Introduction to Programming in Python Arithmetic

Dr. Bill Young
Department of Computer Science
University of Texas at Austin

Last updated: June 4, 2021 at 11:04

Arithmetic is something you do frequently in computing. Here are some useful operations you can perform on numeric data types.

Name	Meaning	Example	Result
+	Addition	34 + 1	35
-	Subtraction	34.0 - 0.1	33.9
*	Multiplication	300 * 30	9000
/	Float division	1 / 2	0.5
//	Integer division	1 // 2	0
%	Remainder	20 % 3	2
**	Exponentiation	4 ** 0.5	2.0

(x % y) is often referred to as "x mod y".

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 1

Arithmetic

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 2

Arithmetic

Some Arithmetic Expressions

>>> ans1 = 3 + (16 - 4) / 3 >>> ans2 = 13 % 2 - 1 >>> ans3 = 17 / 2 >>> ans4 = 17 // 2 >>> ans5 = 4 ** 2 >>> ans6 = 4 ** 0.5 >>> ans7 = 15 * 3 >>> ans8 = 15.0 * 3

What's in the 8 variables? How could you check if x is an even number?

Mixed-Type Expressions

Arithmetic Operations

Most arithmetic operations behave as you would expect for numeric data types.

- Combining two floats results in a float.
- Combining two ints results in an int (except for /). Use // for integer division.
- Dividing two ints gives a float. E.g., 5 / 2 yields 2.5.
- Combining a float with an int usually yields a float.

Python will figure out what the result should be and return a value of the appropriate data type.

Mixed Type Expressions

```
# (5 * 3) - (4 * 6)
>>> 5 * 3 - 4 * 6
-9
>>> 4.2 * 3 - 1.2
11.400000000000000
                      # approximate result
>>> 5 // 2 + 4
                      # integer division
6
>>> 5 / 2 + 4
                      # float division
6.5
```

Notice operations on integers are usually exact, while operations on floats are approximate.

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 5

Operator Precedence

Arithmetic expressions in Python attempt to match standard syntax. Thus,

$$3 + 4 * (5 + 2)$$

is interpreted as representing:

$$(3 + (4 * (5 + 2))).$$

That is, we perform the operation within parenthesis first, then the multiplication, and finally the addition.

To make this happen we need precedence rules.

Augmented Assignment Statements

Python (like C) provides a shorthand syntax for some common assignments:

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 6

Precedence

The following are the precedence rules for Python, with items higher in the chart having higher precedence.

Operator	Meaning
+, -	Unary plus, minus
**	Exponentiation
not	logical negation
*, /, //, %	Multiplication, division,
	integer division, remainder
+, -	Binary plus, minus
<, <=, >, >=	Comparison
==, !=	Equal, not equal
and	Conjunction
or	Disjunction

```
>>> -3 * 4
-12
>>> - 3 + - 4
-7
>>> 3 + 2 ** 4
19
>>> 4 + 6 < 11 and 3 - 10 < 0
True
>>> 4 < 5 <= 17  # notice special syntax
True
>>> 4 + 5 < 2 + 7
False
>>> 4 + (5 < 2) + 7 # this surprised me!
11
```

Use parenthesis to override precedence or to make the evaluation clearer.

```
>>> 10 - 8 + 5
                         # an expression
>>> (10 - 8) + 5
                         # what precedence will do
>>> 10 - (8 + 5)
                         # override precedence
>>> 5 - 3 * 4 / 2
                         # not particularly clear
-1.0
>>> 5 - ((3 * 4) / 2)
                         # much better
-1.0
```

Always try to make your code as easy to read as possible!

Most of the time, the precedence follows what you would expect.

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 9 Arithmetic

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 10

Exercise: Grade Computation

Suppose we want to solve the following problem:. Student Susie Q. has 3 exam grades and 2 project grades. Exams and projects have different possible point values. The exams together count 60% and the projects count 40%. Compute and print a grade report for this student.

Assume the following information:

Student: Susie Q.

Exam grades: 75/100, 85/90, 57/65 Project grades: 95/100, 150/200

Exercise: Grade Computation

Write a program to print a grade report that looks like this. Round each float to 2 decimal places (use the round(value, 2) function for that).

```
Grades for Susie Q.
  Exam1: 75.0
  Exam2: 94.44
  Exam3: 87.69
Exam average: 85.71
 Proj1: 95.0
 Proj2: 75.0
Proj average: 85.0
Course average: 85.43
```

In file Grade1.py:

```
student = "Susie Q."
# Normalize each exam score:
exam1Norm = (75 / 100) * 100.0
exam2Norm = (95 / 90) * 100.0
exam3Norm = (57 / 65) * 100.0
# Compute the average of the three exams:
examAvg = (exam1Norm + exam2Norm + exam3Norm) / 3
# Normalize each project score:
proj1Norm = (95 / 100) * 100.0
proj2Norm = (150 / 200) * 100.0
# Compute the average of the two projects:
projAvg = (proj1Norm + proj2Norm) / 2
# Find the weighted average:
courseAvg = examAvg * 0.6 + projAvg * 0.4
# Program continues on next slide
```

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 13 Arithmetic

Running the Program

```
> python Grade1.py
Grades for Susie Q.
 Exam1: 75.0
 Exam2: 94.44
 Exam3: 87.69
Exam average: 85.71
 Proj1: 95.0
 Proj2: 75.0
Proj average: 85.0
Course average: 85.43
```

```
# Print the student's grade report:
print()
print("Grades for", student)
print(" Exam1:", round(exam1Norm, 2))
print(" Exam2:", round(exam2Norm, 2))
print(" Exam3:", round(exam3Norm, 2))
print("Exam average:", round(examAvg, 2))
print(" Proj1:", round(proj1Norm, 2))
print(" Proj2:", round(proj2Norm, 2))
print("Proj average:", round(projAvg, 2))
print("Course average:", round(courseAvg, 2))
```

Texas Summer Discovery Slideset 4: 14