

VARIABLE EQUALITY

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We can think of variable equality in two fundamental ways:

Memory Address

is

identity operator

var_1 is var_2

Object State (data)

==

equality operator

var_1 == var_2

Negation

is not

!=

var_1 is not var_2

var_1 != var_2

not(var_1 is var_2)

not(var_1 == var_2)

Examples

```
a = 10  
b = a
```

a is b



a == b



```
a = 'hello'  
b = 'hello'
```

a is b



but as we'll see later, don't count on it!

a == b



```
a = [1, 2, 3]  
b = [1, 2, 3]
```

a is b



a == b



```
a = 10  
b = 10.0
```

a is b



a == b



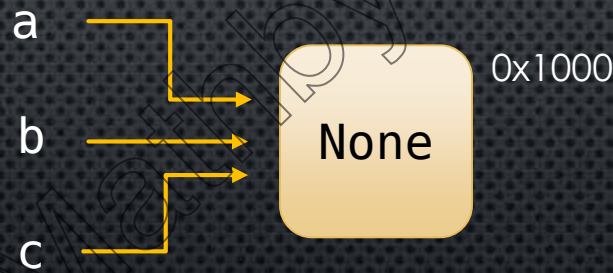
The `None` object

The `None` object can be assigned to variables to indicate that they are not set (in the way we would expect them to be), i.e. an “empty” value (or null pointer)

But the `None` object is a **real** object that is managed by the Python memory manager

Furthermore, the memory manager will always use a **shared reference** when assigning a variable to `None`

```
a = None  
b = None  
c = None
```



So we can test if a variable is “not set” or “empty” by comparing it’s memory address to the memory address of `None` using the `is` operator

```
a is None
```



```
x = 10
```

```
x is None
```



```
x is not None
```

