

Common Object Structures

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 1)

Unknown directive type "highlight".

```
.. highlight:: c
```

There are a large number of structures which are used in the definition of object types for Python. This section describes these structures and how they are used.

Base object types and macros

All Python objects ultimately share a small number of fields at the beginning of the object's representation in memory. These are represented by the `:c:type:'PyObject'` and `:c:type:'PyVarObject'` types, which are defined, in turn, by the expansions of some macros also used, whether directly or indirectly, in the definition of all other Python objects.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 16); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 16); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 23)

Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyObject
```

All object types are extensions of this type. This is a type which contains the information Python needs to treat a pointer to an object as an object. In a normal "release" build, it contains only the object's reference count and a pointer to the corresponding type object. Nothing is actually declared to be a `:c:type:'PyObject'`, but every pointer to a Python object can be cast to a `:c:type:'PyObject*'`. Access to the members must be done by using the macros `:c:macro:'Py_REFCNT'` and `:c:macro:'Py_TYPE'`.

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyVarObject
```

This is an extension of `:c:type:'PyObject'` that adds the `:attr:'ob_size'` field. This is only used for objects that have some notion of `*length*`. This type does not often appear in the Python/C API. Access to the members must be done by using the macros `:c:macro:'Py_REFCNT'`, `:c:macro:'Py_TYPE'`, and `:c:macro:'Py_SIZE'`.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 44)

Unknown directive type "c:macro".

```
.. c:macro:: PyObject_HEAD
```

This is a macro used when declaring new types which represent objects

without a varying length. The `PyObject_HEAD` macro expands to::

```
PyObject ob_base;
```

See documentation of `:c:type:`PyObject`` above.

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Unknown directive type "c:macro".

```
.. c:macro:: PyObject_VAR_HEAD
```

This is a macro used when declaring new types which represent objects with a length that varies from instance to instance.
The `PyObject_VAR_HEAD` macro expands to::

```
PyVarObject ob_base;
```

See documentation of `:c:type:`PyVarObject`` above.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\cpython-main [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 65)

Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: int Py_Is(const PyObject *x, const PyObject *y)
```

Test if the `*x` object is the `*y` object, the same as ``x is y`` in Python.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.10
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: int Py_IsNone(const PyObject *x)
```

Test if an object is the ``None`` singleton, the same as ``x is None`` in Python.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.10
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\cpython-main [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 80)

Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: int Py_IsTrue(const PyObject *x)
```

Test if an object is the ``True`` singleton, the same as ``x is True`` in Python.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.10
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: int Py_IsFalse(const PyObject *x)
```

Test if an object is the ``False`` singleton, the same as ``x is False`` in Python.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.10
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: PyTypeObject* Py_TYPE(const PyObject *o)

    Get the type of the Python object *o*.

    Return a :term:`borrowed reference`.

    Use the :c:func:`Py_SET_TYPE` function to set an object type.

.. versionchanged:: 3.11
   :c:func:`Py_TYPE()` is changed to an inline static function.
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: int Py_IS_TYPE(PyObject *o, PyTypeObject *type)

    Return non-zero if the object *o* type is *type*. Return zero otherwise.
    Equivalent to: ``Py_TYPE(o) == type``.

.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: void Py_SET_TYPE(PyObject *o, PyTypeObject *type)

    Set the object *o* type to *type*.

.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 123)

Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: Py_ssize_t Py_REFCNT(const PyObject *o)

    Get the reference count of the Python object *o*.

    Use the :c:func:`Py_SET_REFCNT()` function to set an object reference count.

.. versionchanged:: 3.10
   :c:func:`Py_REFCNT()` is changed to the inline static function.
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 133)

Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: void Py_SET_REFCNT(PyObject *o, Py_ssize_t refcnt)

    Set the object *o* reference counter to *refcnt*.

.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: Py_ssize_t Py_SIZE(const PyVarObject *o)

    Get the size of the Python object *o*.

    Use the :c:func:`Py_SET_SIZE` function to set an object size.

.. versionchanged:: 3.11
   :c:func:`Py_SIZE()` is changed to an inline static function.
```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```
.. c:function:: void Py_SET_SIZE(PyVarObject *o, Py_ssize_t size)

    Set the object *o* size to *size*.

.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

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Unknown directive type "cmacro".

```
.. c:macro:: PyObject_HEAD_INIT(type)

    This is a macro which expands to initialization values for a new
    :c:type:`PyObject` type. This macro expands to::

    _PyObject_EXTRA_INIT
    1, type,
```

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Unknown directive type "cmacro".

```
.. c:macro:: PyVarObject_HEAD_INIT(type, size)

    This is a macro which expands to initialization values for a new
    :c:type:`PyVarObject` type, including the :attr:`ob_size` field.
    This macro expands to::

    _PyObject_EXTRA_INIT
    1, type, size,
```

Implementing functions and methods

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyCFunction

    Type of the functions used to implement most Python callables in C.
    Functions of this type take two :c:type:`PyObject*` parameters and return
    one such value. If the return value is ``NULL``, an exception shall have
    been set. If not ``NULL``, the return value is interpreted as the return
    value of the function as exposed in Python. The function must return a new
```

reference.

The function signature is::

```
PyObject *PyCFunction(PyObject *self,  
                      PyObject *args);
```

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyCFunctionWithKeywords
```

Type of the functions used to implement Python callables in C
with signature :const:`METH_VARARGS | METH_KEYWORDS`.
The function signature is::

```
PyObject *PyCFunctionWithKeywords(PyObject *self,  
                                  PyObject *args,  
                                  PyObject *kwargs);
```

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: _PyCFunctionFast
```

Type of the functions used to implement Python callables in C
with signature :const:`METH_FASTCALL`.
The function signature is::

```
PyObject *_PyCFunctionFast(PyObject *self,  
                           PyObject *const *args,  
                           Py_ssize_t nargs);
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\cpython-main [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 214)

Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: _PyCFunctionFastWithKeywords
```

Type of the functions used to implement Python callables in C
with signature :const:`METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS`.
The function signature is::

```
PyObject *_PyCFunctionFastWithKeywords(PyObject *self,  
                                       PyObject *const *args,  
                                       Py_ssize_t nargs,  
                                       PyObject *kwnames);
```

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyCMethod
```

Type of the functions used to implement Python callables in C
with signature :const:`METH_METHOD | METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS`.
The function signature is::

```
PyObject *PyCMethod(PyObject *self,  
                    PyTypeObject *defining_class,  
                    PyObject *const *args,  
                    Py_ssize_t nargs,  
                    PyObject *kwnames)
```

```
.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```
.. c:type:: PyMethodDef
```

Structure used to describe a method of an extension type. This structure has four fields:

Field	C Type	Meaning
:attr:`ml_name`	const char *	name of the method
:attr:`ml_meth`	PyCFunction	pointer to the C implementation
:attr:`ml_flags`	int	flag bits indicating how the call should be constructed
:attr:`ml_doc`	const char *	points to the contents of the docstring

The `:attr:`ml_meth`` is a C function pointer. The functions may be of different types, but they always return `:type:`PyObject*``. If the function is not of the `:type:`PyCFunction``, the compiler will require a cast in the method table. Even though `:type:`PyCFunction`` defines the first parameter as `:type:`PyObject*``, it is common that the method implementation uses the specific C type of the *self* object.

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Unknown interpreted text role "attr".

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Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 260); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

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Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\c-api\[cpython-main] [Doc] [c-api] structures.rst, line 260); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "c:type".

The `:attr:`ml_flags`` field is a bitfield which can include the following flags. The individual flags indicate either a calling convention or a binding convention.

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Unknown interpreted text role "attr".

There are these calling conventions:

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_VARARGS
```

This is the typical calling convention, where the methods have the type `:c:type:`PyCFunction``. The function expects two `:c:type:`PyObject*`` values. The first one is the `*self*` object for methods; for module functions, it is the module object. The second parameter (often called `*args*`) is a tuple object representing all arguments. This parameter is typically processed using `:c:func:`PyArg_ParseTuple`` or `:c:func:`PyArg_UnpackTuple``.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_VARARGS | METH_KEYWORDS
```

Methods with these flags must be of type `:c:type:`PyCFunctionWithKeywords``. The function expects three parameters: `*self*`, `*args*`, `*kwargs*` where `*kwargs*` is a dictionary of all the keyword arguments or possibly ```NULL``` if there are no keyword arguments. The parameters are typically processed using `:c:func:`PyArg_ParseTupleAndKeywords``.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_FASTCALL
```

Fast calling convention supporting only positional arguments. The methods have the type `:c:type:`PyCFunctionFast``. The first parameter is `*self*`, the second parameter is a C array of `:c:type:`PyObject*`` values indicating the arguments and the third parameter is the number of arguments (the length of the array).

```
.. versionadded:: 3.7
```

```
.. versionchanged:: 3.10
```

```
``METH_FASTCALL`` is now part of the stable ABI.
```

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS
```

Extension of `:const:`METH_FASTCALL`` supporting also keyword arguments, with methods of type `:c:type:`PyCFunctionFastWithKeywords``. Keyword arguments are passed the same way as in the `:ref:`vectorcall` protocol <vectorcall>`: there is an additional fourth `:c:type:`PyObject*`` parameter which is a tuple representing the names of the keyword arguments (which are guaranteed to be strings) or possibly ```NULL``` if there are no keywords. The values of the keyword arguments are stored in the `*args*` array, after the positional arguments.

This is not part of the `:ref:`limited API <stable>`.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.7
```

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_METHOD | METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS
```

Extension of `:const:`METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS`` supporting the **defining class**, that is, the class that contains the method in question. The defining class might be a superclass of `Py_TYPE(self)`.

The method needs to be of type `:c:type:`PyCMethod``, the same as for `Py METH_FASTCALL | METH_KEYWORDS` with `defining_class` argument added after `self`.

```
.. versionadded:: 3.9
```

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_NOARGS
```

Methods without parameters don't need to check whether arguments are given if they are listed with the `:const:`METH_NOARGS`` flag. They need to be of type `:c:type:`PyCFunction``. The first parameter is typically named **self** and will hold a reference to the module or object instance. In all cases the second parameter will be `NULL`.

The function must have 2 parameters. Since the second parameter is unused, `:c:macro:`Py_UNUSED`` can be used to prevent a compiler warning.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_O
```

Methods with a single object argument can be listed with the `:const:`METH_O`` flag, instead of invoking `:c:func:`PyArg_ParseTuple`` with a `"O"` argument. They have the type `:c:type:`PyCFunction``, with the **self** parameter, and a `:c:type:`PyObject*` parameter representing the single argument.

These two constants are not used to indicate the calling convention but the binding when use with methods of classes. These may not be used for functions defined for modules. At most one of these flags may be set for any given method.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_CLASS
```

```
.. index:: builtin: classmethod
```

The method will be passed the type object as the first parameter rather than an instance of the type. This is used to create **class methods**, similar to what is created when using the `:func:`classmethod`` built-in function.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_STATIC
```

```
.. index:: builtin: staticmethod
```

The method will be passed `NULL` as the first parameter rather than an instance of the type. This is used to create **static methods**, similar to what is created when using the `:func:`staticmethod`` built-in function.

One other constant controls whether a method is loaded in place of another definition with the same method name.

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Unknown directive type "data".

```
.. data:: METH_COEXIST
```

The method will be loaded in place of existing definitions. Without `*METH_COEXIST*`, the default is to skip repeated definitions. Since slot wrappers are loaded before the method table, the existence of a `*sq_contains*` slot, for example, would generate a wrapped method named `:meth:``__contains__`` and preclude the loading of a corresponding `PyCFunction` with the same name. With the flag defined, the `PyCFunction` will be loaded in place of the wrapper object and will co-exist with the slot. This is helpful because calls to `PyCFunctions` are optimized more than wrapper object calls.

Accessing attributes of extension types

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Unknown directive type "ctype".

```
.. ctype:: PyMemberDef
```

Structure which describes an attribute of a type which corresponds to a C struct member. Its fields are:

Field	C Type	Meaning
<code>:attr:``name``</code>	<code>const char *</code>	name of the member
<code>:attr:``!type``</code>	<code>int</code>	the type of the member in the C struct
<code>:attr:``offset``</code>	<code>Py_ssize_t</code>	the offset in bytes that the member is located on the type's object struct
<code>:attr:``flags``</code>	<code>int</code>	flag bits indicating if the field should be read-only or writable
<code>:attr:``doc``</code>	<code>const char *</code>	points to the contents of the docstring

`:attr:``!type``` can be one of many `T_` macros corresponding to various C types. When the member is accessed in Python, it will be converted to the equivalent Python type.`

Macro name	C type
<code>T_SHORT</code>	<code>short</code>
<code>T_INT</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>T_LONG</code>	<code>long</code>
<code>T_FLOAT</code>	<code>float</code>
<code>T_DOUBLE</code>	<code>double</code>
<code>T_STRING</code>	<code>const char *</code>
<code>T_OBJECT</code>	<code>PyObject *</code>
<code>T_OBJECT_EX</code>	<code>PyObject *</code>
<code>T_CHAR</code>	<code>char</code>
<code>T_BYTE</code>	<code>char</code>
<code>T_UBYTE</code>	<code>unsigned char</code>
<code>T_UINT</code>	<code>unsigned int</code>
<code>T_USHORT</code>	<code>unsigned short</code>
<code>T_ULONG</code>	<code>unsigned long</code>
<code>T_BOOL</code>	<code>char</code>
<code>T_LONGLONG</code>	<code>long long</code>

```

T_ULONGLONG      unsigned long long
T_PYSSIZET       Py_ssize_t
=====
=====

:c:macro:`T_OBJECT` and :c:macro:`T_OBJECT_EX` differ in that
:c:macro:`T_OBJECT` returns ``None`` if the member is ``NULL`` and
:c:macro:`T_OBJECT_EX` raises an :exc:`AttributeError`. Try to use
:c:macro:`T_OBJECT_EX` over :c:macro:`T_OBJECT` because :c:macro:`T_OBJECT_EX`
handles use of the :keyword:`del` statement on that attribute more correctly
than :c:macro:`T_OBJECT`.

:attr:`flags` can be ``0`` for write and read access or :c:macro:`READONLY` for
read-only access. Using :c:macro:`T_STRING` for :attr:`type` implies
:c:macro:`READONLY`. :c:macro:`T_STRING` data is interpreted as UTF-8.
Only :c:macro:`T_OBJECT` and :c:macro:`T_OBJECT_EX`
members can be deleted. (They are set to ``NULL``).

.. _pymemberdef-offsets:

Heap allocated types (created using :c:func:`PyType_FromSpec` or similar),
``PyMemberDef`` may contain definitions for the special members
``__dictoffset__``, ``__weaklistoffset__`` and ``__vectorcalloffset__``,
corresponding to
:c:member:`~PyTypeObject.tp_dictoffset`,
:c:member:`~PyTypeObject.tp_weaklistoffset` and
:c:member:`~PyTypeObject.tp_vectorcall_offset` in type objects.
These must be defined with ``T_PYSSIZET`` and ``READONLY``, for example::

    static PyMemberDef spam_type_members[] = {
        {"__dictoffset__", T_PYSSIZET, offsetof(Spam_object, dict), READONLY},
        {NULL} /* Sentinel */
    };

```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```

.. c:function:: PyObject* PyMember_GetOne(const char *obj_addr, struct PyMemberDef *m)

Get an attribute belonging to the object at address *obj_addr*. The
attribute is described by ``PyMemberDef`` *m*. Returns ``NULL``
on error.

```

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Unknown directive type "c:function".

```

.. c:function:: int PyMember_SetOne(char *obj_addr, struct PyMemberDef *m, PyObject *o)

Set an attribute belonging to the object at address *obj_addr* to object *o*.
The attribute to set is described by ``PyMemberDef`` *m*. Returns ``0``
if successful and a negative value on failure.

```

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Unknown directive type "c:type".

```

.. c:type:: PyGetSetDef

Structure to define property-like access for a type. See also description of
the :c:member:`~PyTypeObject.tp_getset` slot.

```

Field	C Type	Meaning
name	const char *	attribute name
get	getter	C function to get the attribute

set	setter	optional C function to set or	
		delete the attribute, if omitted	
		the attribute is readonly	
+-----+			
doc	const char *	optional docstring	
+-----+			
closure	void *	optional function pointer,	
		providing additional data for	
		getter and setter	
+-----+			

The ``get`` function takes one :c:type:`PyObject*` parameter (the instance) and a function pointer (the associated ``closure``)::

```
typedef PyObject *(*getter)(PyObject *, void *);
```

It should return a new reference on success or ``NULL`` with a set exception on failure.

``set`` functions take two :c:type:`PyObject*` parameters (the instance and the value to be set) and a function pointer (the associated ``closure``)::

```
typedef int (*setter)(PyObject *, PyObject *, void *);
```

In case the attribute should be deleted the second parameter is ``NULL``. Should return ``0`` on success or ``-1`` with a set exception on failure.