Python Basics

S.R. Doty

August 27, 2008

Contents

1	Preliminaries			
	1.1	What is Python?	4	
	1.2	Installation and documentation	4	
2	Get	ting started	4	
	2.1	Running Python as a calculator	4	
	2.2	Quitting the interpreter	6	
	2.3	Loading commands from the library	6	
	2.4	Defining functions	7	
	2.5	Files	8	
	2.6	Testing code	8	
	2.7	Scripts	8	

3	Pyt	chon commands 9
	3.1	Comments
	3.2	Numbers and other data types
		3.2.1 The type function
		3.2.2 Strings
		3.2.3 Lists and tuples
		3.2.4 The range function
		3.2.5 Boolean values
	3.3	Expressions
	3.4	Operators
	3.5	Variables and assignment
	3.6	Decisions
	3.7	Loops
		3.7.1 for loop
		3.7.2 while loop
		3.7.3 else in loops
		3.7.4 break, continue, and pass
	3.8	Lists
		3.8.1 Length of a list; empty list
		3.8.2 Sublists (slicing)
		3.8.3 Joining two lists
		3.8.4 List methods
	3.9	Strings