

1.11 Looping



Repeating blocks of code by calling a function more than once, as in example 1.5, can get cumbersome when it needs to be repeated many times. A **loop** repeats a block until some stopping condition is met. One type of loop in Python is a **while** loop, which repeats a block of code while its conditional expression evaluates to **True**. For instance,

```
n = 0          # Initialize n
while n < 5:
    print(n)
    n += 1      # Increment n (i.e., n = n + 1)
```

The loop evaluates the conditional expression `n < 5` and, if in fact `n < 5`, executes the block of code. After the block finishes, the test is repeated and potentially the block of code. This will repeat indefinitely, until the conditional expression evaluates to **False**, in which case the loop exits and execution resumes after the code block. The block will be executed 5 times, printing 0 through 4 to the console.

Another type of Python loop is a **for** loop, which has no explicit conditional expression, instead iterating through an iterable object like a list, , until it reaches the end. For example,

```
l = ["foo", "bar", "baz"]
for s in l:
    print(f"Say {s}")
```

This prints

```
Say foo
Say bar
Say baz
```

It is common to loop through a **range** with a **for** loop, as in the following:

```
for k in range(2, 8):
    print(k, end=" ") # Prints on the same line
```

This prints the following to the console:

```
2 3 4 5 6 7
```

Often, a loop index is required inside a **for** loop. The syntax for this requires an identifier for the index and an **enumerate** type object to be iterated through. The constructor function `enumerate()` assigns an index to each element of its iterable argument (e.g., a list). For instance,

```
names = ["Manny", "Bella", "Amadeus"]
signs = ["Libra", "Virgo", "Sagittarius"]
for i, name in enumerate(names):
    print(f"{name} is a {signs[i]}")
```

This prints the following to the console:

```
Manny is a Libra
Bella is a Virgo
Amadeus is a Sagittarius
```

Looping through a dictionary is similar, but we need the `items()` of the dictionary for the key-value pair, as follows:

```
sounds = {"dog": "woof", "cat": "meow", "fox": "ring-ding-ding"}
for k, v in sounds.items():
    print(f"The {k} says '{v}'")
```

This prints the following to the console:

```
The dog says 'woof'
The cat says 'meow'
The fox says 'ring-ding-ding'
```

1.12 Summary [Outlined]

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