Programming Principles in Python (CSCI 503)

Exceptions

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(some slides adapted from Dr. Reva Freedman)

Object-Based Programming

- With Python's libraries, you often don't need to write your own classes. Just
  - Know what libraries are available
  - Know what classes are available
  - Make objects of existing classes
  - Call their methods
- With inheritance and overriding and polymorphism, we have true object-oriented programming (OOP)

[Deitel & Deitel]

Named Tuples & SimpleNamespace

- Named tuples add the ability to use dot-notation
- ```
  from collections import namedtuple
  Car = namedtuple('Car', ['make', 'model', 'year', 'color'])
  car1 = Car(make='Toyota', model='Camry', year=2000,
             color="red")
  ```
- SimpleNamespace does allow mutation:
- ```
  from types import SimpleNamespace
  car2 = SimpleNamespace(make='Toyota', model='Camry',
                         year=2000, color="red")
  ```
- Access via dot-notation:
  - `car1.make # "Toyota"`
  - `car2.year # 2000`

Typing

- Dynamic Typing: variable's type can change (what Python does)
- Static Typing: compiler enforces types, variable types generally don't change
- Duck Typing: check method/attribute existence, not type
- Python is a dynamically-typed language (and plans to remain so)
- …but it has recently added more support for type hinting/annotations that allow **static type checking**
- Type annotations change **nothing** at runtime!

[RealPython, G. A. Hjelle]

Type Annotations

- ```
  def area(width : float, height : float) -> float:
      return width * height
  ```
- colon (`:`) after parameter names, followed by type
- arrow (`->`) after function signature, followed by type (then final colon)
- `area("abc", 3) # runs, returns "abcabcabc"`
- These **won't** prevent you from running this function with the wrong arguments or returning a value that doesn't satisfy the type annotation
- Can use mypy to do static type checking based on annotations
  ```

When to use typing

- Pros: Good for documentation, Improve IDEs and linters, Build and maintain cleaner architecture
- Cons: Takes time and effort!, Requires modern Python, Some penalty for typing imports (can be alleviated)
- No when learning Python
- No for short scripts, snippets in notebooks
- Yes for libraries, especially those used by others
- Yes for larger projects to better understand flow of code

[RealPython, G. A. Hjelle]

Data Classes

- ```
  from dataclasses import dataclass
  @dataclass
  class Rectangle:
      width: float
      height: float
  ```
- `Rectangle(34, 21) # just works!`
- Need type annotations, but can use `typing.Any`
- Does a lot of boilerplate tasks
  - Creates basic constructor (`__init__`)
  - Creates `__repr__` method
  - Creates comparison dunder methods (`==`, `!=`, `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`)
  ```

Assignment 6

- Object-oriented Programming
- Track University Enrollment
- Methods for checking conflicts (e.g. disallow student to have overlapping courses, take too many credits)
- Methods for changing course time (check the new time works for everyone)
- Sample code is meant to be run in different cells!
- Due Friday

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

[Java Tutorial, Oracle]

Try-Except

- The `try` statement has the following form:

```
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

Try-Except

- If an error occurs while executing the body, Python looks for an except clause with a matching error type. If one is found, the handler code is executed.
-
```
try:
    c = a / b
except ZeroDivisionError:
    c = 0
```
- Without the except clause (or one that doesn't match), the code **crashes**

Exception Hierarchy

- Python's `BaseException` class is the base class for all exceptions
- Four primary subclasses:
  - `SystemExit`: just terminates program execution
  - `KeyboardInterrupt`: occurs when user types Crl+C or selects Interrupt Kernel in Jupyter
  - `GeneratorExit`: generator done producing values
  - `Exception`: most exceptions subclass from this!
    - `ZeroDivisionError`, `NameError`, `ValueError`, `IndexError`
    - Most exception handling is done for these exceptions

Exception Hierarchy

- Except clauses match when error is an instance of specified exception class
- Remember `isinstance` matches objects of subclasses!
- ```
  try:
      c = a / b
  except Exception:
      c = 0
  ```
- Can also have a **bare** except clause (matches any exception!)
- ```
  try:
      c, d = a / b
  except:
      c, d = 0, 0
  ```
- **…but DON'T do this!**

Exception Granularity

- If you catch any exception using a base class near the top of the hierarchy, you may be **masking** code errors
- ```
  try:
      c, d = a / b
  except Exception:
      c, d = 0, 0
  ```
- Remember `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

- Generally, want try statement to be specific to a part of the code
-
```
try:
    with open('missing-file.dat') as f:
        lines = f.readlines()
    with open('output-file.dat', 'w') as fout:
        fout.write("Testing")
except OSError:
    print("An error occurred processing files.")
```
- We don't know whether reading failed or writing failed
- Maybe that is ok, but having multiple try-except clauses might help

[Deitel & Deitel]

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

- May also be able to address with **multiple** except clauses:
- ```
  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 PermissionError:
      print(f"Cannot write to {out_fname}")
  ```
- However, other OSError problems (disk full, etc.) won't be caught
  ```

Multiple Except Clauses

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

Multiple Except Clauses

- Function like an if/elif sequence
- Checked in order so put more granular exceptions **earlier**!
- ```
  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:
      print("An error occurred processing files")
  except FileNotFoundError:
      print(f"File {fname} does not exist")
  ```
  ```

Multiple Except Clauses

- Function like an if/elif sequence
- Checked in order so put more granular exceptions **earlier**!
- ```
  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:
      print("An error occurred processing files")
  except FileNotFoundError:
      print(f"File {fname} does not exist")
  ```
  ```

Bare Except

- The bare except clause acts as a catch-all (elif any other exception)
-
```
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")
except:
    print("Any other error goes here")
```

Handling Multiple Exceptions at Once

- Can process multiple exceptions with one clause, use **tuple** of classes
- Allows some specificity but without repeating
- ```
  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, 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
- ```
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)
```
```

Else Clause

- Code that executes if no exception occurs
- ```
  b = 3
  a = 2
  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
  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 a exception class:
  - `ValueError`: if an argument doesn't fit the functions 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
- ```
  try:
      c = b / a
  except ZeroDivisionError:
      print("Division failed")
      raise
  ```
- Raising from allows exception to show specific chain of issues
- ```
  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!
- ```
  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
  ```