

Computational Structures in Data Science

UC Berkeley EECS
Adj. Ass. Prof.
Dr. Gerald Friedland

Iterators and Generators

April 17, 2020 <http://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs88>

Computational Concepts Toolbox

- Data type: values, literals, operations,
- Expressions, Call expression
- Variables
- Assignment Statement, Tuple assignment
- Sequences: tuple, list
- Dictionaries
- Function Definition Statement
- Conditional Statement
- Iteration: list comp, for, while
- Lambda function expr.
- Higher Order Functions
 - Functions as Values
 - Functions with functions as argument
 - Assignment of function values
- Higher order function patterns
 - Map, Filter, Reduce
- Function factories – create and return functions
- Recursion
- Abstract Data Types
- Mutation
- Class & Inheritance
- Exceptions
- **Iterators & Generators**

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Today:

- Review Exceptions
- Sequences vs Iterables
- Using iterators without generating all the data
- Generator concept
 - Generating an iterator from iteration with `yield`
- Magic methods
 - `next`
 - `Iter`
- Iterators – the iter protocol
- Getitem protocol
- Is an object iterable?
- Lazy evaluation with iterators

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Key concepts to take forward

- Classes embody and allow enforcement of ADT methodology
- Class definition
- Class namespace
- Methods
- Instance attributes (fields)
- Class attributes
- Inheritance
- Superclass reference

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Summary of last week


- Approach creation of a class as a design problem
 - Meaningful behavior => methods [& attributes]
 - ADT methodology
 - What's private and hidden? vs What's public?
- Design for inheritance
 - Clean general case as foundation for specialized subclasses
- Use it to streamline development
- Anticipate exceptional cases and unforeseen problems
 - `try ... catch`
 - `raise / assert`

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Mind Refresher 1

An object is...

A) an instance of a class
B) a python thing
C) inherited from a class
D) All of the above



Solution:
A) An object is an instance of a class

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Mind Refresher 2

A setter method...

- A) constructs an object
- B) changes the internal state of an object or class
- C) is required by Python to access variables
- D) All of the above



Solution:

B) Changes the internal state of an object or class by allowing access to a private variable.

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Exception (read 3.3)

- Mechanism in a programming language to declare and respond to “exceptional conditions”
 - enable non-local continuations of control
- Often used to handle error conditions
 - Unhandled exceptions will cause python to halt and print a stack trace
 - You already saw a non-error exception – end of iterator
- Exceptions can be handled by the program instead
 - `assert`, `try`, `except`, `raise` statements
- Exceptions are objects!
 - They have classes with constructors

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Handling Errors – try / except

- Wrap your code in `try` – `except` statements

```
try:
    <try suite>
except <exception class> as <name>:
    <except suite>
... # continue here if <try suite> succeeds w/o exception
```

- Execution rule
 - `<try suite>` is executed first
 - If during this an exception is raised and not handled otherwise
 - And if the exception inherits from `<exception class>`
 - Then `<except suite>` is executed with `<name>` bound to the exception
- Control jumps to the `except` suite of the most recent `try` that handles the exception

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Types of exceptions

- `TypeError` -- A function was passed the wrong number/type of argument
- `NameError` -- A name wasn't found
- `KeyError` -- A key wasn't found in a dictionary
- `RuntimeError` -- Catch-all for troubles during interpretation
- ...

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Demo

```
def safe_apply_fun(f,x):
    try:
        return f(x) # normal execution, return the result
    except Exception as e: # exceptions are objects of class deri
        return e # value returned on exception
```

```
def divides(x, y):
    assert x != 0, "Bad argument to divides - denominator should be non-zero"
    if (type(x) != int or type(y) != int):
        raise TypeError("divides only takes integers")
    return y/x == 0
```

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Exceptions are Classes

```
class NoisyException(Exception):
    def __init__(self, stuff):
        print("Bad stuff happened", stuff)
```

```
try:
    return fun(x)
except:
    raise NoisyException((fun, x))
```

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Mind Refresher 3

Exceptions...

- A) allow to handle errors non-locally
- B) are objects
- C) cannot happen within a catch block
- D) B, C
- E) A, B



Solution:

A, B) Exceptions are objects, passed through the callstack and they can occur any time.

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Iterable - an object you can iterate over

- *iterable*: An object capable of yielding its members one at a time.
- *iterator*: An object representing a stream of data.
- We have worked with many iterables as if they were sequences

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Functions that return iterables

- map
- range
- zip
- These objects are not sequences.
- If we want to see all of the elements at once, we need to explicitly call list() or tuple() on them

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Generators: turning iteration into an iterable

- *Generator* functions use iteration (for loops, while loops) and the yield keyword
- Generator functions have no return statement, but they don't return None
- They implicitly return a generator object
- Generator objects are just iterators

```
def squares(n):
    for i in range(n):
        yield (i*i)
```

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Nest iteration

```
def all_pairs(x):
    for item1 in x:
        for item2 in x:
            yield(item1, item2)
```

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Iterables

Demo

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Next element in generator iterable

- Iterables work because they have some "magic methods" on them. We saw magic methods when we learned about classes,
- e.g., `__init__`, `__repr__` and `__str__`.
- The first one we see for iterables is `__next__`
- `iter()` – transforms a sequence into an iterator

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Iterators – iter protocol

- In order to be *iterable*, a class must implement the **iter protocol**
- The iterator objects themselves are required to support the following two methods, which together form the iterator protocol:
 - `__iter__()`: Return the iterator object itself. This is required to allow both containers and iterators to be used with the `for` and `in` statements.
 - This method returns an iterator object. Iterator can be self
 - `__next__()`: Return the next item from the container. If there are no further items, raise the `StopIteration` exception.
- Classes get to define how they are iterated over by defining these methods

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Getitem protocol

- Another way an object can behave like a sequence is *indexing*: Using square brackets `[]` to access specific items in an object.
- Defined by special method: `__getitem__(self, i)`
 - Method returns the item at a given index

```
class myrange2:
    def __init__(self, n):
        self.n = n

    def __getitem__(self, i):
        if i >= 0 and i < self.n:
            return i
        else:
            raise IndexError

    def __len__(self):
        return self.n
```

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Determining if an object is iterable

- `from collections.abc import Iterable`
- `isinstance([1,2,3], Iterable)`
- This is more general than checking for any list of particular type, e.g., list, tuple, string...

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