

Objectives

- Continuing text processing, manipulation
 - String methods, operations, processing

Extra Credit Opportunity

- Post a response in Canvas's discussion forum "Extra Credit: Other Special Events"

Mar 2, 2026

Sprenkle - CSCI111

**DR. MICHAEL E. MANN
SCIENTIST & AUTHOR**

Science Under Siege

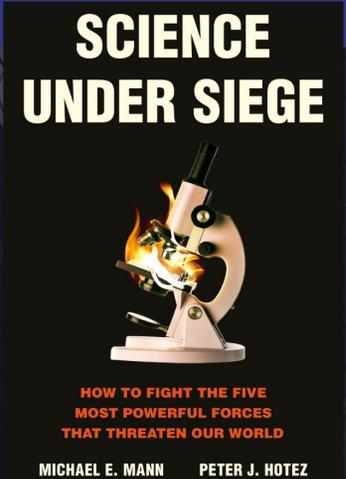
March 4, 2026
5:30 PM
Stackhouse Theater

"It's not too late to do something; it's time to get things done. Read on!" Bill Nye Science Educator

A BOOK SIGNING WILL FOLLOW HIS TALK



SCIENCE UNDER SIEGE



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MICHAEL E. MANN PETER J. HOTEZ

Review

Get out your handouts from last time

- How do we represent text?
 - How can we represent reaaaaaaally long text?
- How can we combine strings?
 - How can we combine strings multiple times?
 - What if we want to combine a string and an integer? What would we need to do?
- How can you find out how many characters are in a string?
- How do we find the character at a particular position of a string?
- Object-oriented programming:
 - What is an API?
 - What are methods?
 - How do we call methods on an object?

Review: Strings

- A *sequence* of one-character strings

➤ Example:

band = "The Beatles"



Length of the string: 11

Built-in function: `len(string)`

to find length of a string

Substrings Operator: []

Literally, not optional



- Look at a particular character in the string
 - Syntax: `string[<integer_expression>]`
 - [Positive value]: index of character
 - [Negative value]: count backwards from end
- Examples:
 - `<sequence>[0]` returns the first element/char
 - `<sequence>[-1]` returns the last element/char

We will deal with sequences

USING THE STR API

str Methods

- **str** is a *class* or a *type*
- **Methods**: available operations to perform on **str** objects
 - Provide common functionality
- To see all methods available for **str** class:
 - `help(str)`

str Methods

- Example method: **find(substring)**
 - Finds the first index where substring is in the string
 - Returns -1 if substring isn't found
- To call a method:
 - `<str_obj>.methodname([arguments])`
 - Example: `filename.find(".py")`
 `find method executed on this string`

Common str Methods

Method	Operation
<code>center(width)</code>	Returns a copy of string centered within the given number of columns
<code>count(sub[, start [, end]])</code>	Returns # of non-overlapping occurrences of substring <code>sub</code> in the string.
<code>endswith(sub)</code> <code>startswith(sub)</code>	Returns <code>True</code> iff string ends with/starts with <code>sub</code>
<code>find(sub[, start [, end]])</code>	Returns first index where substring <code>sub</code> is found
<code>isalpha()</code> , <code>isdigit()</code> , <code>isspace()</code>	Returns <code>True</code> iff string contains letters/digits/whitespace <i>only</i>
<code>lower()</code> , <code>upper()</code>	Returns a copy of string converted to lowercase/uppercase

Common str Methods

Review: What do the square brackets in APIs mean?

Method	Operation
<code>center(width)</code>	Returns a copy of string centered within the given number of columns
<code>count(sub[, start [, end]])</code>	Returns # of non-overlapping occurrences of substring <code>sub</code> in the string.
<code>endswith(sub)</code> <code>startswith(sub)</code>	Returns <code>True</code> iff string ends with/starts with <code>sub</code>
<code>find(sub[, start [, end]])</code>	Returns first index where substring <code>sub</code> is found
<code>isalpha()</code> , <code>isdigit()</code> , <code>isspace()</code>	Returns <code>True</code> iff string contains letters/digits/whitespace <i>only</i>
<code>lower()</code> , <code>upper()</code>	Returns a copy of string converted to lowercase/uppercase

Common str Methods

Method	Operation
<code>replace(old, new[, count])</code>	Returns a copy of string with all occurrences of substring old replaced by substring new . If count given, only replaces first count instances.
<code>split([sep])</code>	Returns a list of the words in the string, using sep as the delimiter string. If sep is not specified or is None, any whitespace string is a separator.
<code>strip()</code>	Returns a copy of the string with the leading and trailing whitespace removed
<code>join(<sequence>)</code>	Returns a string which is the concatenation of the strings in the sequence with the string this is called on as the separator
<code>swapcase()</code>	Returns a copy of the string with uppercase characters converted to lowercase and vice versa.

Understanding the API: What Does This Code Do?

```
sentence = input("Enter a sentence to mangle: ")
length = len(sentence)

print("*", sentence.center(int(length*1.5)), "*")

upperSentence = sentence.upper()
print(upperSentence)
print(sentence)

print("Uppercase: ", sentence.upper())
print()
print("Lowercase: ", sentence.lower())
print()

print("Did sentence change?: ", sentence)
```

Functions vs Methods (with Strings)

Functions

- Associated with a file or module
- All input comes from arguments/parameters
- Example: **len** is a built-in function
 - Called as **len(strobj)**

Methods

- Associated with a *class* or *type*
- Input comes from arguments *and* the string the method was called on
- Example:
 - **strobj.upper()**

How to Use APIs

- Given a problem, break down the problem
 - Can any of the parts of the problem be solved using a method in the API?

Wheel of Fortune

- Determine how many of a certain letter are in a given phrase
- How would we solve this, regardless of case?

```
def get_num_letters( phrase, letter ):
```

Example Test Cases:

```
test.assertEqual( get_num_letters("abracadabra", "a"), 5)  
test.assertEqual( get_num_letters("Abracadabra", "a"), 5)  
test.assertEqual( get_num_letters("abracadabra", "A"), 5)
```

Substrings Operator: [:]

- Select a substring (zero or more characters) using the [] and :
 - The values/positions must be integers
- <sequence> [<start> : <end>]
 - returns the subsequence from the position **start** up to and **not** including **end**
- <sequence> [<start> :]
 - returns the subsequence from the position **start** to the end of the sequence
- <sequence> [: <end>]
 - returns the subsequence from the first element up to and **not** including **end**
- <sequence> [:]
 - returns a copy of the entire sequence

Substrings Operator: [:]

- Select a substring (one or more characters)
- Examples: `filename = "program.py"`

p	r	o	g	r	a	m	.	p	y
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Expression	Result
<code>filename[0:2]</code>	
<code>filename[0:]</code>	
<code>filename[:3]</code>	
<code>filename[8:]</code>	
<code>filename[-2:]</code>	

Substrings Operator: [:]

- Select a substring (one or more characters)
- Examples: `filename = "program.py"`

p	r	o	g	r	a	m	.	p	y
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Expression	Result
<code>filename[0:2]</code>	"pr"
<code>filename[0:]</code>	"program.py"
<code>filename[:3]</code>	"pro"
<code>filename[8:]</code>	"py"
<code>filename[-2:]</code>	"py"

String Comparisons

- Same operations as with numbers:

▶ ==, !=
▶ <, <=
▶ >, >=

} Lexicographical comparison

- Use in conditions, e.g., in **if** statements

```
if course_choice == "CSCI111":  
    print("Good choice!")  
else:  
    print("Maybe next semester")
```

Iterating Through a String

- Use a **for** loop to iterate through *characters* in a string

Loop variable represents a string of length 1



```
for char in string:  
    print(char)
```

➤ Read as “for each character in the string”

Iterating Through a String

- Use a **for** loop to iterate through *characters* in a string

Name of loop variable doesn't matter
(with respect to the code's functionality)

```
for doggie in string:  
    print(doggie)
```

- Read as “for each character (named by loop variable doggie) in the string”

Iterating Through a String

- Alternatively, can iterate through the *positions* in a string

```
for pos in range(len(string)):
    print(string[pos])
```

What values are assigned to `pos`?
What is displayed when `string = "kitty"`?

Iterating Through a String

- Alternatively, can iterate through the *positions* in a string
 - Could write as a **while** loop as well (How?)

An integer

```
for pos in range(len(string)):
    print(string[pos])
```

Character at that position in the string

Index into the string

Summary: Iterating Through a String

- For each *character* in the string

string of length 1

```
for char in mystring:  
    print(char)
```

Produce the same output!

What comes after `in`
determines loop's behavior

- For each *position* in the string

An integer

```
for pos in range(len(mystring)):  
    print(mystring[pos])
```

Index into the string

Testing for Substrings

- Using the **in** operator
 - Used **in** before in **for** loops
- Syntax: `substring in string`
 - Evaluates to **True** or **False**
- Example: simple Web search

```
if searchTerm in documentText:  
    print(document, "contains", searchTerm)
```

String Search Comparison

- What do the two **if** statements test for? (What would be descriptive, appropriate output?)

```
PYTHON_EXT = ".py"

filename = input("Enter a filename: ")

if filename[-(len(PYTHON_EXT)):] == PYTHON_EXT:
    # Appropriate output 1
if PYTHON_EXT in filename:
    # Appropriate output 2
```

Provide some examples for filename
and state how code would execute

String Search Comparison

- What do the two **if** statements test for?

```
PYTHON_EXT = ".py"

filename = input("Enter a filename: ")

if filename[-(len(PYTHON_EXT)):] == PYTHON_EXT:
    # Appropriate output 1
if PYTHON_EXT in filename:
    # Appropriate output 2
```

How would the program execution change if the structure used an **if-elif**?

Looking Ahead

- Lab 6 Pre-lab due tomorrow
- Lab 6 tomorrow!
- Broader Issue: Social Media Responsibility