

Memory Hierarchy :

- Secondary storage versus main memory (RAM) versus cache
- Big data: streaming versus non-streaming

Compiled versus Interpreted Python is an interpreted language. We can interactively execute Python code in the REPL (Read-Eval-Print-Loop).

Names and variables

- Variables refer to python objects.
- Variables have scope.
- Variable names should be descriptive and follow a set of restrictions (can contain letters, numbers, and `'_'`; cannot start with a number; cannot be a Python reserved keyword)
- Variable names have conventions. Constants are all capital. Variables start with a lowercase letter, and words are separated by `'_'`

Strings

- String literals can be defined with `' '` or `" "`
- The escape character is `\`, which is used to encode meanings like tabs and newlines
- Printing a string displays it, which interprets all special characters (newline, tabs); a string literal shows the escaped characters without interpreting them.
- We can convert other objects into a string by using the `str()` function.
- Strings are immutable, but we can operate on strings in many ways:
 - Combine two strings: `+`
 - Repeat a string: `*`
 - Format a string `'{ }'.format(...)`
 - Slice strings `[start:end]`
 - `split` strings into a list based on a delimiter
 - `join` a list of strings together with a common delimiter
 - `find` substrings within a string

Conditionals, booleans Objects can be compared for

- Equality: `==`, `!=`
- Order (some objects): `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`
- Identity: `is`
- Membership: `in`
- In a conditional context, anything that is not one of `False`, `None`, `0`, `''`, `[]`, is `True`
- `if`, `elif`, and `else` Selectively execute regions of code
- Indentation defines scope

Loops

- `while <condition>`
- `for <variable> in <iterable>` where *iterable* might be a range, list

Functions and Modules Functions and modules provide ways to organize and isolate code and operations logically while also providing a means for abstraction.

- Use `def` to define a function. Functions have parameters. Calling a function, these parameters are bound to arguments.
- Function can return a value (they act like a mathematical function) or not (we call them for their side-effects)
- We `import` modules so functions in the module are available in our namespace
- Using `if name == '__main__':` creates code block that is not executed when the file is imported as a module

Lists: Operations include

- Index: `lst[i]`
- Slice: `lst[i:j]`
- Calculate the length: `len(lst)`
- Add things to lists: `lst.append(obj)`, `lst.insert(i, obj)`
- Remove things: `lst.pop()`, `lst.remove(obj)`, `del lst[i]`
- Sort lists: `sorted(lst)` or `lst.sort()`

Search

- Linearly searching through a list must examine every element
- Binary search on sorted lists cuts the search space in half each step

Files

- Open files with `open(...)` as `f`:
- Files objects are iterable

Classes Classes let us define new data types and specify their behavior

- `self.variable` is how we define and access member variables. Member variables let us maintain an object's internal state
- Using `self`, we can access and modify the object's internal state
- The `__init__(self)` method is automatically called when we create an object This lets us initialize an object's internal state. The `self` parameter is the object we are creating.
- We can use the `dot` notation to:
 - Call a method on an object: `obj.method()`, `pt1.distance(pt2)`
 - Access an object's member variables: `obj.variable`, `pt.x = 3`, `chart.slices.pop()`

CSV

- readers
- writers