

# Arithmetic Operators - Python

Premanand S

Assistant Professor,  
School of Electronics Engineering  
Vellore Institute of Technology  
Chennai Campus

*premanand.s@vit.ac.in*

December 2, 2024

# Arithmetic Operators in Python

- Arithmetic operators are used to perform mathematical operations.
- Python supports the following arithmetic operators:

Operator	Description
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
*	Multiplication
/	Division
//	Floor Division
%	Modulus
**	Exponentiation

# Addition Operator (+)

- Adds two operands.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(x + y)  # Output: 15
```

# Subtraction Operator (-)

- Subtracts the second operand from the first.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(x - y)  # Output: 5
```

# Multiplication Operator (\*)

- Multiplies two operands.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(x * y)  # Output: 50
```

# Division Operator (/)

- Divides the first operand by the second, returning a float.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 4  
print(x / y)  # Output: 2.5
```

# Floor Division Operator (//)

- Divides the first operand by the second and returns the largest integer less than or equal to the result.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 4  
print(x // y)  # Output: 2
```

# Modulus Operator (%)

- Returns the remainder when the first operand is divided by the second.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10  
y = 3  
print(x % y)  # Output: 1
```



# Exponentiation Operator (\*\*)

- Raises the first operand to the power of the second.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 2  
y = 3  
print(x ** y)  # Output: 8
```

# Common Errors and Notes

- **Division by Zero:** Dividing by zero raises a `ZeroDivisionError`.
- **Type Errors:** Mixing incompatible types (e.g., `str + int`) raises a `TypeError`.
- **Floating-Point Precision:** Floating-point operations may result in small precision errors.

## Example (Python Code)

```
print(10 / 0)  # ZeroDivisionError  
  
print("10" + 5)  # TypeError
```

# Operator Precedence in Python

- **Operator Precedence** determines the order in which operators are evaluated in an expression.
- Operators with higher precedence are evaluated first.
- Arithmetic operators in Python follow a specific precedence order.

# Arithmetic Operators Precedence

Operator	Description
**	Exponentiation (Power)
+, -	Unary plus and minus (for positive/negative numbers)
*, /, //, %	Multiplication, Division, Floor Division, Modulus
+, -	Addition and Subtraction

# Order of Precedence

- Exponentiation ( $**$ ) has the highest precedence.
- Unary operators ( $+$  and  $-$ ) come next.
- Multiplication, Division, Floor Division, and Modulus have the same precedence and are evaluated from left to right.
- Addition and Subtraction have the lowest precedence and are evaluated last.

## Example 1: Exponentiation before Other Operations

- The operator `**` (exponentiation) is evaluated first.
- Result:  $2 + 9 = 11$ .

### Example (Python Code)

```
print(2 + 3 ** 2)  # Output: 11
```

## Example 2: Multiplication and Division Before Addition/Subtraction

- The operator `*` (multiplication) is evaluated first.
- Result:  $3 + 8 = 11$ .

### Example (Python Code)

```
print(3 + 2 * 4)  # Output: 11
```

## Example 3: Floor Division and Modulus

- Floor division (//) and modulus (%) are evaluated before addition or subtraction.

### Example (Python Code)

```
print(7 // 3)  # Output: 2 (Floor division)
print(7 % 3)   # Output: 1 (Modulus)
```



## Example 4: Parentheses Overriding Precedence

- Parentheses have the highest precedence, so  $(2 + 3)$  is evaluated first.
- Result:  $5 * 4 = 20$ .

### Example (Python Code)

```
print((2 + 3) * 4) # Output: 20
```

## Example 5: Left-to-Right Evaluation

- \* and / have the same precedence and are evaluated from left to right.
- Result:  $6 / 4 = 1.5$ .

### Example (Python Code)

```
print(2 * 3 / 4) # Output: 1.5
```

# Associativity in Exponentiation

- Exponentiation (\*\*) has right-to-left associativity.
- Result:  $2 ** (3 ** 2) \rightarrow 2 ** 9 = 512$ .

## Example (Python Code)

```
print(2 ** 3 ** 2)  # Output: 512
```

# Combining Arithmetic with Logical Conditions

- Arithmetic operators can be combined with logical operators to form complex expressions.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x, y = 10, 20
if x + y > 25 and y - x < 15:
    print("Condition met!")
```

# Arithmetic with Strings

- **Concatenation (+):** Combines two strings.
- **Repetition (\*):** Repeats a string multiple times.

## Example (Python Code)

```
print("Python" + "Programming")    # Output: PythonProgramming
print("Learn! " * 3)                # Output: Learn! Learn! Learn!
```

# Augmented Assignment Operators

- Combine arithmetic operations with assignment for concise code.
- Examples: `+=`, `-=`, `*=`, `/=`, etc.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x = 10
x += 5  # Equivalent to x = x + 5
print(x)  # Output: 15
```

# Arithmetic with Complex Numbers

- Python's `complex` type supports arithmetic operations.
- Complex numbers are represented as  $a + bj$ .

## Example (Python Code)

```
a = 2 + 3j
b = 1 - 4j
print(a + b)  # Output: (3-1j)
print(a * b)  # Output: (14-5j)
```

# Division Behavior in Python 2 vs Python 3

- In Python 2, / performs integer division if operands are integers.
- In Python 3, / always performs floating-point division.

## Example (Python Code)

```
print(10 / 3)    # Output: 3.3333333333333335  
print(10 // 3)   # Output: 3 (Floor division)
```



# Using decimal.Decimal for High-Precision Arithmetic

- Use the decimal module for precise floating-point arithmetic.

## Example (Python Code)

```
from decimal import Decimal
a = Decimal('0.1')
b = Decimal('0.2')
print(a + b)  # Output: 0.3
```

# Arithmetic Operations on NumPy Arrays

- Arithmetic operators work element-wise on NumPy arrays.

## Example (Python Code)

```
import numpy as np
a = np.array([1, 2, 3])
b = np.array([4, 5, 6])
print(a + b) # Output: [5 7 9]
print(a * b) # Output: [4 10 18]
```

# Using math Module for Advanced Arithmetic

- The `math` module provides advanced arithmetic functions like:
  - `math.sqrt(x)`: Square root.
  - `math.pow(x, y)`: Power.
  - `math.fmod(x, y)`: Floating-point modulus.

## Example (Python Code)

```
import math
print(math.sqrt(16))    # Output: 4.0
print(math.pow(2, 3))   # Output: 8.0
```

# Arithmetic with Booleans

- In Python, True is treated as 1, and False as 0.
- Arithmetic operations can be performed on boolean values.

## Example (Python Code)

```
print(True + True) # Output: 2  
print(True * False) # Output: 0
```

# Handling Division Errors

- Dividing by zero raises a `ZeroDivisionError`.
- Use `try-except` to handle such cases gracefully.

## Example (Python Code)

```
try:
    print(10 / 0)
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("Division by zero is not allowed.")
```

# Special Cases and Fun Facts

- **Integer Overflow:** Python handles large integers seamlessly.
- **Floating-Point Precision Issues:** Precision limitations can lead to unexpected results.

## Example (Python Code)

```
print(10**100)  # Output: 1 followed by 100 zeros
```

```
print(0.1 + 0.2)  # Output: 0.30000000000000004
```

# Brush it up!

# What are Arithmetic Operators in Python?

**Definition:** Arithmetic operators are symbols used to perform mathematical operations on numbers or variables. They include:

- `+`: Addition
- `-`: Subtraction
- `*`: Multiplication
- `/`: Division
- `//`: Floor Division
- `%`: Modulus (Remainder)
- `**`: Exponentiation (Power)

## Example (Python Code)

```
x, y = 10, 5
print(x + y)  # Output: 15 (Arithmetic)
print(x > y)  # Output: True (Comparison)
```



# Difference Between / and //

- / (**Division**): Performs floating-point division. Always returns a float.
- // (**Floor Division**): Performs integer division and truncates the decimal part. Always returns an integer for integers and a float for floats.

## Use Case:

Use '/' when precise results are required (e.g., in scientific calculations).

Use '//' when you only need the whole number part of the division.

## Example (Python Code)

```
# Using /
print(10 / 3)      # Output: 3.3333333333333335
print(10.0 / 3)    # Output: 3.3333333333333335
# Using //
print(10 // 3)     # Output: 3
print(10.0 // 3)   # Output: 3.0
```

# Why is `**` Evaluated Before `*`?

**Explanation:** - Python follows a strict operator precedence hierarchy. - `**` (Exponentiation) has higher precedence than `*` (Multiplication), so it is evaluated first. **Example:**

- Expression: `2 + 3 ** 2`
- Steps:
  - 1 `3 ** 2`  $\rightarrow$  9 (Exponentiation)
  - 2 `2 + 9`  $\rightarrow$  11 (Addition)

**Operator Precedence:** - Higher precedence operators are evaluated before lower precedence ones. - Use parentheses to override precedence and control evaluation order.

## Example (Python Code)

```
result = 2 + 3 ** 2
print(result)    # Output: 11
print((2 + 3) ** 2) # Output: 25
```

# Calculate Compound Interest

**Problem:** Write a program to calculate compound interest for a given principal, rate, and time.

**Example:**

- Use the formula:  $A = P * (1 + r) ** t$ , where:
  - P is the principal amount.
  - r is the annual interest rate (in decimal).
  - t is the time in years.

## Example (Python Code)

```
principal = float(input("Enter principal: "))
rate = float(input("Enter annual rate (%): ")) / 100
time = int(input("Enter time in years: "))
amount = principal * (1 + rate) ** time
interest = amount - principal
print(f"Compound Interest: ${interest:.2f}")
```

# Determine Divisibility by Both 3 and 5

**Problem:** Create a script to check if a number is divisible by both 3 and 5 without using logical operators.

**Example:**

- Use multiplication of boolean results to simulate and.

## Example (Python Code)

```
num = int(input("Enter a number: "))
# Using multiplication for logical AND
if (num % 3 == 0) * (num % 5 == 0):
    print(f"{num} is divisible by both 3 and 5.")
else:
    print(f"{num} is not divisible by both 3 and 5.")
```

# Calculate Area of a Triangle

**Problem:** Calculate the area of a triangle given its base and height using arithmetic operators.

**Example:**

- Use the formula:  $\text{Area} = 0.5 * \text{base} * \text{height}$ .

## Example (Python Code)

```
base = float(input("Enter base of the triangle: "))
height = float(input("Enter height of the triangle: "))
area = 0.5 * base * height
print(f"Area of the triangle: {area:.2f}")
```

# Combining Arithmetic and Logical Operators

**Explanation:** Arithmetic operators can be used in conjunction with logical operators (and, or, not) to form complex conditions for decision-making.

**Example:** Check if the sum of two numbers is greater than 10 and their product is even.

## Example (Python Code)

```
x, y = 4, 6
if (x + y > 10) and ((x * y) % 2 == 0):
    print("Conditions met!")
else:
    print("Conditions not met!")
```

## Explanation of Logic:

- Arithmetic operators calculate the sum and product.
- Logical and combines the two conditions into one.

# Check if a Number is a Perfect Square

**Problem:** Write a program to check if a number is a perfect square using `**` and `math.sqrt()`.

## Example (Python Code)

```
import math

num = int(input("Enter a number: "))
if math.sqrt(num) == int(math.sqrt(num)):
    print(f"{num} is a perfect square.")
else:
    print(f"{num} is not a perfect square.")
```

## Explanation:

- `math.sqrt()` computes the square root of the number.
- `int()` checks if the square root is an integer.

# Handling Floating-Point Precision Errors

**Problem:** Manage precision issues when performing operations like  $0.1 + 0.2$ . Floating-point numbers in Python may have small precision errors due to how they are stored in memory. Use the `decimal` module to handle such cases accurately.

## Example (Python Code)

```
from decimal import Decimal
a = Decimal('0.1')
b = Decimal('0.2')
result = a + b
print(result)  # Output: 0.3
```

## Why Use Decimal?

- It provides precise decimal arithmetic for financial or scientific applications.
- Avoids common floating-point errors.



# Swap Two Numbers Without a Third Variable

**Problem:** Swap two numbers without using a third variable. **Solution:** Use arithmetic operators such as addition and subtraction or XOR.

## Example (Python Code)

```
# Using addition and subtraction
a = int(input("Enter first number: "))
b = int(input("Enter second number: "))
a = a + b
b = a - b
a = a - b
print(f"Swapped values: a = {a}, b = {b}")
```

## Why Arithmetic Operators?

- Avoids using extra memory for a third variable.
- Efficient for simple operations like swapping values.

# Efficiency of Augmented Assignment Operators

**Problem:** How can augmented assignment operators improve loop efficiency?

- Augmented assignment operators like `+=`, `-=`, etc., modify the variable in place.
- Reduces redundancy and enhances readability.

**Example: Calculate the sum of numbers in a range.**

## Example (Python Code)

```
total = 0
for i in range(1, 6): # Summing first 5 numbers
    total += i # Equivalent to total = total + i
print(f"Sum of numbers: {total}")
```

## Benefits:

- Faster and cleaner code.
- Reduces temporary assignments in memory.

# High-Precision Financial Calculations

**Problem:** Use Python's `decimal.Decimal` to perform accurate calculations for financial data. Floating-point arithmetic can introduce errors due to binary representation of decimals. `decimal.Decimal` ensures precision by using a base-10 representation.

## Example (Python Code)

```
from decimal import Decimal
price_per_item = Decimal('19.99')
quantity = Decimal('3')
total = price_per_item * quantity
print(f"Total: ${total}") # Output: Total: $59.97
```

## Why Use Decimal?

- Avoids common floating-point errors.
- Critical for financial and scientific applications.
- Supports high-precision arithmetic operations.