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The Beauty and Joy of Computing




Lecture #20 Besides Blocks II: Python Data Structures & APIs (GUI) Text Editors vs IDEs



Python Objects & Sequences



Object-Oriented Programming in Python

- A **class** defines the **blueprint** of an object and can contain
 - Properties = values
 - Functions = actions
 - E.g. A Rabbit might have
properties: name, age
functions: eat, sleep
- An **instance** of an object is what you get after you build a blueprint.
 - E.g. Petey is a Rabbit that is 8 months old ($8/12 = 0.67$ years).
`>>> petey = Rabbit("Petey", 0.67)`
- To access a property or call a function, use **.**  **period**
 - E.g. `>>> petey.eat("hay")`
`>>> Petey eats a lot of hay! Nom nom nom...`



Test your understanding



```
class Rabbit:
    def __init__(self, name, age):
        self.name = name
        self.age = age

    def eat(self, food):
        print(self.name + " eats a lot of " + food + "! Nom nom nom...")

    def sleep(self):
        print(self.name + " sleeps on your shoes.")
```

What happens if we call: `petey.sleep()`?

- a) `self.name + " sleeps on yours shoes."`
- b) Petey sleeps on yours shoes.
- c) Petey eats a lot of hay! Nom nom nom...
- d) 0.67





Importing Modules and Getting Help

- Importing a class/module that isn't built-in:
 - **import** <module>
 - **E.g.** `import math`
- Getting help
 - `help(<type>)` **or** `help(<value>)` **or** `help(<module>)`
 - **E.g.** `help(int)` **or** `help(1)` **or** `help(math)`
- Treating everything as an object
 - <module/object>.<function>(<args>, ...) **or** <module>.<constant> **or** <object>.<field>
 - **E.g.** `"12".isdigit()` **or** `math.pi` **or** `(1+2j).real`





Python Sequences

- `str` “text in quotes”
- `list` `['a', 'group', 'of', 'items']`
- `tuple` `('a', 'group', 'of', 'items')`
 - a list that can't be modified
- **`range`**(start, stop, step) sequence of #s
- Supports very easy iteration:

```
for item in sequence:  
    print(item)
```





Python Sequence (general) Operations

- `in` & `not in`
- `+` & `*`
- `SEQUENCE [START:END:STEP]`
- `len()`
- `min()` & `max()`
- `map()` `filter()` & `reduce()`
- `count(item)`
- **Many, many more:**
<http://docs.python.org/library/stdtypes.html#typesseq>



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Python Strings, Lists, Tuples & Ranges



Python Strings

- Sequence (or “list” or “array”) of chars
- Quoting
 - Single Quotes, Double Quotes
 - Triple Quotes (this keeps formatting and line breaks)
- Concentration, finding length, etc.
 - `help(str)` and `help("string")`
- <http://docs.python.org/library/stdtypes.html#string-methods>





Python Lists

- Collection of any type
- Indexing `mylist[item]`
 - **Indices start at 0, NOT 1**
- Modifying `my_list[item] = new_item`
- Slicing and slicing notation (i.e. `[::]`)
 - **Exactly the same as string notation!**
- Operators
 - `append(x)`, `insert(i, x)`, `count(x)`, `sort()`, **etc.**
- <http://docs.python.org/library/stdtypes.html#mutable-sequence-types>



Python Tuples & Ranges

- **Tuples** mostly like Lists except `()` not `[]`
 - Except they can't be changed (like strings)
 - This immutability will be helpful in dictionaries
- **Ranges** are virtual sequences of #s
 - Useful and fast
 - They don't actually exist until you need them
 - Use `list(range(<args>))` to see it



Brief Tangent on Variables



Clicker Question



What is `people` after clicking the “replace” command?

- a) `((Alonzo)`
 `(Alonzo))`
- b) `((Alonzo)`
 `(thing))`
- c) `((thing)`
 `(Alonzo))`
- d) `((thing)`
 `(thing))`
- e) Error

The image shows a Scratch code editor with the following code blocks:

```
set names to list Alonzo
set people to list names names
replace item 1 of names with thing
```

The right side of the editor shows the state of the variables:

- people**: A list containing two items, both labeled "Alonzo". The first item has a length of 1, and the second item has a length of 1. The total length of the list is 2.
- names**: A list containing one item labeled "Alonzo". The length of the list is 1.





Clicker Question



What is `people` after clicking the “replace” command?

- a) `[["Alonzo"], ["Alonzo"]]`
- b) `[["Alonzo"], ["thing"]]`
- c) `[["thing"], ["Alonzo"]]`
- d) `[["thing"], ["thing"]]`
- e) Error

```
>>> names = ["Alonzo"]
>>> people = [names, names]
>>> people
[[ 'Alonzo' ], [ 'Alonzo' ]]
>>> names[0] = "thing"
```

The image shows a Scratch script with three blocks: 'set names to list Alonzo', 'set people to list names names', and 'replace item 1 of names with thing'. To the right are two variable monitors. The 'people' monitor shows a list with two items, both labeled '1 Alonzo', with a total length of 2. The 'names' monitor shows a list with one item labeled '1 Alonzo' with a length of 1.



Python Dictionaries

Python Dictionaries (dict)

- Very fast access (by key, not number)
- **Mapping** from a key to a value
- Syntax
 - `{ key1 : value1, key2 : value2, ... }`
- Adding elements `dict[key] = value`
- Accessing elements `dict[key]`
- Keys
 - Looking for specific keys ("in")
 - Iterating over `iterkeys()`



Python APIs



Python APIs

- “Application Programming Interface”
 - Set of agreements for sharing information
- Programming APIs (i.e., how to use modules)
 - E.g., Building Blocks for common elements such as Open or Save prompts
- Web APIs
 - “Special” URLs for accessing data directly
- Example: Jeopardy API
 - <http://jservice.io/api/random>
- Example: Missing Persons API
 - find-us.herokuapp.com





Demo (reference)

- Code files are all on the class website
- `fractals.py`
 - **Some fractals in Turtle Graphics**
- `jeopardyAPI.py`
 - **Standalone text-based Jeopardy game**
- `tttAPI.py`
 - **Tic-Tac-Toe in Python**
 - **Games Crafters API for information about best moves**





More Information

- Online Python Tutor (invaluable!!)
 - <http://www.pythontutor.com/>
- Sequences & Methods
 - <http://docs.python.org/library/stdtypes.html>
- Coding Bat (*Great* practice!)
 - <http://codingbat.com/python>

