python-basics.md 2024-08-12

Python Basics

Familiarizing yourself with the concepts listed below is in my opinion sufficient for a very reasonable level of mastery in Python.

- 1. Variables and the importance of choosing good names for them.
- 2. Basic data types: int, float, bool, str and type function
- 3. Basic operations: +, -, *, /, **
- 4. Comments and multi-line strings: #, """
- 5. Logical comparisons: ==, !=, <, >, <=, >=, and, or, not
- 6. if, elif, else blocks
- 7. Nested blocks
- 8. list and tuple
- 9. sorted and reversed functions
- 10. List indexing and slicing: [start], [start:stop], [start:stop:step]
- 11. Dictionary {key: value} pairs: dict
- 12. Dictionary indexing: [key] = value
- 13. List unpacking: *
- 14. List zipping: zip
- 15. List comprehensions
- 16. for and while loop blocks
- 17. range and len functions
- 18. def function blocks
- 19. Function arguments
- 20. Default and named function arguments
- 21. Variable scope
- 22. Assignment vs. mutation
- 23. Modules: import
- 24. class blocks
- 25. Class template vs. instance
- 26. Class __init__ method and self variable
- 27. Class methods and data
- 28. Class inheritance

Other more advanced topics:

- Function args and kwargs
- Generators: yield
- Making your own python package

Resources:

- Nice introductory exercises
- Interactive python tutorials
- A large list of python tutorials
- The python tutorial