Python Tutorial

CSE 3461: Computer Networking
Outline

– Introduction to Python
– CSE Environment
– Tips for Python Primitive Types
– Tips for Encoding/Decoding an IP Address
Intro to Python

• Dynamically typed, object-oriented, interpreted scripting language
  – Not statically typed like Java
  – Objects and exceptions similar to Java
  – Concise style (in contrast to C!)
  – Interpreted via interpreter vs. compilation, linking, and execution

• Python 3.x breaks backward compatibility with 2.x
  – Not all libraries with 2.x work with 3.x (e.g., twister)
  – But 3.x offers features not found in 2.x…

• Many Python references online, including:
  – Python tutorial: http://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html
Running Python Programs

• Interpreters:
  – Interactive mode (type ‘python’ at command line)
  – IDLE CSE Environment (type ‘idle’ at command line)

• Scripts
  – Create a file beginning with:
    #!/usr/bin/env python
  – Then add your code

Running ‘Hello World’ in IDLE (above) and as a script (below).
Basic Data Types (1)

• Numbers:
  – Integers (-3, 0, 5)
  – Floats (3.0, -6.0, 2.5e12, -2.5e-12)
  – Complex numbers (3+2j, -3-2j)
  – Booleans (True, False)

• Strings: \textit{immutable} sequences of characters, indices start at 0
  – If \( a = \text{‘Python’} \), then \( a[0] \) returns \text{‘P’}, \( a[5] \) returns \text{‘n’}
  – Positive and negative indices:
    \begin{center}
    \begin{tabular}{cccccccc}
    0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\
    -6 & -5 & -4 & -3 & -2 & -1
    \end{tabular}
    \end{center}
  – Slicing: \( a[i:j] \) returns substring of a containing characters \( i, i+1, \ldots, j-1 \) (e.g., \( a[2:4] \) returns “th”)
  – \texttt{str()} converts an “object” to a string, e.g., \texttt{str(5)} returns “5”
Basic Data Types (2)

- **Lists:** *mutable* sequences of “objects”
  - Example: `[1, 2, 3]` and `[1, 'two', 3]`
  - List elements can be changed:
    if `a = [1, 5, 9]`, `a[1] = 4` yields `a = [1, 4, 9]`
  - Operators: `len()`, `max()`, `min()`, `append()`, `count()`, `extend()`, `index()`, `insert()`, `pop()`, `remove()`, `reverse()`, `sort()`, `in`, `+`, `*`
  - `len()` also returns length of string
  - `list()` constructs a list from its input

- **Tuples:** *immutable* “vectors” of objects (keys in dictionaries)
  - Example: `(1,)`, `(1, 2)`, and `(1, 'two', 3)`
  - Operators `in`, `+`, `*`, `len()`, `max()`, `min()` apply
  - `tuple()` and `list()` convert lists to tuples and vice versa
Basic Data Types (3)

• Dictionaries: maps between *immutable* keys and *mutable* values
  – Ex: \(x = \{"one": 1, "two": 2\}\) and \["three"] = 3
  yield \(x = \{"one": 1, "two": 2, "three": 3\}\)
  – Operators: len(), del(), clear(), copy(), get(), has_key(), items(), keys(), update(), values()

• File objects: file I/O is very simple
  – Ex: \(f = \text{open("file.txt", "r")}\)
  line = f.readline()
  print(line)
Control Structures (1)

• Boolean connectives are mostly the same as other languages (>, ≥, <, ≤, ==, !=)
  – Specialties: and, or, not, is, is not, in, not in
• If-then-else: the “else if” is elif:
  – x = 5
    if x < 5:
      x = x + 1
    elif x > 5:
      x = x - 1
    else:
      print(x)
  – What happens?
  – Notice indentation determines control structure “level”; no braces! Usually four spaces (no tabs)
Control Structures (2)

• while loop: executes as long as stmt. is true
  – Example:
    x = 5
    while (x > 0):
      x = x - 1
    print(x)

• for loop: iterates over “iterable” objects...
  – Example:
    alist = list([1, 2, 3, 4])
    for item in alist:
      print(item)
Function Definition

• Python lets us define our own functions

  – Ex:
    ```python
def find_mean(iterable):
    the_sum = 0
    for x in iterable:
        the_sum = the_sum + x
    the_sum = float(the_sum / len(iterable))
    return the_sum

a = list([1,2,3,4])
mu_a = find_mean(a)
print(mu_a)
```
Class Definition

- Python enables object-oriented programming:
- Ex. (Listing 3.3 in *The Quick Python Book*):

```python
"""sh module. Contains classes Shape, Square and Circle"
class Shape:
    """Shape class: has method move""
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
    def move(self, deltaX, deltaY):
        self.x = self.x + deltaX
        self.y = self.y + deltaY
class Square(Shape):
    """Square Class: inherits from Shape"
    def __init__(self, side=1, x=0, y=0):
        Shape.__init__(self, x, y)
        self.side = side
class Circle(Shape):
    """Circle Class: inherits from Shape and has method area"
    pi = 3.14159
    def __init__(self, r=1, x=0, y=0):
        Shape.__init__(self, x, y)
        self.radius = r
    def area(self):
        """Circle area method: returns the area of the circle."
        return self.radius * self.radius * self.pi
    def __str__(self):
        return "Circle of radius %s at coordinates (%d, %d)"
        % (self.radius, self.x, self.y)
```
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CSE Environment (1)

- Both Python 2.x or 3.x are available on stdlinux
- The default version of Python on stdlinux is 2.6.6
- To use Python 3.2.3, please use `subscribe` command
  - On stdlinux, type `subscribe` and select `PYTHON-3`
  - Then, log out from and log in again to stdlinux
  - Please make sure that `python3.x` is installed with `python3 -v`
- The execution commands are
  - `python` for 2.6.6
  - `python3` for 3.2.3
CSE Environment (2)

• How to find the IP address that you are logging in
  
  – /sbin/ifconfig

• Submission command

  – submit c3461ax lab1 [code1] [code2] ...

  – Where x could be a, b, and so on

  – Note that the last submission overwrites the previous submission
Tips for Python Primitive Types

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Encoding Integer to Bytes (Python 2.x)

• For version 2.x, you can use "struct" class
• Note that "<" means little endian, and "I" means unsigned integer
• An integer variable is always 4 bytes, and thus the `pack()` function returns a byte object with size 4

```python
>> import struct
>> var = 1000 # an integer variable
>> byte_int = struct.pack('<I', var) # a byte object
```
Encoding Integer to Bytes (Python 3.x)

• For version 3.x, there’s a simple way.
• Note that `(int).to_bytes(int, byteorder)` was introduced in 3.1; not available for 2.6.6.
• The first argument is the number of bytes, and the second argument is ‘little’, ‘big’, etc.

```python
# var is encoded into a byte object, byte_int, with size 4 # with little endian.
>> var = 1000 # an integer variable
>> byte_int = var.to_bytes(4, byteorder='little')
```
Decoding Byte to Integer (Python 2.x)

- Use "struct.unpack"
- `struct.unpack('<<I', bytes_var)` returns a tuple; first element is an integer value
- “<” indicates the little endian, and “I” indicates unsigned integer type

```python
# byte_int is a byte object with size 4.
>> import struct
>> var = struct.unpack('<<I', byte_int)[0]
```
Decoding Byte to Integer (Python 3.x)

• Use "int.from_bytes(bytes_var, byteorder)"
• This is a static function, thus in form of int.function(....)

```python
# byte_int is a byte object
>> var = int.from_bytes(byte_int, byteorder='little')
```
Encoding String to Bytes

- String type has `encode()` and `decode()` functions
- ASCII is default encoding scheme

```python
>> str_var = "Hello."
>> byte_var = str_var.encode()  # encoding with ASCII
>> str_var2 = byte_var.decode()  # decoding with ASCII
```
Formatting String (Constant Length)

• Use `(str_var).rjust(int)`, where the argument is the length after formatting
• Spaces are added in keeping with the original string at the right (the end of the string)
• Similar functions are available, such as "ljust(int)", and so on

# e.g., "Hello" (5-byte) is formatted to "    Hello" (10-byte)
>> str_var = "Hello"
>> formatted_str_var = str_var.rjust(10)
Removing Spaces from String

- Use "(str_var).lstrip()" that removes spaces from the left (the beginning of the string), where str_var is a string object.

```python
# e.g., The spaces in "     Hello" are removed from the left
# (the beginning of the string),
# and lstrip() returns "Hello".
>> formatted_str_var = "     Hello"
>> str_var = formatted_str_var.lstrip()
```
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Note that Python 3.x is recommended…

For Python 2.x, you can encode an IP address as follows: for each integer value, `[127, 0, 0, 1]`, pack integer as a binary with the 'B' option. “Reverse” operation for decoding.

```python
# Note that "var" must be between 0 - 255.
>> import struct
>> var = 3
>> byte_var = struct.pack('B', var)
>> \x03

# unpacking, where byte_var is \x03
>> unpacked_var = struct.unpack('B', byte_var)
>> 3
```
Encoding Integer to Byte (Python 3.x)

• Encode an IP address into bytes with size 4 as follows:
  – Split the string object "127.0.0.1" to a list with four elements, i.e., ['127', '0', '0', '1'], where "." is token
  – Cast every element to an integer value, i.e., [127, 0, 0, 1]
  – Use "to_bytes" function for each integer value
  – Concatenate bytes with “+”.

```python
# byte_var is a 1-byte byte object.
# The first argument of "to_byte" is the size of a byte object.
>> var = 10
>> byte_var = var.to_bytes(1, byteorder='little')

# byte_var3 is "\x9b\x00"
>> byte_var1 = \x9b
>> byte_var2 = \x00
>> byte_var3 = byte_var1 + byte_var2
```
Acknowledgment

• This material is partially based on

http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis521/Lectures/python-tutorial.pdf


Python Tutorial,

http://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/introduction.html