In the second chapter of *Data Wrangling with Python* entitled *Python Basics*, authors Jacqueline Kazil and Katharine Jarmul take us through a quick tour of the basic data types – the essential building blocks – in Python, while encouraging readers to test out the codes in an actual Python interpreter. Strings, integers and floats, variables, lists, and dictionaries are each sequentially introduced. Apart from their basic syntax, Kazil and Jarmal also explain to us the nuances of how these data types operate, highlighting the things they can do using their specific *methods*. As a handy aid to learners, this chapter also describes three useful tools named *type*, *dir*, and *help*, which originate from the Python standard library. Holistically, the concept of object-oriented programming (OOP) emerges from the operations of the data types and containers with ample examples and demonstrations. In addition, through explaining the bonus code involving *import* and *pprint*, Kazil and Jarmul show us the pathways through which Python brings us a well-formatted output. Despite the large amount of materials presented, the authors remind us that programming is not about memorization ultimately; rather, our goal should be “about troubleshooting when things go awry.”

*References:*

Kazil, Jacqueline, and Jarmul, Katharine. Data Wrangling with Python – Tips and Tools to Make Your Life Easier, O’Reilly Media, Inc., First Edition, February 2016, pp. 17 – 40.