



Dictionaries and Tuples

Programming (for biologists)
BIOL 7800

Strings

A **string** is a **sequence** of characters

‘Able was I ere I saw Elba’



These are both “strings”



‘1 2 3 4 5 6 7’

Lists

In: `my_string.split(' ')`

Out: `['this', 'is', 'my', 'string']`



List

Like a string, a **list** is also a sequence of values, but values can be of any **type** (not just characters)

Anatomy of a List

Enclosed in **square** brackets



You can **access** an **element**

```
my_list[3] = 'cool'
```

Anatomy of a Dictionary

A dictionary is a *mapping* of some **value(s)** to a **unique** key

Enclosed in squiggely braces

my_dict = { **1**: 'dogs', **2**: 'cats', **3**: 'mice' }

key:value key:value key:value

The diagram illustrates the structure of a dictionary. The variable **my_dict** is assigned a dictionary literal enclosed in curly braces. Three yellow arrows point from the text 'Enclosed in squiggely braces' to the opening and closing braces. Another three yellow arrows point from the labels 'key:value' to the individual key-value pairs: **1**: 'dogs', **2**: 'cats', and **3**: 'mice'. The keys are highlighted in pink, green, and red respectively, and the values are in single quotes.

keys must be unique!

Anatomy of a Dictionary

A dictionary is a *mapping* of some **value(s)** to a **unique key**

A dictionary allows you to “**look up**” **values** that go with **keys**!

```
my_dict = { 1: 'dogs', 2: 'cats', 3: 'mice' }
```

You can **access** an **element**

```
my_dict[1] = 'dogs'
```

But the following does not work:

```
my_dict[0] = 'dogs'
```

Dicts are generalized lists

```
my_list = ['dicts', 'are', 'pretty', 'cool']
```



Diagram illustrating the indexing of a list. The list elements are 'dicts', 'are', 'pretty', and 'cool'. Below each element is its corresponding index: 0, 1, 2, and 3. Arrows point from the word 'Indexes' to each of these index values.

In a **list**, the **indexes** are defined for us by **element number**

```
my_dict = {0: 'dicts', 1: 'are', 2: 'pretty', 3: 'cool'}
```

In a **dict**, we **define** the **indexes**

Anatomy of a Dictionary

```
my_dict = {999: 'dicts', 72: 'are', 2: 'pretty', 63: 'cool'}
```

In a **dict**, we **define** the **indexes** (called “keys”)
(they needn't have any order)

```
my_dict = {'word1': 'dicts', 'word2': 'are', 'word3': 'pretty'}
```

In a **dict**, we **define** the **keys**
(and they don't need to be numbers)

Keys can be **any unique object**

Creating a Dictionary

```
my_pets = dict()
```

```
my_pets = {}
```

Add a key/value

```
In: my_pets['dogs'] = 2
```

```
In: print(my_pets)
```

```
Out: {'dogs': 2}
```

Add several keys/values

```
In: my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 3, 'hamsters': 1}
```

```
In: print(my_pets)
```

```
Out: {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 3, 'hamsters': 1}
```

Dictionary

```
my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 3, 'hamsters': 1}
```

Access an element

```
In: my_pets['dogs']
```

```
Out: 2
```

Change an element

```
In: my_pets['dogs'] = 12
```

```
In: my_pets['dogs']
```

```
Out: 12
```

Increment an element

```
In: my_pets['dogs'] += 1
```

```
In: my_pets['dogs']
```

```
Out: 13
```

Dictionary

```
my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 3, 'hamsters': 1}
```

Delete an element

```
In: del my_pets['dogs']
```

```
In: print(my_pets)
```

```
Out: {'cats': 3, 'hamsters': 1}
```

Dictionary

Dictionary keys must be **unique**
while values *can be anything*

Here, all **values** are the same

```
my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}
```

Here, **values** have **list** type

```
my_pets = {'dogs': ['scoobie', 'idiot'],  
          'cats': ['stinker', 'sir poopsalot']}
```

Here, **values** have **multiple** types

```
my_pets = {'dogs': numpy.array([1, 2, 3]),  
          'cats': 'Seq('ACGTGAGTCGTATA')}
```

Dictionary

Dictionary keys are also **unordered**
Meaning that you **cannot assume** they will:

- (1) remain in the order you entered them
- (2) follow any logical order

In: `test_dict = {'A': 'best', 'B': 'good', 'C': 'okay', 'D': 'bad'}`

In: `print(test_dict)`

Out: `{'B': 'good', 'D': 'bad', 'C': 'okay', 'A': 'best', }`

Dictionary

```
In: my_pets = {'dogs':['scoobie', 'idiot'],  
               'cats':['stinker', 'sir poopsalot']}
```

```
In: len(my_pets)
```

What is the **len** of **my_pets**?

Dictionary

```
In: my_pets = {'dogs':['scoobie', 'idiot'],  
               'cats':['stinker', 'sir poopsalot']}
```

```
In: len(my_pets)
```

```
Out: 2
```

len gives the total count of **key:value** pairs in the **dict**

Dictionaries are iterable

```
In: my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}
```

```
In: for item in my_pets:  
    print(item)
```

dogs

cats

hamsters

But, standard iteration only returns their **keys**



Dictionaries are iterable

```
In: my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}
```

```
In: for item in my_pets:  
    print(item, my_pets[item])
```

```
dogs 2
```

```
cats 2
```

```
hamsters 2
```

To get the **value** associated with each **key**
we have to iterate over **keys**, and lookup each **value**



This is **slow**!

Dictionaries are iterable

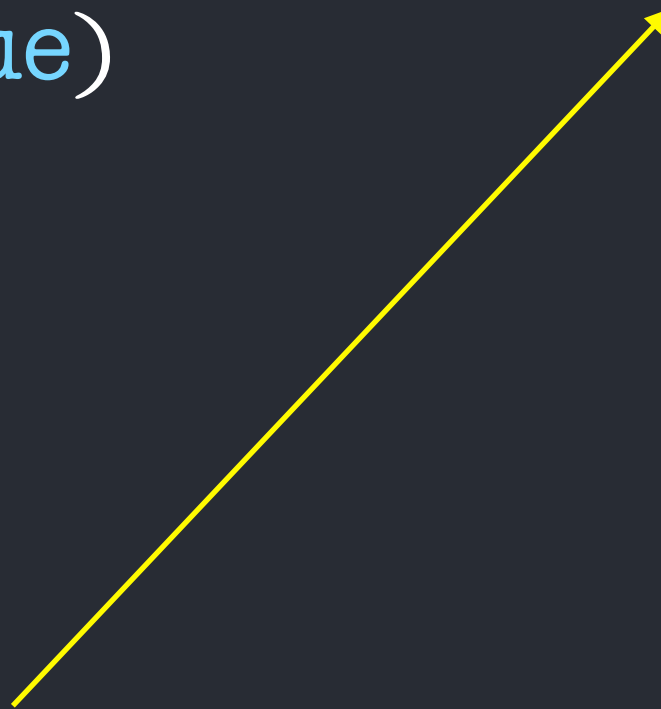
```
In: my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}
```

```
In: for key, value in my_pets.items():  
    print(key, value)
```

```
dogs 2
```

```
cats 2
```

```
hamsters 2
```



We can use the `.items()` method of dictionaries to iterate over all `key:value` pairs in the dictionary

This is **faster!**

Dictionary methods

Get only the keys of a dictionary with `.keys()`

In: `my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}`

In: `my_pets.keys()`

Out: `dict_keys(['dogs', 'cats', 'hamsters'])`

Get only the values of a dictionary with `.values()`

In: `my_pets = {'dogs': 2, 'cats': 2, 'hamsters': 2}`

In: `my_pets.values()`

Out: `dict_values([2, 2, 2])`

Tuple

```
In: my_tuple = ('this', 'is', 'my', 'tuple')
```

↑
Tuple

Like a list, a **tuple** is a sequence of values.
Values can be of any **type** and values are **immutable**

Anatomy of a Tuple

Enclosed in **parentheses** (optional but common)



You can **access** an **element**

`my_tuple[1] = 'is'`

Anatomy of a Tuple

This is also a tuple

Comma separated values (no parens)

my_tuple = 'this', 'is', 'my', 'tuple'

↑	↑		
item	item		
of a list	of a list		
0	1	2	3

Creating a Tuple

```
my_tuple = ()
```

Set a variable to opposing parentheses
to create empty tuple

```
my_tuple = tuple()
```

Set a variable to tuple() type

```
my_tuple = ('dog', 'cat', 'mouse', 'rat')
```

Type in tuple entries between opposing parentheses

```
my_tuple = tuple('dog')
```

“tuplify” a string

```
('d', 'o', 'g')
```

```
my_tuple = tuple(['dog', 'cat', 'rat'])
```

“tuplify” a list

Creating a Tuple

This is not a tuple

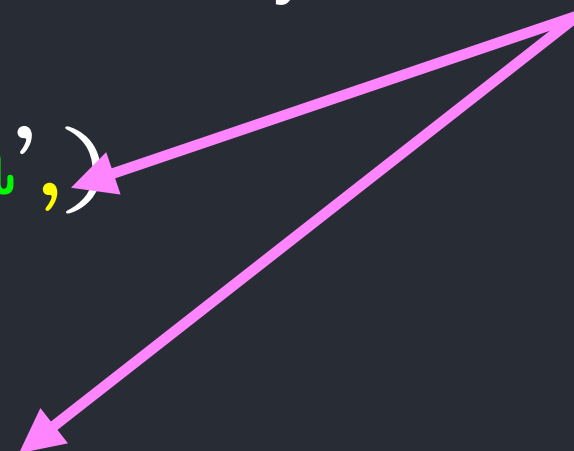
```
my_not_a_tuple = ('a')
```

A single element must be followed by a comma

```
my_tuple = ('a',)
```

or

```
my_tuple = 'a',
```



Tuples are **immutable**

Unlike lists, you cannot modify tuple elements

In: `my_tuple = ('dog', 'cat', 'mouse', 'rat')`

In: `my_tuple[1] = 'hamster'`

Out: `TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment`

Tuples are **immutable**

Unlike lists, you cannot modify list elements

But what about...

In: `my_tuple = ([1,2,3], ['cat','dog'], [4.6])`

In: `my_tuple[1][0] = 'rabbit'`

In: `print(my_tuple)`

Tuples are **immutable**

Unlike lists, you **cannot** modify list elements

But what about...

In: `my_tuple = ([1,2,3], ['cat','dog'], [4.6])`

In: `my_tuple[1][0] = 'rabbit'`

In: `print(my_tuple)`

Out: `([1,2,3], ['rabbit','dog'], [4.6])`



How ??

Tuple operations

You can **add** (concatenate) tuples

In: ('a', 'b', 'c') + ('1', '2', '3')

Out: ('a', 'b', 'c', '1', '2', '3')

You can **multiply** (repeat) tuples

In: ('a',) * 6

Out: ('a', 'a', 'a', 'a', 'a', 'a')

But, tuples have many fewer attributes/methods
[so no **.append()** or **.extend()**]

Tuples & Functions

```
example.py — /Users/bcf/Dropbox (faircloth-lab)/Classes/BIOL7800/temp  
example.py  
1  #!/usr/bin/env python  
2  # encoding: utf-8  
3  
4  
5  def function1(arg):  
6      product = arg * arg  
7      return product  
8  
9  
10 def main():  
11     result = function1(2)  
12     print result  
13  
14 if __name__ == '__main__':  
15     main()  
16
```

← **return** product

Typically, functions return **one** value

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Tuples & Functions

```
example.py — /Users/bcf/Dropbox (faircloth-lab)/Classes/BIOL7800/temp
1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  # encoding: utf-8
3
4
5  def function1(arg):
6      product = arg * arg
7      return arg, product, arg
8
9
10 def main():
11     result = function1(2)
12     print(result)
13
14
15 if __name__ == '__main__':
16     main()
17
```

← **return** arg, product, arg

But, **functions**
can return more
than **one** value
in form of a tuple

So, what does this **print**?

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Tuples & Functions

```
example.py — /Users/bcf/Dropbox (faircloth-lab)/Classes/BIOL7800/temp
1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  # encoding: utf-8
3
4
5  def function1(arg):
6      product = arg * arg
7      return arg, product, arg
8
9
10 def main():
11     result = function1(2)
12     print(result)
13
14
15 if __name__ == '__main__':
16     main()
17
```

← **return** arg, product, arg

But, **functions**
can return more
than **one** value
in form of a tuple
(2, 4, 2)

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Tuples & Functions

```
example.py — /Users/bcf/Dropbox (faircloth-lab)/Classes/BIOL7800/temp

example.py
1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  # encoding: utf-8
3
4
5  def function1(arg):
6      product = arg * arg
7      return arg, product, arg
8
9
10 def main():
11     r_arg1, product, r_arg2 = function1(2)
12     print("This is 1st pos", r_arg1)
13     print("This is 2nd pos", product)
14     print("This is 3rd pos", r_arg2)
15
16
17 if __name__ == '__main__':
18     main()
```

return arg, product, arg

We can “unpack” those three **return** values into 3 variables

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zip() and Tuples

zip() is a function that joins two sequences to make one tuple
the resulting tuple has one element from each sequence

In: jackson = 'abc'

In: five = '123'

In: print(list(zip(jackson, five)))

Out: [('a', '1'), ('b', '2'), ('c', '3')]

zip() and Tuples

zip() is a function that joins two sequences to make one tuple and can also be used to quickly make a dictionary

In: jackson = 'abc'

In: five = '123'

In: my_dict = dict(zip(jackson, five))

In: print(my_dict)

Out: {'a': '1', 'b': '2', 'c': '3'}