Python Data Handling: A Deeper Dive

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Python Fluency

- Mastery of Python's built-in types, useful libraries, and data handling idioms are a fundamental part of Python literacy
- You shouldn't even have to think twice about it in day-to-day coding
- This course is about reinforcing your skills
- Going beyond an introductory tutorial



Beyond Frameworks

- You might be inclined to turn to libraries and frameworks to solve common data problems
- "Look up the command"
- But, Python provides useful building blocks
- You can quickly code a lot of things yourself if you know how to put them together



Materials and Setup

Supporting code and data for this course:

http://www.dabeaz.com/datadeepdive

- Python 3.6+ is assumed
- Any operating system is fine
- Slides are merely a guide. Presentation will rely heavily on live-demos, examples.



Part I: Data Structure Shootout



Problem

Some data ...

```
name, shares, price
"AA", 100, 32.20
"IBM", 50, 91.10
"CAT", 150, 83.44

"MSFT", 200, 51.23
"GE", 95, 40.37
"MSFT", 50, 65.10
"IBM", 100, 70.44
...
```

How do you "best" represent records/ structures in Python?



Tuples

A collection of values packed together

```
s = ('GOOG', 100, 490.1)
```

Can use like an array

```
name = s[0]
cost = s[1] * s[2]
```

Unpacking into separate variables

```
name, shares, price = s
```

Immutable

```
s[1] = 75 # TypeError. No item assignment
```



Dictionaries

An unordered set of values indexed by "keys"

```
s = {
   'name' : 'GOOG',
   'shares' : 100,
   'price' : 490.1
}
```

Use the key name to access

```
name = s['name']
cost = s['shares'] * s['price']
```

Modifications are allowed

```
s['shares'] = 75
s['date'] = '7/25/2015'
del s['name']
```



User-Defined Classes

A simple data structure class

```
class Stock(object):
    def __init__(self, name, shares, price):
        self.name = name
        self.shares = shares
        self.price = price
```

This gives you the nice object syntax...

```
>>> s = Stock('GOOG', 100, 490.1)
>>> s.name
'GOOG'
>>> s.shares * s.price
49010.0
>>>
```



Classes and Slots

For data structures, consider adding __slots__

```
class Stock(object):
    __slots__ = ('name', 'shares', 'price')
    def __init__(self, name, shares, price):
        self.name = name
        self.shares = shares
        self.price = price
```

- Slots is a <u>performance optimization</u> that is specifically aimed at data structures
- Less memory and faster attribute access



Named Tuples

namedtuple(clsname, fieldnames)

It creates a <u>class</u> that you use to make instances

```
>>> s = Stock('GOOG',100,490.1)
>>> s.name
'GOOG'
>>> s.shares * s.price
49010.0
>>>
```

Instances look like tuples



Challenge

The file "ctabus.csv" is a CSV file containing ridership data from the Chicago Transit Authority bus system.

```
route,date,daytype,rides
3,01/01/2001,U,7354
4,01/01/2001,U,9288
6,01/01/2001,U,6048
8,01/01/2001,U,6309
```

15.7MB, 736000+ rows

What's the most efficient way to read it into a Python list so that you can work with it?



Part 2: Collections



Collecting Things

- Programs often have to work many objects
- And build relationships between objects
- There are some basic building blocks
 - Lists, tuples, sets, dicts
 - collections module
- Better to think about nature of the problem



Keeping Things in Order

- Use lists when the <u>order</u> of data matters
- Example: A list of tuples

Lists can be sorted and rearranged



Keeping Distinct Items

Use a set for keeping unique/distinct objects

```
a = {'IBM', 'AA', 'AAPL' }
```

Converting to a set will eliminate duplicates

```
names = ['IBM','YHOO','IBM','CAT','MSFT','CAT','IBM']
unique names = set(names)
```

Sets are useful for membership tests

```
members = set()

members.add(item)  # Add an item
members.remove(item)  # Remove an item

if item in members:  # Test for membership
...
```



Building an Index/Mapping

Use a dictionary (maps keys -> values)

```
prices = {
    'GOOG' : 513.25,
    'CAT' : 87.22,
    'IBM' : 93.37,
    'MSFT' : 44.12
    ...
}
```

Usage

```
p = prices['IBM']  # Value lookup
prices['HPE'] = 37.42  # Assignment
if name in prices:  # Membership test
...
```



Composite Keys

Use tuples for keys

```
prices = {
    ('GOOG', '2017-02-01'): 517.20,
    ('GOOG', '2017-02-02'): 518.23,
    ('GOOG', '2017-02-03'): 518.71,
    ...
    ('IBM', '2017-02-01'): 92.50,
    ('IBM', '2017-02-02'): 92.72,
    ('IBM', '2017-02-03'): 91.92,
    ...
}
```

Usage:

```
p = prices['IBM', '2017-02-01']
prices['IBM', '2017-02-04'] = 92.3
```



One-to-Many Mapping

Problem: Map keys to multiple values

```
portfolio = [
    ('GOOG', 100, 490.1),
    ('IBM', 50, 91.1),
    ('CAT', 150, 83.44),
    ('IBM', 100, 45.23),
    ('GOOG', 75, 572.45),
    ('AA', 50, 23.15)
}
```

- Strategy: Store multiple values in a container
- Make the value a list, set, dict, etc.



One-to-Many Mapping

Common solution: defaultdict(initializer)

```
from collections import defaultdict
holdings = defaultdict(list)
for name, shares, price in portfolio:
    holdings[name].append((shares, price))
>>> holdings['IBM']
[ (50, 91.1), (100, 45.23) ]
>>>
```

defaultdict automatically creates initial element

```
>>> d = defaultdict(list)
>>> d['x']
[]
>>> d
defaultdict(<class 'list'>, {'x': []})
>>>
```



Counting Things

Example: Tabulate total shares of each stock

```
portfolio = [
    ('GOOG', 100, 490.1),
    ('IBM', 50, 91.1),
    ('CAT', 150, 83.44),
    ('IBM', (100), 45.23),
    ('GOOG', 75, 572.45),
    ('AA', 50, 23.15)
```

Solution: Use a Counter

```
from collections import Counter
total shares = Counter()
for name, shares, price in portfolio:
    total shares[name] += shares
>>> total shares['IBM']
150
>>>
```



Challenge

Answer a few questions about the Chicago bus data...

- I. How many bus routes exist?
- 2. How many people rode route 22 on 9-Apr-2007?
- 3. What are 10 most popular routes?
- 4. What are 10 most popular routes in 2016?
- 5. What 10 routes had greatest increase 2001-2016?



Part 3: Python Object Model



Everything is an Object

Everything you use in Python is an "object"

```
a = None
b = 42
c = 4.2
d = "forty two"
e = [1,2,3]
f = ('ACME', 50, 91.5)

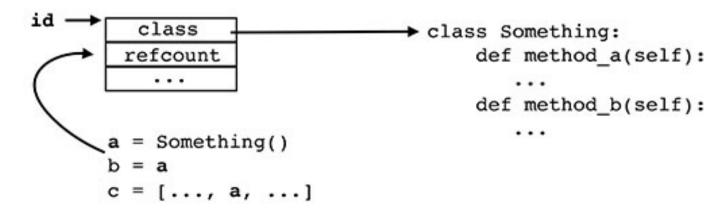
def g(x):  # Even functions are objects
    return 2*x
```

Programs are based on manipulating objects



Under the Covers

All objects have an id, class and a reference count



- The id is the memory address
- The class is the "type"
- Reference count used for garbage collection



Under the Covers

You can investigate...

```
>>> a = "hello world"
>>> id(a)
4562360496
>>> type(a)
<class 'str'>
>>> import sys
>>> sys.getrefcount(a)
2
>>>
```

Normally, you don't think about it too much



Understanding Assignment

 Many operations in Python are related to "assigning" or "storing" values

```
a = value  # Assignment to a variable
s[n] = value  # Assignment to an list
s.append(value)  # Appending to a list
d['key'] = value  # Adding to a dictionary
```

- A caution : assignment operations <u>never</u> <u>make a copy</u> of the value being assigned
- All assignments store the memory address only (object id). Increase the refcount.



Assignment Example

Consider this code fragment:

```
>>> a = "hello world"
>>> b = a
>>> id(a)
4562360496
>>> id(b)
4562360496
There is only one string. Two different names refer to it.
```

- This happens for all objects (ints, floats, etc.)
- You don't notice because of immutability



Mutability Caution

Consider this version:

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

>>> b = a

>>> b

[1, 2, 3]

>>> b.append(999)

>>> b

[1, 2, 3, 999]

>>> a

[1, 2, 3, 999]

>>> a

[1, 2, 3, 999]

>>> a
```

Both values change!



Reassigning Values

Assignment never overwrites an existing object

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

"a"

[1,2,3]

ref = 2

"b"

ref = 1

"b"

[1,2,3]

ref = 1

- Variables are names for objects
- Assignment moves the name elsewhere



Shallow Copies

Containers have methods for copying

```
>>> a = [2,3,[100,101],4]
>>> b = list(a) # Make a copy
>>> a is b
False
```

However, items are copied by reference

```
>>> a[2].append(102)
>>> b[2]
[100,101,102]
>>>

This inner list is still being shared
```

Known as a "shallow copy"



Deep Copying

- Sometimes you need to makes a copy of an object and all objects contained within it
- Use the copy module

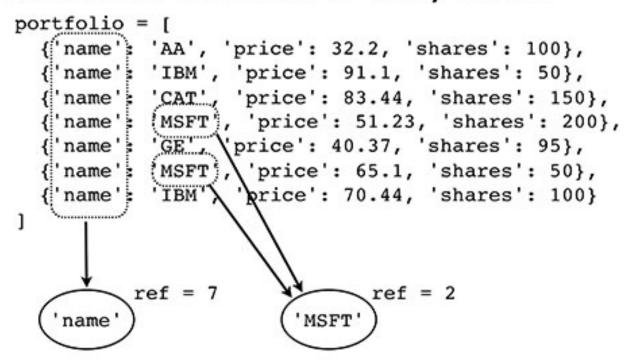
```
>>> a = [2,3,[100,101],4]
>>> import copy
>>> b = copy.deepcopy(a)
>>> a[2].append(102)
>>> b[2]
[100,101]
>>>
```

This is the only safe way to copy something



Exploiting Immutability

Immutable values can be safely shared



Sharing can save significant memory



Challenge

Come up with some clever "hack" to save a lot of memory reading that CTA bus data (hint: look at the data with a hint of string caching)



Builtin Representation

None (a singleton)

```
type (16 bytes)
```

float (64-bit double precision)

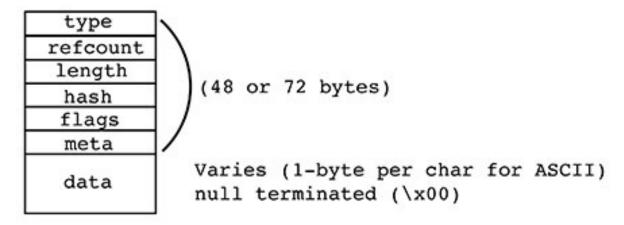
```
refcount (24 bytes)
value
```

int (arbitrary precision)

```
type
refcount
size (28-??? bytes)
digits
digits stored in
digits 30-bit chunks
```



String Representation



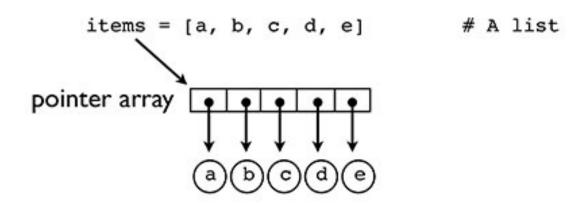
Strings adapt to Unicode (size may vary)

```
>>> a = 'n'
>>> b = 'ñ'
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
50
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
74
>>>
```



Container Representation

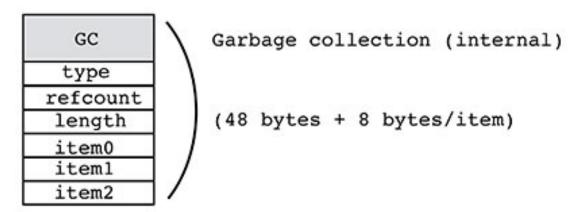
 Container objects only hold <u>references</u> (object ids) to their stored values



 All operations involving the container internals only manipulate the ids (not the objects)



Tuple Representation

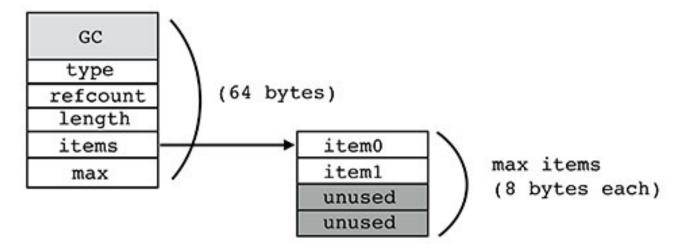


Examples:

```
>>> a = ()
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
48
>>> b = (1,2,3)
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
72
>>>
```

Note: size does not include the items themselves. It's just for the tuple part.

List Representation



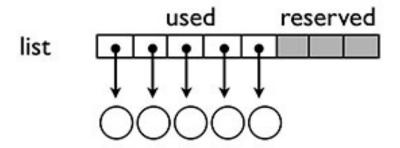
Lists are resizable (storage space will grow)

```
>>> a = [1,2,3,4]
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
96
>>> a.append(5)
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
128
>>>
```



Over-allocation

 All mutable containers (lists, dicts, sets) tend to over-allocate memory so that there are always some free slots available



- This is a performance optimization
- Goal is to make appends, insertions fast



Example: List Memory

Example of list memory allocation

Extra space means that most append()
 operations are very fast (space is already
 available, no memory allocation required)

41



Set/Dict Hashing

- Sets and dictionaries are based on hashing
- Keys are used to determine an integer "hashing value" (__hash___() method)

```
a = 'Python'
b = 'Guido'
c = 'Dave'

>>> a.__hash__()
-539294296
>>> b.__hash__()
1034194775
>>> c.__hash__()
2135385778
```

Value used internally (implementation detail)



Key Restrictions

Sets/dict keys restricted to "hashable" objects

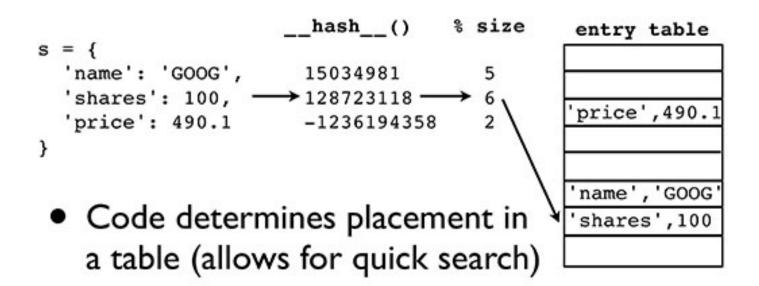
```
>>> a = {'IBM','AA','AAPL'}
>>> b = {[1,2],[3,4]}
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
TypeError: unhashable type: 'list'
>>>
```

 This usually means you can only use strings, numbers, or tuples (no lists, dicts, sets, etc.)



Item Placement

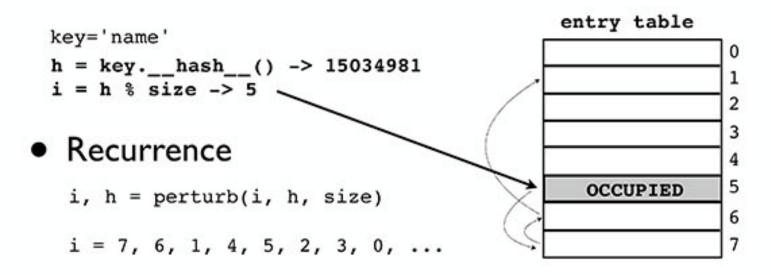
Hashing in a nutshell....



But there's an issue with collisions...

Collision Resolution

Hash index is perturbed until an open slot found



- Every slot is tried eventually
- Works better if many open slots available



Set/Dict Representation

You always start with space for 8 items

```
>>> a = { }
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
240
>>> a = { 'a':1, 'b':2, 'c':3, 'd':4 }
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
240
>>>
>>> b = set()
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
224
>>> b = { 1, 2, 3, 4}
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
224
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
224
>>> b = { 1, 2, 3, 4}
>>> sys.getsizeof(b)
```

But there's a catch... you can't use all of it



Set/Dict Overallocation

- Sets/dicts never fill up completely
- Increase their size if more than 2/3 full

```
>>> a = { 'a':1, 'b':2, 'c':3, 'd':4 }
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
240
>>> a['e'] = 5
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
240
>>> a['f'] = 6
>>> sys.getsizeof(a)
368
>>>
```

A possible surprise if building data structures



Demo

In which Dave demonstrates the unusual fate that befalls a program that places more than 5 entries in a dictionary...



Instance Representation

Instances normally use dictionaries

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y

>>> p = Point(2,3)
>>> p.__class__
<class '__main__.Point'>
>>> p.__dict__
{ 'x': 2, 'y': 3 }
>>>
(56 bytes)
```

There are some optimizations



Key Sharing Dicts

Instances use a compact key-sharing dict

```
0 - 5 items (112 bytes)
6 - 10 items (152 bytes)
```

- Insight: All instances created will have exactly the same set of keys
- The keys can be shared across dicts
- So, a bit more efficient than a normal dict



Instances w/slots

Slots eliminate the instance dictionary

```
class Point:
   __slots__ = ('x', 'y')
                                     type
   def __init__(self, x, y):
                                    refcount
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
                                               slot 0
                                       x
                                               slot 1
>>> p = Point(2,3)
>>> p. class
<class ' main .Point'>
>>> p. dict
Traceback (most recent call last):
 File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'Point' object has no attribute ' dict '
>>>
```



Demo

- Tuples vs. slots
- Dicts vs. classes



Part 4: Thinking in Functions



Algebra Refresher

Functions (from math)

$$f(x) = 3x + 2$$

- Essential Features
 - To evaluate, substitute the "x"
 - For each input, there is one output
 - Output is always the same for the same input
- Often a powerful way to think about coding



Functions

- Functions are building blocks
- Example: Compute $\sum_{n=1}^{100} \frac{1}{n^2}$

```
def square(x):
    return x * x

def recip(x):
    return 1/x

def sum_invsquare(start, stop):
    total = 0
    for n in range(start, stop+1):
        total += recip(square(n))
    return total

result = sum_invsquare(1, 100)
```



Higher-Order Functions

Functions can accept other functions as input

```
def sum_terms(start, stop, term):
    total = 0
    for n in range(start, stop+1):
        total += term(n)
    return total

def invsquare(x):
    return 1.0/(x * x)

total = sum_terms(1, 100, invsquare)
```

Functions are data just like numbers, strings, etc.



Higher-Order Functions

Functions can create new functions

```
def compose(f, g):
    def h(x):
        return f(g(x))
    return h

def recip(x):
    return 1/x

def square(x):
    return x * x

total = sum_terms(1, 100, compose(recip, square))
```

 Higher-order functions allow generalization and abstraction centered around functions



List Processing

Applying a function to elements of a list

```
def square(x):
    return x * x

data = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

squared_data = []
for x in data:
    squared_data.append(square(x))
```

- This is an extremely common task
- Transforming/filtering list data



List Comprehensions

 Creates a list by mapping an operation to each element of an iterable

```
>>> a = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
>>> b = [2*x for x in a]
>>> b
[2, 4, 6, 8, 10]
>>>
```

Another example:

```
>>> names = ['IBM', 'YHOO', 'CAT']
>>> a = [name.lower() for name in names]
>>> a
['ibm', 'yhoo', 'cat']
>>>
```



List Comprehensions

A list comprehension can also filter

```
>>> a = [1, -5, 4, 2, -2, 10]

>>> b = [2*x for x in a if x > 0]

>>> b

[2,8,4,20]

>>>
```

Another example: lines containing a substring

```
>>> f = open('stockreport.csv', 'r')
>>> goog = [line for line in f if 'GOOG' in line]
>>>
```



List Comprehensions

General syntax

```
[expression for name in sequence if condition]
```

What it means

```
result = []
for name in sequence:
    if condition:
        result.append(expression)
```

Can be used anywhere a sequence is expected

```
>>> a = [1, 2, 3, 4]
>>> sum([x*x for x in a])
30
>>>
```



List Comp: Examples

- List comprehensions are hugely useful
- Collecting the values of a specific field

```
stocknames = [s['name'] for s in portfolio]
```

Performing database-like queries

Quick mathematics over sequences

```
cost = sum([s['shares']*s['price'] for s in portfolio])
```



Historical Digression

List comprehensions come from math

```
a = [x**2 \text{ for } x \text{ in } s \text{ if } x > 0] # Python
```

Mathematical notation (set theory)

```
a = \{ x^2 \mid x \in s, x > 0 \}
```

 But most Python programmers would probably just view this as a "cool shortcut"



Set/Dict Comprehensions

List comprehension

```
>>> [ s['name'] for s in portfolio ]
[ 'AA', 'IBM', 'CAT', 'MSFT', 'GE', 'MSFT', 'IBM ' ]
>>>
```

Set comprehension (eliminate duplicates)

```
>>> { s['name'] for s in portfolio } { 'GE', 'IBM', 'CAT', 'AA', 'MSFT' } >>>
```

Dict comprehension (makes a key:value mapping)

```
>>> { s['name']: 0 for s in portfolio } { 'GE': 0, 'IBM': 0, 'CAT': 0, 'AA': 0, 'MSFT': 0 } >>>
```



Reductions

sum(s), min(s), max(s)

```
>>> s = [1, 2, 3, 4]

>>> sum(s)

10

>>> min(s)

1

>>> max(s)

4

>>>
```

Boolean tests: any(s), all(s)

```
>>> s = [False, True, True, False]
>>> any(s)
True
>>> all(s)
False
>>>
```



Map-Reduce

Many problems fit into a "map-reduce" model

```
data = [ ... ]

| this is a second of the content of the cont
```

- Conceptually simple
- Benefits for distributing work/performance



Challenge

- I. Rewrite the bus data code using list comprehensions and a functional programming style.
- Find out on what day the route 22 bus had the highest ridership.



Part 5: Thinking in Columns



Story so Far

- Main focus has been "object oriented"
- Each row is an "object" or "record"
- Different representations (tuple, dict, etc.)
- But, that's not the only viewpoint



Columns not Rows

```
name, shares, price
"AA",100,32.20
"IBM",50,91.10
"CAT",150,83.44
"MSFT",200,51.23
                                              shares
                                                            price
                                  name
"GE", 95, 40.37
"MSFT",50,65.10
                                 "AA"
                                              32.20
                                                            100
"IBM",100,70.44
                                 "IBM"
                                              91.10
                                                            50
                                 "CAT"
                                              83.44
                                                            150
                                 "MSFT"
                                              51.23
                                                            200
                                 "GE"
                                              40.37
                                                            95
                                 "MSFT"
                                              65.10
                                                            50
                                 "IBM"
                                              70.44
                                                            100
```

Think spreadsheets...



An Experiment

List of tuples

```
rows = [
    ('AA', 100, 32.2),
    ('IBM', 50, 91.1),
    ('CAT', 150, 83.44),
    ('MSFT', 200, 51.23),
    ...
]
```

A tuple of lists

```
columns = (
    ['AA', 'IBM', 'CAT', 'MSFT', ...],
    [100, 50, 150, 200, ...],
    [32.2, 91.1, 83.44, 51.23, ...]
)
```

What are storage requirements?



An Experiment

List of tuples

```
rows = [
    ('AA', 100, 32.2),
    ('IBM', 50, 91.1),
    ('CAT', 150, 83.44),
    ('MSFT', 200, 51.23),
    ...
]
```

A tuple of lists

```
columns = (
    ['AA', 'IBM', 'CAT', 'MSFT', ...],
    [100, 50, 150, 200, ...],
    [32.2, 91.1, 83.44, 51.23, ...]

Per-record overhead:
24 bytes (list items)
```

What are storage requirements?



Challenge

Read the bus data into separate lists representing columns. Does it make a difference? Can you still work with the data?



Arrays

- numpy library provides support for arrays
- A collection of uniformly typed objects

```
>>> import numpy
>>> a = numpy.array([1,2,3,4], dtype=numpy.int64)
>>> a
array([1, 2, 3, 4])
>>>
```

Differs from a list (heterogenous items)

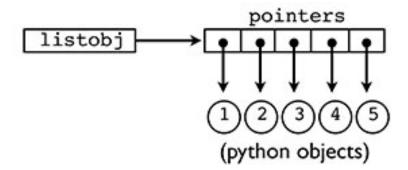
```
>>> b = [1,2,3,4]
>>> b[2] = 'hello'
>>> b
[1, 2, 'hello', 4]
>>> a[2] = 'hello'  # ValueError exception
```



Arrays vs. Lists

List

$$a = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$$



Array

Storage is same as arrays in C/C++/Fortran

Digression

- numpy is a large library (100s of functions)
- This is not meant to be a numpy tutorial
- But, let's discuss the "big picture"



Vectorized Operations

arrays prefer operations on the entire array

```
>>> a

array([1, 2, 3, 4])

>>> a + 10

array([11, 12, 13, 14])

>>> numpy.sqrt(a)

array([ 1., 1.41421356, 1.73205081, 2.])

>>>
```

Operations are implemented in C (very fast)



Vectorized Conditionals

Relations produce boolean arrays

```
>>> a
array([1, 2, 3, 4])
>>> a < 3
array([ True, True, False, False], dtype=bool)
```

Boolean arrays can filter

```
>>> a[a<3]
array([1, 2])
>>>
```

Variant: where(cond, x, y)

```
>>> numpy.where(a < 3, -1, 1)
array([-1, -1, 1, 1])
>>>
```



Array Slicing

Array slices produce overlays

```
>>> a
array([1, 2, 3, 4])
>>> b = a[0:2]
>>> b
array([1, 2])
>>>
```

Try changing the data

```
>>> b[0] = 10
>>> b
array([10, 2])
>>> a
array([10, 2, 3, 4])
>>>
```

This is very different than Python lists (copies)



Pandas Dataframes

Dataframe is a collection of named arrays

```
>>> data = pandas.read_csv('portfolio.csv')
>>> data
    name shares price
0 AA 100 32.20
1 IBM 50 91.10
2 CAT 150 83.44
3 MSFT 200 51.23
```

Think columns

```
>>> data['shares']
0 100
1 50
2 150
3 200
Name: shares, dtype: int64
>>>
```



Pandas Examples

Creating a new column

```
>>> data['cost'] = data['shares']*data['price']
>>> data
  name shares price cost
0 AA 100 32.20 3220.00
1 IBM 50 91.10 4555.00
2 CAT 150 83.44 12516.00
3 MSFT 200 51.23 10246.00
>>>
```

Filtering

```
>>> data[data['shares'] < 100]
   name shares price cost
1 IBM 50 91.10 4555.00
>>>
```



Commentary

- Most "standard" Python code is focused on manipulating objects and records
- Most "scientific" Python code is array focused
- There is a conceptual barrier
- Ideally, you want to understand both worlds



Challenge

Read the bus data using Pandas. Compare with earlier approaches.

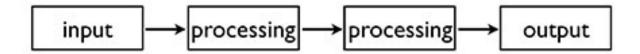


Part 6: Thinking in Streams



Stream Processing

 Many problems in data analysis can be broken down into workflows



 Processing stages might transform/filter the data in some way



Iteration

Iteration defined: Looping over items

```
a = [2,4,10,37,62]
# Iterate over a
for x in a:
```

- Most programs do a huge amount of iteration
- One way to view iteration is as a "stream" of elements--the for loop consumes it



Iteration

Many parts of Python produce streams

```
zip(a, b)
map(func, s)
filter(func, s)
enumerate(s)
```

Example:

```
>>> a = [1,2,3]
>>> b = ['a','b','c']
>>> c = zip(a,b)
>>> c
<zip object at 0x108e5f4c8>
>>> for x, y in c:
... print(f'{x} -> {y}')
...
1 -> a
2 -> b
3 -> c
```



Generator Functions

Generators implement customized iteration

```
def countdown(n):
    print('Counting down from', n)
    while n > 0:
        yield n
        n = 1
>>> for i in countdown(5):
        print('T-minus', i)
Counting down from 5
T-minus 5
T-minus 4
T-minus 3
T-minus 2
T-minus 1
>>>
```



Producers & Consumers

 Generators are closely related to various forms of "producer-consumer" programming

def follow(f): ... while True: yield line ... yield line

- yield produces values
- for consume values

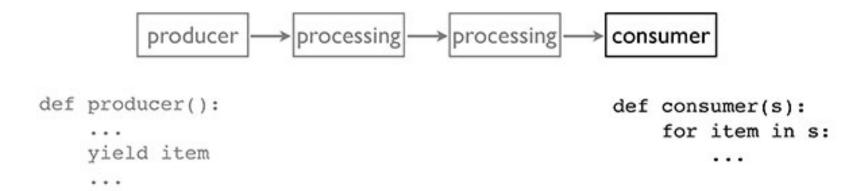




```
def producer():
    ...
    yield item
```

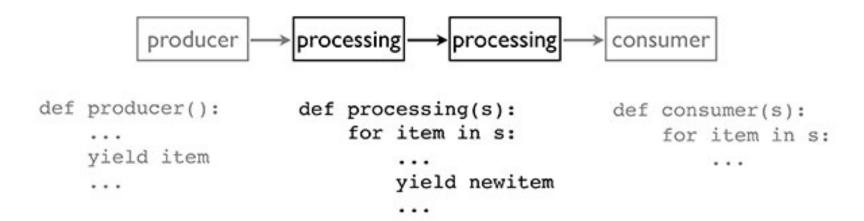
- Producer is typically a generator (although it could also be a list or some other sequence)
- yield feeds data into the pipeline





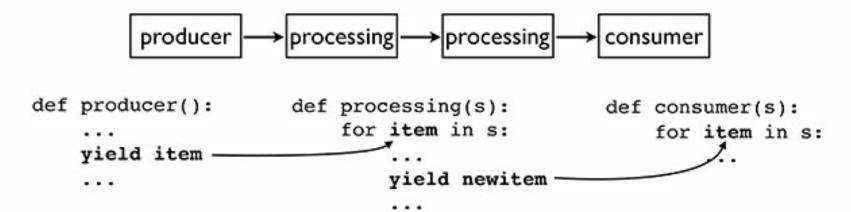
- Consumer is just a simple for-loop
- It gets items and does something with them





- Intermediate processing stages simultaneously consume and produce items
- They might modify the data stream
- They can also filter (discarding items)





Pipeline setup (in your program)

```
a = producer()
b = processing(a)
c = consumer(b)
```

 You will notice that data incrementally flows through the different functions



Example

• Example: Compute $\sum_{n=1}^{100} \frac{1}{n^2}$

```
def square(nums):
    for x in nums:
        yield x*x

def recip(nums):
    for x in nums:
        yield 1/x

terms = range(1, 101)
result = sum(recip(square(terms)))
```



Generator Expressions

- A variant of a list comprehension that produces the results incrementally
- Just slightly different syntax (parentheses)

```
nums = [1,2,3,4]
squares = (x*x for x in nums)
```

To get the results, you use a for-loop

```
for n in squares:
```



Example

• Example: Compute $\sum_{n=1}^{100} \frac{1}{n^2}$

```
terms = range(1, 101)
squares = (x*x for x in terms)
recip = (1/x for x in squares)
result = sum(recip)
```

- Thinking in streams often leads to very succinct code (step-by-step)
- Can offer a significant memory savings



Challenge

Rewrite bus data handling code to use generators and streams. Compare efficiency to earlier approach.



The End

- Thanks for participating!
- Next step: Looking for commonality with tools and libraries (you will start to see common programming patterns emerge everywhere)
- Twitter: @dabeaz

