KEY_Lesson09_Packages

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1 Packages

Remember: - Functions and methods are things that take an input, do something with that input, and then spit out an output. You've already been using functions and methods! - **Functions** can take lots of different object types as input. For example, `print` can take a variety of inputs including a variable, a string, a list, or numbers. - **Methods** can only be used on one specific type of object. For example, `append` can only be used on lists (and not strings or numbers). - The input to **functions** goes *between* parentheses after the name of function - Example: `print(print_input)` At least part of the input to **methods** comes *before* the name of the method and is followed by a period (`.`) - Example: `mylist.append(what_to_append)`

Python comes with certain built-in functions and methods like the ones we used in the previous section (such as `print` and `append`). But sometimes you might want to do things that are a bit more complicated. For this, you can import **packages**.

We're going to use our numbers list to play around with functions in the **numpy** package.

```
[1]: # list of numbers
     numbers = [10,2.3,-4,20,14,1,2,0,-3,1,-2,2,2,65.4,3,-23,123,43.1,32,57,32]

     # print numbers
     print(numbers)
```

```
[10, 2.3, -4, 20, 14, 1, 2, 0, -3, 1, -2, 2, 2, 65.4, 3, -23, 123, 43.1, 32, 57,
32]
```

Packages are groups of functions and methods that you can **import** and then use just like built-in functions and packages.

One example of a very powerful packages is **numpy**. To import numpy and load all of the functions in that packages into your environment (in this Jupyter Notebook), you do this:

```
[0]: # import numpy package
     import numpy
```

Then you can use the functions that are defined in this package. One function is the `mean` function to find the mean of a list of numbers. To do this, you have to use the prefix `numpy` so Python knows that the function comes from the numpy package:

```
[3]: # get the mean of numbers using the numpy mean function
     numpy.mean(numbers)
```

[3]: `17.99047619047619`

Nice, it's the same as we got before when we calculated the mean ourselves!

Typing out numpy every time is a lot of work, so a lot of people like to shorten the prefix you have to use by giving the package a **nickname**. If you want the prefix to be np instead of numpy, you can import the package as follows:

```python
# import numpy package as np
import numpy as np
```

[0]:

Now, if you want to find the mean of numbers using the numpy mean function, you just have to use the prefix np:

```python
# print the mean of numbers
np.mean(numbers)
```

[5]:

[5]: `17.99047619047619`

Let's explore some other functions in the numpy package.

Before, we learned how to find the absolute value of a number using the abs function. If we want to get the absolute value of everything in a list, we can use the numpy absolute value function by calling np.abs:

```python
# get absolute value of all numbers in numbers and save it to the variable␣
 ↪abs_nums
abs_nums = np.abs(numbers)

# print abs_nums
abs_nums
```

[6]:

```
[6]: array([ 10. ,    2.3,    4. ,   20. ,   14. ,    1. ,    2. ,    0. ,    3. ,
              1. ,    2. ,    2. ,    2. ,   65.4,    3. ,   23. ,  123. ,   43.1,
             32. ,   57. ,   32. ])
```

Did you notice that this looks different than a list? Let's look at the type of abs_nums:

```python
# get the type of abs_nums
print(type(abs_nums))
```

[7]:

```
<class 'numpy.ndarray'>
```

It's a numpy.ndarray. You'll learn more about what that means in a future lesson!

numpy also has a similar function for round.

Okay, we're going to play around with methods a bit more. One method that is useful is sort. You can use this to sort a list or a numpy array. It won't print anything out because it sorts the actual numbers list. Let's try this on the numbers list:

```python
# print numbers
print(numbers)
# sort numbers
numbers.sort()
# print numbers
print(numbers)
```

[8]:

```
[10, 2.3, -4, 20, 14, 1, 2, 0, -3, 1, -2, 2, 2, 65.4, 3, -23, 123, 43.1, 32, 57,
32]
[-23, -4, -3, -2, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2.3, 3, 10, 14, 20, 32, 32, 43.1, 57, 65.4,
123]
```

As you can see, the sort method operated on the numbers list variable and changed the actual list to be sorted from the lowest value (-23) to the highest value (123). It even worked with our list of mixed float and integer values.

Now let's try it on the abs_nums list:

```
[9]: # print abs_nums
print(abs_nums)
# sort abs_nums
abs_nums.sort()
# print abs_nums
print(abs_nums)
```

```
[ 10.    2.3   4.   20.   14.    1.    2.    0.    3.    1.    2.    2.
   2.   65.4   3.   23.  123.   43.1  32.   57.   32. ]
[  0.    1.    1.    2.    2.    2.    2.    2.3   3.    3.    4.   10.
  14.   20.   23.   32.   32.   43.1  57.   65.4 123. ]
```

Nice job! You just learned about packages in Python! You learned: - How to import new functions in packages in Python - More functions and methods

You'll learn more about numpy in a future lesson. There are also tons of other packages out there for different purposes. We'll learn about the pandas package in the next lesson, and the matplotlib package in a few days!