Python Notes
PGDCA
Unit – I
Jiwaji University
Year – 2019 – 2020

1. Introduction to Python

Python is an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose programming language. Created by Guido van Rossum and first released in 1991, Python's design philosophy emphasizes code readability with its notable use of significant whitespace. Its language constructs and object-oriented approach aim to help programmers write clear, logical code for small and large-scale projects.

Python is dynamically typed and garbage-collected. It supports multiple programming paradigms, including procedural, object-oriented, and functional programming. Python is often described as a "batteries included" language due to its comprehensive standard library.

Python was conceived in the late 1980s as a successor to the ABC language. Python 2.0, released in 2000, introduced features like list comprehensions and a garbage collection system capable of collecting reference cycles. Python 3.0, released in 2008, was a major revision of the language that is not completely backward-compatible, and much Python 2 code does not run unmodified on Python 3.

Python interpreters are available for many operating systems. A global community of programmers develops and maintains CPython, an open source reference implementation. A non-profit organization, the Python Software Foundation, manages and directs resources for Python and CPython development.

Python is a widely used general-purpose, high level programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum in 1991 and further developed by the Python Software Foundation. It was designed with an emphasis on code readability, and its syntax allows programmers to express their concepts in fewer lines of code.
Python is a programming language that lets you work quickly and integrate systems more efficiently.

What can Python do?

- web development (server-side),
- software development,
- mathematics,
- system scripting.

- Python can be used on a server to create web applications.
- Python can be used alongside software to create workflows.
- Python can connect to database systems. It can also read and modify files.
- Python can be used to handle big data and perform complex mathematics.
- Python can be used for rapid prototyping, or for production-ready software development.

Why Python?

- Python works on different platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Raspberry Pi, etc).
- Python has a simple syntax similar to the English language.
- Python has syntax that allows developers to write programs with fewer lines than some other programming languages.
- Python runs on an interpreter system, meaning that code can be executed as soon as it is written. This means that prototyping can be very quick.

- Python can be treated in a procedural way, an object-orientated way or a functional way.

2. History of Python

The programming language Python was conceived in the late 1980s, and its implementation was started in December 1989 by Guido van Rossum at CWI in the Netherlands as a successor to ABC capable of exception handling and interfacing with the Amoeba operating system. Van Rossum is Python's principal author, and his continuing central role in deciding the direction of Python 2.0 was released on October 16, 2000, with many major new features, including a cycle-detecting garbage collector (in addition to reference counting) for memory management and support for Unicode. However, the most important change was to the development process itself, with a shift to a more transparent and community-backed process.

Python 3.0, a major, backwards-incompatible release, was released on December 3, 2008 after a long period of testing. Many of its major features have also been backported to the backwards-compatible, while by now unsupported, Python 2.6 and 2.7.

4. Python Features

1) Easy to Learn and Use: Python is easy to learn and use. It is developer-friendly and high level programming language.

2) Expressive Language: Python language is more expressive means that it is more understandable and readable.

3) Interpreted Language: Python is an interpreted language i.e. interpreter executes the code line by line at a time. This makes debugging easy and thus suitable for beginners.

4) Cross-platform Language: Python can run equally on different platforms such as Windows, Linux, Unix and Macintosh etc. So, we can say that Python is a portable language.

5) Free and Open Source: Python language is freely available at offical web address.The source-code is also available. Therefore it is open source.

6) Object-Oriented Language: Python supports object oriented language and concepts of classes and objects come into existence.

7) Extensible: It implies that other languages such as C/C++ can be used to compile the code and thus it can be used further in our python code.

8) Large Standard Library: Python has a large and broad library and prvides rich set of module and functions for rapid application development.

9) GUI Programming Support: Graphical user interfaces can be developed using Python.

10) Integrate: It can be easily integrated with languages like C, C++, JAVA etc.

3. Setting up path for python

If you’ve installed Python in Windows using the default installation options, the path to the Python executable wasn’t added to the Windows **Path variable**. The Path variable lists the directories that will be searched for executables when you type a command in the command prompt. By adding the path to the Python executable, you will be able to access **python.exe** by typing the **python** keyword (you won’t need to specify the full path to the program).

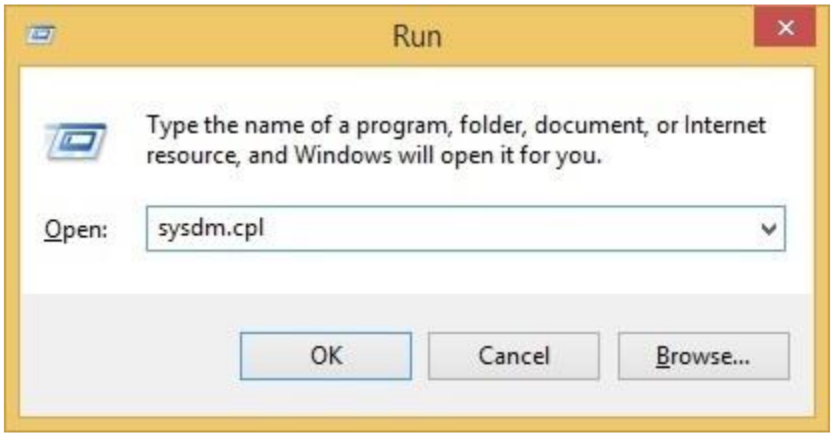
Consider what happens if we enter the **python** command in the command prompt and the path to that executable is not added to the Path variable:

```
C:\>python

'python' is not recognized as an internal or external command,

operable program or batch file.
```

As you can see from the output above, the command was not found. To run **python.exe**, you need to specify the full path to the executable:

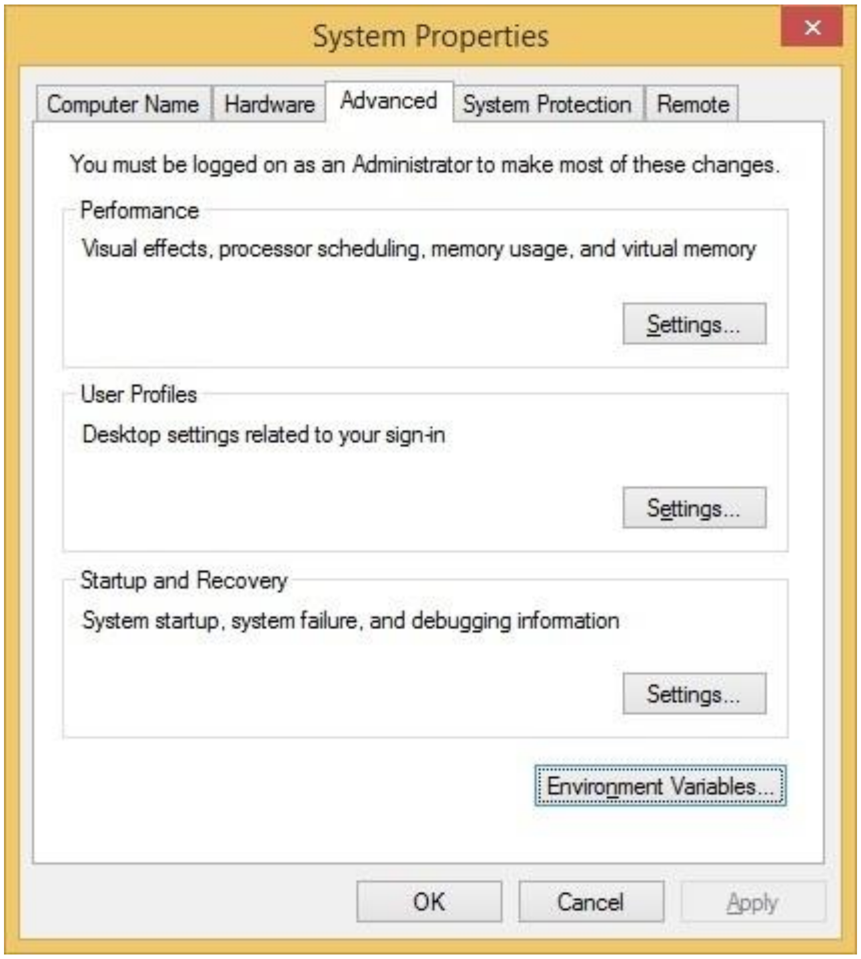
```
C:\>C:\Python34\python --version

Python 3.4.3
```

To add the path to the **python.exe** file to the Path variable, start the **Run** box and enter **sysdm.cpl**:


Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.

Open: sysdm.cpl

This should open up the **System Properties** window. Go to the **Advanced** tab and click the **Environment Variables** button:



You must be logged on as an Administrator to make most of these changes.

Performance

Visual effects, processor scheduling, memory usage, and virtual memory

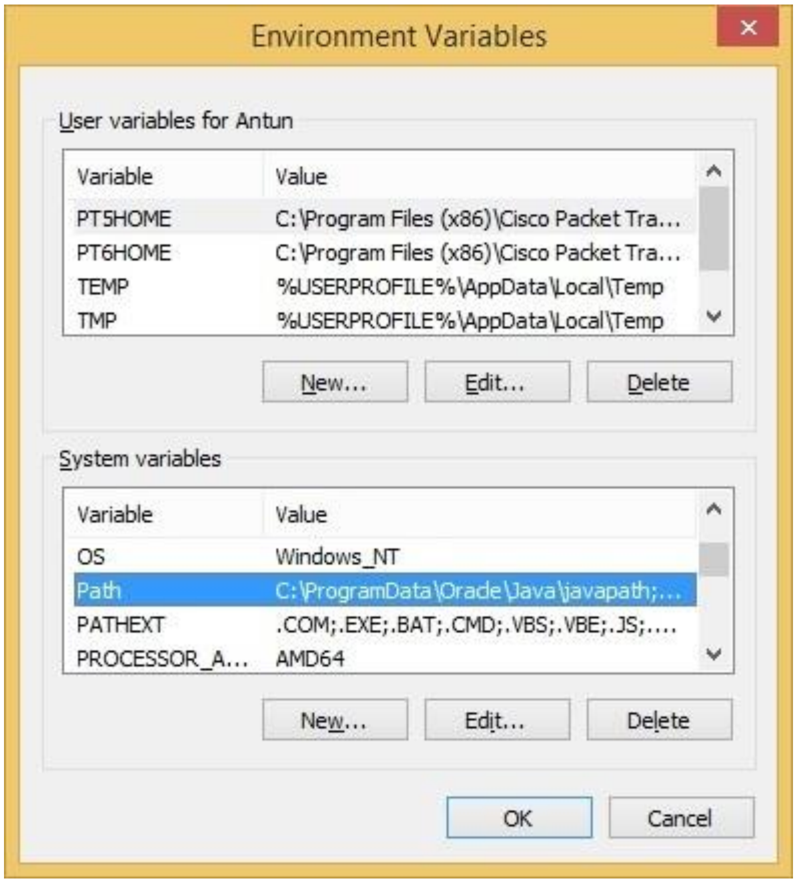
User Profiles

Desktop settings related to your sign-in

Startup and Recovery

System startup, system failure, and debugging information

In the **System variable** window, find the **Path** variable and click **Edit**:



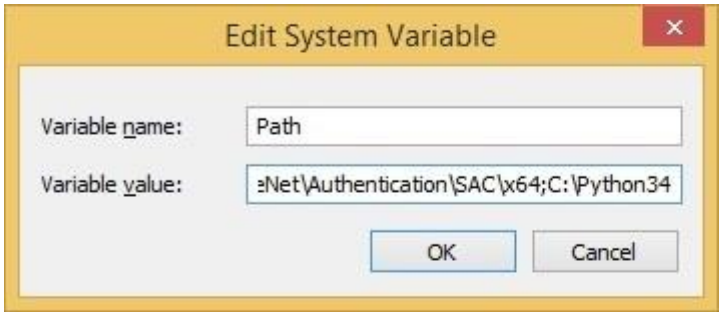
User variables for Antun

Variable	Value
PT5HOME	C:\Program Files (x86)\Cisco Packet Tra...
PT6HOME	C:\Program Files (x86)\Cisco Packet Tra...
TEMP	%USERPROFILE%\AppData\Local\Temp
TMP	%USERPROFILE%\AppData\Local\Temp

System variables

Variable	Value
OS	Windows_NT
Path	C:\ProgramData\Oracle\Java\javapath;...
PATHEXT	.COM;.EXE;.BAT;.CMD;.VBS;.VBE;.JS;....
PROCESSOR_A...	AMD64

Position your cursor at the end of the **Variable value** line and add the path to the **python.exe** file, preceeded with the semicolon character (**;**). In our example, we have added the following value: **;C:\Python34**



Variable name: Path

Variable value: :Net\Authentication\SAC\x64;C:\Python34

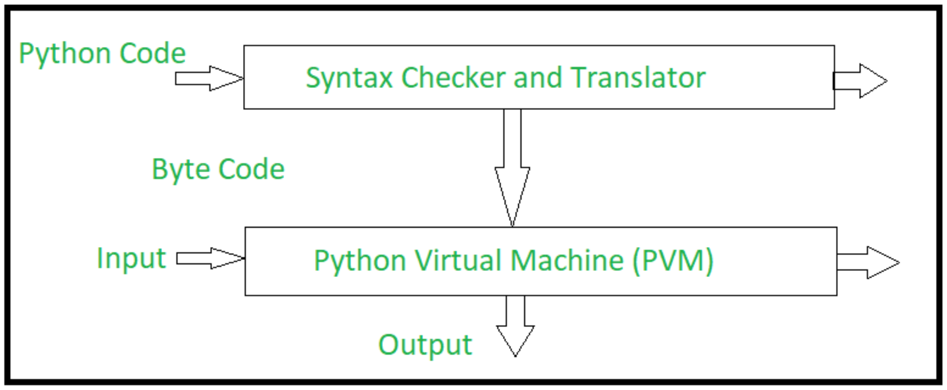
Close all windows. Now you can run **python.exe** without specifying the full path to the file:

```
C:>python --version

Python 3.4.3
```

If you get the **'python' is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file.** error, there is something wrong with your Path variable. Note also that you will have to reopen all command prompt windows in order for changes to the Path variable take effect.

4. Internal working of Python

Python is an object oriented programming language like Java. Python is called an interpreted language. Python uses code modules that are interchangeable instead of a single long list of instructions that was standard for functional programming languages. The standard implementation of python is called "cpython". It is the default and widely used implementation of the Python.
Python doesn't convert its code into machine code, something that hardware can understand. It actually converts it into something called byte code. So within python, compilation happens, but it's just not into a machine language. It is into byte code and this byte code can't be understood by CPU. So we need actually an interpreter called the python virtual machine. The python virtual machine executes the byte codes.



The Python interpreter performs following tasks to execute a Python program:

The Python language has many similarities to Perl, C, and Java. However, there are some definite differences between the languages.

First Python Program

Type the following text at the Python prompt and press the Enter −

```
>>> print ("Hello, Python!")
```

If you are running new version of Python, then you would need to use print statement with parenthesis as in **print ("Hello, Python!");**. However in Python version 2.4.3, this produces the following result −

```
Hello, Python!
```

5. Python Identifiers

A Python identifier is a name used to identify a variable, function, class, module or other object. An identifier starts with a letter A to Z or a to z or an underscore (_) followed by zero or more letters, underscores and digits (0 to 9).

Python does not allow punctuation characters such as @, $, and % within identifiers. Python is a case sensitive programming language. Thus, **Manpower** and **manpower** are two different identifiers in Python.

Here are naming conventions for Python identifiers −

- Class names start with an uppercase letter. All other identifiers start with a lowercase letter.
- Starting an identifier with a single leading underscore indicates that the identifier is private.
- Starting an identifier with two leading underscores indicates a strongly private identifier.
- If the identifier also ends with two trailing underscores, the identifier is a language-defined special name.

Reserved Words

The following list shows the Python keywords. These are reserved words and you cannot use them as constant or variable or any other identifier names. All the Python keywords contain lowercase letters only.

and	exec	not
assert	finally	or
break	for	pass
class	from	print
continue	global	raise
def	if	return
del	import	try

elif	in	while
else	is	with
except	lambda	yield

Lines and Indentation

Python provides no braces to indicate blocks of code for class and function definitions or flow control. Blocks of code are denoted by line indentation, which is rigidly enforced.

The number of spaces in the indentation is variable, but all statements within the block must be indented the same amount. For example −

```
if True:
   print "True"
else:
   print "False"
```

Multi-Line Statements

Statements in Python typically end with a new line. Python does, however, allow the use of the line continuation character (\) to denote that the line should continue. For example −

```
total = item_one + \
        item_two + \
        item_three
```

Statements contained within the [], {}, or () brackets do not need to use the line continuation character. For example −

```
days = ['Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday',
        'Thursday', 'Friday']
```

Quotation in Python

Python accepts single ('), double (") and triple (''' or """) quotes to denote string literals, as long as the same type of quote starts and ends the string.

The triple quotes are used to span the string across multiple lines. For example, all the following are legal −

```
word = 'word'
sentence = "This is a sentence."
paragraph = """This is a paragraph. It is
made up of multiple lines and sentences."""
```

Comments in Python

A hash sign (#) that is not inside a string literal begins a comment. All characters after the # and up to the end of the physical line are part of the comment and the Python interpreter ignores them.

Assigning Values to Variables

Python variables do not need explicit declaration to reserve memory space. The declaration happens automatically when you assign a value to a variable. The equal sign (=) is used to assign values to variables.

The operand to the left of the = operator is the name of the variable and the operand to the right of the = operator is the value stored in the variable. For example −

```
#!/usr/bin/python

counter = 100          # An integer assignment
miles   = 1000.0       # A floating point
name    = "John"       # A string

print counter
print miles
print name
```

Here, 100, 1000.0 and "John" are the values assigned to *counter*, *miles*, and *name* variables, respectively. This produces the following result −

```
100
1000.0
John
```

Multiple Assignment

Python allows you to assign a single value to several variables simultaneously. For example −

```
a = b = c = 1
```

Here, an integer object is created with the value 1, and all three variables are assigned to the same memory location. You can also assign multiple objects to multiple variables. For example −

```
a,b,c = 1,2,"john"
```

Here, two integer objects with values 1 and 2 are assigned to variables a and b respectively, and one string object with the value "john" is assigned to the variable c.

Standard Data Types

The data stored in memory can be of many types. For example, a person's age is stored as a numeric value and his or her address is stored as alphanumeric characters. Python has various standard data types that are used to define the operations possible on them and the storage method for each of them.

Python has five standard data types −

- Numbers
- String
- List
- Tuple
- Dictionary

Python Numbers

Number data types store numeric values. Number objects are created when you assign a value to them. For example −

```
var1 = 1
var2 = 10
```

You can also delete the reference to a number object by using the del statement. The syntax of the del statement is −

```
del var1[,var2[,var3[....,varN]]]]
```

You can delete a single object or multiple objects by using the del statement. For example −

```
del var
del var_a, var_b
```

Python supports four different numerical types −

- int (signed integers)
- long (long integers, they can also be represented in octal and hexadecimal)
- float (floating point real values)
- complex (complex numbers)

Examples

Here are some examples of numbers −

int	**Long**	**float**	**complex**
10	51924361L	0.0	3.14j
100	-0x19323L	15.20	45.j
-786	0122L	-21.9	9.322e-36j
080	0xDEFABCECBDAECBFBAEl	32.3+e18	.876j
-0490	535633629843L	-90.	-.6545+0J
-0x260	-052318172735L	-32.54e100	3e+26J
0x69	-4721885298529L	70.2-E12	4.53e-7j

- Python allows you to use a lowercase l with long, but it is recommended that you use only an uppercase L to avoid confusion with the number 1. Python displays long integers with an uppercase L.
- A complex number consists of an ordered pair of real floating-point numbers denoted by x + yj, where x and y are the real numbers and j is the imaginary unit.

Python Strings

Strings in Python are identified as a contiguous set of characters represented in the quotation marks. Python allows for either pairs of single or double quotes. Subsets of strings can be taken using the slice operator ([ ] and [:]) with indexes starting at 0 in the beginning of the string and working their way from -1 at the end.

The plus (+) sign is the string concatenation operator and the asterisk (*) is the repetition operator. For example −

```
#!/usr/bin/python

str = 'Hello World!'

print str          # Prints complete string
print str[0]       # Prints first character of the string
print str[2:5]     # Prints characters starting from 3rd to 5th
print str[2:]      # Prints string starting from 3rd character
print str * 2      # Prints string two times
print str + "TEST" # Prints concatenated string
```

This will produce the following result −

```
Hello World!
H
llo
llo World!
Hello World!Hello World!
Hello World!TEST
```

Python Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

Python divides the operators in the following groups:

- Arithmetic operators
- Assignment operators
- Comparison operators
- Logical operators
- Identity operators
- Membership operators
- Bitwise operators

Python Arithmetic Operators

Arithmetic operators are used with numeric values to perform common mathematical operations:

Operator	Name	Example
+	Addition	x + y
-	Subtraction	x - y
*	Multiplication	x * y
/	Division	x / y
%	Modulus	x % y
**	Exponentiation	x ** y
//	Floor division	x // y

Python Assignment Operators

Assignment operators are used to assign values to variables:

Operator	Example	Same As
=	x = 5	x = 5
+=	x += 3	x = x + 3

-=	x -= 3	x = x - 3
*=	x *= 3	x = x * 3
/=	x /= 3	x = x / 3
%=	x %= 3	x = x % 3
//=	x //= 3	x = x // 3
**=	x **= 3	x = x ** 3
&=	x &= 3	x = x & 3
|=	x |= 3	x = x | 3
^=	x ^= 3	x = x ^ 3
>>=	x >>= 3	x = x >> 3
<<=	x <<= 3	x = x << 3

Python Comparison Operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two values:

Operator	Name	Example
==	Equal	x == y
!=	Not equal	x != y
>	Greater than	x > y
<	Less than	x < y
>=	Greater than or equal to	x >= y
<=	Less than or equal to	x <= y

Python Logical Operators

Logical operators are used to combine conditional statements:

Operator	Description	Example
and	Returns True if both statements are true	x < 5 and x < 10
or	Returns True if one of the statements is true	x < 5 or x < 4
not	Reverse the result, returns False if the result is true	not(x < 5 and x < 10)

Python Identity Operators

Identity operators are used to compare the objects, not if they are equal, but if they are actually the same object, with the same memory location:

Operator	Description	Example
is	Returns true if both variables are the same object	x is y
is not	Returns true if both variables are not the same object	x is not y

Python Membership Operators

Membership operators are used to test if a sequence is presented in an object:

Operator	Description	Example
in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is present in the object	x in y
not in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is not present in the object	x not in y

Python Bitwise Operators

Bitwise operators are used to compare (binary) numbers:

Operator	Name	Description
&	AND	Sets each bit to 1 if both bits are 1

|	OR	Sets each bit to 1 if one of two bits is 1
^	XOR	Sets each bit to 1 if only one of two bits is 1
~	NOT	Inverts all the bits
<<	Zero fill left shift	Shift left by pushing zeros in from the right and let the leftmost bits fall off
>>	Signed right shift	Shift right by pushing copies of the leftmost bit in from the left, and let the rightmos

Python Input, Output and

This tutorial focuses on two built-in functions print() and input() to perform I/O task in Python. Also, you will learn to import modules and use them in your program.

Python provides numerous built-in functions that are readily available to us at the Python prompt.
Some of the functions like input() and print() are widely used for standard input and output operations respectively.
Let us see the output section first.

```
print('This sentence is output to the screen')

# Output: This sentence is output to the screen

a = 5

print('The value of a is', a)

# Output: The value of a is 5
```

Python Input
Up till now, our programs were static. The value of variables were defined or hard coded into the source code.
To allow flexibility we might want to take the input from the user. In Python, we have the input() function to allow this. The syntax for input() is

```
input([prompt])
```

where prompt is the string we wish to display on the screen. It is optional.

```
>>> num = input('Enter a number: ')
Enter a number: 10
>>> num
'10'
```