
Mypy Documentation

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1	Introduction	3
2	Basics	5
2.1	Function signatures	5
2.2	Mixing dynamic and static typing	6
2.3	The typing module	6
2.4	Type checking programs	6
2.5	Library stubs and the Typeshed repo	7
3	Getting started	9
3.1	Installation	9
3.2	Installing from source	9
4	Built-in types	11
5	Type checking Python 2 code	13
5.1	Multi-line Python 2 function annotations	14
5.2	Additional notes	14
6	Type inference and type annotations	17
6.1	Type inference	17
6.2	Explicit types for variables	18
6.3	Explicit types for collections	18
6.4	Declaring multiple variable types at a time	18
6.5	Starred expressions	19
6.6	Types in stub files	19
7	Kinds of types	21
7.1	User-defined types	21
7.2	The Any type	21
7.3	Tuple types	22
7.4	Callable types (and lambdas)	23
7.5	Extended Callable types	24
7.6	Union types	25
7.7	The type of None and optional types	26
7.8	Experimental strict optional type and None checking	27
7.9	The NoReturn type	27

7.10	Class name forward references	28
7.11	Type aliases	29
7.12	NewTypes	30
7.13	Named tuples	32
7.14	The type of class objects	32
7.15	Text and AnyStr	33
7.16	Generators	34
7.17	Typing async/await	34
7.18	TypedDict	37
8	Class basics	41
8.1	Instance and class attributes	41
8.2	Overriding statically typed methods	42
8.3	Abstract base classes and multiple inheritance	43
9	Dynamically typed code	45
9.1	Operations on Any values	45
9.2	Any vs. object	46
10	Function Overloading	47
11	Casts	49
12	Duck type compatibility	51
13	Common issues	53
13.1	Can't install mypy using pip	53
13.2	No errors reported for obviously wrong code	53
13.3	Spurious errors and locally silencing the checker	54
13.4	Types of empty collections	54
13.5	Redefinitions with incompatible types	55
13.6	Invariance vs covariance	55
13.7	Declaring a supertype as variable type	56
13.8	Complex type tests	56
13.9	Python version and system platform checks	57
13.10	Displaying the type of an expression	58
13.11	Import cycles	58
14	Generics	61
14.1	Defining generic classes	61
14.2	Generic class internals	62
14.3	Defining sub-classes of generic classes	62
14.4	Generic functions	64
14.5	Generic methods and generic self	64
14.6	Variance of generic types	65
14.7	Type variables with value restriction	66
14.8	Type variables with upper bounds	67
14.9	Declaring decorators	68
15	Supported Python features and modules	71
15.1	Runtime definition of methods and functions	71
16	Additional features	73
17	The mypy command line	75
17.1	Specifying files and directories to be checked	76

17.2	Other ways of specifying code to be checked	76
17.3	Reading a list of files from a file	77
17.4	How imports are found	77
17.5	Following imports or not?	77
17.6	Additional command line flags	78
17.7	Integrating mypy into another Python application	81
18	The mypy configuration file	83
18.1	Global flags	83
18.2	Per-module flags	84
18.3	Example	85
19	New features in Python 3.6	87
19.1	Syntax for variable annotations (PEP 526)	87
19.2	Literal string formatting (PEP 498)	88
19.3	Underscores in numeric literals (PEP 515)	88
19.4	Asynchronous generators (PEP 525) and comprehensions (PEP 530)	88
19.5	New named tuple syntax	88
20	Frequently Asked Questions	89
20.1	Why have both dynamic and static typing?	89
20.2	Would my project benefit from static typing?	89
20.3	Can I use mypy to type check my existing Python code?	90
20.4	Will static typing make my programs run faster?	90
20.5	How do I type check my Python 2 code?	90
20.6	Is mypy free?	90
20.7	Why not use structural subtyping?	90
20.8	I like Python and I have no need for static typing	91
20.9	How are mypy programs different from normal Python?	91
20.10	How is mypy different from PyPy?	91
20.11	How is mypy different from Cython?	91
20.12	How is mypy different from Nuitka?	92
20.13	How is mypy different from RPython or Shed Skin?	92
20.14	Mypy is a cool project. Can I help?	92
21	Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 2)	93
21.1	Built-in types	93
21.2	Functions	94
21.3	When you're puzzled or when things are complicated	95
21.4	Standard duck types	96
21.5	Classes	96
21.6	Other stuff	97
22	Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 3)	99
22.1	Built-in types	99
22.2	Functions	100
22.3	When you're puzzled or when things are complicated	101
22.4	Standard duck types	102
22.5	Classes	102
22.6	Other stuff	102
22.7	Variable Annotation in Python 3.6 with PEP 526	103
23	Revision history	105
24	Indices and tables	109

Mypy is a static type checker for Python.

Mypy is a static type checker for Python. If you sprinkle your code with type annotations, mypy can type check your code and find common bugs. As mypy is a static analyzer, or a lint-like tool, your code's type annotations are just hints and don't interfere when running your program. You run your program with a standard Python interpreter, and the annotations are treated primarily as comments.

Using the Python 3 function annotation syntax (using the PEP 484 notation) or a comment-based annotation syntax for Python 2 code, you will be able to efficiently annotate your code and use mypy to check the code for common errors. Mypy has a powerful, easy-to-use, type system with modern features such as type inference, generics, function types, tuple types and union types.

As a developer, you decide how to use mypy in your workflow. You can always escape to dynamic typing as mypy's approach to static typing doesn't restrict what you can do in your programs. Using mypy will make your programs easier to debug, maintain, and understand.

This documentation provides a short introduction to mypy. It will help you get started writing statically typed code. Knowledge of Python and a statically typed object-oriented language, such as Java, are assumed.

Note: Mypy is still experimental. There will be changes that break backward compatibility.

This chapter introduces some core concepts of mypy, including function annotations, the `typing` module and library stubs. Read it carefully, as the rest of documentation may not make much sense otherwise.

Function signatures

A function without a type annotation is considered dynamically typed:

```
def greeting(name):  
    return 'Hello, {}'.format(name)
```

You can declare the signature of a function using the Python 3 annotation syntax (Python 2 is discussed later in *Type checking Python 2 code*). This makes the function statically typed, and that causes type checker report type errors within the function.

Here's a version of the above function that is statically typed and will be type checked:

```
def greeting(name: str) -> str:  
    return 'Hello, {}'.format(name)
```

If a function does not explicitly return a value we give the return type as `None`. Using a `None` result in a statically typed context results in a type check error:

```
def p() -> None:  
    print('hello')
```

`a = p()` # *Type check error: p has None return value*

Arguments with default values can be annotated as follows:

```
def greeting(name: str, prefix: str = 'Mr.') -> str:  
    return 'Hello, {} {}'.format(name, prefix)
```

Mixing dynamic and static typing

Mixing dynamic and static typing within a single file is often useful. For example, if you are migrating existing Python code to static typing, it may be easiest to do this incrementally, such as by migrating a few functions at a time. Also, when prototyping a new feature, you may decide to first implement the relevant code using dynamic typing and only add type signatures later, when the code is more stable.

```
def f():
    1 + 'x' # No static type error (dynamically typed)

def g() -> None:
    1 + 'x' # Type check error (statically typed)
```

Note: The earlier stages of mypy, known as the semantic analysis, may report errors even for dynamically typed functions. However, you should not rely on this, as this may change in the future.

The typing module

The `typing` module contains many definitions that are useful in statically typed code. You typically use `from ... import` to import them (we'll explain `Iterable` later in this document):

```
from typing import Iterable

def greet_all(names: Iterable[str]) -> None:
    for name in names:
        print('Hello, {}'.format(name))
```

For brevity, we often omit the `typing` import in code examples, but you should always include it in modules that contain statically typed code.

The presence or absence of the `typing` module does not affect whether your code is type checked; it is only required when you use one or more special features it defines.

Type checking programs

You can type check a program by using the `mypy` tool, which is basically a linter – it checks your program for errors without actually running it:

```
$ mypy program.py
```

All errors reported by `mypy` are essentially warnings that you are free to ignore, if you so wish.

The next chapter explains how to download and install `mypy`: *Getting started*.

More command line options are documented in *The mypy command line*.

Note: Depending on how `mypy` is configured, you may have to explicitly use the Python 3 interpreter to run `mypy`. The `mypy` tool is an ordinary `mypy` (and so also Python) program. For example:

```
$ python3 -m mypy program.py
```

Library stubs and the Typedshed repo

In order to type check code that uses library modules such as those included in the Python standard library, you need to have library *stubs*. A library stub defines a skeleton of the public interface of the library, including classes, variables and functions and their types, but dummy function bodies.

For example, consider this code:

```
x = chr(4)
```

Without a library stub, the type checker would have no way of inferring the type of `x` and checking that the argument to `chr` has a valid type. Mypy incorporates the [typedshed](#) project, which contains library stubs for the Python builtins and the standard library. The stub for the builtins contains a definition like this for `chr`:

```
def chr(code: int) -> str: ...
```

In stub files we don't care about the function bodies, so we use an ellipsis instead. That `...` is three literal dots!

Mypy complains if it can't find a stub (or a real module) for a library module that you import. You can create a stub easily; here is an overview:

- Write a stub file for the library and store it as a `.pyi` file in the same directory as the library module.
- Alternatively, put your stubs (`.pyi` files) in a directory reserved for stubs (e.g., `myproject/stubs`). In this case you have to set the environment variable `MYPYPATH` to refer to the directory. For example:

```
$ export MYPYPATH=~/.work/myproject/stubs
```

Use the normal Python file name conventions for modules, e.g. `csv.pyi` for module `csv`. Use a subdirectory with `__init__.pyi` for packages.

If a directory contains both a `.py` and a `.pyi` file for the same module, the `.pyi` file takes precedence. This way you can easily add annotations for a module even if you don't want to modify the source code. This can be useful, for example, if you use 3rd party open source libraries in your program (and there are no stubs in typedshed yet).

That's it! Now you can access the module in mypy programs and type check code that uses the library. If you write a stub for a library module, consider making it available for other programmers that use mypy by contributing it back to the typedshed repo.

There is more information about creating stubs in the [mypy wiki](#). The following sections explain the kinds of type annotations you can use in your programs and stub files.

Note: You may be tempted to point `MYPYPATH` to the standard library or to the `site-packages` directory where your 3rd party packages are installed. This is almost always a bad idea – you will likely get tons of error messages about code you didn't write and that mypy can't analyze all that well yet, and in the worst case scenario mypy may crash due to some construct in a 3rd party package that it didn't expect.

Installation

Mypy requires Python 3.3 or later. Once you've installed Python 3, you can install mypy with:

```
$ python3 -m pip install mypy
```

Installing from source

To install mypy from source, clone the github repository and then run pip install locally:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/python/mypy.git
$ cd mypy
$ sudo python3 -m pip install --upgrade .
```


These are examples of some of the most common built-in types:

Type	Description
<code>int</code>	integer of arbitrary size
<code>float</code>	floating point number
<code>bool</code>	boolean value
<code>str</code>	unicode string
<code>bytes</code>	8-bit string
<code>object</code>	an arbitrary object (<code>object</code> is the common base class)
<code>List[str]</code>	list of <code>str</code> objects
<code>Dict[str, int]</code>	dictionary from <code>str</code> keys to <code>int</code> values
<code>Iterable[int]</code>	iterable object containing ints
<code>Sequence[bool]</code>	sequence of booleans
<code>Any</code>	dynamically typed value with an arbitrary type

The type `Any` and type constructors `List`, `Dict`, `Iterable` and `Sequence` are defined in the `typing` module.

The type `Dict` is a *generic* class, signified by type arguments within `[...]`. For example, `Dict[int, str]` is a dictionary from integers to strings and `Dict[Any, Any]` is a dictionary of dynamically typed (arbitrary) values and keys. `List` is another generic class. `Dict` and `List` are aliases for the built-ins `dict` and `list`, respectively.

`Iterable` and `Sequence` are generic abstract base classes that correspond to Python protocols. For example, a `str` object or a `List[str]` object is valid when `Iterable[str]` or `Sequence[str]` is expected. Note that even though they are similar to abstract base classes defined in `abc.collections` (formerly `collections`), they are not identical, since the built-in collection type objects do not support indexing.

Type checking Python 2 code

For code that needs to be Python 2.7 compatible, function type annotations are given in comments, since the function annotation syntax was introduced in Python 3. The comment-based syntax is specified in [PEP 484](#).

Run mypy in Python 2 mode by using the `--py2` option:

```
$ mypy --py2 program.py
```

To run your program, you must have the `typing` module in your Python 2 module search path. Use `pip install typing` to install the module. This also works for Python 3 versions prior to 3.5 that don't include `typing` in the standard library.

The example below illustrates the Python 2 function type annotation syntax. This syntax is also valid in Python 3 mode:

```
from typing import List

def hello(): # type: () -> None
    print 'hello'

class Example:
    def method(self, lst, opt=0, *args, **kwargs):
        # type: (List[str], int, *str, **bool) -> int
        """Docstring comes after type comment."""
        ...
```

It's worth going through these details carefully to avoid surprises:

- You don't provide an annotation for the `self / cls` variable of methods.
- Docstring always comes *after* the type comment.
- For `*args` and `**kwargs` the type should be prefixed with `*` or `**`, respectively (except when using the multi-line annotation syntax described below). Again, the above example illustrates this.
- Things like `Any` must be imported from `typing`, even if they are only used in comments.

- In Python 2 mode `str` is implicitly promoted to `unicode`, similar to how `int` is compatible with `float`. This is unlike `bytes` and `str` in Python 3, which are incompatible. `bytes` in Python 2 is equivalent to `str`. (This might change in the future.)

Multi-line Python 2 function annotations

Mypy also supports a multi-line comment annotation syntax. You can provide a separate annotation for each argument using the variable annotation syntax. When using the single-line annotation syntax described above, functions with long argument lists tend to result in overly long type comments and it's often tricky to see which argument type corresponds to which argument. The alternative, multi-line annotation syntax makes long annotations easier to read and write.

Here is an example (from PEP 484):

```
def send_email(address,      # type: Union[str, List[str]]
               sender,     # type: str
               cc,         # type: Optional[List[str]]
               bcc,       # type: Optional[List[str]]
               subject='',
               body=None   # type: List[str]
               ):
    # type: (...) -> bool
    """Send an email message. Return True if successful."""
<code>
```

You write a separate annotation for each function argument on the same line as the argument. Each annotation must be on a separate line. If you leave out an annotation for an argument, it defaults to `Any`. You provide a return type annotation in the body of the function using the form `# type: (...) -> rt`, where `rt` is the return type. Note that the return type annotation contains literal three dots.

Note that when using multi-line comments, you do not need to prefix the types of your `*arg` and `**kwargs` parameters with `*` or `**`. For example, here is how you would annotate the first example using multi-line comments.

```
from typing import List

class Example:
    def method(self,
               lst,      # type: List[str]
               opt=0,    # type: int
               *args,    # type: str
               **kwargs # type: bool
               ):
        # type: (...) -> int
        """Docstring comes after type comment."""
        ...
```

Additional notes

- You should include types for arguments with default values in the annotation. The `opt` argument of `method` in the example at the beginning of this section is an example of this.
- The annotation can be on the same line as the function header or on the following line.
- The type syntax for variables is the same as for Python 3.

- You don't need to use string literal escapes for forward references within comments.
- Mypy uses a separate set of library stub files in [typeshed](#) for Python 2. Library support may vary between Python 2 and Python 3.

Type inference and type annotations

Type inference

The initial assignment defines a variable. If you do not explicitly specify the type of the variable, mypy infers the type based on the static type of the value expression:

```
i = 1          # Infer type int for i
l = [1, 2]    # Infer type List[int] for l
```

Type inference is bidirectional and takes context into account. For example, the following is valid:

```
def f(l: List[object]) -> None:
    l = [1, 2] # Infer type List[object] for [1, 2]
```

In an assignment, the type context is determined by the assignment target. In this case this is `l`, which has the type `List[object]`. The value expression `[1, 2]` is type checked in this context and given the type `List[object]`. In the previous example we introduced a new variable `l`, and here the type context was empty.

Note that the following is not valid, since `List[int]` is not compatible with `List[object]`:

```
def f(l: List[object], k: List[int]) -> None:
    l = k      # Type check error: incompatible types in assignment
```

The reason why the above assignment is disallowed is that allowing the assignment could result in non-int values stored in a list of int:

```
def f(l: List[object], k: List[int]) -> None:
    l = k
    l.append('x')
    print(k[-1]) # Ouch; a string in List[int]
```

You can still run the above program; it prints `x`. This illustrates the fact that static types are used during type checking, but they do not affect the runtime behavior of programs. You can run programs with type check failures, which is often very handy when performing a large refactoring. Thus you can always ‘work around’ the type system, and it doesn’t really limit what you can do in your program.

Type inference is not used in dynamically typed functions (those without an explicit return type) — every local variable type defaults to `Any`, which is discussed later.

Explicit types for variables

You can override the inferred type of a variable by using a special type comment after an assignment statement:

```
x = 1 # type: Union[int, str]
```

Without the type comment, the type of `x` would be just `int`. We use an annotation to give it a more general type `Union[int, str]`. Mypy checks that the type of the initializer is compatible with the declared type. The following example is not valid, since the initializer is a floating point number, and this is incompatible with the declared type:

```
x = 1.1 # type: Union[int, str] # Error!
```

Note: The best way to think about this is that the type comment sets the type of the variable, not the type of the expression. To force the type of an expression you can use `cast(<type>, <expression>)`.

Explicit types for collections

The type checker cannot always infer the type of a list or a dictionary. This often arises when creating an empty list or dictionary and assigning it to a new variable that doesn't have an explicit variable type. In these cases you can give the type explicitly using a type annotation comment:

```
l = [] # type: List[int] # Create empty list with type List[int]
d = {} # type: Dict[str, int] # Create empty dictionary (str -> int)
```

Similarly, you can also give an explicit type when creating an empty set:

```
s = set() # type: Set[int]
```

Declaring multiple variable types at a time

You can declare more than a single variable at a time. In order to nicely work with multiple assignment, you must give each variable a type separately:

```
i, found = 0, False # type: int, bool
```

You can optionally use parentheses around the types, assignment targets and assigned expression:

```
i, found = 0, False # type: (int, bool) # OK
(i, found) = 0, False # type: int, bool # OK
i, found = (0, False) # type: int, bool # OK
(i, found) = (0, False) # type: (int, bool) # OK
```


Starred expressions

In most cases, mypy can infer the type of starred expressions from the right-hand side of an assignment, but not always:

```
a, *bs = 1, 2, 3 # OK
p, q, *rs = 1, 2 # Error: Type of rs cannot be inferred
```

On first line, the type of `bs` is inferred to be `List[int]`. However, on the second line, mypy cannot infer the type of `rs`, because there is no right-hand side value for `rs` to infer the type from. In cases like these, the starred expression needs to be annotated with a starred type:

```
p, q, *rs = 1, 2 # type: int, int, *List[int]
```

Here, the type of `rs` is set to `List[int]`.

Types in stub files

Stub files are written in normal Python 3 syntax, but generally leaving out runtime logic like variable initializers, function bodies, and default arguments, replacing them with ellipses.

In this example, each ellipsis `...` is literally written in the stub file as three dots:

```
x = ... # type: int
def afunc(code: str) -> int: ...
def afunc(a: int, b: int=...) -> int: ...
```

Note: The ellipsis `...` is also used with a different meaning in *callable types* and *tuple types*.

User-defined types

Each class is also a type. Any instance of a subclass is also compatible with all superclasses. All values are compatible with the `object` type (and also the `Any` type).

```
class A:
    def f(self) -> int:          # Type of self inferred (A)
        return 2

class B(A):
    def f(self) -> int:
        return 3
    def g(self) -> int:
        return 4

a = B() # type: A # OK (explicit type for a; override type inference)
print(a.f()) # 3
a.g() # Type check error: A has no method g
```

The Any type

A value with the `Any` type is dynamically typed. Mypy doesn't know anything about the possible runtime types of such value. Any operations are permitted on the value, and the operations are checked at runtime, similar to normal Python code without type annotations.

`Any` is compatible with every other type, and vice versa. No implicit type check is inserted when assigning a value of type `Any` to a variable with a more precise type:

```
a = None # type: Any
s = '' # type: str
```

```
a = 2      # OK
s = a      # OK
```

Declared (and inferred) types are *erased* at runtime. They are basically treated as comments, and thus the above code does not generate a runtime error, even though `s` gets an `int` value when the program is run. Note that the declared type of `s` is actually `str`!

If you do not define a function return value or argument types, these default to `Any`:

```
def show_heading(s) -> None:
    print('=== ' + s + ' ===') # No static type checking, as s has type Any

show_heading(1) # OK (runtime error only; mypy won't generate an error)
```

You should give a statically typed function an explicit `None` return type even if it doesn't return a value, as this lets mypy catch additional type errors:

```
def wait(t: float): # Implicit Any return value
    print('Waiting...')
    time.sleep(t)

if wait(2) > 1: # Mypy doesn't catch this error!
    ...
```

If we had used an explicit `None` return type, mypy would have caught the error:

```
def wait(t: float) -> None:
    print('Waiting...')
    time.sleep(t)

if wait(2) > 1: # Error: can't compare None and int
    ...
```

The `Any` type is discussed in more detail in section *Dynamically typed code*.

Note: A function without any types in the signature is dynamically typed. The body of a dynamically typed function is not checked statically, and local variables have implicit `Any` types. This makes it easier to migrate legacy Python code to mypy, as mypy won't complain about dynamically typed functions.

Tuple types

The type `Tuple[T1, ..., Tn]` represents a tuple with the item types `T1, ..., Tn`:

```
def f(t: Tuple[int, str]) -> None:
    t = 1, 'foo' # OK
    t = 'foo', 1 # Type check error
```

A tuple type of this kind has exactly a specific number of items (2 in the above example). Tuples can also be used as immutable, varying-length sequences. You can use the type `Tuple[T, ...]` (with a literal `...` – it's part of the syntax) for this purpose. Example:

```
def print_squared(t: Tuple[int, ...]) -> None:
    for n in t:
```

```

    print(n, n ** 2)

print_squared()           # OK
print_squared(1, 3, 5)   # OK
print_squared([1, 2])    # Error: only a tuple is valid

```

Note: Usually it's a better idea to use `Sequence[T]` instead of `Tuple[T, ...]`, as `Sequence` is also compatible with lists and other non-tuple sequences.

Note: `Tuple[...]` is not valid as a base class outside stub files. This is a limitation of the `typing` module. One way to work around this is to use a named tuple as a base class (see section *Named tuples*).

Callable types (and lambdas)

You can pass around function objects and bound methods in statically typed code. The type of a function that accepts arguments `A1, ..., An` and returns `Rt` is `Callable[[A1, ..., An], Rt]`. Example:

```

from typing import Callable

def twice(i: int, next: Callable[[int], int]) -> int:
    return next(next(i))

def add(i: int) -> int:
    return i + 1

print(twice(3, add)) # 5

```

You can only have positional arguments, and only ones without default values, in callable types. These cover the vast majority of uses of callable types, but sometimes this isn't quite enough. Mypy recognizes a special form `Callable[..., T]` (with a literal `...`) which can be used in less typical cases. It is compatible with arbitrary callable objects that return a type compatible with `T`, independent of the number, types or kinds of arguments. Mypy lets you call such callable values with arbitrary arguments, without any checking – in this respect they are treated similar to a `(*args: Any, **kwargs: Any)` function signature. Example:

```

from typing import Callable

def arbitrary_call(f: Callable[..., int]) -> int:
    return f('x') + f(y=2) # OK

arbitrary_call(ord) # No static error, but fails at runtime
arbitrary_call(open) # Error: does not return an int
arbitrary_call(1) # Error: 'int' is not callable

```

Lambdas are also supported. The lambda argument and return value types cannot be given explicitly; they are always inferred based on context using bidirectional type inference:

```

l = map(lambda x: x + 1, [1, 2, 3]) # Infer x as int and l as List[int]

```

If you want to give the argument or return value types explicitly, use an ordinary, perhaps nested function definition.

Extended Callable types

As an experimental mypy extension, you can specify Callable types that support keyword arguments, optional arguments, and more. Where you specify the arguments of a Callable, you can choose to supply just the type of a nameless positional argument, or an “argument specifier” representing a more complicated form of argument. This allows one to more closely emulate the full range of possibilities given by the `def` statement in Python.

As an example, here’s a complicated function definition and the corresponding Callable:

```
from typing import Callable
from mypy_extensions import (Arg, DefaultArg, NamedArg,
                             DefaultNamedArg, VarArg, KwArg)

def func(__a: int, # This convention is for nameless arguments
        b: int,
        c: int = 0,
        *args: int,
        d: int,
        e: int = 0,
        **kwargs: int) -> int:
    ...

F = Callable[[int, # Or Arg(int)
             Arg(int, 'b'),
             DefaultArg(int, 'c'),
             VarArg(int),
             NamedArg(int, 'd'),
             DefaultNamedArg(int, 'e'),
             KwArg(int)],
            int]

f: F = func
```

Argument specifiers are special function calls that can specify the following aspects of an argument:

- its type (the only thing that the basic format supports)
- its name (if it has one)
- whether it may be omitted
- whether it may or must be passed using a keyword
- whether it is a `*args` argument (representing the remaining positional arguments)
- whether it is a `**kwargs` argument (representing the remaining keyword arguments)

The following functions are available in `mypy_extensions` for this purpose:

```
def Arg(type=Any, name=None):
    # A normal, mandatory, positional argument.
    # If the name is specified it may be passed as a keyword.

def DefaultArg(type=Any, name=None):
    # An optional positional argument (i.e. with a default value).
    # If the name is specified it may be passed as a keyword.

def NamedArg(type=Any, name=None):
    # A mandatory keyword-only argument.
```

```

def DefaultNamedArg(type=Any, name=None):
    # An optional keyword-only argument (i.e. with a default value).

def VarArg(type=Any):
    # A *args-style variadic positional argument.
    # A single VarArg() specifier represents all remaining
    # positional arguments.

def KwArg(type=Any):
    # A **kwargs-style variadic keyword argument.
    # A single KwArg() specifier represents all remaining
    # keyword arguments.

```

In all cases, the `type` argument defaults to `Any`, and if the `name` argument is omitted the argument has no name (the name is required for `NamedArg` and `DefaultNamedArg`). A basic `Callable` such as

```
MyFunc = Callable[[int, str, int], float]
```

is equivalent to the following:

```
MyFunc = Callable[[Arg(int), Arg(str), Arg(int)], float]
```

A `Callable` with unspecified argument types, such as

```
MyOtherFunc = Callable[..., int]
```

is (roughly) equivalent to

```
MyOtherFunc = Callable[[VarArg(), KwArg()], int]
```

Note: This feature is experimental. Details of the implementation may change and there may be unknown limitations. **IMPORTANT:** Each of the functions above currently just returns its `type` argument, so the information contained in the argument specifiers is not available at runtime. This limitation is necessary for backwards compatibility with the existing `typing.py` module as present in the Python 3.5+ standard library and distributed via PyPI.

Union types

Python functions often accept values of two or more different types. You can use overloading to model this in statically typed code, but union types can make code like this easier to write.

Use the `Union[T1, ..., Tn]` type constructor to construct a union type. For example, the type `Union[int, str]` is compatible with both integers and strings. You can use an `isinstance()` check to narrow down the type to a specific type:

```

from typing import Union

def f(x: Union[int, str]) -> None:
    x + 1      # Error: str + int is not valid
    if isinstance(x, int):
        # Here type of x is int.
        x + 1      # OK
    else:
        # Here type of x is str.

```

```

    x + 'a'      # OK

f(1)           # OK
f('x')        # OK
f(1.1)         # Error

```

The type of None and optional types

Mypy treats the type of `None` as special. `None` is a valid value for every type, which resembles `null` in Java. Unlike Java, mypy doesn't treat primitive types specially: `None` is also valid for primitive types such as `int` and `float`.

Note: See *Experimental strict optional type and None checking* for an experimental mode which allows mypy to check `None` values precisely.

When initializing a variable as `None`, `None` is usually an empty place-holder value, and the actual value has a different type. This is why you need to annotate an attribute in a case like this:

```

class A:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.count = None # type: int

```

Mypy will complain if you omit the type annotation, as it wouldn't be able to infer a non-trivial type for the `count` attribute otherwise.

Mypy generally uses the first assignment to a variable to infer the type of the variable. However, if you assign both a `None` value and a non-`None` value in the same scope, mypy can often do the right thing:

```

def f(i: int) -> None:
    n = None # Inferred type int because of the assignment below
    if i > 0:
        n = i
    ...

```

Often it's useful to know whether a variable can be `None`. For example, this function accepts a `None` argument, but it's not obvious from its signature:

```

def greeting(name: str) -> str:
    if name:
        return 'Hello, {}'.format(name)
    else:
        return 'Hello, stranger'

print(greeting('Python')) # Okay!
print(greeting(None))     # Also okay!

```

Mypy lets you use `Optional[t]` to document that `None` is a valid argument type:

```

from typing import Optional

def greeting(name: Optional[str]) -> str:
    if name:
        return 'Hello, {}'.format(name)
    else:
        return 'Hello, stranger'

```


Mypy treats this as semantically equivalent to the previous example, since `None` is implicitly valid for any type, but it's much more useful for a programmer who is reading the code. You can equivalently use `Union[str, None]`, but `Optional` is shorter and more idiomatic.

Note: `None` is also used as the return type for functions that don't return a value, i.e. that implicitly return `None`. Mypy doesn't use `NoneType` for this, since it would look awkward, even though that is the real name of the type of `None` (try `type(None)` in the interactive interpreter to see for yourself).

Experimental strict optional type and None checking

Currently, `None` is a valid value for each type, similar to `null` or `NULL` in many languages. However, you can use the experimental `--strict-optional` command line option to tell mypy that types should not include `None` by default. The `Optional` type modifier is then used to define a type variant that includes `None`, such as `Optional[int]`:

```
from typing import Optional

def f() -> Optional[int]:
    return None # OK

def g() -> int:
    ...
    return None # Error: None not compatible with int
```

Also, most operations will not be allowed on unguarded `None` or `Optional` values:

```
def f(x: Optional[int]) -> int:
    return x + 1 # Error: Cannot add None and int
```

Instead, an explicit `None` check is required. Mypy has powerful type inference that lets you use regular Python idioms to guard against `None` values. For example, mypy recognizes `is None` checks:

```
def f(x: Optional[int]) -> int:
    if x is None:
        return 0
    else:
        # The inferred type of x is just int here.
        return x + 1
```

Mypy will infer the type of `x` to be `int` in the `else` block due to the check against `None` in the `if` condition.

Note: `--strict-optional` is experimental and still has known issues.

The NoReturn type

Mypy provides support for functions that never return. For example, a function that unconditionally raises an exception:

```
from mypy_extensions import NoReturn

def stop() -> NoReturn:
    raise Exception('no way')
```

Mypy will ensure that functions annotated as returning `NoReturn` truly never return, either implicitly or explicitly. Mypy will also recognize that the code after calls to such functions is unreachable and will behave accordingly:

```
def f(x: int) -> int:
    if x == 0:
        return x
    stop()
    return 'whatever works' # No error in an unreachable block
```

Install `mypy_extensions` using `pip` to use `NoReturn` in your code. Python 3 command line:

```
python3 -m pip install --upgrade mypy-extensions
```

This works for Python 2:

```
pip install --upgrade mypy-extensions
```

Class name forward references

Python does not allow references to a class object before the class is defined. Thus this code does not work as expected:

```
def f(x: A) -> None: # Error: Name A not defined
    ...

class A:
    ...
```

In cases like these you can enter the type as a string literal — this is a *forward reference*:

```
def f(x: 'A') -> None: # OK
    ...

class A:
    ...
```

Of course, instead of using a string literal type, you could move the function definition after the class definition. This is not always desirable or even possible, though.

Any type can be entered as a string literal, and you can combine string-literal types with non-string-literal types freely:

```
def f(a: List['A']) -> None: ... # OK
def g(n: 'int') -> None: ... # OK, though not useful

class A: pass
```

String literal types are never needed in `# type: comments`.

String literal types must be defined (or imported) later *in the same module*. They cannot be used to leave cross-module references unresolved. (For dealing with import cycles, see [Import cycles](#).)

Type aliases

In certain situations, type names may end up being long and painful to type:

```
def f() -> Union[List[Dict[Tuple[int, str], Set[int]]], Tuple[str, List[str]]]:
    ...
```

When cases like this arise, you can define a type alias by simply assigning the type to a variable:

```
AliasType = Union[List[Dict[Tuple[int, str], Set[int]]], Tuple[str, List[str]]]

# Now we can use AliasType in place of the full name:

def f() -> AliasType:
    ...
```

Type aliases can be generic, in this case they could be used in two variants: Subscripted aliases are equivalent to original types with substituted type variables, number of type arguments must match the number of free type variables in generic type alias. Unsubscripted aliases are treated as original types with free variables replaced with `Any`. Examples (following PEP 484):

```
from typing import TypeVar, Iterable, Tuple, Union, Callable
S = TypeVar('S')
TInt = Tuple[int, S]
UInt = Union[S, int]
CBack = Callable[..., S]

def response(query: str) -> UInt[str]: # Same as Union[str, int]
    ...
def activate(cb: CBack[S]) -> S:      # Same as Callable[..., S]
    ...
table_entry: TInt # Same as Tuple[int, Any]

T = TypeVar('T', int, float, complex)
Vec = Iterable[Tuple[T, T]]

def inproduct(v: Vec[T]) -> T:
    return sum(x*y for x, y in v)

def dilate(v: Vec[T], scale: T) -> Vec[T]:
    return ((x * scale, y * scale) for x, y in v)

v1: Vec[int] = [] # Same as Iterable[Tuple[int, int]]
v2: Vec = [] # Same as Iterable[Tuple[Any, Any]]
v3: Vec[int, int] = [] # Error: Invalid alias, too many type arguments!
```

Type aliases can be imported from modules like any names. Aliases can target another aliases (although building complex chains of aliases is not recommended, this impedes code readability, thus defeating the purpose of using aliases). Following previous examples:

```
from typing import TypeVar, Generic, Optional
from first_example import AliasType
from second_example import Vec

def fun() -> AliasType:
    ...
```

```
T = TypeVar('T')
class NewVec(Generic[T], Vec[T]):
    ...
for i, j in NewVec[int]():
    ...

OIntVec = Optional[Vec[int]]
```

Note: A type alias does not create a new type. It's just a shorthand notation for another type – it's equivalent to the target type. For generic type aliases this means that variance of type variables used for alias definition does not apply to aliases. A parameterized generic alias is treated simply as an original type with the corresponding type variables substituted.

NewTypes

(Freely after [PEP 484](#).)

There are also situations where a programmer might want to avoid logical errors by creating simple classes. For example:

```
class UserId(int):
    pass

get_by_user_id(user_id: UserId):
    ...
```

However, this approach introduces some runtime overhead. To avoid this, the typing module provides a helper function `NewType` that creates simple unique types with almost zero runtime overhead. Mypy will treat the statement `Derived = NewType('Derived', Base)` as being roughly equivalent to the following definition:

```
class Derived(Base):
    def __init__(self, _x: Base) -> None:
        ...
```

However, at runtime, `NewType('Derived', Base)` will return a dummy function that simply returns its argument:

```
def Derived(_x):
    return _x
```

Mypy will require explicit casts from `int` where `UserId` is expected, while implicitly casting from `UserId` where `int` is expected. Examples:

```
from typing import NewType

UserId = NewType('UserId', int)

def name_by_id(user_id: UserId) -> str:
    ...

UserId('user')           # Fails type check
name_by_id(42)           # Fails type check
```

```
name_by_id(UserId(42)) # OK
num = UserId(5) + 1 # type: int
```

`NewType` accepts exactly two arguments. The first argument must be a string literal containing the name of the new type and must equal the name of the variable to which the new type is assigned. The second argument must be a properly subclassable class, i.e., not a type construct like `Union`, etc.

The function returned by `NewType` accepts only one argument; this is equivalent to supporting only one constructor accepting an instance of the base class (see above). Example:

```
from typing import NewType

class PacketId:
    def __init__(self, major: int, minor: int) -> None:
        self._major = major
        self._minor = minor

TcpPacketId = NewType('TcpPacketId', PacketId)

packet = PacketId(100, 100)
tcp_packet = TcpPacketId(packet) # OK

tcp_packet = TcpPacketId(127, 0) # Fails in type checker and at runtime
```

Both `isinstance` and `issubclass`, as well as subclassing will fail for `NewType('Derived', Base)` since function objects don't support these operations.

Note: Note that unlike type aliases, `NewType` will create an entirely new and unique type when used. The intended purpose of `NewType` is to help you detect cases where you accidentally mixed together the old base type and the new derived type.

For example, the following will successfully typecheck when using type aliases:

```
UserId = int

def name_by_id(user_id: UserId) -> str:
    ...

name_by_id(3) # ints and UserId are synonymous
```

But a similar example using `NewType` will not typecheck:

```
from typing import NewType

UserId = NewType('UserId', int)

def name_by_id(user_id: UserId) -> str:
    ...

name_by_id(3) # int is not the same as UserId
```

Named tuples

Mypy recognizes named tuples and can type check code that defines or uses them. In this example, we can detect code trying to access a missing attribute:

```
Point = namedtuple('Point', ['x', 'y'])
p = Point(x=1, y=2)
print(p.z) # Error: Point has no attribute 'z'
```

If you use `namedtuple` to define your named tuple, all the items are assumed to have `Any` types. That is, mypy doesn't know anything about item types. You can use `typing.NamedTuple` to also define item types:

```
from typing import NamedTuple

Point = NamedTuple('Point', [('x', int),
                              ('y', int)])
p = Point(x=1, y='x') # Argument has incompatible type "str"; expected "int"
```

Python 3.6 will have an alternative, class-based syntax for named tuples with types. Mypy supports it already:

```
from typing import NamedTuple

class Point(NamedTuple):
    x: int
    y: int

p = Point(x=1, y='x') # Argument has incompatible type "str"; expected "int"
```

The type of class objects

(Freely after PEP 484.)

Sometimes you want to talk about class objects that inherit from a given class. This can be spelled as `Type[C]` where `C` is a class. In other words, when `C` is the name of a class, using `C` to annotate an argument declares that the argument is an instance of `C` (or of a subclass of `C`), but using `Type[C]` as an argument annotation declares that the argument is a class object deriving from `C` (or `C` itself).

For example, assume the following classes:

```
class User:
    # Defines fields like name, email

class BasicUser(User):
    def upgrade(self):
        """Upgrade to Pro"""

class ProUser(User):
    def pay(self):
        """Pay bill"""
```

Note that `ProUser` doesn't inherit from `BasicUser`.

Here's a function that creates an instance of one of these classes if you pass it the right class object:

```
def new_user(user_class):
    user = user_class()
    # (Here we could write the user object to a database)
    return user
```

How would we annotate this function? Without `Type []` the best we could do would be:

```
def new_user(user_class: type) -> User:
    # Same implementation as before
```

This seems reasonable, except that in the following example, mypy doesn't see that the `buyer` variable has type `ProUser`:

```
buyer = new_user(ProUser)
buyer.pay() # Rejected, not a method on User
```

However, using `Type []` and a type variable with an upper bound (see *Type variables with upper bounds*) we can do better:

```
U = TypeVar('U', bound=User)

def new_user(user_class: Type[U]) -> U:
    # Same implementation as before
```

Now mypy will infer the correct type of the result when we call `new_user()` with a specific subclass of `User`:

```
beginner = new_user(BasicUser) # Inferred type is BasicUser
beginner.upgrade() # OK
```

Note: The value corresponding to `Type [C]` must be an actual class object that's a subtype of `C`. Its constructor must be compatible with the constructor of `C`. If `C` is a type variable, its upper bound must be a class object.

For more details about `Type []` see [PEP 484](#).

Text and AnyStr

Sometimes you may want to write a function which will accept only unicode strings. This can be challenging to do in a codebase intended to run in both Python 2 and Python 3 since `str` means something different in both versions and `unicode` is not a keyword in Python 3.

To help solve this issue, use `typing.Text` which is aliased to `unicode` in Python 2 and to `str` in Python 3. This allows you to indicate that a function should accept only unicode strings in a cross-compatible way:

```
from typing import Text

def unicode_only(s: Text) -> Text:
    return s + u'\u2713'
```

In other cases, you may want to write a function that will work with any kind of string but will not let you mix two different string types. To do so use `typing.AnyStr`:

```
from typing import AnyStr
```

```
def concat(x: AnyStr, y: AnyStr) -> AnyStr:
    return x + y

concat('a', 'b')      # Okay
concat(b'a', b'b')   # Okay
concat('a', b'b')    # Error: cannot mix bytes and unicode
```

For more details, see *Type variables with value restriction*.

Note: How bytes, str, and unicode are handled between Python 2 and Python 3 may change in future versions of mypy.

Generators

A basic generator that only yields values can be annotated as having a return type of either `Iterator[YieldType]` or `Iterable[YieldType]`. For example:

```
def squares(n: int) -> Iterator[int]:
    for i in range(n):
        yield i * i
```

If you want your generator to accept values via the `send` method or return a value, you should use the `Generator[YieldType, SendType, ReturnType]` generic type instead. For example:

```
def echo_round() -> Generator[int, float, str]:
    sent = yield 0
    while sent >= 0:
        sent = yield round(sent)
    return 'Done'
```

Note that unlike many other generics in the typing module, the `SendType` of `Generator` behaves contravariantly, not covariantly or invariantly.

If you do not plan on receiving or returning values, then set the `SendType` or `ReturnType` to `None`, as appropriate. For example, we could have annotated the first example as the following:

```
def squares(n: int) -> Generator[int, None, None]:
    for i in range(n):
        yield i * i
```

Typing async/await

Mypy supports the ability to type coroutines that use the `async/await` syntax introduced in Python 3.5. For more information regarding coroutines and this new syntax, see [PEP 492](#).

Functions defined using `async def` are typed just like normal functions. The return type annotation should be the same as the type of the value you expect to get back when `await`-ing the coroutine.

```
import asyncio

async def format_string(tag: str, count: int) -> str:
```



```

    return 'T-minus {} ({}).format(count, tag)

async def countdown_1(tag: str, count: int) -> str:
    while count > 0:
        my_str = await format_string(tag, count) # has type 'str'
        print(my_str)
        await asyncio.sleep(0.1)
        count -= 1
    return "Blastoff!"

loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_until_complete(countdown_1("Millennium Falcon", 5))
loop.close()

```

The result of calling an `async def` function *without awaiting* will be a value of type `Awaitable[T]`:

```

my_coroutine = countdown_1("Millennium Falcon", 5)
reveal_type(my_coroutine) # has type 'Awaitable[str]'

```

Note: `reveal_type()` displays the inferred static type of an expression.

If you want to use coroutines in older versions of Python that do not support the `async def` syntax, you can instead use the `@asyncio.coroutine` decorator to convert a generator into a coroutine.

Note that we set the `YieldType` of the generator to be `Any` in the following example. This is because the exact yield type is an implementation detail of the coroutine runner (e.g. the `asyncio` event loop) and your coroutine shouldn't have to know or care about what precisely that type is.

```

from typing import Any, Generator
import asyncio

@asyncio.coroutine
def countdown_2(tag: str, count: int) -> Generator[Any, None, str]:
    while count > 0:
        print('T-minus {} ({}).format(count, tag)
        yield from asyncio.sleep(0.1)
        count -= 1
    return "Blastoff!"

loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_until_complete(countdown_2("USS Enterprise", 5))
loop.close()

```

As before, the result of calling a generator decorated with `@asyncio.coroutine` will be a value of type `Awaitable[T]`.

Note: At runtime, you are allowed to add the `@asyncio.coroutine` decorator to both functions and generators. This is useful when you want to mark a work-in-progress function as a coroutine, but have not yet added `yield` or `yield from` statements:

```

import asyncio

@asyncio.coroutine
def serialize(obj: object) -> str:

```

```
# todo: add yield/yield from to turn this into a generator
return "placeholder"
```

However, mypy currently does not support converting functions into coroutines. Support for this feature will be added in a future version, but for now, you can manually force the function to be a generator by doing something like this:

```
from typing import Generator
import asyncio

@asyncio.coroutine
def serialize(obj: object) -> Generator[None, None, str]:
    # todo: add yield/yield from to turn this into a generator
    if False:
        yield
    return "placeholder"
```

You may also choose to create a subclass of `Awaitable` instead:

```
from typing import Any, Awaitable, Generator
import asyncio

class MyAwaitable(Awaitable[str]):
    def __init__(self, tag: str, count: int) -> None:
        self.tag = tag
        self.count = count

    def __await__(self) -> Generator[Any, None, str]:
        for i in range(n, 0, -1):
            print('T-minus {} ({}).format(i, tag))
            yield from asyncio.sleep(0.1)
        return "Blastoff!"

def countdown_3(tag: str, count: int) -> Awaitable[str]:
    return MyAwaitable(tag, count)

loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_until_complete(countdown_3("Heart of Gold", 5))
loop.close()
```

To create an iterable coroutine, subclass `AsyncIterator`:

```
from typing import Optional, AsyncIterator
import asyncio

class arange(AsyncIterator[int]):
    def __init__(self, start: int, stop: int, step: int) -> None:
        self.start = start
        self.stop = stop
        self.step = step
        self.count = start - step

    def __aiter__(self) -> AsyncIterator[int]:
        return self

    async def __anext__(self) -> int:
        self.count += self.step
        if self.count == self.stop:
```

```

        raise StopAsyncIteration
    else:
        return self.count

async def countdown_4(tag: str, n: int) -> str:
    async for i in arange(n, 0, -1):
        print('T-minus {} ({}).format(i, tag))
        await asyncio.sleep(0.1)
    return "Blastoff!"

loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_until_complete(countdown_4("Serenity", 5))
loop.close()

```

For a more concrete example, the mypy repo has a toy webcrawler that demonstrates how to work with coroutines. One version uses `async/await` and one uses `yield from`.

TypedDict

Note: TypedDict is not yet an officially supported feature. It may not work reliably, and details of TypedDict may change in future mypy releases.

Python programs often use dictionaries with string keys to represent objects. Here is a typical example:

```
movie = {'name': 'Blade Runner', 'year': 1982}
```

Only a fixed set of string keys is expected ('name' and 'year' above), and each key has an independent value type (`str` for 'name' and `int` for 'year' above). We've previously seen the `Dict[K, V]` type, which lets you declare uniform dictionary types, where every value has the same type, and arbitrary keys are supported. This is clearly not a good fit for `movie` above. Instead, you can use a `TypedDict` to give a precise type for objects like `movie`, where the type of each dictionary value depends on the key:

```

from mypy_extensions import TypedDict

Movie = TypedDict('Movie', {'name': str, 'year': int})

movie = {'name': 'Blade Runner', 'year': 1982} # type: Movie

```

`Movie` is a `TypedDict` type with two items: 'name' (with type `str`) and 'year' (with type `int`). Note that we used an explicit type annotation for the `movie` variable. This type annotation is important – without it, mypy will try to infer a regular, uniform `Dict` type for `movie`, which is not what we want here.

Note: If you pass a `TypedDict` object as an argument to a function, no type annotation is usually necessary since mypy can infer the desired type based on the declared argument type. Also, if an assignment target has been previously defined, and it has a `TypedDict` type, mypy will treat the assigned value as a `TypedDict`, not `Dict`.

Now mypy will recognize these as valid:

```

name = movie['name'] # Okay; type of name is str
year = movie['year'] # Okay; type of year is int

```

Mypy will detect an invalid key as an error:

```
director = movie['director'] # Error: 'director' is not a valid key
```

Mypy will also reject a runtime-computed expression as a key, as it can't verify that it's a valid key. You can only use string literals as TypedDict keys.

The TypedDict type object can also act as a constructor. It returns a normal dict object at runtime – a TypedDict does not define a new runtime type:

```
toy_story = Movie(name='Toy Story', year=1995)
```

This is equivalent to just constructing a dictionary directly using { ... } or dict(key=value, ...). The constructor form is sometimes convenient, since it can be used without a type annotation, and it also makes the type of the object explicit.

Like all types, TypedDicts can be used as components to build arbitrarily complex types. For example, you can define nested TypedDicts and containers with TypedDict items. Unlike most other types, mypy uses structural compatibility checking (or structural subtyping) with TypedDicts. A TypedDict object with extra items is compatible with a narrower TypedDict, assuming item types are compatible (*totality* also affects subtyping, as discussed below).

Note: You need to install `mypy_extensions` using `pip` to use TypedDict:

```
python3 -m pip install --upgrade mypy_extensions
```

Or, if you are using Python 2:

```
pip install --upgrade mypy_extensions
```

Totality

By default mypy ensures that a TypedDict object has all the specified keys. This will be flagged as an error:

```
# Error: 'year' missing
toy_story = {'name': 'Toy Story'} # type: Movie
```

Sometimes you want to allow keys to be left out when creating a TypedDict object. You can provide the `total=False` argument to `TypedDict(...)` to achieve this:

```
GuiOptions = TypedDict(
    'GuiOptions', {'language': str, 'color': str}, total=False)
options = {} # type: GuiOptions # Okay
options['language'] = 'en'
```

You may need to use `get()` to access items of a partial (non-total) TypedDict, since indexing using `[]` could fail at runtime. However, mypy still lets use `[]` with a partial TypedDict – you just need to be careful with it, as it could result in a `KeyError`. Requiring `get()` everywhere would be too cumbersome. (Note that you are free to use `get()` with total TypedDicts as well.)

Keys that aren't required are shown with a `?` in error messages:

```
# Revealed type is 'TypedDict('GuiOptions', {'language?': builtins.str,
#                                           'color?': builtins.str})'
reveal_type(options)
```

Totality also affects structural compatibility. You can't use a partial TypedDict when a total one is expected. Also, a total typed dict is not valid when a partial one is expected.

Class-based syntax

Python 3.6 supports an alternative, class-based syntax to define a TypedDict:

```
from mypy_extensions import TypedDict

class Movie(TypedDict):
    name: str
    year: int
```

The above definition is equivalent to the original `Movie` definition. It doesn't actually define a real class. This syntax also supports a form of inheritance – subclasses can define additional items. However, this is primarily a notational shortcut. Since mypy uses structural compatibility with TypedDicts, inheritance is not required for compatibility. Here is an example of inheritance:

```
class Movie(TypedDict):
    name: str
    year: int

class BookBasedMovie(Movie):
    based_on: str
```

Now `BookBasedMovie` has keys `name`, `year` and `based_on`.

Mixing required and non-required items

In addition to allowing reuse across TypedDict types, inheritance also allows you to mix required and non-required (using `total=False`) items in a single TypedDict. Example:

```
class MovieBase(TypedDict):
    name: str
    year: int

class Movie(MovieBase, total=False):
    based_on: str
```

Now `Movie` has required keys `name` and `year`, while `based_on` can be left out when constructing an object. A TypedDict with a mix of required and non-required keys, such as `Movie` above, will only be compatible with another TypedDict if all required keys in the other TypedDict are required keys in the first TypedDict, and all non-required keys of the other TypedDict are also non-required keys in the first TypedDict.

Instance and class attributes

Mypy type checker detects if you are trying to access a missing attribute, which is a very common programming error. For this to work correctly, instance and class attributes must be defined or initialized within the class. Mypy infers the types of attributes:

```
class A:
    def __init__(self, x: int) -> None:
        self.x = x      # Attribute x of type int

a = A(1)
a.x = 2                # OK
a.y = 3                # Error: A has no attribute y
```

This is a bit like each class having an implicitly defined `__slots__` attribute. This is only enforced during type checking and not when your program is running.

You can declare types of variables in the class body explicitly using a type comment:

```
class A:
    x = None # type: List[int] # Declare attribute x of type List[int]

a = A()
a.x = [1]   # OK
```

As in Python, a variable defined in the class body can be used as a class or an instance variable.

Similarly, you can give explicit types to instance variables defined in a method:

```
class A:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.x = [] # type: List[int]
```

```
def f(self) -> None:
    self.y = 0 # type: Any
```

You can only define an instance variable within a method if you assign to it explicitly using `self`:

```
class A:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.y = 1 # Define y
        a = self
        a.x = 1 # Error: x not defined
```

Overriding statically typed methods

When overriding a statically typed method, mypy checks that the override has a compatible signature:

```
class A:
    def f(self, x: int) -> None:
        ...

class B(A):
    def f(self, x: str) -> None: # Error: type of x incompatible
        ...

class C(A):
    def f(self, x: int, y: int) -> None: # Error: too many arguments
        ...

class D(A):
    def f(self, x: int) -> None: # OK
        ...
```

Note: You can also vary return types **covariantly** in overriding. For example, you could override the return type object with a subtype such as `int`.

You can also override a statically typed method with a dynamically typed one. This allows dynamically typed code to override methods defined in library classes without worrying about their type signatures.

There is no runtime enforcement that the method override returns a value that is compatible with the original return type, since annotations have no effect at runtime:

```
class A:
    def inc(self, x: int) -> int:
        return x + 1

class B(A):
    def inc(self, x): # Override, dynamically typed
        return 'hello'

b = B()
print(b.inc(1)) # hello
a = b # type: A
print(a.inc(1)) # hello
```


Abstract base classes and multiple inheritance

Mypy uses Python abstract base classes for protocol types. There are several built-in abstract base classes types (for example, `Sequence`, `Iterable` and `Iterator`). You can define abstract base classes using the `abc.ABCMeta` metaclass and the `abc.abstractmethod` function decorator.

```
from abc import ABCMeta, abstractmethod
import typing

class A(metaclass=ABCMeta):
    @abstractmethod
    def foo(self, x: int) -> None: pass

    @abstractmethod
    def bar(self) -> str: pass

class B(A):
    def foo(self, x: int) -> None: ...
    def bar(self) -> str:
        return 'x'

a = A() # Error: A is abstract
b = B() # OK
```

Unlike most Python code, abstract base classes are likely to play a significant role in many complex mypy programs.

A class can inherit any number of classes, both abstract and concrete. As with normal overrides, a dynamically typed method can implement a statically typed abstract method defined in an abstract base class.

Note: There are also plans to support more Python-style “duck typing” in the type system. The details are still open.

Dynamically typed code

As mentioned earlier, bodies of functions that don't have any explicit types in their function annotation are dynamically typed (operations are checked at runtime). Code outside functions is statically typed by default, and types of variables are inferred. This does usually the right thing, but you can also make any variable dynamically typed by defining it explicitly with the type `Any`:

```
from typing import Any

s = 1          # Statically typed (type int)
d = 1 # type: Any # Dynamically typed (type Any)
s = 'x'       # Type check error
d = 'x'       # OK
```

Operations on Any values

You can do anything using a value with type `Any`, and type checker does not complain:

```
def f(x: Any) -> int:
    # All of these are valid!
    x.foobar(1, y=2)
    print(x[3] + 'f')
    if x:
        x.z = x(2)
    open(x).read()
    return x
```

Values derived from an `Any` value also often have the type `Any` implicitly, as mypy can't infer a more precise result type. For example, if you get the attribute of an `Any` value or call a `Any` value the result is `Any`:

```
def f(x: Any) -> None:
    y = x.foo() # y has type Any
    y.bar()     # Okay as well!
```

Any types may propagate through your program, making type checking less effective, unless you are careful.

Any vs. object

The type `object` is another type that can have an instance of arbitrary type as a value. Unlike `Any`, `object` is an ordinary static type (it is similar to `Object` in Java), and only operations valid for *all* types are accepted for `object` values. These are all valid:

```
def f(o: object) -> None:
    if o:
        print(o)
    print(isinstance(o, int))
    o = 2
    o = 'foo'
```

These are, however, flagged as errors, since not all objects support these operations:

```
def f(o: object) -> None:
    o.foo()          # Error!
    o + 2            # Error!
    open(o)         # Error!
    n = 1           # type: int
    n = o           # Error!
```

You can use `cast()` (see chapter *Casts*) or `isinstance` to go from a general type such as `object` to a more specific type (subtype) such as `int`. `cast()` is not needed with dynamically typed values (values with type `Any`).

Function Overloading

Sometimes the types in a function depend on each other in ways that can't be captured with a `Union`. For example, the `__getitem__` (`[]` bracket indexing) method can take an integer and return a single item, or take a slice and return a `Sequence` of items. You might be tempted to annotate it like so:

```
from typing import Sequence, TypeVar, Union
T = TypeVar('T')

class MyList(Sequence[T]):
    def __getitem__(self, index: Union[int, slice]) -> Union[T, Sequence[T]]:
        if isinstance(index, int):
            ... # Return a T here
        elif isinstance(index, slice):
            ... # Return a sequence of Ts here
        else:
            raise TypeError(...)
```

But this is too loose, as it implies that when you pass in an `int` you might sometimes get out a single item and sometimes a sequence. The return type depends on the parameter type in a way that can't be expressed using a type variable. Instead, we can use [overloading](#) to give the same function multiple type annotations (signatures) and accurately describe the function's behavior.

```
from typing import overload, Sequence, TypeVar, Union
T = TypeVar('T')

class MyList(Sequence[T]):

    # The @overload definitions are just for the type checker,
    # and overwritten by the real implementation below.
    @overload
    def __getitem__(self, index: int) -> T:
        pass # Don't put code here

    # All overloads and the implementation must be adjacent
    # in the source file, and overload order may matter:
```

```
# when two overloads may overlap, the more specific one
# should come first.
@overload
def __getitem__(self, index: slice) -> Sequence[T]:
    pass # Don't put code here

# The implementation goes last, without @overload.
# It may or may not have type hints; if it does,
# these are checked against the overload definitions
# as well as against the implementation body.
def __getitem__(self, index: Union[int, slice]) -> Union[T, Sequence[T]]:
    # This is exactly the same as before.
    if isinstance(index, int):
        ... # Return a T here
    elif isinstance(index, slice):
        ... # Return a sequence of Ts here
    else:
        raise TypeError(...)
```

Calls to overloaded functions are type checked against the variants, not against the implementation. A call like `my_list[5]` would have type `T`, not `Union[T, Sequence[T]]` because it matches the first overloaded definition, and ignores the type annotations on the implementation of `__getitem__`. The code in the body of the definition of `__getitem__` is checked against the annotations on the the corresponding declaration. In this case the body is checked with `index: Union[int, slice]` and a return type `Union[T, Sequence[T]]`. If there are no annotations on the corresponding definition, then code in the function body is not type checked.

The annotations on the function body must be compatible with the types given for the overloaded variants listed above it. The type checker will verify that all the types listed the overloaded variants are compatible with the types given for the implementation. In this case it checks that the parameter type `int` and the return type `T` are compatible with `Union[int, slice]` and `Union[T, Sequence[T]]` for the first variant. For the second variant it verifies that the parameter type `slice` and the return type `Sequence[T]` are compatible with `Union[int, slice]` and `Union[T, Sequence[T]]`.

Overloaded function variants are still ordinary Python functions and they still define a single runtime object. There is no automatic dispatch happening, and you must manually handle the different types in the implementation (usually with `isinstance()` checks, as shown in the example).

The overload variants must be adjacent in the code. This makes code clearer, as you don't have to hunt for overload variants across the file.

Overloads in stub files are exactly the same, except there is no implementation.

Note: As generic type variables are erased at runtime when constructing instances of generic types, an overloaded function cannot have variants that only differ in a generic type argument, e.g. `List[int]` and `List[str]`.

Note: If you just need to constrain a type variable to certain types or subtypes, you can use a *value restriction*.

Casts

Mypy supports type casts that are usually used to coerce a statically typed value to a subtype. Unlike languages such as Java or C#, however, mypy casts are only used as hints for the type checker, and they don't perform a runtime type check. Use the function `cast` to perform a cast:

```
from typing import cast, List

o = [1] # type: object
x = cast(List[int], o) # OK
y = cast(List[str], o) # OK (cast performs no actual runtime check)
```

To support runtime checking of casts such as the above, we'd have to check the types of all list items, which would be very inefficient for large lists. Use assertions if you want to perform an actual runtime check. Casts are used to silence spurious type checker warnings and give the type checker a little help when it can't quite understand what is going on.

You don't need a cast for expressions with type `Any`, or when assigning to a variable with type `Any`, as was explained earlier. You can also use `Any` as the cast target type – this lets you perform any operations on the result. For example:

```
from typing import cast, Any

x = 1
x + 'x' # Type check error
y = cast(Any, x)
y + 'x' # Type check OK (runtime error)
```

Duck type compatibility

In Python, certain types are compatible even though they aren't subclasses of each other. For example, `int` objects are valid whenever `float` objects are expected. Mypy supports this idiom via *duck type compatibility*. As of now, this is only supported for a small set of built-in types:

- `int` is duck type compatible with `float` and `complex`.
- `float` is duck type compatible with `complex`.
- In Python 2, `str` is duck type compatible with `unicode`.

Note: Mypy support for Python 2 is still work in progress.

For example, mypy considers an `int` object to be valid whenever a `float` object is expected. Thus code like this is nice and clean and also behaves as expected:

```
def degrees_to_radians(x: float) -> float:
    return math.pi * degrees / 180

n = 90 # Inferred type 'int'
print(degrees_to_radians(n)) # Okay!
```

Note: Note that in Python 2 a `str` object with non-ASCII characters is often *not valid* when a unicode string is expected. The mypy type system does not consider a string with non-ASCII values as a separate type so some programs with this kind of error will silently pass type checking. In Python 3 `str` and `bytes` are separate, unrelated types and this kind of error is easy to detect. This a good reason for preferring Python 3 over Python 2!

See *Text and AnyStr* for details on how to enforce that a value must be a unicode string in a cross-compatible way.

This section has examples of cases when you need to update your code to use static typing, and ideas for working around issues if mypy doesn't work as expected. Statically typed code is often identical to normal Python code, but sometimes you need to do things slightly differently.

Can't install mypy using pip

If installation fails, you've probably hit one of these issues:

- Mypy needs Python 3.3 or later to run.
- You may have to run pip like this: `python3 -m pip install mypy`.

No errors reported for obviously wrong code

There are several common reasons why obviously wrong code is not flagged as an error.

- **The function containing the error is not annotated.** Functions that do not have any annotations (neither for any argument nor for the return type) are not type-checked, and even the most blatant type errors (e.g. `2 + 'a'`) pass silently. The solution is to add annotations.

Example:

```
def foo(a):  
    return '(' + a.split() + ')'
```

No error!

This gives no error even though `a.split()` is “obviously” a list (the author probably meant `a.strip()`). The error is reported once you add annotations:

```
def foo(a: str) -> str:  
    return '(' + a.split() + ')'  
# error: Unsupported operand types for + ("str" and List[str])
```

If you don't know what types to add, you can use `Any`, but beware:

- **One of the values involved has type “Any”.** Extending the above example, if we were to leave out the annotation for `a`, we'd get no error:

```
def foo(a) -> str:
    return '(' + a.split() + ')' # No error!
```

The reason is that if the type of `a` is unknown, the type of `a.split()` is also unknown, so it is inferred as having type `Any`, and it is no error to add a string to an `Any`.

If you're having trouble debugging such situations, `reveal_type()` might come in handy.

Note that sometimes library stubs have imprecise type information, e.g. the `pow()` builtin returns `Any` (see [typeshed issue 285](#) for the reason).

- **Some imports may be silently ignored.** Another source of unexpected `Any` values are the “`--ignore-missing-imports`” and “`--follow-imports=skip`” flags. When you use `--ignore-missing-imports`, any imported module that cannot be found is silently replaced with `Any`. When using `--follow-imports=skip` the same is true for modules for which a `.py` file is found but that are not specified on the command line. (If a `.pyi` stub is found it is always processed normally, regardless of the value of `--follow-imports`.) To help debug the former situation (no module found at all) leave out `--ignore-missing-imports`; to get clarity about the latter use `--follow-imports=error`. You can read up about these and other useful flags in *The mypy command line*.

Spurious errors and locally silencing the checker

You can use a `# type: ignore` comment to silence the type checker on a particular line. For example, let's say our code is using the C extension module `froblicate`, and there's no stub available. Mypy will complain about this, as it has no information about the module:

```
import froblicate # Error: No module "froblicate"
froblicate.start()
```

You can add a `# type: ignore` comment to tell mypy to ignore this error:

```
import froblicate # type: ignore
froblicate.start() # Okay!
```

The second line is now fine, since the `ignore` comment causes the name `froblicate` to get an implicit `Any` type.

Note: The `# type: ignore` comment will only assign the implicit `Any` type if mypy cannot find information about that particular module. So, if we did have a stub available for `froblicate` then mypy would ignore the `# type: ignore` comment and typecheck the stub as usual.

Types of empty collections

You often need to specify the type when you assign an empty list or dict to a new variable, as mentioned earlier:

```
a = [] # type: List[int]
```

Without the annotation mypy can't always figure out the precise type of `a`.

You can use a simple empty list literal in a dynamically typed function (as the type of `a` would be implicitly `Any` and need not be inferred), if type of the variable has been declared or inferred before, or if you perform a simple modification operation in the same scope (such as `append` for a list):

```
a = [] # Okay because followed by append, inferred type List[int]
for i in range(n):
    a.append(i * i)
```

However, in more complex cases an explicit type annotation can be required (mypy will tell you this). Often the annotation can make your code easier to understand, so it doesn't only help mypy but everybody who is reading the code!

Redefinitions with incompatible types

Each name within a function only has a single 'declared' type. You can reuse for loop indices etc., but if you want to use a variable with multiple types within a single function, you may need to declare it with the `Any` type.

```
def f() -> None:
    n = 1
    ...
    n = 'x' # Type error: n has type int
```

Note: This limitation could be lifted in a future mypy release.

Note that you can redefine a variable with a more *precise* or a more concrete type. For example, you can redefine a sequence (which does not support `sort()`) as a list and sort it in-place:

```
def f(x: Sequence[int]) -> None:
    # Type of x is Sequence[int] here; we don't know the concrete type.
    x = list(x)
    # Type of x is List[int] here.
    x.sort() # Okay!
```

Invariance vs covariance

Most mutable generic collections are invariant, and mypy considers all user-defined generic classes invariant by default (see *Variance of generic types* for motivation). This could lead to some unexpected errors when combined with type inference. For example:

```
class A: ...
class B(A): ...

lst = [A(), A()] # Inferred type is List[A]
new_lst = [B(), B()] # inferred type is List[B]
lst = new_lst # mypy will complain about this, because List is invariant
```

Possible strategies in such situations are:

- Use an explicit type annotation:

```
new_lst: List[A] = [B(), B()]
lst = new_lst # OK
```

- Make a copy of the right hand side:

```
lst = list(new_lst) # Also OK
```

- Use immutable collections as annotations whenever possible:

```
def f_bad(x: List[A]) -> A:
    return x[0]
f_bad(new_lst) # Fails

def f_good(x: Sequence[A]) -> A:
    return x[0]
f_good(new_lst) # OK
```

Declaring a supertype as variable type

Sometimes the inferred type is a subtype (subclass) of the desired type. The type inference uses the first assignment to infer the type of a name (assume here that `Shape` is the base class of both `Circle` and `Triangle`):

```
shape = Circle() # Infer shape to be Circle
...
shape = Triangle() # Type error: Triangle is not a Circle
```

You can just give an explicit type for the variable in cases such the above example:

```
shape = Circle() # type: Shape # The variable s can be any Shape,
# not just Circle
...
shape = Triangle() # OK
```

Complex type tests

Mypy can usually infer the types correctly when using `isinstance()` type tests, but for other kinds of checks you may need to add an explicit type cast:

```
def f(o: object) -> None:
    if type(o) is int:
        o = cast(int, o)
        g(o + 1) # This would be an error without the cast
    ...
    else:
        ...
```

Note: Note that the `object` type used in the above example is similar to `Object` in Java: it only supports operations defined for *all* objects, such as equality and `isinstance()`. The type `Any`, in contrast, supports all operations, even if they may fail at runtime. The cast above would have been unnecessary if the type of `o` was `Any`.

Mypy can't infer the type of `o` after the `type()` check because it only knows about `isinstance()` (and the latter is better style anyway). We can write the above code without a cast by using `isinstance()`:

```
def f(o: object) -> None:
    if isinstance(o, int): # Mypy understands isinstance checks
        g(o + 1)          # Okay; type of o is inferred as int here
    ...
```

Type inference in mypy is designed to work well in common cases, to be predictable and to let the type checker give useful error messages. More powerful type inference strategies often have complex and difficult-to-predict failure modes and could result in very confusing error messages. The tradeoff is that you as a programmer sometimes have to give the type checker a little help.

Python version and system platform checks

Mypy supports the ability to perform Python version checks and platform checks (e.g. Windows vs Posix), ignoring code paths that won't be run on the targeted Python version or platform. This allows you to more effectively typecheck code that supports multiple versions of Python or multiple operating systems.

More specifically, mypy will understand the use of `sys.version_info` and `sys.platform` checks within `if/elif/else` statements. For example:

```
import sys

# Distinguishing between different versions of Python:
if sys.version_info >= (3, 5):
    # Python 3.5+ specific definitions and imports
elif sys.version_info[0] >= 3:
    # Python 3 specific definitions and imports
else:
    # Python 2 specific definitions and imports

# Distinguishing between different operating systems:
if sys.platform.startswith("linux"):
    # Linux-specific code
elif sys.platform == "darwin":
    # Mac-specific code
elif sys.platform == "win32":
    # Windows-specific code
else:
    # Other systems
```

Note: Mypy currently does not support more complex checks, and does not assign any special meaning when assigning a `sys.version_info` or `sys.platform` check to a variable. This may change in future versions of mypy.

By default, mypy will use your current version of Python and your current operating system as default values for `sys.version_info` and `sys.platform`.

To target a different Python version, use the `--python-version X.Y` flag. For example, to verify your code typechecks if were run using Python 2, pass in `--python-version 2.7` from the command line. Note that you do not need to have Python 2.7 installed to perform this check.

To target a different operating system, use the `--platform PLATFORM` flag. For example, to verify your code typechecks if it were run in Windows, pass in `--platform win32`. See the documentation for `sys.platform` for

examples of valid platform parameters.

Displaying the type of an expression

You can use `reveal_type(expr)` to ask mypy to display the inferred static type of an expression. This can be useful when you don't quite understand how mypy handles a particular piece of code. Example:

```
reveal_type((1, 'hello')) # Revealed type is 'Tuple[builtins.int, builtins.str]'
```

Note: `reveal_type` is only understood by mypy and doesn't exist in Python, if you try to run your program. You'll have to remove any `reveal_type` calls before you can run your code. `reveal_type` is always available and you don't need to import it.

Import cycles

An import cycle occurs where module A imports module B and module B imports module A (perhaps indirectly, e.g. A -> B -> C -> A). Sometimes in order to add type annotations you have to add extra imports to a module and those imports cause cycles that didn't exist before. If those cycles become a problem when running your program, there's a trick: if the import is only needed for type annotations in forward references (string literals) or comments, you can write the imports inside `if TYPE_CHECKING:` so that they are not executed at runtime. Example:

File `foo.py`:

```
from typing import List, TYPE_CHECKING

if TYPE_CHECKING:
    import bar

def listify(arg: 'bar.BarClass') -> 'List[bar.BarClass]':
    return [arg]
```

File `bar.py`:

```
from typing import List
from foo import listify

class BarClass:
    def listifyme(self) -> 'List[BarClass]':
        return listify(self)
```

Note: The `TYPE_CHECKING` constant defined by the `typing` module is `False` at runtime but `True` while type checking.

Python 3.5.1 doesn't have `typing.TYPE_CHECKING`. An alternative is to define a constant named `MYPY` that has the value `False` at runtime. Mypy considers it to be `True` when type checking. Here's the above example modified to use `MYPY`:

```
from typing import List

MYPY = False
```



```
if MYPY:
    import bar

def listify(arg: 'bar.BarClass') -> 'List[bar.BarClass]':
    return [arg]
```


Defining generic classes

The built-in collection classes are generic classes. Generic types have one or more type parameters, which can be arbitrary types. For example, `Dict[int, str]` has the type parameters `int` and `str`, and `List[int]` has a type parameter `int`.

Programs can also define new generic classes. Here is a very simple generic class that represents a stack:

```
from typing import TypeVar, Generic

T = TypeVar('T')

class Stack(Generic[T]):
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        # Create an empty list with items of type T
        self.items = [] # type: List[T]

    def push(self, item: T) -> None:
        self.items.append(item)

    def pop(self) -> T:
        return self.items.pop()

    def empty(self) -> bool:
        return not self.items
```

The `Stack` class can be used to represent a stack of any type: `Stack[int]`, `Stack[Tuple[int, str]]`, etc.

Using `Stack` is similar to built-in container types:

```
# Construct an empty Stack[int] instance
stack = Stack[int]()
stack.push(2)
```

```
stack.pop()
stack.push('x')           # Type error
```

Type inference works for user-defined generic types as well:

```
def process(stack: Stack[int]) -> None: ...

process(Stack())         # Argument has inferred type Stack[int]
```

Construction of instances of generic types is also type checked:

```
class Box(Generic[T]):
    def __init__(self, content: T) -> None:
        self.content = content

Box(1) # OK, inferred type is Box[int]
Box[int](1) # Also OK
s = 'some string'
Box[int](s) # Type error
```

Generic class internals

You may wonder what happens at runtime when you index `Stack`. Actually, indexing `Stack` returns essentially a copy of `Stack` that returns instances of the original class on instantiation:

```
>>> print(Stack)
__main__.Stack
>>> print(Stack[int])
__main__.Stack[int]
>>> print(Stack[int]().__class__)
__main__.Stack
```

Note that built-in types `list`, `dict` and so on do not support indexing in Python. This is why we have the aliases `List`, `Dict` and so on in the `typing` module. Indexing these aliases gives you a class that directly inherits from the target class in Python:

```
>>> from typing import List
>>> List[int]
typing.List[int]
>>> List[int].__bases__
(<class 'list'>, typing.MutableSequence)
```

Generic types could be instantiated or subclassed as usual classes, but the above examples illustrate that type variables are erased at runtime. Generic `Stack` instances are just ordinary Python objects, and they have no extra runtime overhead or magic due to being generic, other than a metaclass that overloads the indexing operator.

Defining sub-classes of generic classes

User-defined generic classes and generic classes defined in `typing` can be used as base classes for another classes, both generic and non-generic. For example:

```

from typing import Generic, TypeVar, Iterable

T = TypeVar('T')

class Stream(Iterable[T]): # This is a generic subclass of Iterable
    def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[T]:
        ...

input: Stream[int] # Okay

class Codes(Iterable[int]): # This is a non-generic subclass of Iterable
    def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[int]:
        ...

output: Codes[int] # Error! Codes is not generic

class Receiver(Generic[T]):
    def accept(self, value: T) -> None:
        ...

class AdvancedReceiver(Receiver[T]):
    ...

```

Note: You have to add an explicit `Iterable` (or `Iterator`) base class if you want mypy to consider a user-defined class as iterable (and `Sequence` for sequences, etc.). This is because mypy doesn't support *structural subtyping* and just having an `__iter__` method defined is not sufficient to make mypy treat a class as iterable.

`Generic[...]` can be omitted from bases if there are other base classes that include type variables, such as `Iterable[T]` in the above example. If you include `Generic[...]` in bases, then it should list all type variables present in other bases (or more, if needed). The order of type variables is defined by the following rules:

- If `Generic[...]` is present, then the order of variables is always determined by their order in `Generic[...]`.
- If there are no `Generic[...]` in bases, then all type variables are collected in the lexicographic order (i.e. by first appearance).

For example:

```

from typing import Generic, TypeVar, Any

T = TypeVar('T')
S = TypeVar('S')
U = TypeVar('U')

class One(Generic[T]): ...
class Another(Generic[T]): ...

class First(One[T], Another[S]): ...
class Second(One[T], Another[S], Generic[S, U, T]): ...

x: First[int, str] # Here T is bound to int, S is bound to str
y: Second[int, str, Any] # Here T is Any, S is int, and U is str

```

Generic functions

Generic type variables can also be used to define generic functions:

```
from typing import TypeVar, Sequence

T = TypeVar('T')          # Declare type variable

def first(seq: Sequence[T]) -> T:  # Generic function
    return seq[0]
```

As with generic classes, the type variable can be replaced with any type. That means `first` can be used with any sequence type, and the return type is derived from the sequence item type. For example:

```
# Assume first defined as above.

s = first('foo')          # s has type str.
n = first([1, 2, 3])      # n has type int.
```

Note also that a single definition of a type variable (such as `T` above) can be used in multiple generic functions or classes. In this example we use the same type variable in two generic functions:

```
from typing import TypeVar, Sequence

T = TypeVar('T')          # Declare type variable

def first(seq: Sequence[T]) -> T:
    return seq[0]

def last(seq: Sequence[T]) -> T:
    return seq[-1]
```

Generic methods and generic self

You can also define generic methods — just use a type variable in the method signature that is different from class type variables. In particular, `self` may also be generic, allowing a method to return the most precise type known at the point of access.

Note: This feature is experimental. Checking code with type annotations for self arguments is still not fully implemented. Mypy may disallow valid code or allow unsafe code.

In this way, for example, you can typecheck chaining of setter methods:

```
from typing import TypeVar

T = TypeVar('T', bound='Shape')

class Shape:
    def set_scale(self: T, scale: float) -> T:
        self.scale = scale
        return self

class Circle(Shape):
```

```

def set_radius(self, r: float) -> 'Circle':
    self.radius = r
    return self

class Square(Shape):
    def set_width(self, w: float) -> 'Square':
        self.width = w
        return self

circle = Circle().set_scale(0.5).set_radius(2.7) # type: Circle
square = Square().set_scale(0.5).set_width(3.2) # type: Square

```

Without using generic `self`, the last two lines could not be type-checked properly.

Other uses are factory methods, such as copy and deserialization. For class methods, you can also define generic `cls`, using `Type[T]`:

```

from typing import TypeVar, Tuple, Type

T = TypeVar('T', bound='Friend')

class Friend:
    other = None # type: Friend

    @classmethod
    def make_pair(cls: Type[T]) -> Tuple[T, T]:
        a, b = cls(), cls()
        a.other = b
        b.other = a
        return a, b

class SuperFriend(Friend):
    pass

a, b = SuperFriend.make_pair()

```

Note that when overriding a method with generic `self`, you must either return a generic `self` too, or return an instance of the current class. In the latter case, you must implement this method in all future subclasses.

Note also that mypy cannot always verify that the implementation of a copy or a deserialization method returns the actual type of `self`. Therefore you may need to silence mypy inside these methods (but not at the call site), possibly by making use of the `Any` type.

Variance of generic types

There are three main kinds of generic types with respect to subtype relations between them: invariant, covariant, and contravariant. Assuming that we have a pair of types `A` and `B` and `B` is a subtype of `A`, these are defined as follows:

- A generic class `MyCovGen[T, ...]` is called covariant in type variable `T` if `MyCovGen[B, ...]` is always a subtype of `MyCovGen[A, ...]`.
- A generic class `MyContraGen[T, ...]` is called contravariant in type variable `T` if `MyContraGen[A, ...]` is always a subtype of `MyContraGen[B, ...]`.
- A generic class `MyInvGen[T, ...]` is called invariant in `T` if neither of the above is true.

Let us illustrate this by few simple examples:

- Union is covariant in all variables: `Union[Cat, int]` is a subtype of `Union[Animal, int]`, `Union[Dog, int]` is also a subtype of `Union[Animal, int]`, etc. Most immutable containers such as `Sequence` and `FrozenSet` are also covariant.
- Callable is an example of type that behaves contravariant in types of arguments, namely `Callable[[Employee], int]` is a subtype of `Callable[[Manager], int]`. To understand this, consider a function:

```
def salaries(staff: List[Manager],
             accountant: Callable[[Manager], int]) -> List[int]: ...
```

this function needs a callable that can calculate a salary for managers, and if we give it a callable that can calculate a salary for an arbitrary employee, then it is still safe.

- `List` is an invariant generic type. Naively, one would think that it is covariant, but let us consider this code:

```
class Shape:
    pass
class Circle(Shape):
    def rotate(self):
        ...

def add_one(things: List[Shape]) -> None:
    things.append(Shape())

my_things: List[Circle] = []
add_one(my_things)      # This may appear safe, but...
my_things[0].rotate()  # ...this will fail
```

Another example of invariant type is `Dict`, most mutable containers are invariant.

By default, mypy assumes that all user-defined generics are invariant. To declare a given generic class as covariant or contravariant use type variables defined with special keyword arguments `covariant` or `contravariant`. For example:

```
from typing import Generic, TypeVar
T_co = TypeVar('T_co', covariant=True)

class Box(Generic[T_co]): # this type is declared covariant
    def __init__(self, content: T_co) -> None:
        self._content = content
    def get_content(self) -> T_co:
        return self._content

def look_into(box: Box[Animal]): ...
my_box = Box(Cat())
look_into(my_box) # OK, but mypy would complain here for an invariant type
```

Type variables with value restriction

By default, a type variable can be replaced with any type. However, sometimes it's useful to have a type variable that can only have some specific types as its value. A typical example is a type variable that can only have values `str` and `bytes`:


```
from typing import TypeVar

AnyStr = TypeVar('AnyStr', str, bytes)
```

This is actually such a common type variable that `AnyStr` is defined in `typing` and we don't need to define it ourselves.

We can use `AnyStr` to define a function that can concatenate two strings or bytes objects, but it can't be called with other argument types:

```
from typing import AnyStr

def concat(x: AnyStr, y: AnyStr) -> AnyStr:
    return x + y

concat('a', 'b')      # Okay
concat(b'a', b'b')    # Okay
concat(1, 2)          # Error!
```

Note that this is different from a union type, since combinations of `str` and `bytes` are not accepted:

```
concat('string', b'bytes') # Error!
```

In this case, this is exactly what we want, since it's not possible to concatenate a string and a bytes object! The type checker will reject this function:

```
def union_concat(x: Union[str, bytes], y: Union[str, bytes]) -> Union[str, bytes]:
    return x + y # Error: can't concatenate str and bytes
```

Another interesting special case is calling `concat()` with a subtype of `str`:

```
class S(str): pass

ss = concat(S('foo'), S('bar'))
```

You may expect that the type of `ss` is `S`, but the type is actually `str`: a subtype gets promoted to one of the valid values for the type variable, which in this case is `str`. This is thus subtly different from *bounded quantification* in languages such as Java, where the return type would be `S`. The way mypy implements this is correct for `concat`, since `concat` actually returns a `str` instance in the above example:

```
>>> print(type(ss))
<class 'str'>
```

You can also use a `TypeVar` with a restricted set of possible values when defining a generic class. For example, mypy uses the type `typing.Pattern[AnyStr]` for the return value of `re.compile`, since regular expressions can be based on a string or a bytes pattern.

Type variables with upper bounds

A type variable can also be restricted to having values that are subtypes of a specific type. This type is called the upper bound of the type variable, and is specified with the `bound=...` keyword argument to `TypeVar`.

```
from typing import TypeVar, SupportsAbs

T = TypeVar('T', bound=SupportsAbs[float])
```

In the definition of a generic function that uses such a type variable `T`, the type represented by `T` is assumed to be a subtype of its upper bound, so the function can use methods of the upper bound on values of type `T`.

```
def largest_in_absolute_value(*xs: T) -> T:
    return max(xs, key=abs) # Okay, because T is a subtype of SupportsAbs[float].
```

In a call to such a function, the type `T` must be replaced by a type that is a subtype of its upper bound. Continuing the example above,

```
largest_in_absolute_value(-3.5, 2) # Okay, has type float.
largest_in_absolute_value(5+6j, 7) # Okay, has type complex.
largest_in_absolute_value('a', 'b') # Error: 'str' is not a subtype of
↳ SupportsAbs[float].
```

Type parameters of generic classes may also have upper bounds, which restrict the valid values for the type parameter in the same way.

A type variable may not have both a value restriction (see *Type variables with value restriction*) and an upper bound.

Declaring decorators

One common application of type variable upper bounds is in declaring a decorator that preserves the signature of the function it decorates, regardless of that signature. Here's a complete example:

```
from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar, Tuple, cast

FuncType = Callable[..., Any]
F = TypeVar('F', bound=FuncType)

# A decorator that preserves the signature.
def my_decorator(func: F) -> F:
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        print("Calling", func)
        return func(*args, **kwargs)
    return cast(F, wrapper)

# A decorated function.
@my_decorator
def foo(a: int) -> str:
    return str(a)

# Another.
@my_decorator
def bar(x: float, y: float) -> Tuple[float, float, bool]:
    return (x, y, x > y)

a = foo(12)
reveal_type(a) # str
b = bar(3.14, 0)
reveal_type(b) # Tuple[float, float, bool]
foo('x') # Type check error: incompatible type "str"; expected "int"
```

From the final block we see that the signatures of the decorated functions `foo()` and `bar()` are the same as those of the original functions (before the decorator is applied).

The bound on `F` is used so that calling the decorator on a non-function (e.g. `my_decorator(1)`) will be rejected.

Also note that the `wrapper()` function is not type-checked. Wrapper functions are typically small enough that this is not a big problem. This is also the reason for the `cast()` call in the `return` statement in `my_decorator()`. See [Casts](#).

Supported Python features and modules

A list of unsupported Python features is maintained in the mypy wiki:

- [Unsupported Python features](#)

Runtime definition of methods and functions

By default, mypy will complain if you add a function to a class or module outside its definition – but only if this is visible to the type checker. This only affects static checking, as mypy performs no additional type checking at runtime. You can easily work around this. For example, you can use dynamically typed code or values with `Any` types, or you can use `setattr` or other introspection features. However, you need to be careful if you decide to do this. If used indiscriminately, you may have difficulty using static typing effectively, since the type checker cannot see functions defined at runtime.

CHAPTER 16

Additional features

Several mypy features are not currently covered by this tutorial, including the following:

- inheritance between generic classes
- compatibility and subtyping of generic types, including covariance of generic types
- `super ()`

The mypy command line

This section documents many of mypy's command line flags. A quick summary of command line flags can always be printed using the `-h` flag (or its long form `--help`):

```
$ mypy -h
usage: mypy [-h] [-v] [-V] [--python-version x.y] [--platform PLATFORM] [-2]
           [--ignore-missing-imports]
           [--follow-imports {normal,silent,skip,error}]
           [--disallow-any {unimported, expr, unannotated, decorated, explicit, ↵
↳generics}]
           [--disallow-untyped-calls] [--disallow-untyped-defs]
           [--check-untyped-defs] [--disallow-subclassing-any]
           [--warn-incomplete-stub] [--warn-redundant-casts]
           [--no-warn-no-return] [--warn-return-any] [--warn-unused-ignores]
           [--show-error-context] [--no-implicit-optional] [-i]
           [--quick-and-dirty] [--cache-dir DIR] [--skip-version-check]
           [--strict-optional]
           [--strict-optional-whitelist [GLOB [GLOB ...]]]
           [--junit-xml JUNIT_XML] [--pdb] [--show-traceback] [--stats]
           [--inferstats] [--custom-typing MODULE]
           [--custom-tyshed-dir DIR] [--scripts-are-modules]
           [--config-file CONFIG_FILE] [--show-column-numbers]
           [--find-occurrences CLASS.MEMBER] [--strict]
           [--shadow-file SOURCE_FILE SHADOW_FILE] [--any-exprs-report DIR]
           [--cobertura-xml-report DIR] [--html-report DIR]
           [--linecount-report DIR] [--linecoverage-report DIR]
           [--memory-xml-report DIR] [--old-html-report DIR]
           [--txt-report DIR] [--xml-report DIR] [--xslt-html-report DIR]
           [--xslt-txt-report DIR] [-m MODULE] [-c PROGRAM_TEXT] [-p PACKAGE]
           [files [files ...]]
```

(etc., too long to show everything here)

Specifying files and directories to be checked

You've already seen `mypy program.py` as a way to type check the file `program.py`. More generally you can pass any number of files and directories on the command line and they will all be type checked together.

- Files ending in `.py` (and stub files ending in `.pyi`) are checked as Python modules.
- Files not ending in `.py` or `.pyi` are assumed to be Python scripts and checked as such.
- Directories representing Python packages (i.e. containing a `__init__.py[i]` file) are checked as Python packages; all submodules and subpackages will be checked (subpackages must themselves have a `__init__.py[i]` file).
- Directories that don't represent Python packages (i.e. not directly containing an `__init__.py[i]` file) are checked as follows:
 - All `*.py[i]` files contained directly therein are checked as toplevel Python modules;
 - All packages contained directly therein (i.e. immediate subdirectories with an `__init__.py[i]` file) are checked as toplevel Python packages.

One more thing about checking modules and packages: if the directory *containing* a module or package specified on the command line has an `__init__.py[i]` file, mypy assigns these an absolute module name by crawling up the path until no `__init__.py[i]` file is found. For example, suppose we run the command `mypy foo/bar/baz.py` where `foo/bar/__init__.py` exists but `foo/__init__.py` does not. Then the module name assumed is `bar.baz` and the directory `foo` is added to mypy's module search path. On the other hand, if `foo/bar/__init__.py` did not exist, `foo/bar` would be added to the module search path instead, and the module name assumed is just `baz`.

If a script (a file not ending in `.py[i]`) is processed, the module name assumed is always `__main__` (matching the behavior of the Python interpreter).

Other ways of specifying code to be checked

The flag `-m` (long form: `--module`) lets you specify a module name to be found using the default module search path. The module name may contain dots. For example:

```
$ mypy -m html.parser
```

will type check the module `html.parser` (this happens to be a library stub).

The flag `-p` (long form: `--package`) is similar to `-m` but you give it a package name and it will type check all submodules and subpackages (recursively) of that package. (If you pass a package name to `-m` it will just type check the package's `__init__.py` and anything imported from there.) For example:

```
$ mypy -p html
```

will type check the entire `html` package (of library stubs).

Finally the flag `-c` (long form: `--command`) will take a string from the command line and type check it as a small program. For example:

```
$ mypy -c 'x = [1, 2]; print(x())'
```

will type check that little program (and complain that `List[int]` is not callable).

Reading a list of files from a file

Finally, any command-line argument starting with @ reads additional command-line arguments from the file following the @ character. This is primarily useful if you have a file containing a list of files that you want to be type-checked: instead of using shell syntax like:

```
mypy $(cat file_of_files)
```

you can use this instead:

```
mypy @file_of_files
```

Such a file can also contain other flags, but a preferred way of reading flags (not files) from a file is to use a *configuration file*.

How imports are found

When mypy encounters an *import* statement it tries to find the module on the file system, similar to the way Python finds it. However, there are some differences.

First, mypy has its own search path. This is computed from the following items:

- The `MYPYPATH` environment variable (a colon-separated list of directories).
- The directories containing the sources given on the command line (see below).
- The relevant directories of the [typeshed](#) repo.

For sources given on the command line, the path is adjusted by crawling up from the given file or package to the nearest directory that does not contain an `__init__.py` or `__init__.pyi` file.

Second, mypy searches for stub files in addition to regular Python files and packages. The rules for searching a module `f00` are as follows:

- The search looks in each of the directories in the search path (see above) until a match is found.
- If a package named `f00` is found (i.e. a directory `f00` containing an `__init__.py` or `__init__.pyi` file) that's a match.
- If a stub file named `f00.pyi` is found, that's a match.
- If a Python module named `f00.py` is found, that's a match.

These matches are tried in order, so that if multiple matches are found in the same directory on the search path (e.g. a package and a Python file, or a stub file and a Python file) the first one in the above list wins.

In particular, if a Python file and a stub file are both present in the same directory on the search path, only the stub file is used. (However, if the files are in different directories, the one found in the earlier directory is used.)

NOTE: These rules are relevant to the following section too: the `--follow-imports` flag described below is applied *after* the above algorithm has determined which package, stub or module to use.

Following imports or not?

When you're first attacking a large existing codebase with mypy, you may only want to check selected files. For example, you may only want to check those files to which you have already added annotations. This is easily accomplished using a shell pipeline like this:

```
mypy $(find . -name \*.py | xargs grep -l '# type:')
```

(While there are many improvements possible to make this example more robust, this is not the place for a tutorial in shell programming.)

However, by default mypy doggedly tries to *follow imports*. This may cause several types of problems that you may want to silence during your initial conquest:

- Your code may import library modules for which no stub files exist yet. This can cause a lot of errors like the following:

```
main.py:1: error: No library stub file for standard library module 'antigravity'
main.py:2: error: No library stub file for module 'flask'
main.py:3: error: Cannot find module named 'sir_not_appearing_in_this_film'
```

If you see only a few of these you may be able to silence them by putting `# type: ignore` on the respective import statements, but it's usually easier to silence all such errors by using `-ignore-missing-imports`.

- Your project's directory structure may hinder mypy in finding certain modules that are part of your project, e.g. modules hidden away in a subdirectory that's not a package. You can usually deal with this by setting the `MYPYPATH` variable (see *How imports are found*).
- When following imports mypy may find a module that's part of your project but which you haven't annotated yet, mypy may report errors for the top level code in that module (where the top level includes class bodies and function/method default values). Here the `--follow-imports` flag comes in handy.

The `--follow-imports` flag takes a mandatory string value that can take one of four values. It only applies to modules for which a `.py` file is found (but no corresponding `.pyi` stub file) and that are not given on the command line. Passing a package or directory on the command line implies all modules in that package or directory. The four possible values are:

- `normal` (the default) follow imports normally and type check all top level code (as well as the bodies of all functions and methods with at least one type annotation in the signature).
- `silent` follow imports normally and even “type check” them normally, but *suppress any error messages*. This is typically the best option for a new codebase.
- `skip` *don't* follow imports, silently replacing the module (and everything imported *from* it) with an object of type `Any`. (This option used to be known as `--silent-imports` and while it is very powerful it can also cause hard-to-debug errors, hence the recommendation of using `silent` instead.)
- `error` the same behavior as `skip` but not quite as `silent` – it flags the import as an error, like this:

```
main.py:1: note: Import of 'submodule' ignored
main.py:1: note: (Using --follow-imports=error, module not passed on command line)
```

Additional command line flags

Here are some more useful flags:

- `--ignore-missing-imports` suppresses error messages about imports that cannot be resolved (see *Following imports or not?* for some examples).
- `--strict-optional` enables experimental strict checking of `Optional[...]` types and `None` values. Without this option, mypy doesn't generally check the use of `None` values – they are valid everywhere. See *Experimental strict optional type and None checking* for more about this feature.

- `--strict-optional-whitelist` attempts to suppress strict Optional-related errors in non-whitelisted files. Takes an arbitrary number of globs as the whitelist. This option is intended to be used to incrementally roll out `--strict-optional` to a large codebase that already has mypy annotations. However, this flag comes with some significant caveats. It does not suppress all errors caused by turning on `--strict-optional`, only most of them, so there may still be a bit of upfront work to be done before it can be used in CI. It will also suppress some errors that would be caught in a non-strict-Optional run. Therefore, when using this flag, you should also re-check your code without `--strict-optional` to ensure new type errors are not introduced.
- `--disallow-any` disallows various types of `Any` in a module. The option takes a comma-separated list of the following values: `unimported`, `unannotated`, `expr`, `decorated`, `explicit`, `generics`.

`unimported` disallows usage of types that come from unfollowed imports (such types become aliases for `Any`). Unfollowed imports occur either when the imported module does not exist or when `--follow-imports=skip` is set.

`unannotated` disallows function definitions that are not fully typed (i.e. that are missing an explicit type annotation for any of the parameters or the return type). `unannotated` option is interchangeable with `--disallow-untyped-defs`.

`expr` disallows all expressions in the module that have type `Any`. If an expression of type `Any` appears anywhere in the module mypy will output an error unless the expression is immediately used as an argument to `cast` or assigned to a variable with an explicit type annotation. In addition, declaring a variable of type `Any` or casting to type `Any` is not allowed. Note that calling functions that take parameters of type `Any` is still allowed.

`decorated` disallows functions that have `Any` in their signature after decorator transformation.

`explicit` disallows explicit `Any` in type positions such as type annotations and generic type parameters.

`generics` disallows usage of generic types that do not specify explicit type parameters. Moreover, built-in collections (such as `list` and `dict`) become disallowed as you should use their aliases from the typing module (such as `List[int]` and `Dict[str, str]`).
- `--disallow-untyped-defs` reports an error whenever it encounters a function definition without type annotations.
- `--check-untyped-defs` is less severe than the previous option – it type checks the body of every function, regardless of whether it has type annotations. (By default the bodies of functions without annotations are not type checked.) It will assume all arguments have type `Any` and always infer `Any` as the return type.
- `--disallow-untyped-calls` reports an error whenever a function with type annotations calls a function defined without annotations.
- `--disallow-subclassing-any` reports an error whenever a class subclasses a value of type `Any`. This may occur when the base class is imported from a module that doesn't exist (when using `-ignore-missing-imports`) or is ignored due to `-follow-imports=skip` or a `# type: ignore` comment on the `import` statement. Since the module is silenced, the imported class is given a type of `Any`. By default mypy will assume that the subclass correctly inherited the base class even though that may not actually be the case. This flag makes mypy raise an error instead.
- `--incremental` is an experimental option that enables a module cache. When enabled, mypy caches results from previous runs to speed up type checking. Incremental mode can help when most parts of your program haven't changed since the previous mypy run. A companion flag is `--cache-dir DIR`, which specifies where the cache files are written. By default this is `.mypy_cache` in the current directory. While the cache is only read in incremental mode, it is written even in non-incremental mode, in order to “warm” the cache. To disable writing the cache, use `--cache-dir=/dev/null` (UNIX) or `--cache-dir=nul` (Windows). Cache files belonging to a different mypy version are ignored.
- `--quick-and-dirty` is an experimental, unsafe variant of *incremental mode*. Quick mode is faster than regular incremental mode, because it only re-checks modules that were modified since their cache file was last written (regular incremental mode also re-checks all modules that depend on one or more modules that were

re-checked). Quick mode is unsafe because it may miss problems caused by a change in a dependency. Quick mode updates the cache, but regular incremental mode ignores cache files written by quick mode.

- `--python-version X.Y` will make mypy typecheck your code as if it were run under Python version X.Y. Without this option, mypy will default to using whatever version of Python is running mypy. Note that the `-2` and `--py2` flags are aliases for `--python-version 2.7`. See *Python version and system platform checks* for more about this feature.
- `--platform PLATFORM` will make mypy typecheck your code as if it were run under the the given operating system. Without this option, mypy will default to using whatever operating system you are currently using. See *Python version and system platform checks* for more about this feature.
- `--show-column-numbers` will add column offsets to error messages, for example, the following indicates an error in line 12, column 9 (note that column offsets are 0-based):

```
main.py:12:9: error: Unsupported operand types for / ("int" and "str")
```

- `--scripts-are-modules` will give command line arguments that appear to be scripts (i.e. files whose name does not end in `.py`) a module name derived from the script name rather than the fixed name `__main__`. This allows checking more than one script in a single mypy invocation. (The default `__main__` is technically more correct, but if you have many scripts that import a large package, the behavior enabled by this flag is often more convenient.)
- `--custom-typeshed-dir DIR` specifies the directory where mypy looks for typeshed stubs, instead of the typeshed that ships with mypy. This is primarily intended to make it easier to test typeshed changes before submitting them upstream, but also allows you to use a forked version of typeshed.
- `--config-file CONFIG_FILE` causes configuration settings to be read from the given file. By default settings are read from `mypy.ini` or `setup.cfg` in the current directory. Settings override mypy's built-in defaults and command line flags can override settings. See *The mypy configuration file* for the syntax of configuration files.
- `--junit-xml JUNIT_XML` will make mypy generate a JUnit XML test result document with type checking results. This can make it easier to integrate mypy with continuous integration (CI) tools.
- `--find-occurrences CLASS.MEMBER` will make mypy print out all usages of a class member based on static type information. This feature is experimental.
- `--cobertura-xml-report DIR` causes mypy to generate a Cobertura XML type checking coverage report.
- `--warn-no-return` causes mypy to generate errors for missing return statements on some execution paths. Mypy doesn't generate these errors for functions with `None` or `Any` return types. Mypy also currently ignores functions with an empty body or a body that is just ellipsis (`...`), since these can be valid as abstract methods. This option is on by default.
- `--warn-return-any` causes mypy to generate a warning when returning a value with type `Any` from a function declared with a non-`Any` return type.
- `--strict` mode enables all optional error checking flags. You can see the list of flags enabled by strict mode in the full `mypy -h` output.
- `--shadow-file SOURCE_FILE SHADOW_FILE` makes mypy typecheck `SHADOW_FILE` in place of `SOURCE_FILE`. Primarily intended for tooling. Allows tooling to make transformations to a file before type checking without having to change the file in-place. (For example, tooling could use this to display the type of an expression by wrapping it with a call to `reveal_type` in the shadow file and then parsing the output.)
- `--no-implicit-optional` causes mypy to stop treating arguments with a `None` default value as having an implicit `Optional[...]` type.

For the remaining flags you can read the full `mypy -h` output.

Note: Command line flags are liable to change between releases.

Integrating mypy into another Python application

It is possible to integrate mypy into another Python 3 application by importing `mypy.api` and calling the `run` function with a parameter of type `List[str]`, containing what normally would have been the command line arguments to mypy.

Function `run` returns a `Tuple[str, str, int]`, namely (`<normal_report>`, `<error_report>`, `<exit_status>`), in which `<normal_report>` is what mypy normally writes to `sys.stdout`, `<error_report>` is what mypy normally writes to `sys.stderr` and `exit_status` is the exit status mypy normally returns to the operating system.

A trivial example of using the api is the following:

```
import sys
from mypy import api

result = api.run(sys.argv[1:])

if result[0]:
    print('\nType checking report:\n')
    print(result[0]) # stdout

if result[1]:
    print('\nError report:\n')
    print(result[1]) # stderr

print ('\nExit status:', result[2])
```

The mypy configuration file

Mypy supports reading configuration settings from a file. By default it uses the file `mypy.ini` (with fallback to `setup.cfg`) in the current directory; the `--config-file` command-line flag can be used to read a different file instead (see *config-file*).

It is important to understand that there is no merging of configuration files, as it would lead to ambiguity. The `--config-file` flag has the highest precedence and must be correct; otherwise mypy will report an error and exit. Without command line option, mypy will look for defaults, but will use only one of them. The first one to read is `mypy.ini`, and then `setup.cfg`.

Most flags correspond closely to *command-line flags* but there are some differences in flag names and some flags may take a different value based on the module being processed.

The configuration file format is the usual *ini file* format. It should contain section names in square brackets and flag settings of the form `NAME = VALUE`. Comments start with `#` characters.

- A section named `[mypy]` must be present. This specifies the global flags. The `setup.cfg` file is an exception to this.
- Additional sections named `[mypy-PATTERN1,PATTERN2,...]` may be present, where `PATTERN1`, `PATTERN2` etc. are *fnmatch patterns* separated by commas. These sections specify additional flags that only apply to *modules* whose name matches at least one of the patterns.

Global flags

The following global flags may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

- `python_version` (string) specifies the Python version used to parse and check the target program. The format is `DIGIT.DIGIT` for example `2.7`. The default is the version of the Python interpreter used to run mypy.
- `platform` (string) specifies the OS platform for the target program, for example `darwin` or `win32` (meaning OS X or Windows, respectively). The default is the current platform as revealed by Python's `sys.platform` variable.

- `custom_typing_module` (string) specifies the name of an alternative module which is to be considered equivalent to the `typing` module.
- `custom_typed_dir` (string) specifies the name of an alternative directory which is used to look for stubs instead of the default `typed` directory.
- `mypy_path` (string) specifies the paths to use, after trying the paths from `MYPYPATH` environment variable. Useful if you'd like to keep stubs in your repo, along with the config file.
- `warn_incomplete_stub` (Boolean, default `False`) warns for missing type annotation in `typed`. This is only relevant in combination with `check_untyped_defs`.
- `warn_redundant_casts` (Boolean, default `False`) warns about casting an expression to its inferred type.
- `warn_unused_ignores` (Boolean, default `False`) warns about unneeded `# type: ignore` comments.
- `strict_optional` (Boolean, default `False`) enables experimental strict Optional checks.
- `scripts_are_modules` (Boolean, default `False`) makes `script x` become `module x` instead of `__main__`. This is useful when checking multiple scripts in a single run.
- `verbosity` (integer, default 0) controls how much debug output will be generated. Higher numbers are more verbose.
- `pdb` (Boolean, default `False`) invokes `pdb` on fatal error.
- `show_traceback` (Boolean, default `False`) shows traceback on fatal error.
- `dump_type_stats` (Boolean, default `False`) dumps stats about type definitions.
- `dump_inference_stats` (Boolean, default `False`) dumps stats about type inference.
- `incremental` (Boolean, default `False`) enables *incremental mode*.
- `cache_dir` (string, default `.mypy_cache`) stores module cache info in the given folder in *incremental mode*. The cache is only read in incremental mode, but it is always written unless the value is set to `/dev/null` (UNIX) or `nul` (Windows).
- `quick_and_dirty` (Boolean, default `False`) enables *quick mode*.
- `show_error_context` (Boolean, default `False`) shows context notes before errors.
- `show_column_numbers` (Boolean, default `False`) shows column numbers in error messages.

Per-module flags

The following flags may vary per module. They may also be specified in the global section; the global section provides defaults which are overridden by the pattern sections matching the module name.

Note: If multiple pattern sections match a module they are processed in order of their occurrence in the config file.

- `follow_imports` (string, default `normal`) directs what to do with imports when the imported module is found as a `.py` file and not part of the files, modules and packages on the command line. The four possible values are `normal`, `silent`, `skip` and `error`. For explanations see the discussion for the `-follow-imports` command line flag. Note that if pattern matching is used, the pattern should match the name of the `_imported_` module, not the module containing the import statement.
- `ignore_missing_imports` (Boolean, default `False`) suppress error messages about imports that cannot be resolved. Note that if pattern matching is used, the pattern should match the name of the `_imported_` module, not the module containing the import statement.

- `silent_imports` (Boolean, deprecated) equivalent to `follow_imports=skip` plus `ignore_missing_imports=True`.
- `almost_silent` (Boolean, deprecated) equivalent to `follow_imports=skip`.
- `disallow_any` (Comma-separated list, default empty) is an option to disallow various types of `Any` in a module. The flag takes a comma-separated list of the following arguments: `unimported`, `unannotated`, `expr`, `decorated`, `explicit`, `generics`. For explanations see the discussion for the `-disallow-any` option.
- `disallow_untyped_calls` (Boolean, default `False`) disallows calling functions without type annotations from functions with type annotations.
- `disallow_untyped_defs` (Boolean, default `False`) disallows defining functions without type annotations or with incomplete type annotations.
- `check_untyped_defs` (Boolean, default `False`) type-checks the interior of functions without type annotations.
- `debug_cache` (Boolean, default `False`) writes the incremental cache JSON files using a more readable, but slower format.
- `show_none_errors` (Boolean, default `True`) shows errors related to strict `None` checking, if the global `strict_optional` flag is enabled.
- `ignore_errors` (Boolean, default `False`) ignores all non-fatal errors.
- `warn_no_return` (Boolean, default `True`) shows errors for missing return statements on some execution paths.
- `warn_return_any` (Boolean, default `False`) shows a warning when returning a value with type `Any` from a function declared with a non-`Any` return type.
- `strict_boolean` (Boolean, default `False`) makes using non-boolean expressions in conditions an error.
- `no_implicit_optional` (Boolean, default `false`) changes the treatment of arguments with a default value of `None` by not implicitly making their type `Optional`

Example

You might put this in your `mypy.ini` file at the root of your repo:

```
[mypy]
python_version = 2.7
[mypy-foo.*]
disallow_untyped_defs = True
```

This automatically sets `--python-version 2.7` (a.k.a. `--py2`) for all `mypy` runs in this tree, and also selectively turns on the `--disallow-untyped-defs` flag for all modules in the `foo` package. This issues an error for function definitions without type annotations in that subdirectory only.

Note: Configuration flags are liable to change between releases.

New features in Python 3.6

Python 3.6 was released in December 2016. As of mypy 0.510 all language features new in Python 3.6 are supported.

Syntax for variable annotations (PEP 526)

Python 3.6 feature: variables (in global, class or local scope) can now have type annotations using either of the two forms:

```
from typing import Optional
foo: Optional[int]
bar: List[str] = []
```

Mypy fully supports this syntax, interpreting them as equivalent to

```
foo = None # type: Optional[int]
bar = [] # type: List[str]
```

An additional feature defined in PEP 526 is also supported: you can mark names intended to be used as class variables with `ClassVar`. In a pinch you can also use `ClassVar` in `# type` comments. Example:

```
from typing import ClassVar

class C:
    x: int # instance variable
    y: ClassVar[int] # class variable
    z = None # type: ClassVar[int]

    def foo(self) -> None:
        self.x = 0 # OK
        self.y = 0 # Error: Cannot assign to class variable "y" via instance

C.y = 0 # This is OK
```

Literal string formatting (PEP 498)

Python 3.6 feature: string literals of the form `f"text {expression} text"` evaluate `expression` using the current evaluation context (locals and globals).

Mypy fully supports this syntax and type-checks the `expression`.

Underscores in numeric literals (PEP 515)

Python 3.6 feature: numeric literals can contain underscores, e.g. `1_000_000`.

Mypy fully supports this syntax:

```
precise_val = 1_000_000.000_000_1
hexes: List[int] = []
hexes.append(0xFF_FF_FF_FF)
```

Asynchronous generators (PEP 525) and comprehensions (PEP 530)

Python 3.6 allows coroutines defined with `async def` (PEP 492) to be generators, i.e. contain `yield` expressions, and introduces a syntax for asynchronous comprehensions. Mypy fully supports these features, for example:

```
from typing import AsyncIterator

async def gen() -> AsyncIterator[bytes]:
    lst = [b async for b in gen()] # Inferred type is "List[bytes]"
    yield 'no way' # Error: Incompatible types (got "str", expected "bytes")
```

New named tuple syntax

Python 3.6 supports an alternative syntax for named tuples. See *Named tuples*.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have both dynamic and static typing?

Dynamic typing can be flexible, powerful, convenient and easy. But it's not always the best approach; there are good reasons why many developers choose to use statically typed languages.

Here are some potential benefits of mypy-style static typing:

- Static typing can make programs easier to understand and maintain. Type declarations can serve as machine-checked documentation. This is important as code is typically read much more often than modified, and this is especially important for large and complex programs.
- Static typing can help you find bugs earlier and with less testing and debugging. Especially in large and complex projects this can be a major time-saver.
- Static typing can help you find difficult-to-find bugs before your code goes into production. This can improve reliability and reduce the number of security issues.
- Static typing makes it practical to build very useful development tools that can improve programming productivity or software quality, including IDEs with precise and reliable code completion, static analysis tools, etc.
- You can get the benefits of both dynamic and static typing in a single language. Dynamic typing can be perfect for a small project or for writing the UI of your program, for example. As your program grows, you can adapt tricky application logic to static typing to help maintenance.

See also the [front page](#) of the mypy web site.

Would my project benefit from static typing?

For many projects dynamic typing is perfectly fine (we think that Python is a great language). But sometimes your projects demand bigger guns, and that's when mypy may come in handy.

If some of these ring true for your projects, mypy (and static typing) may be useful:

- Your project is large or complex.

- Your codebase must be maintained for a long time.
- Multiple developers are working on the same code.
- Running tests takes a lot of time or work (type checking may help you find errors early in development, reducing the number of testing iterations).
- Some project members (devs or management) don't like dynamic typing, but others prefer dynamic typing and Python syntax. Mypy could be a solution that everybody finds easy to accept.
- You want to future-proof your project even if currently none of the above really apply.

Can I use mypy to type check my existing Python code?

It depends. Compatibility is pretty good, but some Python features are not yet implemented or fully supported. The ultimate goal is to make using mypy practical for most Python code. Code that uses complex introspection or metaprogramming may be impractical to type check, but it should still be possible to use static typing in other parts of a program.

Will static typing make my programs run faster?

Mypy only does static type checking and it does not improve performance. It has a minimal performance impact. In the future, there could be other tools that can compile statically typed mypy code to C modules or to efficient JVM bytecode, for example, but this is outside the scope of the mypy project. It may also be possible to modify existing Python VMs to take advantage of static type information, but whether this is feasible is still unknown. This is nontrivial since the runtime types do not necessarily correspond to the static types.

How do I type check my Python 2 code?

You can use a [comment-based function annotation syntax](#) and use the `--py2` command-line option to type check your Python 2 code. You'll also need to install `typing` for Python 2 via `pip install typing`.

Is mypy free?

Yes. Mypy is free software, and it can also be used for commercial and proprietary projects. Mypy is available under the MIT license.

Why not use structural subtyping?

Mypy primarily uses [nominal subtyping](#) instead of [structural subtyping](#). Some argue that structural subtyping is better suited for languages with duck typing such as Python.

Here are some reasons why mypy uses nominal subtyping:

1. It is easy to generate short and informative error messages when using a nominal type system. This is especially important when using type inference.
2. Python supports basically nominal isinstance tests and they are widely used in programs. It is not clear how to support isinstance in a purely structural type system while remaining compatible with Python idioms.

3. Many programmers are already familiar with nominal subtyping and it has been successfully used in languages such as Java, C++ and C#. Only few languages use structural subtyping.

However, structural subtyping can also be useful. Structural subtyping is a likely feature to be added to mypy in the future, even though we expect that most mypy programs will still primarily use nominal subtyping.

I like Python and I have no need for static typing

That wasn't really a question, was it? Mypy is not aimed at replacing Python. The goal is to give more options for Python programmers, to make Python a more competitive alternative to other statically typed languages in large projects, to improve programmer productivity and to improve software quality.

How are mypy programs different from normal Python?

Since you use a vanilla Python implementation to run mypy programs, mypy programs are also Python programs. The type checker may give warnings for some valid Python code, but the code is still always runnable. Also, some Python features and syntax are still not supported by mypy, but this is gradually improving.

The obvious difference is the availability of static type checking. The section *Common issues* mentions some modifications to Python code that may be required to make code type check without errors. Also, your code must make attributes explicit and use an explicit protocol representation. For example, you may want to subclass an Abstract Base Class such as `typing.Iterable`.

Mypy will support modular, efficient type checking, and this seems to rule out type checking some language features, such as arbitrary runtime addition of methods. However, it is likely that many of these features will be supported in a restricted form (for example, runtime modification is only supported for classes or methods registered as dynamic or 'patchable').

How is mypy different from PyPy?

This answer relates to PyPy as a Python implementation. See also the answer related to RPython below.

Mypy and PyPy are orthogonal. Mypy does static type checking, i.e. it is basically a linter, but static typing has no runtime effect, whereas the PyPy is a Python implementation. You can use PyPy to run mypy programs.

How is mypy different from Cython?

Cython is a variant of Python that supports compilation to CPython C modules. It can give major speedups to certain classes of programs compared to CPython, and it provides static typing (though this is different from mypy). Mypy differs in the following aspects, among others:

- Cython is much more focused on performance than mypy. Mypy is only about static type checking, and increasing performance is not a direct goal.
- The mypy syntax is arguably simpler and more "Pythonic" (no `cdef/cpdef`, etc.) for statically typed code.
- The mypy syntax is compatible with Python. Mypy programs are normal Python programs that can be run using any Python implementation. Cython has many incompatible extensions to Python syntax, and Cython programs generally cannot be run without first compiling them to CPython extension modules via C. Cython also has a pure Python mode, but it seems to support only a subset of Cython functionality, and the syntax is quite verbose.

- Mypy has a different set of type system features. For example, mypy has genericity (parametric polymorphism), function types and bidirectional type inference, which are not supported by Cython. (Cython has fused types that are different but related to mypy generics. Mypy also has a similar feature as an extension of generics.)
- The mypy type checker knows about the static types of many Python stdlib modules and can effectively type check code that uses them.
- Cython supports accessing C functions directly and many features are defined in terms of translating them to C or C++. Mypy just uses Python semantics, and mypy does not deal with accessing C library functionality.

How is mypy different from Nuitka?

[Nuitka](#) is a static compiler that can translate Python programs to C++. Nuitka integrates with the CPython runtime. Nuitka has additional future goals, such as using type inference and whole-program analysis to further speed up code. Here are some differences:

- Nuitka is primarily focused on speeding up Python code. Mypy focuses on static type checking and facilitating better tools.
- Whole-program analysis tends to be slow and scale poorly to large or complex programs. It is still unclear if Nuitka can solve these issues. Mypy does not use whole-program analysis and will support modular type checking (though this has not been implemented yet).

How is mypy different from RPython or Shed Skin?

[RPython](#) and [Shed Skin](#) are basically statically typed subsets of Python. Mypy does the following important things differently:

- RPython is primarily designed for implementing virtual machines; mypy is a general-purpose tool.
- Mypy supports both static and dynamic typing. Dynamically typed and statically typed code can be freely mixed and can interact seamlessly.
- Mypy aims to support (in the future) fast and modular type checking. Both RPython and Shed Skin use whole-program type inference which is very slow, does not scale well to large programs and often produces confusing error messages. Mypy can support modularity since it only uses local type inference; static type checking depends on having type annotations for functions signatures.
- Mypy will support introspection, dynamic loading of code and many other dynamic language features (though using these may make static typing less effective). RPython and Shed Skin only support a restricted Python subset without several of these features.
- Mypy supports user-defined generic types.

Mypy is a cool project. Can I help?

Any help is much appreciated! [Contact](#) the developers if you would like to contribute. Any help related to development, design, publicity, documentation, testing, web site maintenance, financing, etc. can be helpful. You can learn a lot by contributing, and anybody can help, even beginners! However, some knowledge of compilers and/or type systems is essential if you want to work on mypy internals.

Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 2)

This document is a quick cheat sheet showing how the [PEP 484](#) type language represents various common types in Python 2.

Note: Technically many of the type annotations shown below are redundant, because mypy can derive them from the type of the expression. So many of the examples have a dual purpose: show how to write the annotation, and show the inferred types.

Built-in types

```
from typing import List, Set, Dict, Tuple, Text, Optional

# For simple built-in types, just use the name of the type.
x = 1 # type: int
x = 1.0 # type: float
x = True # type: bool
x = "test" # type: str
x = u"test" # type: unicode

# For collections, the name of the type is capitalized, and the
# name of the type inside the collection is in brackets.
x = [1] # type: List[int]
x = set([6, 7]) # type: Set[int]

# For mappings, we need the types of both keys and values.
x = dict(field=2.0) # type: Dict[str, float]

# For tuples, we specify the types of all the elements.
x = (3, "yes", 7.5) # type: Tuple[int, str, float]

# For textual data, use Text.
```

```

# This is `unicode` in Python 2 and `str` in Python 3.
x = ["string", u"unicode"] # type: List[Text]

# Use Optional for values that could be None.
input_str = f() # type: Optional[str]
if input_str is not None:
    print input_str

```

Functions

```

from typing import Callable, Iterable

# This is how you annotate a function definition.
def stringify(num):
    # type: (int) -> str
    """Your function docstring goes here after the type definition."""
    return str(num)

# This function has no parameters and also returns nothing. Annotations
# can also be placed on the same line as their function headers.
def greet_world(): # type: () -> None
    print "Hello, world!"

# And here's how you specify multiple arguments.
def plus(num1, num2):
    # type: (int, int) -> int
    return num1 + num2

# Add type annotations for kwargs as though they were positional args.
def f(num1, my_float=3.5):
    # type: (int, float) -> float
    return num1 + my_float

# An argument can be declared positional-only by giving it a name
# starting with two underscores:
def quux(__x):
    # type: (int) -> None
    pass
quux(3) # Fine
quux(__x=3) # Error

# This is how you annotate a function value.
x = f # type: Callable[[int, float], float]

# A generator function that yields ints is secretly just a function that
# returns an iterable (see below) of ints, so that's how we annotate it.
def f(n):
    # type: (int) -> Iterable[int]
    i = 0
    while i < n:
        yield i
        i += 1

# There's alternative syntax for functions with many arguments.
def send_email(address, # type: Union[str, List[str]]

```

```

        sender,      # type: str
        cc,          # type: Optional[List[str]]
        bcc,         # type: Optional[List[str]]
        subject='',
        body=None    # type: List[str]
    ):
# type: (...) -> bool
<code>

```

When you're puzzled or when things are complicated

```

from typing import Union, Any, cast

# To find out what type mypy infers for an expression anywhere in
# your program, wrap it in reveal_type. Mypy will print an error
# message with the type; remove it again before running the code.
reveal_type(1) # -> error: Revealed type is 'builtins.int'

# Use Union when something could be one of a few types.
x = [3, 5, "test", "fun"] # type: List[Union[int, str]]

# Use Any if you don't know the type of something or it's too
# dynamic to write a type for.
x = mystery_function() # type: Any

# This is how to deal with varargs.
# This makes each positional arg and each keyword arg a 'str'.
def call(self, *args, **kwargs):
    # type: (*str, **str) -> str
    request = make_request(*args, **kwargs)
    return self.do_api_query(request)

# Use `ignore` to suppress type-checking on a given line, when your
# code confuses mypy or runs into an outright bug in mypy.
# Good practice is to comment every `ignore` with a bug link
# (in mypy, typedshed, or your own code) or an explanation of the issue.
x = confusing_function() # type: ignore # https://github.com/python/mypy/issues/1167

# cast is a helper function for mypy that allows for guidance of how to convert types.
# it does not cast at runtime
a = [4]
b = cast(List[int], a) # passes fine
c = cast(List[str], a) # passes fine (no runtime check)
reveal_type(c) # -> error: Revealed type is 'builtins.list[builtins.str]'
print(c) # -> [4] the object is not cast

# if you want dynamic attributes on your class, have it override __setattr__ or __
↳getattr__
# in a stub or in your source code.
# __setattr__ allows for dynamic assignment to names
# __getattr__ allows for dynamic access to names
class A:
    # this will allow assignment to any A.x, if x is the same type as `value`
    def __setattr__(self, name, value):
        # type: (str, int) -> None

```

```

...
a.foo = 42 # works
a.bar = 'Ex-parrot' # fails type checking

# TODO: explain "Need type annotation for variable" when
# initializing with None or an empty container

```

Standard duck types

In typical Python code, many functions that can take a list or a dict as an argument only need their argument to be somehow “list-like” or “dict-like”. A specific meaning of “list-like” or “dict-like” (or something-else-like) is called a “duck type”, and several duck types that are common in idiomatic Python are standardized.

```

from typing import Mapping, MutableMapping, Sequence, Iterable

# Use Iterable for generic iterables (anything usable in `for`),
# and Sequence where a sequence (supporting `len` and `__getitem__`) is required.
def f(iterable_of_ints):
    # type: (Iterable[int]) -> List[str]
    return [str(x) for x in iterator_of_ints]
f(range(1, 3))

# Mapping describes a dict-like object (with `__getitem__`) that we won't mutate,
# and MutableMapping one (with `__setitem__`) that we might.
def f(my_dict):
    # type: (Mapping[int, str]) -> List[int]
    return list(my_dict.keys())
f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})
def f(my_mapping):
    # type: (MutableMapping[int, str]) -> Set[str]
    my_dict[5] = 'maybe'
    return set(my_dict.values())
f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})

```

Classes

```

class MyClass(object):

    # For instance methods, omit `self`.
    def my_method(self, num, str1):
        # type: (int, str) -> str
        return num * str1

    # The __init__ method doesn't return anything, so it gets return
    # type None just like any other method that doesn't return anything.
    def __init__(self):
        # type: () -> None
        pass

# User-defined classes are written with just their own names.
x = MyClass() # type: MyClass

```

Other stuff

```
import sys
# typing.Match describes regex matches from the re module.
from typing import Match, AnyStr, IO
x = re.match(r'[0-9]+', "15") # type: Match[str]

# Use AnyStr for functions that should accept any kind of string
# without allowing different kinds of strings to mix.
def concat(a, b):
    # type: (AnyStr, AnyStr) -> AnyStr
    return a + b
concat(u"foo", u"bar") # type: unicode
concat(b"foo", b"bar") # type: bytes

# Use IO[] for functions that should accept or return any
# object that comes from an open() call. The IO[] does not
# distinguish between reading, writing or other modes.
def get_sys_IO(mode='w'):
    # type: (str) -> IO[str]
    if mode == 'w':
        return sys.stdout
    elif mode == 'r':
        return sys.stdin
    else:
        return sys.stdout

# TODO: add TypeVar and a simple generic function
```

Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 3)

This document is a quick cheat sheet showing how the [PEP 484](#) type language represents various common types in Python 3. Unless otherwise noted, the syntax is valid on all versions of Python 3.

Note: Technically many of the type annotations shown below are redundant, because mypy can derive them from the type of the expression. So many of the examples have a dual purpose: show how to write the annotation, and show the inferred types.

Built-in types

```
from typing import List, Set, Dict, Tuple, Text, Optional, AnyStr

# For simple built-in types, just use the name of the type.
x = 1 # type: int
x = 1.0 # type: float
x = True # type: bool
x = "test" # type: str
x = u"test" # type: str
x = b"test" # type: bytes

# For collections, the name of the type is capitalized, and the
# name of the type inside the collection is in brackets.
x = [1] # type: List[int]
x = {6, 7} # type: Set[int]

# For mappings, we need the types of both keys and values.
x = {'field': 2.0} # type: Dict[str, float]

# For tuples, we specify the types of all the elements.
x = (3, "yes", 7.5) # type: Tuple[int, str, float]
```

```

# For textual data, use Text.
# This is `unicode` in Python 2 and `str` in Python 3.
x = ["string", u"unicode"] # type: List[Text]

# Use Optional for values that could be None.
input_str = f() # type: Optional[str]
if input_str is not None:
    print(input_str)

```

Functions

Python 3 introduces an annotation syntax for function declarations in PEP 3107.

```

from typing import Callable, Iterable, Union, Optional, List

# This is how you annotate a function definition.
def stringify(num: int) -> str:
    return str(num)

# And here's how you specify multiple arguments.
def plus(num1: int, num2: int) -> int:
    return num1 + num2

# Add type annotations for kwargs as though they were positional args.
def f(num1: int, my_float: float = 3.5) -> float:
    return num1 + my_float

# An argument can be declared positional-only by giving it a name
# starting with two underscores:
def quux(__x: int) -> None:
    pass
quux(3) # Fine
quux(__x=3) # Error

# This is how you annotate a function value.
x = f # type: Callable[[int, float], float]

# A generator function that yields ints is secretly just a function that
# returns an iterable (see below) of ints, so that's how we annotate it.
def f(n: int) -> Iterable[int]:
    i = 0
    while i < n:
        yield i
        i += 1

# For a function with many arguments, you can of course split it over multiple lines
def send_email(address: Union[str, List[str]],
               sender: str,
               cc: Optional[List[str]],
               bcc: Optional[List[str]],
               subject='',
               body: List[str] = None
               ) -> bool:

```

...

When you're puzzled or when things are complicated

```

from typing import Union, Any, List, cast

# To find out what type mypy infers for an expression anywhere in
# your program, wrap it in reveal_type. Mypy will print an error
# message with the type; remove it again before running the code.
reveal_type(1) # -> error: Revealed type is 'builtins.int'

# Use Union when something could be one of a few types.
x = [3, 5, "test", "fun"] # type: List[Union[int, str]]

# Use Any if you don't know the type of something or it's too
# dynamic to write a type for.
x = mystery_function() # type: Any

# This is how to deal with varargs.
# This makes each positional arg and each keyword arg a 'str'.
def call(self, *args: str, **kwargs: str) -> str:
    request = make_request(*args, **kwargs)
    return self.do_api_query(request)

# Use `ignore` to suppress type-checking on a given line, when your
# code confuses mypy or runs into an outright bug in mypy.
# Good practice is to comment every `ignore` with a bug link
# (in mypy, typedshed, or your own code) or an explanation of the issue.
x = confusing_function() # type: ignore # https://github.com/python/mypy/issues/1167

# cast is a helper function for mypy that allows for guidance of how to convert types.
# it does not cast at runtime
a = [4]
b = cast(List[int], a) # passes fine
c = cast(List[str], a) # passes fine (no runtime check)
reveal_type(c) # -> error: Revealed type is 'builtins.list[builtins.str]'
print(c) # -> [4] the object is not cast

# if you want dynamic attributes on your class, have it override __setattr__ or __
->getattr__
# in a stub or in your source code.
# __setattr__ allows for dynamic assignment to names
# __getattr__ allows for dynamic access to names
class A:
    # this will allow assignment to any A.x, if x is the same type as `value`
    def __setattr__(self, name: str, value: int) -> None: ...
    # this will allow access to any A.x, if x is compatible with the return type
    def __getattr__(self, name: str) -> int: ...
a.foo = 42 # works
a.bar = 'Ex-parrot' # fails type checking

# TODO: explain "Need type annotation for variable" when
# initializing with None or an empty container

```

Standard duck types

In typical Python code, many functions that can take a list or a dict as an argument only need their argument to be somehow “list-like” or “dict-like”. A specific meaning of “list-like” or “dict-like” (or something-else-like) is called a “duck type”, and several duck types that are common in idiomatic Python are standardized.

```
from typing import Mapping, MutableMapping, Sequence, Iterable, List, Set

# Use Iterable for generic iterables (anything usable in `for`),
# and Sequence where a sequence (supporting `len` and `__getitem__`) is required.
def f(iterable_of_ints: Iterable[int]) -> List[str]:
    return [str(x) for x in iterable_of_ints]
f(range(1, 3))

# Mapping describes a dict-like object (with `__getitem__`) that we won't mutate,
# and MutableMapping one (with `__setitem__`) that we might.
def f(my_dict: Mapping[int, str]) -> List[int]:
    return list(my_dict.keys())
f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})
def f(my_mapping: MutableMapping[int, str]) -> Set[str]:
    my_mapping[5] = 'maybe'
    return set(my_mapping.values())
f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})
```

Classes

```
class MyClass:
    # The __init__ method doesn't return anything, so it gets return
    # type None just like any other method that doesn't return anything.
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        ...
    # For instance methods, omit `self`.
    def my_method(self, num: int, str1: str) -> str:
        return num * str1

# User-defined classes are written with just their own names.
x = MyClass() # type: MyClass
```

Other stuff

```
import sys
import re
# typing.Match describes regex matches from the re module.
from typing import Match, AnyStr, IO
x = re.match(r'[0-9]+', "15") # type: Match[str]

# You can use AnyStr to indicate that any string type will work
# but not to mix types
def full_name(first: AnyStr, last: AnyStr) -> AnyStr:
    return first+last
```

```

full_name('Jon','Doe') # same str ok
full_name(b'Bill', b'Bit') # same binary ok
full_name(b'Terry', 'Trouble') # different str types, fails

# Use IO[] for functions that should accept or return any
# object that comes from an open() call. The IO[] does not
# distinguish between reading, writing or other modes.
def get_sys_IO(mode='w') -> IO[str]:
    if mode == 'w':
        return sys.stdout
    elif mode == 'r':
        return sys.stdin
    else:
        return sys.stdout

# forward references are useful if you want to referemce a class before it is designed

def f(foo: A) -> int: # this will fail
    ...

class A:
    ...

# however, using the string 'A', it will pass as long as there is a class of that_
↪name later on
def f(foo: 'A') -> int:
    ...

# TODO: add TypeVar and a simple generic function

```

Variable Annotation in Python 3.6 with PEP 526

Python 3.6 brings new syntax for annotating variables with PEP 526. Mypy brings limited support for PEP 526 annotations.

```

# annotation is similar to arguments to functions
name: str = "Eric Idle"

# class instances can be annotated as follows
mc : MyClass = MyClass()

# tuple packing can be done as follows
tu: Tuple[str, ...] = ('a', 'b', 'c')

# annotations are not checked at runtime
year: int = '1972' # error in type checking, but works at runtime

# these are all equivalent
hour = 24 # type: int
hour: int; hour = 24
hour: int = 24

# you do not (!) need to initialize a variable to annotate it
a: int # ok for type checking and runtime

```

```
# which is useful in conditional branches
child: bool
if age < 18:
    child = True
else:
    child = False

# annotations for classes are for instance variables (those created in __init__ or __
↳new__)
class Battery:
    charge_percent: int = 100 # this is an instance variable with a default value
    capacity: int # an instance variable without a default

# you can use the ClassVar annotation to make the variable a class variable instead,
↳of an instance variable.
class Car:
    seats: ClassVar[int] = 4
    passengers: ClassVar[List[str]]

# You can also declare the type of an attribute in __init__
class Box:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.items: List[str] = []
```

Please see *New features in Python 3.6* for more on mypy's compatibility with Python 3.6's new features.

List of major changes:

- **July 2017**

- Publish mypy version 0.520 on PyPI.
- Add *fine-grained control of Any types*.
- Add *TypedDict*.
- Other updates to *The mypy command line*:
 - * Add `--no-implicit-optional`.
 - * Add `--shadow-file`.
 - * Add `--no-incremental`.

- **May 2017**

- Publish mypy version 0.510 on PyPI.
- Remove option `--no-fast-parser`.
- Deprecate option `--strict-boolean`.
- Drop support for Python 3.2 as type checking target.
- Add support for *overloaded functions with implementations*.
- Add *Extended Callable types*.
- Add *Asynchronous generators (PEP 525) and comprehensions (PEP 530)*.
- Add *ClassVar*.
- Add *quick mode*.

- **March 2017**

- Publish mypy version 0.500 on PyPI.
- Add *The NoReturn type*.

- Add *Defining sub-classes of generic classes*.
- Add *Variance of generic types*.
- Add *Invariance vs covariance*.
- Updates to *New features in Python 3.6*.
- Updates to *Integrating mypy into another Python application*.
- Updates to *The mypy command line*:
 - * Add option `--warn-return-any`.
 - * Add option `--strict-boolean`.
 - * Add option `--strict`.
- Updates to *The mypy configuration file*:
 - * `warn_no_return` is on by default.
 - * Read settings from `setup.cfg` if `mypy.ini` does not exist.
 - * Add option `warn_return_any`.
 - * Add option `strict_boolean`.

- **January 2017**

- Publish mypy version 0.470 on PyPI.
- Change package name from `mypy-lang` to `mypy`.
- Add *Integrating mypy into another Python application*.
- Add *Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 3)*.
- Major update to *How imports are found*.
- Add *ignore-missing-imports*.
- Updates to *The mypy configuration file*.
- Document underscore support in numeric literals.
- Document that arguments prefixed with `__` are positional-only.
- Document that `--hide-error-context` is now on by default, and there is a new flag `--show-error-context`.
- Add `ignore_errors` to *Per-module flags*.

- **November 2016**

- Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4.6 on PyPI.
- Add *Getting started*.
- Add *Generic methods and generic self* (experimental).
- Add *Declaring decorators*.
- Discuss generic type aliases in *Type aliases*.
- Discuss Python 3.6 named tuple syntax in *Named tuples*.
- Updates to *Common issues*.
- Updates to *New features in Python 3.6*.

- Updates to *The mypy command line*:
 - * `--custom-typeshed-dir`
 - * `--junit-xml`
 - * `--find-occurrences`
 - * `--cobertura-xml-report`
 - * `--warn-no-return`
- Updates to *The mypy configuration file*:
 - * Sections with `fnmatch` patterns now use module name patterns (previously they were path patterns).
 - * Added `custom_typeshed_dir`, `mypy_path` and `show_column_numbers`.
- Mention the magic `MYPY` constant in *Import cycles*.
- **October 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4.5 on PyPI.
 - Add *New features in Python 3.6*.
 - Add *The mypy configuration file*.
 - Updates to *The mypy command line*:
 - `--strict-optional-white-list`,
 - `--disallow-subclassing-any`, `--config-file`, `@flagfile`,
 - `--hide-error-context` (replaces `--suppress-error-context`),
 - `--show-column-numbers` and `--scripts-are-modules`.
 - Mention `typing.TYPE_CHECKING` in *Import cycles*.
- **August 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4.4 on PyPI.
 - Add *NewTypes*.
 - Add *Typing async/await*.
 - Add *Text and AnyStr*.
 - Add *Python version and system platform checks*.
- **July 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4.3 on PyPI.
 - Add *Experimental strict optional type and None checking*.
 - Add *Multi-line Python 2 function annotations*.
- **June 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4.2 on PyPI.
 - Add *The type of class objects*.
 - Add *Mypy syntax cheat sheet (Python 2)*.
 - Add *Displaying the type of an expression*.
- **May 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.4 on PyPI.

- Add *Type variables with upper bounds*.
- Document *The mypy command line*.
- **Feb 2016**
 - Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.3.1 on PyPI.
 - Document Python 2 support.
- **Nov 2015** Add *Library stubs and the Typedshed repo*.
- **Jun 2015** Remove `Undefined` and `Dynamic`, as they are not in PEP 484.
- **Apr 2015** Publish `mypy-lang` version 0.2.0 on PyPI.
- **Mar 2015** Update documentation to reflect PEP 484:
 - Add *Named tuples* and *The type of None and optional types*.
 - Do not mention type application syntax (for example, `List[int]()`), as it's no longer supported, due to PEP 484 compatibility.
 - Rename `typevar` to `TypeVar`.
 - Document `# type: ignore` which allows locally ignoring spurious errors (*Spurious errors and locally silencing the checker*).
 - No longer mention `Any(x)` as a valid cast, as it will be phased out soon.
 - Mention the new `.pyi` stub file extension. Stubs can live in the same directory as the rest of the program.
- **Jan 2015** Mypy moves closer to PEP 484:
 - Add *Type aliases*.
 - Update discussion of overloading – it's now only supported in stubs.
 - Rename `Function[...]` to `Callable[...]`.
- **Dec 2014** Publish mypy version 0.1.0 on PyPI.
- **Oct 2014** Major restructuring. Split the HTML documentation into multiple pages.
- **Sep 2014** Migrated docs to Sphinx.
- **Aug 2014** Don't discuss native semantics. There is only Python semantics.
- **Jul 2013** Rewrite to use new syntax. Shift focus to discussing Python semantics. Add more content, including short discussions of *Generic functions* and *Union types*.

CHAPTER 24

Indices and tables

- `genindex`
- `search`