Python for linguists

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- How to think like a computer scientist https://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/
 - Precision in formulating descriptions
 - Problem solving

Our tasks in learning Python

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Syntactic errors when the syntax of the code is incorrect

e.g. 1+"2" is not legal

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                                          Traceback (most recent call last)
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Semantic errors the program does not do what you want it to do



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Class a template of an object:

 defines how variables, functions, and methods work together and what we can do with them





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 - File extensions: .py (for scripts), .ipynb (for notebooks)
 - Google Colab/Jupyter Labs for the notebook interface



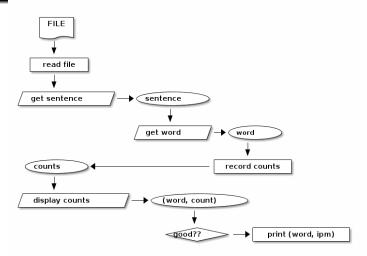


Hello world

```
s = "Hello world"
print(s)
print(s.upper())
print(s.split())
print(s.split("l"))
   Variable s
      Type string
  Operator = (assignment)
  Function print()
  Methods upper(), split(), find(), startswith()...
```

 Now open an empty notebook, type the commands at the top as cells and execute them





Word frequency distribution

```
import re
text = requests.get("https://ssharoff.github.io/modl5007/pagetext")
text = text.lower()
corpus_count = 0
dictionary = {}
for sentence in text.split(". "):
  for word in sentence.split(" "):
    corpus_count += 1
    word = re.sub("[^a-z-]+", "", word)
    if word in dictionary: dictionary[word] += 1
    else: dictionary[word] = 1
for word in dictionary:
  ipm = dictionary[word] / ( corpus_count / 1000000 )
  if ipm > 1000:
    print(word, ipm)
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- Slicing from the start: $s[:2] \rightarrow \text{"My"}$
- Slicing to the end: $s[25:] \rightarrow "eels"$
- Zero indexing: $s[0] \rightarrow "M"$; $s[1] \rightarrow "y"$ Like house floor counting: first floor





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- Membership operator: a in [5, 6, 7]

Variables

- Legal naming conventions: standard characters, numbers (not at the start) and underscores
- Names need to be informative to reflect the logic of your script
- Variable names are case-sensitive:

```
CamelCase
Title Case
snake case
```

Q What is the difference between:

```
favorite color = "blue"
favorite color == "blue"
favorite color = blue
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 return result
 - imported from libraries: import LibraryName



Introduction

• Find the minimum of two numbers: 25 or 7?



Advanced suggestions



Control structures and functions

- Find the minimum of two numbers: 25 or 7?
- Expressing a condition:

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• Find the minimum of three numbers: 7 or 3 or 25?





Compute the minimum of three numbers

• Expanding the case of two numbers:

```
def min3(a, b, c):
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    if a < c: return a
    else: return c
else:
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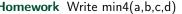
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Import statement

 Importing a module for the current script For example for regular expressions:

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import re
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Trafilatura for web scraping:

```
import trafilatura
from trafilatura.spider import focused_crawler
url_list=focused_crawler(start_url, max_seen_urls=10,
     max known urls=50)
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- Same slicing as with strings: a[:2]





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- for key in d: d[key]
- for key in d: ipm[key] = d[key] / (CorpusSize / 1000000)



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- assert stops execution if something is not right assert len(url_list)>0, "Empty url list"



Al frameworks

- Various AI models can help you with writing code: Ask ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, Google Colab etc to: Write a function which gets an HTML file as its parameter and uses the Trafilatura library to extract its text content.
- Use the right prompts: be as specific as possible
- Understanding their output and your ability to modify it
- Be inquisitive and ask Al models why a specific line behaves in this way
- Be liberal with your own commentaries: literate programming

Projects

- Think of mini-projects which involve:
 - data collection
 - annotation
 - terminology extraction, etc
- Run this in two languages
- Each mini-project for two-three people:
 - Dividing the tasks
 - Testing
 - Code review (another pair of eyes)

