Computational Thinking Discrete Mathematics Topic 01: Computational Thinking Number Theory Logic Lecture 01: Fundamentals of Computation Dr Kieran Murphy (©(*)(§) Computing and Mathematics, SETU (Waterford). (kieran.murphy@setu.ie) Graphs and Autumn Semester, 2025/26 Collections Networks

Outline

- Using PyTutor with Colab
- Python Fundamentals
- Storing data and data types, Making decisions, Looping, Functions

Enumeration Relations & Functions

Outline

2.4. Collections2.5. Looping

2.7. Functions

2.6. Making Decisions

1. Using PyTutor with Colab

2. Python Fundamentals	8
2.1. History of Python	9
2.2. First Look at Python Code	10

Before we start covering Python we want to show you PyTutor in action. The following slides shows screenshots of the process but you should verify the steps yourself on your phone/tablet.

```
Step 1 — Click/Scan on QR Code
```

The following code outputs powers of 2, don't worry about the actual code, just make sure that you can open and use PyTutor...

```
for p in powers:
    print(p, 2**p)

0 1
1 2
2 4
3 8
4 16
5 32
6 64
```

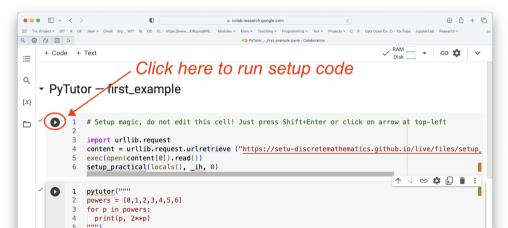
powers = [0.1.2.3.4.5.6]



This should open in Colab the following notebook.

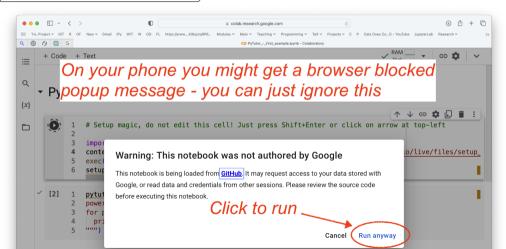
Unlike our practical notebooks, don't bother clicking on File \rightarrow Save a copy in Drive.

Step 2 — Execute the first cell to setup notebook.



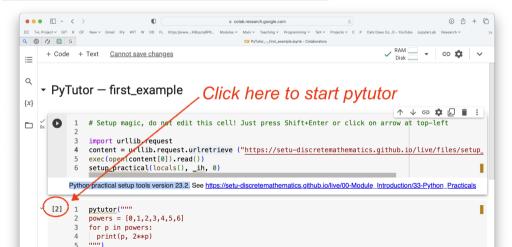
On executing the first cell you will get the following message. Click on Run anyway.

Step 3 — Click on Run anyway

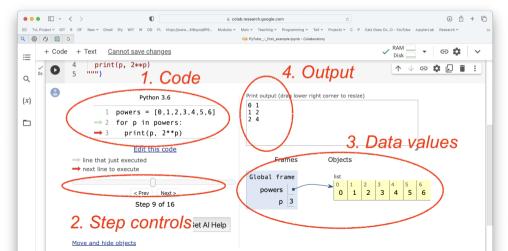


After executing the first cell you will get the usual "Python practical setup tools version 23.2".

Step 4 — Click on second cell to run code in PyTutor



You can now use PyTutor, to step back/forward through the code and see the current data values and resultinig output.



Outline

2.4. Collections

2.6. Making Decisions

2.5. Looping

2.7. Functions

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2. Python Fundamentals	8
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2.3. Data and Data Types	11

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Brief History of Python

• Invented in the Netherlands, early 90s by Guido van Rossum.

"Python is an experiment in how much freedom programmers need. Too much freedom and nobody can read another's code; too little and expressiveness is endangered."

Guido

- Named after Monty Python.
- Scalable, object oriented and functional from the beginning.
- Python 3.0 was released in 2008, to rectify certain flaws in Python 2.*.
- Most popular language for machine learning and data mining.

Python's Benevolent Dictator For Life



```
# Solution to Euler problem 2
   # Calculate the sum of the even-values in the Fibonacci sequence
       1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...
   # value that do not exceed four million,
   last = 1
   current = 2
   answer = 0
   while current <= 4 000 000:
       if current \% 2 == 0:
12
           answer += current
13
14
       last, current = current, last + current
15
   print(answer)
```

^{*}This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projecteuler.net.

```
# Solution to Euler problem The character # indicates an end of line comment.
                                   In each line everything after the # is ignored by the
                                   computer
   # Calculate the sum of the e
        1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...
    # value that do not exceed four million.
   last = 1
   current = 2
   answer = 0
   while current <= 4 000 000:
       if current \% 2 == 0:
12
            answer += current
13
       last, current = current, last + current
14
15
   print(answer)
```

^{*}This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projecteuler.net.

```
# Solution to Euler problem 2
   # Calculate the sum of the Use = to store data.
         1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21,
                                   On the right of =, we have the data value(s)
    # value that do not exceed
                                   On the left of =, we have the identifier name(s)
   last = 1
                                   Unlike other languages (e.g., Processing) we don't need
                                   to state the data type. (More on this later.)
    current = 2
    answer = 0
    while current <= 4 000 000:
        if current \% 2 == 0:
12
            answer += current
13
14
        last, current = current, last + current
15
   print(answer)
```

^{*}This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projecteuler.net.

15

print(answer)

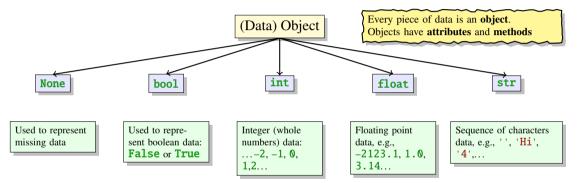
A core feature of Python is indenting **indent** is the spacing at **start** of Python lines of code. It To get an idea of Python, is used to specify blocks of code, for functions, loops or # Solution to Euler prob decisions. Here we have a **while** loop block with lines 12–14. # Calculate the sum of th Inside that, we have an **if** decision block with line 13. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 2. Note the: at end of line **before** code block # value that do not excee Other languages (e.g., Processing) use brackets { and } to last = 1specify blocks. Python doesn't and this results in cleaner current = 2code. answer = 0while current <= 4 000 000: if current % 2 == 0: 12 answer += current 13 14 last, current = current, last + current

^{*}This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projected er.net.

```
# Solution to Euler problem 2
                                  Python has lots of little features that make coding nicer.
   # Calculate the sum of the
                                  For example:
        1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21,
    # value that do not exceed
                                     • We can use underscore _ to represent thousand
                                        separator in numbers (line 11).
   last = 1
                                     • We can assign multiple values at the same time
                                        (line 14).
   current = 2
   answer = 0
   while current <= 4 000 000:
       if current \% 2 == 0:
12
            answer += current
13
       last, current = current, last + current
14
15
   print(answer)
```

^{*}This is a solution to the Euler Problem 2, at the programming competition site, projecteuler.net.

Python has 5 main primitive data types:



- An **Object** stores data in its **attributes**, and **methods** are used to change an object.
- In Python, the type of the data is automatically determined (unlike Processing).
- The type determines what you are allowed to do to a piece of data.
- Function type will return the type of a piece of data.

12 of 20

```
w = None
   x = 4
   z = 4.0
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
   x = x * 10
   y = y * 10
   z = z * 10
   x = x * 1_000_000_000
   z = z * 1_000_000_000
15
   x = x / 1_000_000_000
   z = z / 1_{000_{000_{000}}}
18
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
```

```
w = None
                                 Python infers the type from the data
                                     • str data is indicated by single or double quotes.
   x = 4
                                    • float data has a decimal point.
   v = '4'
                                 or from the result of an operation on data.
    z = 4.0
                                     • int divided by an int becomes a float. Why?
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
   x = x * 10
   y = y * 10
   z = z * 10
   x = x * 1_000_000_000
    z = z * 1_{000}_{000}_{000}
15
   x = x / 1_{000}000_{000}
   z = z / 1_{000}000_{000}
18
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
                                                                                                               12 of 20
```

```
Operations (here multiplication using *) can do
                                    different things based on the type.
   w = None
   x = 4
    v = '4'
    z = 4.0
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
   x = x * 10
   y = y * 10
   z = z * 10
12
   x = x * 1_{000}00_{000}
   z = z * 1_000_000_000
15
   x = x / 1_{000}000_{000}
   z = z / 1_{000_{000_{000}}}
17
18
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
                                                                                                              12 of 20
```

```
Using function type on an object is a common
                                   feature of Python programming.
   w = None
   x = 4
   v = '4'
   z = 4.0
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
   x = x * 10
   y = y * 10
   z = z * 10
12
   x = x * 1_000_000_000
   z = z * 1_000_000_000
15
   x = x / 1_000_000_000
   z = z / 1_{000_{000_{000}}}
17
18
   print(type(w), type(x), type(y), type(z))
                                                                                                          12 of 20
```

We will cover collections in more detail later, but for now we have:

Sets

- A set is collection of **distinct**, **unordered** values.
 - **distinct** means a set cannot hold the same piece of data more than once.
 - unordered means we cannot sort the elements of a set of ask "what element is first?" etc.
 - We can manipulate sets using union |, intersection &, and set minus operations.

Lists

- A list is collection of **ordered** values.
 - **ordered** means the values appear in a sequence (i.e., have position). So we can talk about which value appears before (or after) another value. (**ordered** ≠ **sorted**)
 - Data values do not have to be distinct.
 - The position of a data value in a list is called its **index**. Since Python is a **zero-based language**, the position starts at 0.
 - Lists are a BIG DEAL in python and we have many operations to manipulate them (more later).

```
z = set() # creating a empty set
   # defining sets by stating values
   a = \{1,3,1,2,1,5,4\}
   b = \{1, 'a', 3\}
   print(len(a)) # size of set
   c = a & b # intersection
   print(c)
11
   c = a \mid b \# union
   print(c)
14
   c = a - b # set difference
   print(c)
17
   c = b - a # set difference
   print(c)
```

```
z = set() # creating a empty se sets (We can't use {}, more on this later).
   # defining sets by stating values
   a = \{1,3,1,2,1,5,4\}
   b = \{1, 'a', 3\}
   print(len(a)) # size of set
   c = a & b # intersection
   print(c)
11
   c = a \mid b \# union
   print(c)
14
   c = a - b # set difference
   print(c)
17
   c = b - a # set difference
   print(c)
```

Have special notation for creating empty

```
z = set() # creating a empty set
    # defining sets by stating values
   a = \{1,3,1,2,1,5,4\}
   b = \{1, 'a', 3\}
   print(len(a)) # size of set
                                        Use { and } to define a set.
                                        Repeated value are ignored.
   c = a & b # intersection
   print(c)
                                        Order does not matter.
11
   c = a \mid b \# union
                                        Collections in Python can store a mixture
                                        of types (this is really useful!)
   print(c)
14
   c = a - b # set difference
   print(c)
17
   c = b - a # set difference
   print(c)
                                                                                                                14 of 20
```

Python **set** supports the standard operations you know (and love) z = set() # creating a empty set from Mathematics.

defining sets by stating values $a = \{1,3,1,2,1,5,4\}$

print(len(a)) # size of set

c = a & b # intersection print(c)

11 $c = a \mid b \# union$

print(c)

 $b = \{1, 'a', 3\}$

14 c = a - b # set difference

print(c) 17

c = b - a # set differenceprint(c)











```
z = [] # creating a empty list
   # defining lists by stating values
   a = [1,3,1,2,1,5,4]
   b = [1,3]
   print(len(a)) # size of list
   c = a + b \# appending lists
   print(c)
11
   value = c[2] # list indexing ZERO-BASED
   print(value)
13
14
   d = c[2:5] # slicing SEMI-OPEN notation
   print(d)
17
   value = c[-4] # negative indexing
   print(value)
```



print(value)

```
Use square brackets, [], to create empty
   z = [] # creating a empty list \begin{cases} lists. \end{cases}
   # defining lists by stating values
   a = [1,3,1,2,1,5,4]
   b = [1,3]
   print(len(a)) # size of list
   c = a + b # appending lists
   print(c)
11
   value = c[2] # list indexing ZERO-BASED
   print(value)
13
14
   d = c[2:5] # slicing SEMI-OPEN notation
15
   print(d)
17
```

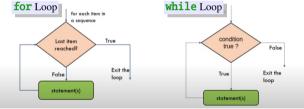


```
z = [] # creating a empty list
   # defining lists by stating values
   a = [1,3,1,2,1,5,4]
   b = \lceil 1.3 \rceil
   print(len(a)) # size of lis Use [ and ] to define a list.
                                    Repeated value are allowed.
   c = a + b \# appending lists
   print(c)
                                    Order does matter (in fact is it usually important).
11
   value = c[2] # list indexing Collections in Python can store a mixture of types
                                    (this is really useful!)
   print(value)
13
14
   d = c[2:5] # slicing SEMI-OPEN notation
   print(d)
17
   value = c[-4] # negative indexing
   print(value)
```

```
z = [] # creating a empty list
   # defining lists by stating values
   a = [1,3,1,2,1,5,4]
   b = \lceil 1.3 \rceil
   print(len(a)) # size of Use [ and ] to define a list.
                                Because data values in a list have position (index) we
   c = a + b \# appending lis
                                can access particular value(s) using
   print(c)
                                   • indexing: to access a single data value
11
   value = c[2] # list index
                                   • slicing: building a new list by taking some values
                                      from a list
   print(value)
13
14
   d = c[2:5] # slicing SEMI-OPEN notation
   print(d)
17
   value = c[-4] # negative indexing
   print(value)
                                                                                                               15 of 20
```

for — Looping when you know how many times you want to repeat

- Python for loop is actually a for-each loop.
 - In a for-each loop you loop over values in a collection. This is considered to be less error prone than standard for loops. (They are more likely to have off-by-one errors.)
 - Python has function range to efficiently build collections to be used in for loops.



while — Looping when you don't know how many times you want to repeat

- In a while loop, since we don't know how many times to loop, we have to define a **stopping** condition.
 - A while loop will keep repeating a block of code while the condition calculates to a True value.

Looping: for Loop

```
# for loops runs over a collection
   print('Looping over a list')
   for letter in ['a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u']:
       print(letter, 'is a vowel')
   # BUT be careful if the collection is a set
   # since a set does not have order
   print('Looping over a set')
   for letter in {'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u'}:
       print(letter. 'is a vowel')
11
12
13
   # Function range is useful in creating collections
14
   # NOTE Python uses SEMI-OPEN intervals !!!
   print('Use range to build collections')
   for x in range(5):
       print(x)
17
```



Looping: for Loop

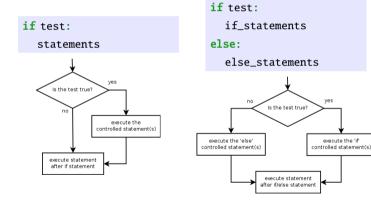
```
# for loops runs over a colle for loop can run over any collection, even a set.
                                  But since a set does not have order, the result
   print('Looping over a list') may be surprising.
   for letter in ['a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u']:
       print(letter, 'is a vowel')
   # BUT be careful if the collection is a set
   # since a set does not have order
   print('Looping over a set')
   for letter in {'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u'}:
       print(letter. 'is a vowel')
11
12
13
   # Function range is useful in creating collections
   # NOTE Python uses SEMI-OPEN intervals !!!
14
   print('Use range to build collections')
   for x in range(5):
       print(x)
17
```

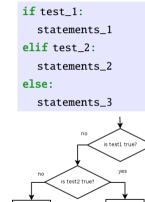
Looping: for Loop

```
# for loops runs over a d
                               Function range is typically used to generate collections of
                               integers.
   print('Looping over a li
                               Python uses semi-open intervals — this means the starting
   for letter in ['a', 'e',
                                value is included but the end value is excluded.
       print(letter, 'is a
                               range(END)
                                                0, 1, 2, 3, ..., <END
   # BUT be careful if the co
                               range(START, END)
    # since a set does not has
                                        START, START+1, START+2, ..., <END
   print('Looping over a se
                               range(START, END, STEP)
   for letter in {'a', 'e',
                                   START, START+STEP, START+2*STEP, .... < END
       print(letter, 'is a v
11
12
13
   # Function range is useful in creating collections
14
    # NOTE Python uses SEMI-OPEN intervals !!!
   print('Use range to build collections')
   for x in range(5):
       print(x)
17
```

Making Decisions: if, elif, else

The if statement controls which blocks of code to execute based on given conditions. It has three variations:





statement3

yes

statement1

statement2

Making Decisions: if, elif, else

```
# In the drinking game of fuzz-buzz players count in turn
   # but replace multiples of 3 with 'fuzz',
   # multiples of 5 with 'buzz',
   # and multiples of 15 with 'fuzz buzz'
   for k in range(1,21):
       if k%15==0: # is k a multiple of 15?
           print("fuzz buzz")
       elif k\%3==0: # is k a multiple of 3?
           print("fuzz")
10
       elif k%5==0: # is k a multiple of 5?
11
           print("buzz")
12
       else:
13
           print(k)
14
```

Making Decisions: if, elif, else

```
# In the drinking game of ful range(1,21) is a collection of int starting at 1
    # but replace multiples of 3 (inclusive) up to end at 21 (exclusive)
    # multiples of 5 with 'buzz'
                                       • We use == to test for equality.
    # and multiples of 15 with '
                                       • % is the modulus operator. It returns the
                                          remainder on division.
    for k in range(1,21):
                                    Why did we test \mathbf{k} was a multiple of 15 first?
        if k%15==0: # is k a multiple of 15?
            print("fuzz buzz")
        elif k\%3==0: # is k a multiple of 3?
            print("fuzz")
10
        elif k%5==0: # is k a multiple of 5?
11
            print("buzz")
12
        else:
13
            print(k)
14
```

- In Python a function is a block of code defined with a name this allows us to reuse code and improve code quality.
- A function is a block of code that only runs when it is called.
- You pass data, known as **parameters**, into the function. And pass data back using return.

