

FE5225 Machine Learning and Fintech



Python (mythology)



THE PYTHON CHILD OF GAIA

- The Python was a giant serpent-dragon born to **Gaia**, the Greek goddess of the Earth; and most sources tell of the birth of the Python from the mud left behind when one of prehistory's great floods receded.
- The home of the Python would become a cave upon Mount Parnassus, for nearby was sited the navel of the earth, the centre of the known world, and here was to be found an important prophetic stone. This place was of course called Delphi, the most important oracular site in the ancient world, and because of its link to Delphi, the Python was sometimes named Delphyne.



THE PYTHON THE TORMENTOR

- There is though a much more prosaic story in Greek mythology about the Python, and it has to do with the love life of Zeus. Zeus was having an affair with the daughter of Phoebe, Leto, and Leto had become pregnant by the god. Hera, the wife of Zeus, had found out about the affair, and had forbidden any place on land from harbouring Leto and allowing her to give birth.
- Some sources state how Hera also employed the Python to harass Leto so that she could not give birth. Other sources claim that the Python was not employed but acted on its own free will for it had seen its own future, a future where it would be killed by the son of Leto.
- Leto though found sanctuary upon the island of Ortygia, and there successfully gave birth to a daughter, Artemis, and a son, Apollo.



THE DEATH OF THE PYTHON

- When Apollo was just four days old, he would leave his mother's side, and make his way to the workshop of the metalworking god, Hephaestus, who presented Apollo with a bow and arrow. Now armed, Apollo would seek out the monster who had harassed his mother.
- Apollo would track the Python to its cave upon Parnassus, and then fight ensued between god and serpent. The Python was not an easy opponent for Apollo to overcome, but by shooting off a hundred arrows, eventually the Python was killed.



Why is it called Python?

When he began implementing Python, Guido van Rossum was also reading the published scripts from “Monty Python’s Flying Circus”, a BBC comedy series from the 1970s. Van Rossum thought he needed a name that was short, unique, and slightly mysterious, so he decided to call the language Python.
