

Starting Python

CPS600 Python Programming for Finance
Fall 2018



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Python Itself

- ▶ Fantastically popular high-level programming language created in 1980s
- ▶ Benevolent Dictator for Life **Guido Van Rossum** is a fan of *Monty Python* (documentation and tutorials are sprinkled with references to MP sketches)
- ▶ Simple, readable, interpreted, cross-platform
- ▶ Requires Python *interpreter* to run
- ▶ Collections of predefined objects and functions are loosely referred to as *libraries*, *packages* & *modules*.

Python Itself

- ▶ Fixed vocab of keywords & built-ins such as **print**, **with**, **while** and many others

- ▶ Get list of keywords:


```
import keyword  
keyword.kwlist
```

- ▶ Get list of builtins:

```
dir(__builtins__)
```

- ▶ RMK: above, the keyword **with** should have been in bold - I can explain!

Today

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- The Python logo is a large, stylized 'P' composed of two interlocking snakes, one light blue and one light yellow, positioned in the background of the slide.
- ▶ Shell, notebook & editors
 - ▶ Variables
 - ▶ Basic types & casting
 - ▶ Strings
 - ▶ Lists, tuples, dictionaries
 - ▶ Scientific stack