

Advanced School in Artificial Intelligence

Introduction to Python

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Progetto di alta formazione in ambito tecnologico economico e culturale per una regione della conoscenza europea e attrattiva approvato e cofinanziato dalla Regione Emilia-Romagna con deliberazione di Giunta regionale n. 1625/2021



**Università
degli Studi
di Ferrara**

Outline

- Introduction to Python
- Introduction to Neural Networks
- Convolutional NN
- Recurrent NN
- Autoencoders and self supervised learning

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The history of the language

- The first version of Python was called ABC, defined in the first 80s at the National Research Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science of Amsterdam.
- A couple of years later (end 80s) Guido van Rossum, one of the developers of ABC, improved it by defining a new language: **Python**.
 - The name derives by Monty Python's Flying Circus, Van Rossum was a big fan of it.



The history of the language

- In 2000 the version 2.0 was developed.
- In 2008 the version 3.0, also called Python 3000 or Python 3k, introduced many changes and improvements, the use of UNICODE, and many functions were completely redefined.
 - Python 3 is not compatible with Python 2!
 - In this course we **consider Python 3**.



Install Python

- Home page: <https://www.python.org/>
- You can download the installer for Windows and Mac and the tarball for Linux.
- As regards Linux systems, usually it is already installed or can be easily installed using the package manager of the distro:
 - `sudo apt install python3`
 - `sudo yum install python3`
 - `sudo pacman -S python`
 - ...

IDE

- There are lots of IDEs that you can use:
 - Pydev, a plug-in for Eclipse IDE
 - PyCharm (<https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/>), in two versions one free and one commercial. One of the most used and complete.
 - Python plug-in for Visual Studio Code
 - ...
- Online Jupiter notebooks:
 - <https://colab.research.google.com/notebooks/welcome.ipynb#recent=true>, connected with your google or UniFE account

Tutorial and references

- Tutorials:
 - <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html> (English)
 - <https://www.html.it/guide/guida-python/> (Italian)
 - ...
- Books:
 - Think Python by Allen B. Downey
 - <https://github.com/AllenDowney/ThinkPython> (source, English)
 - <https://github.com/AllenDowney/ThinkPythonItalian> (source and PDF, Italian)
 - Many of these slides are taken from this book and from the Python tutorial.

Run Python

- Two ways of running the **interpreter**:
 - **Interactive mode**: executable by running the **python** command without arguments in a console. A new prompt will be shown: **>>>**

```
Python 3.7.3 (default, Mar 26 2019, 21:43:19)
[GCC 8.2.1 20181127] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
```

- After the prompt you can execute your code

```
Python 3.7.3 (default, Mar 26 2019, 21:43:19)
[GCC 8.2.1 20181127] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> 1 + 1
2
>>>
```

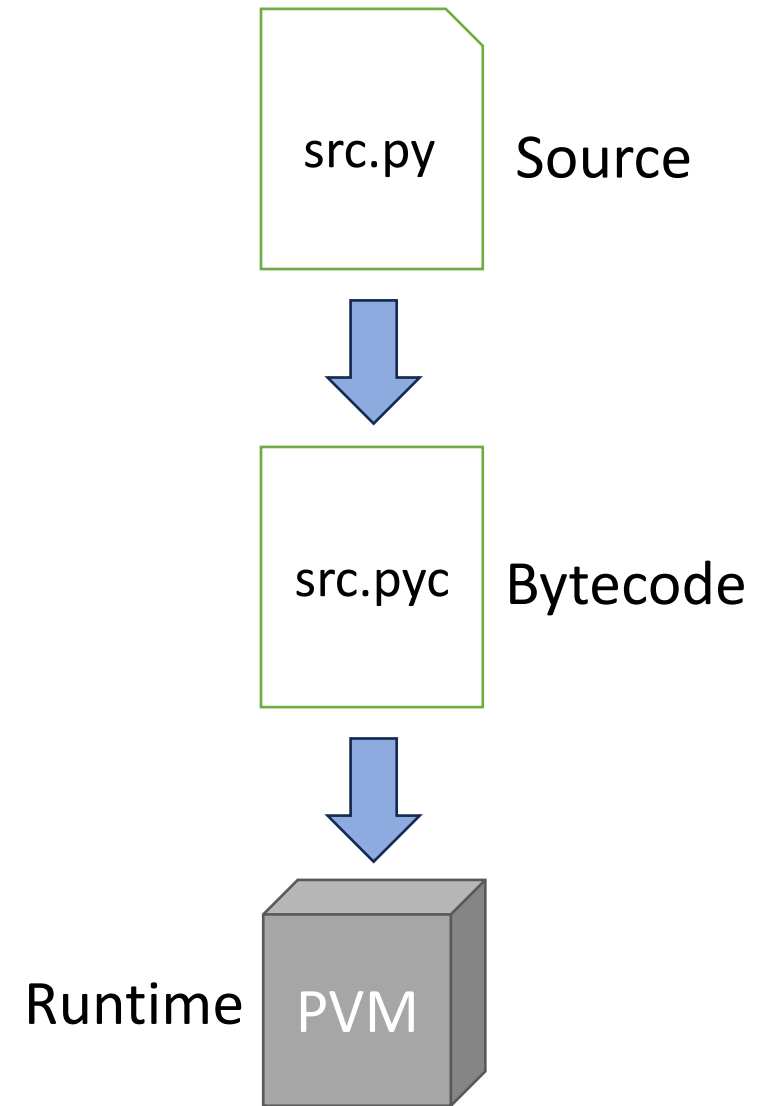
Run Python

- Two ways of running the **interpreter**:
 - **Script mode**: executable by running the **python** command with the name of the file as argument.
 - Python files uses **.py** extension.

```
# python myscript.py
Hello world!
#
```

Executing a Python script

- Each time the **python** command is invoked, the written code is scanned for **tokens**, each of which is parsed into a **logical tree** structure that represents the program.
- This structure is then transformed into a **bytecode** (file with the extension **.pyc** or **.pyo**).
- To be able to execute these bytecodes, a special interpreter known as the **Python Virtual Machine (PVM)** is used.



Hello World!

- Using interactive interpreter

```
>>> print('Hello World!')  
Hello World!
```

- Using a script file

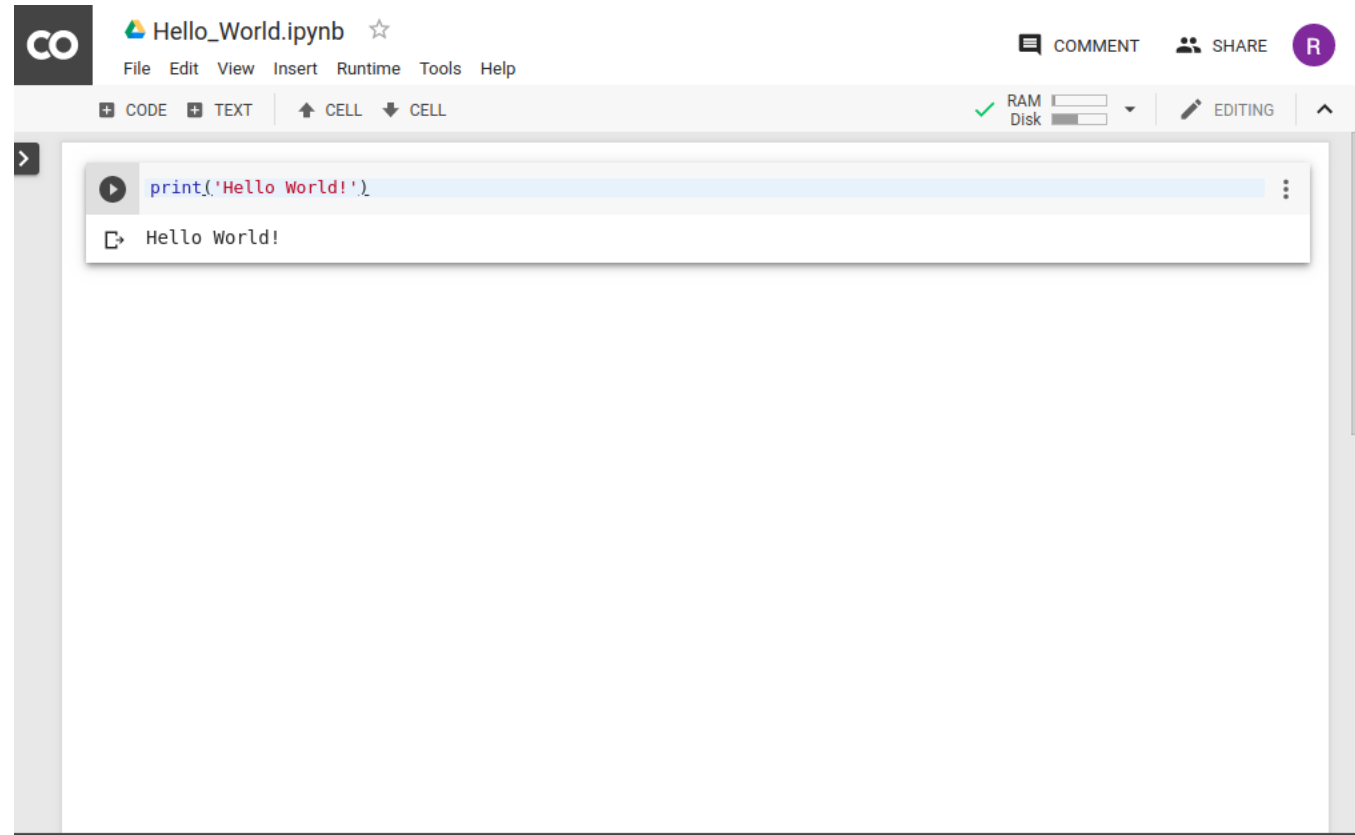
script.py

```
print('Hello  
World!')
```

```
# python script.py  
Hello World!
```

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Hello World!



The screenshot displays a Jupyter Notebook titled 'Hello_World.ipynb'. The interface includes a top menu bar with options like File, Edit, View, Insert, Runtime, Tools, and Help. Below the menu, there are tabs for CODE, TEXT, and CELL. The main area shows a code cell with the Python code `print('Hello World!')`. Below the code, the output 'Hello World!' is displayed. On the right side, there are buttons for COMMENT, SHARE, and a user profile icon. At the bottom right, there are indicators for RAM and Disk usage, and an EDITING button.

Variables



- Variable names can contain both letters and numbers.
 - They have to begin with a letter.
- There is not a limit in the number of characters and more words can be used
 - To divide words in the name one can use the underscore → using uppercase letters is not an error but goes against the naming conventions and should be avoided.

Variables

- There are **31 keywords that cannot be used** as name of variables:

and	del	from	not	while
as	elif	global	or	with
assert	else	if	pass	yield
break	except	import	print	
class	in	raise	continue	
finally	is	return	nonlocal	
def	for	lambda	try	

Basic Input/Output

- We have already seen the instruction to write on the standard output → function `print`

```
>>> print(1)
1
>>> print('hello')
hello
>>> s = 'hi'
>>> a = 3
>>> b = 5
>>> print(a,b,a+b,s)
3 5 8 hi
```

- If we work in the `interactive interpreter` we can write the name of a variable to print it

```
>>> a = 3
>>> a
3
```

Basic Input/Output

- To allow users to write data using the standard input we can use the `function input`

```
>>> in = input()
This is my first input
>>> in
'This is my first input'
```

- We can also pass an argument to the function to prompt a message before waiting for the user's input

```
>>> mess = input('Write your message\n')
Write your message
Hi!
>>> mess
'Hi!'
```

Python types

- In Python everything is an **object**.
- In languages like C, variables refer to specific memory locations that have a fixed size that depends on their type.
 - You need to specify the type when declaring a variable.
- In Python **objects** have a specific **type** (number, string, list, etc.), while **variables** are just **labels**, **references** that refer to a given object.
 - Variables do not have types.

Python types

- Let's consider the following code where we assign different values to variable **x**

```
x = 10
```

```
x = 7
```

```
x = "Python"
```

```
x = [1,2,3]
```

Python types

- Let's consider the following code where we assign different values to variable **x**

```
x = 10
```

```
x = 7
```

```
x = "Python"
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3]
```

The object 10 is created and assigned to the variable (reference) called **x**

Python types

- Let's consider the following code where we assign different values to variable **x**

```
x = 10  
x = 7  
x = "Python"  
x = [1, 2, 3]
```

Then, the object 7 is created and assigned to the variable (reference) **x**. Now, the object 10 is no more referenced as **x**, the unique reference to 10, now refers to 7. The **Garbage Collector** will remove this object from the memory.

Python types

- Let's consider the following code where we assign different values to variable **x**

```
x = 10  
x = 7  
x = "Python"  
x = [1, 2, 3]
```

Since variables do not have types, they are just references to objects, they can be assigned to objects of different types.


The type of the variable will be inferred thanks to the referenced object, which specifies what one can do with the variable.

Python types

- Python uses **duck typing**, which follows the rule «if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it must be a duck».
- The suitability is determined by checking the presence of methods and properties.



Python types

Type	Mutable	Decription
<code>int</code>	Immutable	Integer number: <code>1</code>
<code>bool</code>	Immutable	Boolean: <code>True</code> , <code>False</code>
<code>float</code>	Immutable	Floating point number: <code>2.3</code>
<code>complex</code>	Immutable	Complex number with real and immaginary part: <code>1+2.3j</code>
<code>str</code>	Immutable	String: <code>'hi'</code>
 <code>tuple</code>	Immutable	Can contains different types: <code>(1, 'hi', False)</code>
<code>bytes, bytearray</code>	Immutable	Sequence of bytes
<code>list</code>	Mutable	List, can contain different types: <code>[1, 'hi', False]</code>
<code>set, frozenset</code>	Mutable	Unordered set, can contain different types: <code>{1, 'hi', False}</code>
<code>dict</code>	Mutable	Associative array, map: <code>{'key': 1, 3: 'string'}</code>

Python types

- One can identify the type of a value or variable by using the function **type**

```
>>> type('Hello')
<type 'str'>
>>> type(7)
<type 'int'>
>>> type('7')
<type 'str'>
>>> x = 10
>>> type(x)
<type 'int'>
```

Python types

- One can check if a value or a variable is of a certain type by using the function **instance**

```
>>> isinstance('Hello',str)
True
>>> isinstance(7,str)
False
>>> isinstance(7,int)
True
>>> x = 10
>>> isinstance(x,int)
True
```

Python types

- Python has also a special type called **None**.
- This is the type returned by void functions (functions that have no return statement) or a return statement without an argument.
- Similar to Null of other languages, can be used also to initialize empty variables.
- Its type is **NoneType**