

Introduction to string manipulation

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS IN PYTHON



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You will learn

- **String manipulation**
 - e.g. replace and find specific substrings
- **String formatting**
 - e.g. interpolating a string in a template
- **Basic and advanced regular expressions**
 - e.g. finding complex patterns in a string

Why it is important

- Clean dataset to prepare it for text mining or sentiment analysis
- Process email content to feed a machine learning algorithm that decides whether an email is spam
- Parse and extract specific data from a website to build a database

Strings

- Sequence of characters
- Quotes

```
my_string = "This is a string"  
my_string2 = 'This is also a string'
```

```
my_string = 'And this? It's the wrong string'
```

```
my_string = "And this? It's the correct string"
```

More strings

- Length

```
my_string = "Awesome day"  
len(my_string)
```

```
11
```

- Convert to string

```
str(123)
```

```
'123'
```

Concatenation

- Concatenate: `+` operator

```
my_string1 = "Awesome day"  
my_string2 = "for biking"
```

```
print(my_string1+" "+my_string2)
```

```
Awesome day for biking
```

Indexing

- Bracket notation

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
M	Y	_	S	T	R	I	N	G
-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1

```
my_string = "Awesome day"
```

```
print(my_string[3])
```

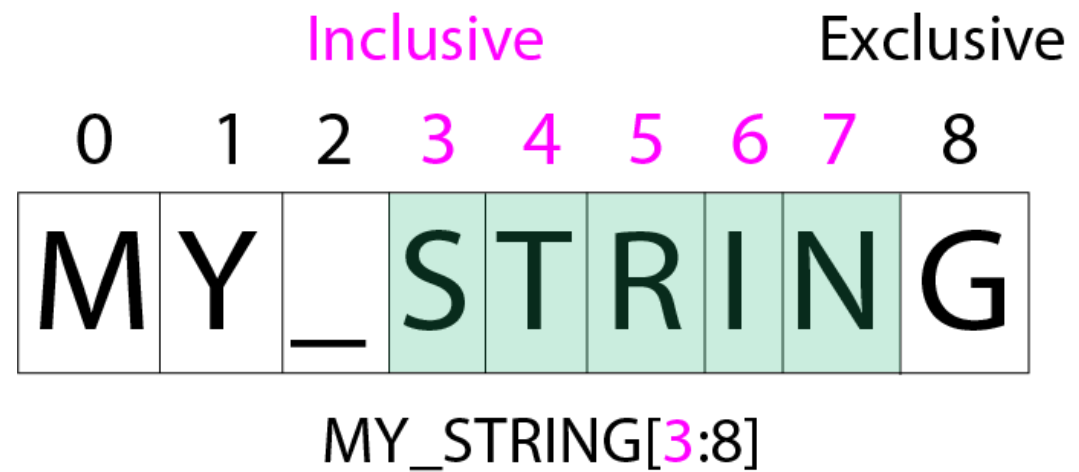
```
s
```

```
print(my_string[-1])
```

```
y
```

Slicing

- Bracket notation



```
my_string = "Awesome day"  
print(my_string[0:3])
```

Awe

```
print(my_string[:5])  
print(my_string[5:])
```

Aweso
me day

Stride

- Specifying stride

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
M	Y	_	S	T	R	I	N	G

MY_STRING[0:8:2]

```
my_string = "Awesome day"  
print(my_string[0:6:2])
```

```
Aeo
```

```
print(my_string[::-1])
```

```
yad emosewA
```

Let's practice!

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String operations

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Adjusting cases

```
my_string = "tHis Is a niCe StriNg"
```

- Converting to lowercase

```
print(my_string.lower())
```

```
this is a nice string
```

- Converting to uppercase

```
print(my_string.upper())
```

```
THIS IS A NICE STRING
```

```
my_string = "tHis Is a niCe StriNg"
```

- Capitalizing the first character

```
print(my_string.capitalize())
```

```
This is a nice string
```

Splitting

```
my_string = "This string will be split"
```

- Splitting a string into a list of substrings

```
my_string.split(sep=" ", maxsplit=2)
```

```
['This', 'string', 'will be split']
```

```
my_string.rsplit(sep=" ", maxsplit=2)
```

```
['This string will', 'be', 'split']
```

```
my_string = "This string will be split\nin two"
print(my_string)
```

```
This string will be split
in two
```

Escape Sequence	Character
<code>\n</code>	Newline
<code>\r</code>	Carriage return

"This string will be split
in two"

- Breaking at line boundaries

```
my_string = "This string will be split\nin two"
```

```
my_string.splitlines()
```

```
['This string will be split', 'in two']
```


Joining

- Concatenate strings from list or another iterable

`sep.join(iterable)`

```
my_list = ["this", "would", "be", "a", "string"]  
print(" ".join(my_list))
```

```
this would be a string
```

Stripping characters

- Strips characters from left to right: `.strip()`

```
my_string = " This string will be stripped\n"
```

```
my_string.strip()
```

```
'This string will be stripped'
```

```
my_string = " This string will be stripped\n"
```

- Remove characters from the right end

```
my_string.rstrip()
```

```
' This string will be stripped'
```

- Remove characters from the left end

```
my_string.lstrip()
```

```
'This string will be stripped\n'
```

Let's practice!

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Finding and replacing

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Finding substrings

- Search target string for a specified substring.

`string.find(substring, start, end)`
optional

```
my_string = "Where's Waldo?"  
my_string.find("Waldo")
```

8

```
my_string.find("Wenda")
```

-1

Finding substrings

- Search target string for a specified substring.

`string.find(substring, start, end)`
optional

```
my_string = "Where's Waldo?"
```

```
my_string.find("Waldo", 0, 6)
```

```
-1
```

Index function

- Similar to `.find()`, search target string for a specified substring.

`string.index(substring, start, end)`
optional

```
my_string = "Where's Waldo?"  
my_string.index("Waldo")
```

```
8
```

```
my_string.index("Wenda")
```

```
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>  
ValueError: substring not found
```


Index function

- Similar to `.find()`, search target string for a specified substring.

`string.index(substring, start, end)`
optional

```
my_string = "Where's Waldo?"
```

```
try:  
    my_string.index("Wenda")  
except ValueError:  
    print("Not found")
```

```
"Not found"
```

Counting occurrences

- Return number of occurrences for a specified substring.

`string.count(substring, start, end)`
optional

```
my_string = "How many fruits do you have in your fruit basket?"  
my_string.count("fruit")
```

2

```
my_string.count("fruit", 0, 16)
```

1

Replacing substrings

- Replace occurrences of substring with new substring.

`string.replace(old, new, count)`
optional

```
my_string = "The red house is between the blue house and the old house"  
print(my_string.replace("house", "car"))
```

```
The red car is between the blue car and the old car
```

```
print(my_string.replace("house", "car", 2))
```

```
The red car is between the blue car and the old house
```

Wrapping up

- **String manipulation:**
 - Slice and concatenate
 - Adjust cases
 - Split and join
 - Remove characters from beginning and end
 - Finding substrings
 - Counting occurrences
 - Replacing substrings

Let's practice!

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