

# Strings

## Chapter 6

Python for Everybody  
[www.py4e.com](http://www.py4e.com)



# String Data Type

- A string is a sequence of characters
- A string literal uses quotes  
'Hello' or "Hello"
- For strings, + means “concatenate”
- When a string contains numbers, it is still a string
- We can convert numbers in a string into a number using `int()`

```
>>> str1 = "Hello"
>>> str2 = 'there'
>>> bob = str1 + str2
>>> print(bob)
Hellothere
>>> str3 = '123'
>>> str3 = str3 + 1
Traceback (most recent call
last):  File "<stdin>", line 1,
in <module>
TypeError: cannot concatenate
'str' and 'int' objects
>>> x = int(str3) + 1
>>> print(x)
124
>>>
```

# Reading and Converting

- We prefer to read data in using **strings** and then parse and convert the data as we need
- This gives us more control over error situations and/or bad user input
- Input numbers must be **converted** from strings

```
>>> name = input('Enter:')
Enter:Chuck
>>> print(name)
Chuck
>>> apple = input('Enter:')
Enter:100
>>> x = apple - 10
Traceback (most recent call
last):  File "<stdin>", line 1,
in <module>
TypeError: unsupported operand
type(s) for -: 'str' and 'int'
>>> x = int(apple) - 10
>>> print(x)
90
```



# Looking Inside Strings

- We can get at any single character in a string using an index specified in **square brackets**
- The index value must be an integer and starts at zero
- The index value can be an expression that is computed

b	a	n	a	n	a
0	1	2	3	4	5

```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> letter = fruit[1]
>>> print(letter)
a
>>> x = 3
>>> w = fruit[x - 1]
>>> print(w)
n
```

# A Character Too Far

- You will get a **python error** if you attempt to index beyond the end of a string
- So be careful when constructing index values and slices

```
>>> zot = 'abc'
>>> print(zot[5])
Traceback (most recent call
last):  File "<stdin>", line
1, in <module>
IndexError: string index out
of range
>>>
```

# Strings Have Length

The built-in function `len` gives us the length of a string

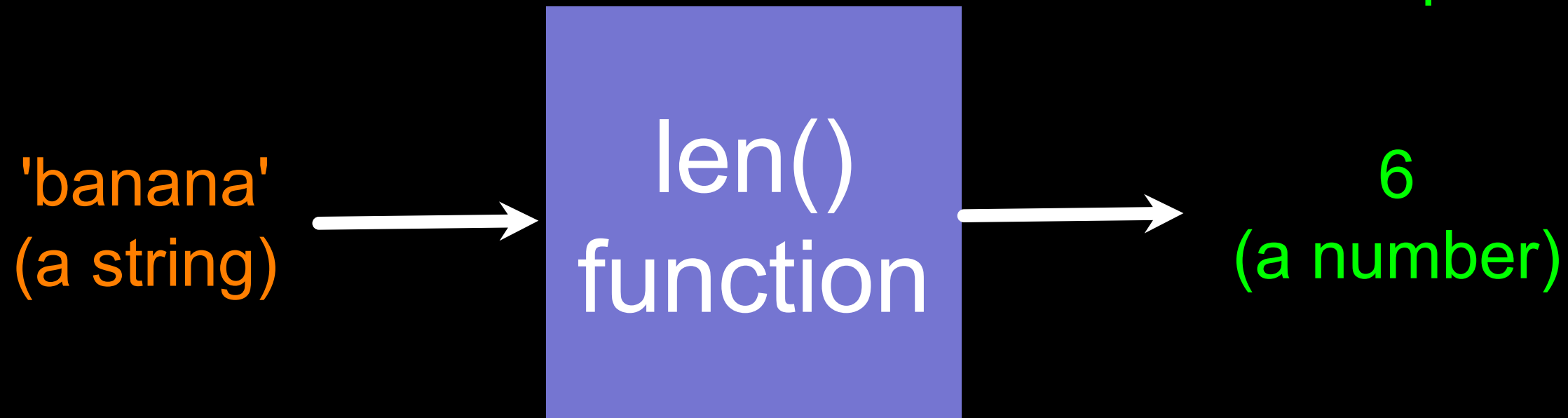
b	a	n	a	n	a
0	1	2	3	4	5

```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> print(len(fruit))
6
```

# len Function

```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> x = len(fruit)
>>> print(x)
6
```

A function is some stored code that we use. A function takes some input and produces an output.



# len Function

```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> x = len(fruit)
>>> print(x)
6
```

A function is some stored code that we use. A function takes some input and produces an output.

'banana'  
(a string)



```
def len(inp):
    blah
    blah
    for x in y:
        blah
        blah
```



6  
(a number)



# Looping Through Strings

Using a **while** statement, an **iteration variable**, and the **len** function, we can construct a loop to look at each of the letters in a string individually

```
fruit = 'banana'
index = 0
while index < len(fruit):
    letter = fruit[index]
    print(index, letter)
    index = index + 1
```

0 b  
1 a  
2 n  
3 a  
4 n  
5 a

# Looping Through Strings

- A definite loop using a **for** statement is much more elegant
- The **iteration variable** is completely taken care of by the **for** loop

```
fruit = 'banana'  
for letter in fruit:  
    print(letter)
```

b  
a  
n  
a  
n  
a

# Looping Through Strings

- A definite loop using a **for** statement is much more **elegant**
- The **iteration variable** is completely taken care of by the **for** loop

```
fruit = 'banana'
for letter in fruit :
    print(letter)
```

```
index = 0
while index < len(fruit) :
    letter = fruit[index]
    print(letter)
    index = index + 1
```

b  
a  
n  
a  
n  
a

# Looping and Counting

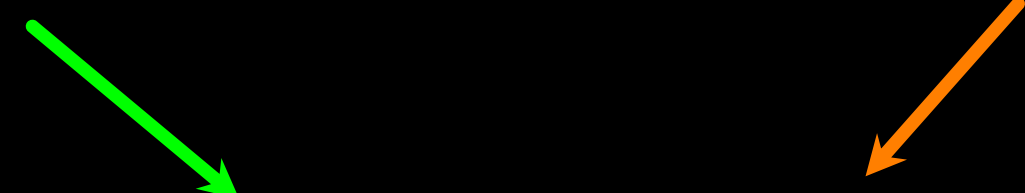
This is a simple loop that loops through each letter in a string and counts the number of times the loop encounters the 'a' character

```
word = 'banana'
count = 0
for letter in word :
    if letter == 'a' :
        count = count + 1
print(count)
```

# Looking Deeper into in

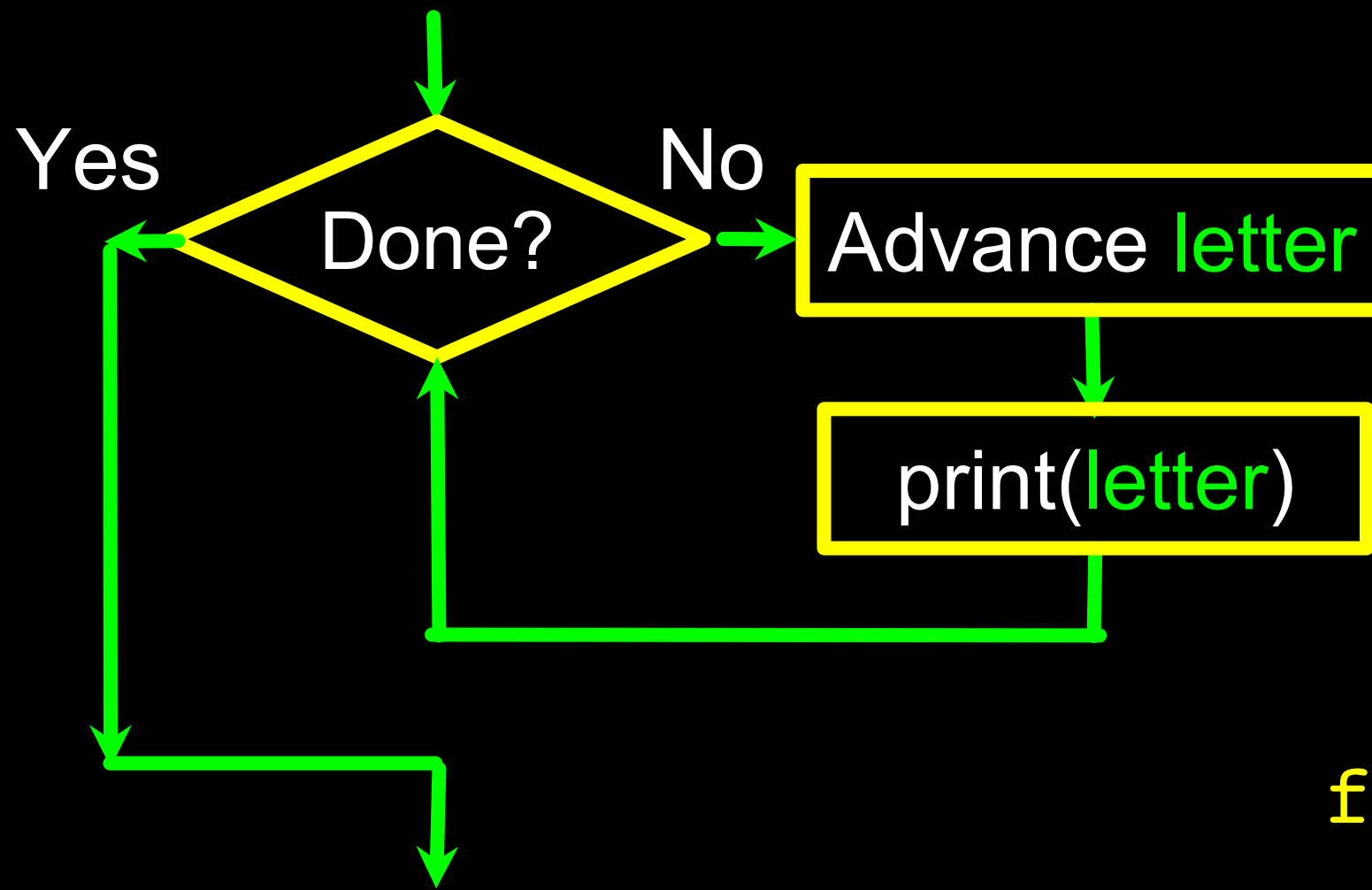
- The **iteration variable** “iterates” through the **sequence** (ordered set)
- The **block (body)** of code is executed once for each value **in** the **sequence**
- The **iteration variable** moves through all of the values **in** the **sequence**

Iteration variable      Six-character string



```
for letter in 'banana' :  
    print(letter)
```

# More String Operations



```
for letter in 'banana' :  
    print(letter)
```

The **iteration variable** “iterates” through the **string** and the **block (body)** of code is executed once for each value **in** the **sequence**

# Slicing Strings

M	o	n	t	y		P	y	t	h	o	n
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

- We can also look at any continuous section of a string using a **colon operator**
- The second number is one beyond the end of the slice - “up to but not including”
- If the second number is beyond the end of the string, it stops at the end

```
>>> s = 'Monty Python'
>>> print(s[0:4])
Mont
>>> print(s[6:7])
P
>>> print(s[6:20])
Python
```



# Slicing Strings

M	o	n	t	y		P	y	t	h	o	n
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

If we leave off the first number or the last number of the slice, it is assumed to be the beginning or end of the string respectively

```
>>> s = 'Monty Python'
>>> print(s[:2])
Mo
>>> print(s[8:])
thon
>>> print(s[:])
Monty Python
```

# String Concatenation

When the `+` operator is applied to strings, it means “concatenation”

```
>>> a = 'Hello'
>>> b = a + 'There'
>>> print(b)
HelloThere
>>> c = a + ' ' + 'There'
>>> print(c)
Hello There
>>>
```

# Using `in` as a Logical Operator

- The `in` keyword can also be used to check to see if one string is “in” another string
- The `in` expression is a logical expression that returns `True` or `False` and can be used in an `if` statement

```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> 'n' in fruit
True
>>> 'm' in fruit
False
>>> 'nan' in fruit
True
>>> if 'a' in fruit :
...     print('Found it!')
...
Found it!
>>>
```

# String Comparison

```
if word == 'banana':  
    print('All right, bananas.')  
if word < 'banana':  
    print('Your word, ' + word + ', comes before banana.')elif word > 'banana':  
    print('Your word, ' + word + ', comes after banana.')else:  
    print('All right, bananas.')
```

- Python has a number of string **functions** which are in the **string library**
- These **functions** are already **built into** every string - we invoke them by appending the function to the string variable
- These **functions** do not modify the original string, instead they return a new string that has been altered

# String Library

```
>>> greet = 'Hello Bob'
>>> zap = greet.lower()
>>> print(zap)
hello bob
>>> print(greet)
Hello Bob
>>> print('Hi There'.lower())
hi there
>>>
```

```
>>> stuff = 'Hello world'
>>> type(stuff)
<class 'str'>
>>> dir(stuff)
['capitalize', 'casefold', 'center', 'count', 'encode',
'endswith', 'expandtabs', 'find', 'format', 'format_map',
'index', 'isalnum', 'isalpha', 'isdecimal', 'isdigit',
'isidentifier', 'islower', 'isnumeric', 'isprintable', 'isspace',
'istitle', 'isupper', 'join', 'ljust', 'lower', 'lstrip',
'maketrans', 'partition', 'replace', 'rfind', 'rindex', 'rjust',
'rstrip', 'rsplit', 'rstrip', 'split', 'splitlines',
'startswith', 'strip', 'swapcase', 'title', 'translate', 'upper',
'zfill']
```

<https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#string-methods>

**str.replace(*old*, *new*[, *count*])**

Return a copy of the string with all occurrences of substring *old* replaced by *new*. If the optional argument *count* is given, only the first *count* occurrences are replaced.

**str.rfind(*sub*[, *start*[, *end*]])**

Return the highest index in the string where substring *sub* is found, such that *sub* is contained within *s*[*start*:*end*]. Optional arguments *start* and *end* are interpreted as in slice notation. Return `-1` on failure.

**str.rindex(*sub*[, *start*[, *end*]])**

Like `rfind()` but raises `ValueError` when the substring *sub* is not found.

**str.rjust(*width*[, *fillchar*])**

Return the string right justified in a string of length *width*. Padding is done using the specified *fillchar* (default is an ASCII space). The original string is returned if *width* is less than or equal to `len(s)`.

**str.rpartition(*sep*)**

Split the string at the last occurrence of *sep*, and return a 3-tuple containing the part before the separator, the separator itself, and the part after the separator. If the separator is not found, return a 3-tuple containing two empty strings, followed by the string itself.

**str.rsplit(*sep=**None*, *maxsplit=-1*)**

Return a list of the words in the string, using *sep* as the delimiter string. If *maxsplit* is given, at most *maxsplit* splits are done, the *rightmost* ones. If *sep* is not specified or `None`, any whitespace string is a separator. Except for splitting from the right, `rsplit()` behaves like `split()` which is described in detail below.



# String Library

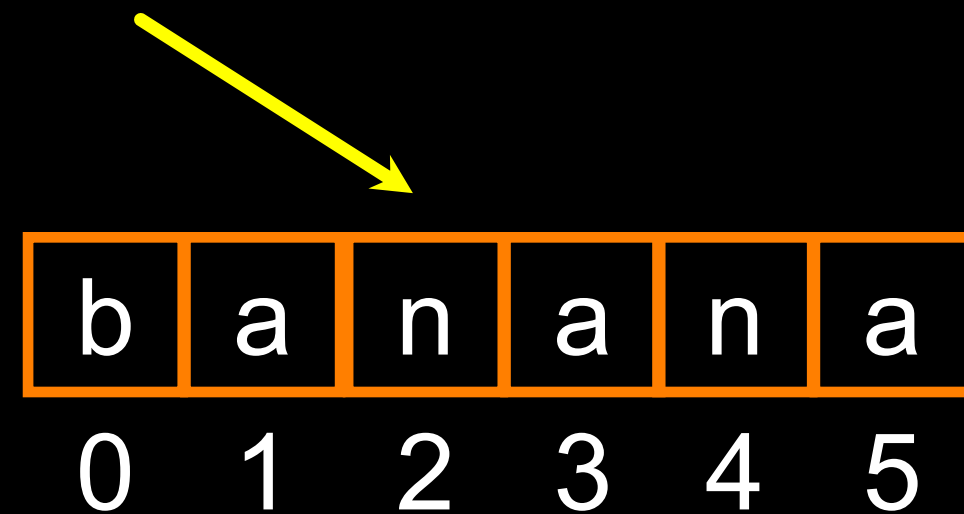
```
str.capitalize()  
str.center(width[, fillchar])  
str.endswith(suffix[, start[, end]])  
str.find(sub[, start[, end]])  
str.lstrip([chars])
```

```
str.replace(old, new[, count])  
str.lower()  
str.rstrip([chars])  
str.strip([chars])  
str.upper()
```



# Searching a String

- We use the `find()` function to search for a substring within another string
- `find()` finds the first occurrence of the substring
- If the substring is not found, `find()` returns `-1`
- Remember that string position starts at zero



```
>>> fruit = 'banana'
>>> pos = fruit.find('na')
>>> print(pos)
2
>>> aa = fruit.find('z')
>>> print(aa)
-1
```

# Making everything UPPER CASE

- You can make a copy of a string in **lower case** or **upper case**
- Often when we are searching for a string using **find()** we first convert the string to lower case so we can search a string regardless of case

```
>>> greet = 'Hello Bob'
>>> nnn = greet.upper()
>>> print(nnn)
HELLO BOB
>>> www = greet.lower()
>>> print(www)
hello bob
>>>
```

# Search and Replace

- The `replace()` function is like a “search and replace” operation in a word processor
- It replaces **all occurrences** of the **search string** with the **replacement string**

```
>>> greet = 'Hello Bob'
>>> nstr = greet.replace('Bob', 'Jane')
>>> print(nstr)
Hello Jane
>>> nstr = greet.replace('o', 'x')
>>> print(nstr)
Hel1x Bxb
>>>
```

# Stripping Whitespace

- Sometimes we want to take a string and remove whitespace at the beginning and/or end
- `lstrip()` and `rstrip()` remove whitespace at the left or right
- `strip()` removes both beginning and ending whitespace

```
>>> greet = '    Hello Bob    '  
>>> greet.lstrip()  
'Hello Bob '  
>>> greet.rstrip()  
'    Hello Bob'  
>>> greet.strip()  
'Hello Bob'  
>>>
```

# Prefixes

```
>>> line = 'Please have a nice day'
```

```
>>> line.startswith('Please')
```

```
True
```


```
>>> line.startswith('p')
```

```
False
```

# Parsing and Extracting

From stephen.marquard@uct.ac.za Sat Jan 5 09:14:16 2008

```
>>> data = 'From stephen.marquard@uct.ac.za Sat Jan 5 09:14:16 2008'
>>> atpos = data.find('@')
>>> print(atpos)
21
>>> sppos = data.find(' ', atpos)
>>> print(sppos)
31
>>> host = data[atpos+1 : sppos]
>>> print(host)
uct.ac.za
```



# Two Kinds of Strings

Python 2.7.10

```
>>> x = '이광춘'
>>> type(x)
<type 'str'>
>>> x = u'이광춘'
>>> type(x)
<type 'unicode'>
>>>
```

Python 3.5.1

```
>>> x = '이광춘'
>>> type(x)
<class 'str'>
>>> x = u'이광춘'
>>> type(x)
<class 'str'>
>>>
```

In Python 3, all strings are Unicode

# Summary

- String type
- Read/Convert
- Indexing strings []
- Slicing strings [2:4]
- Looping through strings with **for** and **while**
- Concatenating strings with +
- String operations
- String library
- String comparisons
- Searching in strings
- Replacing text
- Stripping white space





# Acknowledgements / Contributions



These slides are Copyright 2010- Charles R. Severance  
([www.dr-chuck.com](http://www.dr-chuck.com)) of the University of Michigan School of  
Information and [open.umich.edu](http://open.umich.edu) and made available under a  
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License. Please maintain this  
last slide in all copies of the document to comply with the  
attribution requirements of the license. If you make a change,  
feel free to add your name and organization to the list of  
contributors on this page as you republish the materials.

Initial Development: Charles Severance, University of Michigan  
School of Information

... Insert new Contributors and Translators here