1.1-1.7: Data Representation and Expressions

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CMPT14x
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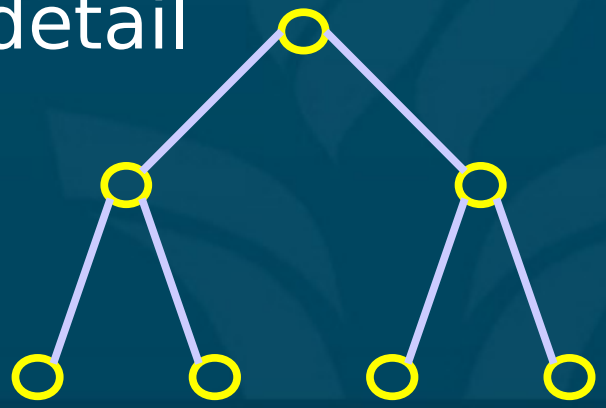
Review (1.1-1.4)

- Toolsmiths must know their toolboxes
  - (what does it mean for a computing scientist to be a toolsmith?)
- Top-down vs. bottom-up
- First step in problem-solving? (don't code yet!)
- ***WADES*** *(Write, Apprehend, Design, Execute, Scrutinize)*
- Levels of abstraction / levels of detail



Data representation

- Data vs. information, knowledge vs. wisdom
- Raw data (factoids, memorized mantras) are useless unless you know what they mean!
- “There are 10 kinds of people in the world: those who know binary, and those who don't.”
  - (what does “10” mean?)

Atomic vs. compound data

- Atomic: represents a single entity
  - e.g., 8, π, 6.022×10^{23}, z
- Compound: entity that also is a collection of components: e.g.,
  - Set: {43, 5, -29.3}
  - Ordered tuple: (3,9) *(what's the diff from set?)*
  - Complex number: 4.63+2i *(set or tuple?)*
  - Aggregate: (name, age, address, phone#)
- Singleton: {43}

Data types

- Certainly atomic vs. compound data are different types
- But even among atomic data there are types: e.g.
  - Cardinals (unsigned whole numbers; naturals): 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...
  - Integers (signed whole): -27, 0, 5, 247
  - Reals / Floats: 5.0, -23.0, $3x10^8$
  - Booleans: True, False
  - Characters: 'a', 'H', '5', '='
  - Strings: “Hello World!”, “5”

Types in Python

- Python has many built-in types; here are some:
  - int: e.g., 2, -5, 0
  - float: e.g., 2.3, -42e6, 0.
  - str: e.g., 'hello', “world”, '!', ''
  - bool: True, False
  - tuple: e.g, (2, -1, 'hi'), ()
- You can find the type of an expression with:
  - type(2.3)
- A complete list of types is at http://docs.python.org/ref/types.html

Different operations for different types (some examples)

- Operators work on operands:
  - e.g. 3+4: operator is "+", operands are 3, 4
- Cardinal type: e.g., +, -, *, /, *print*, etc.
- Character type: e.g., *capitalize*, *print*, etc.
  - 'b' / '4' doesn't make sense
- String type: e.g., *reverse*, *print*, etc.
  - *reverse*(1.3) doesn't make sense
- Array-of-strings type: e.g.,
  - Reverse each string in the array *(different?)*
  - Reverse the order of the array

Go therefore and
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Abstract Data Types

- We define an Abstract Data Type (ADT) as a set of
  items w/ common properties and oper
  - e.g., Real ADT: reals w/ +, -, *, /, et

- Implementation of an ADT:
  - Real-world implementations of ADTs on actual computers have limitations
  - e.g. Can't represent integers bigger than 2147483647 (on a 32-bit machine)
  - e.g. Real (floating-point) numbers can be represented only up to a certain number of significant figures: 1.99999999999 ≠ 2

Variables and constants

- A constant's value remains fixed: e.g., π, e, 2
- A variable's value may change: e.g., x, numberOfApples
- We can assign new values to variables
  - numberOfApples = 12
  - numberOfApples = numberOfApples – 1
- But not to constants
  - π = 3.0 (don't want to do this!)
- In Python, there is no way to force a name to be constant
  - Convention: use ALLCAPS for names that are intended to be constant

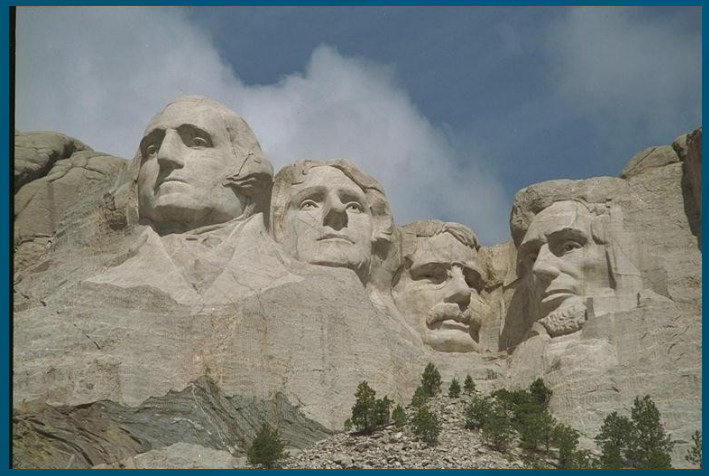
Expressions

- A combination of data items with appropriate operators is called an expression
- Expressions are evaluated to obtain a single numeric result
  - 15 + 9 + 11 + 2 ------evaluation--->>> 37
- Operators may evaluate to a different type than their operands:
  - 22.1 > 15.0:
    What is the type of the operands?
    What is the type of the result?

Logical operators

- Logical operators are operators on the bool type:
  - GodLovesMe = True
  - ILoveGod = False
- not: flips True to False and vice-versa
  - not GodLovesMe >>> False
- and: evaluates to True if both operands are True
  - GodLovesMe and ILoveGod >>> False
- or: evaluates to True if at least one operand is True
  - GodLovesMe or ILoveGod >>> True

Operator Precedence

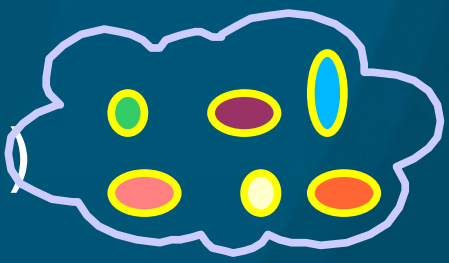


- How would you evaluate this?
  - 5 + 4 * 2
  - (5 + 4) * 2 >>> 18: Addition first
  - 5 + (4 * 2) >>> 13: Multiplication first
- Precedence is a convention for which operators get evaluated first (higher precedence)
  - Usually multiplication has higher precedence than addition
- When in doubt, use parentheses!

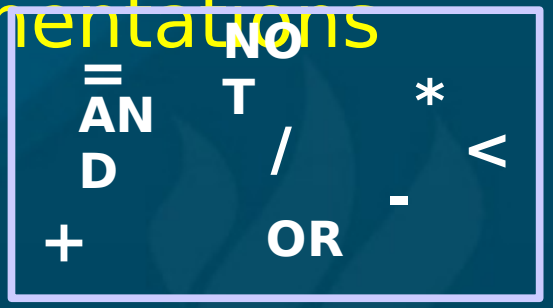
Expression compatibility

- 5 + True doesn't make sense: incompatible types
- What about 5(int) + 2.3(float)?
  - Works because the two types are expression compatible
- The "+" operator is overloaded:
  - It works for multiple types: both int and float
- It turns out that in Python, 5+True does evaluate:
  - 5+True >>> 6
    (interprets True as 1 and False as 0)

Review (1.5-1.7)

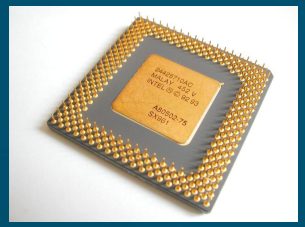


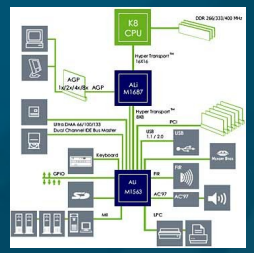
- Atomic vs. compound data (examples?)
- Data types (examples?)
  - What's the difference: 5, 5.0, '5', “5”, (5), {5}
- Operators, operands, ADTs, implementations
- Variables vs. constants
- Logical operators: not, and, or
- Operator precedence
- Expression compatibility (what types?)



Hardware abstractions

- Generally, most computers have these basic hardware components:
  - Input
  - Memory
  - Processing
  - Control
  - Output





- Together with the software, the environment presented to the computer user by these is the virtual machine

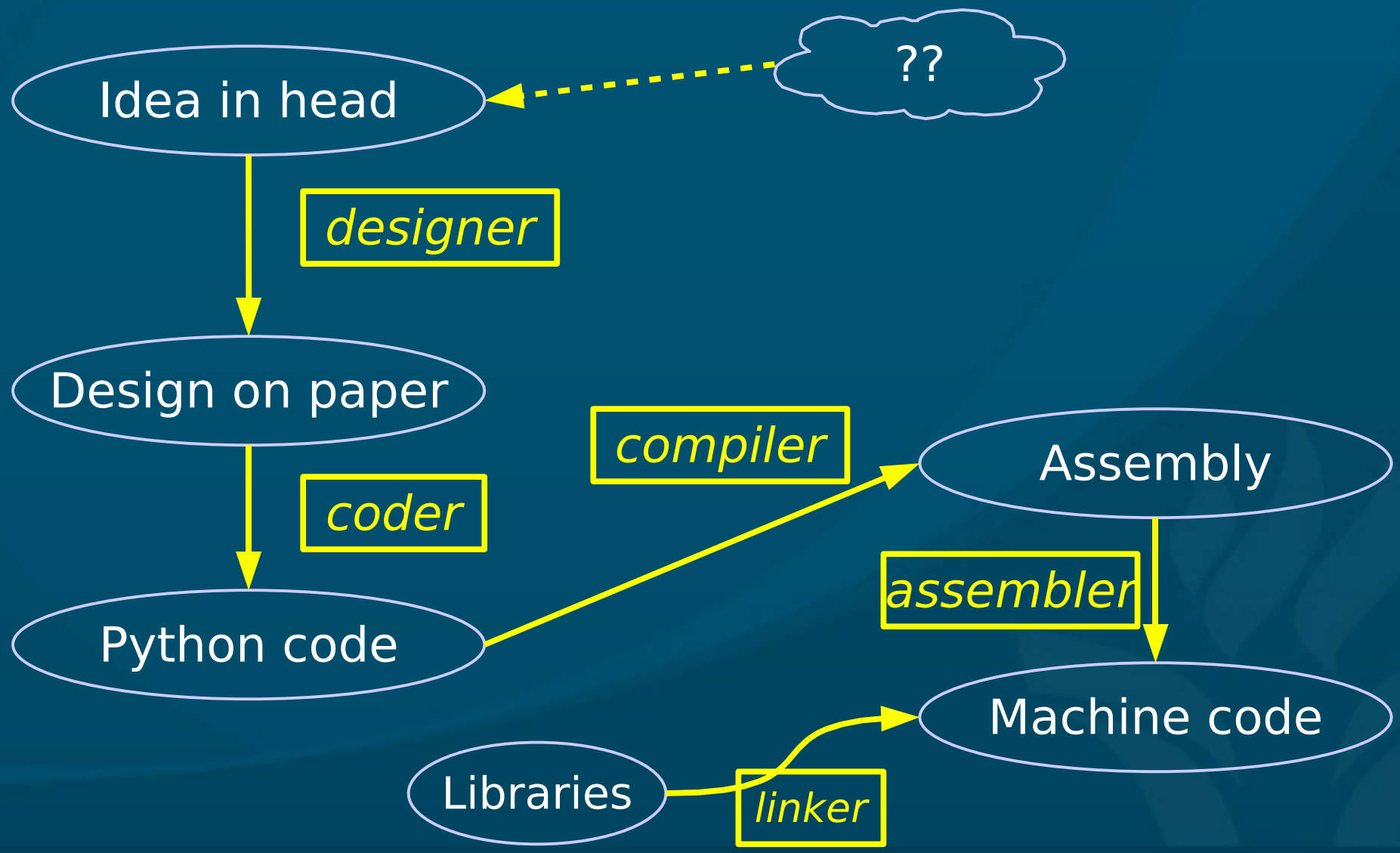
Software abstractions

- Instructions: basic commands to computer
  - e.g., ADD x and y and STORE the result in z
- Programming language: set of all available instructions
  - e.g., Python, C++, machine language

Python

- Program: sequence of instructions
  - e.g., your “Hello World” program
- Software: package of one or more programs
  - e.g. Microsoft Word, Microsoft Office
- Operating system: software running the computer: provides environment for programmer
  - e.g., Windows XP, Mac OSX, Linux, etc.

Programming is translation



Control abstractions

- Sequence: first do this; then do that
- Selection (branch): IF ... THEN ... ELSE ...
- Repetition (loop): WHILE ... DO ....
- Composition (subroutine): call a function
- Parallelism: do all these at the same time

- These are the basic building blocks of program control and structure

TODO items

- Go to Neu9 computer lab:
  - Make sure you can login
  - Python/IDLE intro on course www (due Fri)
- Ch1 homework due Fri
- Reading for Fri:
  - M2 text through §2.1
  - Python text ch1-2