Ch09-1-Dictionaries

September 10, 2025

1 Dictionaries

http://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/python/english3e/dictionaries.html

1.1 Topics

- dictionary data types
- create and use dictionary
- dictionary methods and operations
- dictionary applications and problems

1.2 Dictionary

- another compound type/container like lists and tuples
- very useful data structure/container that can store data as lookup table
- Python's mapping type similar to map container, or associative arrays in C++ and other languages
- dictionaries maps keys (immutable type) to values of any type (heterogeneous)
- Python uses complex hash algorithm to index key for fast access
- starting from verion 3.6, Python dict remembers the orders of the elements inserted

1.3 Creating dictionary objects

```
[1]: eng2sp = {} # or
    eng2sp1 = dict()

[2]: print(eng2sp, eng2sp1)
    {} {}

[3]: type(eng2sp)

[3]: dict

[3]: eng2sp["One"] = "uno"
    eng2sp["two"] = "dos"
    eng2sp["tree"] = "tres"
    eng2sp[4] = "quatro"
    eng2sp["five"] = "sinco"
```

```
[4]: eng2sp
 [4]: {'One': 'uno', 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro', 'five': 'sinco'}
 [5]: key = 'Five'
      eng2sp[key] = 'Sinco'
 [6]: print(eng2sp)
     {'One': 'uno', 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro', 'five': 'sinco',
     'Five': 'Sinco'}
 [7]: print(eng2sp['One'])
     uno
 [8]: | symbolNames = {'*':'asterick', '+':"plus", '-': 'minus'}
 [9]: print(eng2sp, symbolNames)
     {'One': 'uno', 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro', 'five': 'sinco',
     'Five': 'Sinco'} {'*': 'asterick', '+': 'plus', '-': 'minus'}
[10]: | dict1 = { 'one': 'uno', 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', '4': 'quatro', 'five':
       [11]: dict1
[11]: {'one': 'uno', 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', '4': 'quatro', 'five': 'sinco'}
     1.4 Accessing values
        • use index operator ['key']
        • dict object is mutable
[12]: one = 'One'
[13]: eng2sp[one]
[13]: 'uno'
[14]: eng2sp
[14]: {'One': 'uno',
       'two': 'dos',
       'three': 'tres',
       4: 'quatro',
       'five': 'sinco',
       'Five': 'Sinco'}
```

```
[15]: key = 'ten'
      value = 'diez'
      eng2sp[key] = value
      print(eng2sp['ten'])
     diez
[16]: eng2sp['One'] = 'Uno'
[17]: eng2sp
[17]: {'One': 'Uno',
       'two': 'dos',
       'three': 'tres',
       4: 'quatro',
       'five': 'sinco',
       'Five': 'Sinco',
       'ten': 'diez'}
[16]: eng2sp['One'] = ['uno']
[17]: eng2sp['One'].append('Uno')
[18]: eng2sp['One'].insert(0, 'UNO')
[19]: print(eng2sp)
     {'One': ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno'], 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro',
     'five': 'sinco', 'Five': 'Sinco', 'ten': 'diez'}
[20]: adict = {1: ['uno', 'one'], 2:('two', 'dos'), 3:{'three':'tres'}}
[21]: print(adict[2][1])
     dos
[22]: # How do you access tres in adict?
      print(adict[3]['three'])
     tres
     1.5 Dictionary methods
[36]: help(dict)
     Help on class dict in module builtins:
     class dict(object)
      | dict() -> new empty dictionary
      | dict(mapping) -> new dictionary initialized from a mapping object's
```

```
(key, value) pairs
dict(iterable) -> new dictionary initialized as if via:
     for k, v in iterable:
         d[k] = v
dict(**kwargs) -> new dictionary initialized with the name=value pairs
     in the keyword argument list. For example: dict(one=1, two=2)
Methods defined here:
__contains__(self, key, /)
     True if the dictionary has the specified key, else False.
 __delitem__(self, key, /)
     Delete self[key].
 __eq__(self, value, /)
    Return self == value.
 __ge__(self, value, /)
    Return self>=value.
 __getattribute__(self, name, /)
    Return getattr(self, name).
__getitem__(...)
     x.__getitem__(y) <==> x[y]
 __gt__(self, value, /)
     Return self>value.
__init__(self, /, *args, **kwargs)
     Initialize self. See help(type(self)) for accurate signature.
__iter__(self, /)
     Implement iter(self).
 __le__(self, value, /)
     Return self<=value.
__len__(self, /)
     Return len(self).
__lt__(self, value, /)
     Return self<value.
__ne__(self, value, /)
     Return self!=value.
```

```
__repr__(self, /)
        Return repr(self).
    __setitem__(self, key, value, /)
        Set self[key] to value.
    __sizeof__(...)
       D.__sizeof__() -> size of D in memory, in bytes
   clear(...)
        D.clear() -> None. Remove all items from D.
   copy(...)
        D.copy() -> a shallow copy of D
    get(self, key, default=None, /)
        Return the value for key if key is in the dictionary, else default.
    items(...)
        D.items() -> a set-like object providing a view on D's items
   keys(...)
        D.keys() -> a set-like object providing a view on D's keys
   pop(...)
        D.pop(k[,d]) \rightarrow v, remove specified key and return the corresponding
value.
        If key is not found, d is returned if given, otherwise KeyError is
raised
   popitem(...)
        D.popitem() -> (k, v), remove and return some (key, value) pair as a
        2-tuple; but raise KeyError if D is empty.
    setdefault(self, key, default=None, /)
        Insert key with a value of default if key is not in the dictionary.
        Return the value for key if key is in the dictionary, else default.
 | update(...)
        D.update([E, ]**F) -> None. Update D from dict/iterable E and F.
        If E is present and has a .keys() method, then does: for k in E: D[k] =
E[k]
        If E is present and lacks a .keys() method, then does: for k, v in E:
D[k] = v
        In either case, this is followed by: for k in F: D[k] = F[k]
```

```
D.values() -> an object providing a view on D's values
        Class methods defined here:
        fromkeys(iterable, value=None, /) from builtins.type
            Create a new dictionary with keys from iterable and values set to value.
        Static methods defined here:
        __new__(*args, **kwargs) from builtins.type
            Create and return a new object. See help(type) for accurate signature.
         ______
        Data and other attributes defined here:
      | __hash__ = None
[37]: for k in eng2sp.keys(): # the keys are ordered based on their insertion order
         print("key {} maps to value {}".format(k, eng2sp[k]))
     key One maps to value ['UNO', 'uno', 0, 'Uno']
     key two maps to value dos
     key three maps to value tres
     key 4 maps to value quatro
     key five maps to value sinco
     key Five maps to value Sinco
     key ten maps to value diez
[23]: print(list(eng2sp.keys()))
     ['One', 'two', 'three', 4, 'five', 'Five', 'ten']
[24]: print(list(eng2sp.values()))
     [['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno'], 'dos', 'tres', 'quatro', 'sinco', 'Sinco', 'diez']
[25]: # iterate over keys
     for k in eng2sp:
         print('key = {} value = {}'.format(k, eng2sp.get(k)))
     key = One value = ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno']
     key = two value = dos
     key = three value = tres
     key = 4 value = quatro
     key = five value = sinco
```

values(...)

```
key = Five value = Sinco
     key = ten value = diez
[26]: # get method returns None if the key is not found
      print(eng2sp.get('asdfsf'))
     None
[28]: # can also return default value if key doesn't exist
      print(eng2sp.get("Ondfe", '?'))
[29]: # iterate over values
      for val in eng2sp.values():
          print("value = ", val)
     value = ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno']
     value = dos
     value = tres
     value = quatro
     value = sinco
     value = Sinco
     value = diez
[30]: values = list(eng2sp.values())
[31]: values
[31]: [['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno'], 'dos', 'tres', 'quatro', 'sinco', 'Sinco', 'diez']
[32]: items = list(eng2sp.items())
[33]: print(items)
     [('One', ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno']), ('two', 'dos'), ('three', 'tres'), (4,
     'quatro'), ('five', 'sinco'), ('Five', 'Sinco'), ('ten', 'diez')]
[34]: dict2 = dict(items)
      print(dict2)
     {'One': ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno'], 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro',
     'five': 'sinco', 'Five': 'Sinco', 'ten': 'diez'}
[35]: for k, v in eng2sp.items():
          print('{} -> {}'.format(k, v))
     One -> ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno']
     two -> dos
     three -> tres
     4 -> quatro
```

```
five -> sinco
     Five -> Sinco
     ten -> diez
[36]: print(eng2sp.popitem())
      print(eng2sp)
     ('ten', 'diez')
     {'One': ['UNO', 'uno', 'Uno'], 'two': 'dos', 'three': 'tres', 4: 'quatro',
     'five': 'sinco', 'Five': 'Sinco'}
     1.6 Checking keys
        • in and not in operators can be used to check if some keys exist in a given dictionary

    knowing if key exists helps automatically create dictionaries and access corresponding values

[37]: "One" in eng2sp
[37]: True
[38]: "Ten" in eng2sp
[38]: False
     "twenty" not in eng2sp
[39]: True
     1.7 Copying dictionary objects
        • shallow copy vs deep copy
 [1]: import copy
      digits = {1: 'one', 2: 'two', 3: ['three', 'Three', 'THREE']}
      digits1 = digits # creates an alias
      digits2 = digits.copy() # shallow copy
      digits3 = copy.deepcopy(digits) # deep copy
     1.7.1 visualize in pythontutor.com
 [2]: from IPython.display import IFrame
      src = '''
      http://pythontutor.com/iframe-embed.

→html#code=import%20copy%0Adigits%20%3D%20%7B1%3A%20'one',%202%3A%20'two',%203%3A%20%5B'thre

→copy%28%29%20%23%20shallow%20copy%0Adigits3%20%3D%20copy.

       →deepcopy%28digits%29%20%23%20deep%20copy&codeDivHeight=400&codeDivWidth=350&cumulative=fals
```

 ${\scriptstyle \hookrightarrow js\&py=3\&rawInputLstJSON=\%5B\%5D\&textReferences=false}$

IFrame(src, width=900, height=600)

[2]: <IPython.lib.display.IFrame at 0x7fc6826cbd90>

1.8 Passing dictionaries to functions

- dict is a mutable type
- therefore, dict objects are passed by reference

```
[40]: # find the histogram (frequency of each unique character) in a word
      def histogram(word, hist):
          for c in word:
              c = c.lower()
              if c in hist:
                  hist[c] += 1
              else:
                  hist[c] = 1
```

```
[41]: h = {}
     histogram('Mississippim', h)
      for k, v in h.items():
          print(k, v)
     m 2
```

i 4

s 4

p 2

Returning dict from functions 1.9

• dict objects can be returned from functions

```
[42]: def getHist(word):# = "Mississippi"
          h = \{\}
          for c in word:
              if c in h:
                  h[c] += 1
              else:
                  h[c] = 1
          return h
```

```
[43]: hist = getHist('Mississippi')
      print(hist)
      if 'M' in hist:
          print('M is in histogram')
```

```
{'M': 1, 'i': 4, 's': 4, 'p': 2}
M is in histogram
```

1.10 Exercises

1. Count and print letter frequency in a given word. Hint: use get method

2. Write a program that reads some text data and prints a frequency table of the letters in alphabetical order. Case should be ignored. A sample output of the program when the user enters the data "ThiS is String with Upper and lower case Letters", would look this:

1.11 Kattis Problems

- some of the problems that can be solved using dict data structure
- 1. I've Been Everywhere, Man https://open.kattis.com/problems/everywhere
- 2. Seven Wonders https://open.kattis.com/problems/sevenwonders
- 3. ACM Contest Scoring https://open.kattis.com/problems/acm
- 4. Stacking Cups https://open.kattis.com/problems/cups
- 5. A New Alphabet https://open.kattis.com/problems/anewalphabet
- 6. Words for Numbers https://open.kattis.com/problems/wordsfornumbers
- 7. Babelfish https://open.kattis.com/problems/babelfish
- 8. Popular Vote https://open.kattis.com/problems/vote
- 9. Adding Words https://open.kattis.com/problems/addingwords
- 10. Grandpa Bernie https://open.kattis.com/problems/grandpabernie
- 11. Judging Troubles https://open.kattis.com/problems/judging
- 12. Not Amused https://open.kattis.com/problems/notamused
- 13. Engineering English https://open.kattis.com/problems/engineeringenglish
- 14. Hardwood Species https://open.kattis.com/problems/hardwoodspecies
- 15. Conformity https://open.kattis.com/problems/conformity
- 16. Galactic Collegiate Programming Contest https://open.kattis.com/problems/gcpc
- 17. Simplicity https://open.kattis.com/problems/simplicity

[]: