

Python Collections (Arrays)

There are four collection data types in the Python programming language:

- **List** is a collection which is ordered and changeable. Allows duplicate members.
- **Tuple** is a collection which is ordered and unchangeable. Allows duplicate members.
- **Set** is a collection which is unordered and unindexed. No duplicate members.
- **Dictionary** is a collection which is unordered and changeable. No duplicate members.

When choosing a collection type, it is useful to understand the properties of that type. Choosing the right type for a particular data set could mean retention of meaning, and, it could mean an increase in efficiency or security.

List: Lists are used to store multiple items in a single variable. Lists are created using square brackets. e.g.
mylist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]

List Methods

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on lists. L:list, e:element, i:index

| Method | Description |
|---------------|--|
| L.append(e) | Adds an element at the end of the list |
| L.clear() | Removes all the elements from the list |
| L.copy() | Returns a copy of the list |
| L.count(e) | Returns the number of elements with the specified value |
| L.extend(L2) | Add the elements of a list (or any iterable), to the end of the current list |
| L.index(e) | Returns the index of the first element with the specified value |
| L.insert(i,e) | Adds an element at the specified position |
| L.pop(i) | Removes the element at the specified position |
| L.remove(e) | Removes the item with the specified value |
| L.reverse() | Reverses the order of the list |
| L.sort() | Sorts the list |

Tuple

Tuples are used to store multiple items in a single variable. A tuple is a collection which is ordered and **unchangeable**. Tuples are written with round brackets.

e.g. mytuple = ("apple", "banana", "cherry")

Tuple Methods

Python has two built-in methods that you can use on tuples. T:tuple, e:element

| Method | Description |
|------------|---|
| T.count(e) | Returns the number of times a specified value occurs in a tuple |
| T.index(e) | Searches the tuple for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found |

Set

Sets are used to store multiple items in a single variable. A set is a collection which is both *unordered* and *unindexed*. Sets are written with curly brackets.

e.g. myset = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}

Set Methods

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on sets.

| Method | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| S.add(e) | Adds an element to the set |
| S.clear() | Removes all the elements from the set |
| S.copy() | Returns a copy of the set |
| S1.difference(S2) | Returns a set containing the difference between two or more sets |
| S1.difference_update(S2) | Removes the items in this set that are also included in another, specified set |
| S1.discard(e) | Remove the specified item |
| S1.intersection(S2) | Returns a set, that is the intersection of two other sets |
| S1.intersection_update(S2) | Removes the items in this set that are not present in other, specified set(s) |
| S1.isdisjoint(S2) | Returns whether two sets have a intersection or not |
| S1.issubset(S2) | Returns whether another set contains this set or not |
| S1.issuperset(S2) | Returns whether this set contains another set or not |
| S.pop() | Removes an element from the set |
| S.remove(e) | Removes the specified element |
| S1.symmetric_difference(S2) | Returns a set with the symmetric differences of two sets |
| S1.symmetric_difference_update(S2) | inserts the symmetric differences from this set and another |
| S1.union(S2) | Return a set containing the union of sets |
| S1.update(L1) | Update the set with the union of this set and others |

Dictionary

Dictionaries are used to store data values in key:value pairs. A dictionary is a collection which is **ordered (3.7 version onward)**, **changeable** and **does not allow duplicates**.

Dictionaries are written with curly brackets, and have keys and values.

e.g. thisdict = {"brand": "Ford", "model": "Mustang", "year": 1964}

Dictionary Methods

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on dictionaries.

| Method | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| D.clear() | Removes all the elements from the dictionary |
| D.copy() | Returns a copy of the dictionary |
| D.get(k) | Returns the value of the specified key |
| D.items() | Returns a list containing a tuple for each key value pair |
| D.keys() | Returns a list containing the dictionary's keys |
| D.pop(k) | Removes the element with the specified key |
| D.popitem() | Removes the last inserted key-value pair |
| D.setdefault(k,v) | Returns the value of the specified key. If the key does not exist: insert the key, with the specified value |
| D.update({k:v}) | Updates the dictionary with the specified key-value pairs |
| D.values() | Returns a list of all the values in the dictionary |