

Python Programming

Flow Control

Mihai Lefter



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Interpreters are great for prototyping, but not really suitable if you want to share or release code. To do so, we write our Python commands in scripts (and later, modules). A script is a simple text file containing Python instructions to execute.

Executing scripts

There are two common ways to execute a script:

- As an argument of the Python interpreter command.
- As a standalone executable (with the appropriate shebang line and file mode).

IPython gives you a third option:

- As an argument of the `%run` magic.

Writing your script

Let's start with a simple hello world example.

Open your text editor and write the following Python statement:

```
first_script.py
1 print("Hello world!")
```

Save the file as `first_script.py` and go to your shell.

Running the script

Let's try the first method, i.e., using your script as an argument:

```
terminal
```

```
$ python first_script.py
```

Is the output as you expect?

Running the script

For the second method, we need to do two more things:

- Open the script in your editor and add the following line to the very top:
 - `#!/usr/bin/env python`
- Save the file, go back to the shell, and allow the file to be executed.

terminal

```
$ chmod +x first_script.py
```

You can now execute the file directly:

terminal

```
$ ./first_script.py
```

Is the output the same as the previous method?

Running the script

Finally, try out the third method. Open an IPython interpreter session and do:

```
IPython
```

```
In [1]: %run first_script.py
```


Conditionals

if statements

if_example.py

```
1  if 26 <= 17:
2      print('Fact: 26 is less than or equal to 17')
3  elif (26 + 8 > 14) == True:
4      print("Did we need the ' == True' part here?")
5  else:
6      print('Nothing seems true')
```

terminal

```
$ python if_example.py
Did we need the ' == True' part here?
```

Loops

while statements

while_example.py

```
1 i = 0
2 while i < 5:
3     print(i)
4     i += 1
```

terminal

```
$ python while_example.py
0
1
2
3
4
```

Iterating over a sequence

for_example.py

```
1 colors = ['red', 'white', 'blue', 'orange']
2 cities = ['leiden', 'utrecht', 'warmond', 'san francisco']
3
4 # The for statement can iterate over sequence items.
5 for color in colors:
6     print(color)
7
8 for character in 'blue':
9     print(character)
```

Loops

Iterating over a sequence

terminal

```
$ python for_example.py
```

```
red
```

```
white
```

```
blue
```

```
orange
```

```
b
```

```
l
```

```
u
```

```
e
```

Python anti-patterns

These are common for programmers coming from other languages.

unpythonic.py

```
1 i = 0
2 while i < len(colors):
3     print colors[i]
4     i += 1
5
6 for i in range(len(colors)):
7     print colors[i]
```

We call them unpythonic.

Additional

iteration.py

```
1  # Iteration with values and indices:
2  for i, color in enumerate(colors):
3      print(i, '->', color)
4
5  # Taking two sequences together:
6  for city, color in zip(cities, colors):
7      print(city, '->', color)
8
9  # Iterating over a dictionary yields keys:
10 for key in {'a': 33, 'b': 17, 'c': 18}:
11     print(key)
12
13 # Iterating over a file yields lines:
14 for line in open('data/short_file.txt'):
15     print(line)
```

Indentation

Python uses indentation to delimit blocks

- Instead of `begin ... end` or `{ ... }` in other languages.
- Always increase indentation by 4 spaces, never use tabs.
 - In any case, be consistent.

indentation_example.py

```
1  if False:
2      if False:
3          print 'Why am I here?'
4      else:
5          while True:
6              print 'When will it stop?'
7  print "And we're back to the first indentation level"
```

Comments

Comments are prepended by # and completely ignored.

comments_example.py

```
1  # Create the list.
2  l = []
3
4  # Add 42 to this list.
5  l.append(42)
```


The pass statement

If you ever need a statement syntactically but don't want to do anything, use `pass`.

comments_example.py

```
1 while False:
2     # This is never executed anyway.
3     pass
```

Defining a function

A function is a named sequence of statements that performs some piece of work. Later on that function can be called by using its name.

A function definition includes its name, arguments and body.

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 for i in range(5):  
5     print add_two(i)
```

Keyword arguments

Besides regular arguments, functions can have keyword arguments.

functions_keywords.py

```
1 def add_some_other_number(number, other_number=12):  
2     return number + other_number  
3  
4 add_some_other_number(2, 6)    # 8  
5  
6 add_some_other_number(3, other_number=4)    # 7  
7  
8 add_some_other_number(5)    # 17
```

Functions are values

We can pass functions around just like other values, and call them.

function_values.py

```
1 def add_two(number):
2     return number + 2
3
4 def add_some_other_number(number, other_number=12):
5     return number + other_number
6
7 functions = [add_two, add_some_other_number]
8 for function in functions:
9     print function(7)
10
11 # Simple anonymous functions can be created with lambda.
12 functions.append(lambda x: x * 7)
13 for function in functions:
14     print function(4)
```

Docstrings

Like many other definitions, functions can have docstrings.

- Docstrings are regular string values which you start the definition body with.
- You can access an object's docstring using help.

docstring_example.py

```
1 def factorial(n):  
2     """Compute factorial of n in the obvious way."""  
3     if n == 0:  
4         return 1  
5     else:  
6         return factorial(n - 1) * n
```

Higher-order functions

A function that takes a function as argument is a higher-order function.

IPython

```
In [2]: help(map)
Help on class map in module builtins:
class map(object)
|   map(func, *iterables) --> map object
|
|   Make an iterator that computes the function using arguments from
|   each of the iterables. Stops when the shortest iterable is
|   exhausted.
In [3]: list(map(add_two, [1, 2, 3, 4]))
Out[3]: [3, 4, 5, 6]
```

List comprehensions

Similar to mathematical set notation (e.g., $x | x \in R \wedge x > 0$), we can create lists.

IPython

```
In [4]: [(x, x * x) for x in range(10) if x % 2]
```

```
Out[4]: [(1, 1), (3, 9), (5, 25), (7, 49), (9, 81)]
```

We can do the same thing using `map` and `filter`, but list comprehensions are often more readable.

IPython

```
In [5]: list(map(lambda x: (x, x * x), filter(lambda x: x % 2, range(10))))
```

```
Out[5]: [(1, 1), (3, 9), (5, 25), (7, 49), (9, 81)]
```

Set and dictionary comprehensions

Similar notation can be used for (non-empty) sets.

IPython

```
In [6]: {c for c in 'LUMC-standard' if 'a' <= c <= 'z'}
```

```
Out[6]: {'a', 'd', 'n', 'r', 's', 't'}
```

We can do the same thing using map and filter, but list comprehensions are often more readable.

IPython

```
In [7]: colors = ['red', 'white', 'blue', 'orange']
```

```
In [8]: {c: len(c) for c in colors}
```

```
Out[8]: {'blue': 4, 'orange': 6, 'red': 3, 'white': 5}
```


Hands on!

1. Write a Python function that returns the maximum of two numbers.
2. Write a Python function that returns the maximum of three numbers. Try to reuse the first maximum of two numbers function.
3. Write a Python function that accepts a string as parameter. Next, it calculates and prints the number of upper case letters and lower case letters. Make use of the `isupper` and `islower` built in methods.

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