BaseException
+-- SystemExit
+-- KeyboardInterrupt
+-- GeneratorExit
+-- Exception
    +-- StopIteration
    +-- StopAsyncIteration
    +-- ArithmeticError
        +-- FloatingPointError
        +-- OverflowError
        +-- ZeroDivisionError
    +-- AssertionError
    +-- AttributeError
    +-- BufferError
    +-- EOFError
    +-- ImportError
        +-- ModuleNotFoundError
    +-- LookupError
        +-- IndexError
        +-- KeyError
    +-- MemoryError
    +-- NameError
        +-- UnboundLocalError
    +-- OSError
        +-- BlockingIOError
        +-- ChildProcessError
        +-- ConnectionError
            +-- BrokenPipeError
            +-- ConnectionAbortedError
            +-- ConnectionRefusedError
            +-- ConnectionResetError
        +-- FileExistsError
        +-- FileNotFoundError
        +-- InterruptedError
        +-- IsADirectoryError
        +-- NotADirectoryError
        +-- PermissionError
        +-- ProcessLookupError
        +-- TimeoutError
    +-- ReferenceError
    +-- RuntimeError
        +-- NotImplementedError
        +-- RecursionError
    +-- SyntaxError
        +-- IndentationError
        +-- TabError
    +-- SystemError
    +-- TypeError
    +-- ValueError
        +-- UnicodeError
            +-- UnicodeDecodeError
            +-- UnicodeEncodeError
            +-- UnicodeTranslateError
    +-- Warning
        +-- DeprecationWarning
        +-- PendingDeprecationWarning
        +-- RuntimeWarning
        +-- SyntaxWarning
        +-- UserWarning
        +-- FutureWarning
        +-- ImportWarning
        +-- UnicodeWarning
        +-- BytesWarning
        +-- ResourceWarning
```

**screenshot
of hierarchy**

What if we want to produce a specific kind of error? (not just an assert)

Custom Errors

BaseException

+-- Exception

+-- ArithmeticError

| +-- FloatingPointError

| +-- OverflowError

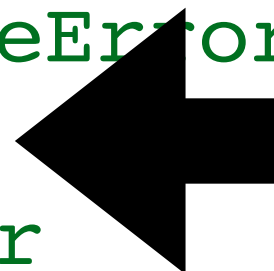
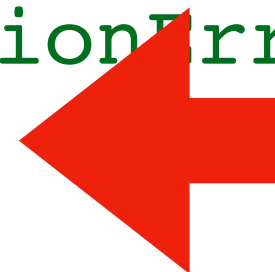
| +-- ZeroDivisionError

+-- AssertionError

+-- AttributeError

+-- TypeError

+-- ValueError



Asserts vs. Raising Exception Objects

Version 1 (quick and dirty):

```
def pizza_size(radius):  
    assert type(radius) in (float, int)  
    return (radius ** 2) * math.pi
```

Version 2 (more robust and informative):

```
def pizza_size(radius):  
    if type(radius) not in (float, int):  
        raise TypeError("need a numeric type")  
    return (radius ** 2) * math.pi
```

tell Python this exception
occurred here

create TypeError object

with this message

Asserts vs. Raising Exception Objects

Version 1 (quick and dirty):

```
def pizza_size(radius):  
    assert type(radius) in (float, int)  
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Pizza Example:

- raise `TypeError`

Version 2 (more robust and informative):

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    return (radius ** 2) * math.pi
```

tell Python this exception
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create `TypeError` object

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Summary

Asserts

- force a crash/exception
- better to crash in an obvious way than to use corrupt data

Exceptions

- produce them with **raise**
- catch them with **try/except**
- can choose specific types of exceptions

General Rule: always catch specific types of exceptions,
and/or make sure the user knows there was an error
(unexpected silent errors are the worst!)