Programming Principles in Python (CSCI 503/490)

Debugging & Testing

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Dealing with Errors

• Can explicitly check for errors at each step
  - Check for division by zero
  - Check for invalid parameter value (e.g. string instead of int)

• Sometimes all of this gets in the way and can't be addressed succinctly
  - Too many potential errors to check
  - Cannot handle groups of the same type of errors together

• Allow programmer to determine when and how to handle issues
  - Allow things to go wrong and handle them instead
  - Allow errors to be propagated and addressed once
Advantages of Exceptions

- Separate error-handling code from "regular" code
- Allows propagation of errors up the call stack
- Errors can be grouped and differentiated
Try-Except

• The *try* statement has the following form:

```python
try:
    <body>
except <ErrorType>*:
    <handler>
```

• When Python encounters a *try* statement, it attempts to execute the statements inside the body.

• If there is no error, control passes to the next statement after the *try... except* (unless *else* or *finally* clauses)

• Note: *except* not catch
Exception Granularity

• If you catch any exception using a base class near the top of the hierarchy, you may be masking code errors

```python
try:
    c, d = a / b
except Exception:
    c, d = 0, 0
```

• Remember that `Exception` catches any exception is an instance of `Exception`

• Catches `TypeError: cannot unpack non-iterable float object`

• Better to have more granular (specific) exceptions!

• We don't want to catch the `TypeError` because this is a programming error, not a runtime error
Exception Locality

• try:
    
    fname = 'missing-file.dat'
    with open(fname) as f:
        lines = f.readlines()

except OSError:
    print(f"An error occurred reading {fname}")

• try:
    
    out_fname = 'output-file.dat'
    with open('output-file.dat', 'w') as fout:
        fout.write("Testing")

except OSError:
    print(f"An error occurred writing {out_fname}"
Multiple Except Clauses

- Function like an if/elif sequence
- Checked in order so put more granular exceptions earlier!

```python
try:
    fname = 'missing-file.dat'
    with open(fname) as f:
        lines = f.readlines()
    out_fname = 'output-file.dat'
    with open('output-file.dat', 'w') as fout:
        fout.write("Testing")
except FileNotFoundError:
    print(f"File {fname} does not exist")
except OSError:
    print("An error occurred processing files")
```
Handling Multiple Exceptions at Once

• Can process multiple exceptions with one clause, use **tuple** of classes
• Allows some specificity but without repeating
• **try:**

```python
fname = 'missing-file.dat'
with open(fname) as f:
    lines = f.readlines()
out_fname = 'output-file.dat'
with open('output-file.dat', 'w') as fout:
    fout.write("Testing")
except (FileNotFoundError, PermissionError):
    print("An error occurred processing files")
```
Exception Objects

• Exceptions themselves are a type of object.
• If you follow the error type with an identifier in an except clause, Python will assign that identifier the actual exception object.
• Sometimes exceptions encode information that is useful for handling

```python
try:
    fname = 'missing-file.dat'
    with open(fname) as f:
        lines = f.readlines()
    out_fname = 'output-file.dat'
    with open('output-file.dat', 'w') as fout:
        fout.write("Testing")
except OSError as e:
    print(e.errno, e.filename, e)
```
Assignment 6

- Upcoming
- Object-Oriented Programming
Else Clause

- Code that executes if no exception occurs
- \[ b = 3 \]
  \[ a = 2 \]

```python
try:
    c = b / a
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("Division failed")
    c = 0
else:
    print("Division successful:", c)
```
Finally

- Code that always runs, **regardless** of whether there is an exception
- ```
b = 3
a = 0
try:
    c = b / a
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("Division failed")
    c = 0
finally:
    print("This always runs")
```
Finally

- Code that always runs, **regardless** of whether there is an exception
- ...even if the exception isn't handled!
- \( b = 3 \)
  \[ a = 0 \]
  ```python
  try:
      c = b / a
  finally:
      print("This always runs, even if we crash")
  ```
- Remember that context managers (e.g. for files) have built-in cleanup clauses
Nesting

- You can nest try-except clauses inside of except clauses, too.
- Example: perhaps a file load could fail so you want to try an alternative location but want to know if that fails, too.
- Can even do this in a `finally` clause:

```
try:
    c = b / a
finally:
    try:
        print("This always runs", 3/0)
        except ZeroDivisionError:
            print("It is silly to only catch this exception")
```
Raising Exceptions

- Create an exception and raise it using the `raise` keyword
- Pass a string that provides some detail
- Example: `raise Exception("This did not work correctly")`
- Try to find an exception class:
  - `ValueError`: if an argument doesn't fit the function's expectations
  - `NotImplementedError`: if a method isn't implemented (e.g. abstract cls)
- Be specific in the error message, state actual values
- Can also subclass from existing exception class, but check if existing exception works first
- Some packages create their own base exception class (`RequestException`)
Re-raising and Raising From

• Sometimes, we want to detect an exception but also pass it along

```python
try:
    c = b / a
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("Division failed")
    raise
```

• Raising from allows exception to show specific chain of issues

```python
try:
    c = b / a
except ZeroDivisionError as e:
    print("Division failed")
    raise ValueError("a cannot be zero") from e
```

• Usually unnecessary because Python does the right thing here (shows chain)
Making Sense of Exceptions

• When code (e.g. a cell) crashes, read the traceback:

• ZeroDivisionError          Traceback (most recent call last)
  <ipython-input-58-488e97ad7d74> in <module>
    4     return divide(a+b, a-b)
    5 for i in range(4):
----> 6     process(3, i)
  <ipython-input-58-488e97ad7d74> in process(a, b)
    3         return c / d
    4     return divide(a+b, a-b)
----> 5 for i in range(4):
  <ipython-input-58-488e97ad7d74> in divide(c, d)
    2     def divide(c, d):
----> 3         return c / d
    4     return divide(a+b, a-b)
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
Making Sense of Exceptions

- Start at the bottom: last line is the exception message
- Nesting goes outside-in: innermost scope is last, outermost scope is first
- Arrows point to the line of code that caused errors at each scope
- Surrounding lines give context
Making Sense of Exceptions

- Sometimes, exception handling can mask actual issue!
- ```python
def process(a, b):
    ...
    for i in range(4):
        try:
            process(3, i)
        except ZeroDivisionError:
            raise Exception(f"Cannot process i={i}"�) from None
```
- Exception Traceback (most recent call last)
  `<ipython-input-60-6d0289010945> in <module>
  7         process(3, i)
  8     except ZeroDivisionError:
----> 9         raise Exception(f"Cannot process i={i}"�) from None
Exception: Cannot process i=3
- Usually, Python includes inner exception (from None stops the chain)
Making Sense of Exceptions

• Probably the **worst** thing is to **ignore** all exceptions:

  • def process(a, b):
    ...  
    result = []
    for i in range(6):
      try:
        result.append(process(3, i))
      except:
        pass

• This may seem like the easy way out, don't have to worry about errors, but can mask major issues in the code!

• Be specific (granularity), try to handle cases when something goes wrong, crash **gracefully** if it is an unexpected error
How do you debug code?
Debugging

- print statements
- logging library
- pdb
- Extensions for IDEs (e.g. PyCharm)
- JupyterLab Debugger Support
Print Statements

• Just print the values or other information about identifiers:

```python
def my_function(a, b):
    print(a, b)
    print(b - a == 0)
    return a + b
```

• Note that we need to remember what is being printed

• Can add this to print call, or use f-strings with trailing = which causes the name and value of the variable to be printed

```python
def my_function(a, b):
    print(f"{a=} {b=} {b - a == 0}"")
    return a + b
```
Print Problems

• Have to uncomment/comment
• Have to remember to get rid of (or comment out) debugging statements when publishing code
• Print can dump a lot of text (slows down notebooks)
• Can try to be smarter:
  - if i % 100 == 0:
    
    print(i, f"{current_output=}")
  - do_print = value == 42
    
    if do_print:
      print(f"{a=} {current_output=}"")
Logging Library

- Allows different levels of output (e.g. DEBUG, INFO, WARNING, ERROR, CRITICAL)
- Can output to a file as well as stdout/stderr
- Can configure to suppress certain levels or filter messages
- ```
``` import logging
def my_function(a, b):
    logging.debug(f"{a=} {b=} {b-a == 0}")
    return a + b
my_function(3, 5)
- This doesn't work in notebooks…
Logging Library

- Need to set default level (e.g. DEBUG)
- For notebooks, best to define own logger and set level
- ```python
import logging
logger = logging.Logger('my-logger')
logger.setLevel(logging.DEBUG)
def my_function(a,b):
    logger.debug(f"{a=} {b=} {b-a == 0}"")
return a + b
my_function(3, 5)
```
- Prints on stderr, can set to stdout via:
  ```python
import sys
logging.basicConfig(stream=sys.stdout, level=logging.DEBUG)
  ```
Python Debugger (pdb)

- Debuggers offer the ability to inspect and interact with code as it is running
  - Define breakpoints as places to stop code and enter the debugger
  - Commands to inspect variables and step through code
  - Different types of steps (into, over, continue)
  - Can have multiple breakpoints in a piece of code
- There are a number of debuggers like those built into IDEs (e.g. PyCharm)
- pdb is standard Python, also an ipdb variant for IPython/notebooks
Python Debugger

• Post-mortem inspection:
  - In the notebook, use `%debug` in a new cell to inspect at the line that raised the exception
  • Can have this happen all the time using `%pdb` magic
  • Brings up a new panel that allows debugging interactions
  - In a script, run the script using pdb:
    • `python -m pdb my_script.py`
Python Debugger

• Breakpoints
  - To set a breakpoint, simply add a `breakpoint()` call in the code
  - Before Python 3.7, this required `import pdb; pdb.set_trace()`
  - Run the cell/script as normal and pdb will start when it hits the breakpoint

```python
> <ipython-input-1-792bb5fe2598>(3)divide()
1 def process(a, b):
2     def divide(c, d):
----> 3         return c / d
4         return divide(a+b, a-b)
5 result = []
ipdb>
```
Python Debugger Commands

- **p** [print expressions]: Print expressions, comma separated
- **n** [step over]: continue until next line in **current function**
- **s** [step into]: stop at next line of code (same function or one being called)
- **c** [continue]: continue execution until next breakpoint
- **l** [list code]: list source code (ipdb does this already), also **ll** (fewer lines)
- **b** [breakpoints]: list or set new breakpoint (with line number)
- **w** [print stack trace]: Prints the stack (like what notebook shows during traceback), **u** and **d** commands move up/down the stack
- **q** [quit]: quit
- **h** [help]: help (there are many other commands)
Jupyter Debugging Support
Jupyter Debugging Support
How do you test code?
Testing

- If statements
- Assert statements
- Unit Testing
- Integration Testing
Testing via Print/If Statements

• Can make sure that types or values satisfy expectations
• if not isinstance(a, str):
   raise Exception("a is not a string")
• if 3 < a <= 7:
   raise Exception("a should not be in (3,7]")
• These may not be something we need to always check during runtime
Assertions

- Shortcut for the manual if statements
- Have python throw an exception if a particular condition is not met
- `assert` is a keyword, part of a statement, not a function
- `assert a == 1, "a is not 1"
- Raises `AssertionError` if the condition is not met, otherwise continues
- Can be caught in an except clause or made to crash the code
- Problem: first failure ends error checks
Unit Tests

- "Testing shows the presence, not the absence of bugs", E. Dijkstra
- Want to test many parts of the code
- Try to cover different functions that may or may not be called
- Write functions that test code

```python
def add(a, b):
    return a + b + 1

def test_add():
    assert add(3, 4) == 7, "add not working"

def test_operator():
    assert operator.add(3, 4) == 7, "__add__ not working"
```

- If we just call these in a program, first error stops all testing
Unit Testing Framework

- unittest: built in to Python Standard Library
- nose2: nose tests, was nose, now nose2 (some nicer filtering options)
- pytest: extra features like restarting tests from last failed test
- doctest: built-in, allows test specification in docstrings

- With the exception of doctest, the frameworks allow the same specification of tests
unittest

- Subclass from unittest.TestCase, write test_* functions
- Use assert* instance functions
- import unittest

```python
class TestOperators(unittest.TestCase):
    def test_add(self):
        self.assertEqual(add(3, 4), 7)

    def test_add_op(self):
        self.assertEqual(operator.add(3, 4), 7)
unittest.main(argv=[''], exit=False)
```
Lots of Assertions

- `assertEqual/assertNotEqual`: smart about lists/tuples/etc.
- `assertLess/assertGreater/assertLessEqual/assertGreaterEqual`
- `assertAlmostEqual`: allows for floating-point arithmetic errors
- `assertTrue/assertFalse`: check boolean assertions
- `assertIsNone`: check for `None` values
- `assertIn`: check containment
- `assertIsInstance`
- `assertRegex`: check that a regex matches
- `assertRaises`: check that a particular exception is raised