

Day 1, Session 2: Data Structures and Numerical Computing

Three-Day Data Analysis with Python Course

Session Overview

1. **Core Data Structures**
2. **Introduction to NumPy Arrays**
3. **Working with Files**

Part 1: Core Data Structures

Core Data Structures

Python provides several built-in data structures for organizing and storing data. Each has different characteristics and use cases.

Lists

Ordered, mutable collections of items.

Key characteristics:

- Ordered (maintains insertion order)
- Mutable (can be changed after creation)
- Allows duplicates
- Indexed by position (0, 1, 2, ...)

Syntax:

```
my_list = [item1, item2, item3]  
my_list[0] # Access first item
```

Lists (Example)

```
# Creating lists
sales = [1200, 1450, 1100, 1800, 2100]
products = ["Laptop", "Mouse", "Keyboard", "Monitor"]
mixed = [100, "Product", True, 3.14]

print(f"Sales: {sales}")
print(f"Products: {products}")
print(f"Mixed types: {mixed}")

# Accessing elements
print(f"\nFirst sale: ${sales[0]}")
print(f"Last product: {products[-1]}") # Negative indexing
print(f"First three sales: {sales[0:3]}") # Slicing
```

List Methods

Common operations for modifying lists:

Method	Description	Example
<code>.append(x)</code>	Add item to end	<code>list.append(5)</code>
<code>.insert(i, x)</code>	Insert at position	<code>list.insert(0, 5)</code>
<code>.remove(x)</code>	Remove first occurrence	<code>list.remove(5)</code>
<code>.pop()</code>	Remove and return last item	<code>list.pop()</code>
<code>.sort()</code>	Sort in place	<code>list.sort()</code>
<code>.reverse()</code>	Reverse in place	<code>list.reverse()</code>

List Methods (Example)

```
# Start with a list of daily sales
daily_sales = [1200, 1450, 1100]

# Add new sales
daily_sales.append(1800)
print(f"After append: {daily_sales}")

# Insert at specific position
daily_sales.insert(0, 1000)
print(f"After insert: {daily_sales}")

# Remove a value
daily_sales.remove(1100)
print(f"After remove: {daily_sales}")
```


List Methods (Continued)

```
# Sort the list
daily_sales.sort()
print(f"After sort: {daily_sales}")

# Get list statistics
print(f"\nTotal sales: ${sum(daily_sales):,}")
print(f"Number of days: {len(daily_sales)}")
print(f"Average: ${sum(daily_sales) / len(daily_sales):.2f}")
```

Tuples

Ordered, immutable collections of items.

Key characteristics:

- Ordered (maintains insertion order)
- **Immutable** (cannot be changed after creation)
- Allows duplicates

Use cases:

- Fixed collections (coordinates, RGB colors)
- Function return values

Tuples (Syntax)

Syntax:

```
my_tuple = (item1, item2, item3)  
my_tuple[0] # Access first item
```

Dictionaries

Unordered collections of key-value pairs.

Key characteristics:

- Keys must be unique and immutable (strings, numbers, tuples)
- Values can be any type
- Mutable

Use cases:

- Representing structured data (like JSON)
- Mapping relationships

Dictionaries (Syntax)

Syntax:

```
my_dict = {"key1": value1, "key2": value2}  
my_dict["key1"] # Access value by key
```

Dictionaries (Example)

```
# Creating dictionaries - representing a customer
customer = {
    "id": 12345,
    "name": "Alice Johnson",
    "email": "alice@example.com",
    "purchases": 15,
    "total_spent": 2450.00
}

print("Customer information:")
print(f"Name: {customer['name']}")
print(f"Email: {customer['email']}")
print(f"Total spent: ${customer['total_spent']:.2f}")
```

Dictionaries (Continued)

```
# Adding new key-value pairs
customer["vip_status"] = True
print(f"\nVIP Status: {customer['vip_status']}")

# Updating values
customer["purchases"] += 1
customer["total_spent"] += 150.00
print(f"Updated purchases: {customer['purchases']}")
print(f"Updated total: ${customer['total_spent']:.2f}")
```

Dictionary Methods

Essential dictionary operations:

Method	Description	Example
<code>.keys()</code>	Get all keys	<code>dict.keys()</code>
<code>.values()</code>	Get all values	<code>dict.values()</code>
<code>.items()</code>	Get key-value pairs	<code>dict.items()</code>
<code>.get(key, default)</code>	Safe access	<code>dict.get("age", 0)</code>
<code>.update(other)</code>	Merge dictionaries	<code>dict.update({...})</code>

Dictionary Methods (Example)

```
# Product inventory
inventory = {
    "laptop": 45,
    "mouse": 120,
    "keyboard": 78,
    "monitor": 32
}

# Iterating over keys
print("Products in stock:")
for product in inventory.keys():
    print(f" - {product}")

# Iterating over values
print(f"\nTotal items: {sum(inventory.values())}")
```

Dictionary Methods (Continued)

```
# Iterating over key-value pairs
print("\nFull inventory:")
for product, quantity in inventory.items():
    print(f" {product.capitalize()}: {quantity} units")

# Safe access with .get()
tablets = inventory.get("tablet", 0)
print(f"\nTablets in stock: {tablets}")

# Practical: find low stock items
print("\nLow stock alerts (< 50 units):")
for product, quantity in inventory.items():
    if quantity < 50:
        print(f" ⚠️ {product}: only {quantity} left!")
```

Sets

Unordered collections of unique items.

Key characteristics:

- No duplicates (automatically removed)
- Unordered (no indexing)
- Mutable

Use cases:

- Removing duplicates
- Set operations (union, intersection, difference)
- Membership testing

Sets (Syntax)

Syntax:

```
my_set = {item1, item2, item3}  
item in my_set # Check membership
```

When to Use Each Structure?

Structure	Use When...
List	Ordered collection, need indexing, duplicates OK
Dictionary	Key-value mapping, fast lookup by key
Tuple	Immutable collection, fixed data
Set	Unique items, set operations, membership testing

Part 2: Introduction to NumPy Arrays

Why NumPy?

NumPy is the go-to library for numerical computing in Python.

- Much faster than Python lists for numerical operations
- Memory efficient
- Supports vectorized operations
- Foundation for pandas, scipy, and many other libraries

Importing NumPy

```
# Import NumPy (standard alias is 'np')  
import numpy as np  
  
print(f"NumPy version: {np.__version__}")
```


NumPy Arrays

Arrays are the core data structure in NumPy.

- An array is a list where every item has the same numerical type
- The length of the array is also fixed
- Arrays can be multidimensional (matrices, tensors)

Creating Arrays (Example)

```
# Create array from a list
sales_list = [1200, 1450, 1100, 1800, 2100, 950, 1350]
sales_array = np.array(sales_list)
print(f"Sales array: {sales_array}")
print(f"Type: {type(sales_array)}")
print(f>Data type: {sales_array.dtype}")

# Create arrays with NumPy functions
zeros = np.zeros(5)
ones = np.ones(5)
sequence = np.arange(1, 8) # Like range(), but returns array

print(f"\nZeros: {zeros}")
print(f"Ones: {ones}")
print(f"Sequence: {sequence}")
```

Array Operations

NumPy arrays support vectorized operations - operations on entire arrays without loops!

Much faster than Python lists for numerical work.

Vectorized Operations (Example)

```
# Arithmetic operations
daily_sales = np.array([1200, 1450, 1100, 1800, 2100])

# Apply 10% discount to all sales (vectorized!)
discounted_sales = daily_sales * 0.9
print(f"Original: {daily_sales}")
print(f"After 10% discount: {discounted_sales}")

# Add a bonus to all sales
with_bonus = daily_sales + 100
print(f"With $100 bonus: {with_bonus}")
```

Array Statistics

NumPy provides efficient statistical functions:

Function	Description
<code>np.mean()</code>	Average
<code>np.median()</code>	Median
<code>np.std()</code>	Standard deviation
<code>np.min()</code>	Minimum
<code>np.max()</code>	Maximum
<code>np.sum()</code>	Sum

Statistical Analysis (Example)

```
# Sales data for analysis
weekly_sales = np.array([1200, 1450, 1100, 1800, 2100, 950, 1350])

print("Weekly Sales Analysis")
print("=" * 40)
print(f"Total revenue: ${np.sum(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Average daily sales: ${np.mean(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Median: ${np.median(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Std deviation: ${np.std(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Minimum: ${np.min(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Maximum: ${np.max(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
print(f"Range: ${np.max(weekly_sales) - np.min(weekly_sales):,.2f}")
```

Finding Indices

```
# Find indices
best_day = np.argmax(weekly_sales)
worst_day = np.argmin(weekly_sales)
print(f"\nBest day: Day {best_day + 1} (${weekly_sales[best_day]})")
print(f"Worst day: Day {worst_day + 1} (${weekly_sales[worst_day]})")
```

Lists vs Arrays: Quick Comparison

Use Python lists when:

- Mixed data types
- Frequent insertions/deletions
- Small datasets

Use NumPy arrays for:

- Numerical computations
- Need vectorized operations
- Statistical analysis

Performance difference can be 10-100x for large datasets!

Part 3: Working with Files

Working with Files

Real-world data comes from files, so we need to process them.

Common file formats:

- Text files (.txt)
- CSV files (.csv)
- JSON files (.json)

Reading and Writing Text Files

Syntax:

```
with open("filename.txt", "r") as file:  
    content = file.read()
```

Modes:

- "r" - Read
- "w" - Write (overwrites)
- "a" - Append

Text File Operations (Example)

```
# Writing to a file
sales_report = """Daily Sales Report
=====
Day 1: $1,200
Day 2: $1,450
Day 3: $1,100
Day 4: $1,800
Day 5: $2,100
"""

with open("sales_report.txt", "w") as file:
    file.write(sales_report)

print("✓ File written: sales_report.txt")
```

Reading Text Files

```
# Reading from a file
with open("sales_report.txt", "r") as file:
    content = file.read()

print("\nFile contents:")
print(content)

# Reading line by line
print("Reading line by line:")
with open("sales_report.txt", "r") as file:
    for line_num, line in enumerate(file, 1):
        print(f"Line {line_num}: {line.strip()}")
```

Working with CSV Files

Python's `csv` module makes it easy to work with CSV files.

Structure:

```
name,age,city  
Alice,30,New York  
Bob,25,San Francisco
```

CSV Operations (Example)

```
import csv

# Writing CSV
customers = [
    ["id", "name", "purchases", "total"],
    [101, "Alice Johnson", 15, 2450.00],
    [102, "Bob Smith", 8, 1320.50],
    [103, "Carol White", 22, 3890.00],
    [104, "David Brown", 5, 780.00]
]

with open("customers.csv", "w", newline="") as file:
    writer = csv.writer(file)
    writer.writerows(customers)

print("✓ CSV file written: customers.csv")
```

Reading CSV Files

```
# Reading CSV
print("\nReading CSV file:")
with open("customers.csv", "r") as file:
    reader = csv.reader(file)
    for row in reader:
        print(f" {row}")

# Reading CSV as dictionaries (more convenient!)
print("\nReading CSV as dictionaries:")
with open("customers.csv", "r") as file:
    dict_reader = csv.DictReader(file)
    for row in dict_reader:
        print(f" Customer {row['id']}: {row['name']} - ${row['total']}")
```


Working with JSON Files

JSON is perfect for structured data.

Python's `json` module handles serialization and deserialization.

JSON Operations (Example)

```
import json

# Python dictionary
customer_data = {
    "id": 12345,
    "name": "Alice Johnson",
    "email": "alice@example.com",
    "purchases": [
        {"date": "2024-01-15", "amount": 150.00, "product": "Laptop"},
        {"date": "2024-02-20", "amount": 50.00, "product": "Mouse"},
        {"date": "2024-03-10", "amount": 85.00, "product": "Keyboard"}
    ],
    "vip": True
}
```

JSON Operations (Continued)

```
# Writing JSON
with open("customer.json", "w") as file:
    json.dump(customer_data, file, indent=2)

print("✓ JSON file written: customer.json")
```

Reading JSON Files

```
# Reading JSON
with open("customer.json", "r") as file:
    loaded_data = json.load(file)

print("\nLoaded customer data:")
print(f"Name: {loaded_data['name']}")
print(f>Email: {loaded_data['email']}")
print(f">VIP Status: {loaded_data['vip']}")
print(f">\nPurchases:")
for purchase in loaded_data['purchases']:
    print(f"    {purchase['date']}: {purchase['product']} - ${purchase['amount']:.2f}")
```

Session 2 Summary

What We Covered

- ✓ **Data Structures:** Lists, tuples, dictionaries, sets
- ✓ **NumPy Arrays:** Vectorized operations and statistics
- ✓ **File Operations:** Reading/writing text, CSV, and JSON

Questions?

Lunch break! 🍕

See you for the practical session!