

Common functions

print(x, x, x, ..., sep=' ', end='\n'): **sep** is the separator character between the values to be displayed (default is space), **end** is the terminating character (default is newline)

input(s): returns a string containing information entered from the keyboard (without '\n'). 's' is the displayed message to the terminal.

range(i, j, k): generates a sequence of integers starting from **i** (default **i** is 0), up to **j** (**j** is excluded from the sequence), with step **k** (default 1).

from pprint import pprint ↘

pprint(...) almost like **print**, but prettier with nested/complex data structures

For containers **cont**:

len(cont): returns the number of elements.

x in cont: returns **True** if the element **x** is included in **cont**, **False** otherwise.

sum(cont): returns the sum of all values in **cont**.

max(cont) / min(cont): returns the maximum/minimum value in **cont**.

cont.clear(): deletes all elements (if container is mutable).

sorted(cont): returns a sorted list containing the elements of **cont** (see note on section on sorting complex data).

For sequences **seq**:

seq.count(x): returns how many times **x** is present in **seq**.

seq[i]: returns the element with the index **i** (**i** < **len(seq)**, otherwise **IndexError**). If **i** < 0, it starts counting from the end of the **seq**.

seq[i:j]: returns a sub-sequence with consecutive elements from **seq**, starting from the element with index **i** (default=0) and ending with the element with index **j-1**. (default=**len(seq)**).

seq[i:j:k]: uses **k** as “step” to select the elements of the new sub-sequence. If **k** < 0 and **i** > **j** it starts counting from the end of the **seq**.

Mathematical

abs(a) = $|a|$

round(a), round(a, n): round the number **a** to the nearest integer, round the number **a** to the nearest float value with **n** decimal digits.

floor(a)/ceil(a): $\lfloor a \rfloor / \lceil a \rceil$.

trunc(a): truncate the fractional part.

import math ↘

math.sin(a), cos(a), tan(a), exp(a), log(a), sqrt(a). May raise **ValueError**

math.isclose(a, b): True if **a** is almost equal to **b**.

import random ↘

random.random(): returns a random float number in the interval **[0,1)**.

random.uniform(a, b): returns a random float number in the interval **[a,b]**.

random.randint(i, j): returns a random float number in the interval **[i,j]**.

random.choice(seq): returns a randomly selected element of **seq**.

random.shuffle(seq): randomly shuffles the elements of **seq**.

Strings

str(x): converts **x** into a string.

int(s): converts **s** into an integer. Exception: **ValueError**.

float(s): converts **s** into a float. Exception: **ValueError**.

ord(s): returns the Unicode point (an integer) of the rune (character) **s** (**len(s) == 1**).

chr(i): returns the rune (character) that corresponds to the Unicode point **i**. Exception: **ValueError**.

s+s1: creates a new string by concatenating two existing ones. Note: **s*2** is equivalent to **s + s**, **s*3** to **s + s + s**, etc.

s.lower() / **s.upper()**: returns the lowercase/uppercase version of string **s**.

s.replace(s1, s2) / **s.replace(s1, s2, n)**: returns a copy of the string where each occurrence of **s1** in **s** have been substituted with **s2**. If **n** is provided, it replaces at most **n** occurrences of **s1**.

s.strip(s): returns a copy of **s** where leading and trailing whitespaces (spaces, tabs, newlines, ...) have been removed. **s.lstrip(s)** / **s.rstrip(s)**: do the same, but only for leading (left) or trailing (right) whitespace characters.

s1 in s: returns **True** if **s** contains the sub-string **s1**.

s.count(s1): returns the number of non-overlapping occurrences of **s1** in **s**.

s.startswith(s1) / **s.endswith(s1)**: returns **True** if **s** starts/ends with **s1**.

s.find(s1) / **s.find(s1, i, j)**: returns the index of the first occurrence of **s1** in **s**, or **-1** if not found. The optional arguments **i** and **j**, restrict the search in **[i:j]**.

s1 in s: returns **True** if **s** contains **s1** as sub-string, otherwise **False**.

s.count(s1): returns the number of occurrences of **s1** in **s**.

s.startswith(s1) / **s.endswith(s1)**: returns **True** if **s** begins/ends with **s1**, otherwise **False**.

s.find(s1) / **s.find(s1, i, j)**: returns the first index of **s** when an occurrence of **s1** begins, or **-1** if not found. If **i** and **j** are present, searches for **s1** in **s[i:j]**.

s.index(s1) / **s.index(s1, i, j)**: similar to **find**, but if **s1** not found raises **ValueError**.

s.isalnum(): returns **True** if **s** contains only letters or digits (**[a-zA-Z0-9]**) and has at least one element (**len(s)>=1**), otherwise **False**.

s.isalpha(): returns **True** if **s** contains only alphabetic characters (**[a-zA-Z]**) and has at least one element, otherwise **False**.

s.isdigit(): returns **True** if **s** contains only digits (**[0-9]**) and has at least one element, otherwise **False**.

s.islower() / **s.isupper()**: returns **True** if **s** contains only lowercase/uppercase (**[a-z]** / **[A-Z]**) characters and has at least one element, otherwise **False**.

s.isspace(): returns **True** if **s** contains only whitespace characters i.e., spaces, tabs, newline (**['␣', '\t', '\n']**) and has at least one element, otherwise **False**.

From strings to lists and vice versa:

s.split(sep, maxsplit=n): returns a list of sub-strings obtained by breaking **s** at each occurrence of the string **sep** (separator). If **sep** is omitted, by default it breaks the string on spaces. If **maxsplit** is specified, at most **n** separations will be done, starting from the left (the final list will have at most **n+1** elements).

s.rsplit(sep, maxsplit=n): similar to **split**, but the breaking of string **s** starts from the right.

s.splitlines(): similar to **split**, but uses as a separator the newline **'\n'** and then divides **s** into a list where each element is a line of text in **s**.

s.join(l): returns a single string containing all elements of **l** (which must be a list of strings) separated by the separator **s**.

Formatted string literals **f'{x:fmt}'**

x is any variable or expression. **fmt** are format codes, which may contain:

< ^ >: for selecting left, center or right alignment

,: to group digits with a comma (e.g., 1,234,567)

width: for indicating how many characters in total the value must occupy. Default: the minimum number required. .precision: for indicating the number of decimal digits (if float) or maximum number of characters (if not numeric). format: **s** string; **d** decimal integer; **b** binary integer; **x** hexadecimal integer; **o** octal integer; **f** decimal floating point; **e** decimal floating point in scientific notation; **g** automatically choose between **d**, **f**, and **e**.

0: to pad with zeros instead of spaces (e.g., 42:010d) — Use a space before the size to force a space before the field (e.g., 42: 2d)

Example: `f'{n:5d}_ {a:7.2f}_ {s:>10s}'`

Lists

list(): creates and returns a new empty list. **list(cont)**: returns a new list containing all elements of container **cont**.

[**x**, ..., **x**]: creates and returns a new list with the supplied elements.

l.copy() or **list(l)**: returns a new list, which is a shallow copy of the list **l**.

l + l1: returns a new list by concatenating the elements of **l** and **l1**. **l * 2** is equivalent to **l + l**, **l * 3** is equivalent to **l + l + l**, etc.

l1 == l2: returns **True** whether the two lists contain the same elements in the same order, otherwise **False**.

l.pop(): removes the last element from the list and returns it. **l.pop(i)**: removes the element at the position **i** and returns it. The following elements are moved back by one place.

l.insert(i, x): inserts **x** in the position **i** in list **l**. The following elements are moved forward by one place.

l.append(x): appends **x** at the end of the list **l**.

l.extend(l1): extends the list **l** by appending to it all elements of list **l1**.

l.count(x): returns the number of occurrences of element **x** in list **l**

l.index(x): returns the index of the first occurrence of element **x** in the list **l**. If the element is not present in the list, it raises **ValueError**. **l.index(x, i, j)**: returns the index of the first occurrence of the element **x** in the list **l[i:j]** (the element in position **j** is not included in the search). The position is calculated from the beginning of the list. If not found, it raises **ValueError**.

l.remove(x): removes the element with the value **x** from the list and move all elements that follow it back by one place. If the element **x** is not in the list it raises **ValueError**.

l.reverse(): changes the list **l** by reversing the order of its elements.

l.sort(reverse=False): Sorts in place the elements of the list. See the notes for **sorted** (see note on section on sorting complex data).

enumerate(l): returns a list of tuples of [(**index1**, **value1**), (**index2**, **value2**), ...], that allows you to iterate simultaneously on indices and values of the list **l**.

from operator import itemgetter ↘

l.sort(key=itemgetter('k')): sort a list of dicts on the value associated to key **k**.

l.sort(key=itemgetter(n)): sort a list of lists or tuples on the sub-element value with index **n** is max/min. May be useful when the list **l** has been returned by **enumerate()** or **dict.items()**.

max/min(l, key=itemgetter('k')): in a list of dicts, returns the element those value with key **k** è max/min.

max/min(l, key=itemgetter(n)): in a list of lists or tuples, returns the element those sub element with index **n** is max/min. May be useful when the list **l** has been returned by **enumerate()** or **dict.items()**.

Note: **reverse** and **key** can be used together.

Note: It is always possible to define a local function that gets the object to be sorted and returns the associated values, and then use **key=my_local_function**.

Tuple

tuple(): creates and returns a new empty list. **tuple(cont)**: returns a new tuple containing all elements of container **cont**.

(x, ..., x): creates and returns a new tuple with the supplied elements. Note: use **(x,)** for a 1-element tuple.

Tuples support all lists' functions and methods that do not modify the container. E.g., **u[i]**, **u+u1**, **x in u**, **u.index(x)**, **sorted(u)**, **enumerate(u)**.

Sets

set(): returns a new empty set. **set(cont)**: returns a new set that contains all elements of **cont** (without duplicates).

{x, x, ..., x}: returns a new set containing the indicated elements (without duplicates).

t.copy() or **set(t)**: returns a shallow copy of the set **t**.

t.add(x): adds the new element **x** to set **t**. If the element already exists, nothing happens.

t.discard(x): removes the element **x** from set **t**. If the element is not in the set, nothing happens.

t.remove(x): similar to **discard**, but if the element is not in the set raises **KeyError**.

t == t1: checks if the set **t** is equivalent with set **t1**.

t.issubset(t1) or **t<=t1**: checks if $t \subseteq t1$.

t.issuperset(t1) or **t>=t1**: checks if $t \supseteq t1$.

t.isdisjoint(t1): returns **True** if the intersection of **t** and **t1** is zero.

t.union(t1) or **t|t1**: returns a new set equal to $t \cup t1$.

t.intersection(t1) or **t&t1**: returns a new set equal to $t \cap t1$.

t.difference(t1) or **t-t1**: returns a new set with elements present in **t** but not in **t1**.

t.symmetric_difference(t1) or **t^t1**: returns a new set that contains elements that are present in only one of the sets and not in both (operator **x-or**).

Dicts

dict() or **{}**: create and return a new empty dictionary. **{k:x, ..., k:x}**: create and return a new dictionary containing the specified key/value pairs.

dict(d) or **d.copy()**: returns a shallow copy of the dictionary **d**.

k in d: returns **True** if the key **k** exists in the dictionary **d**, otherwise **False**.

d[k] = x: set the new key/value pair in the dictionary **d**.

d[k]: returns the value associated with the key **k** if present in **d**, otherwise raises **KeyError**.

d.get(k, x): returns the value associated with the key **k**, if present in **d**, otherwise it returns the default value **x**.

d.pop(k): removes from **d** the key **k** and the value associated with it; if not present raises **KeyError**. Returns the deleted value.

d.items(): returns a sequence of tuples (**key**, **value**) of all elements of **d**, in order of insertion.

d.values(): returns a sequence containing the values of **d**.

d.keys(): returns a sequence containing the keys of **d**, in order of insertion.

sorted(d): returns a sorted list of the keys of the dictionary **d** (see note on section on sorting complex data).

File

f = open(s, mode): opens the file named **s**. **mode:** 'r' reading (default), 'w' writing. Returns a "file object" **f**. If something fail, raises the exception: **OSError**.

f.close(): closes the open file **f**.

with open(s, mode) as f: this statement wraps the opening of the file named **s** with mode **mode** in a block. It creates a "file object" **f** to be used within the block. When the code exits the **with** compound statement the file is automatically closed.

f.readline(): returns a string of characters read from file **f** up to '\n' (including '\n'). Returns "" (empty string) if at the end of the file.

f.read(num), f.read(): returns a string with at most **num** characters read from the file **f**. If no argumnet is used it returns the entire file as a single string.

f.readlines(): returns the file as a list of strings as elements, where each string is a line of the file.

f.write(s): writes **s** to file **f**. Note: it does not automatically write a new line '\n'.

print(..., file=f): similar to **print**, but writes to file **f** instead of the terminal.

import csv ↘

csv.reader(f): returns a CSV reader object for the file **f** to iterate over with a **for** loop, which yields in each iteration a list whose elements are the fields of the next line of file **f**.

csv.DictReader(f): returns a CSV dictionary reader object to iterate over with a **for** loop. The keys are the field names in the very first line of the file, unless specified using option **fieldnames=**.

csv.writer(f): returns a CSV writer object for the file **f** opened for writing. Data can be written line by line using either the method **writerow(one_record)** or the method **writerows(all_records)**.

Option: use **delimiter='X'** to use 'X' instead of the default comma ',' as a field separator. Useful for some Italian CSV that uses semicolon instead of comma.

Note: CSV files should be opened using option **newline=''**.

import copy ↘

copy.copy(x): returns a shallow copy of **x**. That is, constructs a new object and then inserts into it the references to the objects found in the original (**x**).

copy.deepcopy(x): returns a deep copy of **x**. That is, constructs a new object, then inserts into it the deep-copies of the objects found in the original container (**x**).

Note: If **foo** and **bar** are lists: **foo=bar** is not a copy; **foo=bar[:]** is a shallow copy.

Main exceptions

ValueError: an operation or function receives an argument that has the right type but an inappropriate value (e.g., **math.sqrt(-1)**).

IndexError: a sequence subscript is out of range (e.g., **l[len(l)]**).

KeyError: a mapping (dictionary) key is not found in the set of existing keys.

OSError (o **IOError**): a system function returns a system-related error, including I/O failures such as **FileNotFoundError**, **FileExistsError**, **PermissionError**, or "disk full". Not to be used for illegal argument types or other incidental errors.

Keys (argument types)

s, s1: string
a, b, c, ...: number
i, j, k, n: integer

x: anything
l, l1: list
d: dict
t, t1: set
u, u1: tuple
seq: sequence (list, tuple, string)
cont: container (list, tuple, string, set, dict)

| | Container | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Operation | str | list | tuple | set | dict |
| Create | "abc" 'abc' | [a, b, c] | (a, b, c) | {a, b, c} | {a:x, b:y, c:z} |
| Create empty | str() "" '' | list() [] | tuple() () | set() | dict() {} |
| Access i-th item | s[i] | l[i] | u[i] | | d[k] d.get(k,default) |
| Modify i-th item | | l[i]=x | | | d[k]=x |
| Add one item (modify value) | | l.append(x) | | t.add(x) | d[k]=x |
| Add one item at position (modify value) | | l.insert(i,x) | | | |
| Add one item (return new value) | s+'x' | l+[x] | u+(x,) | | |
| Join two containers (modify value) | | l.extend(l1) | | t.update(t1) | |
| Join two containers (return new value) | s+s1 | l+l1 | u+u1 | t.union(t1) t t1 | |
| Does it contain a value? | x in s | x in l | x in u | x in s | k in d (search keys) x in d.values() (search values) |
| Where is a value? (returns index) | s.find(x) s.index(x) | l.index(x) | u.index(x) | | |
| Delete an item, by index | | l.pop(i) l.pop() | | | d.pop(k) |
| Delete an item, by value | | l.remove(x) | | t.remove(x) t.discard(x) | |
| Sort (modify value) | | l.sort() | | | |
| Sort (return new list) | sorted(s) | sorted(l) | sorted(u) | sorted(t) | sorted(d) (keys) sorted(d.items()) |