CS134:

Python Types and Expressions























Announcements & Logistics

- **HW** I due today at 10 pm (Google form)
- Lab I today/tomorrow, due Wed/Thur at I0pm
 - Mon/Tue I:00 pm: Iris and Jeannie (Jeannie will be a few minutes late on Tue, Rohit will cover)
 - Mon/Tue 2:30 pm: Jeannie
 - Goal: Setup computers, gain experience with the workflow and tools
 - Start with some short and sweet Python programs
 - Masks required
- Student help hours and TA hours start today
 - Check calendar on webpage for hours
- Questions?

Last Time

- Discussed course logistics
- Important take-aways:
 - Setup your personal machine soon (setup guides on course webpage)
 - If you get stuck, we'll help you in lab!
 - Review syllabus and check out course webpage

Today's Plan

- Learn lots of new vocabulary words!
- Discuss data types and variables in Python
 - int, float, boolean, string
- Learn about basic operators
 - arithmetic, assignment
- Experiment with built-in Python functions and expressions
 - int(), input(), print()
- Investigate different ways to run and interact with Python

Aspects of Languages

- Primitive constructs
 - English:
 - words, punctuation
 - Programming languages:
 - numbers, strings, simple operators

```
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Aspects of Languages

Syntax

- English:
 - "boy dog cat" (incorrect), "boy hugs cat" (correct)
 - "Let's eat grandma!" (probably incorrect), "Let's eat, grandma!" (correct)
- Programming language:
 - ''hi''5 (incorrect), 4*5 (correct)

```
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Aspects of Languages

• **Semantics** is the meaning associated with a syntactically correct string of symbols

English:

- Can have many meanings (ambiguous), e.g.
- "Flying planes can be dangerous"
- Other examples?

Programming languages:

- Must be unambiguous
- Can only have one meaning
- Actual behavior is not always the intended behavior!

Python3

- Programming language used in this course
- Great introductory language
 - Better human readability and user friendly syntax than other PLs
- For this class, we need Python 3.10
- Checking version of Python on machine
 - Type python3 —version in Terminal
- Preinstalled on all lab machines
- Installing Python3 on your machine: see setup guide on webpage

Python Primitive Types

- Every data value has a data type. For example:
 - I0 is an integer (type: int)
 - 3.145 is a decimal number (type: **float**)
 - 'Williams' or ''Williams'' is a sequence of characters (type: string)
 - 0 (False) and I (True) (type: boolean or bool)
 - Represent answers to decision questions (yes/no)
 - "Empty" value (type: None)
- We will revisit booleans and None types soon!

Knowing the **type** of a **value** allows us to choose the right **operator** for expressions.

Python Operators

Arithmetic operators:

- + (addition), (subtraction), * (multiplication)
- / (floating point division, returns a value with a decimal point)
- // (integer division, returns an integer)
- % (modulo, or remainder)
- ** (power, or exponent)
- (We will try these out with examples later and see how they behave)

Assignment operator:

- = ("is assigned", not "equals")
- Not to be confused with mathematical equality, which is written as
 == in programming languages
- = is used to "assign" values to variables

Variables and Assignments

- A variable names a value that we want to use later in a program
 - If we define num = 17 then the value 17 essentially gets stored in a slot in memory with the label num

17

- We are assigning num (a variable) the value 17
- Once defined, we can reuse variable names again, and later assignments can change the value in a variable box
 - \cdot num = num 5
 - What is stored in **num** after this evaluates?

Math vs Programming. An assignment: expression on the right evaluated first and the value is stored in the variable name on the left

Variables and Assignments

- A variable names a value that we want to use later in a program
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 - We are assigning num (a variable) the value 17
- Once defined, we can reuse variable names again, and later assignments can change the value in a variable box
 - · num = num 5
 - What is stored in num after this evaluates?
 - var = <expression> (result of expression gets stored in the variable box var)
- Question. Why would we want to name values or expressions?

17

num



num

Abstracting Expressions

- Why give names to data values or the results of expressions?
 - To reuse names instead of values
 - Easier to change code later
- For example:

```
pi = 3.1415926 # useful to name
radius = 2.2
area = pi * (radius**2)
# suppose now we want to change radius
radius = 2.2 + 1
area = pi * (radius**2) # new area
```

An Aside: Python Interfaces

- Now we know a little bit about:
 - Python primitive data types (ints, floats, strings, etc)
 - Operators (mathematical, assignment)
 - Variables
- Before we move on to more concepts, let's experiment a bit to see what we can do with these
- This semester, we will run Python code in two ways:
 - As a script (save code in a file, run from Terminal)
 - Interactively (from Terminal) in an interactive python session

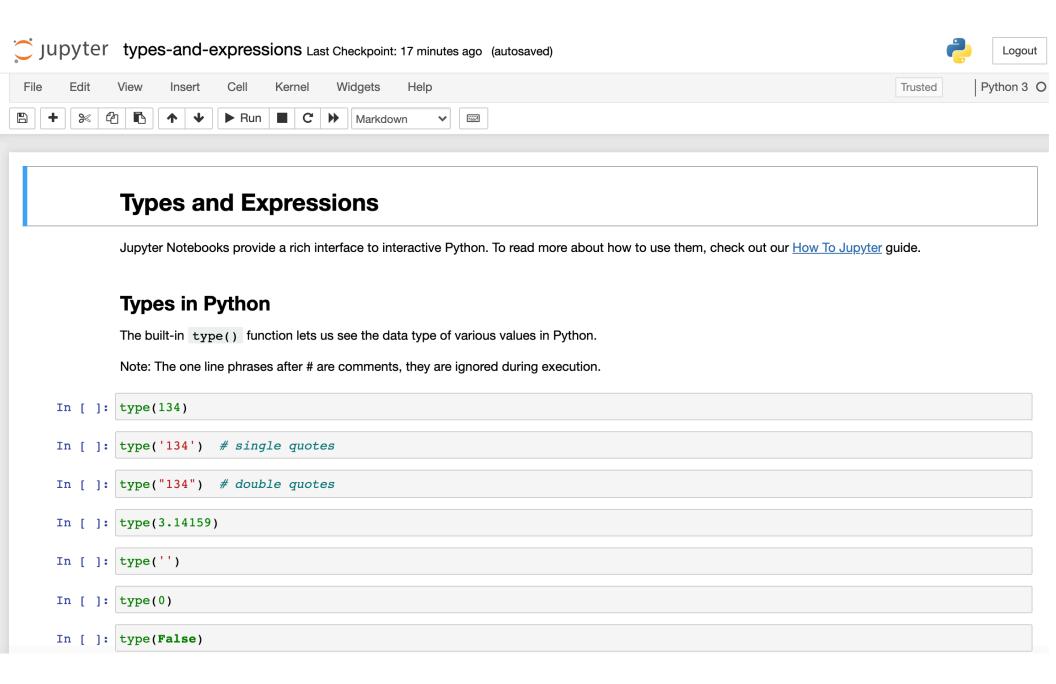
Python: Program as a Script

- A **program** is a sequence of definitions and commands
 - Definitions are evaluated
 - Commands are executed and instruct the interpreter to do something
- Type instructions in a file that is read and evaluated sequentially
 - For example, this week in lab you will write helloworld.py in a file and then execute it from the Terminal with python3 helloworld.py
 - Common method: good for longer pieces of code or programs
 - We will use this method in our labs
 - Called "running the Python program as a script"

Python: Interactive

- Running Python interactively is great for introductory programming
- Launch the Python interpreter by typing python3 in the Terminal
 - Opens up Interactive Python
 - Almost like a "calculator" for Python commands
 - Takes a Python expression as input and spits out the results of the expression as output
 - Great for trying out short pieces of code
 - Great for teaching Python in Lectures
- Today we will use a "fancy" version of Interactive Python called Jupyter
 Notebooks

Lecture 2: Jupyter Notebook



Python Built-In Functions

























Built-In Functions

- Python comes with a ton of built-in capabilities in the form of functions
- We'll formally discuss functions soon, but for now, let's look at a few examples

Built-in functions: input()

- input () displays its single argument as a prompt on the screen and waits for the user to input text, followed by Enter/Return
- It interprets the entered value as a **string** (a sequence of characters)

```
>>> input('Enter your name: ')
Enter your name: Marcel the Shell
'Marcel the Shell'
>>> age = input('Enter your age: ')
Enter your age: 12
>>> age
'12'
```

Prompts in Maroon. User input in blue. Inputted values are by default a **string**

Built-in functions: print()

• print() displays a character-based representation of its argument(s) on the screen/Terminal.

```
>>> name = 'Marcel the Shell'
>>> print('Your name is', name)
Your name is Marcel the Shell
>>> age = input('Enter your age : ')
Enter your age: 12
>>> print('The age of ' + name + ' is ' + age)
The age of Marcel the Shell is 12
```

Can also add spaces through string concatenation

Built-in functions: int()

- When given a string that's a sequence of digits, optionally preceded by
 +/-, int() returns the corresponding integer
- On any other string it raises a ValueError
- When given a float, int() returns the integer that results after truncating it towards zero
- When given an integer, int () returns that same integer

```
>>> int('42')
42
>>> int('-5')
-5
>>> int('3.141')
ValueError
```

Built-in functions: float()

- When given a string that's a sequence of digits, optionally preceded by +/-, and optionally including one decimal point, float() returns the corresponding floating point number.
- On any other string it raises a ValueError
- When given an integer, float() converts it to a floating point number.
- When given a floating point number, float returns that number

```
>>> float('3.141')
3.141
>>> float('-273.15')
-273.15
>>> float('3.1.4')
ValueError
```

Built-in functions: str()

- Converts a given type to a string and returns it
- Returns a syntax error when given invalid input

```
>>> str(3.141)
'3.141'
>>> str(None)
'None'
>>> str(134)
'134'
>>> str($)
SyntaxError: invalid syntax
```

Notes for Lab 1

























Submitting Labs via Git

 Git is a version control system that lets you manage and keep track of your source code history

- GitHub is a cloud-based git repository management & hosting service
 - Collaboration: Lets you share your code with others, giving them power to make revisions or edits
- GitLab is similar to GitHub but we maintain it internally at Williams and will use to handle submissions and grading





Git Commands in CS 134

- git clone: copy code from server to a **new** machine for the first time. Only run this once for each assignment on each machine!
- git add <files>: add new or modified files to the next commit (this basically allows you to choose which files you plan to commit)
- git commit -m "<message>": create a local snapshot of the added files (this does **not** copy anything back to the server!)
- git push: copy changes from your machine back to our server
- **git pull**: copy latest version of code from our server to your local machine (this can only be done **after** you have run **git clone** on this machine)

Directories in Unix

- 'Folders' on your computers are called 'directories' in Unix-based operating systems
- Your 'current directory' is important when executing commands on the Terminal
 - For example, Python programs that run as a script, such as
 helloworld.py, must be in the same directory as where you
 execute the command python3 helloworld.py in your Terminal
 - Otherwise your computer doesn't know which program to run!
- Similarly, when you git pull, you need to be in the correct directory
- Useful to learn how to navigate between directories with the Terminal!

Useful Unix Commands

- pwd print working directory
- mkdir <dir name> make new directory (or folder)
- cd <dir name> change directory (like moving into a folder)
- Special directory names in Unix
 - single dot, current directory
 - two dots, parent directory
 - tilde, home directory
- cd - takes you to the parent directory
- cd takes you "home"
- **ls** shows contents of current directory