

Lecture 5

Strings

Announcements For This Lecture

Readings

- Chapter 8
 - 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 8.5
 - Avoid for-loop sections

Today's Lab

- More expression tables
- **Your first function!**

Assignment 1

- Will post it on Thurs.
 - Need one more lecture
- Due Sun, Sep. 18th
 - Revise until correct
- Can work in pairs
 - Submit one for both
 - Mixer: Thursday at 5:30

One-on-One Sessions

- Starting tomorrow: **1/2-hour one-on-one sessions**
 - Bring computer to work with instructor, TA or consultant
 - Hands on, dedicated help with Lab 3 (or next lecture)
 - To prepare for assignment, **not for help on assignment**
- **Limited availability: we cannot get to everyone**
 - Students with experience or confidence should hold back
- Sign up online in CMS: first come, first served
 - Choose assignment One-on-One
 - Pick a time that works for you; will add slots as possible
 - Can sign up starting at 1pm **TODAY**

Purpose of Today's Lecture

- Return to the string (str) type
 - Saw it the first day of class
 - Learn all of the things we can do with it
- See more examples of functions
 - Particularly functions with strings
- Learn the difference between...
 - Procedures and fruitful functions
 - `print` and `return` statements

String: Text as a Value

- String are quoted characters
 - 'abc d' (Python prefers)
 - "abc d" (most languages)
- How to write quotes in quotes?
 - Delineate with “other quote”
 - **Example:** " ' " or ' " '
 - What if need both " and ' ?
- **Solution:** escape characters
 - Format: \ + letter
 - Special or invisible chars

Type: str

Char	Meaning
\'	single quote
\"	double quote
\n	new line
\t	tab
\\	backslash

String are Indexed

- `s = 'abc d'`

0	1	2	3	4
a	b	c		d

- `s = 'Hello all'`

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
H	e	l	l	o		a	l	l

- Access characters with `[]`

- `s[0]` is 'a'
- `s[4]` is 'd'
- `s[5]` **causes an error**
- `s[0:2]` is 'ab' (excludes c)
- `s[2:]` is 'c d'

- What is `s[3:6]`?

- A: 'lo a'
- B: 'lo'
- C: 'lo '
- D: 'o '
- E: I do not know

- Called “string slicing”

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C: 'lo ' **CORRECT**
D: 'o '
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B: 'Hello'
C: 'Hell'
D: **Error!**
E: I do not know

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- What is `s[:4]`?

A: 'o all'
B: 'Hello'
C: 'Hell' **CORRECT**
D: **Error!**
E: I do not know

Other Things We Can Do With Strings

- **Operation** in: s_1 in s_2
 - Tests if s_1 “a part of” s_2
 - Say s_1 a *substring* of s_2
 - Evaluates to a bool
- **Function** len: len(s)
 - Value is # of chars in s
 - Evaluates to an int
- **Examples:**
 - `s = 'abracadabra'`
 - `'a' in s == True`
 - `'cad' in s == True`
 - `'foo' in s == False`
- **Examples:**
 - `s = 'abracadabra'`
 - `len(s) == 11`
 - `len(s[1:5]) == 4`
 - `s[1:len(s)-1] == 'bracadabr'`

Defining a String Function

- Start w/ string variable
 - Holds string to work on
 - Make it the parameter
- Body is all assignments
 - Make variables as needed
 - But last line is a return
- Try to work in reverse
 - Start with the return
 - Figure ops you need
 - Make a variable if unsure
 - Assign on previous line

```
def middle(text):
```

```
    """Returns: middle 3rd of text  
    Param text: a string"""
```

```
    # Get length of text  
    size = len(text)  
    # Start of middle third  
    start = size/3  
    # End of middle third  
    end = 2*size/3  
    # Get the text  
    result = text[start:end]  
    # Return the result  
    return result
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Defining a String Function

```
>>> middle('abc')
'b'
>>> middle('aabbcc')
'bb'
>>> middle('aaabbbccc')
'bbb'
```

```
def middle(text):
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    end = 2*size/3
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    return result
```

Not All Functions Need a Return

```
def greet(n):
```

```
    """Prints a greeting to the name n
```

```
    Parameter n: name to greet
```

```
    Precondition: n is a string"""
```

```
    print 'Hello '+n+'!'
```

```
    print 'How are you?'
```

Displays these strings on the screen

No assignments or return
The call frame is **EMPTY**

Procedures vs. Fruitful Functions

Procedures

- Functions that **do** something
- Call them as a **statement**
- Example: `greet('Walker')`

Fruitful Functions

- Functions that give a **value**
- Call them in an **expression**
- Example: `x = round(2.56,1)`

Historical Aside

- Historically “function” = “fruitful function”
- But now we use “function” to refer to both

Print vs. Return

Print

- Displays a value on screen
 - Used primarily for **testing**
 - Not useful for calculations

```
def print_plus(n):
```

```
| print (n+1)
```

```
>>> x = print_plus(2)
```

```
3
```

```
>>>
```

Return

- Defines a function's value
 - Important for **calculations**
 - But does not display anything

```
def return_plus(n):
```

```
| return (n+1)
```

```
>>> x = return_plus(2)
```

```
>>>
```

Print vs. Return

Print

- Displays a value on screen
 - Used primarily for **testing**
 - Not useful for calculations

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```

```
3
```

```
>>>
```

x



Nothing here!

Return

- Defines a function's value
 - Important for **calculations**
 - But does not display anything

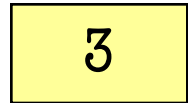
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```

```
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```

```
>>>
```

x



Advanced String Features: Method Calls

- Methods calls are unique (right now) to strings
- Like a function call with a “string in front”
 - Usage: *string.method*(x,y...)
 - The string is an *implicit argument*
- Example: upper()
 - `s = 'Hello World'`
 - `s.upper() == 'HELLO WORLD'`
 - `s[1:5].upper() == 'ELLO'`
 - `'abc'.upper() == 'ABC'`

Will see why we do it this way later in course

Examples of String Methods

- `s1.index(s2)`
 - Position of the first instance of `s2` in `s1`
 - `s1.count(s2)`
 - Number of times `s2` appears inside of `s1`
 - `s.strip()`
 - A copy of `s` with white-space removed at ends
- `s = 'abracadabra'`
 - `s.index('a') == 0`
 - `s.index('rac') == 2`
 - `s.count('a') == 5`
 - `s.count('b') == 2`
 - `s.count('x') == 2`
 - `' a b '.strip() == 'a b'`

See Python
Docs for more

String Extraction Example

```
def firstparens(text):
```

```
    """Returns: substring in ()  
    Uses the first set of parens  
    Param text: a string with ()"""
```

```
    # Find the open parenthesis  
    start = s.index('(')  
    # Store part AFTER paren  
    tail = s[start+1:]  
    # Find the close parenthesis  
    end = tail.index(')')  
    # Return the result  
    return tail[:end]
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'
```

```
>>> firstparens(s)
```

```
'Walker'
```

```
>>> t = '(A) B (C) D'
```

```
>>> firstparens(t)
```

```
'A'
```


String Extraction Puzzle

```
def second(thelist):
```

```
    """Returns: second elt in thelist  
    The list is a sequence of words  
    separated by commas, spaces.  
    Ex: second('A, B, C') => 'B'  
    Param thelist: a list of words"""
```

```
1  start = thelist.index(',')  
2  tail = thelist[start+1:]  
3  end = tail.index(',')  
4  result = tail[:end]  
5  return result
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
```

```
'dog'
```

```
>>> second('apple, pear, banana')
```

```
'pear'
```

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```

Where is the error?

- A: Line 1
- B: Line 2
- C: Line 3
- D: Line 4
- E: There is no error

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'pear'
```

```
tail = thelist[start+2:]
```

OR

```
result = tail[:end].strip()
```