

Foundations of Programming in Python

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About me

Education

- · 2012 Bachelor of Science UZH in Physics
- · 2016 Master of Science UZH in Computational Science

Work

- · 2014 2016 Software engineer CERN (remote)
- · 2016 now PDF Tools AG

Programming experience

C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, Python

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Round of introduction

- · Name
- Occupation
- · Programming experience? What language?
- Expectations

Learning targets

After this course...

- · ... you will know what programming is
- · ... you will know how to write a basic computer program
- \cdot ... you will know the fundamental components of programming
- · ... you are able to run Python code
- ... you are able to write a Python program based on a written out problem statement
- ... you know where you can find more information to improve your programming skills

Introduction to Programming

- Introduction to Programming
- Fundamental Concepts
 - Values, Variables, Expressions, Operators, Comments
 - Functions
 - Naming Conventions & Debugging
 - Conditionals
 - Functions with Return Values
 - Lists
 - Iteration
 - Dictionaries
- Persistence

What is a Computer Program

Modular System

- · Input: Data input from keyboard, files, internet, etc...
- Output: Processed data is displayed or saved to a file
- · Algorithms:
 - · Assignment: Values are assigned to variables
 - Conditional execution: Statements are executed only if certain conditions are fulfilled
 - · Loops: Repeating statement or group of statements
- · Libraries: Using existing implementations

Examples: Hello World I

Java

```
public class HelloWorld {
   public static void main(String args[]) {
       System.out.println("Hello World");
   }
}
```

```
C++
```

```
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    std::cout << "Hello World" << std::endl;
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

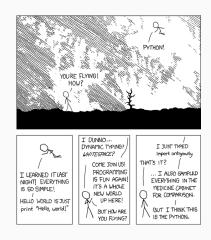
Examples: Hello World II

Python

```
print("Hello World")
```

Why Python?

- · "Simple" syntax
- High-level programming language
- · Cross-platform
- Interpreted
- · Object-oriented
- · Many libraries available



Source: https://xkcd.com/353/

Development Environment

- Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
- Collection of tools that are commonly used for software development
- Popular IDEs
 - Eclipse with pydev http://pydev.org
 - JetBrains PyCharm Community Edition available for free http://jetbrains.com/pycharm/download

Demo: Hello World

Options to run Python code:

- · Directly in the Python prompt
- · Write the code into a file and run python with the file
- Use IDE to run Python code

Fundamental Concepts

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Values, Variables, Expressions, Operators, Comments

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Values, Variables, Expressions, Operators, Comments

Values

- Numbers
 - 2
 - 1000000
 - -2
 - 3.2
 - · 1.3333333
- Strings (Text)
 - · 'Hello World'
 - · "Hello World"

Data Types

Strings

- · 'Single quotes' or "double quotes" can be used to declare them
 - · 'Hello World'
 - · "Hello World"
 - "5"

Boolean

Binary data type

- True
- False

Variables I

- · Variables hold values
- Similar to mathematics

•
$$y = x + 2$$

Values assigned using the = operator

Variables II

Examples

Use meaningful names

Declaration

```
salutation = "Hello"
name = "Dennis Reynolds"
pi = 3.13159
```

Usage

```
print(name)
```

Variables III

Keywords - reserved words

and, assert, break, class, continue, def, del, elif, else, except, exec, finally, for, from, global, if, import, in, is, lambda, not, or, pass, print, raise, return, try, while, yield

Variables IV

Variables and values can be combined

```
print(2+2)
a = 2
print(a+2)

salutation = "Hello"
name = "Dennis Reynolds"
print(salutation + " " + name)
```

Operators

Order of precedence

- ()
- . **
- · unary +,-
- · *,/,%
- · binary +,-
- · <, >, <=, >=, !=, ==
- · not
- \cdot and
- ·or

Comments

- Comments have no impact on the program
- Should explain the code
- · A comment starts with a # character

Examples

```
# Declaring the name
name = "Philipp"
print(name) # Prints Philipp
```

Functions

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Functions I

- print() is a function that you have already used
- A function can take arguments which can be used inside the function

```
name = "Some name"
print(name) # Some name is used inside the print function
```

- · Functions can also return a result
 - return statement

Examples

```
text = "Python programming language"
print(text) # Prints: Python programming language
text_length = len(text)
print(text_length) # Prints length of the string
```

Functions II

Type conversions

- int('32'): Converts a string that holds a number to an integer
- int('Hello'): This doesn't work and it will throw a ValueError exception
- float('313.333'): Converts a string that hold a number to a float
- str(32): Converts a number to a string

Examples

```
a = 20
b = 10
res = a + b
print("The sum of " + str(a) + " and " + str(b) + " is " + str(res))
```

Functions III

Rounding

```
a = 1.888
int(a) # = 1
int(round(a)) # = 2
int(a+5) # = 2
```

Math functions

http://docs.python.org/library/math.html

Functions IV

User-defined functions

- · A function encapsulates some functionality
- · Reduces complexity

```
def my_function(param1, param2):
    print(param1)
    print(param2)
```

- · Syntax is important
 - Indentation
 - · The colon

Functions V

Examples

```
def line_separator():
    print("')

print("First Line")
line_separator()
print("Second Line")
line_separator()
print("Third Line")
line_separator()
print("Fourth Line")
```

• If we want to change the line separator to a dashed line we only need to change a single line of code

```
def line_separator():
print('-----')
```

Functions VI

Examples

 If the line seperator should output two lines we can define a new function that calls the line separator() function twice

```
def two_lines():
    line_separator()
    line_separator()

print ("First Line")
two_lines()
print("Second Line")
```

Functions VII

Parameters and arguments

- · Arguments are passed when calling a function
- · Value of arguments is assigned to parameters

```
def print_sum(number_1, number_2):
    result = number_1 + number_2
    print(result)

print_sum(1,3)
print_sum(10,5)
```

Functions VIII

Parameters and arguments

- · Variables are valid within a scope
- Variables that are defined in a function can only be seen inside that function
- · Scope can be identified by indentation

```
def concatenation(param1, param2):
    concat = part1 + part2
    print(concat)

concatenation("Hello", "World")
print(concat) # NameError: name 'concat' is not defined
```

Functions IX

Conclusion

- · A function can be called multiple times
- If some code can be reused, put it in a function so you need to write less
 - · Higher factorization
 - · Less redundancy
 - · Better maintenance
- · Functions can also call other functions

Naming Conventions & Debugging

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Naming Conventions I

How to name your functions and variables (PEP8)

- Naming convention is a set of rules for choosing names of functions and variables
- · Every programming language has different naming conventions
- Python
 - No spaces in variable and function names
 - Variable and function names are in lowercase and _ is used to separate words

```
length_in_cm = 15

def say_hello():
    print("Hello")
```

Debugging I

Finding and resolving "bugs"

- Programming is a complex activity
- · Mistakes happen all the time
- · A mistake made in programming is called a bug
- \cdot The process of finding and resolving bugs is called debugging

Debugging II

Errors

- Syntax error
 - Incorrect syntax of a statement: print(Hello World) instead of print("Hello World")
- · Runtime error
 - · Error that occurs during the execution of a program
 - · e.g. division by 0
- Semantic errors
 - Program does not deliver correct results
 - No error messages (code is syntactically correct)
 - Fixing semantic errors can be extremely complicated (good software design is important)

Debugging III

Techniques

- · Reading code
- Print variables with print() to examine values (a poor man's debugger)
- Go through the program step by step -> **Debugger**!

Conditionals

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Conditionals I

- · Boolean algebra is a part of mathematics
- · Often used in programming
- · A boolean expression is either true or false

```
5 == 5 # ---> True

5 == 6 # ---> False

6 > 4 # ---> True

5 >= 8 # ---> False
```

Conditionals II

Examples

if

- · The expression if defines a condition
- · If the condition is true, subsequent statements will be executed
- If the condition is false, subsequent statements will not be executed
- · There has to be at least one statement after the condition

```
x = 10
if x > 0:
    print(str(x) + ' is positive')
if True:
    # This statement will always be executed
    print('Yes')
if False:
    # This statement will never be executed
    print('No')
```

Conditionals III

else

- Expression else is executed if the if condition is false
- · Can only be used in combination with an if expression

```
if x == 0:
    print(str(x) + ' is zero')
else:
    print(str(x) + ' is not zero')
```

Conditionals IV

Examples

%-operator (remainder after division)

```
def print_parity(x):
    if x % 2 == 0:
        print(str(x) + ' is even')
else:
        print(str(x) + ' is odd')

print_parity(2)
print_parity(3)
```

Conditionals V

Chained conditionals

- lbelif is used to combine multiple conditions
- The lbelse expression is executed when neither lbif nor any of the lbelifs is true.
- Any number of lbelif expressions can be used but only one lbif and one lbelse

Conditionals VI

Examples

```
if x < y:
    print(str(x) + ' is less than ' + str(y))
elif x > y:
    print(str(x) + ' is greater than ' + str(y))
else:
    print(str(x) + ' and ' + str(y) + ' are equal')
```

```
# Python 3
answer = input('Do you like Python?')
# Python 2.7
# answer = raw_input('Do you like Python?')
if answer == 'yes':
    print('That is great!')
else:
    print('That is disappointing!')
```

- · Write a function compare(x,y) that
 - prints 1 if x > y
 - prints 0 if x == y
 - prints -1 if x < y
- · Use input() to receive user input

Exercise 1 II

- Attention: input() stores the input as a string (not as a number)
- If the input is supposed to be a number (int, float) you need to convert it

```
first_number = input('Please enter a first number ')
first_number = int(first_number)
second_number = input('Please enter a first number ')
second_number = int(second_number)
result = first_number + second_number
print(str(result))
```

Conditionals I

Nested conditionals

· Conditionals can be nested

```
if x > 0:
    if x < 10:
        print('x is a positive single digit')</pre>
```

and

- · Deep nesting can be difficult to read
- · Use and to combine conditionals

Conditionals II

```
if x > 0:
    if x < 10:
        print('x is a positive single digit')
# is the same as
if x > 0 and x < 10:
    print('x is a positive single digit')</pre>
```

or

· At least one statement must be true for the condition to be true

```
if x > 0 or x < 0:
    print("x is not zero")</pre>
```

Conditionals III

not

- · Negation, inverts the boolean.
- not True -> becomes False
- not False -> becomes True

```
if not (y == 0):
    print(x/y)
else:
    print("Cannot divide by zero")
```

Χ	Υ	X and Y	X or Y
False	False	False	False
False	True	False	True
True	False	False	True
True	True	True	True

Functions with Return Values

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Functions with return value I

· Some functions will return a value

```
# Python 3
answer = input('Do you like Python?')

# Python 2.7
# answer = raw_input('Do you like Python?')
```

 Our previously defined functions have never returned anything, but only printed something out

Functions with return value II

return

• Functions that return a value use the return keyword

```
import math
def area(radius):
    result = math.pi * radius ** 2
    return result

print(area(10))
my_circle_area = area(8)
```

· Functions can return any valid data type

Functions with return value III

Boolean return values

- The functions can return a boolean vlaue (True, False)
- The function name should be formulated as a yes/no question

```
def is_divisible(x, y):
   if x % y == 0:
       return True
   else:
      return False
```

Functions with return value IV

Boolean return values

• The return value can be used in a condition

```
if is_divisible(x, y):
    print(str(x) + ' is divisible by ' + str(y))
else:
    print(str(x) + ' is not divisible by ' + str(y))
```

- Write a function called distance(x1, y1, x2, y2) which computes the distance between point 1 (x1, y1) and point 2 (x2, y2)
- · Note:
 - distance = $\sqrt{(x_2 x_1)^2 + (y_2 y_1)^2}$
 - x^2 is represented by x**2 in Python
 - The root of x is computed with math.sqrt(x)
 - $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Use the import math statement at the beginning of the file

- Write a function volume_from_radius(radius), which calculates the volume of a sphere
- · Note:
 - volume = $\frac{4\pi}{3} \cdot r^3$
 - · Pi is math.pi

- Write a function volume_from_points(x1, y1, x2, y2)
- This function calculates the volume of a sphere whose radius is the distance between the points (x1, y1) and (x2, y2)
- · Tip: Use the implemented methods from the previous exercises

Write a function is_between(x, y, z) which returns True if
 x <= y <= z and False otherwise

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Lists I

- · Lists are a data type
- · Lists are used in most programming languages (arrays)
- · Lists are a set of values

```
list_a = [1, 2, 4]
list_b = ['Monty', 'Python']
```

Lists II

Creating lists

• The easiest way to create a list is using []

```
numbers = [10, 12, 14, 19]
words = ['spam', 'bungee', 'swallow']
```

· Data types can be mixed

```
my_list = ['music', 2000, 3.5, True]
```

Lists III

Creating lists

- Since numbers are often stored in a list, there is a special method for doing so
- With only one argument, range returns a number series starting at 0

```
list(range(4))
# returns [0, 1, 2, 3]
```

 When using two arguments it is possible to define the start and end of the range [start, end) (end is not included in the list)

```
list(range(1,5))
# returns [1, 2, 3, 4]
```

Lists IV

Creating lists

• The step size can be defined with a third argument

```
list(range(1, 10, 2))
# return [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]
```

· An empty list can also be created

```
empty_list = []
```

• This is often done when the values to be inserted in the list are not yet known.

Lists V

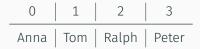
Creating lists

· Accessing elements can be done with the [] operator

```
names = ['Anna', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
print(names[1])
# prints Tom
```

Important

Array indices start at 0!



Lists VI

Accessing lists

· A negative index is used to access the list from the end

```
names = ['Anna', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
print(names[-1])
# prints Peter
```

Lists VII

Length

 The number of elements in a list can be obtained using the len() function

```
names = ['Anna', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
print(len(names))
# prints 4
```

Out of range

 If there is no item in the list at the desired index, Python will print an error message

Lists VIII

```
names = ['Anna', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
nNames = len(names)
print(names[nNames])
# IndexError: list index out of range
```

Lists IX

Changing elements in a list

· An element can be changed using [INDEX]

```
names = ['Anna', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
names[0] = 'Alice'
# ['Alice', 'Tom', 'Ralph', 'Peter']
```

Lists X

Adding elements

• The append() method can be used to add an element at the end of the list

```
numbers = range(5)
# [0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
numbers.append(5)
# [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

Lists XI

Concatenate lists

• The + operator can be used to join lists

```
a = [1, 2, 3]
b = [4, 5, 6]
c = a + b
# [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

Lists XII

Slices

- · Lists can be cut into slices
- The operator [n:m] returns a list of the elements that start at index n and stop before m

```
my_list = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f']
my_list[1:3]
# ['b', 'c']
```

Lists XIII

Slices

· If the first index is empty, the slice starts at the beginning

```
my_list = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f']
my_list[:4]
# ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd']
```

 If the second index is empty, the slice will include elements until the end of the list

```
my_list = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f']
my_list[3:]
# ['d', 'e', 'f']
```

Lists XIV

Deleting elements

• The del() method deletes items from the list

```
list_a = ['one', 'two', 'three']
del(list_a[1])
# ['one', 'three']
list_b = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f']
del(list_b[1:5])
# ['a', 'f']
```

Tuples I

Tuples is an immutable sequence data type

- It is not possible to assign to the individual items of a tuple, however it is possible to create tuples which contain mutable objects, such as lists.
- Tuples are declared using () instead of []

```
tuple = ('a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e')
```

• Tuples containing only one element must have a comma at the end of the definition

```
tuple = ('a', )
```

Strings I

Strings are immutable

- · Unlike lists, strings cannot be changed
- Operations on strings always return a modified copy of the string
- · The original string remains unchanged

```
greeting = 'Hello, world!'
greeting[0] = 'J'
# TypeError: 'str' object does not support item assignment
```

Iteration

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Iterations I

- Iterations are used to repeat statements
- There are two expressions for iterations
 - · while
 - for

while

 As long as the condition of the while loop is True, the body of the loop gets executed

Iterations II

Example

```
def countdown(n):
    while n > 0:
        print(n)
        n = n - 1
    print('Lift off!')

countdown(10)
```

Iterations III

while

- If the condition is False at the beginning, the body of the loop is never executed
- If the variable that is used to check the condition of the while loop does not change, the loop will never terminate -> ininite loop
- · Whether a while loop terminates can be hard to determine

```
def sequence(n):
    while n != 1:
        print(n)
    if n % 2 == 0:
        n = n / 2
    else:
        n = n * 3 + 1
```

Iterations IV

while

· A while loop can be used to iterate through a list

```
names = ['Tom', 'Anna', 'Christopher']
index = 0
while index < len(names):
    name = names[index]
    print(name)
    index = index + 1</pre>
```

Exercise 6

- Write a function calc_sum(numbers) which expects a list of numbers as input and returns their sum
- The method should be called as follows calc_sum([4,6,7])

Iterations

for

 Since it is often necessary to operate through lists and other data types, there is a special expression for this

```
for element in element_list:
    print(element)
```

Exercise 7

- Write a function print_reverse(text) which expects a string as an argument and prints every character of the string in reverse order
- · Use a while loop to do this

Exercise 8

- Write a function count_words(words, min_word_length)
 that counts the number of words in a list that are at least as
 long as the specified word length
- · Use a for loop to do this
- · Example:

```
words = ['Emanuel', 'John', 'Ale']
count_words(words, 4)
# 2
```

Dictionaries

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Dictionaries I

Key-Value pair

- Dictionaries are very similar to lists but have a key and value for each entry
- · The entries of a dictionary are not sorted

Dictionaries II

Creating dictionaries

Dictionaries are created using {}

```
eng2sp = {}
eng2sp['one'] = 'uno'
eng2sp['two'] = 'dos'
```

· Values can be added directly

```
inventory = {
  'apples': 430,
  'bananas': 312,
}
```

Dictionaries III

Accessing entries

· Values can be accessed directly using dictionary['key']

```
inventory = {
  'apples': 430,
  'bananas': 312,
}
print(inventory['apples'])
# 430
```

Dictionaries IV

Assigning and modifying values

- · The key is assigned a value
- If the key already exists the existing value is overwritten

```
inventory = {
  'apples': 430,
  'bananas': 312,
}
inventory['oranges'] = 530
inventory['bananas'] = 250
print(inventory['bananas'])
# 250
```

Dictionaries V

Deleting entries

• Key-Value pairs can be delted using the del() function

```
inventory = {
  'apples': 430,
  'bananas': 312,
}
del(inventory['bananas'])
```

Dictionaries VI

Number of entries

• The len() function returns the number of entries

```
inventory = {
    'apples': 430,
    'bananas': 312,
}
len(inventory)
# 2
```

Dictionaries VII

Checking if an entry exists

 The in keyword can be used to check if a key exists in a dictionary

```
inventory = {
    'apples': 430,
    'bananas': 312,
}
if 'apples' in inventory:
    inventory['apples'] += 100
else:
    inventory['apples'] = 100
```

Dictionaries VIII

Iterating over entries

• The items() function combined with the for statement can be used to iterate through every key-value pair

```
for (my_key, my_value) in my_dict.items():
    print(my_key + ' : ' + my_value)
```

Exercise 9 I

Write a function calculate_mark(points, max_points)
 which returns a grade in the Swiss grading scale

$$mark = \frac{points \cdot 5}{max \ points} + 1$$

- The function rounds the grade to the nearest 0.5
 - · 5.66666 -> 5.5
 - · 5.75 -> 6
- The function should accept strings as arguments
- Arguments should be therefore converted to floats

Exercise 9 II

- Write a function that asks for points and max_points as long as the user does not enter "exit"
- · The grade should be printed after each run

```
while True:
    # input points (use input)
    if points == 'exit':
        break
# input max_points
# call calculate_mark function
# print result
```

Exercise 9 III

- · Change your code that it additionally asks for a name
- · A dictionary should now store the grade of each name
 - · The name is a key, the grade the value
- As soon as the user enters "exit" the program should print the grades of all names before it exits

Exercise 9 IV

- Change your code in such a way that for each name it additionally outputs if the user has passed or failed
- Mark >= 4 -> passed
- · Mark < 5 -> failed

Exercise 9 V

 Change your in such a way that the application outputs the average grade before it exits

Exercise 10

- Write an application that generates a random number between 1 and 100
- · import random
- · random.randrange(min, max)
- The user makes a guess and enters a number. If the number is incorrect, the program outputs whether the entered number was too small or too large and allows the user to guess again.
- The application quits when the correct number is guessed
- The application should output how many user attempts have been made before it quits

Exercise 11

- Implement the opposite of Task 10 so that the user thinks of a number and makes the computer guess
- The user provides feedback on whether the number is too high, too small, or correct
- $\cdot < (too low)$
- $\cdot >$ (too high)
- · = (correct)
- · How many steps does the computer need?

Persistence

- Introduction to Programming
- Fundamental Concepts
 - Values, Variables, Expressions, Operators, Comments
 - Functions
 - Naming Conventions & Debugging
 - Conditionals
 - Functions with Return Values
 - Lists
 - Iteration
 - Dictionaries
- Persistence

Persistence

- · So far no data has been saved in any of our examples
- All data was deleted from the memory as soon as our examples quit
- There are several ways to permanently store data on the hard disk
 - Database
 - Simple text files

Files I

Common procedure

- · Open file
- · Do something with the file
- · Close the file

```
file = open('my_file.txt', 'modus')
# do some stuff
file.close()
```

Files II

Different modes

- · The mode defines how the content of the file should be treated
- Modes
- · 'r': read only
- · 'w': write only
- · 'r+': read and write
- · 'a': append

```
# open a file in read/write mode
file = open('my_file.txt', 'r')
```

Files III

Write

- The write() function is used to write something into a file
- · '\n' is used to insert a line break

```
file = open('my_file.txt', 'a')
file.write('Das ist eine Linie\n')
file.write('Das ist eine neue Linie\n')
file.close()
```

Files IV

Read

- · A for loop can be used to read a file line by line
- · line.strip() removes the trailing '\n'

```
file = open('my_file.txt', 'r')
for line in file:
    line = line.strip()
    print line
file.close()
```

Dictionaries/list in JSON

- file.write() only accepts strings as arguments
- If complex structures such as dictionaries or lists should be stored in a file, it's necessary the convert these structures into strings first
- An example of a standard used for this purpose is JSON (Javascript Object Notation)

```
import json
my_dict = {'one': 'uno', 'two': 'dos'}
my_dict_as_string = json.dumps(my_dict)
print(my_dict_as_string)
```

Convert JSON to dictionaries/lists

• Example of a string in JSON that is converted into a dictionary

```
import json
my_dict_as_string = '{"two": "dos", "one": "uno"}'
my_dict = json.loads(my_dict_as_string)
print(my_dict)
```

Exercise 12 I

- Write an application which repeatedly asks for a name and phone number until the user enters "exit"
- Each name/telephone number pair should be stored as an entry in a dictionary
 - · The names are the keys of the dictionary
 - · The telephone numbers are the values of the dictionary
- As soon as the user enters "exit", create a JSON string of the dictionary using the json.dumps() function and store the string in a file called address_book.txt

Exercise 12 II

- Extend your application so that it reads the address_book.txt file when it starts
- · Convert the JSON text into a dictionary again

```
import json
address_book_file = open('address_book.txt', 'r')
address_book_dict = json.load(address_book_file)
```

- · Ask the user if he wants to add more names or not
- Let the user search for names in the dictionary and print out the according phone number

Additional Resources

- How to Think Like a Computer Scientist from Allen Downey, Jeffrey Elkner, and Chris Meyers
- · Learning with Python: Interactive Edition 2.0
 - http://interactivepython.org/courselib/static/thinkcspy/index.html
- Official Python Documentation
 - http://www.python.org/doc/
- Project Euler: Mathematical problems that can be solved programmatically
 - http://projecteuler.net/
- Platforms to prepare for coding interviews
 - · https://leetcode.com/
 - https://www.interviewbit.com/