

# COMP(2041|9044) 25T1 — More on Python

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COMP(2041|9044) 25T1 — More on Python

1 / 40

## Names and Types

- Python associates types with values.
  - languages like C, Perl associate types with variables
- A Python variables can refer to a value of any type.
  - optional type annotations can indicate a variable should refer only to a particular type
- The **type** function allows introspection.

```
>>> a = 42
>>> type(a)
<type 'int'>
>>> a = "String"
>>> type(a)
<type 'str'>
>>> a = [1,2,3]
>>> type(a)
<type 'list'>
>>> a = {'ps':50,'cr':65,'dn':75}
>>> type(a)
<type 'dict'>
```

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COMP(2041|9044) 25T1 — More on Python

2 / 40

## More Types

```
>>> type("Hello")
str
>>> type('Hello')
str
>>> type("""Hello""")
str
>>> type(''Hello'')
str
>>> type(str())
str # same value as "" (empty string)
>>> type(1)
int
>>> type(int())
int # same value as 0
>>> type(4.4)
float
```

```
>>> type(float())
float # same value as 0.0
>>> type(5j)
complex
>>> type(3 + 1j)
complex
>>> type(complex())
complex # same value as 0j (and 0+0j)
```

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COMP(2041|9044) 25T1 — More on Python

3 / 40

- Python does not have arrays
  - widely used Python package **numpy** does have arrays
- Python has 3 basic sequence types: lists, tuples, and ranges
  - lists are mutable - they can be changed
  - tuples similar to lists but immutable - they can not be changed
    - some important operations require immutable types, e.g. hashing
  - ranges are immutable sequence of numbers
    - commonly used for loops

## Python Sequences - Examples

```
>>> l = [1,2,3,4,5]
>>> t = (1,2,3,4,5)
>>> r = range(1, 6)
>>> l[2]
3
>>> t[2]
3
>>> r[2]
3
>>> l[2] = 42
>>> l
[1, 2, 42, 4, 5]
>>> t[2] = 42
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment
```

## Some Useful Python Sequence Operations

These can be applied to lists, tuples and ranges

---

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <code>x in s</code>               | True if an item of <code>s</code> is equal to <code>x</code>  |
| <code>x not in s</code>           | False if an item of <code>s</code> is equal to <code>x</code>   |
| <code>s + t</code>                | the concatenation of <code>s</code> and <code>t</code> , also <code>s += t</code>   |
| <code>s * n</code>                | equivalent to adding <code>s</code> to itself <code>n</code> times, also <code>s *= n</code>  |
| <code>s[i]</code>                 | <code>i</code> th item of <code>s</code>  |
| <code>s[i:j]</code>               | slice of <code>s</code> from <code>i</code> to <code>j</code>   |
| <code>s[i:j:k]</code>             | slice of <code>s</code> from <code>i</code> to <code>j</code> with step <code>k</code>  |
| <code>len(s)</code>               | length of <code>s</code>  |
| <code>min(s)</code>               | smallest item of <code>s</code>   |
| <code>max(s)</code>               | largest item of <code>s</code>  |
| <code>s.index(x[, i[, j]])</code> | index of the first occurrence of <code>x</code> in <code>s</code> (at or after index <code>i</code> and before index <code>j</code> ) |
| <code>s.count(x)</code>           | total number of occurrences of <code>x</code> in <code>s</code>   |

---

# Some Useful Python Mutable Sequence Operations

These can be applied to lists, not tuples or ranges

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <code>s[i] = x</code>                         | item <code>i</code> of <code>s</code> is replaced by <code>x</code>                                     |
| <code>s[i:j] = t</code>                       | slice of <code>s</code> from <code>i</code> to <code>j</code> is replaced by elements of <code>t</code> |
| <code>del s[i:j]</code>                       | same as <code>s[i:j] = []</code>  |
| <code>s[i:j:k] = t</code>                     | the elements of <code>s[i:j:k]</code> are replaced by those of <code>t</code>                           |
| <code>del s[i:j:k]</code>                     | removes the elements of <code>s[i:j:k]</code> from the list   |
| <code>s.append(x)</code>                      | appends <code>x</code> to the end of the sequence   |
| <code>s.clear()</code>                        | removes all items from <code>s</code>   |
| <code>s.copy()</code>                         | creates a shallow copy of <code>s</code>  |
| <code>s.insert(i, x)</code>                   | inserts <code>x</code> into <code>s</code> at the index given by <code>i</code>                         |
| <code>s.pop()</code> or <code>s.pop(i)</code> | retrieves the item at <code>i</code> and also removes it from <code>s</code>                            |
| <code>s.remove(x)</code>                      | remove the first item from <code>s</code> where <code>s[i]</code> is equal to <code>x</code>            |
| <code>s.reverse()</code>                      | reverses the items of <code>s</code> in place   |
| <code>s.sort()</code>                         | sort the items of <code>s</code> in place   |

---

## Ranges

```
>>> range(10)
range(0, 10)
>>> list(range(10))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
>>> tuple(range(10))
(0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
>>> list(range(5,10))
[5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
>>> list(range(5,10,3))
[5, 8]
>>> list(range(5, -10, -3))
[5, 2, -1, -4, -7]
>>> list(range(5, 3))
[]
```

## Even More Types

```
>>> type([])
list
>>> type([1])
list
>>> type([1,])
list
>>> type(['a', 'b', 'c',])
list
>>> type(list())
list # same value as []
>>> type(())
tuple
>>> type((1))
int # bracketed value, not tuple!
>>> type((1,))
tuple
>>> type(('a', 'b', 'c',))
tuple
>>> type(tuple())
```

```
>>> type({})
dict # ??
>>> type({1})
set
>>> type({1,})
set
>>> type({1, 2, 3})
set
>>> type({'a', 'b', 'c',})
set
>>> type(set())
set
>>> type({'a': 1, 'b': 2, 'c': 3,})
dict
>>> type(dict())
dict # same value as {}
```

## Example - /bin/echo using while

```
# Python implementation of /bin/echo  
# using indexing & while, not pythonesque  
import sys  
i = 1  
while i < len(sys.argv):  
    if i > 1:  
        print(" ", end="")  
    print(sys.argv[i], end="")  
    i += 1  
print()
```

source code for echo.0.py

## Example - /bin/echo using for/range

```
# Python implementation of /bin/echo  
# using indexing & range, not pythonesque  
import sys  
for i in range(1, len(sys.argv)):  
    if i > 1:  
        print(' ', end='')  
    print(sys.argv[i], end='')  
print()
```

source code for echo.1.py

## Example - /bin/echo using just for

```
# Python implementation of /bin/echo  
import sys  
if sys.argv[1:]:  
    print(sys.argv[1], end='')  
for arg in sys.argv[2:]:  
    print(' ', arg, end='')  
print()
```

source code for echo.2.py

## Example - /bin/echo - two other versions

```
# Python implementation of /bin/echo
import sys
print(' '.join(sys.argv[1:]))
```

source code for echo.3.py

```
# Python implementation of /bin/echo
import sys
print(*argv[1:])
```

source code for echo.4.py

## Example - Summing Command-line Arguments

```
# sum integers supplied as command line arguments
# no check that arguments are integers
import sys
total = 0
for arg in sys.argv[1:]:
    total += int(arg)
print("Sum of the numbers is", total)
```

source code for sum\_arguments.0.py

## Example - Summing Command-line Arguments with Checking

```
# sum integers supplied as command line arguments
import sys
total = 0
for arg in sys.argv[1:]:
    try:
        total += int(arg)
    except ValueError:
        print(f"error: '{arg}' is not an integer", file=sys.stderr)
        sys.exit(1)
print("Sum of the numbers is", total)
```

source code for sum\_arguments.1.py

## Example - Counting Lines on stdin

```
# Count the number of lines on standard input.
import sys
line_count = 0
for line in sys.stdin:
    line_count += 1
print(line_count, "lines")
```

source code for line\_count0.py

## Example - Counting Lines on stdin - two more versions

```
import sys
lines = sys.stdin.readlines()
line_count = len(lines)
print(line_count, "lines")
```

source code for line\_count1.py

```
import sys
lines = list(sys.stdin)
line_count = len(lines)
print(line_count, "lines")
```

source code for line\_count2.py

## Opening Files

Similar to C, file objects can be created via the **open** function:

```
file = open('data')
# read from file 'data'
file = open('data', 'r')

# read from file 'data'
file = open("results", "w")

# write to file 'results'
file = open('stuff', 'ab')

# append binary data to file 'stuff'
```

File objects can be explicitly closed with **file.close()**

- All file objects closed on exit.
- Original file objects **are not** closed if opened again, can cause issues in long running programs.
- Data on output streams may be not written (buffered) until close - hence close ASAP.

## Reading and Writing a File: Example

```
file = open("a.txt", "r")
data = file.read()
file.close()

file = open("a.txt", "w")
file.write(data)
file.close()
```

## Exceptions

Opening a file may fail - always check for exceptions:

```
try:
    file = open('data')
except OSError as e:
    print(e)
```

OSError is a group of errors that can be caused by syscalls, similar to errno in C

Specific errors can be caught

```
try:
    file = open('data')
except PermissionError:

# handle first error type
    ...
except FileNotFoundError:

# handle second error type
```

Closing files is annoying and error-prone. Python can do it for us with a context manager. The file will be closed when execution leaves the code block.

```
sum = 0
with open("data", "r") as input_file:
    for line in input_file:
        try:
            sum += int(line.strip())
        except ValueError:
            pass
print(sum)
```

## Example - cp

```
# Simple cp implementation for text files using line-based I/O
# explicit close is used below, a with statement would be better
# no error handling
import sys
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
infile = open(sys.argv[1], "r", encoding="utf-8")
outfile = open(sys.argv[2], "w", encoding="utf-8")
for line in infile:
    print(line, end='', file=outfile)
infile.close()
outfile.close()
```

source code for cp.0.py

## Example - cp

```
# Simple cp implementation for text files using line-based I/O
# and with statement, but no error handling
import sys
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
with open(sys.argv[1]) as infile:
    with open(sys.argv[2], "w") as outfile:
        for line in infile:
            outfile.write(line)
```

source code for cp.1.py



## Example - cp

```
# Simple cp implementation for text files using line-based I/O
# and with statement and error handling
import sys
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
try:
    with open(sys.argv[1]) as infile:
        with open(sys.argv[2], "w") as outfile:
            for line in infile:
                outfile.write(line)
except OSError as e:
    print(sys.argv[0], "error:", e, file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
```

source code for cp.2.py

## Example - cp

```
# Simple cp implementation for text files using line-based I/O
# reading all lines into array (not advisable for large files)
import sys
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
try:
    with open(sys.argv[1]) as infile:
        with open(sys.argv[2], "w") as outfile:
            lines = infile.readlines()
            outfile.writelines(lines)
except OSError as e:
    print(sys.argv[0], "error:", e, file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
```

source code for cp.3.py

## Example - cp

```
# Simple cp implementation using shutil.copyfile
import sys
from shutil import copyfile
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
try:
    copyfile(sys.argv[1], sys.argv[2])
except OSError as e:
    print(sys.argv[0], "error:", e, file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
```

source code for cp.4.py

```
# Simple cp implementation by running /bin/cp
import subprocess
import sys
if len(sys.argv) != 3:
    print("Usage:", sys.argv[0], "<infile> <outfile>", file=sys.stderr)
    sys.exit(1)
p = subprocess.run(['cp', sys.argv[1], sys.argv[2]])
sys.exit(p.returncode)
```

source code for cp.5.py

## UNIX-filter Behavior

**fileinput** can be used to get UNIX-filter behavior.

- treats all command-line arguments as file names
- opens and reads from each of them in turn
- no command line arguments, then **fileinput == stdin**
- accepts **-** as **stdin**
- so this is cat in Python:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3

import fileinput

for line in fileinput.input():
    print(line)
```

## Python Dicts

- many languages have arrays accessed with small integer indexes.
  - can be thought of as a mapping integer -> value
  - Python has lists (see widely used package numpy for arrays)
  - easy to implement indexing
- some languages have associative arrays - index doesn't have to be integer
  - very useful, e.g. being able to use string as index
  - harder to implement indexing
- Python has dicts - index can be almost any value
  - index value can not be mutable, e.g. can not be list or dict
  - can be thought of as a mapping integer -> value

## Example - Remembering Snap - Dict

```
# Check if we've seen a line read from stdin,
# using a dict.
# Print snap! if a line has been seen previously
# Exit if an empty line is entered
line_count = {}
while True:
    try:
        line = input("Enter line: ")
    except EOFError:
        break
    if line in line_count:
        print("Snap!")
    else:
        line_count[line] = 1
```

source code for snap\_memory.0.py

## Example - Remembering Snap - Set

```
# Check if we've seen lines read from stdin,
# using a set.
# Print snap! if a line has been seen previously.
# Exit if an empty line is entered
lines_seen = set()
while True:
    try:
        line = input("Enter line: ")
    except EOFError:
        break
    if line in lines_seen:
        print("Snap!")
    else:
        lines_seen.add(line)
```

source code for snap\_memory.1.py

## Some Useful Python Dict Operations

These can be applied to lists, tuples and ranges

---

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <code>d[key]</code>                     | Return the item of <code>d</code> with key <code>key</code>  |
| <code>del d[key]</code>                 | Remove <code>d[key]</code> from <code>d</code> . Raises a <code>KeyError</code> if <code>key</code> is not in the map. |
| <code>key in d</code>                   | Return <code>True</code> if <code>d</code> has a key <code>key</code> , else <code>False</code> .                      |
| <code>key not in d</code>               | Equivalent to <code>not key in d</code> .  |
| <code>keys()</code>                     | Return a new view of the dictionary's keys   |
| <code>items()</code>                    | Return a new view of the dictionary's items  |
| <code>get(key[, default])</code>        | Return the value for <code>key</code> if <code>key</code> is in the dictionary, else <code>default</code>              |
| <code>values()</code>                   | Return a new view of the dictionary's values.  |
| <code>update([other])</code>            | Update the dictionary with the key/value pairs from <code>other</code>   |
| <code>setdefault(key[, default])</code> | If <code>key</code> is in the dictionary, return its value. If not, insert and return <code>default</code> .           |
| <code>clear()</code>                    | Remove all items from the dictionary.  |
| <code>copy()</code>                     | Return a shallow copy of the dictionary.   |

---

Python requires you to import the subprocess module to run external programs.

- `subprocess.run()` is usually the function used to run external programs.
- `subprocess.Popen()` can be used if lower level control is necessary.

```
>>> subprocess.run(['date', '--utc'])
Tue 05 Aug 1997 01:11:01 UTC
CompletedProcess(args=['date', '--utc'], returncode=0)
>>>
```

By default stdout/stderr from the program goes directly to Python's stdout/stderr.

By default stdin from the program comes directly From Python's stdin.

## Capturing the output from an External Programs with subprocess

To capture the output from commands:

```
>>> p = subprocess.run(["date"], capture_output=True, text=True)
>>> p.stdout
'Mon 18 Jul 2022 10:27:28 AEST\n'
>>> p.returncode
0
>>> q = subprocess.run(["ls", "no-existent-file"], capture_output=True, text=True)
>>> q.stderr
'ls: cannot access 'no-existent-file': No such file or directory\n'
>>> q.returncode
2
```

- captured output is a byte sequence (binary) by default.
- the option `text=True` converts it to a string
  - we want this 90+% of time
  - assumes the binary is utf-8 (if that is the local encoding)

## Passing input to an External Programs with subprocess

To send input to a program:

```
>>> message = "I love COMP(2041|9044)\n"
>>> p = subprocess.run(["tr", "a-z", "A-Z"], input=message, capture_output=True)
>>> p.stdout
'I LOVE COMP(2041|9044)\n'
>>> # note, you don't need an external program for this
>>> message.upper()
'I LOVE COMP(2041|9044)\n'
```

```
import subprocess
p = subprocess.run(["date"], capture_output=True, text=True)
if p.returncode != 0:
    print(p.stderr)
    exit(1)
weekday, day, month, year, time, timezone = p.stdout.split()
print(f"{year} {month} {day}")
```

source code for parse\_date.py

## Python and External Commands

Optionally subprocess can pass the command to a shell to evaluate, e.g.:

```
>>> subprocess.run("sort *.csv | cut -d, -f1,7 >output.txt", shell=True)
```

This conveniently allows use of shell features including pipes, I/O re-direction, globbing ...

Beware, this can also produce unexpected behaviour, e.g. if a Shell metacharacter appears in a filename.

Beware, this is a common source of security vulnerabilities. It should be avoided when security is important.

## Serving Web Pages with Python

Python includes a http server - easy to use for development/testing.

```
>>> server_address = ('', 2041)
>>> handler = http.server.SimpleHTTPRequestHandler
>>> with http.server.HTTPServer(server_address, handler) as h:
...     h.serve_forever()
```

And there is a convenient command-line short cut:

```
$ echo hello from httpd >hello.txt
$ python3 -m http.server 2041
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 2041 (http://0.0.0.0:2041/) ...
127.0.0.1 - - [17/Jul/2023 10:19:00] "GET /hello.txt HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

in another terminal

```
$ curl -s http://0.0.0.0:2041/hello.txt
hello from httpd
```

