



# OMIS 30: Intro to Programming (with Python)

Week 2, Class 2

Introduction to Programming  
Instructor: Denis Vrdoljak





## Mutable vs Immutable

- Mutable = the item can be changed after created
- Immutable = the item cannot be changed after created
- All primitives are immutable



# Iterable Data Types in Python

- String
- Ways to hold and group the primitive data types include:
  - List
  - Dictionary
  - Tuple
  - Set



# String

- A string in Python is a sequence of characters
- It is a derived data type
- Can use “” or ’’ to designate
- Strings are immutable

**Examples:** “w”, “Dog”, “h7jb67”, ‘four’, ‘4’,  
“The cat in the hat.”



# String Methods and Operations

- `str()`, `" "` or `' '` - creates an empty string variable
- There is no `char` type, just a string with length 1
- Concatenation
  - `"mystring" + "anotherstring" → "mystringanotherstring"`
- `"mystring" * 3 → 'mystringmystringmystring'`
- `""" """` - triple quotes, used for block comments on multiple lines
  - Example: `"""This is a long string that is  
split over two lines """`



# More String Methods and Operations

- `.upper()`, `.lower()`, `.capitalize()`, `.title()`
  - `mystring = 'Abc dEf'`
  - `mystring.upper() = 'ABC DEF'`
    - Uppercase all letters
  - `mystring.lower() = 'abc def'`
    - Lowercase all letters
  - `mystring.capitalize() = 'Abc def'`
    - Capitalizes first letter of first word
  - `mystring.title() = 'Abc Def'`
    - Capitalizes first letter of each word



# Advanced String Methods and Operations

- **str.strip()**
  - Used to remove 'unwanted' characters from the start & end of a string:
    - `mystr = "----Our string we want----"`
    - `mystr.strip('-') = 'Our string we want'`
- **str.split()**
  - Used to split a string into multiple items on a character - returns a list of those strings
    - `mystr = "eat, drink, sleep"`
    - `mystr.split(',') = ['eat', 'drink', 'sleep']`



# List

- Unlimited length, known order, mixed data types, mutable
  - `y = [1,2,3]`
  - `mylist = ["the", "cat", "in", "the", "hat"]`
  - `another_list = [1, "the", 3.45, True]`





# List Methods and Operations

- `x = list((1,2,3))` or `x = [1,2,3]`
  - Creates a list
  - To create a blank list is: `x = list()` or `x = []`
- `mylist = [4,5,6]`
- `x + mylist -> [1,2,3,4,5,6]` (adds both lists together but doesn't assign it to anything)
- `x * 3 -> [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]` (makes 3 copies of list but doesn't assign it to anything)



# More List Methods and Operations

- To start: `x = [1,2,3]`
- `.append()` - adds an item to the end of the list
  - `x.append(4) -> [1,2,3,4]`
- `.remove()` - removes an item from the list (from the end)
  - `x.remove(4) -> [1,2,3]`
- `.pop()` - pops an item of the end of the list and returns it
  - `x.pop() -> 3`
  - `x.pop(0) -> 1` (`pop(0)` = front of the list)
- `.extend()` - extends the first list by adding the 2nd list to it
  - `y = [9,10]`
  - `x.extend(y) -> [2,9,10]`



# Advanced String and List Methods

- **str.join()**
  - Used to concatenate a sequence of strings into one string
  - .join() takes a list as argument
  - separator = "-" # a string
  - sequence = ("join", "me", "together") # a list of strings
  - separator.join(sequence) = "join-me-together"
  - " ".join(sequence) = "join me together"



# Dictionary (dict)

- A mutable unordered set of key:value pairs, with unique keys
  - Syntax: `sound_dict = {"cat": "meow", "duck": "quack"}`
  - To access a given value, call the key:
    - `>> sound_dict["duck"]`
    - Returns: `"quack"`
  - To assign a new key:value pair or reassign an existing key:
    - `>> sound_dict["cow"] = "moo"`
    - `>> print(sound_dict)`
    - Returns: `{"cat": "meow", "duck": "quack", "cow": "moo"}`



# Dictionary Methods and Operations

- `sound_dict = {"cat": "meow", "duck": "quack", "cow": "moo"}`
- `.keys()` - returns a list of the keys of the dictionary
  - `sound_dict.keys() = dict_keys(['cat', 'duck', 'cow'])`
- `.values()` - returns a list of the values of the dictionary
  - `sound_dict.values() = dict_values(['meow', 'quack', 'moo'])`
- `.items()` - returns a list of tuples of (key,value)
  - `sound_dict.items() = dict_items([('cat', 'meow'), ('duck', 'quack'), ('cow', 'moo')])`



# Advanced Methods

- `zip()`
  - Used to pair up the elements of two lists (or other iterable) based on shared index
    - `odd = (1,3,5), even = (2,4,6)`
    - `>> print(list(zip(odd, even)))`  
`[(1,2),(3,4),(5,6)]`
  - Can also be used with dictionaries:
    - `students = ["Matt", "Jane", "Bob"], grades = [82, 97, 70]`
    - `>> print(dict(zip(names, grades)))`  
`{"Matt":82, "Jane":97, "Bob":70}`



# Tuple

- An immutable ordered list with a known number of elements.
  - Syntax: `x = (1,4,6)`
  - Immutability refers to the inability to be changed after the original assignment.
  - Tuples, like all the primitive data types, are immutable.



# Set

- An unordered collection of UNIQUE items.
  - Syntax:  $x = \{4, 1, 6\}$  or  $x = \text{set}((4, 1, 6))$ 
    - If  $y = \{4, 4, 6, 1\} \rightarrow y = \{4, 6, 1\}$  (the extra 4 is removed because its not unique item)
  - Cannot update an item only add or remove
    - $\text{set.add}()$   $\rightarrow$  adds that item to the set
      - $x.\text{add}(7) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 6, 7\}$
    - $\text{remove}()$   $\rightarrow$  removes that item from the set
      - $x.\text{remove}(1) \rightarrow \{6, 4, 7\}$





## Basic Built-ins

- Introducing a few useful/common built in functions:
  - `len()` <- returns the length of that object
  - `type()` <- returns the type of that object



# Indexing

- An iterable is any data type that can be used in a sequential fashion to find the next item, which includes string, list, tuple, dictionary, etc.
- We use the iterable property when searching through the various items to find a specific item, which is called indexing:
- `>> mylist = ["the", "cat", "in", "the", "hat"]`
- Python is 'zero-based' so indexing for the first item:
  - `>> mylist[0]`
  - Returns "the"



## More Indexing

- `mylist = ["the", "cat", "in", "the", "hat"]`
  - `mylist[1] -> "cat"`
  - `mylist[-1] -> "hat"`
  - `mylist[-4] -> "cat"`
- `mystr = 'python'`
  - `mystr[0] = ?`
  - `mystr[-1] = ?`



# Slicing

- To call up a subset/part of a list, we use a slice
- Slice syntax = [`# to start with`, `# to end on (does not include)`: `step`]:
  - If either of the first two numbers are left blank - defaults to the start or end of the iterable
  - If the step is left blank - defaults to a step of 1
- Examples: `mylist = ["the", "cat", "in", "the", "hat"]`
  - `mylist[0:2]` returns `["the", "cat"]` (includes items 0 and 1, but not 2)
  - `mylist[2:3]` returns `["in"]` (only include item 2, equivalent to indexing `mylist[2]`)
  - `mylist[2:]` returns `["in", "the", "hat"]` (the remainder of the list)
  - `mylist[:-1]` returns `["the", "cat", "in", "the"]` (everything up to the last item)



## More Slicing fun

- Examples: `mylist = ["the", "cat", "in", "the", "hat"]`
  - `mylist[0:4:2]` returns `['the', 'in']` (first item then step of 2)
  - `mylist[::-1]` returns `['hat', 'the', 'in', 'cat', 'the']` (reverses!)
  - `mylist[4:8]` returns `['hat']`
- Example: `mystr = 'Python'`
  - `mystr[0:2] = ?`
  - `mystr[4:6].upper() = ?`
  - `mystr[1:5:3] = ?`
  - `mystr[::-1] = ?`



# Variable Names

- Case matters (mystr is a different variable than MyStr)
- Cannot start with a number
- Usually variable names are in all lowercase
  - Can use underscores to make them more readable
    - E.g.: word\_dict or my\_list
- Keep variable names short (you might have to write them a lot!)
- 'Counter' variables are often a single letter like: i,j,k
- Try to name variables something that is easy to read for you and other programmers (i.e., avoid lowercase "l" as it looks like uppercase "I" and pipe: l, I, |)