



Introduction to Programming

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Systems

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Week 5: Strings and Output



Example 1 of a Function Call

- `first = input("Enter your first name: ")`
- Name of the function:
 - `input`
- Argument:
 - the string "Enter your first name: "
- Returned value:
 - a `string` entered at the keyboard
- The returned value becomes the value of `first`
- The detailed actions of `input` are hidden. The calling program has knowledge only of the argument and the returned value.



Example 2 of a Function Call

- `mn = min(1, 5, 8, 6.2)`
- Name of the function: `min`
- Arguments: the numbers 1, 5, 8, 6.2
- Returned value: 1
- The returned value becomes the value of `mn`
- `min` is unusual in that it can have any number of arguments



Revision: int and float

- `int("5")`

returns the integer 5

- `int(5.999)`

returns the integer 5

- `int(-5.999)`

returns the integer -5

- `int("5.672")`

error

- `float("5.67")`

returns 5.67

- `float(5.67)`

returns 5.67

- `float("3E2")`

returns 300.0

- `float("3")`

returns 3.0

- `float("5.2*6.7")`

error



Strings

- A string is a sequence of characters

- `greeting = "Hello"`

- "Hello" is a string with 5 characters

"Hello" is the value of the variable `greeting`

"Hello" is a string literal



Alternative Notation

- 'Hello' is the same string as "Hello"

```
print('He said "Hello" today')
```

The double quotes " are characters in the string

Result: He said "Hello" today

```
print("He said 'Hello' today")
```

The single quotes ' are characters in the string

Result: He said 'Hello' today

```
print("He said \"Hello\" and 'Goodbye' today")
```

The single quotes ' are characters in the string

Result: He said "Hello" and 'Goodbye' today



Length of a String

- The length of string is the number of characters in the string.
- The function `len` takes a string as an argument and returns the length of the string

```
length1 = len("World")
```

```
# the variable length1 is assigned the value 5
```

```
length2 = len("")
```

```
# "" is the empty string
```

```
# the variable length2 is assigned the value 0
```



Concatenation

- The + operator concatenates strings

```
firstName = "Harry"
```

```
lastName = "Morgan"
```

```
name = firstName+lastName
```

```
# name has the value "HarryMorgan"
```

How to have "Harry Morgan" as the value of name?

```
name = firstName+" "+lastName
```

- **It is not possible to mix strings and numbers**

```
test = "Harry"+5    # error
```

```
test = "Harry"+"5"
```




Concatenation and Repetition

- The * operator can be used to repeat strings

```
dashes = "-" * 10    # dashes has the value "-----"
```

```
dashes = 10 * "-"    # also possible
```

What are the results?

```
separator1 = "_" * 5 + "&" * 10 + "#" * 5
```

Result: ' &&&&&&&&&&&&#####'

```
separator2 = 3 * "@" + 2 * "w" * 5 + "9" * 4
```

Result: '@@@wwwwwwwww9999'

```
separator3 = 10.0 * '&'
```

Result: error



Convert Numbers to Strings

- Recall `int` and `float` convert strings to numbers
- The function `str` converts numbers to strings

```
string1 = str(45)
# string1 has the value "45"
string2 = str(3E2)
# string2 has the value "300.0"
string3 = str(6+5)
# string3 has the value "11"
string4 = str("45")
# string4 has the value "45"
```

```
test = "Harry"+5
# error How to fix this?
test = "Harry"+"5"
test = "Harry"+str(5)
# Which way is preferred? Why?

string5 = str(pi)
#string5 has the value
"3.141592653589793"
```



String Indexing

- The characters on a string are indexed left to right, starting from 0

H	a	r	r	y
0	1	2	3	4

- Individual characters can be extracted from a string

```
name = "Harry"
```

```
first = name[0]
```

```
# first has the value "H"
```

```
last = name[4]           or           last = name[-1]
```

```
# last has the value "y"
```

```
other = name[5]
```

```
# error
```



String Operations

Statement	Result	Comment
<pre>string="Py" string = string+"thon"</pre>	string is set to "Python"	When applied to strings, + denotes concatenation
<pre>print("Please" + " enter your name: ")</pre>	Prints Please enter your name:	Use concatenation to break up strings that don't fit onto one line
<pre>team = str(49)+"ers"</pre>	team is set to "49ers"	Because 49 is an integer it must be converted to a string
<pre>greeting = "H & S" n = len(greeting)</pre>	n is set to 5	Each space counts as one character
<pre>string = "Sally" ch = string[1]</pre>	ch is set to "a"	Note that the initial position has index 0
<pre>last = string[len(string)-1]</pre>	last is set to the string containing the last character in string	The last character has position len(string)-1



Escape Sequences `\`, `\n`, `\\`

- `string = "He said \"Hello\""`

Each `\` is treated as a single character – the double quote.

`len(string)` ?

The value of string has 15 characters

- `print ("*\n**\n***")`

Each `\n` produces a new line. The result is

*

**

`len ("*\n**\n***")` ?

8

- `print ("\\")`

prints `\`



A Motivation Example

```
price1 = 23.789
price2 = 0.039
price3 = 199.8
price4 = 23
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
print(price1)
print(price2)
print(price3)
print(price4)
print(price5)
```

```
23.79
0.04
199.80
23.00
2324.17
```

desired
output

```
23.789
0.039
199.8
23
2324.17
```

actual
output



String Format Operator %

`formatString % value` → this is a string!

```
"%.2f" % price
```

create a string containing the value of price

correct to **two decimal places**. **f** is for float.

The rightmost % is the string format operator.

```
price = 10.809
```

```
string = "%.2f" % price
```

value of string is "10.81"



Vocabulary

- "%m.nf" is the format string
- %m.nf is the format specifier
- m is the field width
- % (outside the format string) is the string format operator
 - Apply the format string on a floating number



Examples

```
value = 56.68
```

- `"%0.3f" % value`

the result is the string "56.680"

- `"%8.3f" % value`

the result is the string " 56.680"

Note that " 56.680" has two spaces on the left, to ensure

that the length of the string is 8, not 6

- `"%4.3f" % value`

the result is the string "56.680"

Note that "56.680" has length 6, not 4



A Motivation Example

```
price1 = 23.789
price2 = 0.039
price3 = 199.8
price4 = 23
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
print(price1)
print(price2)
print(price3)
print(price4)
print(price5)
```

```
23.79
0.04
199.80
23.00
2324.17
```

desired
output

```
23.789
0.039
199.8
23
2324.17
```

actual
output



A Motivation Example

```
price1 = 23.789
price2 = 0.039
price3 = 199.8
price4 = 23
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
formatPrice = "%6.2f"
```

```
print(formatPrice % price1)
print(formatPrice % price2)
print(formatPrice % price3)
print(formatPrice % price4)
print(formatPrice % price5)
```

```
23.79
 0.04
199.80
 23.00
2324.17
```



A Motivation Example

```
price1 = 23.789
price2 = 0.039
price3 = 199.8
price4 = 23
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
formatPrice = "%8.2f"
```

```
print(formatPrice % price1)
print(formatPrice % price2)
print(formatPrice % price3)
print(formatPrice % price4)
print(formatPrice % price5)
```

```
23.79
 0.04
199.80
 23.00
2324.17
```



Integers and Strings

- For **integers** use **%d** or **%nd**, for example

```
price = 105
```

```
string1 = "%5d" % price
```

```
# result " 105"
```

```
string2 = "%2d" % price
```

```
# result "105"
```

- For **strings** use **%s** or **%ns**, for example

```
string3 = "%7s" % "Hello"
```

```
# result " Hello"
```

More Examples

Format String	Sample output ~ is a space	Comments
"%d"	24	Use d with an integer
"%5d"	~~~24	Spaces are added so that the field width is 5
"%05d"	00024	If you add 0 before the field width, zeroes are added instead of spaces.
"Quantity:%5d"	Quantity:~~~24	Characters inside a format string but outside the format specifier appear in the output.
"%.f"	1.21997	Use f with a floating point number
"%.2f"	1.22	Prints two digits after the decimal point
"%7.2f"	~~~1.22	Spaces are added so that the field width is 7
"%s"	Hello	Use s with a string
"%9s"	~~~~Hello	Strings are right-justified by default
"%-9s"	Hello~~~~	Use a negative field width to left-justify
"%d %.2f"	24~1.22	You can format multiple values at once
"%d%"	24%	To add a percentage sign to the output, use %%



Multiple Format Specifiers

- Syntax for the string format operator

```
formatString % (value_1, value_2, ..., value_n)
```

- The format string must contain **n** format specifiers, one for each value.
- If there is only one value then the brackets can be omitted,

```
formatString % value
```

- Example

```
quantity = 100
```

```
total = 509.371
```

```
print("Quantity: %d Total: %10.2f" % (quantity, total))
```

```
# prints "Quantity: 100 Total: 509.37"
```



Example

```
title = "Quantity"
```

```
print("%10s %8d" % (title, 24))
```

```
# "~~Quantity~~~~~24"
```



10 widths 8 widths

```
print ("%%-10s %8d" % (title, 24))
```

```
# "Quantity~~~~~24"
```



10 widths 8 widths

Note that ~ represents a space.



A Motivation Example

price1 = 23.789

price2 = 0.039

price3 = 199.8

price4 = 23

price5 = 2324.17

item1 = "Teddy"

item2 = "GingerBreadMan"

item3 = "Mickey"

item4 = "Pony"

item5 = "Sam"

print(item1, price1)

print(item2, price2)

print(item3, price3)

print(item4, price4)

print(item5, price5)

```
Teddy 23.789
GingerBreadMan 0.039
Mickey 199.8
Pony 23
Sam 2324.17
```



A Motivation Example

```
formatItemPrice = "%14s %8.2f"
```

#or alternatively,

```
#formatItem = "%14s"
```

```
#formatPrice = "%8.2f"
```

```
#formatItemPrice = formatItem+" "+formatPrice
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item1, price1))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item2, price2))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item3, price3))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item4, price4))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item5, price5))
```

```
price1 = 23.789
```

```
price2 = 0.039
```

```
price3 = 199.8
```

```
price4 = 23
```

```
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
item1 = "Teddy"
```

```
item2 = "GingerBreadMan"
```

```
item3 = "Mickey"
```

```
item4 = "Pony"
```

```
item5 = "Sam"
```

Teddy	23.79
GingerBreadMan	0.04
Mickey	199.80
Pony	23.00
Sam	2324.17



A Motivation Example

```
formatItemPrice = "%-14s %8.2f"
```

```
#or alternatively,
```

```
#formatItem = "%-14s"
```

```
#formatPrice = "%8.2f"
```

```
#formatItemPrice = formatItem+" "+formatPrice
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item1, price1))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item2, price2))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item3, price3))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item4, price4))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item5, price5))
```

```
price1 = 23.789
```

```
price2 = 0.039
```

```
price3 = 199.8
```

```
price4 = 23
```

```
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
item1 = "Teddy"
```

```
item2 = "GingerBreadMan"
```

```
item3 = "Mickey"
```

```
item4 = "Pony"
```

```
item5 = "Sam"
```

Teddy	23.79
GingerBreadMan	0.04
Mickey	199.80
Pony	23.00
Sam	2324.17



A Motivation Example

```
formatItemPrice = "%-14s: %8.2f"
```

```
#or alternatively,
```

```
#formatItem = "%-14s"
```

```
#formatPrice = "%8.2f"
```

```
#formatItemPrice = formatItem+": "+formatPrice
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item1, price1))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item2, price2))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item3, price3))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item4, price4))
```

```
print(formatItemPrice % (item5, price5))
```

```
price1 = 23.789
```

```
price2 = 0.039
```

```
price3 = 199.8
```

```
price4 = 23
```

```
price5 = 2324.17
```

```
item1 = "Teddy"
```

```
item2 = "GingerBreadMan"
```

```
item3 = "Mickey"
```

```
item4 = "Pony"
```

```
item5 = "Sam"
```

Teddy	:	23.79
GingerBreadMan	:	0.04
Mickey	:	199.80
Pony	:	23.00
Sam	:	2324.17

Format Specifier Summary

`formatString` % `value`

~ represents a space

e.g., `print("%.f" % 35.678)`, `print("%d" % -5)`, or `print("%s" % "hello")`

formatString		value		
		(float) 35.678	(int) -5	(string) "hello"
float (round)	"%.f"	"36"	"-5"	error
	"%.2f"	"35.68"	"-5.00"	
	"%6.1f"	"~~35.7"	"~-5.0"	
	"%07.2f"	"0035.68"	"-005.00"	
int (trunc)	"%d"	"35"	"-5"	error
	"%5d"	"~~~35"	"~-5"	
	"%-5d"	"35~~~"	"-5~~~"	
string	"%s"	"35.678"	"-5"	"hello"
	"%7s"	~35.678"	"~~~~~5"	"~~hello"
	"%3s"	"35.678"	"~-5"	"hello"



Programming Exercise 1

- R2.15. Write pseudocode for a program that computes the first and last digit of a number.
- For example, if the input is 23456 the program should print 2 and 6.
- Use % and $\log(x, 10)$.



Programming Exercise 1

- R2.15. Write pseudocode for a program that computes the first and last digit of a number. For example, if the input is 23456 the program should print 2 and 6. Use % and $\log(x, 10)$.

```
number = int(input("Please enter a number:"))
```

```
digits = int(log(number, 10))
```

#digits is the (number of digits of the number – 1)

```
firstDigit = int(number//10**digits)
```

```
lastDigit = number%10 # if number is an integer
```



Programming Exercise 1

- R2.15. Write pseudocode for a program that computes the first and last digit of a number. For example, if the input is 23456 the program should print 2 and 6. Use % and $\log(x, 10)$.

```
numberStr = input(Please enter a number:)
firstDigit=int(numberStr[0])
lastDigit= int(numberStr[-1])
```

The program is valid for positive numbers only. It can be a floating point number.



Programming Exercise 2

- R2.21. How do you get the first character of a string?
- The last character?
- The middle character (if the length is odd)?
- The middle two characters (if the length is even)?
- Harry: middle r
- Potter: middle tt



Programming Exercise 2

- R2.21. How do you get the first character of a string? The last character? The middle character (if the length is odd)? The middle two characters (if the length is even)?

```
inputStr = input("Please input a string:)
```

```
firstChar = inputStr[0]
```

```
lastChar = inputStr[-1]
```

```
midChar = inputStr[(len(inputStr)-1)//2] # if length is odd
```

```
midChar1 = inputStr[len(inputStr)//2-1] # if length is even
```

```
midChar2 = inputStr[len(inputStr)//2]
```