# Introduction to Python

Tom Paskhalis

RECSM Summer School 2021, Python Basics, Part 2, Day 1

#### Python basics

- Python is an intepreted language (like R and Stata)
- Every program is executed one command (aka statement) at a time
- Which also means that work can be done interactively

#### Python basics

- Python is an intepreted language (like R and Stata)
- Every program is executed one command (aka statement) at a time
- Which also means that work can be done interactively

```
In [1]: print("Hello World!")

Hello World!
```

#### Python conceptual hierarchy

Python programs can be decomposed into modules, statements, expressions, and objects, as follows:

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

#### Python objects

- Everything that Python operates on is an object
- This includes numbers, strings, data structures, functions, etc.
- Eact object has a type (e.g. string or function) and internal data
- Objects can be mutable (e.g. list) and immutable (e.g. string)

#### **Operators**

Objects and operators are combined to form expressions. Key operators are:

- Arithmetic (+, -, \*, \*\*, /, //, %)
- Boolean (and, or, not)
- Relational (==, !=, >, >=, <, <=)
- Assignment (=, +=, -=, \*=, /=)
- Membership (in)

```
In [2]: 1 + 1
Out[2]: 2
```

```
In [2]: 1 + 1
Out[2]: 2
In [3]: 5 - 3
Out[3]: 2
```

```
In [2]: 1 + 1
Out[2]: 2
In [3]: 5 - 3
Out[3]: 2
In [4]: 6 / 2
Out[4]: 3.0
```

```
In [2]: 1 + 1
Out[2]: 2
In [3]: 5 - 3
Out[3]: 2
In [4]: 6 / 2
Out[4]: 3.0
In [5]: 4 * 4
Out[5]: 16
```

```
In [2]: 1 + 1
Out[2]: 2
In [3]: 5 - 3
Out[3]: 2
In [4]: 6 / 2
Out[4]: 3.0
In [5]: 4 * 4
Out[5]: 16
In [6]: # Exponentiation <- Python comments start with #
        2 ** 4
```

```
In [7]: 3 != 1 # Not equal
Out[7]: True
```

```
In [7]: 3 != 1 # Not equal
Out[7]: True

In [8]: 3 > 3 # Greater than
Out[8]: False
```

```
In [7]: 3 != 1 # Not equal

Out[7]: True

In [8]: 3 > 3 # Greater than

Out[8]: False

In [9]: 3 >= 3 # Greater than or equal

Out[9]: True
```

```
In [7]: 3 != 1 # Not equal
 Out[7]: True
 In [8]: 3 > 3 # Greater than
 Out[8]: False
 In [9]: 3 >= 3 # Greater than or equal
 Out[9]: True
In [10]: False or True # True if either first or second operand is True, False otherwise
Out[10]: True
```

```
In [7]: 3 != 1 # Not equal
 Out[7]: True
 In [8]: 3 > 3 # Greater than
 Out[8]: False
 In [9]: 3 >= 3 # Greater than or equal
 Out[9]: True
In [10]: False or True # True if either first or second operand is True, False otherwise
Out[10]: True
In [11]: 3 > 3 or 3 >= 3 # Combining 3 Boolean expressions
Out[11]: True
```

```
In [12]: x = 3
```

```
In [12]: x = 3
In [13]: x
Out[13]: 3
```

```
In [12]: x = 3
In [13]: x
Out[13]: 3
In [14]: x += 2 # Increment assignment, equivalent to x = x + 2
```

```
In [12]: x = 3
In [13]: x
Out[13]: 3
In [14]: x += 2 # Increment assignment, equivalent to x = x + 2
In [15]: x
Out[15]: 5
```

```
In [16]: x = 3
```

```
In [16]: x = 3
In [17]: x
Out[17]: 3
```

```
In [16]: x = 3
In [17]: x
Out[17]: 3
In [18]: x == 3
Out[18]: True
```

```
In [19]: 'a' in 'abc'
Out[19]: True
```

```
In [19]: 'a' in 'abc'
Out[19]: True
In [20]: 4 in [1, 2, 3] # [1,2,3] is a list
Out[20]: False
```

```
In [19]: 'a' in 'abc'
Out[19]: True
In [20]: 4 in [1, 2, 3] # [1,2,3] is a list
Out[20]: False
In [21]: 4 not in [1, 2, 3]
Out[21]: True
```

#### **Object types**

Python objects can have *scalar* and *non-scalar* types. Scalar objects are indivisible.

4 main types of scalar objects in Python:

- Integer (int)
- Real number (float)
- Boolean (bool)
- Null value (None)

```
In [22]: type(7)
Out[22]: int
```

```
In [22]: type(7)
Out[22]: int
In [23]: type(3.14)
Out[23]: float
```

```
In [22]: type(7)
Out[22]: int
In [23]: type(3.14)
Out[23]: float
In [24]: type(True)
Out[24]: bool
```

### Scalar types

```
In [22]: type(7)
Out[22]: int
In [23]: type(3.14)
Out[23]: float
In [24]: type (True)
Out[24]: bool
In [25]: type (None)
Out[25]: NoneType
```

### Scalar types

```
In [22]: type(7)
Out[22]: int
In [23]: type(3.14)
Out[23]: float
In [24]: type (True)
Out[24]: bool
In [25]: type (None)
Out[25]: NoneType
In [26]: int(3.14) # Scalar type conversion (casting)
Out[26]: 3
```

#### Non-scalar types

In contrast to scalars, non-scalar objects, *sequences*, have some internal structure. This allows indexing, slicing and other interesting operations.

Most common sequences in Python are:

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
l = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
o = {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
```

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
    t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
    l = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
    o = {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
    d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [28]: type(s)
Out[28]: str
```

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
         t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
         1 = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
         o = { 'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
         d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [28]: type(s)
Out[28]: str
In [29]: type(t)
Out[29]: tuple
```

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
         t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
         1 = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
         o = {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
         d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [28]: type(s)
Out[28]: str
In [29]: type(t)
Out[29]: tuple
In [30]: type(1)
Out[30]: list
```

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
         t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
         1 = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
         o = {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
         d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [28]: type(s)
Out[28]: str
In [29]: type(t)
Out[29]: tuple
In [30]: type(1)
Out[30]: list
In [31]: type(o)
```

```
In [27]: s = 'time flies like a banana'
         t = (0, 'one', 1, 2)
         1 = [0, 'one', 1, 2]
         o = {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
         d = {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [28]: type(s)
Out[28]: str
In [29]: type(t)
Out[29]: tuple
In [30]: type(1)
Out[30]: list
In [31]: type(o)
```

```
In [33]: s
Out[33]: 'time flies like a banana'
```

```
In [33]: s
Out[33]: 'time flies like a banana'
In [34]: len(s) # length of string (including whitespaces)
Out[34]: 24
```

```
In [33]: s
Out[33]: 'time flies like a banana'
In [34]: len(s) # length of string (including whitespaces)
Out[34]: 24
In [35]: s[0] # Subset 1st element (indexing in Python starts from zero!)
Out[35]: 't'
```

```
In [33]: s
Out[33]: 'time flies like a banana'
In [34]: len(s) # length of string (including whitespaces)
Out[34]: 24
In [35]: s[0] # Subset 1st element (indexing in Python starts from zero!)
Out[35]: 't'
In [36]: s[5:] # Subset all elements starting from 6th
Out[36]: 'flies like a banana'
```

```
In [33]: s
Out[33]: 'time flies like a banana'
In [34]: len(s) # length of string (including whitespaces)
Out[34]: 24
In [35]: s[0] # Subset 1st element (indexing in Python starts from zero!)
Out[35]: 't'
In [36]: s[5:] # Subset all elements starting from 6th
Out[36]: 'flies like a banana'
In [37]: s + '!' # Strings can be concatenated together
Out[37]: 'time flies like a banana!'
```

#### Objects have methods

- Python objects of built-in types have methods associated with them
- They can be thought of function-like objects
- However, their syntax is object.method() as opposed to

```
function(object)
```

#### Objects have methods

- Python objects of built-in types have methods associated with them
- They can be thought of function-like objects
- However, their syntax is object.method() as opposed to

```
function(object)
```

```
In [38]: len(s) # Function
Out[38]: 24
```

#### Objects have methods

- Python objects of built-in types have methods associated with them
- They can be thought of function-like objects
- However, their syntax is object.method() as opposed to

```
function(object)
```

```
In [38]: len(s) # Function
Out[38]: 24
In [39]: s.upper() # Method (makes string upper-case)
Out[39]: 'TIME FLIES LIKE A BANANA'
```

```
In [40]: s.capitalize() # Note that only the first character gets capitalized
Out[40]: 'Time flies like a banana'
```

```
In [40]: s.capitalize() # Note that only the first character gets capitalized
Out[40]: 'Time flies like a banana'
In [41]: s.split(sep = ' ') # Here we supply an argument 'sep' to our methods call
Out[41]: ['time', 'flies', 'like', 'a', 'banana']
```

```
In [40]: s.capitalize() # Note that only the first character gets capitalized
Out[40]: 'Time flies like a banana'
In [41]: s.split(sep = ' ') # Here we supply an argument 'sep' to our methods call
Out[41]: ['time', 'flies', 'like', 'a', 'banana']
In [42]: s.replace(' ', '-') # Arguments can also be matched by position, not just name
Out[42]: 'time-flies-like-a-banana'
```

```
In [40]: s.capitalize() # Note that only the first character gets capitalized
Out[40]: 'Time flies like a banana'
In [41]: s.split(sep = ' ') # Here we supply an argument 'sep' to our methods call
Out[41]: ['time', 'flies', 'like', 'a', 'banana']
In [42]: s.replace(' ', '-') # Arguments can also be matched by position, not just name
Out[42]: 'time-flies-like-a-banana'
In [43]: '-'.join(s.split(sep = ' ')) # Methods calls can be nested within each other
Out[43]: 'time-flies-like-a-banana'
```

```
In [44]: t # Tuples can contain elements of different types
Out[44]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
```

```
In [44]: t # Tuples can contain elements of different types
Out[44]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [45]: len(t)
Out[45]: 4
```

```
In [44]: t # Tuples can contain elements of different types
Out[44]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [45]: len(t)
Out[45]: 4
In [46]: t[1:]
Out[46]: ('one', 1, 2)
```

```
In [44]: t # Tuples can contain elements of different types
Out[44]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [45]: len(t)
Out[45]: 4
In [46]: t[1:]
Out[46]: ('one', 1, 2)
In [47]: t + ('three', 5) # Like strings tuples can be concatenated
Out[47]: (0, 'one', 1, 2, 'three', 5)
```

```
In [48]: 1 # Like tuples lists can contain elements of different types
Out[48]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
```

```
In [48]: 1 # Like tuples lists can contain elements of different types
Out[48]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
In [49]: 1[1] = 1 # Unlike tuples lists are mutable
```

```
In [48]: 1 # Like tuples lists can contain elements of different types
Out[48]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
In [49]: | 1[1] = 1 # Unlike tuples lists are mutable
In [50]: 1
Out[50]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
In [51]: |t[1] = 1 # Compare to tuple
                                                    Traceback (most recent call last)
         TypeError
         <ipython-input-51-4e4114da061e> in <module>
         ---> 1 t[1] = 1 # Compare to tuple
         TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment
```

## More on subsetting

## More on subsetting

```
In [52]: 1
Out[52]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
```

```
In [52]: 1
Out[52]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
In [53]: 1[1:] # Subset all elements starting from 2nd
Out[53]: [1, 1, 2]
```

```
In [52]: [
Out[52]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
In [53]: [1[1:] # Subset all elements starting from 2nd
Out[53]: [1, 1, 2]
In [54]: [1[-1] # Subset the last element
Out[54]: 2
```

```
In [52]: 1
Out[52]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
In [53]: | 1[1:] # Subset all elements starting from 2nd
Out[53]: [1, 1, 2]
In [54]: | 1[-1] # Subset the last element
Out[54]: 2
In [55]: | 1[::2] # Subset every second element, list[start:stop:step]
Out[55]: [0, 1]
```

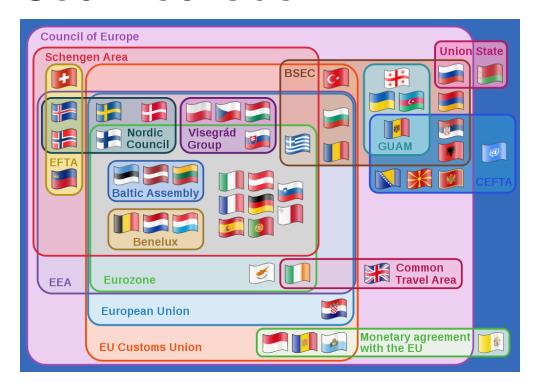
```
In [52]: 1
Out[52]: [0, 1, 1, 2]
In [53]: | 1[1:] # Subset all elements starting from 2nd
Out[53]: [1, 1, 2]
In [54]: | 1[-1] # Subset the last element
Out[54]: 2
In [55]: 1[::2] # Subset every second element, list[start:stop:step]
Out[55]: [0, 1]
In [56]: | 1[::-1] # Subset all elements in reverse order
Out[56]: [2, 1, 1, 0]
```

```
In [57]: 0
Out[57]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
```

```
In [57]: 0
Out[57]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
In [58]: {'apple', 'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'} # Sets retain only unique values
Out[58]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
```

```
In [57]: 0
Out[57]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
In [58]: {'apple', 'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'} # Sets retain only unique values
Out[58]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
In [59]: {'apple'} < o # Sets can be compared (e.g. one being subset of another)
Out[59]: True</pre>
```

```
In [57]: 0
Out[57]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
In [58]: {'apple', 'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'} # Sets retain only unique values
Out[58]: {'apple', 'banana', 'watermelon'}
In [59]: {'apple'} < o # Sets can be compared (e.g. one being subset of another)
Out[59]: True
In [60]: o[1] # Unlike strings, tuples and lists, sets are unordered
         TypeError
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
         <ipython-input-60-6a3d97725b65> in <module>
         ---> 1 o[1] # Unlike strings, tuples and lists, sets are unordered
         TypeError: 'set' object is not subscriptable
```



Source: Wikipedia

```
In [61]: nordic = {'Denmark', 'Iceland', 'Finland', 'Norway', 'Sweden'}
eu = {'Denmark', 'Finland', 'Sweden'}
krones = {'Denmark', 'Sweden'}
```

```
In [61]: nordic = {'Denmark', 'Iceland', 'Finland', 'Norway', 'Sweden'}
eu = {'Denmark', 'Finland', 'Sweden'}
krones = {'Denmark', 'Sweden'}

In [62]: euro = eu.difference(krones) # Same can expressed using infix operators `eu - krone
euro

Out[62]: {'Finland'}
```

```
In [61]: nordic = {'Denmark', 'Iceland', 'Finland', 'Norway', 'Sweden'}
         eu = {'Denmark', 'Finland', 'Sweden'}
         krones = {'Denmark', 'Sweden'}
In [62]: euro = eu.difference(krones) # Same can expressed using infix operators `eu - krone
         euro
Out[62]: {'Finland'}
In [63]: efta = nordic.difference(eu).union({'Liechtenstein', 'Switzerland'}) # Methods call
         efta
Out[63]: {'Iceland', 'Liechtenstein', 'Norway', 'Switzerland'}
```

```
In [61]: nordic = {'Denmark', 'Iceland', 'Finland', 'Norway', 'Sweden'}
         eu = {'Denmark', 'Finland', 'Sweden'}
         krones = {'Denmark', 'Sweden'}
In [62]: euro = eu.difference(krones) # Same can expressed using infix operators `eu - krone
         euro
Out[62]: {'Finland'}
In [63]: efta = nordic.difference(eu).union({'Liechtenstein', 'Switzerland'}) # Methods call
         efta
Out[63]: {'Iceland', 'Liechtenstein', 'Norway', 'Switzerland'}
In [64]: efta.intersection(nordic) # efta & nordic
Out[64]: {'Iceland', 'Norway'}
```

```
In [61]: nordic = {'Denmark', 'Iceland', 'Finland', 'Norway', 'Sweden'}
         eu = {'Denmark', 'Finland', 'Sweden'}
         krones = {'Denmark', 'Sweden'}
In [62]: euro = eu.difference(krones) # Same can expressed using infix operators `eu - krone
         euro
Out[62]: {'Finland'}
In [63]: efta = nordic.difference(eu).union({'Liechtenstein', 'Switzerland'}) # Methods call
         efta
Out[63]: {'Iceland', 'Liechtenstein', 'Norway', 'Switzerland'}
In [64]: efta.intersection(nordic) # efta & nordic
Out[64]: {'Iceland', 'Norway'}
In [65]: schengen = efta.union(eu) # efta | eu
```

```
In [66]: d
Out[66]: {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
```

```
In [66]: d
Out[66]: {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [67]: d['apple'] # Unlike strings, tuples and lists, dictionaries are indexed by 'keys'
Out[67]: 150.0
```

```
In [66]: d
Out[66]: {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [67]: d['apple'] # Unlike strings, tuples and lists, dictionaries are indexed by 'keys'
Out[67]: 150.0
In [68]: d[0] # Rather than integers
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
         KeyError
         <ipython-input-68-3cd4cfa8b308> in <module>
         ---> 1 d[0] # Rather than integers
         KeyError: 0
```

```
In [66]: d
Out[66]: {'apple': 150.0, 'banana': 120.0, 'watermelon': 3000.0}
In [67]: d['apple'] # Unlike strings, tuples and lists, dictionaries are indexed by 'keys'
Out[67]: 150.0
In [68]: d[0] # Rather than integers
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
         KeyError
         <ipython-input-68-3cd4cfa8b308> in <module>
         ---> 1 d[0] # Rather than integers
         KeyError: 0
```

In [69]: d['strawberry'] = 12.0 # They are, however, mutable like lists and sets

```
In [70]: t ## Tuple
Out[70]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
```

```
In [70]: t ## Tuple
Out[70]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [71]: list(t) ## Convert to list with a `list` function
Out[71]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
```

```
In [70]: t ## Tuple
Out[70]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [71]: list(t) ## Convert to list with a `list` function
Out[71]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
In [72]: [x for x in t] ## List comprehesion, [expr for elem in iterable if test]
Out[72]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
```

```
In [70]: t ## Tuple
Out[70]: (0, 'one', 1, 2)
In [71]: list(t) ## Convert to list with a `list` function
Out[71]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
In [72]: [x for x in t] ## List comprehesion, [expr for elem in iterable if test]
Out[72]: [0, 'one', 1, 2]
In [73]: set([0, 1, 1, 2]) ## Conversion to set retains only unique values
Out[73]: {0, 1, 2}
```

# Summary of built-in object types in Python

Type	Description	Scalar	Mutability	Order
int	integer	scalar	immutable	
float	real number	scalar	immutable	
bool	Boolean	scalar	immutable	
None	Python 'Null'	scalar	immutable	
str	string	non-scalar	immutable	ordered
tuple	tuple	non-scalar	immutable	ordered
list	list	non-scalar	mutable	ordered
set	set	non-scalar	mutable	unordered
dict	dictionary	non-scalar	mutable	unordered

Extensive documentation on built-it types

#### **Modules**

- Python's power lies in its extensibility
- This is usually achieved by loading additional modules (libraries)
- Module can be just a .py file that you import into your program (script)
- However, often this refers to external libraries installed using
   pip or conda
- Standard Python installation also includes a number of modules (full list <u>here</u>)

```
In [74]: import statistics # Standard Python module
fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]
```

```
In [74]: import statistics # Standard Python module
fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]

In [75]: statistics.mean(fib) # Mean
Out[75]: 2
```

```
In [74]: import statistics # Standard Python module
fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]

In [75]: statistics.mean(fib) # Mean

Out[75]: 2

In [76]: statistics.median(fib) # Median

Out[76]: 1.5
```

```
In [74]: import statistics # Standard Python module
         fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]
In [75]: statistics.mean(fib) # Mean
Out[75]: 2
In [76]: statistics.median(fib) # Median
Out[76]: 1.5
In [77]: statistics.mode(fib) # Mode
Out[77]: 1
```

```
In [74]: import statistics # Standard Python module
         fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]
In [75]: statistics.mean(fib) # Mean
Out[75]: 2
In [76]: statistics.median(fib) # Median
Out[76]: 1.5
In [77]: statistics.mode(fib) # Mode
Out[77]: 1
In [78]: statistics.stdev(fib) # Standard deviation
Out [78]: 1.7888543819998317
```

```
In [79]: ?s
```

```
In [79]: ?s
In [80]: help(s.join)
         Help on built-in function join:
         join(iterable, /) method of builtins.str instance
             Concatenate any number of strings.
             The string whose method is called is inserted in between each given string.
             The result is returned as a new string.
             Example: '.'.join(['ab', 'pq', 'rs']) -> 'ab.pq.rs'
```

```
In [79]: ?s
In [80]: help(s.join)
         Help on built-in function join:
         join(iterable, /) method of builtins.str instance
             Concatenate any number of strings.
             The string whose method is called is inserted in between each given string.
             The result is returned as a new string.
             Example: '.'.join(['ab', 'pq', 'rs']) -> 'ab.pq.rs'
```

# Next

- Pandas
- Data I/O