# **Lecture 3: Python Basics (Part II)**

# Data Science, DST, UIC

In this lecture, we will cover the following topics:

- 1. Flow control statements: if, for, while, pass...
- 2. List
- 3. Tuple
- 4. String
- 5. Sequence
- 6. Set
- 7. Dictionary

### 1. Flow control statements

More frequently used flow control statements are the following:

- 1. if
- 2. for
- 3. while
- 4. pass

#### 1.1 if

Note: in python we use : and indentation to define code blocks instead of  $\{\}$ , therefore, use : to enclose the statements of **if, for, while...** 

• Each: must be accompanied by **identation** in the next line, usually we use 4 blank spaces for indentation, sometimes the editor can do it automatically for you when you type "enter" after a:, like in Jupyter Notebook.

The general Python syntax for a simple if statement is:

```
if condition :
    indentedStatementBlock
```

• If the condition is true, then do the indented statements. If the condition is not true, then skip the indented statements.

#### General Python if-else syntax is:

```
if condition :
        indentedStatementBlockForTrueCondition
else:
        indentedStatementBlockForFalseCondition
```

• These statement blocks can have any number of statements, and can include about any kind of statement.

Nested if-else statements:

If you have multiple **if** and **else** tests, you can use **if-elif** statements. The most elaborate syntax for an **if-elif-else** statement is indicated in general below:

```
if condition1 :
        indentedStatementBlockForTrueCondition1
elif condition2 :
        indentedStatementBlockForTrueCondition2
elif condition3 :
        indentedStatementBlockForTrueCondition3
else:
    indentedStatementBlockForEachConditionFalse
```

The *if*, each *elif*, and the final *else* lines are all aligned. There can be any number of *elif* lines, each followed by an indented block. With this construction exactly **one** of the indented blocks is executed. It is the one corresponding to the first *True* condition, or, if all conditions are False, it is the block after the final *else* line.

```
In [3]: a=2
b=1

if a < b:
    print("a is less than b")
elif a==b:
    print("a equals to b")
else:
    print("a is greater than b")</pre>
a is greater than b
```

A special format of **if...else** statement in assignment.

• Ternery operator or conditional expression

There are two types of loops in Python, for and while.

#### 1.2 for

For loops iterate over a given sequence, e.g., tuple, list and string.

Syntax of for loops:

```
for iterator_var in sequence:
   indentedStatementBlock
```

For loops can iterate over a sequence of numbers using the range functions. Range function returns a new list with numbers of that specified range.

• range (start, stop, step) function returns an object that produces a sequence of integers from start (inclusive) to stop (exclusive) by step (default to 1). Start from 0 if start is not given explicitly.

```
In [7]: for i in range(3): # default start is 0, step is 1 range(0,3,1)
              print(i)
          0
          1
          2
   [8]:
         for i in range (1, 3): # range (1, 3, 1)
              print(i)
          1
          2
In [9]: for i in range (1, 10, 2):
              print(i)
          1
          3
          5
          7
          9
```

Use for loop to iterate over index of a list.

```
In [10]: a_list = list(range(1,5)) # a_list=[1,2,3,4]
for i in [1,3]:
    print(a_list[i]) # a_list[1] => 2; a_list[3]=4
2
4
```

#### break and continue in for loops

• break is used to exit a for loop, whereas continue is used to skip the current block, and return to the for statement.

### 1.3 While

In python, **while** loop is used to execute a block of statements repeatedly until a given condition is satisfied. And when the condition becomes false, the line immediately after the loop in program is executed.

#### Syntax:

```
while expression: indentedStatementBlock
```

We can use **else** in loops. When the loop condition of for or while statement fails then code part in else is executed.

- If break statement is executed inside for loop then the <code>else</code> part is skipped.
- else part is executed even if there is a continue statement.

```
In [14]: | i=1
           sum=0
           while i <= 10:
               sum += i
               i += 1
               if i == 6:
                   continue
               print(i, sum)
           else:
               print("here is else")
           2 1
           3 3
           4 6
           5 10
           7 21
           8 28
           9 36
           10 45
           11 55
           here is else
In [15]: i=1
           sum=0
           while i \le 10:
               \text{sum} \; +\!\!\!= \; i
               i += 1
               if i==6:
                   continue
               if i == 9:
                   break
               print(i, sum)
           else:
               print("here is else")
           2 1
           3 3
           4 6
           5 10
           7 21
           8 28
```

### 1.4 Pass

Pass means empty statement, the program will do nothing to this statement and go to next statement directly. It is useful as a placeholder when a statement is required syntactically, but no code needs to be execute.

# 2. List

### 2.1 Definition

List is a mutable container (similar to ArrayList in Java), each element in the list has an index.

There are three ways to define a list.

#### 1. Use []

#### 1. Use Assignment

```
In [18]: test_list_2 = test_list
    test_list_2

Out[18]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

#### 1. Use explicit conversion

You can check the length of a list using len()

```
In [20]: len(test_list)
Out[20]: 9
```

### 2.2 Index

You can refer to an element in the list using index.

Note: the index of a list starts from 0 (which means the first element in the list) and ends at len(your\_list)-1

You can even use negative integers in the index, for example, -1 which means start counting from the last element, etc

## 2.3 Slicing

We can get a part of lists using python's slicing operator ( : ) which has following syntax:

```
test_list[start:stop:step]
```

- which means slice the test\_list from(and including) the **start** index, end at (but not including) the **stop** index, and the step size is **step**.
- either start, stop, step can be omitted and can also be negative integers.

```
In [25]: test_list
Out[25]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
In [26]: test_list[1:6:1]
Out[26]: [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
In [27]: test_list[1:6] # step default to 1
Out[27]: [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
In [28]: test_list[1:6:2]
Out[28]: [2, 4, 6]
```

Omit the start and step arguments, the default value of start is 0, step is 1

```
In [29]: test_list[:6] # test_list[0:6:1]
Out[29]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

Omit the stop and step arguments, the default value of end is length of the list, step is 1

```
In [30]: [test_list[1:]
Out[30]: [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

Omit all arguments

```
In [31]: test_list[:]
Out[31]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

Negative arguments

```
In [32]: test_list[:-1] # start from 0, end at last index, step is 1
Out[32]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]
```

Perform inverse traversal using slicing operator and reversed() function.

· Note: Slicing will not affect the original list

```
In [33]: test_list[::-1] # step=-1, reverse direction step is 1
Out[33]: [9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
In [34]: list(reversed(test_list)) # the same as above, but use reversed()
Out[34]: [9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
In [35]: test_list
Out[35]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

However, the following built-in function for list will change the list itself to its reverse

```
In [36]: test_list.reverse()
test_list
Out[36]: [9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
```

## 2.4 extend and append

In Python, use list methods <code>append()</code> and <code>extend()</code> to add items to a list or combine other lists. You can also use <code>+</code> to combine lists.

You can add an item to the end of a list with with append().

If the argument is a list object, append() will append the list with another list as a whole.

```
In [38]: test_list_1.append(test_list_2)
    test_list_1
Out[38]: [1, 2, 3, 4, [5, 6, 7]]
```

You can combine another list at the end with extend() . Different with append() method, all itemss are added to the end of the original list.

It is also possible to combine using the + operator instead of extend(). In the case of the + operator, a new list is returned. You can also add to the existing list with +=.

## 2.5 List comprehensions

List comprehensions provide a concise way to create lists.

- It consists of brackets containing an expression followed by a for clause, then zero or more for or if clauses. The expressions can be anything, meaning you can put in all kinds of objects in lists.
- The following is the basic structure of a list comprehension:

output\_list = [expression for var in input\_list if (var satisfies this condition)]

```
In [41]: clist1 = [1 for i in range(10)] #[1,1,1....,1]
Out[41]: [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1]
In [42]: clist2 = [i for i in range(1,10)] # [1,2,....,9]
Out[42]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

### 2.6 insert and delete

insert (): Inserts an element before/at specified index.

Syntax: list.insert(index, element)

```
In [46]: L = [1,2,3]
L. insert(1,0)
L
Out[46]: [1, 0, 2, 3]
```

pop () : Delete an element, index is not a necessary parameter, if not mentioned takes the last index.

Syntax: list.pop([index])

 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{del}}$  : Element to be deleted is mentioned using list name and index.

#### Syntax:

del list[index]

remove(): Element to be deleted is mentioned using list name and element, not index.

Syntax: list.remove(element)

# 3. Tuple

Think about **tuple** as immutable **list**. The operations of **tuple** are similar to **list** except the elements in a tuple cannot be modified directly

```
In [54]: test_tuple = 2, 4, 6, 8, 0
test_tuple
Out[54]: (2, 4, 6, 8, 0)
In [55]: test_tuple = (2, 4, 6, 8, 0) # the same as above
test_tuple
Out[55]: (2, 4, 6, 8, 0)
In [56]: test_tuple = 2, 4, 6, 8, 0
# test_tuple[2] = 5
```

Exercise: check all the operations of list mentioned in previous sections and see if they can be applied to tuple

## 4. String

In Python, Strings are arrays of bytes representing Unicode characters. However, Python does not have a character data type, a single character is simply a string with a length of 1.

Strings in Python can be created using single quotes or double quotes or even triple quotes.

```
#you can either use ' or " to quote the strings
In [57]: print('abc')
           print("abc")
           print("abc loves 'data science'")
           print('abc loves "data science"
           \# if you need strings with \n, use \n''
           print('''
                   abc
                   loves
                   data
                   science
                   ,,,)
           abc
           abc
           abc loves 'data science'
           abc loves "data science"
                   abc
                   loves
                   data
                   science
```

Square brackets can be used to access elements of the string. To access a range of characters in the String, method of slicing is used.

```
In [58]: str1= 'test'
    str1[2]  # access single character of the string
Out[58]: 's'
In [59]: str1[1:3]  # access a range of characters use slicing
Out[59]: 'es'
```

In Python, updation or deletion of characters from a String is not allowed. The following example will cause an error because item assignment or item deletion from a String is not supported.

```
In [60]: str1='test' # str[1]='a'
```

In Python, there are a few ways to concatenate – or combine - strings. In order to merge two strings into a single string, you may use the + operator.

```
In [61]: 'I'+'love'+'DS'
Out[61]: 'IloveDS'
```

The join method is used to concatenate a list of strings.

```
In [62]: print('**'.join(['I','love','DS'])) # reverse string using join method
    print(''.join(reversed("hello")))

I**love**DS
    olleh
```

strip method will delete all the spaces, tabs, etc before or after letters, but not the ones in the middle

```
In [63]: " I love \tz \t DS \n".strip()
Out[63]: 'I love \tz \t DS'

In [64]: str(1234) # return the string format of the object
Out[64]: '1234'

In [65]: 'data science'.upper()
Out[65]: 'DATA SCIENCE'
In [66]: 'DATA SCIENCE'.lower()
Out[66]: 'data science'
```

Special charactor and paths.

```
In [67]: my_file_path = 'C:\windows\desktop' # as \ is escaping character, special character \ will be es caped to \\ my_file_path

Out[67]: 'C:\\windows\\desktop'

In [68]: my_url='http://www.uic.edu.hk'
my_url

Out[68]: 'http://www.uic.edu.hk'
```

Strings in Python can be formatted with the use of format() method which is very versatile and powerful tool for formatting of Strings.

• Format method in String contains curly braces {} as placeholders which can hold arguments according to **position** or **keyword** to specify the order.

String in order of Keywords: I love DS

## 5. Sequence

In python, sequence is not a specific data type, but a category of container data types, which contains a set of elements with specific order. Typical sequence includes **string**, **list**, and **tuple**. Particularly, **set** is not sequence, because the elements in **set** do not have order.

```
In [72]: mySeq1="I love data science"
    mySeq2=[5, 2, 0]
    mySeq3=(1, 3, 1, 4)
In [73]: not_my_seq = {'a','c','b'}
```

There are some common operations on data types that are sequences

## 5.1 Slicing

Syntax of slicing on sequence: my\_seq[start:stop:step]

```
In [74]: mySeq1[0:3], mySeq2[0:3], mySeq3[0:3]
Out[74]: ('I 1', [5, 2, 0], (1, 3, 1))
```

## 5.2 Indexing

```
In [75]: my_str="I love data science"
    my_str[0]

Out[75]: 'I'

In [76]: my_list = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
    my_list[-1]

Out[76]: 5

In [77]: my_tuple = ('a','b','c','d')
    my_tuple[3]

Out[77]: 'd'
```

### 5.3 Iteration

Sequence is iterable, can be used after in keyword in for statements

```
In [78]: my str = 'I love data science'
           for i in my_str:
                print(i)
           Ι
           1
           е
           d
           a
            t.
           а
           S
           n
           С
           е
In [79]: | my_index = [0, 2, 4, 6, 8]
           my_list = [100, 98, 99, 85, 92, 90, 80, 60, 80, 88]
           for i in my_index:
                print(my_list[i])
           100
           99
           92
           80
           80
```

## 5.4 Unpacking assignment

Sequence unpacking in python allows you to take objects in a collection and store them in variables for later use.

- In unpacking of a sequence, we extract items stored in the sequence into separate variables.
- The number of variables on left hand side should be equal to number of values in given sequence.

```
In [80]: student_list = ['amy', 'bob', 'candy', 'david']
s1, s2, s3, s4 = student_list
print(s1, s2, s3, s4)
amy bob candy david
```

## 5.5 The repeating operator \*

Repetition operator is denoted by a \* symbol and is useful for repeating sequences to a certain length.

```
In [81]: my_tuple = (1,2,3)
my_tuple*3
Out[81]: (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3)
```

```
my_str = 'i love data science '
In [82]:
          my_str*3
```

Out[82]: 'i love data science i love data science i love data science '

### 5.6 Common functions

Functions that can be applied to all sequence type(tuple, list, string, etc) variables.

- len
- sorted

```
    reversed

    enumerate

• zip
          my_str = 'i love data science'
   [83]:
          my_list= [1, 9, 6, 5, 4, 8]
          my_tuple = [1, 2, 3, 6, 5, 4]
          len(my_str), len(my_list), len(my_tuple) # return the length of a sequence
Out[83]: (19, 6, 6)
In [84]: sorted(my_str), sorted(my_list), sorted(my_tuple, reverse=True) #return a sorted sequence of orig
           inal sequence
Out[84]: ([', ',
            [1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9],
            [6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1])
   [85]: reversed(my_str), reversed(my_list), reversed(my_tuple) #the function returns an iterator which
           will be discussed later
Out[85]: (<reversed at 0x2335d6a79b0>,
           treverseiterator at 0x2335d6a7b00>,
            t_reverseiterator at 0x2335d6a7b70>)
```

#### Use enumerate to trace and show the index of each element in a sequence

```
In [87]: list(enumerate(my_str))
    #The enumerate object yields pairs containing a count (from start, which defaults to zero) and
    # a value yielded by the iterable argument.
    # enumerate?

Out[87]: [(0, 'i'),
    (1, ''),
    (2, 'l'),
    (3, 'o'),
    (4, 'v'),
    (5, 'e'),
    (6, ''),
    (7, 'd'),
    (8, 'a'),
    (9, 't'),
    (10, 'a'),
    (11, ''),
    (12, 's'),
    (13, 'c'),
    (14, 'i'),
    (15, 'e'),
    (16, 'n'),
    (17, 'c'),
    (18, 'e')]
```

zip(sequence1, sequence2, ...) returns a zip object whose . \_\_next\_\_() method returns a tuple where the  $i^{th}$  element comes from the  $i^{th}$  iterable argument.

### 6. Set

**Set** in Python is a data structure equivalent to sets in mathematics. It may consist of **unordered** collections of **unique** elements; the order of elements in a set is undefined.

• You can add and delete elements of a set, you can iterate the elements of the set, you can perform standard operations on sets (union, intersection, difference).

```
In [89]: my_set = {1,2,3,4,1,2,5,6} # create set using {}

Out[89]: {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}

In [90]: my_set_2 = my_set # create set by assignment
    my_set_2

Out[90]: {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}

In [91]: my_list = [1,1,2,2,3,3]
    my_set_3 = set(my_list) # create set using explicit conversion
    my_set_3

Out[91]: {1, 2, 3}
```

Once a set is created, you cannot chagne its items, but you can add new items using add() method. To add items from another set into the current set, use the update method.

```
In [92]: my_set = {1, 2, 3}
    my_set.add(4)
    print(my_set)
    my_set.update({'a','b','c'})
    my_set
    {1, 2, 3, 4}
Out[92]: {1, 2, 3, 4, 'a', 'b', 'c'}
```

To remove an item in a set, use the remove(), or the discard() method.

- If the item to remove does not exist, remove() will raise an error.
- If the item to remove does not exist, discard() will NOT raise an error.

```
In [93]: my_set.remove(1)
    print(my_set)
    my_set.discard(1)
    print(my_set)
    # my_set.remove(1)

{2, 3, 4, 'b', 'a', 'c'}
    {2, 3, 4, 'b', 'a', 'c'}
```

Use in to check if an element belongs to a set

```
In [94]: 1 in my_set_3
Out[94]: True
```

```
In [95]: '1' in my_set_2
Out[95]: False
```

Set does not support indexing, because it is unordered

```
[96]: | # my_set[0]
In
    [97]: | my_set_a = {1,2,3,4,5}
In
           my_set_b = \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}
    [98]: 3 in my_set_a, 3 not in my_set_b
 Out[98]: (True, False)
In [99]: my set a == my set b, my set a != my set b
 Out[99]: (False, True)
In [100]: | {1,2,3} < my_set_a # is subset ?
           # my_set_a.issubset?
            {1, 2, 3}. issubset (my_set_a)
Out[100]: True
In [101]: # my set b. issuperset, my set b. union, my set b. difference
           # my_set_a.symmetric_difference?
           print(my_set_b > \{5,6,7\}) # is superset ?
           print(my_set_a | my_set_b ) #union
           print(my_set_a & my_set_b ) #intersection
           print(my_set_a - my_set_b ) #difference
           print(my_set_a ^ my_set_b )# symmetric_difference, returns new set with elements in either s or t
           but not both
           True
            \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}
           {3, 4, 5}
           {1, 2}
           {1, 2, 6, 7}
```

**set** is mutable, **frozenset** is immutable. **frozenset** is used when you don't want the elements in a set to be changed accidentally

```
In [102]: my_set = {1,2,3}
    my_set.add(4)
    my_set.remove(1)
    my_set.update({3,5})
    my_set.pop() # pop of set will delte an element at random
    my_set

Out[102]: {3, 4, 5}

In [103]: my_frozenset = frozenset({1,2,3})
    my_frozenset

Out[103]: frozenset({1, 2, 3})
In [104]: # my_frozenset.add(4)
```

## 7. Dictionary

A dictionary is a collection which is unordered, changeable and indexed. In Python dictionaries are written with curly brackets, and they have keys and values.

• It is best to think of a dictionary as a set of key: value pairs, with the requirement that the keys are unique (within one dictionary).

Unlike sequences, which are indexed by a range of numbers, dictionaries are indexed by keys, which can be any **immutable type** (e.g., numeric data type, string, tuple, frozenset).

The main operations on a dictionary are storing a value with some key and extracting the value given the key.

```
In [105]: my_dict = {'id':123, 'name':'abc', 'age':18, 8:True}
    my_dict
    # dic = {{1,2,3}:'a'} # error
    # dic = {(1,2,3):'a'}
    # dic
Out[105]: {'id': 123, 'name': 'abc', 'age': 18, 8: True}
```

Question: What are the keys and what are the values to each key in the above definition?

```
In [106]: my_dict['id']
Out[106]: 123
```

Note: you can always use keys to access a particular value

To update the dictionary with the items from the given arguments (must be a list of key:value pairs or another dictionary), you can use <code>update()</code> method.

To remove items from a dictionary, you can use the pop() method, which removes the item with the specified key name.

```
In [111]: my_dict.pop("1")
my_dict

Out[111]: {'id': 123, 'name': 'abcd', 'age': 18, 8: True, 'gender': 'male', '2': 'b'}
```

Dictionaries can be iterated over, just like a list. However, a dictionary, unlike a list, does not keep the order of the values stored in it. To iterate over key value pairs, use the following syntax:

```
In [112]: for k in my_dict:
               print(k, my_dict[k])
           id 123
           name abcd
           age 18
           8 True
           gender male
           2 b
In [113]: for k, v in my_dict.items():
               print("Key:%s; Value:%s"%(k, v))
           Key:id; Value:123
           Key:name; Value:abcd
           Key:age; Value:18
           Key:8; Value:True
           Key:gender: Value:male
           Key:2; Value:b
In [114]: | del my_dict['gender']; # It deletes only the key with the name 'gender'
           print(my_dict)
           my_dict.clear();# The above code removes all entries in dictionary & makes the dictionary empty
           print(my_dict)
            {'id': 123, 'name': 'abcd', 'age': 18, 8: True, '2': 'b'}
            {}
```