

INSY 6500  
Information Systems for Operations

Introduction to Python (but it's still not a  
programming course)

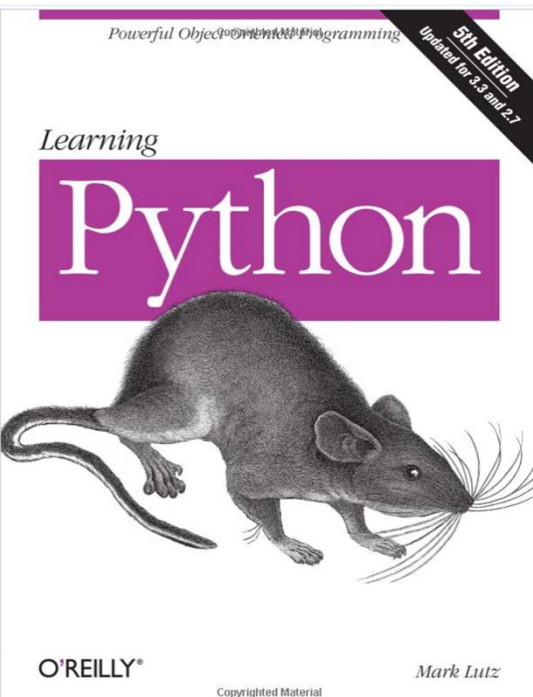
Fall 2019

Jeffrey S. Smith

Industrial and Systems Engineering Department  
Auburn University  
jsmith@auburn.edu

## Other Resources

- Go to google and search on “python 3 tutorial” – 165,000,000 results last time I tried.
- Stack Overflow
- ...



So what are the Top Ten Languages of 2018, as ranked for the typical IEEE member and *Spectrum* reader?

Language Rank	Types	Spectrum Ranking
1. Python	🌐 🖥️ 📱	100.0
2. C++	📱 🖥️ 📱	98.4
3. C	📱 🖥️ 📱	98.2
4. Java	🌐 📱 🖥️	97.5
5. C#	🌐 📱 🖥️	89.8
6. PHP	🌐	85.4
7. R	🖥️	83.3
8. JavaScript	🌐 📱	82.8
9. Go	🌐 🖥️	76.7
10. Assembly	📱	74.5

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/at-work/innovation/the-2018-top-programming-languages>

## How to “Use” Python

- Python is an *interpreted* language.
- Python tools that we will use:
  - “python.exe”
    - Script Mode
    - Interactive Mode
  - IPython
  - Jupyter Notebook\*

### Example 1:

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

### Example 2:

```
for i in range(5):  
    j = i + 1  
    print ("[{ :}] Hello World!".format(j))
```

\* Jupyter Notebook is a more general tool than just for Python – as we will see.

# Python Object Types

- Python programs
  1. Programs are composed of *modules*
  2. Modules contain *statements*
  3. Statements contain *expressions*
  4. Expressions create and process *objects*

“An *expression* in a programming language is a combination of one or more explicit values, constants, variables, operators, and functions that the programming language interprets (according to its particular rules of precedence and of association) and computes to produce (‘to return’, in a stateful environment) another value. This process, as for mathematical expressions, is called *evaluation*.”

(Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expression\\_\(computer\\_science\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expression_(computer_science)))

Lutz, 2013, pp.93-94

# Python Object Types

- Python programs

1. Programs are composed of *modules*
2. Modules contain *statements*
3. Statements contain *expressions*
4. Expressions create and process *objects*

- Traditional *pillars* (of programming):

- Assignment
  - Sequence
  - Repetition
  - Selection
- ```
total = 0
count = 0
while numbers remain
    total = total + next number
if count > 0
    avg = total/count
else
    error
```

*Lutz, 2013, pp.93-94*

# Initial Core Python Statements

3.0.0 Python.ipynb

- Assignment

- variable = expression

- `x = 12`
- `y = x+14`
- `z = [1, 2, 3]`

- Repetition

- For Loop

```
for j in [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]:  
    statements
```

```
for j in range(10)  
    statements
```

- Selection

- If Statement

```
if condition:  
    statements  
else:  
    statements
```

```
if x == 12:  
    y = y +1
```

```
if x in [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]:  
    y = 35  
else:  
    y = 50
```

# Core Data Types

Table 4-1. Built-in objects preview

| Object type                  | Example literals/creation                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Numbers                      | 1234, 3.1415, 3+4j, 0b111, Decimal(), Fraction()       |
| Strings                      | 'spam', "Bob's", b'a\x01c', u'sp\xc4m'                 |
| Lists                        | [1, [2, 'three'], 4.5], list(range(10))                |
| Dictionaries                 | {'food': 'spam', 'taste': 'yum'}, dict(hours=10)       |
| Tuples                       | (1, 'spam', 4, 'U'), tuple('spam'), namedtuple         |
| Files                        | open('eggs.txt'), open(r'C:\ham.bin', 'wb')            |
| Sets                         | set('abc'), {'a', 'b', 'c'}                            |
| Other core types             | Booleans, types, None                                  |
| Program unit types           | Functions, modules, classes (Part IV, Part V, Part VI) |
| Implementation-related types | Compiled code, stack tracebacks (Part IV, Part VII)    |

- Literal

‘In this book, the term literal simply means an expression whose syntax generates an object—sometimes also called a constant. Note that the term “constant” does not imply objects or variables that can never be changed (i.e., this term is unrelated to C++’s const or Python’s “immutable”—a topic explored in the section “Immutability” on page 103).’

In Python 3, **range** is also a data type.

*Lutz, 2013, p.96-8*

# General Python Concepts

- Dynamically Typed (vs. Statically Typed)
  - Python keeps track of the “type” of a given object and there is no need to declare.

| Names | Objects |
|-------|---------|
|       |         |

In concrete terms:

1. *Variables* are entries in a system table, with spaces for links to objects;
2. *Objects* are pieces of allocated memory, with enough space to represent the values for which they stand; and
3. *References* are automatically followed *pointers* from variables to objects.

*Lutz, 2013, p.183*



# General Python Concepts

- Strongly Typed (vs. Weakly Typed)
  - The type of a given object does not change and you can only perform operations that are valid for the object's type.
- Mutable vs. Immutable
  - numbers, strings, and tuples are *immutable*
  - lists, dictionaries, and sets are not immutable (i.e., they are *mutable*)
- Namespaces
  - Each module has its own namespace

## Numbers

- Integers – No fractional component
- Floating point – Fractional component
- Others (later)
- Build-in Numeric Tools (p. 136)
  - Expression Operators (+, -, \*, /, >>, \*\*, &, etc.)
  - Built-in mathematical functions (pow, abs, round, int, ceiling, floor, etc.)
  - Utility modules (random, math, etc.)

# Strings

- sequence – “A positionally ordered collection of other objects”
- Sequence operations
  - Indexing
  - Slicing
  - Concatenation
  - Repetition
- Immutability (revisited)
- Type-specific operations
  - find
  - replace
  - split
  - ...

*Lutz, 2013, p.99*

## The `format ( )` method for string objects

- `format ( )` creates a new string object and allows the user to control the formatting of the object.

```
a = 'Jim'
b = 'Carl'
c = 'Nancy'
"{}, {}, {} are going on a trip".format(a, b, c)
```

```
salary = 122000
 "{}'s salary is ${:,.2f}".format(a, salary)
```

# Lists

3.1.0 Python Lists and Dictionaries.ipynb

- “Most general *sequence* provided by the language”
  - Ordered collection of *arbitrary* objects
  - Mutable
- Sequence operations (index, slice, concatenate, repetition, etc.)
- Type-specific operations
  - append
  - pop
  - remove
  - sort
  - reverse
  - ...

*Lutz, 2013, p.109*

## *Introduction* to List Comprehensions

- Consider the matrix *m* (the list of 3 lists)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> row: `m[1]`
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> column: ???
- *Comprehension* – “build a new list by running an expression on each item in a sequence, one at a time, from left to right”

```
[r[1] for r in m]      [m[i][1] for i in range(len(m))]
```

*Lutz, 2013, p.111*

## List Examples - People

```
# creating a list to define a person
person = ["Tom Howard", 54, 6.0]

# creating a list of lists to define a team
people = [
    ["Tom Howard", 54, 6.0],
    ["Jane Grimm", 19, 4.9],
    ["Sam Brown", 25, 6.2],
    ["Sarah Joan Spade", 26, 5.25],
    ["Blaine Jones", 62, 5.8],
    ["Devin Callahan", 32, 5.92],
]
```

- ***Data Set*** – a set of *data items* (people). Each item (person) has a set of *attributes* (name, age, height)
- ***Data Structure*** – storing the data set in a list of lists.

## Dictionaries

- A *dictionary* is a set of *key*, *value* pairs
- Whereas in a list, you use an integer *index*, i.e., `l[2]` or `l[178]`, in a dictionary, you use the **key**.

Student {  
    'name' : 'Joe',  
    'class' : 'sr',  
    'grade' : 92

```
student = { 'name' : 'Joe', 'class' : 'sr', 'grade' : 92 }
```



## Nested Dictionaries

| ID    | Name        | Gender | HW1 | HW2 | HW3 | Exam1 | Exam2 | FinalExam |
|-------|-------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|
| b0001 | Jane Doe    | F      | 95  | 87  | 92  | 88    | 93    | 90        |
| b0002 | John Blue   | M      | 55  | 76  | 89  | 77    | 82    | 80        |
| b0003 | Kim Tester  | F      | 80  | 75  | 65  | 70    | 75    | 80        |
| b0004 | Larry Black | M      | 90  | 90  | 92  | 95    | 85    | 94        |
| b0005 | Susan White | F      | 65  | 52  | 85  | 45    | 80    | 82        |

```
students = {  
    'Jane Doe' :    {'ID': 'b0001', 'Gender': 'F', 'HW1': 95, 'HW2': 87, 'HW3': 92, 'Exam1': 88, 'Exam2': 93, 'FinalExam': 90},  
    'John Blue':   {'ID': 'b0002', 'Gender': 'M', 'HW1': 55, 'HW2': 76, 'HW3': 89, 'Exam1': 77, 'Exam2': 82, 'FinalExam': 80},  
    'Kim Tester':  {'ID': 'b0003', 'Gender': 'F', 'HW1': 80, 'HW2': 75, 'HW3': 65, 'Exam1': 70, 'Exam2': 75, 'FinalExam': 80},  
    'Larry Black': {'ID': 'b0004', 'Gender': 'M', 'HW1': 90, 'HW2': 90, 'HW3': 92, 'Exam1': 95, 'Exam2': 85, 'FinalExam': 94},  
    'Susan White': {'ID': 'b0005', 'Gender': 'F', 'HW1': 65, 'HW2': 52, 'HW3': 85, 'Exam1': 45, 'Exam2': 80, 'FinalExam': 82}  
}
```

## Truth Values and Boolean Tests

- All objects have an inherent *Boolean* true or false value.
  - Any nonzero number or nonempty object is *true*.
  - Zero numbers, empty objects, and the special object *None* are considered *false*.
- Comparisons and equality tests are applied recursively to data structures.
- Comparisons and equality tests return True or False (custom versions of 1 and 0).
- Boolean *and* and *or* operators return a true or false *operand object*.
- Boolean operators stop evaluating (“short circuit”) as soon as a result is known.
- `bool(arg)` is a built-in function to test the Boolean value of an argument (expression)

*Lutz, pp. 381*

## Python Boolean Expression Operators

- `X and Y`
  - Is true if both X and Y are true
- `X or Y`
  - Is true if either X or Y is true
- `not X`
  - Is true if X is false (expression returns True or False)

*Lutz, pp. 381*

## Sets and Tuples

- Sets - A *set* is an “unordered collection of unique and immutable objects that supports operations corresponding to mathematical set theory.”

```
x = {1, 2, 3, 4}
```

- Tuples - A *tuple* is similar to a list, except that tuples are immutable.

```
t = (1, 2, 3, 4, 'hello', 'there', 5)
```

*Lutz, 2013, p.163*

# Functions

- “In simple terms, a *function* is a device that groups a set of statements so they can be run more than once in a program—a packaged procedure invoked by name. Functions also can compute a result value and let us specify parameters that serve as function inputs and may differ each time the code is run. Coding an operation as a function makes it a generally useful tool, which we can use in a variety of contexts” (Lutz, p. 473).
- Two primary uses:
  - To simplify and improve *your* code
  - To use other code people’s code from libraries/modules (like NumPy and Matplotlib)

## General Function Structure

```
def name(param1, param2, ..., paramn):  
    statements  
    statements  
    ...  
    return(x, y, z, ...)
```

Parameters and return values are optional

## Files

- File objects are created using the `open( )` function.
- We are primarily interested in plain text files.

```
f = open('test.txt', 'w')
```

```
lines = [i.rstrip() for i in open('data1.txt', 'r')]
```

# Python Statements

Table 10-1. Python statements

| Statement                   | Role                  | Example                                                                   | Statement          | Role                         | Example                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assignment                  | Creating references   | <code>a, b = 'good', 'bad'</code>                                         |                    |                              | <code>def function():<br/>    nonlocal x; x = 'new'</code>                                      |
| Calls and other expressions | Running functions     | <code>log.write("spam, ham")</code>                                       | import             | Module access                | <code>import sys</code>                                                                         |
| print calls                 | Printing objects      | <code>print('The killer', joke)</code>                                    | from               | Attribute access             | <code>from sys import stdin</code>                                                              |
| if/elif/else                | Selecting actions     | <code>if "python" in text:<br/>    print(text)</code>                     | class              | Building objects             | <code>class Subclass(Superclass):<br/>    staticData = []<br/>    def method(self): pass</code> |
| for/else                    | Iteration             | <code>for x in mylist:<br/>    print(x)</code>                            | try/except/finally | Catching exceptions          | <code>try:<br/>    action()<br/>except:<br/>    print('action error')</code>                    |
| while/else                  | General loops         | <code>while X &gt; Y:<br/>    print('hello')</code>                       | raise              | Triggering exceptions        | <code>raise EndSearch(location)</code>                                                          |
| pass                        | Empty placeholder     | <code>while True:<br/>    pass</code>                                     | assert             | Debugging checks             | <code>assert X &gt; Y, 'X too small'</code>                                                     |
| break                       | Loop exit             | <code>while True:<br/>    if exittest(): break</code>                     | with/as            | Context managers (3.X, 2.6+) | <code>with open('data') as myfile:<br/>    process(myfile)</code>                               |
| continue                    | Loop continue         | <code>while True:<br/>    if skiptest(): continue</code>                  | del                | Deleting references          | <code>del data[k]<br/>del data[1:j]<br/>del obj.attr<br/>del variable</code>                    |
| def                         | Functions and methods | <code>def f(a, b, c=1, *d):<br/>    print(a+b+c+d[0])</code>              |                    |                              |                                                                                                 |
| return                      | Functions results     | <code>def f(a, b, c=1, *d):<br/>    return a+b+c+d[0]</code>              |                    |                              |                                                                                                 |
| yield                       | Generator functions   | <code>def gen(n):<br/>    for i in n: yield i*2</code>                    |                    |                              |                                                                                                 |
| global                      | Namespaces            | <code>x = 'old'<br/>def function():<br/>    global x, y; x = 'new'</code> |                    |                              |                                                                                                 |
| nonlocal                    | Namespaces (3.X)      | <code>def outer():<br/>    x = 'old'</code>                               |                    |                              |                                                                                                 |

Lutz, pp. 320-321



## Compound Statements

Header line:

Nested statement block

```
if Count > 0:
    Avg = float(Total)/Count
    print "Average: {}".format(Avg)
else:
    Avg = 0
    print "Nothing to average"
```

## General if Statements

```
if test1:
    statements1
elif test2:
    statements2
elif test3:
    statements3
...
else:
    statementsn
```

- *test* conditions evaluate to True or False.
- *elif* and *else* components are optional.

## Special Case: Ternary if Statements

```
if test1:  
    x = A  
else:  
    x = B
```

```
x = A if test1 else B
```

## General while Statements

```
while test:
    statements1
else:
    statements2
```

- *test* conditions evaluate to True or False.
- *statements1* execute repeatedly until test fails (evaluates to False)
- *else + statements2 (optional)* – execute if the loop didn't end with a *break*

## General for Statements

```
for target in object:  
    statements1  
else:  
    statements2
```

- Iterates through the items in the object assigning each value to target.
- else + statements2 (optional) – execute if the for didn't end with a break

## Summary

- “Executing” Python
  - Script mode
  - Interactive mode
- Python program structure
  - Modules
  - Statements
  - Expressions
  - Objects
- Dynamically typed
- Strongly typed
- “Type lives with the object, not the name”
- Namespaces
- Object types:
  - Numbers
  - Strings
  - Lists
  - Dictionaries
  - Files
  - Others ...
- Data structures