# Python Interview Questions

1. what is a pyc file in python

Python automatically compiles your script to compiled code, so called byte code, before running it. When a module is imported for the first time, or when the source is more recent than the current compiled file, a .pyc file containing the compiled code will usually be created in the same directory as the .py file.

Simply running a python file will not create a pyc file.

1. list, tuple diff

Tuples can have values with heterogeneous datatypes, list is also a heterogenous collection but is most commonly used as a homogeneous collection and when the elements are to accessed by some kind of order.

Tuples are immutable, lists are mutable.

Because tuples are immutable, copying tuple to another object is not possible, it will be the same object. Whereas list will create a copy of the object but store at a different reference.

Lists occupy more space in memory than tuples as python allocates larger blocks with low overhead to tuples. Lists also tend to over allocate space to handle append operations faster.

Tuples are stored as struct and need no information regarding pointers whereas lists are stored with a layer of indirecton.

1. List sorting without using generic function:

Get familiar with mergesort algorithm and other algorithms in general

**import** **numpy** **as** **np**

**def** selection\_sort(x):

**for** i **in** range(len(x)):

swap = i + np.argmin(x[i:])

(x[i], x[swap]) = (x[swap], x[i])

**return** x

1. Can we use list as key in dict?

No, because lists are not hashable. An object is hashable if it has a hash value which never changes during its lifetime, while list does not have a \_\_hash\_\_ method and it is mutable. Simply speaking, if the list changes, the key in dictionary can no longer be referenced.

All immutable objects can be used as keys in dictionary and set members.

1. Dict sorting both key and value sorting

Sorted(dict) sorts on key, to sort on value, use sorted(x.items(), key=operator.itemgetter(1)) or

dict(sorted(x.items(), key=lambda item: item[1]))

1. What is List comprehension and where you use it?

It is a syntactic construct that helps to create a list from an existing list with some conditions on the go.

1. What is difference between iterator and iterable?

Iterator is an object that can be iterated upon. An iterable is an object that has an \_\_iter\_\_ method which returns an iterator, or which defines a \_\_getitem\_\_ method that can take sequential indexes starting from zero (and raises an IndexError when the indexes are no longer valid).

An iterator is an object with a next (Python 2) or \_\_next\_\_ (Python 3) method. An ITERATOR is an object that is self-iterable, meaning that it has an \_\_iter\_\_ method that returns self.

An iterator is consumable, iterable objects can be reiterated. List is an iterable object, hence it can be re-iterated.

1. What is a generator?

Generators are iterators, a kind of iterable you can only iterate over once. Generators do not store all the values in memory, they generate the values on the fly.

Python generators are a simple way of creating iterators. If a function contains at least one yield statement (it may contain other yield or return statements), it becomes a generator function. Generator is basically an iterator that creates an iterable object.

1. Give examples of built-in iterables

Tuples, lists, dictionaries, sets, frozen sets, strings, byte strings, byte arrays, ranges and memoryviews

1. What is the use of the yield keyword in Python? What does it do?

Yield is a keyword that is used to return values from a function and create a generator.

1. How to get Traceback?
2. How to write class

class A:

class variables

\_\_init\_\_ method

\_\_repr\_\_ method

Instance methods

1. What is self?

It represents the instance of the class. The object is implicitly passed to every method available on it, but we have to get it explicitly in every method while writing methods.

It can be named anything but it should always be the first argument to each function.

1. What is constructor?

A constructor is a special kind of method that Python calls when it instantiates an object using the definitions found in your class. Python relies on the constructor to perform tasks such as initializing (assigning values to) any instance variables that the object will need when it starts.

1. What is \_\_init\_\_?

It is the initializer method in python. When an object is created the init method is called.

Instances of a class usually store some sort of state information or data and the methods of the class offer a way to manipulate or do something with that state information or data. \_\_init\_\_ allows us to initialize this state information or data while creating an instance of the class.

1. What is \_\_init\_\_ and \_\_new\_\_

\_\_new\_\_ is the constructor method and \_\_init\_\_ is initializer method.

Python implicitly provides a default and typical implementation of \_\_new\_\_() which will invoke the superclass’s \_\_new\_\_() method to create a new instance object and then return it.

The order of calling would be \_\_new\_\_ and \_\_init\_\_

1. Why is \_\_init\_\_ always called after \_\_new\_\_?

\_\_new\_\_ is the first step of instance creation. It's called first, and is responsible for returning a new instance of your class.

1. Which is the destructor method in python

\_\_del\_\_

1. What is the \_\_doc\_\_ method in a class?

It outputs the string representation used in the class declaration.

1. What is decorator? How it works? How to write custom decorator?

Decorators are used to modify the working of a function or a class.

def my\_decorator(func):

def wrapper():

print("Something is happening before the function is called.")

func()

print("Something is happening after the function is called.")

return wrapper

@my\_decorator

def say\_whee():

print("Whee!")

1. What is the \_\_mro\_\_ method

It defines the method resolution order. In Python 3, it is defined at Class level, i.e. you cannot call it with your object instance.

The mro() method returns a python list while \_\_mro\_\_ attribute returns a tuple.

During multiple inheritance, sibling classes are inherited in the order they are defined in the subclass definition.

1. Difference between repr and str methods

Str method returns readable format of the object and repr method returns the official representation of an object. It is important to have repr method in every class, but str method is optional.

\_\_repr\_\_ goal is to be unambiguous

\_\_str\_\_ goal is to be readable

1. Why there is no Default implementation of \_\_repr\_\_ method in python?

Having a default for \_\_repr\_\_ would act like:

return "%s(%r)" % (self.\_\_class\_\_, self.\_\_dict\_\_)

It would have been too dangerous (for example, too easy to get into infinite recursion if objects reference each other). So Python cops out. Note that there is one default which is true: if \_\_repr\_\_ is defined, and \_\_str\_\_ is not, the object will behave as though \_\_str\_\_=\_\_repr\_\_.

1. What is the difference between class and instance variables?

Class variable is shared across all instances while instance variable is specific to an instance. Hence mutable objects like lists are not declared as class variables, rather included as instance variables.

1. What is super function in python and where you will use

Super function is used to inherit the parent class attributes and methods.

1. Single linked list?
2. Which version you are using?
3. Deprecation in python latest version or version which you are working
4. Memory management in Python?

Done by python memory manager.

1. What all the Advanced features added or removed from the latest version of python?
2. Built in data types in Python? Give some example?
3. Is it Python Call by reference or Call by value?

In python, object references are passed by value.

1. The difference between range and xrange?

Xrange is deprecated in python 3

The benefit of using xrange over range in python 2 was that the evaluation of the range or iterator was done lazily in case of xrange and not stored as a list in memory.

1. What can go in the keys of a dictionary?

All immutable datatypes can be used as a key because their hash value will never change.

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1. How to delete a key in a dictionary?

my\_dict.pop('key', None)

1. What are static methods in python?

Static methods in Python are extremely similar to python class level methods, the difference being that a static method is bound to a class rather than the objects for that class.

This means that a static method can be called without an object for that class. This also means that static methods cannot modify the state of an object as they are not bound to it.

You can create a static method with “@staticmethod”.

1. How does python script work?

With Python, it uses an interpreter rather than a compiler. An interpreter works in exactly the same way as a compiler, with one difference: instead of code generation, it loads the output in-memory and executes it directly on your system

1. What is the constructor syntax?
2. Is there a numeric data type in python?

n Python, number data types are used to store numeric values. There are four different numerical types in Python:

int (plain integers): this one is pretty standard -- plain integers are just positive or negative whole numbers.

long (long integers): long integers are integers of infinite size. They look just like plain integers except they're followed by the letter "L" (ex: 150L).

float (floating point real values): floats represent real numbers, but are written with decimal points (or scientific notaion) to divide the whole number into fractional parts.

complex (complex numbers): represented by the formula a + bJ, where a and b are floats, and J is the square root of -1 (the result of which is an imaginary number). Complex numbers are used sparingly in Python.

1. What is namespace in python?

In Python, every name introduced has a place where resides and can be found.

This space is known as a namespace. It is an address location where a variable name is mapped to the object placed. Whenever the variable is searched out, this address location will be searched, to get the corresponding object.

1. Explain the difference between local and global namespaces.

Local namespaces are created within a function when that function is called. Global namespaces are created when the program starts.

1. What is pickling and unpickling?

Pickle module accepts any Python object and converts it into a string representation and dumps it into a file by using dump function, this process is called pickling. While the process of retrieving original Python objects from the stored string representation is called unpickling.

1. How memory is managed in Python?

* Python memory is managed by Python private heap space. All Python objects and data structures are located in a private heap. The programmer does not have an access to this private heap and interpreter takes care of this Python private heap.
* The allocation of Python heap space for Python objects is done by Python memory manager. The core API gives access to some tools for the programmer to code.
* Python also have an inbuilt garbage collector, which recycle all the unused memory and frees the memory and makes it available to the heap space.

1. What are the tools that help to find bugs or perform static analysis?

PyChecker is a static analysis tool that detects the bugs in Python source code and warns about the style and complexity of the bug. Pylint is another tool that verifies whether the module meets the coding standard.

1. How can you copy an object in Python?

To copy an object in Python, you can try copy.copy () or copy.deepcopy() for the general case. You cannot copy all objects but most of them.

1. How to add new columns to pandas dataframe?
   1. By declaring a new list as column.
   2. By using Dataframe.insert()
   3. By using dataframe.assign()
   4. By using a dictionary
2. How to convert string column to datetime in pandas?
   1. By using pd.to\_datetime()
   2. By using Dataframe.astype(‘datetime64[ns]’)
3. What is the purpose of abstract class in python?

It is used to create blueprint of methods to be implemented by child classes, so when you want your classes to conform to some standard methods and implement them, you can have all these classes be child of abstract class.

1. What is an iterator in python?

In Python, an iterator is an object which implements the iterator protocol. The iterator protocol consists of two methods. The \_\_iter\_\_() method, which must return the iterator object, and the next() method, which returns the next element from a sequence.

1. What is Monkey Patching in Python?

Monkey patching is reopening the existing classes or methods in class at runtime and changing the behavior, which should be used cautiously, or you should use it only when you really need to.

1. Is there a benefit to using one over the other? In Python 2, they both seem to return the same results:

>>> 6/3

2

>>> 6//3

2

In Python 3.0, 5 / 2 will return 2.5 and 5 // 2 will return 2. The former is floating point division, and the latter is floor division, sometimes also called integer division.

In Python 2.2 or later in the 2.x line, there is no difference for integers unless you perform a from \_\_future\_\_ import division, which causes Python 2.x to adopt the behavior of 3.0

Regardless of the future import, 5.0 // 2 will return 2.0 since that’s the floor division result of the operation.

1. What is the use of \_\_name\_\_==”\_\_main\_\_” condition check?

When you want to implement a part of a code when the file is run as a program or independently, then you declare that code in this condition block. It will not be executed when it is imported as a module in another py file.

1. What is the importance of wholetextfiles in pyspark while processing files?

Wholetextfile will read each file as a single rdd element and return an rdd whose first element is filename and second is the content of the file. This serves well when you have a large list of small files.

Another way is to use spark.read.text(filepath, wholetext=True).select(input\_file\_name(), “value”).rdd

1. Why to convert a df to rdd?

Pyspark uses rdd since 1.0 was launched. Dataframe is new in 1.3, hence many transformations are not available in df as in rdd. So we convert dataframes to rdds.

1. Why use rdd.foreachpartition instead of foreach

Foreachpartition is used when there are heavy initializations, like database connections, or aws transfers which are to be initialized once per partition whereas foreach is used to apply on each element of a dataframe/dataset/rdd.