

# **Python Workshop**

**Baiju Muthukadan**  
**ZeOmega, Bangalore**

FOSSMeet'14, NIT Calicut

**Feb 15, 2014**

1

## **Prerequisites**

- **GNU/Linux**
- **Python 2.7**
- **Text editor**

2

## **Expectation from Participants**

**Familiarity with programming in another  
language (C/C++/Java/C#/Ruby/PHP)**

3

## **About Me**

- **Founded the SMC project in 2001 while studying at REC Calicut**
- **Employed by FSF India in 2002-2003**
- **Contributor to Zope project**
- **Book Author: A Comprehensive Guide to Zope Component Architecture**
- **During PyCON India 2013, received the first Kenneth Gonsalves Award**

4

## Attribution

**This presentation and exercises are based on:**

<http://tdc-www.harvard.edu/Python.pdf>  
[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Non-Programmer's\\_Tutorial\\_for\\_Python\\_2.6](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Non-Programmer's_Tutorial_for_Python_2.6)

5

## Introduction

- Free/Open source general-purpose language
- Multi-paradigm -- Object Oriented, Procedural, Functional
- Easy to interface with C/C++/ObjC/Java/Fortran
- Great interactive environment
- very clear, readable syntax
- strong introspection capabilities
- intuitive object orientation
- full modularity, supporting hierarchical packages
- exception-based error handling
- very high level dynamic data types
- extensive standard libraries and third party modules for virtually every task
- embeddable within applications as a scripting interface

6

## Python Version

- ``Current'' version is 3.3
- ``Mainstream'' version is 2.7
- Use 3.3 if dependencies are available, otherwise use 2.7

7

## Installation

- Python comes pre-installed with GNU/Linux and Mac
- Windows binaries from <http://python.org/>

8

## Python Interactive Interpreter

- **Interactive interface to Python**

```
$ python
Python 2.7.5 (default, Nov 12 2013, 16:45:54)
[GCC 4.8.2 20131017 (Red Hat 4.8.2-1)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more
>>>
```

- **Python interpreter evaluates inputs**

```
>>> 3 * (7 + 2)
27
>>> 'Hello ' + 'World!'
'Hello World!'
```

9

## Python Interactive Interpreter - Continued

- **Python prompts with '>>>' (Primary) and '...' (Secondary)**

```
>>> if 1 < 2:
...     print "1 is less than 2"
...
1 is less than 2
```

- **To exit Python: CTRL-D**

10

## Running Programs on GNU/Linux

- **Easy way to run a program:**

```
$ python filename.py
```

- **You could make the \*.py file executable and add the following `#!/usr/bin/env python` to the top to make it runnable.**

```
$ ./filename.py
```

- **Better cross platform solution is to make use setuptools console scripts (This is discussed later)**

11

## Batteries Included

**Large collection of proven modules are included in the standard distribution:**

<http://docs.python.org/2/library/index.html>

**And many more third part packages are available from PyPI (Python Package Index Server aka. Cheeseshop):**

<https://pypi.python.org/pypi>

12

## A Code Sample

```
x = 34 - 23 # A comment.  
y = "Hello" # Another one.  
z = 3.45  
if z == 3.45 or y == "Hello":  
    x = x + 1  
    y = y + " World" # String concat.  
print x  
print y
```

13

## Enough to Understand the Code

- Assignment uses = and comparison uses ==.
- For numbers + - \* / % are as expected.
  - Special use of + for string concatenation.
  - Special use of % for string formatting (as with printf in C)
- Logical operators are words (and, or, not) not symbols
- The basic printing command is print.
- The first assignment to a variable creates it.
  - Variable types don't need to be declared.
  - Python figures out the variable types on its own.

14

## Basic Datatypes

- Integers (default for numbers) `z = 5 / 2` # Answer is 2, integer division.
- Floats `x = 3.456`
- Strings
- Can use " " or ' ' to specify. "abc" 'abc' (Same thing.)
- Unmatched can occur within the string. "matt's"
- Use triple double-quotes for multi-line strings or strings than contain both ' and " inside of them: """a'b'c"""

15

## Whitespace

Whitespace is meaningful in Python: especially indentation and placement of newlines.

- Use a newline to end a line of code.
  - Use when must go to next line prematurely.
  - No braces to mark blocks of code in Python...
- Use consistent indentation instead.
  - The first line with less indentation is outside of the block.
  - The first line with more indentation starts a nested block
- Often a colon appears at the start of a new block. (E.g. for function and class definitions.)

16

## Comments

- Start comments with # - the rest of line is ignored.
- Can include a "documentation string" as the first line of any new function or class that you define.
- The development environment, debugger, and other tools use it: it's good style to include one.

```
def my_function(x, y):  
    """This is the docstring. This  
    function does blah blah blah."""  
    # The code would go here...
```

17

## Assignment

- Binding a variable in Python means setting a name to hold a reference to some object.
  - Assignment creates references, not copies
- Names in Python do not have an intrinsic type. Objects have types.
  - Python determines the type of the reference automatically based on the data object assigned to it.
- You create a name the first time it appears on the left side of an assignment expression:  

```
x = 3
```
- A reference is deleted via garbage collection after any names bound to it have passed out of scope.

18

## Accessing Non-Existent Names

- If you try to access a name before it's been properly created (by placing it on the left side of an assignment), you'll get an error.

```
>>> y  
Traceback (most recent call last):  
  File "<pyshell#16>", line 1, in -toplevel-  
    y  
NameError: name 'y' is not defined  
>>> y = 3  
>>> y  
3
```

19

## Multiple Assignment

- You can also assign to multiple names at the same time.

```
>>> x, y = 2, 3  
>>> x  
2  
>>> y  
3
```

20

## Naming Rules

- Names are case sensitive and cannot start with a number. They can contain letters, numbers, and underscores.

```
bob Bob _bob _2_bob_ bob_2 BoB
```

- There are some reserved words:

```
and, assert, break, class, continue, def, del, elif,
else, except, exec, finally, for, from, global, if,
import, in, is, lambda, not, or, pass, print, raise,
return, try, while
```

21

## User Input

- Use *raw\_input* function to get user input as a string.
- Use *input* function to get user input with evaluation of the given expression

```
name = raw_input("Enter name: ")
age = raw_input("Enter age: ")
```

22

## Control of Flow - if conditions

```
if x == 3:
    print "X equals 3."
elif x == 2:
    print "X equals 2."
else:
    print "X equals something else."

print "This is outside the 'if'."
```

23

## Control of Flow - while loop

```
while x < 10:
    if x > 7:
        x += 2
        continue
    x = x + 1
    print "Still in the loop."
    if x == 8:
        break
print "Outside of the loop."
```

24

## Control of Flow - for loop

```
for x in range(10):  
  
    if x > 7:  
        x += 2  
        continue  
    x = x + 1  
    print "Still in the loop."  
    if x == 8:  
        break  
  
print "Outside of the loop."
```

25

## Sequence Types

1. Tuple
  - ▶ A simple immutable ordered sequence of items
  - ▶ Items can be of mixed types, including collection types
2. Strings
  - ▶ Immutable
  - ▶ Conceptually very much like a tuple
3. List
  - ▶ Mutable ordered sequence of items of mixed types

26

## Similar Syntax

- All three sequence types (tuples, strings, and lists) share much of the same syntax and functionality.
- Key difference:
  - ▶ Tuples and strings are immutable
  - ▶ Lists are mutable
- The operations shown in this section can be applied to all sequence types
  - ▶ most examples will just show the operation performed on one

27

## Sequence Types 1

- Tuples are defined using parentheses (and commas).

```
>>> tu = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```
- Lists are defined using square brackets (and commas).

```
>>> li = ["abc", 34, 4.34, 23]
```
- Strings are defined using quotes (" , ' , '' , """).

```
>>> st = "Hello World"  
>>> st = 'Hello World'  
>>> st = '''This is a multi-line  
string that uses triple single quotes.'''  
>>> st = """This is a multi-line  
string that uses triple double quotes."""
```

28

## Sequence Types 2

- We can access individual members of a tuple, list, or string using square bracket 'array' notation.
- Note that all are 0 based...

```
>>> tu = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
>>> tu[1] # Second item in the tuple.
'abc'
>>> li = ["abc", 34, 4.34, 23]
>>> li[1] # Second item in the list.
34
>>> st = "Hello World"
>>> st[1] # Second character in string.
'e'
```

29

## Positive and negative indices

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

**Positive index: count from the left, starting with 0.**

```
>>> t[1]
'abc'
```

**Negative lookup: count from right, starting with -1.**

```
>>> t[-3]
4.56
```

30

## Slicing: Return Copy of a Subset 1

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

**Return a copy of the container with a subset of the original members. Start copying at the first index, and stop copying before the second index.**

```
>>> t[1:4]
('abc', 4.56, (2,3))
```

**You can also use negative indices when slicing.**

```
>>> t[1:-1]
('abc', 4.56, (2,3))
```

31

## Slicing: Return Copy of a Subset 2

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

**Omit the first index to make a copy starting from the beginning of the container.**

```
>>> t[:2]
(23, 'abc')
```

**Omit the second index to make a copy starting at the first index and going to the end of the container.**

```
>>> t[2:]
(4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

32



## Copying the Whole Sequence

To make a copy of an entire sequence, you can use [:].

```
>>> t[:]
(23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
```

Note the difference between these two lines for mutable sequences:

```
>>> list2 = list1 # 2 names refer to 1 ref
```

# Changing one affects both

```
>>> list2 = list1[:] # Two independent copies, two refs
```

33

## The 'in' Operator

- Boolean test whether a value is inside a container:

```
>>> t = [1, 2, 4, 5]
```

```
>>> 3 in t
```

```
False
```

```
>>> 4 in t
```

```
True
```

```
>>> 4 not in t
```

```
False
```

- For strings, tests for substrings

```
>>> a = 'abcde'
```

```
>>> 'c' in a
```

```
True
```

```
>>> 'cd' in a
```

```
True
```

```
>>> 'ac' in a
```

```
False
```

- *in* keyword is used in the *for* loops and list comprehensions.

34

## The + Operator

- The + operator produces a new tuple, list, or string whose value is the concatenation of its arguments.

```
>>> (1, 2, 3) + (4, 5, 6)
```

```
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
```

```
>>> [1, 2, 3] + [4, 5, 6]
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

```
>>> "Hello" + " " + "World"
```

```
'Hello World'
```

35

## The \* Operator

- The \* operator produces a new tuple, list, or string that "repeats" the original content.

```
>>> (1, 2, 3) * 3
```

```
(1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3)
```

```
>>> [1, 2, 3] * 3
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
```

```
>>> "Hello" * 3
```

```
'HelloHelloHello'
```

36

## Tuples: Immutable

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 4.56, (2,3), 'def')
>>> t[2] = 3.14
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#75>", line 1, in -toplevel-
    tu[2] = 3.14
TypeError: object doesn't support item assignment
```

**You can't change a tuple. You can make a fresh tuple and assign its reference to a previously used name.**

```
>>> t = (23, 'abc', 3.14, (2,3), 'def')
```

37

## Lists: Mutable

```
>>> li = ['abc', 23, 4.34, 23]
>>> li[1] = 45
>>> li
['abc', 45, 4.34, 23]
```

- **We can change lists in place.**
- **Name *li* still points to the same memory reference when we're done.**
- **The mutability of lists means that they aren't as fast as tuples.**

38

## Operations on Lists Only 1

```
>>> li = [1, 11, 3, 4, 5]
>>> li.append('a') # Our first exposure to method syntax
>>> li
[1, 11, 3, 4, 5, 'a']
>>> li.insert(2, 'i')
>>> li
[1, 11, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a']
```

39

## The extend method vs the + operator

- **+ creates a fresh list (with a new memory reference)**
- **extend operates on list *li* in place.**

```
>>> li.extend([9, 8, 7])
>>> li
[1, 2, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a', 9, 8, 7]
```

**Confusing:**

- **Extend takes a list as an argument.**
- **Append takes a singleton as an argument.**

```
>>> li.append([10, 11, 12])
>>> li
[1, 2, 'i', 3, 4, 5, 'a', 9, 8, 7, [10, 11, 12]]
```

40

## Operations on Lists Only 3

```
>>> li = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'b']
>>> li.index('b') # index of first occurrence
1
>>> li.count('b') # number of occurrences
2
>>> li.remove('b') # remove first occurrence
>>> li
['a', 'c', 'b']
```

41

## Operations on Lists Only 4

```
>>> li = [5, 2, 6, 8]
>>> li.reverse() # reverse the list *in place*
>>> li
[8, 6, 2, 5]
>>> li.sort() # sort the list *in place*
>>> li
[2, 5, 6, 8]
>>> li.sort(some_function)
# sort in place using user-defined comparison
```

42

## Tuples vs. Lists

- Lists slower but more powerful than tuples.
- Lists can be modified, and they have lots of handy operations we can perform on them.
- Tuples are immutable and have fewer features.
- To convert between tuples and lists use the `list()` and `tuple()` functions:

```
li = list(tu)
tu = tuple(li)
```

43

## Dictionaries: A Mapping type

- Dictionaries store a mapping between a set of keys and a set of values.
- Keys can be any immutable type.
- Values can be any type
- A single dictionary can store values of different types
- You can define, modify, view, lookup, and delete the key-value pairs in the dictionary.

44

## Using dictionaries

```
>>> d = {'user':'bozo', 'pswd':1234}
>>> d['user']
'bozo'
>>> d['pswd']
1234
>>> d['bozo']
Traceback (innermost last):
  File '<interactive input>' line 1, in ?
KeyError: bozo
>>> d = {'user':'bozo', 'pswd':1234}
>>> d['user'] = 'clown'
>>> d
{'user':'clown', 'pswd':1234}
>>> d['id'] = 45
>>> d
{'user':'clown', 'id':45, 'pswd':1234}
```

45

## Using dictionaries - Continued

```
>>> d = {'user':'bozo', 'p':1234, 'i':34}
>>> del d['user'] # Remove one.
>>> d
{'p':1234, 'i':34}
>>> d.clear() # Remove all.
>>> d
{}
>>> d = {'user':'bozo', 'p':1234, 'i':34}
>>> d.keys() # List of keys.
['user', 'p', 'i']
>>> d.values() # List of values.
['bozo', 1234, 34]
>>> d.items() # List of item tuples.
[('user','bozo'), ('p',1234), ('i',34)]
```

46

## Functions

- **def** creates a function and assigns it a name
- **return** sends a result back to the caller
- Arguments are passed by assignment
- Arguments and return types are not declared

```
def <name>(arg1, arg2, ..., argN):
    <statements>
    return <value>
```

```
def times(x,y):
    return x*y
```

47

## Passing Arguments to Functions

- Arguments are passed by assignment
- Passed arguments are assigned to local names
- Assignment to argument names don't affect the caller
- Changing a mutable argument will affect the caller and it may not be the expected behaviour

```
def changer(x,y):
    x = 2 # changes local value of x only
    y[0] = 'hi' # changes shared object
```

48

## Optional Arguments

- Can define defaults for arguments that need not be passed

```
def func(a, b, c=10, d=100):  
    print a, b, c, d  
>>> func(1,2)  
1 2 10 100  
>>> func(1,2,3,4)  
1,2,3,4
```

49

## Gotchas

- All functions in Python have a return value
  - even if no return line inside the code.
- Functions without a return return the special value *None*.
- There is no function overloading in Python.
  - Two different functions can't have the same name, even if they have different arguments.
- Functions can be used as any other data type. They can be:
  - Arguments to function
  - Return values of functions
  - Assigned to variables
  - Parts of tuples, lists, etc

50

## Why Use Modules?

- Code reuse
  - Routines can be called multiple times within a program
  - Routines can be used from multiple programs
- Namespace partitioning
  - Group data together with functions used for that data
- Implementing shared services or data
  - Can provide global data structure that is accessed by multiple subprograms

51

## Modules

- Modules are functions and variables defined in separate files
- Items are imported using *from* or *import*

```
from module import function  
function()  
  
import module  
module.function()
```
- Modules are namespaces
- Can be used to organize variable names, i.e.

```
atom.position = atom.position - molecule.position
```

52

## String Formatting

- **Substitute values using a tuple**

```
coins, amount, name = 2, 2.4, 'Tom'
out = '%s has %d coins worth a total of $%.02f' % (name,
                                                    coins, amount)

print out
```

# Output: 'Tom has 2 coins worth a total of \$2.40'

- **Substitute value using a dictionary**

```
data = {'coins': 2, 'amount': 2.4, 'name': 'Tom'}
out = '%(name)s has %(coins)d coins \
worth a total of $%(amount).02f' % data

print out
```

# Output: 'Tom has 2 coins worth a total of \$2.40'

53

## Exceptions

```
>>> try:
...     1 / 0
... except:
...     print('That was silly!')
... finally:
...     print('This gets executed no matter what')
...
That was silly!
This gets executed no matter what
```

54

## File I/O

- **Reading file content:**

```
fd = open('filename.txt', 'r')
for line in fd:
    print line
fd.close()
```

```
open('filename.txt').read()
```

```
open('filename.txt').readlines()
```

- **Writing file content:**

```
fd = open('filename.txt', 'w')
fd.write('Hello, World!')
fd.write('\n')
fd.close()
```

55

## What's next ?

### Documentation and pointers:

- <http://learnpythonthehardway.org/book/>
- <http://www.reddit.com/r/LearnPython> (**Ask your questions here**)
- <http://docs.python.org/2/>
- <http://reddit.com/r/Python> (**News**)
- <http://planet.python.org/> (**Blog aggregator**)
- <http://www.pythonweekly.com/> (**Newsletter**)

56

**Thanks!**

<http://muthukadan.net>