



Tuples

Chapter 10

Python for Informatics: Exploring Information
www.py4inf.com



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Tuples are like lists

- Tuples are another kind of sequence that function much like a list - they have elements which are indexed starting at 0

```
>>> x = ('Glenn', 'Sally', 'Joseph')
>>> print x[2]
Joseph
>>> y = ( 1, 9, 2 )
>>> print y
(1, 9, 2)
>>> print max(y)
9

>>> for iter in y:
...     print iter
...
1
9
2
>>>
```

Tuples are "immutable"

- Unlike a list, once you create a tuple, you cannot alter its contents - similar to a string

```
>>> x = [9, 8, 7]
>>> x[2] = 6
>>> print x
[9, 8, 6]
>>>

>>> y = 'ABC'
>>> y[2] = 'D'
Traceback:
'str' object does
not support item
assignment
>>>

>>> z = (5, 4, 3)
>>> z[2] = 0
Traceback:
'tuple' object does
not support item
assignment
>>>
```

Things not to do with tuples

```
>>> x = (3, 2, 1)
>>> x.sort()
Traceback:
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'sort'
>>> x.append(5)
Traceback:
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'append'
>>> x.reverse()
Traceback:
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'reverse'
>>>
```

A Tale of Two Sequences

```
>>> l = list()
>>> dir(l)
['append', 'count', 'extend', 'index', 'insert',
'pop', 'remove', 'reverse', 'sort']

>>> t = tuple()
>>> dir(t)
['count', 'index']
```

What *can* tuples do?

- Since tuples are *not* mutable, they are hashable - which means that a tuple *can* be used as a key in a dictionary
- Since lists *can* change they *can not* be keys in a dictionary

```
>>> d = dict()
>>> d[ ('Chuck', 4) ] = 'yes'
>>> print d.get( ('Chuck', 4) )
yes
>>> d[ ['Glenn', 6] ] = 'no'
Traceback:
TypeError: unhashable type: 'list'
```

Tuples are more efficient

- Since Python does not have to build tuple structures to be modifiable, they are simpler and more efficient in terms of memory use and performance than lists
- So we use tuples more often as "temporary variables" instead of lists.

Tuples are Comparable

- The comparison operators work with tuples and other sequences. If the first item is equal, Python goes on to the next element, and so on, until it finds elements that differ.

```
>>> (0, 1, 2) < (5, 1, 2)
True
>>> (0, 1, 2000000) < (0, 3, 4)
True
>>> ('Jones', 'Sally') < ('Jones', 'Fred')
False
>>> ('Jones', 'Sally') > ('Adams', 'Sam')
True
```

Tuples can be Sorted

- You cannot sort a tuple "in place" but you can create a sorted copy of a tuple using the built-in function `sorted()`

```
>>> tup = (3, 2, 1)
>>> put = sorted(tup)
>>> print put
[1, 2, 3]
>>> print tup
(3, 2, 1)
```

Tuples and Dictionaries

- The `items()` method in dictionaries returns a list of (key, value) tuples

```
>>> d = dict()
>>> d['csev'] = 2
>>> d['cwen'] = 4
>>> tups = d.items()
>>> print tups
[('csev', 2), ('cwen', 4)]
```

```
>>> for (k,v) in d.items():
...     print k, v
...
csev 2
cwen 4
```

Tuples and Assignment

- We can also put a tuple on the left hand side of an assignment statement
- We can even omit the parenthesis

```
>>> (x, y) = (4, 'fred')
>>> print y
fred
>>> a, b = (99, 98)
>>> print a
99
>>> for k,v in d.items():
...     print k, v
...
csev 2
cwen 4
```

Dictionaries and Lists of Tuples

- We can take advantage of the ability to sort a list of tuples to get a sorted version of a dictionary
- First we sort the dictionary by the key using the items() method

```
>>> d = {'a':10, 'b':1, 'c':22}
>>> t = d.items()
>>> t
[('a', 10), ('c', 22), ('b', 1)]
>>> t.sort()
>>> t
[('a', 10), ('b', 1), ('c', 22)]
```

Using sorted()

We can do this even more directly using the built-in function sorted that takes a sequence as a parameter and returns a sorted list of items

```
>>> d = {'a':10, 'b':1, 'c':22}
>>> t = sorted(d.items())
>>> t
[('a', 10), ('b', 1), ('c', 22)]
>>> for k, v in sorted(d.items()):
...     print k, v
...
a 10
b 1
c 22
```

Sort by values instead of key

- If we could construct a list of tuples of the form (value, key) we could sort by value
- We do this with a for loop that creates a list of tuples

```
>>> c = {'a':10, 'b':1, 'c':22}
>>> tmp = list()
>>> for k, v in c.items():
...     tmp.append( (v, k) )
...
>>> print tmp
[(10, 'a'), (22, 'c'), (1, 'b')]
>>> tmp.sort(reverse=True)
>>> print tmp
[(22, 'c'), (10, 'a'), (1, 'b')]
```

```
import string
fhand = open('romeo.txt')
counts = dict()
for line in fhand:
    words = line.split()
    for word in words:
        counts[word] = counts.get(word, 0) + 1

lst = list()
for key, val in counts.items():
    lst.append( (val, key) )
lst.sort(reverse=True)

for val, key in lst[:10]:
    print key, val
```

The top 10 most common words.

Summary

- Tuple syntax
- Mutability (not)
- Comparability
- Sortable
- Hashability (usable as dictionary keys)
- Tuples in assignment statements
- Tuples in functions (adv)
- Using sorted()
- Sorting dictionaries key and value