

Objectives

- Escape Sequences
- Computer's representations of data types

Lab 6 Reflection

- Reflection: How far have I come in Computer Science?
- Indefinite loops require a different way of thinking
- Likely, hardest problem was second rather than last
- Even more tools that you can combine—with new tools or old tools!
 - A lot of String operations
 - Previously: a lot of arithmetic operations, but you're familiar with those
- Break down problems
 - Solve what you can; break down what you can't
 - Not necessarily linear development
 - May do something and then undo it for the next step

ESCAPE SEQUENCES

Escape Sequences

- Escape sequences: Represent special characters within a string
 - Considered a single character
- Escape character: `\`
 - The character following the escape character tells you how to interpret the escape sequence

Escape Sequence	Meaning
<code>\n</code>	Newline character (carriage return)
<code>\t</code>	Tab
<code>\"</code> or <code>\'</code>	Quote
<code>\\</code>	Backslash

Using Escape Sequences

```
>>> mystr = "Hello!\nHi!"
>>> mystr
'Hello!\nHi!'
>>> print(mystr)
Hello!
Hi!
>>> len(mystr)
10
```

What do these evaluate to?

```
mystr[5]
mystr[6]
mystr[7]
```

Using Escape Sequences

```
>>> mystr = "Hello!\nHi!"
>>> mystr
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>>> print(mystr)
Hello!
Hi!
>>> len(mystr)
10
```

What do these evaluate to?

`mystr[5]` → `"!"`

`mystr[6]` → `"\n"`

`mystr[7]` → `"H"`

Escape Sequences

- Escape sequences: Represent special characters within a string
 - Considered a single character
- Escape character: `\`
 - The character following the escape character tells you how to interpret the escape sequence
- Example:
 - `print("To print a \\, you must use \"\\\\\\\"")`
 - What does this display?

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[Interactive demonstration](#)

Review: Description of `print`

- `print(*objects, sep=' ', end='\n', file=sys.stdout)`

Semantics: default values for `sep` is ' ' and `end` is '\n'

- Print *object(s)* to the stream *file*, separated by *sep* and followed by *end*.
- Both *sep* and *end* must be strings; they can also be `None`, which means to use the default values. If no *object* is given, *print()* will just write *end*.

Mar 4, <https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#print>

Practice

- What does this output?

```
print("\n")
```

- Display To print a tab, you must use '\t'.
- Display I said, "How are you?"

Representations of Data

- Computer needs to represent different types of data
 - Eventually, all boils down to 1s and 0s
- Computer needs to translate between what humans know to what computer knows and back again



Mar 4, 2026

s Seems like a divergence on strings but just wait...

Decimal Representations

- Decimal is base 10
- Digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Each *position* in a decimal number represents a **power of 10**

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- Each *position* in a decimal number represents a **power of 10**

- Example: 54,087

5	4	0	8	7
10^4	10^3	10^2	10^1	10^0

- $= 5 * 10^4 + 4 * 10^3 + 0 * 10^2 + 8 * 10^1 + 7 * 10^0$

- $= 5 * 10,000 + 4 * 1000 + 0 * 100 + 8 * 10 + 7 * 1$

Number Representations

Characteristic	Decimal	Binary
Base	10	2
Digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	0, 1
Position represents	Power of 10	Power of 2

- Binary: two values (0, 1)
 - Like a light switch (either **off** or **on**) or booleans (either True or False)
- 0 and 1 are *binary digits* or **bits**
 - 64-bit machine: represents numbers (and other data) with 64 bits

Binary Representation

- Binary number: 1101

1	1	0	1
2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0

- $= 1*2^3 + 1*2^2 + 0*2^1 + 1*2^0$
 - $= 1*8 + 1*4 + 0*2 + 1*1$
- Decimal value: 13

Practice: what is the decimal value of the binary number **10110?**



Binary Representation

- Binary number: 10110

Binary Representation

- Binary number: 10110

1	0	1	1	0
2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0

- $= 1*2^4 + 0*2^3 + 1*2^2 + 1*2^1 + 0*2^0$

- $= 1*16 + 0*8 + 1*4 + 1*2 + 0*1$

➤ 22

Process to Implement Binary to Decimal Conversion

1. Design function API:
`binary_to_decimal(binary_num)`
 - Takes as parameter the binary number as a *string* (Why?)
 - Returns the decimal value of the given binary number
2. Define good test cases for this function
 - Input, expected results
3. Generalize this process into an algorithm
4. “Run” your algorithm on these test cases
5. Implement your algorithm

Algorithm 1: Converting Binary → Decimal

Left to right traversal of binary number

Accumulator design pattern

Given the binary number as a string

1. Initialize the result to zero
2. The starting exponent will be the length of the string-1
3. For each bit in the binary number
 - Multiply the bit by the appropriate power of 2
 - Add this to the result
 - Reduce the exponent by 1
4. Return the result

Algorithm 2: Converting Binary → Decimal

Right to left traversal of binary number

Accumulator design pattern

Given the binary number as a string

1. Initialize the result to zero
2. Initialize the exponent to zero
3. Iterate over the positions of the binary number from right to left
 - Determine the bit at that position in the binary number
 - Multiply the bit by the appropriate power of 2
 - Add this to the result
 - Increase the exponent by 1
4. Return the result

Practice

- Implement both algorithms
 - Test!

- After implementing, you can compare with my solutions
 - [binaryToDecimalIterateOverCharacters.py](#)
 - [binaryToDecimalIterateOverExponents.py](#)

Converting Decimal \rightarrow Binary

- What should the function API be?
- Define test cases

Algorithm: Converting Decimal → Binary

Given the decimal as an integer...

1. Initialize the result to the empty string
2. Repeat until the decimal is 0:
 - `result = str(decimal % 2) + result`
 - `decimal = decimal // 2`
3. Return the result

1. Try out algorithm with 22 as input
2. Implement algorithm in function `decimal_to_binary`

Looking Ahead

- Lab 6 due Friday
- Broader Issue: Social Media Company Responsibility