Errors and exceptions

Inteligencia Artificial en los Sistemas de Control Autónomo Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Industrial

Departamento de Automática





Objectives

- 1. To be aware of the error handling problem
- 2. Understand exceptions
- 3. Handle, create and raise exceptions in Python

References

Guido van Rossum, "Python Tutorial. Release 3.2.3", chapter 8

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Motivation

Errors happen

- We need a mechanism to handle errors
- Some errors happen before execution (syntax errors)
- Others are only detected in execution (runtime errors)
 - We need tools to handle errors: Exceptions



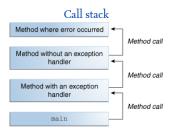
Exception definition (II)

Exception: An error that disrupts the normal execution flow

- File not found, division by zero, invalid argument, etc
- Code cannot be executed
- Elegant solution to handle errors



Exceptions Exception definition (III)



Call stack: Sequence of invoked methods



Exception definition (III)

Definition 0000

Exception handling Throws exception - Method where error occurred Looking for appropriate handler Method without an exception Forwards exception handler Looking for appropriate handler Method with an exception Catches some other exception handler main

When an error happens ...

- Code execution is stopped
- 2. An exception is thrown
- 3. The interpreter goes back in the call stack
- 4. When the interpreter finds an exception handler, it is executed

The exception handler catches the exception, the program finishes otherwise



Exception definition (IV)

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "r2p2.py", line 57, in <module >
    start_simulation (args.scenario)
  File "r2p2.py", line 41, in start_simulation
    u.load_simulation(config)
  File "/home/david/repositorios/r2p2/r2p2/utils.py", line 175,
      in load simulation
    with open(json_file, 'r') as fp:
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'foo.
    json'
```



Handling exceptions (I)

Handling an exception requires a try-except statement

- try: Encloses the vulnerable code
- catch: Code that handles the exception

```
try-catch statement

try:
    # Risky code
except ExceptionTyper:
    # Handle error
except ExceptionType2:
    # Handle error
except:
    # Handle error
```



Handling exceptions (II)

```
try:
    x = int(input("Please enter a number: "))
except ValueError:
    print ("Oop!, that was not a number!")
except KeyboardInterrupt:
    print ("Got Ctrl-C, good bye!")
```

The exception type contains the error



Handling exceptions (III)

```
try-catch example

try:
    f = open('file.txt')
    s = f.readline()
    i = int(s.strip())

except IOError as err:
    print("I/O error: {o}".format(err))

except ValueError:
    print("Could not convert data to integer")

except:
    print("Unexpected exception")
    raise
```

New Python elements

- Raise
- Exception as object



Exceptions with arguments

Exception arguments: When we need more info

```
try:
    raise Exception("spam", "eggs")
except Exception as inst:
    print(type(inst))
print(inst.args)
print(inst)

x, y = inst.args
print('x = ', x)
print('y = ', y)
```

```
class 'Exception'>
('spam', 'eggs')
('spam', 'eggs')
x = spam
y = eggs
```



Clean-up actions

Exceptions

Clean-up actions

Sometimes we need to execute code under all circumstances

- Typically clean-up actions: Close files, database connections, sockets, etc
- The **finally** clause solves this problem

```
Example
try:
    raise KeyboardInterrupt
finally:
    print("Goodbye, world!")
```

