



Python

Slicing



Copyright © Software Carpentry 2010

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License

See <http://software-carpentry.org/license.html> for more information.

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X) - 1$

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X) - 1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X)-1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X)-1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>> print element[1:4]
```

ran

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X)-1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>> print element[1:4]
```

```
ran
```

```
>>> print element[:4]
```

```
uran
```

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X)-1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>> print element[1:4]
```

```
ran
```

```
>>> print element[:4]
```

```
uran
```

```
>>> print element[4:]
```

```
ium
```

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Lists, strings, and tuples are all *sequences*

Can be indexed by integers in the range $0 \dots \text{len}(X)-1$

Can also be *sliced* using a range of indices

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>> print element[1:4]
```

```
ran
```

```
>>> print element[:4]
```

```
uran
```

```
>>> print element[4:]
```

```
ium
```

```
>>> print element[-4:]
```

```
nium
```

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Python checks bounds when indexing

Python checks bounds when indexing
But truncates when slicing

Python checks bounds when indexing

But truncates when slicing

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Python checks bounds when indexing

But truncates when slicing

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

```
>>> print element[400]
```

IndexError: string index out of range

```
>>>
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
u	r	a	n	i	u	m	
-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	

Python checks bounds when indexing

But truncates when slicing

```
>>> element = 'uranium'
```

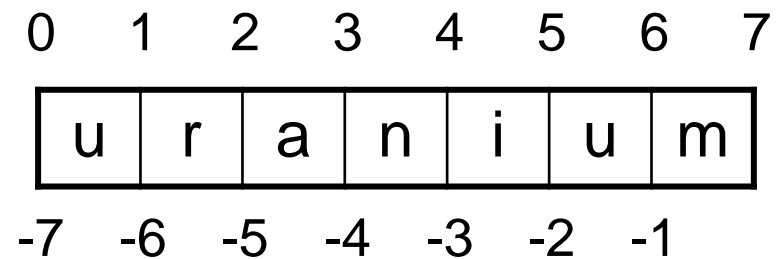
```
>>> print element[400]
```

IndexError: string index out of range

```
>>> print element[1:400]
```

ranium

```
>>>
```



So `text[1:3]` is 0, 1, or 2 characters long

So `text[1:3]` is 0, 1, or 2 characters long

<code>"</code>	<code>"</code>
<code>'a'</code>	<code>"</code>
<code>'ab'</code>	<code>'b'</code>
<code>'abc'</code>	<code>'bc'</code>
<code>'abcdef'</code>	<code>'bc'</code>

Slicing always creates a new collection

Slicing always creates a new collection
Beware of aliasing

Slicing always creates a new collection

Beware of aliasing

```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]  
>>>
```

Slicing always creates a new collection

Beware of aliasing

```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]  
>>> middle = points[1:-1]  
>>>
```

Slicing always creates a new collection

Beware of aliasing

```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]  
>>> middle = points[1:-1]  
>>> middle[0][0] = 'whoops'  
>>>
```


Slicing always creates a new collection

Beware of aliasing

```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]
>>> middle = points[1:-1]
>>> middle[0][0] = 'whoops'
>>> middle[1][0] = 'aliasing'
>>>
```

Slicing always creates a new collection

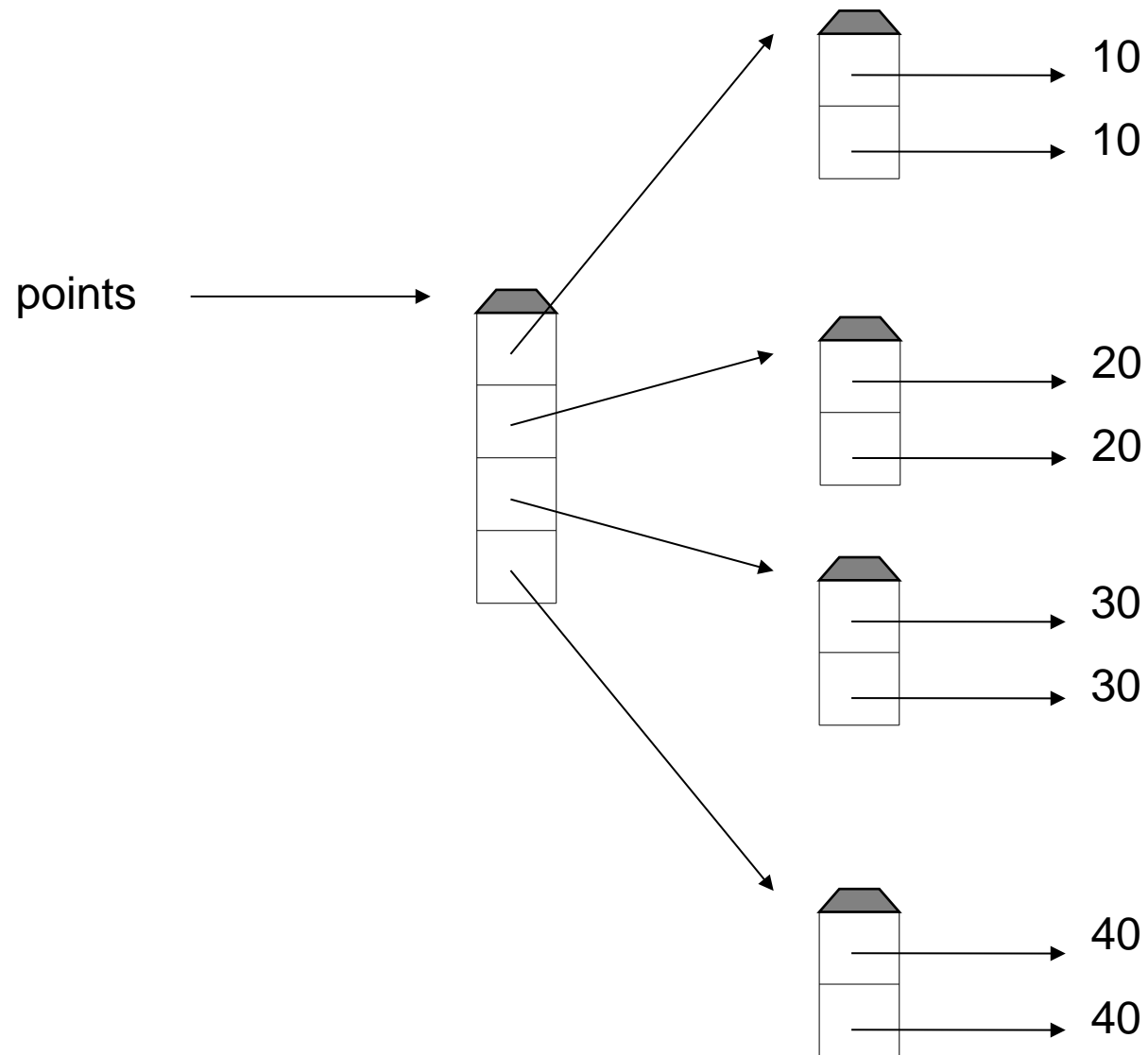
Beware of aliasing

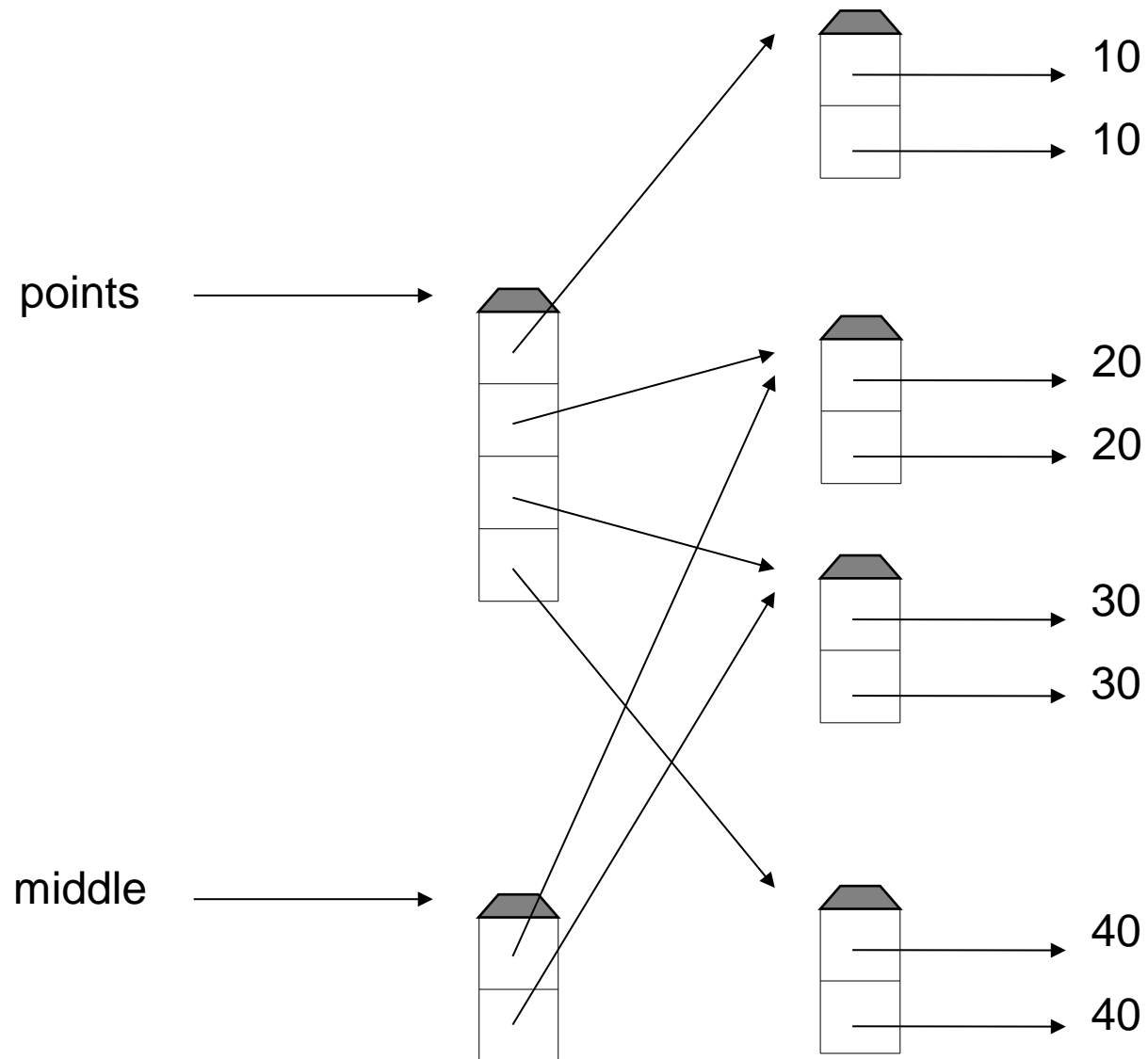
```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]
>>> middle = points[1:-1]
>>> middle[0][0] = 'whoops'
>>> middle[1][0] = 'aliasing'
>>> print middle
[['whoops', 20], ['aliasing', 30]]
>>>
```

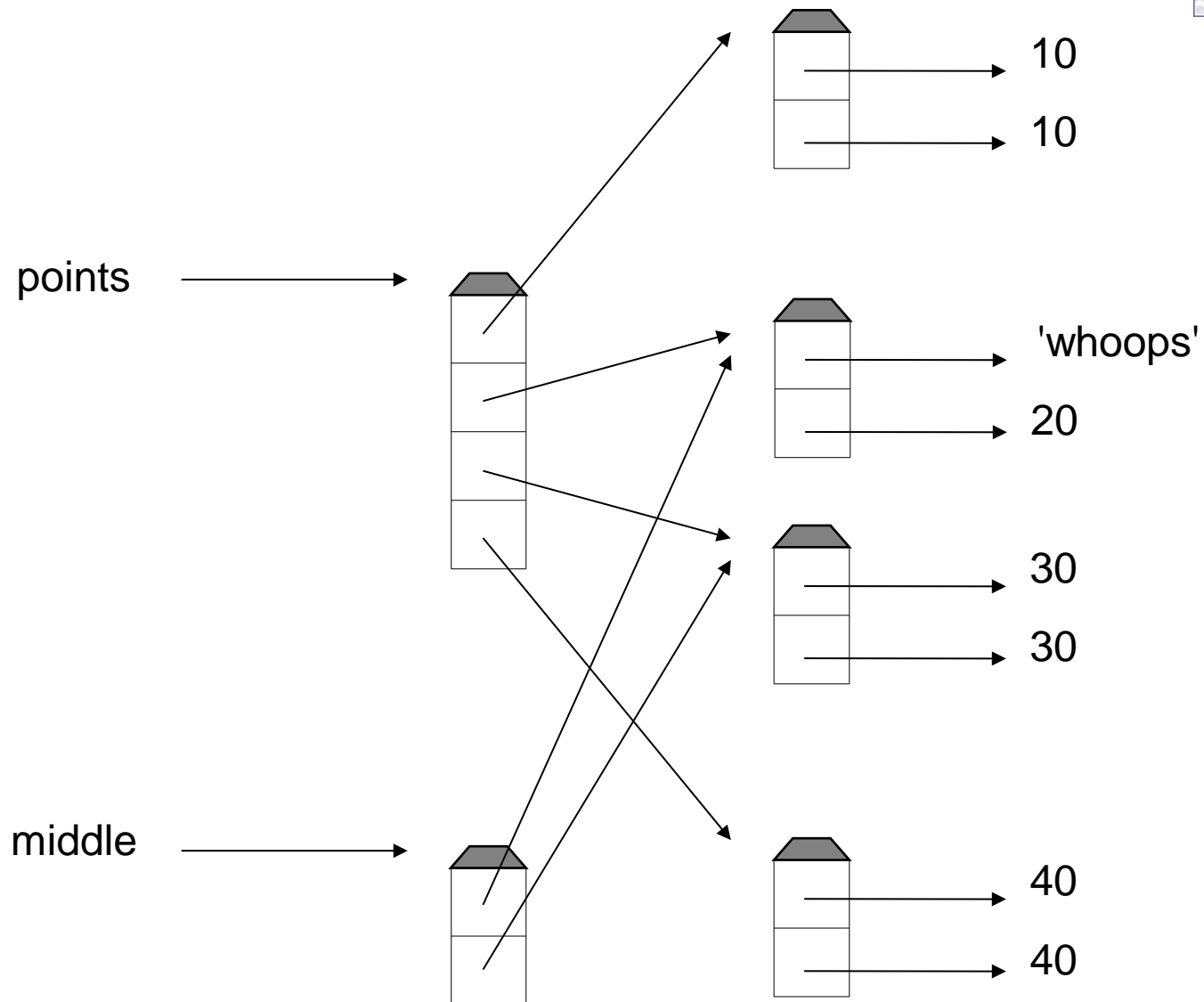
Slicing always creates a new collection

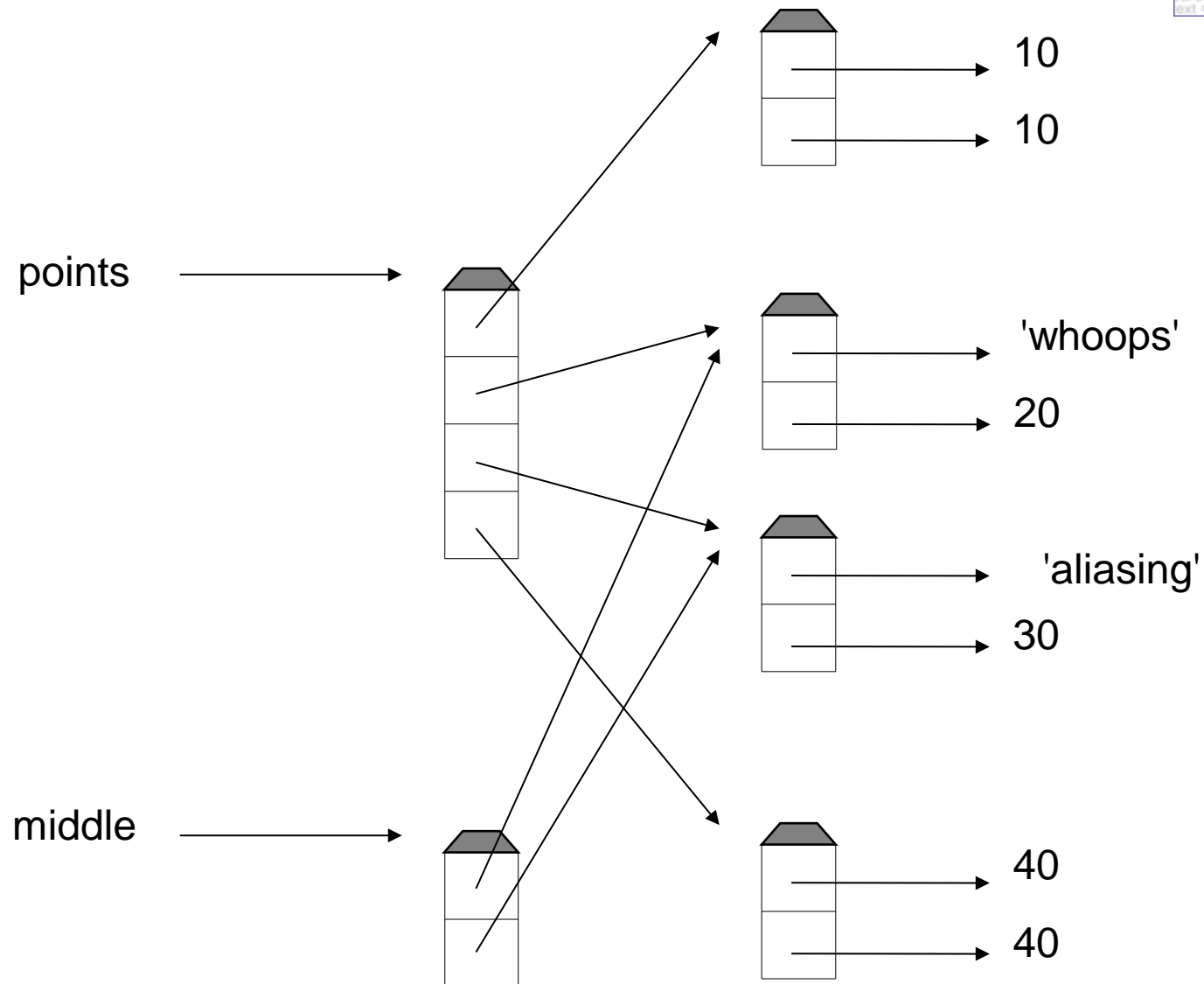
Beware of aliasing

```
>>> points = [[10, 10], [20, 20], [30, 30], [40, 40]]
>>> middle = points[1:-1]
>>> middle[0][0] = 'whoops'
>>> middle[1][0] = 'aliasing'
>>> print middle
[['whoops', 20], ['aliasing', 30]]
>>> print points
[[10, 10], ['whoops', 20], ['aliasing', 30], [40, 40]]
>>>
```











created by

Greg Wilson

October 2010



Copyright © Software Carpentry 2010

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License

See <http://software-carpentry.org/license.html> for more information.