TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

PYTHON BASICS: SYNTAX AND DATA-TYPES

Material from Ingo Keller, edited by Christoph Pohl and Carsten Knoll

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DRESDEN concept
Exzellenz aus Wissenschaft und Kultur

Numerical Datatypes

- Integer

```
>>> type(1)
<type 'int'>
```

- floating point number

```
>>> type(1.0)
<type 'float'>
```

- complex number

```
>>> type(1 + 2j)
<type 'complex'>
```

- Operations

Addition	`+`
Subtraction	`-`
Division	`/`
Integer division	`//`
Multiplication	`*`
Taking powers	`**`
Modulo	`%`

- Built-in functions
  - `round`, `pow`, etc.
  - see `dir(__builtins__)`
- Module `math`
  - see `help(math)`

NoneType and boolean values

- `None`
  - universal value for “undefined”

```
>>> type(None)
<type 'NoneType'>
```

- Boolean values
  - `True` and `False`

```
>>> type(True)
<type 'bool'>
```

Datentyp	False-Wert
`NoneType`	`None`
`int`	`0`
`float`	`0.0`
`complex`	`0 + 0j`
`str`	`""`
`list`	`[]`
`tuple`	`()`
`dict`	`{}`
`set`	`set()`

Operations

Operation	Shortcut
`x = x + y`	`x += y`
`x = x - y`	`x -= y`
`x = x * y`	`x *= y`
`x = x / y`	`x /= y`
`x = x % y`	`x %= y`
`x = x ** y`	`x **= y`
`x = x // y`	`x //= y`

Comparison operations
`x == y`
`x != y`
`x < y`
`x <= y`
`x > y`
`x >= y`

Strings (objects of type `str`)

```
str1 = "abc"
str2 = 'xyzabcefghi'
str3 = """
       multi
       line
       string
       """
```

escape sequence	meaning
`\n`	newline
`\r`	Carriage Return
`\"`	Escaping "
`\'`	Escaping '
`\\`	Escaping \\

```
>>> str2[0] # 0 is first index
'x'
>>> str2[1:4]
'yza'
>>> str2[-3:]
'ghi'
```

String Formating

- General Syntax

```
"value of x={} and y={}".format(x, y)
```

- Examples

```
>>> a = 'H'
>>> b = 'ello World'
>>> "{}{}{} {0}".format(a, b, 5)
>>> "{}{}{} {0}".format(a, b, 5)
'Hello World'
```

- Extension (see also: reference)

```
>>> "a={:06.2f} and b={:05.2f}".format(3.007, 42.1)
'a=003.01 and b=42.10'
```

- important methods of class `str`:

```
index, replace, split, join,
format, startswith, endswith, ...
```

Lists

- Syntax
  `[value_1, ..., value_n]`
- Can contain values of any type
- Can be changed
- Can be sorted
- Important methods
  `append`, `count`, `index`, `insert`, `pop`, `remove`, `reverse`, `sort`

⚠ **`sort`** and **`reverse`** work „in place“ (return-value: **`None`**)

- Examples

```
>>> m = [7, 8, 9]
>>> n = ['a', 'z', 1, False]
>>> m.append('x')
>>> m[0]
7
>>> m[-1]
'x'

>>> m[:] # start to end
[7, 8, 9, 'x']
>>> m.pop(0)
7
>>> m.reverse()
>>> print(m)
['x',9,8]
```

Tuple

- Syntax
  `(value_1, ..., value_n)`
- Can **not** be changed
- → Access much faster that to `list`
- Can contain elements of any type
- important methods
  `index`

- Examples

```
>>> t = (7,8,9)
>>> t[0]
7
>>> t[-1]
9
>>> t[:] # start to end
(7,8,9)
>>> z = ('a', 'z', 1, False)
>>> t.index(8)
1
>>> z.index('a')
0
```

Sequential data types

`str`, `tuple`, `list`, (`numpy.array`)

Operation	Meaning
`s in x`	tests, whether s is element of x
`s not in x`	tests, whether s is not element of x
`x + y`	concatenation of x and y
`x * n`	concatenation, such that n copies of x exist
`x[n]`	return the n-th element of x
`x[n:m]`	return the subs-sequence from index n til m (excluding m)
`x[n:m:k]`	same with step-size k
`len(x)`	number of elements
`min(x)`	minimum
`max(x)`	maximum

Dictionaries (Associative Arrays)

- Keys must be immutable objects
- Syntax

```
{ Key_1: Value_1,
  Key_2: Value_2,
  ... }
```

- Key-value-pairs
- Access via
  - `d.get(key, default)`
    or
  - `d[key]`
- Important methods
  - `keys, values, items`

Examples

```
>>> d = { "Germany": "Berlin", "Peru": "Lima"}

>>> type(d)
<type 'dict'>

>>> e = {1: "a", 2: "b", 400: "c", 1.3: d}
>>> e[1]
'a'

>>> d.get("Germany")
'Berlin'

# no entry -> None (no output)
>>> d.get("Bavarya") # -> None

# with default value
>>> d.get("Bavarya", "unknown capital")
'unknown capital'

>>> d["Bavaria"]
KeyError: 'Bavaria'
```

Sets

- Syntax
  `set([element_1, ..., element_n])`
- Every element is contained only once
- Has no specified order
- Can be changed (`frozenset` is immutable)
- Important methods:
  `add`, `remove`, `union`, `difference`, `issubset`, `issuperset`

Examples

```
>>> engineers = set(['Jane', 'John'
... 'Jack', 'Janice'])
>>> programmers = set(['Jack', 'Sam',
... 'Susan', 'Janice'])
>>> managers = set(['Jane', 'Jack',
... 'Susan', 'Zack'])
>>> s1 = engineers.union(programmers)
>>> s2 = engineers.intersection(managers)
>>> s3 = managers.difference(engineers)
>>> engineers.add('Marvin')
>>> print(engineers)
set(['Jane', 'Marvin',
'Janice', 'John', 'Jack'])
```

Data Types - Final Remarks

- Everything in Python is an object (even functions, classes, modules)

→ Everything has a type: `type(object)`

- Type checking (→ `True` or `False`):
  - Exact matching: `type("abc") == type("xyz")`
  - Better: respecting inheritance `isinstance(x, str)`
  - Allow multiple types: `isinstance(x, (int, float, complex))`

- Useful construction: `assert isinstance(x, int) and x > 0`

Distinction of Cases: `if`, `elif`, `else`

- Syntax

```
# note the indention
if <condition1>:
    ...
elif <condition2>:
    ...
else:
    ...
```

- Examples

```
>>> x = 1
>>> if x == 1:
...     print("x is 1")
...
x is 1
>>> x = 4
>>> if x == 1:
...     print("x is 1")
... elif x == 3:
...     print("x is 3")
... else:
...
print("x is neither 1 nor 3")
x is neither 1 nor 3
```

Iterate over a Sequence: `for`-loop

- Syntax:

```
for <variable> in <sequence>:
    ...
```

- easily construct sequences:
- `range`-function → iterator

```
range(stop)
range(start, stop)
range(start, stop, step)

>>> list(range(4))
[0, 1, 2, 3]

>>> list(range(1, 10, 2))
[1, 3, 5, 7, 9]

# conversion to list only for printing
```

- Beispiele:

```
>>> seq = ['a', 'b', 42]
>>> count = 0
>>> for elt in seq:
...     print(elt*2)
aa
bb
84

>>> for i in range(3):
...     print(2**i)
1
2
4
```

Loop `while` condition is true

- Syntax

```
while <condition>:
    ...
```

- `break`
  terminates the loop

```
while <condition1>:
    if <condition2>:
        break
```

- `continue`
  immediately starts next cycle

```
while <condition1>:
    if <condition2>:
        continue
```

- Examples

```
>>> x = 4
>>> while x > 1:
...     print(x)
...     x -= 1
... print("finished")
4
3
2
finished
```

Functions

- Syntax

```
def func_name(Param_1, ..., Param_n):
    ...
    return <result>
```

- No explicit return-value → `None`
- Empty function with keyword `pass`:

```
def empty():
    pass
```

- default values for optional parameters

```
def test(x=23):
    print(param)
```

- Arbitrary number of arguments

```
def func(*args, **kwargs):
    print(type(args)) # -> tuple
    print(type(kwargs)) # -> dict
```

- Examples

```
>>> def print_sum(a, b):
...     print(a + b)
>>> print_sum(1, 2)
3
>>> def print_prod(a, b, c=0):
...     print(a*b + c)
>>> print_prod(2, 4)
8

# better readable
>>> print_prod(a=2, b=4)
8
>>> print_prod(2, 4, 1)
9
>>> print_prod(c=2, a=4, b=1)
6
```

Local Variables (Scopes)

Listing: local-variables.py

```
def square(z):
    x = z**2 # x: local variable
    print(x)
    return x

x, a = 5, 3 # "unpacking" a tuple

square(a) # -> 9
square(x) # -> 25
print(x) # -> 5 (not changed)

def square2(z):
    print(x) # here: x is taken from global scope
    return z**2

def square3(z):
    print(x) # Error (local variable not yet known)
    x = z**2 # x is local variable due to write access
    return x
```

General Syntax

- Semantic blocks are defined by indention level (in place of, e.g., `{ ... }`)
  - defacto-standard: 4 spaces per level (do not use TABs)
  - every good text editor can be configured adequately (spyder: `TAB` indention, `SHIFT+TAB` dedetion of highlighted lines)
- Comments and docstrings:

```
# single line comments begin with a hash

def my_function(x, y):
  """This is a docstring.
  It can span multiple lines
  """

  """unassigned multi-line strings can
  be abused as multi-line comment
  """
```

- Recommended maximum line length 80 (or 100) characters (readability)
- If you need more:
  - Check possibility to split up into two commands (readability)
  - Within braces newlines are ignored
  - Backslash (\) allows line continuation in expression

Keywords (Reserved words)

```
False      class      finally    is         return
None       continue   for        lambda     try
True       def        from       nonlocal   while
and        del        global     not        with
as         elif       if         or         yield
assert     else       import     pass
break      except     in         raise
```

They cannot be used as variable name or similar.

File Access

Listing: file-access.py

```
# write in text mode
content_lines = ['some\n', 'more', 'content']
with open('text.txt', 'w') as myfile:
    myfile.write('Hello World.')
    myfile.writelines(content_lines)
    # myfile.close() is called automatically
    # when leaving this block

# read in text mode
with open('text.txt', 'r') as myfile:
    header = myfile.read(10) # first 10 byte
    lines = myfile.readlines() # list of lines
    # (starting from file cursor)
```

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```

Read/write binary data: use `'rb'` and `'wb'`

Some “specialities” of Python

- Idexing starts with 0
- Unpacking of sequential data types:

```
>>> x, y, z = range(3)
>>> y
1

>>> mapping = [('green', 560), ('red', 700)]
>>> for color, wavelength in mapping:
...     pass
...     # do stuff
```

- ∃ extensive standard library („batteries included“)
  - `http://docs.python.org/3/library/`

  → “Don’t reinvent the wheel!”

  - Important modules: `pickle, sys, os, itertools, unittest, ...`

Links

- Official tutorial: `http://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/`
- Interactive tutorial: `http://www.learnpython.org/`

- Extensive well structured course: `http://www.diveintopython3.net/`