CSCE 3600Principles of Systems Programming

Python

University of North Texas



Python Basics



Using Python

· Python can be executed interactively or via a script

which python python -V

python -h

- Put a shebang into a Python script to indicate
 - This module can be run as a script
 - Whether it can be run only on python2, python3, or if it is Python 2/3 compatible
 - On POSIX, it is necessary if you want to run the script directly without invoking python executable explicitly
- · If write shebang manually in script, then always use

#! /usr/bin/env python

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Python Library

- Python is packaged with a large library of standard modules
 - String processing
 - Operating system interfaces
 - Networking
 - Threads
 - GUI
 - Database
 - Language services

• All of these are accessed using import

import string

a = string.split(x)

- Many third party modules
 - XML
 - Numeric processing
 - Plotting/graphics
 - Etc.



Python Structure

- Modules: Python source files or C extensions
 - import, top-level via from, reload
- Statements
 - Control flow
 - Create objects
 - Indentation matters instead of { }
- Objects
 - Everything is an object
 - Automatically reclaimed when no longer needed

Can find information and tutorials on Python at:

http://python.org/

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Interactive Shell

Statements and expressions can be typed at prompt

```
$ python
Python 2.7.15+ (default, Oct 7 2019, 17:39:04)
[GCC 7.4.0] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license"
for more information.
>>> print "Hello, world"
Hello, world
>>> x = 12**2
>>> x/2
72
>>> # this is a comment
...
Use quit() or Ctrl-D (i.e. EOF) to exit
```



Modules

- When a Python program starts, it only has access to basic functions and classes
 - int, dict, len, sum, range, ...
- · Modules contain additional functionality
 - Use import to tell Python to load a module
 - Example
 import math
 import math

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 impo
 - Use from math import * to remove math prefix

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Arithmetic Operators and Precedence

When integers and reals are

mixed, result is a real number

- Arithmetic operators:
 - + addition
 - subtraction/negation
 - * multiplication
 - / division (integer division)
 - % modulus (i.e., remainder)
 - ** exponentiation
- Precedence:
 - * / % ** have a higher precedence than + -
 - Parentheses can be used to force a certain order of evaluation



Math Commands

· Has useful commands for performing calculations

Command name	Description			
abs (value)	absolute value			
ceil(value)	rounds up			
cos (value)	cosine, in radians			
floor(value)	rounds down			
log (value)	logarithm, base e			
log10 (value)	logarithm, base 10			
max(value1, value2)	larger of two values			
min(value1, value2)	smaller of two values			
round(value)	nearest whole number			
sin(value)	sine, in radians			
sqrt (value)	square root			

Constant	Description		
е	2.7182818		
pi	3.1415926		

from math import *

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Variables

- Assignment statement
- Syntax: name = value
- Examples

$$x = 5$$

$$gpa = 3.14$$

$$y = 4 << 3$$

$$z = y * 4.5$$

$$w = (y+z)/2.5$$

x = "Hello World"

- Variables are dynamically typed (no explicit typing, types may change during execution)
- Variables are just names for an object (not tied to a memory location like in C)



Print

• print produces text output on the terminal

```
print "Message"
print Expression
Prints given text message or expression value to
terminal and moves cursor down to next line
print Item1, Item2, ..., ItemN
```

- Prints several messages and/or expressions on same line
- Examples

```
print "Hello, world!"
age = 20
print "Only", 65 - age, "years until retirement"
```

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Reading Input

- input reads a number from user input
 - You can assign/store the result of input into a variable
- Example

```
age = input("How old are you? ")
print "Your age is", age
print "Only", 65 - age, "years until retirement"
```

- raw input reads a string of text from user input
- Example

```
name = raw_input("Hello, what is your name? ")
print "Good afternoon,", name
```



The for Loop

- The for loop repeats set of statements over group of values
- Syntax: for varName in groupOfValues: statements
 - Indent statements to be repeated with spaces/tabs
 - varName assigns name to each value, refer in statements
 - groupOfValues can be range of integers, specified with range function

```
for x in range(1, 6):
    print x, "squared is", x * x
range(start, stop, [step])
inclusive exclusive
```

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Text Processing

- The for loop can be used in text processing
 - Examine each character in a string in sequence
- Example

```
# print characters one at a time
for c in "text":
    print c
```

Indentation is used to denote bodies (i.e., blocks)



Control Flow

- Things that are true
 - The Boolean value true
 - All non-zero numbers
 - Any string containing at least one character
 - A non-empty data structure
- Things that are false
 - The Boolean value false
 - The numbers 0 (integer), 0.0 (float) and 0 j (complex)
 - The empty string ""
 - The empty list [], empty dictionary $\{\}$, and empty set set()

You can terminate a Python script using the built-in functions quit() or exit()

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The if Statement

- The if statement executes a group of statements only if a certain condition is true
 - Otherwise, the statements are skipped
- Syntax: if condition:

statements

Example

```
gpa = 3.4
if gpa > 2.0:
    print "Your application is accepted."
```



The if-elif-else Statement

```
• Syntax: if condition:
                                     There is no switch
            statements
                                         statement
         elif condition:
            statements
                                      optional
         else:
            statements
 Example
                                       pass is used to
   gpa = 1.4
                                    denote an empty body
   if gpa > 2.0:
      print "Welcome to UNT!"
   else:
      print "Your application is denied."
```



The while Loop

- The while loop executes a group of statements as long as a condition is true
 - Good for indefinite loops (repeat an unknown number of times)
- Syntax: while condition:

statements

Example

```
num = 1
while num < 50:
    print num,
    num = num *2</pre>
```

break and continue can
be used just like in C/C++



Logic

· Many logical expressions use relational operators

Operator	Meaning	Example	Result	
==	equals	1 + 1 == 2	True	
!=	does not equal	3.2 != 2.5	True	
<	less than	10 < 5	False	
>	greater than	10 > 5	True	
<=	less than or equal to	126 <= 100	False	
>=	greater than or equal to	5.0 >= 5.0	True	

• Logical expressions can be combined with logical operators

Operator	Example	Result	
and	9 != 6 and 2 < 3	True	
or	2 == 3 or -1 < 5	True	
not	not 7 > 0	False	

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Strings

- A sequence text characters in a program
 - Strings start & end with quotation mark " or apostrophe ' characters
- Examples
 - "hello"
 - "This is also a string"
- May not span across multiple lines or contain a " character
 - "This is not
 - a legal string."
- A string can represent characters by preceding them with a \setminus

\t tab character \n new line character
\" quotation mark character \\ backslash character

Example

"Hello\tthere\nHow are you?"



String Indexes

- Characters in a string are numbered with indices starting at 0
- Example

"Mr. Hall"

index	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
character	М	r			Н	а	1	1

 Accessing an individual character of a string varName[index]

 Example print name, "starts with", name[0]

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String Properties

- len(string) number of characters in a string
- str.lower(string) lowercase version of a string
- str.upper(string) uppercase version of a string
- Examples

```
name = "Martin Douglas Stepp"
length = len(name)
big_name = str.upper(name)
print big_name, "has", length, "characters"
```



String Operations find and split

- string.find(substring)
 - Find start of a substring
 - Can also use string.find(substring, pos) to start looking at position pos
- string.split(substring)
 - Split string into parts with substring delimiter
- Examples

```
greeting = "hello there"
greeting.find("e")
greeting.find("e", 3)
greeting.split(" ")
```

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Strings are Read Only

```
>>> str = "andrew"
>>> str[0] = "A"
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
TypeError: 'str' object does not support item assignment
>>> str = "A" + str[1:]
>>> print str
Andrew
```



Strings and Numbers

• ord(string)

converts a string into a number

Example

```
ord("a") is 97, ord("A") is 65
```

• chr (number) converts a number into a string

Example

```
chr(99) is "c"
```



Lists

A compound data type:

```
[0]
[2.3, 4.5]
[5, "Hello", "there", 9.8]
```

- Use len () to get the length of a list
- Example

```
names = ["Sarah", "Claire", "Michael"]
len(names)
```

- Use [] to index items in the list
 - Can use negative values (i.e., relative traceback) to move backwards from the last element



More Lists

- Append an element names.append("Ben")
- Remove an element by extending the list del names[1]
- Sort by default order names.sort()
- Reverse the elements in the list

names.reverse()

 Insert an element at some specified position names.insert(1, "Jorge")

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Files

```
• The open () function
```

```
f = open("file1", "w") # open file for writing
g = open("file2", "r") # open file for reading
```

· Reading and writing data

```
f.write("Hello World")
```

```
data = g.read()  # read all data
line = g.readline() # read a single line
lines = g.readlines() # read data as list of lines
```

Formatted I/O

Use the % operator for strings (works like C printf)

```
for i in range(0, 10):
    f.write("2 x %d = %d\n" % (i, 2*i))
```



File Processing

Read the entire contents of a file
 file_text = open("account.txt").read()

```
    Read a line in a file
```

```
f = open("names.txt")
f.readline()
```

Output to a file

```
infile = open("names.txt")
outfile = open("out.txt", "w")
for line in infile:
    outfile.write(line)
```

w write

a append

wb write in binary

read (default)

rb read in binary

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File Processing (cont'd)

· Read a file line-by-line

```
for line in open("filename").readlines():
    statements
```

Example

```
count = 0
for line in open("account.txt").readlines():
    count = count + 1
print "The file contains", count, "lines."
```



Functions

- Define functions in file above point used
 - Body of function should be indented consistently
 - def statement creates an object and assigns a name to reference it
- Arguments are optional
 - Multiple arguments are separated by commas
- If no return statement, then "None" is returned
 - Return values can be simple types (or tuples) and may be ignored by the caller
- Example

Tuples are just values separated by commas

```
def square(n):
          return n*n
print "The square of 3 is", square(3)
```

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Function Example



Classes

```
class Classname:
    statements

• Example
#! /usr/bin/env python
# a simple example class

class MyClass:
    i = 123
    def f(self):
        return "Hello World!"

print MyClass.i
x = MyClass()
print x.f()
```



Classes Example

```
class Account:
    def __init__(self, initial):
        self.balance = initial
    def deposit(self, amt):
        self.balance = self.balance + amt
    def withdraw(self, amt):
        self.balance = self.balance - amt
    def getbalance(self):
        return self.balance

a = Account(1000.00)
a.deposit(550.23)
a.deposit(100)
a.withdraw(50)
print a.getbalance()
```



Exceptions

The try statement

```
try:
    f = open("file1.txt")
except IOError:
    print "Could not open "file1.txt"
```

The raise statement

```
def factorial(n):
    if n < 0:
        raise ValueError, "Expected non-negative number"
    if (n <= 1): return 1
    else: return n*factorial(n-1)</pre>
```

Uncaught exception

```
>>> factorial(-1)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
   File "<stdin>", line 3, in factorial
ValueError: Expected non-negative number
>>>
```

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Operating System Services



Operating System Services

- Python provides a wide variety of OS interfaces
 - Basic system calls
 - Operating environment
 - Processes
 - Timers
 - Signal handling
 - Error reporting
 - Users and passwords
- Implementation
 - A large portion of this functionality is contained in the os module
 - The interface is based on POSIX
 - Not all functions are available on all platforms

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Process Management

fork-exec-wait

```
os.fork()
                    # create a child process
 os.execv(path, args)
                   # execute a process
 os.execve(path, args, env)
os.execvp(path, args) # execute a process, use default path
os.execvpw(path, args, env)
 os.wait(pid) # wait for child process
 os.waitpid(pid, opts) # wait for state change of child
 Example
 import os
 pid = os.fork()
                  # create child
 if pid == 0:
    # child process
    os.execvp("ls", ["ls", "-l"])
 else:
    os.wait()
    print "done"
                                                      38
```



Pipes

os.popen() function

```
f = popen("ls -l", "r")
data = f.read()
print data
f.close()
Opens a pipe to or from a
command and returns a file-
object
```

The popen2 module

```
- Spawns processes, provides hooks to stdin, stdout, and stderr
popen2(cmd) # run cmd, return (stdout, stdin)
popen3(cmd) # run cmd, return (stdout, stdin, stderr)
```

Example

```
...
(o, i) = popen2.popen2("wc")
i.write(data)  # write to child's input
i.close()
result = o.read()  # get child's output
print result
o.close()
```

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Signal Handling

The signal module

```
signal.signal(signalnum, handler) # set signal handler
signal.alarm(time)  # schedule SIGALRM signal
signal.pause()  # go to sleep until signal
signal.getsignal(signalnum)  # get signal handler
```

Example

```
import signal
interval = 1
ticks = 0
def alarm_handler(signo, frame):
    global ticks
    print "Alarm ", ticks
    ticks = ticks + 1
    signal.alarm(interval) # schedule new alarm

signal.signal(signal.SIGALRM, alarm_handler)
signal.alarm(interval)
while 1:
    pass
```



Signal Handling

Ignoring signals

signal.signal(signo, signal.SIG_IGN)

Default behavior

signal.signal(signo, signal.SIG DFL)

- Comments
 - Signal handlers remain installed until explicitly reset
 - Signals are only handled between atomic instructions of interpreter
 - Certain signals cannot be handled from Python (e.g., SIGSEGV)
 - Python handles a number of signals on its own (e.g., SIGINT, SIGTERM)
 - Mixing signals and threads is extremely problematic only main thread can deal with signals

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Python Threads

- Thread scheduling
 - Tightly controlled by a global interpreter lock and scheduler
 - Only a single thread is allowed to be executing in the Python interpreter at once
 - Thread switching only occurs between the execution of individual byte-codes
 - Most I/O operations do not block
- Comments
 - Python threads are somewhat more restrictive than in C
 - Effectiveness may be limited on multiple CPUs (due to interpreter lock)
 - Threads can interact strangely with other Python modules (especially signal handling)
 - Not all extension modules are thread-safe



The Thread Module

- The thread module provides low-level access to threads
 - Thread creation
 - Simple mutex locks
- Creating a new thread

```
thread.start_new_thread(func.[args [.kwargs]])
```

- Executes a function in a new thread
- Example

```
import thread
import time
def print_time(delay):
    while 1:
        time.sleep(delay)
        print time.ctime(time.time())

thread.start_new_thread(print_time, (5,))
while 1:
    pass
```

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The Thread Module

- Thread termination
 - Thread silently exits when the function returns
 - Thread explicitly exit by calling thread.exit() or sys.exit()
 - Uncaught exception causes thread termination (prints error message)
 - Other threads continue to run even if one had an error
- Simple locks

```
allocate_lock() creates a lock object, initially unlocked
import thread
lk = thread.allocate_lock()
def some_example():
    lk.acquire()  # acquire lock
    critical section
    lk.release()  # release lock
```

- Only one thread can acquire lock at once
- Threads block indefinitely until lock becomes available



The Thread Module

- The main thread
 - When Python starts, it runs as a single thread of execution
 - This is called the "main thread"
- Termination of the main thread
 - If the main thread exits and other threads are active, the behavior is system dependent
 - Usually, this immediately terminates the execution of all other threads without cleanup
 - Cleanup actions of the main thread may be limited as well
- Signal handling
 - Signals can only be caught and handled by the main thread of execution
 - Otherwise, you will get an error (in the signal module)
 - The keyboard-interrupt can be caught by any thread (nondeterministically)

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Network Programming



Network Overview

- Python provides a wide assortment of network support
 - Low-level programming with sockets
 - Support for existing network protocols (HTTP, FTP, SMTP, etc.)
 - Web programming (CGI scripting and HTTP servers)
 - Data encoding

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Socket Example

- The socket module
 - Provides access to low-level network programming functions
 - Example

```
from socket import *
import time

s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind(("", 8888))  # bind to port 8888
s.listen(5)  # start listening

while 1:
    client,addr = s.accept()  # wait for connection
    print "Connection received from ", addr
    client.send(time.ctime(time.time()))
    client.close()
```

- Socket first opened by server is not same one used to exchange data
- Instead, accept () function returns a new socket for this client



Socket Example (cont'd)

- · Client program
 - Connect to time server and get current time

from socket import *

```
s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
s.connect(("cse05.cse.unt.edu", 8888))
tm = s.recv(1024)  # receive up to 1024 bytes
s.close()
print "The time is ", tm
```

 Once connection is established, server/client communicate using send() and recv()

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The Socket Module

Socket methods

```
s.accept()
                      # accept new connection
s.bimd(addr)
                      # bind to address and port
s.close()
                      # close socket
s.connect(addr) # connect to remote socket
s.fileno()
                      # return file descriptor
                   # get name of remote machine
# get socket address
# got so
s.getpeername()
s.qetsockname()
s.getsockopt(...) # get socket options
s.listen(backlog) # start listening for connections
s.makefile(mode) # turn socket into file-object
s.recv(bufsize) # receive data
s.recvfrom(bufsize) # receive data (UDP)
                         # send data
s.send(string)
s.sendto(str, addr) # send packet (UDP
s.setblocking(flag) # set blocking/nonblocking mode
s.setsockopt(...) # set socket options
s.shutdown(how)
                         # shutdown one or both connections
```



Socket Basics

To create a socket

```
import socket
s = socket.socket(addr family, type)
```

Address families

Socket types

socket.SOCK_STREAM Connection based stream (TCP)
socket.SOCK_DGRAM Datagrams (UDP)

Example

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET,SOCK_STREAM)
```

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TCP Server

```
    A simple server
```

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET,SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind(("",9000))
s.listen(5)
while True:
    c,a = s.accept()
    print "Received connection from", a
    c.send("Hello %s\n" % a[0])
    c.close()
```

Send a message back to a client

```
telnet localhost 9000
Connected to localhost.
Escape character is '^]'.
```

Hello 127.0.0.1 ==

Connection closed by foreign host.

Server message



TCP Server

· Address binding

```
from socket import *
  s = socket(AF INET, SOCK STREAM)
  s.bind(("",9000)) ←
                                          Binds the socket to
  s.listen(5)
                                          a specific address
  while True:
     c,a = s.accept()
     print "Received connection from", a
     c.send("Hello %s\n" % a[0])
     c.close()
                                    Binds to localhost

    Addressing

  s.bind(("",9000))
  s.bind(("localhost",9000))
                                           If system has multiple
  s.bind(("192.168.2.1",9000)) *
                                           IP addresses, can bind
  s.bind(("104.21.4.2",9000))
                                           to a specific address
```



TCP Server

Start listening for connections

- s.listen(backlog)
- · Backlog is # of pending connections to allow
 - Not related to max number of clients



TCP Server

· Accepting a new connection

- s.accept() blocks until connection received
 - accept returns a pair (client_socket, addr), where addr is the network/port address of the client that connected
- · Server sleeps if nothing is happening

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TCP Server

Sending data

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind(("",9000))
s.listen(5)
while True:
    c,a = s.accept()
    print "Received connection from", a
    c.send("Hello %s\n" % a[0])
    c.close()

Send data to client
```

Note: Use the client socket for transmitting data as the server socket is only used for accepting new connections



TCP Server

· Sending data

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind(("",9000))
s.listen(5)
while True:
    c,a = s.accept()
    print "Received connection from", a
    c.send("Hello %s\n" % a[0])
c.close()
```

- · Server can keep client connection alive as long as it wants
- · Can repeatedly receive/send data

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TCP Server

Waiting for the next connection

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind(("",9000))
s.listen(5)
while True:
    c,a = s.accept()
    print "Received connection from", a
    c.send("Hello %s\n" % a[0])
    c.close()
```

- · Original server socket is reused to listen for more connections
- Server runs forever in a loop like this



TCP Client

How to make an outgoing connection

```
from socket import *
s = socket(AF_INET,SOCK_STREAM)
s.connect(("",9000))  # Connect
data = s.recv(10000)  # Get response
print "Server message:", data
s.close()
```

- s.connect(addr) makes a connection
- Once connected, use send(), recv() to transmit and receive data
- close() shuts down the connection

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Partial Reads/Writes

- Be aware that reading/writing to a socket may involve partial data transfer
 - send() returns actual bytes sent
 - recv() length is only a maximum limit



Partial Reads/Writes

 Be aware that for TCP, the data stream is continuous (that is, no concept of records, etc.)

```
# Client
...
s.send(data)
s.send(moredata)
...
# Server
...
data = s.recv(maxsize)

This recv() may return
data from both of the sends
combined or less data than
even the first send
```

 A lot depends on OS buffers, network bandwidth, congestion, etc.

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Sending All Data

- To wait until all data is sent, use sendall() s.sendall(data)
 - Blocks until all data is transmitted
- For most normal applications, this is what you should use
- Exception
 - You don't use this if networking is mixed in with other kinds of processing (e.g., screen updates, multitasking, etc.)
- How to tell if there is no more data?
 - recv() will return empty string
 >>> s.recv(1000)
 '''
 - This means that the other end of the connection has been closed (no more sends)



Data Reassembly

- Receivers often need to reassemble messages from a series of small chunks
- Here is a sample programming template to accomplish this

```
fragments = []  # List of chunks
while not done:
    chunk = s.recv(maxsize) # Get a chunk
    if not chunk:
        break  # EOF. No more data
    fragments.append(chunk)
# Reassemble the message
message = "".join(fragments)
```

You can also use string concat (+=), but it is slower

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Timeouts

- Most socket operations block indefinitely
- Can set an optional timeout

```
s = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM)
...
s.settimeout(5.0) # Timeout of 5 seconds
...
```

Will get a timeout exception

```
>>> s.recv(1000)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
socket.timeout: timed out
>>>
```

Disabling timeouts

```
s.settimeout(None)
```



Non-Blocking Sockets

· Instead of timeouts, can set non-blocking

```
>>> s.setblocking(False)
```

 Future send(), recv() operations will raise an exception if the operation would have blocks

```
>>> s.setblocking(False)
>>> s.recv(1000)
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
socket.error: (35, 'Resource temporarily
unavailable')
>>> s.recv(1000)
'Hello World\n'
>>>
```

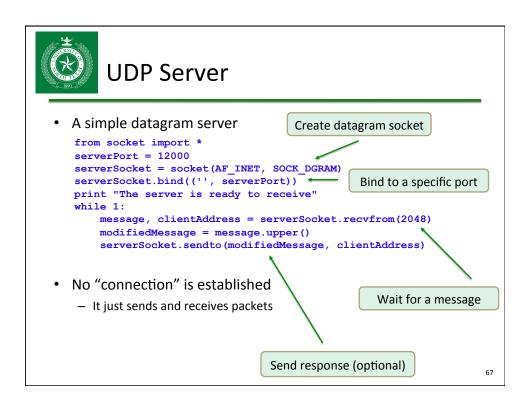
· Sometimes used for polling

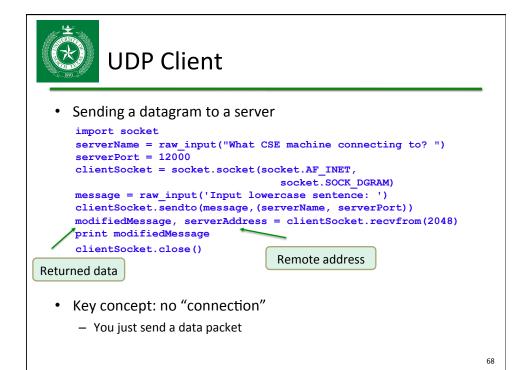
65

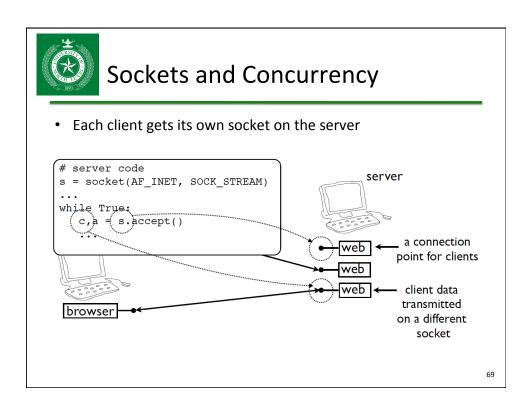


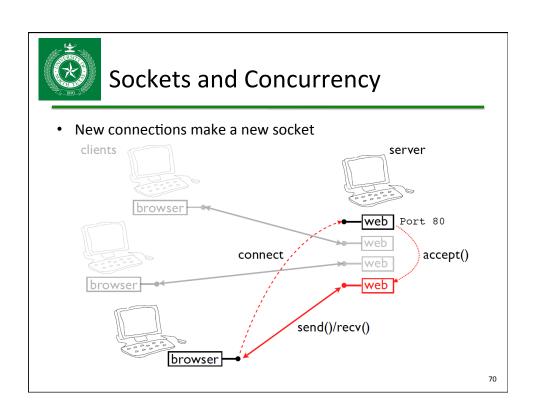
Socket Options

- Sockets have a large number of parameters
- Can be set using s.setsockopt()
- · Example: reusing the port number











Threaded Server

· Each client is handled by a separate thread

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Forking Server

Each client is handled by a subprocess

Note that some critical details have been omitted



Asynchronous Server

· Server handles all clients in an event loop

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Utility Functions

Get the hostname of the local machine

```
>>> import socket
>>> socket.gethostname()
'cse04'
```

· Get the IP address of a remote machine

```
>>> import socket
>>> socket.gethostbyname("www.unt.edu")
'129.120.231.230'
>>>
```

Get name information on a remote IP

```
>>> import socket
>>> socket.gethostbyaddr("129.120.151.98")
('cse05.cse.unt.edu', ['cse05'], ['129.120.151.98'])
>>>
```