Beginner's Python Cheat Sheet - Lists

What are lists?

A list stores a series of items in a particular order. Lists allow you to store sets of information in one place, whether you have just a few items or millions of items. Lists are one of Python's most powerful features readily accessible to new programmers, and they tie together many important concepts in programming.

Defining a list

Use square brackets to define a list, and use commas to separate individual items in the list. Use plural names for lists, to make your code easier to read.

Making a list

```
users = ['val', 'bob', 'mia', 'ron', 'ned']
```

Accessing elements

Individual elements in a list are accessed according to their position, called the index. The index of the first element is 0, the index of the second element is 1, and so forth. Negative indices refer to items at the end of the list. To get a particular element, write the name of the list and then the index of the element in square brackets.

Getting the first element

```
first_user = users[0]
```

Getting the second element

```
second_user = users[1]
```

Getting the last element

```
newest_user = users[-1]
```

Modifying individual items

Once you've defined a list, you can change individual elements in the list. You do this by referring to the index of the item you want to modify.

Changing an element

```
users[0] = 'valerie'
users[-2] = 'ronald'
```

Adding elements

You can add elements to the end of a list, or you can insert them wherever you like in a list.

Adding an element to the end of the list

```
users.append('amy')
```

Starting with an empty list

```
users = []
users.append('val')
users.append('bob')
users.append('mia')
```

Inserting elements at a particular position

```
users.insert(0, 'joe')
users.insert(3, 'bea')
```

Removing elements

You can remove elements by their position in a list, or by the value of the item. If you remove an item by its value, Python removes only the first item that has that value.

Deleting an element by its position

```
del users[-1]
```

Removing an item by its value

```
users.remove('mia')
```

Popping elements

If you want to work with an element that you're removing from the list, you can "pop" the element. If you think of the list as a stack of items, pop() takes an item off the top of the stack. By default pop() returns the last element in the list, but you can also pop elements from any position in the list.

Pop the last item from a list

```
most_recent_user = users.pop()
print(most_recent_user)
```

Pop the first item in a list

```
first_user = users.pop(0)
print(first_user)
```

List length

The len() function returns the number of items in a list.

Find the length of a list

```
num_users = len(users)
print("We have " + str(num_users) + " users.")
```

Sorting a list

The sort() method changes the order of a list permanently. The sorted() function returns a copy of the list, leaving the original list unchanged. You can sort the items in a list in alphabetical order, or reverse alphabetical order. You can also reverse the original order of the list. Keep in mind that lowercase and uppercase letters may affect the sort order.

Sorting a list permanently

```
users.sort()
```

Sorting a list permanently in reverse alphabetical order

```
users.sort(reverse=True)
```

Sorting a list temporarily

```
print(sorted(users))
print(sorted(users, reverse=True))
```

Reversing the order of a list

```
users.reverse()
```

Looping through a list

Lists can contain millions of items, so Python provides an efficient way to loop through all the items in a list. When you set up a loop, Python pulls each item from the list one at a time and stores it in a temporary variable, which you provide a name for. This name should be the singular version of the list name.

The indented block of code makes up the body of the loop, where you can work with each individual item. Any lines that are not indented run after the loop is completed.

Printing all items in a list

```
for user in users:
    print(user)
```

Printing a message for each item, and a separate message afterwards

```
for user in users:
    print("Welcome, " + user + "!")

print("Welcome, we're glad to see you all!")
```

The range() function

You can use the range() function to work with a set of numbers efficiently. The range() function starts at 0 by default, and stops one number below the number passed to it. You can use the list() function to efficiently generate a large list of numbers.

Printing the numbers 0 to 1000

```
for number in range(1001):
    print(number)
```

Printing the numbers 1 to 1000

```
for number in range(1, 1001):
    print(number)
```

Making a list of numbers from 1 to a million

```
numbers = list(range(1, 1000001))
```

Simple statistics

There are a number of simple statistics you can run on a list containing numerical data.

Finding the minimum value in a list

```
ages = [93, 99, 66, 17, 85, 1, 35, 82, 2, 77]
youngest = min(ages)
```

Finding the maximum value

```
ages = [93, 99, 66, 17, 85, 1, 35, 82, 2, 77]
oldest = max(ages)
```

Finding the sum of all values

```
ages = [93, 99, 66, 17, 85, 1, 35, 82, 2, 77]
total_years = sum(ages)
```

Slicing a list

You can work with any set of elements from a list. A portion of a list is called a slice. To slice a list start with the index of the first item you want, then add a colon and the index after the last item you want. Leave off the first index to start at the beginning of the list, and leave off the last index to slice through the end of the list.

Getting the first three items

```
finishers = ['kai', 'abe', 'ada', 'gus', 'zoe']
first_three = finishers[:3]
```

Getting the middle three items

```
middle_three = finishers[1:4]
```

Getting the last three items

```
last_three = finishers[-3:]
```

Copying a list

To copy a list make a slice that starts at the first item and ends at the last item. If you try to copy a list without using this approach, whatever you do to the copied list will affect the original list as well.

Making a copy of a list

```
finishers = ['kai', 'abe', 'ada', 'gus', 'zoe']
copy_of_finishers = finishers[:]
```

List comprehensions

You can use a loop to generate a list based on a range of numbers or on another list. This is a common operation, so Python offers a more efficient way to do it. List comprehensions may look complicated at first; if so, use the for loop approach until you're ready to start using comprehensions.

To write a comprehension, define an expression for the values you want to store in the list. Then write a for loop to generate input values needed to make the list.

Using a loop to generate a list of square numbers

```
squares = []
for x in range(1, 11):
    square = x**2
    squares.append(square)
```

Using a comprehension to generate a list of square numbers

```
squares = [x**2 for x in range(1, 11)]
```

Using a loop to convert a list of names to upper case

```
names = ['kai', 'abe', 'ada', 'gus', 'zoe']

upper_names = []
for name in names:
    upper_names.append(name.upper())
```

Using a comprehension to convert a list of names to upper case

```
names = ['kai', 'abe', 'ada', 'gus', 'zoe']

upper_names = [name.upper() for name in names]
```

Styling your code

Readability counts

- Use four spaces per indentation level.
- Keep your lines to 79 characters or fewer.
- Use single blank lines to group parts of your program visually.

Tuples

A tuple is like a list, except you can't change the values in a tuple once it's defined. Tuples are good for storing information that shouldn't be changed throughout the life of a program. Tuples are designated by parentheses instead of square brackets. (You can overwrite an entire tuple, but you can't change the individual elements in a tuple.)

Defining a tuple

```
dimensions = (800, 600)
```

Looping through a tuple

```
for dimension in dimensions:
    print(dimension)
```

Overwriting a tuple

```
dimensions = (800, 600)
print(dimensions)

dimensions = (1200, 900)
```

Visualizing your code

When you're first learning about data structures such as lists, it helps to visualize how Python is working with the information in your program. pythontutor.com is a great tool for seeing how Python keeps track of the information in a list. Try running the following code on pythontutor.com, and then run your own code.

Build a list and print the items in the list

```
dogs = []
dogs.append('willie')
dogs.append('hootz')
dogs.append('peso')
dogs.append('goblin')

for dog in dogs:
    print("Hello " + dog + "!")
print("I love these dogs!")

print("\nThese were my first two dogs:")
old_dogs = dogs[:2]
for old_dog in old_dogs:
    print(old_dog)

del dogs[0]
dogs.remove('peso')
print(dogs)
```

Beginner's Python Cheat Sheet — If Statements and While Loops

What are if statements? What are while loops?

If statements allow you to examine the current state of a program and respond appropriately to that state. You can write a simple if statement that checks one condition, or you can create a complex series of if statements that idenitfy the exact conditions you're looking for.

While loops run as long as certain conditions remain true. You can use while loops to let your programs run as long as your users want them to.

Conditional Tests

A conditional test is an expression that can be evaluated as True or False. Python uses the values True and False to decide whether the code in an if statement should be executed.

Checking for equality

A single equal sign assigns a value to a variable. A double equal sign (==) checks whether two values are equal.

```
>>> car = 'bmw'
>>> car == 'bmw'
True
>>> car = 'audi'
>>> car == 'bmw'
False
```

Ignoring case when making a comparison

```
>>> car = 'Audi'
>>> car.lower() == 'audi'
True
```

Checking for inequality

```
>>> topping = 'mushrooms'
>>> topping != 'anchovies'
True
```

Numerical comparisons

Testing numerical values is similar to testing string values.

Testing equality and inequality

```
>>> age = 18
>>> age == 18
True
>>> age != 18
False
```

Comparison operators

```
>>> age = 19
>>> age < 21
True
>>> age <= 21
True
>>> age > 21
False
>>> age >= 21
False
```

Checking multiple conditions

You can check multiple conditions at the same time. The and operator returns True if all the conditions listed are True. The or operator returns True if any condition is True.

Using and to check multiple conditions

```
>>> age_0 = 22
>>> age_1 = 18
>>> age_0 >= 21 and age_1 >= 21
False
>>> age_1 = 23
>>> age_0 >= 21 and age_1 >= 21
True
```

Using or to check multiple conditions

```
>>> age_0 = 22
>>> age_1 = 18
>>> age_0 >= 21 or age_1 >= 21
True
>>> age_0 = 18
>>> age_0 >= 21 or age_1 >= 21
False
```

Boolean values

A boolean value is either True or False. Variables with boolean values are often used to keep track of certain conditions within a program.

Simple boolean values

```
game_active = True
can_edit = False
```

If statements

Several kinds of if statements exist. Your choice of which to use depends on the number of conditions you need to test. You can have as many elif blocks as you need, and the else block is always optional.

Simple if statement

```
age = 19

if age >= 18:
    print("You're old enough to vote!")
```

If-else statements

```
age = 17

if age >= 18:
    print("You're old enough to vote!")
else:
    print("You can't vote yet.")
```

The if-elif-else chain

```
age = 12

if age < 4:
   price = 0
elif age < 18:
    price = 5
else:
    price = 10

print("Your cost is $" + str(price) + ".")
```

Conditional tests with lists

You can easily test whether a certain value is in a list. You can also test whether a list is empty before trying to loop through the list.

Testing if a value is in a list

```
>>> players = ['al', 'bea', 'cyn', 'dale']
>>> 'al' in players
True
>>> 'eric' in players
False
```

Conditional tests with lists (cont.)

Testing if a value is not in a list

```
banned_users = ['ann', 'chad', 'dee']
user = 'erin'

if user not in banned_users:
    print("You can play!")
```

Checking if a list is empty

```
players = []

if players:
    for player in players:
        print("Player: " + player.title())
else:
    print("We have no players yet!")
```

Accepting input

You can allow your users to enter input using the input() statement. In Python 3, all input is stored as a string.

Simple input

```
name = input("What's your name? ")
print("Hello, " + name + ".")
```

Accepting numerical input

```
age = input("How old are you? ")
age = int(age)

if age >= 18:
    print("\nYou can vote!")
else:
    print("\nYou can't vote yet.")
```

Accepting input in Python 2.7

Use raw_input() in Python 2.7. This function interprets all input as a string, just as input() does in Python 3.

```
name = raw_input("What's your name? ")
print("Hello, " + name + ".")
```

While loops

A while loop repeats a block of code as long as a condition is True.

Counting to 5

```
current_number = 1

while current_number <= 5:
    print(current_number)
    current_number += 1
```

While loops (cont.)

Letting the user choose when to quit

```
prompt = "\nTell me something, and I'll "
prompt += "repeat it back to you."
prompt += "\nEnter 'quit' to end the program. "

message = ""
while message != 'quit':
    message = input(prompt)

    if message != 'quit':
        print(message)
```

Using a flag

```
prompt = "\nTell me something, and I'll "
prompt += "repeat it back to you."
prompt += "\nEnter 'quit' to end the program. "

active = True
while active:
    message = input(prompt)

    if message == 'quit':
        active = False
    else:
        print(message)
```

Using break to exit a loop

```
prompt = "\nWhat cities have you visited?"
prompt += "\nEnter 'quit' when you're done. "

while True:
    city = input(prompt)

    if city == 'quit':
        break
    else:
        print("I've been to " + city + "!")
```

Accepting input with Sublime Text

Sublime Text doesn't run programs that prompt the user for input. You can use Sublime Text to write programs that prompt for input, but you'll need to run these programs from a terminal.

Breaking out of loops

You can use the break statement and the continue statement with any of Python's loops. For example you can use break to quit a for loop that's working through a list or a dictionary. You can use continue to skip over certain items when looping through a list or dictionary as well.

While loops (cont.)

Using continue in a loop

```
banned_users = ['eve', 'fred', 'gary', 'helen']

prompt = "\nAdd a player to your team."
prompt += "\nEnter 'quit' when you're done. "

players = []
while True:
    player = input(prompt)
    if player == 'quit':
        break
    elif player in banned_users:
        print(player + " is banned!")
        continue
    else:
        players.append(player)

print("\nYour team:")
for player in players:
    print(player)
```

Avoiding infinite loops

Every while loop needs a way to stop running so it won't continue to run forever. If there's no way for the condition to become False, the loop will never stop running.

An infinite loop

```
while True:
    name = input("\nWho are you? ")
    print("Nice to meet you, " + name + "!")
```

Removing all instances of a value from a list

The remove() method removes a specific value from a list, but it only removes the first instance of the value you provide. You can use a while loop to remove all instances of a particular value.

Removing all cats from a list of pets

```
pets = ['dog', 'cat', 'dog', 'fish', 'cat',
        'rabbit', 'cat']
print(pets)

while 'cat' in pets:
    pets.remove('cat')

print(pets)
```

More cheat sheets available at
ehmatthes.github.io/pcc/

Beginner's Python Cheat Sheet — Functions

What are functions?

Functions are named blocks of code designed to do one specific job. Functions allow you to write code once that can then be run whenever you need to accomplish the same task. Functions can take in the information they need, and return the information they generate. Using functions effectively makes your programs easier to write, read, test, and fix.

Defining a function

The first line of a function is its definition, marked by the keyword def. The name of the function is followed by a set of parentheses and a colon. A docstring, in triple quotes, describes what the function does. The body of a function is indented one level.

To call a function, give the name of the function followed by a set of parentheses.

Making a function

```
def greet_user():
    """Display a simple greeting."""
    print("Hello!")

greet_user()
```

Passing information to a function

Information that's passed to a function is called an argument; information that's received by a function is called a parameter. Arguments are included in parentheses after the function's name, and parameters are listed in parentheses in the function's definition.

Passing a single argument

```
def greet_user(username):
    """Display a simple greeting."""
    print("Hello, " + username + "!")

greet_user('jesse')
greet_user('diana')
greet_user('brandon')
```

Positional and keyword arguments

The two main kinds of arguments are positional and keyword arguments. When you use positional arguments Python matches the first argument in the function call with the first parameter in the function definition, and so forth.

With keyword arguments, you specify which parameter each argument should be assigned to in the function call. When you use keyword arguments, the order of the arguments doesn't matter.

Using positional arguments

```
def describe_pet(animal, name):
    """Display information about a pet."""
    print("\nI have a " + animal + ".")
    print("Its name is " + name + ".")

describe_pet('hamster', 'harry')
describe_pet('dog', 'willie')
```

Using keyword arguments

```
def describe_pet(animal, name):
    """Display information about a pet."""
    print("\nI have a " + animal + ".")
    print("Its name is " + name + ".")

describe_pet(animal='hamster', name='harry')
describe_pet(name='willie', animal='dog')
```

Default values

You can provide a default value for a parameter. When function calls omit this argument the default value will be used. Parameters with default values must be listed after parameters without default values in the function's definition so positional arguments can still work correctly.

Using a default value

```
def describe_pet(name, animal='dog'):
    """Display information about a pet."""
    print("\nI have a " + animal + ".")
    print("Its name is " + name + ".")

describe_pet('harry', 'hamster')
describe_pet('willie')
```

Using None to make an argument optional

```
def describe_pet(animal, name=None):
    """Display information about a pet."""
    print("\nI have a " + animal + ".")
    if name:
        print("Its name is " + name + ".")

describe_pet('hamster', 'harry')
describe_pet('snake')
```

Return values

A function can return a value or a set of values. When a function returns a value, the calling line must provide a variable in which to store the return value. A function stops running when it reaches a return statement.

Returning a single value

```
def get_full_name(first, last):
    """Return a neatly formatted full name."""
    full_name = first + ' ' + last
    return full_name.title()

musician = get_full_name('jimi', 'hendrix')
print(musician)
```

Returning a dictionary

```
def build_person(first, last):
    """Return a dictionary of information
    about a person.
    """
    person = {'first': first, 'last': last}
    return person

musician = build_person('jimi', 'hendrix')
print(musician)
```

Returning a dictionary with optional values

```
def build_person(first, last, age=None):
    """Return a dictionary of information
    about a person.
    """
    person = {'first': first, 'last': last}
    if age:
        person['age'] = age
    return person

musician = build_person('jimi', 'hendrix', 27)
print(musician)

musician = build_person('janis', 'joplin')
print(musician)
```

Visualizing functions

Try running some of these examples on pythontutor.com.

Passing a list to a function

You can pass a list as an argument to a function, and the function can work with the values in the list. Any changes the function makes to the list will affect the original list. You can prevent a function from modifying a list by passing a copy of the list as an argument.

Passing a list as an argument

```
def greet_users(names):
    """Print a simple greeting to everyone."""
    for name in names:
        msg = "Hello, " + name + "!"
        print(msg)

usernames = ['hannah', 'ty', 'margot']
greet_users(usernames)
```

Allowing a function to modify a list

The following example sends a list of models to a function for printing. The original list is emptied, and the second list is filled.

```
def print_models(unprinted, printed):
    """3d print a set of models."""
    while unprinted:
        current_model = unprinted.pop()
        print("Printing " + current_model)
        printed.append(current_model)

# Store some unprinted designs,
#  and print each of them.
unprinted = ['phone case', 'pendant', 'ring']
printed = []
print_models(unprinted, printed)

print("\nUnprinted:", unprinted)
print("Printed:", printed)
```

Preventing a function from modifying a list

The following example is the same as the previous one, except the original list is unchanged after calling print_models().

```
def print_models(unprinted, printed):
    """3d print a set of models."""
    while unprinted:
        current_model = unprinted.pop()
        print("Printing " + current_model)
        printed.append(current_model)

# Store some unprinted designs,
#  and print each of them.
original = ['phone case', 'pendant', 'ring']
printed = []

print_models(original[:], printed)
print("\nOriginal:", original)
print("Printed:", printed)
```

Passing an arbitrary number of arguments

*Sometimes you won't know how many arguments a function will need to accept. Python allows you to collect an arbitrary number of arguments into one parameter using the * operator. A parameter that accepts an arbitrary number of arguments must come last in the function definition.*

*The ** operator allows a parameter to collect an arbitrary number of keyword arguments.*

Collecting an arbitrary number of arguments

```
def make_pizza(size, *toppings):
    """Make a pizza."""
    print("\nMaking a " + size + " pizza.")
    print("Toppings:")
    for topping in toppings:
        print("- " + topping)

# Make three pizzas with different toppings.
make_pizza('small', 'pepperoni')
make_pizza('large', 'bacon bits', 'pineapple')
make_pizza('medium', 'mushrooms', 'peppers',
        'onions', 'extra cheese')
```

Collecting an arbitrary number of keyword arguments

```
def build_profile(first, last, **user_info):
    """Build a user's profile dictionary."""
    # Build a dict with the required keys.
    profile = {'first': first, 'last': last}

    # Add any other keys and values.
    for key, value in user_info.items():
        profile[key] = value

    return profile

# Create two users with different kinds
#   of information.
user_0 = build_profile('albert', 'einstein',
        location='princeton')
user_1 = build_profile('marie', 'curie',
        location='paris', field='chemistry')

print(user_0)
print(user_1)
```

What's the best way to structure a function?

As you can see there are many ways to write and call a function. When you're starting out, aim for something that simply works. As you gain experience you'll develop an understanding of the more subtle advantages of different structures such as positional and keyword arguments, and the various approaches to importing functions. For now if your functions do what you need them to, you're doing well.

Modules

You can store your functions in a separate file called a module, and then import the functions you need into the file containing your main program. This allows for cleaner program files. (Make sure your module is stored in the same directory as your main program.)

Storing a function in a module

File: pizza.py

```
def make_pizza(size, *toppings):
    """Make a pizza."""
    print("\nMaking a " + size + " pizza.")
    print("Toppings:")
    for topping in toppings:
        print("- " + topping)
```

Importing an entire module

File: making_pizzas.py
Every function in the module is available in the program file.

```
import pizza

pizza.make_pizza('medium', 'pepperoni')
pizza.make_pizza('small', 'bacon', 'pineapple')
```

Importing a specific function

Only the imported functions are available in the program file.

```
from pizza import make_pizza

make_pizza('medium', 'pepperoni')
make_pizza('small', 'bacon', 'pineapple')
```

Giving a module an alias

```
import pizza as p

p.make_pizza('medium', 'pepperoni')
p.make_pizza('small', 'bacon', 'pineapple')
```

Giving a function an alias

```
from pizza import make_pizza as mp

mp('medium', 'pepperoni')
mp('small', 'bacon', 'pineapple')
```

Importing all functions from a module

Don't do this, but recognize it when you see it in others' code. It can result in naming conflicts, which can cause errors.

```
from pizza import *

make_pizza('medium', 'pepperoni')
make_pizza('small', 'bacon', 'pineapple')
```

More cheat sheets available at
ehmatthes.github.io/pcc/

Beginner's Python Cheat Sheet — matplotlib

What is matplotlib?

Data visualization involves exploring data through visual representations. The matplotlib package helps you make visually appealing representations of the data you're working with. matplotlib is extremely flexible; these examples will help you get started with a few simple visualizations.

Installing matplotlib

matplotlib runs on all systems, but setup is slightly different depending on your OS. If the minimal instructions here don't work for you, see the more detailed instructions at http://ehmatthes.github.io/pcc/. You should also consider installing the Anaconda distrubution of Python from https://continuum.io/downloads/, which includes matplotlib.

matplotlib on Linux

```
$ sudo apt-get install python3-matplotlib
```

matplotlib on OS X

Start a terminal session and enter `import matplotlib` *to see if it's already installed on your system. If not, try this command:*

```
$ pip install --user matplotlib
```

matplotlib on Windows

You first need to install Visual Studio, which you can do from https://dev.windows.com/. The Community edition is free. Then go to https://pypi.python.org/pypi/matplotlib/ or http://www.lfd.uic.edu/~gohlke/pythonlibs/#matplotlib and download an appropriate installer file.

Line graphs and scatter plots

Making a line graph

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_values = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
squares = [0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25]
plt.plot(x_values, squares)
plt.show()
```

Line graphs and scatter plots (cont.)

Making a scatter plot

The scatter() function takes a list of x values and a list of y values, and a variety of optional arguments. The `s=10` *argument controls the size of each point.*

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_values = list(range(1000))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_values]

plt.scatter(x_values, squares, s=10)
plt.show()
```

Customizing plots

Plots can be customized in a wide variety of ways. Just about any element of a plot can be customized.

Adding titles and labels, and scaling axes

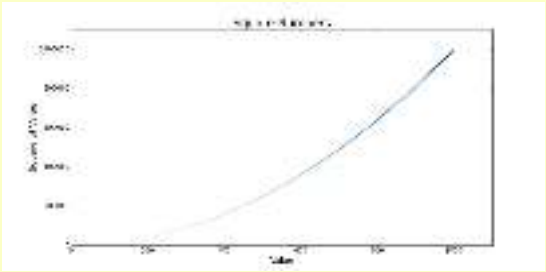
```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_values = list(range(1000))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_values]
plt.scatter(x_values, squares, s=10)

plt.title("Square Numbers", fontsize=24)
plt.xlabel("Value", fontsize=18)
plt.ylabel("Square of Value", fontsize=18)
plt.tick_params(axis='both', which='major',
                labelsize=14)
plt.axis([0, 1100, 0, 1100000])

plt.show()
```

Using a colormap

A colormap varies the point colors from one shade to another, based on a certain value for each point. The value used to determine the color of each point is passed to the `c` *argument, and the* `cmap` *argument specifies which colormap to use.*

The `edgecolor='none'` *argument removes the black outline from each point.*

```
plt.scatter(x_values, squares, c=squares,
        cmap=plt.cm.Blues, edgecolor='none',
        s=10)
```



Customizing plots (cont.)

Emphasizing points

You can plot as much data as you want on one plot. Here we re-plot the first and last points larger to emphasize them.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_values = list(range(1000))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_values]
plt.scatter(x_values, squares, c=squares,
        cmap=plt.cm.Blues, edgecolor='none',
        s=10)

plt.scatter(x_values[0], squares[0], c='green',
        edgecolor='none', s=100)
plt.scatter(x_values[-1], squares[-1], c='red',
        edgecolor='none', s=100)

plt.title("Square Numbers", fontsize=24)
--snip--
```

Removing axes

You can customize or remove axes entirely. Here's how to access each axis, and hide it.

```
plt.axes().get_xaxis().set_visible(False)
plt.axes().get_yaxis().set_visible(False)
```

Setting a custom figure size

You can make your plot as big or small as you want. Before plotting your data, add the following code. The `dpi` *argument is optional; if you don't know your system's resolution you can omit the argument and adjust the* `figsize` *argument accordingly.*

```
plt.figure(dpi=128, figsize=(10, 6))
```

Saving a plot

The matplotlib viewer has an interactive save button, but you can also save your visualizations programmatically. To do so, replace `plt.show()` *with* `plt.savefig()`*. The* `bbox_inches='tight'` *argument trims extra whitespace from the plot.*

```
plt.savefig('squares.png', bbox_inches='tight')
```

Online resources

The matplotlib gallery and documentation are at http://matplotlib.org/. Be sure to visit the examples, gallery, and pyplot links.

Multiple plots

You can make as many plots as you want on one figure. When you make multiple plots, you can emphasize relationships in the data. For example you can fill the space between two sets of data.

Plotting two sets of data

Here we use `plt.scatter()` *twice to plot square numbers and cubes on the same figure.*

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_values = list(range(11))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_values]
cubes = [x**3 for x in x_values]

plt.scatter(x_values, squares, c='blue',
        edgecolor='none', s=20)
plt.scatter(x_values, cubes, c='red',
        edgecolor='none', s=20)

plt.axis([0, 11, 0, 1100])
plt.show()
```

Filling the space between data sets

The `fill_between()` *method fills the space between two data sets. It takes a series of x-values and two series of y-values. It also takes a* `facecolor` *to use for the fill, and an optional* `alpha` *argument that controls the color's transparency.*

```
plt.fill_between(x_values, cubes, squares,
        facecolor='blue', alpha=0.25)
```

Working with dates and times

Many interesting data sets have a date or time as the x-value. Python's datetime module helps you work with this kind of data.

Generating the current date

The `datetime.now()` *function returns a datetime object representing the current date and time.*

```
from datetime import datetime as dt

today = dt.now()
date_string = dt.strftime(today, '%m/%d/%Y')
print(date_string)
```

Generating a specific date

You can also generate a datetime object for any date and time you want. The positional order of arguments is year, month, and day. The hour, minute, second, and microsecond arguments are optional.

```
from datetime import datetime as dt

new_years = dt(2017, 1, 1)
fall_equinox = dt(year=2016, month=9, day=22)
```

Working with dates and times (cont.)

Datetime formatting arguments

The `strftime()` *function generates a formatted string from a datetime object, and the* `strptime()` *function genereates a datetime object from a string. The following codes let you work with dates exactly as you need to.*

```
%A    Weekday name, such as Monday
%B    Month name, such as January
%m    Month, as a number (01 to 12)
%d    Day of the month, as a number (01 to 31)
%Y    Four-digit year, such as 2016
%y    Two-digit year, such as 16
%H    Hour, in 24-hour format (00 to 23)
%I    Hour, in 12-hour format (01 to 12)
%p    AM or PM
%M    Minutes (00 to 59)
%S    Seconds (00 to 61)
```

Converting a string to a datetime object

```
new_years = dt.strptime('1/1/2017', '%m/%d/%Y')
```

Converting a datetime object to a string

```
ny_string = dt.strftime(new_years, '%B %d, %Y')
print(ny_string)
```

Plotting high temperatures

The following code creates a list of dates and a corresponding list of high temperatures. It then plots the high temperatures, with the date labels displayed in a specific format.

```
from datetime import datetime as dt

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from matplotlib import dates as mdates

dates = [
    dt(2016, 6, 21), dt(2016, 6, 22),
    dt(2016, 6, 23), dt(2016, 6, 24),
    ]

highs = [57, 68, 64, 59]

fig = plt.figure(dpi=128, figsize=(10,6))
plt.plot(dates, highs, c='red')
plt.title("Daily High Temps", fontsize=24)
plt.ylabel("Temp (F)", fontsize=16)

x_axis = plt.axes().get_xaxis()
x_axis.set_major_formatter(
        mdates.DateFormatter('%B %d %Y')
        )
fig.autofmt_xdate()

plt.show()
```

Multiple plots in one figure

You can include as many individual graphs in one figure as you want. This is useful, for example, when comparing related datasets.

Sharing an x-axis

The following code plots a set of squares and a set of cubes on two separate graphs that share a common x-axis.

The `plt.subplots()` *function returns a figure object and a tuple of axes. Each set of axes corresponds to a separate plot in the figure. The first two arguments control the number of rows and columns generated in the figure.*

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_vals = list(range(11))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_vals]
cubes = [x**3 for x in x_vals]

fig, axarr = plt.subplots(2, 1, sharex=True)

axarr[0].scatter(x_vals, squares)
axarr[0].set_title('Squares')

axarr[1].scatter(x_vals, cubes, c='red')
axarr[1].set_title('Cubes')

plt.show()
```

Sharing a y-axis

To share a y-axis, we use the `sharey=True` *argument.*

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x_vals = list(range(11))
squares = [x**2 for x in x_vals]
cubes = [x**3 for x in x_vals]

fig, axarr = plt.subplots(1, 2, sharey=True)

axarr[0].scatter(x_vals, squares)
axarr[0].set_title('Squares')

axarr[1].scatter(x_vals, cubes, c='red')
axarr[1].set_title('Cubes')

plt.show()
```

More cheat sheets available at
ehmatthes.github.io/pcc/