Mypy Documentation

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Jukka

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Mypy is a static type checker for Python 3 and Python 2.7.
Mypy is a static type checker for Python 3 and Python 2.7. 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, the type annotations are just hints for mypy and don’t interfere when running your program. You run your program with a standard Python interpreter, and the annotations are treated effectively as comments.

Using the Python 3 annotation syntax (using PEP 484 and PEP 526 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 and easy-to-use type system with modern features such as type inference, generics, callable types, tuple types, union types, and structural subtyping.

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 understand, debug, and maintain.

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 used in production by many companies and projects, but mypy is officially beta software. There will be occasional changes that break backward compatibility. The mypy development team tries to minimize the impact of changes to user code.
This chapter introduces some core concepts of mypy, including function annotations, the typing module, library stubs, and more.

Be sure to read this chapter carefully, as the rest of the documentation may not make much sense otherwise.

## 2.1 Installing and running mypy

Mypy requires Python 3.5 or later to run. Once you’ve installed Python 3, install mypy using pip:

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

Once mypy is installed, run it by using the `mypy` tool:

```
$ mypy program.py
```

This command makes mypy type check your `program.py` file and print out any errors it finds. Mypy will type check your code statically: this means that it will check for errors without ever running your code, just like a linter.

This means that you are always free to ignore the errors mypy reports and treat them as just warnings, if you so wish: mypy runs independently from Python itself.

However, if you try directly running mypy on your existing Python code, it will most likely report little to no errors: you must add type annotations to your code to take full advantage of mypy. See the section below for details.

**Note:** Although you must install Python 3 to run mypy, mypy is fully capable of type checking Python 2 code as well: just pass in the `--py2` flag. See *Type checking Python 2 code* for more details.

```
$ mypy --py2 program.py
```
2.2 Function signatures and dynamic vs static typing

A function without type annotations is considered to be *dynamically typed* by mypy:

```python
def greeting(name):
    return 'Hello ' + name
```

By default, mypy will not type check dynamically typed functions. This means that with a few exceptions, mypy will not report any errors with regular unannotated Python.

This is the case even if you misuse the function: for example, mypy would currently not report any errors if you tried running `greeting(3)` or `greeting(b"Alice")` even though those function calls would result in errors at runtime.

You can teach mypy to detect these kinds of bugs by adding *type annotations* (also known as *type hints*). For example, you can teach mypy that `greeting` both accepts and returns a string like so:

```python
def greeting(name: str) -> str:
    return 'Hello ' + name
```

This function is now *statically typed*: mypy can use the provided type hints to detect incorrect usages of the `greeting` function. For example, it will reject the following calls since the arguments have invalid types:

```python
def greeting(name: str) -> str:
    return 'Hello ' + name

greeting(3)  # Argument 1 to "greeting" has incompatible type "int"; expected →"str"
greeting(b'Alice')  # Argument 1 to "greeting" has incompatible type "bytes"; expected "str"
```

Note that this is all still valid Python 3 code! The function annotation syntax shown above was added to Python as a part of Python 3.0.

If you are trying to type check Python 2 code, you can add type hints using a comment-based syntax instead of the Python 3 annotation syntax. See our section on *typing Python 2 code* for more details.

Being able to pick whether you want a function to be dynamically or statically typed can be very helpful. For example, if you are migrating an existing Python codebase to use static types, it’s usually easier to migrate by incrementally adding type hints to your code rather than adding them all at once. Similarly, when you are prototyping a new feature, it may be convenient to initially implement the code using dynamic typing and only add type hints later once the code is more stable.

Once you are finished migrating or prototyping your code, you can make mypy warn you if you add a dynamic function by mistake by using the `--disallow-untyped-defs` flag. See *The mypy command line* for more information on configuring mypy.

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

2.3 More function signatures

Here are a few more examples of adding type hints to function signatures.
If a function does not explicitly return a value, give it a return type of `None`. Using a `None` result in a statically typed context results in a type check error:

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

a = p()  # Error: "p" does not return a value
```

Make sure to remember to include `None`: if you don’t, the function will be dynamically typed. For example:

```python
def f():
    1 + 'x'  # No static type error (dynamically typed)
def g() -> None:
    1 + 'x'  # Type check error (statically typed)
```

Arguments with default values can be annotated like so:

```python
def greeting(name: str, excited: bool = False) -> str:
    message = 'Hello, {}'.format(name)
    if excited:
        message += '!!!'
    return message
```

`*args` and `**kwargs` arguments can be annotated like so:

```python
def stars(*args: int, **kwargs: float) -> None:
    # 'args' has type 'Tuple[int, ...]' (a tuple of ints)
    # 'kwargs' has type 'Dict[str, float]' (a dict of strs to floats)
    for arg in args:
        print(arg)
    for key, value in kwargs:
        print(key, value)
```

### 2.4 Additional types, and the typing module

So far, we’ve added type hints that use only basic concrete types like `str` and `float`. What if we want to express more complex types, such as “a list of strings” or “an iterable of ints”?

For example, to indicate that some function can accept a list of strings, use the `list[str]` type (Python 3.9 and later):

```python
def greet_all(names: list[str]) -> None:
    for name in names:
        print('Hello ' + name)

names = ["Alice", "Bob", "Charlie"]
ages = [10, 20, 30]
greet_all(names)  # Ok!
greet_all(ages)  # Error due to incompatible types
```

The `list` type is an example of something called a *generic type*: it can accept one or more *type parameters*. In this case, we parameterized `list` by writing `list[str]`. This lets mypy know that `greet_all` accepts specifically lists containing strings, and not lists containing ints or any other type.

In Python 3.8 and earlier, you can instead import the `List` type from the `typing` module:
from typing import List  # Python 3.8 and earlier

def greet_all(names: List[str]) -> None:
    for name in names:
        print('Hello ' + name)
...

You can find many of these more complex static types in the typing module.

In the above examples, the type signature is perhaps a little too rigid. After all, there's no reason why this function must accept specifically a list – it would run just fine if you were to pass in a tuple, a set, or any other custom iterable.

You can express this idea using the collections.abc.Iterable type instead of List (or typing.Iterable in Python 3.8 and earlier):

from collections.abc import Iterable  # or "from typing import Iterable"

def greet_all(names: Iterable[str]) -> None:
    for name in names:
        print('Hello ' + name)

As another example, suppose you want to write a function that can accept either ints or strings, but no other types. You can express this using the Union type:

from typing import Union

def normalize_id(user_id: Union[int, str]) -> str:
    if isinstance(user_id, int):
        return 'user-{0}'.format(100000 + user_id)
    else:
        return user_id

Similarly, suppose that you want the function to accept only strings or None. You can again use Union and use Union[str, None] – or alternatively, use the type Optional[str]. These two types are identical and interchangeable: Optional[str] is just a shorthand or alias for Union[str, None]. It exists mostly as a convenience to help function signatures look a little cleaner:

from typing import Optional

def greeting(name: Optional[str] = None) -> str:
    # Optional[str] means the same thing as Union[str, None]
    if name is None:
        name = 'stranger'
    return 'Hello, ' + name

The typing module contains many other useful types. You can find a quick overview by looking through the mypy cheatsheets and a more detailed overview (including information on how to make your own generic types or your own type aliases) by looking through the type system reference.

Note: When adding types, the convention is to import types using the form from typing import Union (as opposed to doing just import typing or import typing as t or from typing import *).

For brevity, we often omit imports from typing or collections.abc in code examples, but mypy will give an error if you use types such as Iterable without first importing them.
Note: In some examples we use capitalized variants of types, such as List, and sometimes we use plain list. They are equivalent, but the prior variant is needed if you are not using a recent Python.

2.5 Local type inference

Once you have added type hints to a function (i.e. made it statically typed), mypy will automatically type check that function’s body. While doing so, mypy will try and infer as many details as possible.

We saw an example of this in the `normalize_id` function above – mypy understands basic `isinstance` checks and so can infer that the `user_id` variable was of type `int` in the if-branch and of type `str` in the else-branch. Similarly, mypy was able to understand that `name` could not possibly be `None` in the `greeting` function above, based both on the name is `None` check and the variable assignment in that if statement.

As another example, consider the following function. Mypy can type check this function without a problem: it will use the available context and deduce that `output` must be of type `List[float]` and that `num` must be of type `float`:

```python
def nums_below(numbers: Iterable[float], limit: float) -> list[float]:
    output = []
    for num in numbers:
        if num < limit:
            output.append(num)
    return output
```

Mypy will warn you if it is unable to determine the type of some variable – for example, when assigning an empty dictionary to some global value:

```python
my_global_dict = {} # Error: Need type annotation for "my_global_dict"
```

You can teach mypy what type `my_global_dict` is meant to have by giving it a type hint. For example, if you knew this variable is supposed to be a dict of ints to floats, you could annotate it using either variable annotations (introduced in Python 3.6 by PEP 526) or using a comment-based syntax like so:

```python
# If you're using Python 3.9+
my_global_dict: dict[int, float] = {}

# If you're using Python 3.6+
my_global_dict: Dict[int, float] = {}

# If you want compatibility with even older versions of Python
my_global_dict = {} # type: Dict[int, float]
```

2.6 Library stubs and typeshed

Mypy uses library stubs to type check code interacting with library modules, including the Python standard library. A library stub defines a skeleton of the public interface of the library, including classes, variables and functions, and their types. Mypy ships with stubs for the standard library from the typeshed project, which contains library stubs for the Python builtins, the standard library, and selected third-party packages.

For example, consider this code:
Without a library stub, mypy would have no way of inferring the type of \( x \) and checking that the argument to \( \text{chr()} \) has a valid type.

Mypy complains if it can’t find a stub (or a real module) for a library module that you import. Some modules ship with stubs or inline annotations that mypy can automatically find, or you can install additional stubs using pip (see Missing imports and Using installed packages for the details). For example, you can install the stubs for the requests package like this:

The stubs are usually packaged in a distribution named \( \text{types-<distribution>} \). Note that the distribution name may be different from the name of the package that you import. For example, \( \text{types-PyYAML} \) contains stubs for the \( \text{yaml} \) package. Mypy can often suggest the name of the stub distribution:

```
prog.py:1: error: Library stubs not installed for "yaml" (or incompatible with Python \(--\rightarrow 3.8\))
prog.py:1: note: Hint: "python3 -m pip install types-PyYAML"
...
```

**Note:** Starting in mypy 0.900, most third-party package stubs must be installed explicitly. This decouples mypy and stub versioning, allowing stubs to updated without updating mypy. This also allows stubs not originally included with mypy to be installed. Earlier mypy versions included a fixed set of stubs for third-party packages.

You can also *create stubs* easily. We discuss ways of silencing complaints about missing stubs in Missing imports.

### 2.7 Configuring mypy

Mypy supports many command line options that you can use to tweak how mypy behaves: see The mypy command line for more details.

For example, suppose you want to make sure *all* functions within your codebase are using static typing and make mypy report an error if you add a dynamically-typed function by mistake. You can make mypy do this by running mypy with the \(--\text{disallow-untyped-defs} \) flag.

Another potentially useful flag is \(--\text{strict} \), which enables many (though not all) of the available strictness options— including \(--\text{disallow-untyped-defs} \).

This flag is mostly useful if you’re starting a new project from scratch and want to maintain a high degree of type safety from day one. However, this flag will probably be too aggressive if you either plan on using many untyped third party libraries or are trying to add static types to a large, existing codebase. See Using mypy with an existing codebase for more suggestions on how to handle the latter case.

### 2.8 Next steps

If you are in a hurry and don’t want to read lots of documentation before getting started, here are some pointers to quick learning resources:

- Read the [mypy cheatsheet](https://mypy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/cheatsheet.html) (also for Python 2).
- Read [Using mypy with an existing codebase](https://mypy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/writing_type_hints.html#using-mypy-with-an-existing-codebase) if you have a significant existing codebase without many type annotations.
- Read the [blog post](https://mypy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/zulip.html) about the Zulip project’s experiences with adopting mypy.
• If you prefer watching talks instead of reading, here are some ideas:
  – Carl Meyer: Type Checked Python in the Real World (PyCon 2018)
  – Greg Price: Clearer Code at Scale: Static Types at Zulip and Dropbox (PyCon 2018)
• Look at solutions to common issues with mypy if you encounter problems.
• You can ask questions about mypy in the mypy issue tracker and typing Gitter chat.

You can also continue reading this document and skip sections that aren’t relevant for you. You don’t need to read sections in order.
CHAPTER 3

Using mypy with an existing codebase

This section explains how to get started using mypy with an existing, significant codebase that has little or no type annotations. If you are a beginner, you can skip this section.

These steps will get you started with mypy on an existing codebase:

1. Start small – get a clean mypy build for some files, with few annotations
2. Write a mypy runner script to ensure consistent results
3. Run mypy in Continuous Integration to prevent type errors
4. Gradually annotate commonly imported modules
5. Write annotations as you modify existing code and write new code
6. Use MonkeyType or PyAnnotate to automatically annotate legacy code

We discuss all of these points in some detail below, and a few optional follow-up steps.

### 3.1 Start small

If your codebase is large, pick a subset of your codebase (say, 5,000 to 50,000 lines) and run mypy only on this subset at first, *without any annotations*. This shouldn’t take more than a day or two to implement, so you start enjoying benefits soon.

You’ll likely need to fix some mypy errors, either by inserting annotations requested by mypy or by adding `# type: ignore` comments to silence errors you don’t want to fix now.

In particular, mypy often generates errors about modules that it can’t find or that don’t have stub files:

```
core/config.py:7: error: Cannot find implementation or library stub for module named ...'frobnicate'
core/model.py:9: error: Cannot find implementation or library stub for module named ...'acme'
...```
This is normal, and you can easily ignore these errors. For example, here we ignore an error about a third-party module `frobnicate` that doesn’t have stubs using `# type: ignore`:

```python
import frobnicate  # type: ignore
...
frobnicate.initialize()  # OK (but not checked)
```

You can also use a `mypy` configuration file, which is convenient if there are a large number of errors to ignore. For example, to disable errors about importing `frobnicate` and `acme` everywhere in your codebase, use a config like this:

```ini
[mypy-frobnicate.*]
ignore_missing_imports = True

[mypy-acme.*]
ignore_missing_imports = True
```

You can add multiple sections for different modules that should be ignored.

If your config file is named `mypy.ini`, this is how you run `mypy`:

```
mypy --config-file mypy.ini mycode/
```

If you get a large number of errors, you may want to ignore all errors about missing imports. This can easily cause problems later on and hide real errors, and it’s only recommended as a last resort. For more details, look here.

`Mypy` follows imports by default. This can result in a few files passed on the command line causing `mypy` to process a large number of imported files, resulting in lots of errors you don’t want to deal with at the moment. There is a config file option to disable this behavior, but since this can hide errors, it’s not recommended for most users.

### 3.2 Mypy runner script

Introduce a `mypy` runner script that runs `mypy`, so that every developer will use `mypy` consistently. Here are some things you may want to do in the script:

- Ensure that the correct version of `mypy` is installed.
- Specify `mypy` config file or command-line options.
- Provide set of files to type check. You may want to implement inclusion and exclusion filters for full control of the file list.

### 3.3 Continuous Integration

Once you have a clean `mypy` run and a runner script for a part of your codebase, set up your Continuous Integration (CI) system to run `mypy` to ensure that developers won’t introduce bad annotations. A simple CI script could look something like this:

```
python3 -m pip install mypy==0.790  # Pinned version avoids surprises
scripts/mypy  # Run the mypy runner script you set up
```
3.4 Annotate widely imported modules

Most projects have some widely imported modules, such as utilities or model classes. It’s a good idea to annotate these pretty early on, since this allows code using these modules to be type checked more effectively. Since mypy supports gradual typing, it’s okay to leave some of these modules unannotated. The more you annotate, the more useful mypy will be, but even a little annotation coverage is useful.

3.5 Write annotations as you go

Now you are ready to include type annotations in your development workflows. Consider adding something like these in your code style conventions:

1. Developers should add annotations for any new code.
2. It’s also encouraged to write annotations when you modify existing code.

This way you’ll gradually increase annotation coverage in your codebase without much effort.

3.6 Automate annotation of legacy code

There are tools for automatically adding draft annotations based on type profiles collected at runtime. Tools include MonkeyType (Python 3) and PyAnnotate.

A simple approach is to collect types from test runs. This may work well if your test coverage is good (and if your tests aren’t very slow).

Another approach is to enable type collection for a small, random fraction of production network requests. This clearly requires more care, as type collection could impact the reliability or the performance of your service.

3.7 Speed up mypy runs

You can use mypy daemon to get much faster incremental mypy runs. The larger your project is, the more useful this will be. If your project has at least 100,000 lines of code or so, you may also want to set up remote caching for further speedups.

3.8 Introduce stricter options

Mypy is very configurable. Once you get started with static typing, you may want to explore the various strictness options mypy provides to catch more bugs. For example, you can ask mypy to require annotations for all functions in certain modules to avoid accidentally introducing code that won’t be type checked using disallow_untyped defs, or type check code without annotations as well with check_untyped defs. Refer to The mypy configuration file for the details.
This document is a quick cheat sheet showing how the PEP 484 type annotation notation represents various common types in 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.

### 4.1 Variables

Python 3.6 introduced a syntax for annotating variables in PEP 526 and we use it in most examples.

```python
# This is how you declare the type of a variable type in Python 3.6
age: int = 1

# In Python 3.5 and earlier you can use a type comment instead
# (equivalent to the previous definition)
age = 1  # type: int

# You don't need to initialize a variable to annotate it
a: int  # Ok (no value at runtime until assigned)

# The latter is useful in conditional branches
child: bool
if age < 18:
    child = True
else:
    child = False
```
4.2 Built-in types

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

# For simple built-in types, just use the name of the type
x: int = 1
x: float = 1.0
x: bool = True
x: str = "test"
# For collections, the type of the collection item is in brackets
# (Python 3.9+)
x: list[int] = [1]
x: set[int] = {6, 7}

# In Python 3.8 and earlier, the name of the collection type is capitalized, and the type is imported from 'typing'
x: List[int] = [1]
x: Set[int] = {6, 7}

# Same as above, but with type comment syntax (Python 3.5 and earlier)
x = [1]  # type: List[int]

# For mappings, we need the types of both keys and values
x: dict[str, float] = {'field': 2.0}  # Python 3.9+
x: Dict[str, float] = {'field': 2.0}

# For tuples of fixed size, we specify the types of all the elements
x: tuple[int, str, float] = (3, "yes", 7.5)  # Python 3.9+
x: Tuple[int, str, float] = (3, "yes", 7.5)

# For tuples of variable size, we use one type and ellipsis
x: tuple[int, ...] = (1, 2, 3)  # Python 3.9+
x: Tuple[int, ...] = (1, 2, 3)

# Use Optional[] for values that could be None
x: Optional[str] = some_function()

# Mypy understands a value can't be None in an if-statement
if x is not None:
    print(x.upper())
# If a value can never be None due to some invariants, use an assert
assert x is not None
print(x.upper())
```

4.3 Functions

Python 3 supports an annotation syntax for function declarations.

```python
from typing import Callable, Iterator, Union, Optional, List

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

(continues on next page)
# And here's how you specify multiple arguments

```python
def plus(num1: int, num2: int) -> int:
    return num1 + num2
```

# Add default value for an argument after the type annotation

```python
def f(num1: int, my_float: float = 3.5) -> float:
    return num1 + my_float
```

# This is how you annotate a callable (function) value

```python
x: Callable[[int, float], float] = f
```

# A generator function that yields ints is secretly just a function that
# returns an iterator of ints, so that's how we annotate it

```python
def g(n: int) -> Iterator[int]:
    i = 0
    while i < n:
        yield i
    i += 1
```

# You can of course split a function annotation over multiple lines

```python
def send_email(address: Union[str, List[str]],
               sender: str,
               cc: Optional[List[str]],
               bcc: Optional[List[str]],
               subject='',
               body: Optional[List[str]] = None)
    -> bool:
    ...
```

# An argument can be declared positional-only by giving it a name
# starting with two underscores:

```python
def quux(__x: int) -> None:
    pass
```

```python
quux(3)   # Fine
quux(__x=3)  # Error
```

## 4.4 When you’re puzzled or when things are complicated

```python
from typing import Union, Any, List, Optional, 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.

```python
reveal_type(1)  # -> Revealed type is "builtins.int"
```

# Use Union when something could be one of a few types

```python
x: List[Union[int, str]] = [3, 5, "test", "fun"]
```

# Use Any if you don't know the type of something or it's too
# dynamic to write a type for

```python
x: Any = mystery_function()
```
# If you initialize a variable with an empty container or "None"
# you may have to help mypy a bit by providing a type annotation
x: List[str] = []
x: Optional[str] = None

# 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 a "type: ignore" comment to suppress errors 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, typeshed, 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 that lets you override the inferred
# type of an expression. It's only for mypy -- there's no runtime check.
a = [4]
b = cast(List[int], a)  # Passes fine
c = cast(List[str], a)  # Passes fine (no runtime check)
reveal_type(c)  # -> 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 "__getattr__"
# or "__getattribute__" in a stub or in your source code.
#
# "__getattr__" allows for dynamic assignment to names
# "__getattribute__" allows for dynamic access to names
class A:
    # This will allow assignment to any A.x, if x is the same type as "value"
    # (use "value: Any" to allow arbitrary types)
    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

4.5 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.

```python
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(ints: Iterable[int]) -> List[str]:
    return [str(x) for x in ints]
```
def 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
    my_mapping[5] = 'maybe'  # if we try this, mypy will throw an error...
    return list(my_mapping.keys())

def f(my_mapping: Mapping[int, str]) -> List[int]:
    my_mapping[5] = 'maybe'
    # ...but mypy is OK with this.
    return set(my_mapping.values())

def f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})

def f(my_mapping: MutableMapping[int, str]) -> Set[str]:
    my_mapping[5] = 'maybe'
    # ...but mypy is OK with this.
    return set(my_mapping.values())

def f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})

You can even make your own duck types using Protocols and structural subtyping.

4.6 Classes

```python
class MyClass:
    # You can optionally declare instance variables in the class body
    attr: int
    # This is an instance variable with a default value
    charge_percent: int = 100

    # 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 type for "self"
    def my_method(self, num: int, str1: str) -> str:
        return num * str1
```

# User-defined classes are valid as types in annotations
x: MyClass = MyClass()

# You can use the ClassVar annotation to declare a class variable
```python
class Car:
    seats: ClassVar[int] = 4
    passengers: ClassVar[List[str]]
```

# You can also declare the type of an attribute in "__init__"
```python
class Box:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.items: List[str] = []
```

4.7 Coroutines and asyncio

See Typing async/await for the full detail on typing coroutines and asynchronous code.
import asyncio

# A coroutine is typed like a normal function
async def countdown35(tag: str, count: int) -> str:
    while count > 0:
        print('T-minus {} ({}).'.format(count, tag))
        await asyncio.sleep(0.1)
        count -= 1
    return "Blastoff!"

4.8 Miscellaneous

import sys
import re
from typing import Match, AnyStr, IO

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

# Use IO[] for functions that should accept or return any
# object that comes from an open() call (IO[] does not
# distinguish between reading, writing or other modes)
def get_sys_IO(mode: str = '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 reference a class before
# it is defined
def f(foo: A) -> int:  # This will fail
...

class A:
...

# If you use the string literal 'A', it will pass as long as there is a
# class of that name later on in the file
def f(foo: 'A') -> int:  # Ok
...

4.9 Decorators

Decorator functions can be expressed via generics. See Declaring decorators for more details.

from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar

F = TypeVar('F', bound=Callable[... , Any])
def bare_decorator(func: F) -> F:

(continues on next page)
```python
def decorator_args(url: str) -> Callable[[F], F]:
    ...
```
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.

**Note:** To check Python 2 code with mypy, you’ll need to install mypy with `pip install 'mypy[python2]'`.

### 5.1 Built-in types

```python
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 = {6, 7}  # type: Set[int]

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

(continues on next page)
# 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
# ("Text" means "unicode" in Python 2 and "str" in Python 3)
x = [u"one", u"two"]  # type: List[Text]

# Use Optional[] for values that could be None
x = some_function()  # type: Optional[str]
# Mypy understands a value can't be None in an if-statement
if x is not None:
    print x.upper()
# If a value can never be None due to some invariants, use an assert
assert x is not None
print x.upper()

5.2 Functions

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

# 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 arguments with default values as though they
# had no defaults
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 callable (function) value
x = f  # type: Callable[[int, float], float]
5.3 When you’re puzzled or when things are complicated

```python
from typing import Union, Any, List, Optional, 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) # -> 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

# If you initialize a variable with an empty container or "None"
# you may have to help mypy a bit by providing a type annotation
x = [] # type: List[str]
x = None # type: Optional[str]

# 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 a "type: ignore" comment to suppress errors 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, typeshed, 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 that lets you override the inferred
```

(continues on next page)
# type of an expression. It's only for mypy -- there's no runtime check.
a = [4]
b = cast(List[int], a)  # Passes fine
c = cast(List[str], a)  # Passes fine (no runtime check)
reveal_type(c)  # -> 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"
  # (use "value: Any" to allow arbitrary types)
  def __setattr__(self, name, value):
    # type: (str, int) -> None
    ...

a.foo = 42  # Works
a.bar = 'Ex-parrot'  # Fails type checking

5.4 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.

```python
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 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):
    # 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_mapping[5] = 'maybe'
    return set(my_mapping.values())

f({3: 'yes', 4: 'no'})
```
5.5 Classes

class MyClass(object):
    # For instance methods, omit type for "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 valid as types in annotations
x = MyClass()  # type: MyClass

5.6 Miscellaneous

import sys
import re
from typing import Match, AnyStr, IO

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

# Use IO[] for functions that should accept or return any
# object that comes from an open() call (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

5.7 Decorators

Decorator functions can be expressed via generics. See Declaring decorators for the more details.

from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar

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

def bare_decorator(func):  # type: (F) -> F
    ...

def decorator_args(url):  # type: (str) -> Callable[[F], F]
    ...
This chapter introduces some commonly used built-in types. We will cover many other kinds of types later.

### 6.1 Simple types

Here are examples of some common built-in types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float</td>
<td>floating point number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bool</td>
<td>boolean value (subclass of int)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>str</td>
<td>string (unicode in Python 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bytes</td>
<td>8-bit string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>an arbitrary object (object is the common base class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All built-in classes can be used as types.

### 6.2 Any type

If you can’t find a good type for some value, you can always fall back to Any:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>dynamically typed value with an arbitrary type</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The type Any is defined in the typing module. See Dynamically typed code for more details.
6.3 Generic types

In Python 3.9 and later, built-in collection type objects support indexing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>list[str]</td>
<td>list of str objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuple[int, int]</td>
<td>tuple of two int objects (tuple[()] is the empty tuple)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuple[int, ...]</td>
<td>tuple of an arbitrary number of int objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dict[str, int]</td>
<td>dictionary from str keys to int values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iterable[int]</td>
<td>iterable object containing ints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence[bool]</td>
<td>sequence of booleans (read-only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping[str, int]</td>
<td>mapping from str keys to int values (read-only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

`Iterable`, `Sequence`, and `Mapping` are generic types 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. You can import them from `collections.abc` instead of importing from `typing` in Python 3.9.

See Using generic builtins for more details, including how you can use these in annotations also in Python 3.7 and 3.8.

These legacy types defined in `typing` are needed if you need to support Python 3.8 and earlier:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List[str]</td>
<td>list of str objects</td>
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<td>tuple of an arbitrary number of int objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequence[bool]</td>
<td>sequence of booleans (read-only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping[str, int]</td>
<td>mapping from str keys to int values (read-only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

`List` is an alias for the built-in type `list` that supports indexing (and similarly for `dict/Dict` and `tuple/Tuple`).

Note that even though `Iterable`, `Sequence` and `Mapping` look similar to abstract base classes defined in `collections.abc` (formerly `collections`), they are not identical, since the latter don’t support indexing prior to Python 3.9.
Type inference and type annotations

7.1 Type inference

Mypy considers the initial assignment as the definition of 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:

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

Type inference is not used in dynamically typed functions (those without a function type annotation) — every local variable type defaults to Any in such functions. Any is discussed later in more detail.

7.2 Explicit types for variables

You can override the inferred type of a variable by using a variable type annotation:

```
from typing import Union

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

Without the type annotation, the type of `x` would be just `int`. We use an annotation to give it a more general type `Union[int, str]` (this type means that the value can be either an `int` or a `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: Union[int, str] = 1.1  # Error!
```

The variable annotation syntax is available starting from Python 3.6. In earlier Python versions, you can use a special comment after an assignment statement to declare the type of a variable:

```
x = 1  # type: Union[int, str]
```
We’ll use both syntax variants in examples. The syntax variants are mostly interchangeable, but the variable annotation syntax allows defining the type of a variable without initialization, which is not possible with the comment syntax:

```python
x: str  # Declare type of 'x' without initialization
```

**Note:** The best way to think about this is that the type annotation 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>)`.

### 7.3 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. Here is an example where mypy can’t infer the type without some help:

```python
l = []  # Error: Need type annotation for "l"
```

In these cases you can give the type explicitly using a type annotation:

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

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

```python
s: Set[int] = set()
```

### 7.4 Compatibility of container types

The following program generates a mypy error, since `List[int]` is not compatible with `List[object]`:

```python
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`:

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

Other container types like `Dict` and `Set` behave similarly. We will discuss how you can work around this in *Invariance vs covariance*.

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.
7.5 Context in type inference

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

```python
def f(l: List[object]) -> None:
    l = [1, 2]  # Infer type List[object] for [1, 2], not List[int]
```

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.

Declared argument types are also used for type context. In this program mypy knows that the empty list `[]` should have type `List[int]` based on the declared type of `arg` in `foo`:

```python
def foo(arg: List[int]) -> None:
    print('Items:', ', '.join(str(a) for a in arg))
foo([])  # OK
```

However, context only works within a single statement. Here mypy requires an annotation for the empty list, since the context would only be available in the following statement:

```python
def foo(arg: List[int]) -> None:
    print('Items:', ', '.join(arg))

a = []  # Error: Need type annotation for "a"
foo(a)
```

Working around the issue is easy by adding a type annotation:

```python
...  
a: List[int] = []  # OK
foo(a)
```

7.6 Declaring multiple variable types at a time

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

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

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

```python
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
```

7.7 Starred expressions

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

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

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

Every class is also a valid type. Any instance of a subclass is also compatible with all superclasses – it follows that every value is compatible with the object type (and incidentally also the Any type, discussed below). Mypy analyzes the bodies of classes to determine which methods and attributes are available in instances. This example uses subclassing:

```python
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

def foo(a: A) -> None:
    print(a.f())  # 3
    a.g()  # Error: "A" has no attribute "g"

foo(B())  # OK (B is a subclass of A)
```

8.2 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 only checked at runtime. You can use
Any as an “escape hatch” when you can’t use a more precise type for some reason.

Any is compatible with every other type, and vice versa. You can freely assign a value of type Any to a variable with a more precise type:

```
a: Any = None
s: str = ''
a = 2  # OK (assign "int" to "Any")
s = a  # OK (assign "Any" to "str")
```

Declared (and inferred) types are ignored (or 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, while the declared type of s is actually str! You need to be careful with Any types, since they let you lie to mypy, and this could easily hide bugs.

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.

### 8.3 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:

```python
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 valid as a base class in Python 3.6 and later, and always in stub files. In earlier Python versions you can sometimes work around this limitation by using a named tuple as a base class (see section [Named tuples](#named-tuples)).

### 8.4 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:

```python
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:

```python
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(l)
# Error: 'int' is not callable
```

In situations where more precise or complex types of callbacks are necessary one can use flexible `callback protocols`.

---

**8.4. Callable types (and lambdas)**
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:

```python
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.

### 8.5 Union types

Python functions often accept values of two or more different types. You can use `overloading` to represent this, but union types are often more convenient.

Use the `Union[T1, ..., Tn]` type constructor to construct a union type. For example, if an argument has type `Union[int, str]`, both integers and strings are valid argument values.

You can use an `isinstance()` check to narrow down a union type to a more specific type:

```python
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
```

**Note:** Operations are valid for union types only if they are valid for *every* union item. This is why it’s often necessary to use an `isinstance()` check to first narrow down a union type to a non-union type. This also means that it’s recommended to avoid union types as function return types, since the caller may have to use `isinstance()` before doing anything interesting with the value.

### 8.6 Optional types and the None type

You can use the `Optional` type modifier to define a type variant that allows `None`, such as `Optional[int]` (`Optional[X]` is the preferred shorthand for `Union[X, None]`):

```python
from typing import Optional

def strlen(s: str) -> Optional[int]:
    if not s:
        return None  # OK
    return len(s)

def strlen_invalid(s: str) -> int:
    if not s:
        # OK
```
Most operations will not be allowed on unguarded `None` or `Optional` values:

```python
def my_inc(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:

```python
def my_inc(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.

Other supported checks for guarding against a `None` value include `if x is not None`, `if x and` and `if not x`. Additionally, `mypy` understands `None` checks within logical expressions:

```python
def concat(x: Optional[str], y: Optional[str]) -> Optional[str]:
    if x is not None and y is not None:
        # Both x and y are not None here
        return x + y
    else:
        return None
```

Sometimes `mypy` doesn’t realize that a value is never `None`. This notably happens when a class instance can exist in a partially defined state, where some attribute is initialized to `None` during object construction, but a method assumes that the attribute is no longer `None`. Mypy will complain about the possible `None` value. You can use `assert x is not None` to work around this in the method:

```python
class Resource:
    path: Optional[str] = None

    def initialize(self, path: str) -> None:
        self.path = path

    def read(self) -> str:
        # We require that the object has been initialized.
        assert self.path is not None
        with open(self.path) as f:
            # OK
        return f.read()
```

```python
r = Resource()
r.initialize('/foo/bar')
r.read()
```

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 cases like the class `Resource` above:

```python
class Resource:
    path: Optional[str] = None
    ...
```
This also works for attributes defined within methods:

```python
class Counter:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.count: Optional[int] = None
```

As a special case, you can use a non-optional type when initializing an attribute to `None` inside a class body and using a type comment, since when using a type comment, an initializer is syntactically required, and `None` is used as a dummy, placeholder initializer:

```python
from typing import List

class Container:
    items = None  # type: List[str]  # OK (only with type comment)
```

This is not a problem when using variable annotations, since no initializer is needed:

```python
from typing import List

class Container:
    items: List[str]  # No initializer
```

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 usually do the right thing without an annotation:

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

Sometimes you may get the error “Cannot determine type of <something>”. In this case you should add an explicit `Optional[...]` annotation (or type comment).

**Note:** `None` is a type with only one value, `None`. `None` is also used as the return type for functions that don’t return a value, i.e. functions that implicitly return `None`.

**Note:** The Python interpreter internally uses the name `NoneType` for the type of `None`, but `None` is always used in type annotations. The latter is shorter and reads better. (Besides, `NoneType` is not even defined in the standard library.)

**Note:** `Optional[...]` does not mean a function argument with a default value. However, if the default value of an argument is `None`, you can use an optional type for the argument, but it’s not enforced by default. You can use the `--no-implicit-optional` command-line option to stop treating arguments with a `None` default value as having an implicit `Optional[...]` type. It’s possible that this will become the default behavior in the future.

### 8.6.1 X | Y syntax for Unions

PEP 604 introduced an alternative way for spelling union types. In Python 3.10 and later, you can write `Union[int, str]` as `int | str`. It is possible to use this syntax in versions of Python where it isn’t supported by the runtime with some limitations (see *Annotation issues at runtime*).
from typing import List

t1: int | str  # equivalent to Union[int, str]

t2: int | None  # equivalent to Optional[int]

# Usable in type comments

```python
t3 = 42  # type: int | str
```

## 8.7 Disabling strict optional checking

Mypy also has an option to treat `None` as a valid value for every type (in case you know Java, it’s useful to think of it as similar to the Java `null`). In this mode `None` is also valid for primitive types such as `int` and `float`, and `Optional` types are not required.

The mode is enabled through the `--no-strict-optional` command-line option. In mypy versions before 0.600 this was the default mode. You can enable this option explicitly for backward compatibility with earlier mypy versions, in case you don’t want to introduce optional types to your codebase yet.

It will cause mypy to silently accept some buggy code, such as this example – it’s not recommended if you can avoid it:

```python
def inc(x: int) -> int:
    return x + 1
x = inc(None)  # No error reported by mypy if strict optional mode disabled!
```

However, making code “optional clean” can take some work! You can also use the mypy configuration file to migrate your code to strict optional checking one file at a time, since there exists the per-module flag `strict_optional` to control strict optional mode.

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

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

```python
print(greeting('Python'))  # Okay!
p1nt(greeting(None))  # Also okay!
```

You can still use `Optional[t]` to document that `None` is a valid argument type, even if strict `None` checking is not enabled:

```python
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 if strict optional checking is disabled, since `None` is implicitly valid for any type, but it’s much more useful for a programmer who is reading the code. This also makes
it easier to migrate to strict None checking in the future.

8.8 Type aliases

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

```python
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:

```python
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:
    ...
```

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 except for generic aliases.

8.9 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:

```python
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 `NamedTuple` to also define item types:

```python
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 introduced an alternative, class-based syntax for named tuples with types:

```python
from typing import NamedTuple

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

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

(Freely after PEP 484: The type of class objects.)

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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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: The type of class objects.

8.11 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 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'✓'
```

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 AnyStr:

```
from typing import AnyStr

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

caten('foo', 'foo')  # Okay
concat(b'foo', b'foo')  # Okay
concat('foo', b'foo')  # 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.

8.12 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:

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

This is slightly different from using `Iterable[int]` or `Iterator[int]`, since generators have `close()`, `send()`, and `throw()` methods that generic iterables don’t. If you will call these methods on the returned generator, use the `Generator` type instead of `Iterable` or `Iterator`.
This section will help get you started annotating your classes. Built-in classes such as `int` also follow these same rules.

### 9.1 Instance and class attributes

The 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:

```python
class A:
    def __init__(self, x: int) -> None:
        self.x = x  # Aha, 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 annotation:

```python
class A:
    x: List[int]  # Declare attribute 'x' of type List[int]

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

As in Python generally, a variable defined in the class body can be used as a class or an instance variable. (As discussed in the next section, you can override this with a `ClassVar` annotation.)

Type comments work as well, if you need to support Python versions earlier than 3.6:
class A:
    x = None  # type: List[int]  # Declare attribute 'x' of type List[int]

Note that attribute definitions in the class body that use a type comment are special: a None value is valid as the initializer, even though the declared type is not optional. This should be used sparingly, as this can result in None-related runtime errors that mypy can’t detect.

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

class A:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.x: List[int] = []
    def f(self) -> None:
        self.y: Any = 0

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

9.2 Annotating __init__ methods

The __init__ method is somewhat special – it doesn’t return a value. This is best expressed as -> None. However, since many feel this is redundant, it is allowed to omit the return type declaration on __init__ methods if at least one argument is annotated. For example, in the following classes __init__ is considered fully annotated:

class C1:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.var = 42

class C2:
    def __init__(self, arg: int):
        self.var = arg

However, if __init__ has no annotated arguments and no return type annotation, it is considered an untyped method:

class C3:
    def __init__(self):
        # This body is not type checked
        self.var = 42 + 'abc'

9.3 Class attribute annotations

You can use a ClassVar[t] annotation to explicitly declare that a particular attribute should not be set on instances:

from typing import ClassVar

class A:
x: ClassVar[int] = 0  # Class variable only
A.x += 1  # OK
a = A()
a.x = 1  # Error: Cannot assign to class variable "x" via instance
print(a.x)  # OK -- can be read through an instance

Note: If you need to support Python 3 versions 3.5.2 or earlier, you have to import ClassVar from typing_extensions instead (available on PyPI). If you use Python 2.7, you can import it from typing.

It’s not necessary to annotate all class variables using ClassVar. An attribute without the ClassVar annotation can still be used as a class variable. However, mypy won’t prevent it from being used as an instance variable, as discussed previously:

class A:
    x = 0  # Can be used as a class or instance variable
A.x += 1  # OK
a = A()
a.x = 1  # Also OK

Note that ClassVar is not a class, and you can’t use it with isinstance() or issubclass(). It does not change Python runtime behavior – it’s only for type checkers such as mypy (and also helpful for human readers).

You can also omit the square brackets and the variable type in a ClassVar annotation, but this might not do what you’d expect:

class A:
    y: ClassVar = 0  # Type implicitly Any!

In this case the type of the attribute will be implicitly Any. This behavior will change in the future, since it’s surprising.

Note: A ClassVar type parameter cannot include type variables: ClassVar[T] and ClassVar[List[T]] are both invalid if T is a type variable (see Defining generic classes for more about type variables).

## 9.4 Overriding statically typed methods

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

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

class Derived1(Base):
    def f(self, x: str) -> None:  # Error: type of 'x' incompatible
        ...

class Derived2(Base):

(continues on next page)
def f(self, x: int, y: int) -> None:  # Error: too many arguments
...

class Derived3(Base):
    def f(self, x: int) -> None:  # OK
    ...

class Derived4(Base):
    def f(self, x: float) -> None:  # OK: mypy treats int as a subtype of float
    ...

class Derived5(Base):
    def f(self, x: int, y: int = 0) -> None:  # OK: accepts more than the base
        # class method

Note: You can also vary return types **covariantly** in overriding. For example, you could override the return type Iterable[int] with a subtype such as List[int]. Similarly, you can vary argument types **contravariantly** – subclasses can have more general argument types.

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.

As always, relying on dynamically typed code can be unsafe. 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 Base:
    def inc(self, x: int) -> int:
        return x + 1

class Derived(Base):
    def inc(self, x):
        # Override, dynamically typed
        return 'hello'
        # Incompatible with 'Base', but no mypy error

9.5 Abstract base classes and multiple inheritance

Mypy supports Python **abstract base classes** (ABCs). Abstract classes have at least one abstract method or property that must be implemented by any **concrete** (non-abstract) subclass. You can define abstract base classes using the abc.ABCMeta metaclass and the @abc.abstractmethod function decorator. Example:

```python
from abc import ABCMeta, abstractmethod

class Animal(metaclass=ABCMeta):
    @abstractmethod
    def eat(self, food: str) -> None: pass

    @property
    @abstractmethod
    def can_walk(self) -> bool: pass

class Cat(Animal):
    def eat(self, food: str) -> None:
        ...  # Body omitted
```
@property
def can_walk(self) -> bool:
    return True

x = Animal()  # Error: 'Animal' is abstract due to 'eat' and 'can_walk'
y = Cat()      # OK

Note: In Python 2.7 you have to use @abc.abstractproperty to define an abstract property.

Note that mypy performs checking for unimplemented abstract methods even if you omit the ABCMeta metaclass. This can be useful if the metaclass would cause runtime metaclass conflicts.

Since you can’t create instances of ABCs, they are most commonly used in type annotations. For example, this method accepts arbitrary iterables containing arbitrary animals (instances of concrete Animal subclasses):

def feed_all(animals: Iterable[Animal], food: str) -> None:
    for animal in animals:
        animal.eat(food)

There is one important peculiarity about how ABCs work in Python – whether a particular class is abstract or not is somewhat implicit. In the example below, Derived is treated as an abstract base class since Derived inherits an abstract f method from Base and doesn’t explicitly implement it. The definition of Derived generates no errors from mypy, since it’s a valid ABC:

from abc import ABCMeta, abstractmethod

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

class Derived(Base):  # No error -- Derived is implicitly abstract
def g(self) -> None:
    ...

Attempting to create an instance of Derived will be rejected, however:

d = Derived()  # Error: 'Derived' is abstract

Note: It’s a common error to forget to implement an abstract method. As shown above, the class definition will not generate an error in this case, but any attempt to construct an instance will be flagged as an error.

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

You can implement an abstract property using either a normal property or an instance variable.
Idiomatic use of type annotations can sometimes run up against what a given version of Python considers legal code. This section describes these scenarios and explains how to get your code running again. Generally speaking, we have three tools at our disposal:

- For Python 3.7 through 3.9, use of `from __future__ import annotations (PEP 563)`, made the default in Python 3.10 and later
- Use of string literal types or type comments
- Use of `typing.TYPE_CHECKING`

We provide a description of these before moving onto discussion of specific problems you may encounter.

## 10.1 String literal types

Type comments can’t cause runtime errors because comments are not evaluated by Python. In a similar way, using string literal types sidesteps the problem of annotations that would cause runtime errors.

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

```python
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 and stub files`.

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`.)
10.2 Future annotations import (PEP 563)

Many of the issues described here are caused by Python trying to evaluate annotations. From Python 3.10 on, Python will no longer attempt to evaluate function and variable annotations. This behaviour is made available in Python 3.7 and later through the use of `from __future__ import annotations`.

This can be thought of as automatic string literal-ification of all function and variable annotations. Note that function and variable annotations are still required to be valid Python syntax. For more details, see PEP 563.

**Note:** Even with the `__future__` import, there are some scenarios that could still require string literals or result in errors, typically involving use of forward references or generics in:

- type aliases;
- casts;
- type definitions (see `TypeVar`, `NewType()`, `NamedTuple`);
- base classes.

```python
# base class example
from __future__ import annotations
class A(Tuple['B', 'C']): ...
    # String literal types needed here
class B: ...
class C: ...
```

**Note:** Some libraries may have use cases for dynamic evaluation of annotations, for instance, through use of `typing.get_type_hints` or `eval`. If your annotation would raise an error when evaluated (say by using PEP 604 syntax with Python 3.9), you may need to be careful when using such libraries.

10.3 `typing.TYPE_CHECKING`

The `typing` module defines a `TYPE_CHECKING` constant that is `False` at runtime but treated as `True` while type checking.

Since code inside `if TYPE_CHECKING:` is not executed at runtime, it provides a convenient way to tell mypy something without the code being evaluated at runtime. This is most useful for resolving import cycles.

**Note:** Python 3.5.1 and below don’t have `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.

10.4 Class name forward references

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

```python
def f(x: A) -> None: ...
    # NameError: name "A" is not defined
class A: ...
```
Starting from Python 3.7, you can add `from __future__ import annotations` to resolve this, as discussed earlier:

```python
from __future__ import annotations

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

For Python 3.6 and below, you can enter the type as a string literal or type comment:

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

# Also OK
def g(x):  # type: (A) -> None
    ...
class A: ...
```

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

## 10.5 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. This can lead to errors at runtime like:

```
ImportError: cannot import name 'b' from partially initialized module 'A' (most likely due to a circular import)
```

If those cycles do become a problem when running your program, there’s a trick: if the import is only needed for type annotations and you’re using a) the future annotations import, or b) string literals or type comments for the relevant annotations, you can write the imports inside `if TYPE_CHECKING:` so that they are not executed at runtime. Example:

File `foo.py`:

```python
from typing import List, TYPE_CHECKING

if TYPE_CHECKING:
    import bar

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

File `bar.py`:

```python
from typing import List
from foo import listify

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

### 10.5. Import cycles
10.6 Using classes that are generic in stubs but not at runtime

Some classes are declared as `generic` in stubs, but not at runtime.

In Python 3.8 and earlier, there are several examples within the standard library, for instance, `os.PathLike` and `queue.Queue`. Subscripting such a class will result in a runtime error:

```python
from queue import Queue

class Tasks(Queue[str]):  # TypeError: 'type' object is not subscriptable
    ...
results: Queue[int] = Queue()  # TypeError: 'type' object is not subscriptable
```

To avoid errors from use of these generics in annotations, just use the `future annotations import` (or string literals or type comments for Python 3.6 and below).

To avoid errors when inheriting from these classes, things are a little more complicated and you need to use `typing.TYPE_CHECKING`:

```python
from typing import TYPE_CHECKING
from queue import Queue

if TYPE_CHECKING:
    BaseQueue = Queue[str]  # this is only processed by mypy
else:
    BaseQueue = Queue  # this is not seen by mypy but will be executed at runtime

class Tasks(BaseQueue):  # OK
    ...

    task_queue: Tasks
    reveal_type(task_queue.get())  # Reveals str
```

If your subclass is also generic, you can use the following:

```python
from typing import TYPE_CHECKING, TypeVar, Generic
from queue import Queue

_T = TypeVar("_T")

if TYPE_CHECKING:
    class _MyQueueBase(Queue[_T]): pass
else:
    class _MyQueueBase(Generic[_T], Queue): pass

class MyQueue(_MyQueueBase[_T]): pass

    task_queue: MyQueue[str]
    reveal_type(task_queue.get())  # Reveals str
```

In Python 3.9, we can just inherit directly from `Queue[str]` or `Queue[T]` since its `queue.Queue` implements `__class_getitem__()`, so the class object can be subscripted at runtime without issue.
10.7 Using types defined in stubs but not at runtime

Sometimes stubs that you’re using may define types you wish to re-use that do not exist at runtime. Importing these types naively will cause your code to fail at runtime with ImportError or ModuleNotFoundError. Similar to previous sections, these can be dealt with by using `typing.TYPE_CHECKING`:

```python
from typing import TYPE_CHECKING
if TYPE_CHECKING:
    from _typeshed import SupportsLessThan
```

10.8 Using generic builtins

Starting with Python 3.9 ([PEP 585](https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0585/)), the type objects of many collections in the standard library support subscription at runtime. This means that you no longer have to import the equivalents from `typing`; you can simply use the built-in collections or those from `collections.abc`:

```python
from collections.abc import Sequence
x: list[str]
y: dict[int, str]
z: Sequence[str] = x
```

There is limited support for using this syntax in Python 3.7 and later as well. If you use `from __future__ import annotations, mypy will understand this syntax in annotations. However, since this will not be supported by the Python interpreter at runtime, make sure you’re aware of the caveats mentioned in the notes at `future annotations import`.

10.9 Using X | Y syntax for Unions

Starting with Python 3.10 ([PEP 604](https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0604/)), you can spell union types as `x: int | str`, instead of `x: typing.Union[int, str]`.

There is limited support for using this syntax in Python 3.7 and later as well. If you use `from __future__ import annotations, mypy will understand this syntax in annotations, string literal types, type comments and stub files. However, since this will not be supported by the Python interpreter at runtime (if evaluated, `int | str` will raise `TypeError: unsupported operand type(s) for |: 'type' and 'type'`), make sure you’re aware of the caveats mentioned in the notes at `future annotations import`.

10.10 Using new additions to the typing module

You may find yourself wanting to use features added to the `typing` module in earlier versions of Python than the addition, for example, using any of `Literal`, `Protocol`, `TypedDict` with Python 3.6.

The easiest way to do this is to install and use the `typing_extensions` package from PyPI for the relevant imports, for example:

```python
from typing_extensions import Literal
x: Literal["open", "close"]
```

If you don’t want to rely on `typing_extensions` being installed on newer Pythons, you could alternatively use:
import sys
if sys.version_info >= (3, 8):
    from typing import Literal
else:
    from typing_extensions import Literal
x: Literal["open", "close"]

This plays nicely well with following PEP 508 dependency specification:
typing_extensions;
python_version<"3.8"
CHAPTER 11

Protocols and structural subtyping

Mypy supports two ways of deciding whether two classes are compatible as types: nominal subtyping and structural subtyping. *Nominal* subtyping is strictly based on the class hierarchy. If class $D$ inherits class $C$, it’s also a subtype of $C$, and instances of $D$ can be used when $C$ instances are expected. This form of subtyping is used by default in mypy, since it’s easy to understand and produces clear and concise error messages, and since it matches how the native `isinstance` check works – based on class hierarchy. *Structural* subtyping can also be useful. Class $D$ is a structural subtype of class $C$ if the former has all attributes and methods of the latter, and with compatible types.

Structural subtyping can be seen as a static equivalent of duck typing, which is well known to Python programmers. Mypy provides support for structural subtyping via protocol classes described below. See PEP 544 for the detailed specification of protocols and structural subtyping in Python.

11.1 Predefined protocols

The `typing` module defines various protocol classes that correspond to common Python protocols, such as `Iterable[T]`. If a class defines a suitable `__iter__` method, mypy understands that it implements the iterable protocol and is compatible with `Iterable[T]`. For example, `IntList` below is iterable, over `int` values:

```python
from typing import Iterator, Iterable, Optional

class IntList:
    def __init__(self, value: int, next: Optional['IntList']) -> None:
        self.value = value
        self.next = next

    def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[int]:
        current = self
        while current:
            yield current.value
            current = current.next

def print_numbered(items: Iterable[int]) -> None:
    for n, x in enumerate(items):
        ...
```

(continues on next page)
The subsections below introduce all built-in protocols defined in typing and the signatures of the corresponding methods you need to define to implement each protocol (the signatures can be left out, as always, but mypy won’t type check unannotated methods).

### 11.1.1 Iteration protocols

The iteration protocols are useful in many contexts. For example, they allow iteration of objects in for loops.

**Iterable**

The example above has a simple implementation of an `__iter__` method.

```python
def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[T]
```

See also *Iterable*.

**Iterator**

```python
def __next__(self) -> T
def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[T]
```

See also *Iterator*.

### 11.1.2 Collection protocols

Many of these are implemented by built-in container types such as `list` and `dict`, and these are also useful for user-defined collection objects.

**Sized**

This is a type for objects that support `len(x)`.

```python
def __len__(self) -> int
```

See also *Sized*.

**Container**

This is a type for objects that support the `in` operator.

```python
def __contains__(self, x: object) -> bool
```

See also *Container*.
**Collection[T]**

```python
def __len__(self) -> int
def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[T]
def __contains__(self, x: object) -> bool
```

See also `Collection`.

### 11.1.3 One-off protocols

These protocols are typically only useful with a single standard library function or class.

**Reversible[T]**

This is a type for objects that support `reversed(x)`.

```python
def __reversed__(self) -> Iterator[T]
```

See also `Reversible`.

**SupportsAbs[T]**

This is a type for objects that support `abs(x)`. `T` is the type of value returned by `abs(x)`.

```python
def __abs__(self) -> T
```

See also `SupportsAbs`.

**SupportsBytes**

This is a type for objects that support `bytes(x)`.

```python
def __bytes__(self) -> bytes
```

See also `SupportsBytes`.

**SupportsComplex**

This is a type for objects that support `complex(x)`. Note that no arithmetic operations are supported.

```python
def __complex__(self) -> complex
```

See also `SupportsComplex`.

**SupportsFloat**

This is a type for objects that support `float(x)`. Note that no arithmetic operations are supported.

```python
def __float__(self) -> float
```

See also `SupportsFloat`. 

### 11.1. Predefined protocols

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SupportsInt

This is a type for objects that support \texttt{int(x)}. Note that no arithmetic operations are supported.

```python
def __int__(self) -> int
```

See also \texttt{SupportsInt}.

SupportsRound\[T\]

This is a type for objects that support \texttt{round(x)}.

```python
def __round__(self) -> T
```

See also \texttt{SupportsRound}.

11.1.4 Async protocols

These protocols can be useful in async code. See \textit{Typing async/await} for more information.

Awaitable\[T\]

```python
def __await__(self) -> Generator[Any, None, T]
```

See also \texttt{Awaitable}.

AsyncIterable\[T\]

```python
def __aiter__(self) -> AsyncIterator[T]
```

See also \texttt{AsyncIterable}.

AsyncIterator\[T\]

```python
def __anext__(self) -> Awaitable[T]
def __aiter__(self) -> AsyncIterator[T]
```

See also \texttt{AsyncIterator}.

11.1.5 Context manager protocols

There are two protocols for context managers – one for regular context managers and one for async ones. These allow defining objects that can be used in \texttt{with} and \texttt{async with} statements.

ContextManager\[T\]
def __enter__(self) -> T
def __exit__(self,
    exc_type: Optional[Type[BaseException]],
    exc_value: Optional[BaseException],
    traceback: Optional[TracebackType]) -> Optional[bool]

See also ContextManager.

AsyncContextManager[T]

def __aenter__(self) -> Awaitable[T]
def __aexit__(self,
    exc_type: Optional[Type[BaseException]],
    exc_value: Optional[BaseException],
    traceback: Optional[TracebackType]) -> Awaitable[Optional[bool]]

See also AsyncContextManager.

11.2 Simple user-defined protocols

You can define your own protocol class by inheriting the special Protocol class:

```python
from typing import Iterable
from typing_extensions import Protocol

class SupportsClose(Protocol):
    def close(self) -> None:
        ...  # Empty method body (explicit '...')

class Resource:  # No SupportsClose base class!
    # ... some methods ...

    def close(self) -> None:
        self.resource.release()

def close_all(items: Iterable[SupportsClose]) -> None:
    for item in items:
        item.close()

close_all([Resource(), open('some/file')])  # Okay!
```

Resource is a subtype of the SupportsClose protocol since it defines a compatible close method. Regular file objects returned by open() are similarly compatible with the protocol, as they support close().

Note: The Protocol base class is provided in the typing_extensions package for Python 2.7 and 3.4-3.7. Starting with Python 3.8, Protocol is included in the typing module.

11.3 Defining subprotocols and subclassing protocols

You can also define subprotocols. Existing protocols can be extended and merged using multiple inheritance. Example:
class SupportsRead(Protocol):
    def read(self, amount: int) -> bytes: ...

class TaggedReadableResource(SupportsClose, SupportsRead, Protocol):
    label: str

class AdvancedResource(Resource):
    def __init__(self, label: str) -> None:
        self.label = label
    def read(self, amount: int) -> bytes:
        # some implementation ...

resource: TaggedReadableResource
resource = AdvancedResource('handle with care')  # OK

Note that inheriting from an existing protocol does not automatically turn the subclass into a protocol – it just creates a regular (non-protocol) class or ABC that implements the given protocol (or protocols). The Protocol base class must always be explicitly present if you are defining a protocol:

class NotAProtocol(SupportsClose):  # This is NOT a protocol
    new_attr: int

class Concrete:
    new_attr: int = 0
    def close(self) -> None:
        ...

# Error: nominal subtyping used by default
x: NotAProtocol = Concrete()  # Error!

You can also include default implementations of methods in protocols. If you explicitly subclass these protocols you can inherit these default implementations. Explicitly including a protocol as a base class is also a way of documenting that your class implements a particular protocol, and it forces mypy to verify that your class implementation is actually compatible with the protocol.

Note: You can use Python 3.6 variable annotations (PEP 526) to declare protocol attributes. On Python 2.7 and earlier Python 3 versions you can use type comments and properties.

11.4 Recursive protocols

Protocols can be recursive (self-referential) and mutually recursive. This is useful for declaring abstract recursive collections such as trees and linked lists:

```python
from typing import TypeVar, Optional
from typing_extensions import Protocol

class TreeLike(Protocol):
    value: int
```

(continues on next page)
@property
def left(self) -> Optional['TreeLike']: ...

@property
def right(self) -> Optional['TreeLike']: ...

class SimpleTree:
def __init__(self, value: int) -> None:
    self.value = value
    self.left: Optional['SimpleTree'] = None
    self.right: Optional['SimpleTree'] = None

root: TreeLike = SimpleTree(0)   # OK

11.5 Using isinstance() with protocols

You can use a protocol class with `isinstance()` if you decorate it with the `@runtime_checkable` class decorator. The decorator adds support for basic runtime structural checks:

```python
from typing_extensions import Protocol, runtime_checkable

@runtime_checkable
class Portable(Protocol):
    handles: int

class Mug:
def __init__(self) -> None:
    self.handles = 1
def use(handles: int) -> None: ...

mug = Mug()
if isinstance(mug, Portable):
    use(mug.handles)   # Works statically and at runtime
```

`isinstance()` also works with the predefined protocols in `typing` such as `Iterable`.

**Note:** `isinstance()` with protocols is not completely safe at runtime. For example, signatures of methods are not checked. The runtime implementation only checks that all protocol members are defined.

11.6 Callback protocols

Protocols can be used to define flexible callback types that are hard (or even impossible) to express using the `Callable[...]` syntax, such as variadic, overloaded, and complex generic callbacks. They are defined with a special `__call__` member:

```python
from typing import Optional, Iterable, List
from typing_extensions import Protocol
```

(continues on next page)
class Combiner(Protocol):
    def __call__(self, *vals: bytes, maxlen: Optional[int] = None) -> List[bytes]: ...

def batch_proc(data: Iterable[bytes], cb_results: Combiner) -> bytes:
    for item in data:
        ...

def good_cb(*vals: bytes, maxlen: Optional[int] = None) -> List[bytes]: ...

def bad_cb(*vals: bytes, maxitems: Optional[int]) -> List[bytes]: ...

batch_proc([], good_cb)  # OK
batch_proc([], bad_cb)   # Error! Argument 2 has incompatible type because of
                        # different name and kind in the callback

Callback protocols and Callable types can be used interchangeably. Keyword argument names in __call__
methods must be identical, unless a double underscore prefix is used. For example:

from typing import Callable, TypeVar
from typing_extensions import Protocol

T = TypeVar('T')

class Copy(Protocol):
    def __call__(self, __origin: T) -> T: ...

copy_a: Callable[[T], T]
copy_b: Copy

copy_a = copy_b  # OK
copy_b = copy_a  # Also OK
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`:

```python
from typing import Any

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

### 12.1 Operations on Any values

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

```python
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`:

```python
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.

12.2 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:

```python
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:

```python
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 and type assertions*) 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`).
CHAPTER 13

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.

Mypy requires typed-ast in order to check Python 2 code. You can install it using `pip install 'mypy[python2]'`.

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.)

### 13.1 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](https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0484/?highlight=multi-line-comment-annotation-syntax)):  

```python
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.

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:

```python
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."""
<code>
```

### 13.2 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.
• Variables use a comment-based type syntax (explained in *Explicit types for variables*).

• You don’t need to use string literal escapes for forward references within comments (string literal escapes are explained later).

• Mypy uses a separate set of library stub files in *typeshed* for Python 2. Library support may vary between Python 2 and Python 3.
Casts and type assertions

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:

```python
from typing import cast, List

o: object = [1]
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. 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.

**Note:** You can use an assertion if you want to perform an actual runtime check:

```python
def foo(o: object) -> None:
    print(o + 5)  # Error: can’t add 'object' and 'int'
    assert isinstance(o, int)
    print(o + 5)  # OK: type of 'o' is 'int' here
```

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:

```python
from typing import cast, Any

x = 1
x.whatever()  # Type check error
y = cast(Any, x)
y.whatever()  # 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*. This is 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`.
- `bytearray` and `memoryview` are duck type compatible with `bytes`.
- In Python 2, `str` is duck type compatible with `unicode`.

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:

```python
import math

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

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

You can also often use *Protocols and structural subtyping* to achieve a similar effect in a more principled and extensible fashion. Protocols don’t apply to cases like `int` being compatible with `float`, since `float` is not a protocol class but a regular, concrete class, and many standard library functions expect concrete instances of `float` (or `int`).

**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.
Mypy uses stub files stored in the typeshed repository to determine the types of standard library and third-party library functions, classes, and other definitions. You can also create your own stubs that will be used to type check your code. The basic properties of stubs were introduced back in *Library stubs and typeshed*.

### 16.1 Creating a stub

Here is an overview of how to create a stub file:

- Write a stub file for the library (or an arbitrary module) 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:

  ```sh
  $ 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. Note that [PEP 561](https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0561/) stub-only packages must be installed, and may not be pointed at through the `MYPYPATH` (see [PEP 561 support](https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0561/)).

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 typeshed 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 typeshed repo.

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.

16.2 Stub file syntax

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

If it is not possible to completely leave out some piece of runtime logic, the recommended convention is to replace or elide them with ellipsis expressions (\ldots). Each ellipsis below is literally written in the stub file as three dots:

```
# Variables with annotations do not need to be assigned a value.
# So by convention, we omit them in the stub file.
x: int

# Function bodies cannot be completely removed. By convention,
# we replace them with '\ldots' instead of the 'pass' statement.
def func_1(code: str) -> int: ...

def func_2(a: int, b: int = ...) -> int: ...
```

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

Note: It is always legal to use Python 3 syntax in stub files, even when writing Python 2 code. The example above is a valid stub file for both Python 2 and 3.

16.3 Using stub file syntax at runtime

You may also occasionally need to elide actual logic in regular Python code – for example, when writing methods in overload variants or custom protocols.

The recommended style is to use ellipses to do so, just like in stub files. It is also considered stylistically acceptable to throw a `NotImplementedError` in cases where the user of the code may accidentally call functions with no actual logic.

You can also elide default arguments as long as the function body also contains no runtime logic: the function body only contains a single ellipsis, the pass statement, or a `raise NotImplementedError()`. It is also acceptable for the function body to contain a docstring. For example:

```python
from typing import List
from typing_extensions import Protocol

class Resource(Protocol):
    def ok_1(self, foo: List[str] = ...): None: ...

    def ok_2(self, foo: List[str] = ...): None:
        raise NotImplementedError()
```

(continues on next page)
**Note:** Ellipsis expressions are legal syntax in Python 3 only. This means it is not possible to elide default arguments in Python 2 code. You can still elide function bodies in Python 2 by using either the `pass` statement or by throwing a `NotImplementedError`.

```python
def ok_3(self, foo: List[str] = ...) -> None:
    """Some docstring""
    pass

# Error: Incompatible default for argument "foo" (default has
type "ellipsis", argument has type "List[str]")
def not_ok(self, foo: List[str] = ...) -> None:
    print(foo)
```
This section explains how you can define your own generic classes that take one or more type parameters, similar to built-in types such as `List[X]`. User-defined generics are a moderately advanced feature and you can get far without ever using them – feel free to skip this section and come back later.

### 17.1 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:

```python
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: 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:

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

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

Construction of instances of generic types is also type checked:

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

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

## 17.2 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:

```python
>>> 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:

```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.

## 17.3 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, Mapping, Iterator, Dict

KT = TypeVar('KT')
VT = TypeVar('VT')

class MyMap(Mapping[KT, VT]): # This is a generic subclass of Mapping
def __getitem__(self, k: KT) -> VT:
... # Implementations omitted
def __iter__(self) -> Iterator[KT]:
...
def __len__(self) -> int:
...

items: MyMap[str, int] # Okay

class StrDict(Dict[str, str]): # This is a non-generic subclass of Dict
def __str__(self) -> str:
    return 'StrDict({})'.format(super().__str__())
data: StrDict[int, int] # Error! StrDict is not generic
data2: StrDict # OK

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

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

Note: You have to add an explicit Mapping base class if you want mypy to consider a user-defined class as a mapping (and Sequence for sequences, etc.). This is because mypy doesn’t use structural subtyping for these ABCs, unlike simpler protocols like Iterable, which use structural subtyping.

Generic can be omitted from bases if there are other base classes that include type variables, such as Mapping[KT, VT] 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]): ...

(continues on next page)
17.4 Generic functions

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

```python
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:

```python
# 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:

```python
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]
```

A variable cannot have a type variable in its type unless the type variable is bound in a containing generic class or function.

17.5 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.

For some advanced uses of self-types see additional examples.
17.6 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:

```python
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, it’s still safe.

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

```python
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:

```python
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
```

(continues on next page)
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

17.7 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`:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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`:

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

### 17.8 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`.

```python
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`.

```python
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,

```python
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.

### 17.9 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.

Note that class decorators are handled differently than function decorators in mypy: decorating a class does not erase its type, even if the decorator has incomplete type annotations.

Here’s a complete example of a function decorator:

```python
from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar, Tuple, cast
F = TypeVar('F', bound=Callable[..., Any])

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

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

a = foo(12)
reveal_type(a)  # str
foo('x')       # Type check error: incompatible type "str"; expected "int"

From the final block we see that the signatures of the decorated functions \texttt{foo()} and \texttt{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. \texttt{my_decorator(1)})) will be rejected.

Also note that the \texttt{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 \texttt{cast()} call in the \texttt{return} statement in \texttt{my_decorator()}.

See \textit{Casts and type assertions}.

### 17.9.1 Decorator factories

Functions that take arguments and return a decorator (also called second-order decorators), are similarly supported via generics:

```python
from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar
F = TypeVar('F', bound=Callable[..., Any])
def route(url: str) -> Callable[[F], F]: ...
@route(url='/')
def index(request: Any) -> str:
    return 'Hello world'
```

Sometimes the same decorator supports both bare calls and calls with arguments. This can be achieved by combining with \texttt{@overload}:

```python
from typing import Any, Callable, TypeVar, overload
F = TypeVar('F', bound=Callable[..., Any])

# Bare decorator usage
@overload
def atomic(__func: F) -> F: ...
# Decorator with arguments
@overload
def atomic(*, savepoint: bool = True) -> Callable[[F], F]: ...

# Implementation
def atomic(__func: Callable[..., Any] = None, *, savepoint: bool = True):
    def decorator(func: Callable[..., Any]):
        ...
    # Code goes here
```

(continues on next page)
if __func is not None:
    return decorator(__func)
else:
    return decorator

# Usage
@atomic
def func1() -> None:
    ...
def func2() -> None:
    ...

17.10 Generic protocols

Mypy supports generic protocols (see also Protocols and structural subtyping). Several predefined protocols are
generic, such as Iterable[T], and you can define additional generic protocols. Generic protocols mostly follow
the normal rules for generic classes. Example:

```python
from typing import TypeVar
from typing_extensions import Protocol

T = TypeVar('T')

class Box(Protocol[T]):
    content: T
def do_stuff(one: Box[str], other: Box[bytes]) -> None:
    ...

class StringWrapper:
    def __init__(self, content: str) -> None:
        self.content = content
class BytesWrapper:
    def __init__(self, content: bytes) -> None:
        self.content = content
do_stuff(StringWrapper('one'), BytesWrapper(b'other'))  # OK

x: Box[float] = ...
y: Box[int] = ...
x = y  # Error -- Box is invariant
```

The main difference between generic protocols and ordinary generic classes is that mypy checks that the declared
variances of generic type variables in a protocol match how they are used in the protocol definition. The protocol in
this example is rejected, since the type variable T is used covariantly as a return type, but the type variable is invariant:

```python
from typing import TypeVar
from typing_extensions import Protocol

T = TypeVar('T')

class ReadOnlyBox(Protocol[T]):  # Error: covariant type variable expected
def content(self) -> T: ...
```
This example correctly uses a covariant type variable:

```python
from typing import TypeVar
from typing_extensions import Protocol

T_co = TypeVar('T_co', covariant=True)

class ReadOnlyBox[Protocol[T_co]]:  # OK
    def content(self) -> T_co: ...

ax: ReadOnlyBox[float] = ...
ay: ReadOnlyBox[int] = ...
ax = ay  # OK -- ReadOnlyBox is covariant
```

See `Variance of generic types` for more about variance.

Generic protocols can also be recursive. Example:

```python
T = TypeVar('T')

class Linked[Protocol[T]]:
    val: T
    def next(self) -> 'Linked[T]': ...

class L:
    val: int
    ...
    # details omitted
    def next(self) -> 'L':
        ...
        # details omitted

def last(seq: Linked[T]) -> T:
    ...
    # implementation omitted

result = last(L())  # Inferred type of 'result' is 'int'
```

## 17.11 Generic type aliases

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

```python
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]
    ...
```

(continues on next page)
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 just like other names. An alias can also target another alias, although building complex chains of aliases is not recommended – this impedes code readability, thus defeating the purpose of using aliases. Example:

```python
from typing import TypeVar, Generic, Optional
from example1 import AliasType
from example2 import Vec

# AliasType and Vec are type aliases (Vec as defined above)

def fun() -> AliasType:
    ...

T = TypeVar('T')

class NewVec(Vec[T]):
    ...

for i, j in NewVec[int]():
    ...

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

**Note:** A type alias does not define a new 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.
This section introduces a few additional kinds of types, including `NoReturn`, `NewType`, `TypedDict`, and types for async code. It also discusses how to give functions more precise types using overloads. All of these are only situationally useful, so feel free to skip this section and come back when you have a need for some of them.

Here's a quick summary of what's covered here:

- **`NoReturn`** lets you tell mypy that a function never returns normally.
- **`NewType`** lets you define a variant of a type that is treated as a separate type by mypy but is identical to the original type at runtime. For example, you can have `UserId` as a variant of `int` that is just an `int` at runtime.
- **`@overload`** lets you define a function that can accept multiple distinct signatures. This is useful if you need to encode a relationship between the arguments and the return type that would be difficult to express normally.
- **`TypedDict`** lets you give precise types for dictionaries that represent objects with a fixed schema, such as `{ 'id': 1, 'items': ['x'] }`.
- Async types let you type check programs using `async` and `await`.

### 18.1 The NoReturn type

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

```python
from typing 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

In earlier Python versions you need to install typing_extensions using pip to use NoReturn in your code. Python 3 command line:

```
pip install --upgrade typing-extensions
```

This works for Python 2:

```
pip install --upgrade typing-extensions
```

## 18.2 NewTypes

There are situations where you may want to avoid programming errors by creating simple derived classes that are only used to distinguish certain values from base class instances. Example:

```python
class UserId(int):
    pass

def 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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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
```

(continues on next page)
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:

```python
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
```

You cannot use isinstance() or issubclass() on the object returned by NewType(), because function objects don’t support these operations. You cannot create subclasses of these objects either.

Note: 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:

```python
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:

```python
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
```
18.3 Function overloading

Sometimes the arguments and types in a function depend on each other in ways that can’t be captured with a `Union`. For example, suppose we want to write a function that can accept x-y coordinates. If we pass in just a single x-y coordinate, we return a `ClickEvent` object. However, if we pass in two x-y coordinates, we return a `DragEvent` object.

Our first attempt at writing this function might look like this:

```python
from typing import Union, Optional

def mouse_event(x1: int, y1: int, x2: Optional[int] = None, y2: Optional[int] = None) -> Union[ClickEvent, DragEvent]:
    if x2 is None and y2 is None:
        return ClickEvent(x1, y1)
    elif x2 is not None and y2 is not None:
        return DragEvent(x1, y1, x2, y2)
    else:
        raise TypeError("Bad arguments")
```

While this function signature works, it’s too loose: it implies `mouse_event` could return either object regardless of the number of arguments we pass in. It also does not prohibit a caller from passing in the wrong number of ints: mypy would treat calls like `mouse_event(1, 2, 20)` as being valid, for example.

We can do better by using overloading which lets us give the same function multiple type annotations (signatures) to more accurately describe the function’s behavior:

```python
from typing import Union, overload

# Overload *variants* for 'mouse_event'.
# These variants give extra information to the type checker.
# They are ignored at runtime.

@overload
def mouse_event(x1: int, y1: int) -> ClickEvent: ...  
@overload
def mouse_event(x1: int, y1: int, x2: int, y2: int) -> DragEvent: ...

# The actual *implementation* of 'mouse_event'.
# The implementation contains the actual runtime logic.
# It may or may not have type hints. If it does, mypy
# will check the body of the implementation against the
# type hints.
# Mypy will also check and make sure the signature is
# consistent with the provided variants.

def mouse_event(x1: int, y1: int, x2: Optional[int] = None, y2: Optional[int] = None) -> Union[ClickEvent, DragEvent]:
    if x2 is None and y2 is None:
        return ClickEvent(x1, y1)
    elif x2 is not None and y2 is not None:
        return DragEvent(x1, y1, x2, y2)
    else:
        raise TypeError("Bad arguments")
```

(continues on next page)
This allows mypy to understand calls to `mouse_event` much more precisely. For example, mypy will understand that `mouse_event(5, 25)` will always have a return type of `ClickEvent` and will report errors for calls like `mouse_event(5, 25, 2)`.

As another example, suppose we want to write a custom container class that implements the `__getitem__` method (`[]` bracket indexing). If this method receives an integer we return a single item. If it receives a `slice`, we return a `Sequence` of items.

We can precisely encode this relationship between the argument and the return type by using overloads like so:

```python
from typing import Sequence, TypeVar, Union, overload

T = TypeVar('T')

class MyList(Sequence[T]):
    @overload
    def __getitem__(self, index: int) -> T: ...

    @overload
    def __getitem__(self, index: slice) -> 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(...)  # (continued from previous page)
```

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

### 18.3.1 Runtime behavior

An overloaded function must consist of two or more overload variants followed by an implementation. The variants and the implementations must be adjacent in the code: think of them as one indivisible unit.

The variant bodies must all be empty; only the implementation is allowed to contain code. This is because at runtime, the variants are completely ignored: they’re overridden by the final implementation function.

This means that an overloaded function is still an ordinary Python function! There is no automatic dispatch handling and you must manually handle the different types in the implementation (e.g. by using `if` statements and `isinstance` checks).

If you are adding an overload within a stub file, the implementation function should be omitted: stubs do not contain runtime logic.

**Note:** While we can leave the variant body empty using the `pass` keyword, the more common convention is to instead use the ellipsis (```...``` literal).
18.3.2 Type checking calls to overloads

When you call an overloaded function, mypy will infer the correct return type by picking the best matching variant, after taking into consideration both the argument types and arity. However, a call is never type checked against the implementation. This is why mypy will report calls like `mouse_event(5, 25, 3)` as being invalid even though it matches the implementation signature.

If there are multiple equally good matching variants, mypy will select the variant that was defined first. For example, consider the following program:

```python
from typing import List, overload

@overload
def summarize(data: List[int]) -> float: ...

@overload
def summarize(data: List[str]) -> str: ...

def summarize(data):
    if not data:
        return 0.0
    elif isinstance(data[0], int):
        # Do int specific code
    else:
        # Do str-specific code

def what_is_the_type_of_output() -> float or str?
output = summarize([])
```

The `summarize([])` call matches both variants: an empty list could be either a `List[int]` or a `List[str]`. In this case, mypy will break the tie by picking the first matching variant: `output` will have an inferred type of `float`.

The implementor is responsible for making sure `summarize` breaks ties in the same way at runtime.

However, there are two exceptions to the “pick the first match” rule. First, if multiple variants match due to an argument being of type `Any`, mypy will make the inferred type also be `Any`:

```python
dynamic_var: Any = some_dynamic_function()

# output2 is of type 'Any'
output2 = summarize(dynamic_var)
```

Second, if multiple variants match due to one or more of the arguments being a union, mypy will make the inferred type be the union of the matching variant returns:

```python
some_list: Union[List[int], List[str]]

# output3 is of type 'Union[float, str]'
output3 = summarize(some_list)
```

Note: Due to the “pick the first match” rule, changing the order of your overload variants can change how mypy type checks your program.

To minimize potential issues, we recommend that you:

1. Make sure your overload variants are listed in the same order as the runtime checks (e.g. `isinstance` checks) in your implementation.
2. Order your variants and runtime checks from most to least specific. (See the following section for an example).
18.3.3 Type checking the variants

Mypy will perform several checks on your overload variant definitions to ensure they behave as expected. First, mypy will check and make sure that no overload variant is shadowing a subsequent one. For example, consider the following function which adds together two Expression objects, and contains a special-case to handle receiving two Literal types:

```python
from typing import overload, Union
class Expression:
    # ...snip...
class Literal(Expression):
    # ...snip...

# Warning -- the first overload variant shadows the second!
@overload
def add(left: Expression, right: Expression) -> Expression: ...
@overload
def add(left: Literal, right: Literal) -> Literal: ...
def add(left: Expression, right: Expression) -> Expression:
    # ...snip...
```

While this code snippet is technically type-safe, it does contain an anti-pattern: the second variant will never be selected! If we try calling `add(Literal(3), Literal(4))`, mypy will always pick the first variant and evaluate the function call to be of type Expression, not Literal. This is because Literal is a subtype of Expression, which means the “pick the first match” rule will always halt after considering the first overload.

Because having an overload variant that can never be matched is almost certainly a mistake, mypy will report an error. To fix the error, we can either 1) delete the second overload or 2) swap the order of the overloads:

```python
# Everything is ok now -- the variants are correctly ordered
# from most to least specific.
@overload
def add(left: Literal, right: Literal) -> Literal: ...
@overload
def add(left: Expression, right: Expression) -> Expression: ...
def add(left: Expression, right: Expression) -> Expression:
    # ...snip...
```

Mypy will also type check the different variants and flag any overloads that have inherently unsafely overlapping variants. For example, consider the following unsafe overload definition:

```python
from typing import overload, Union

@overload
def unsafe_func(x: int) -> int: ...
```

(continues on next page)
On the surface, this function definition appears to be fine. However, it will result in a discrepancy between the inferred type and the actual runtime type when we try using it like so:

```python
some_obj: object = 42
unsafe_func(some_obj) + "danger danger"  # Type checks, yet crashes at runtime!
```

Since `some_obj` is of type `object`, mypy will decide that `unsafe_func` must return something of type `str` and concludes the above will type check. But in reality, `unsafe_func` will return an `int`, causing the code to crash at runtime!

To prevent these kinds of issues, mypy will detect and prohibit inherently unsafely overlapping overloads on a best-effort basis. Two variants are considered unsafely overlapping when both of the following are true:

1. All of the arguments of the first variant are compatible with the second.
2. The return type of the first variant is not compatible with (e.g. is not a subtype of) the second.

So in this example, the `int` argument in the first variant is a subtype of the `object` argument in the second, yet the `int` return type is not a subtype of `str`. Both conditions are true, so mypy will correctly flag `unsafe_func` as being unsafe.

However, mypy will not detect all unsafe uses of overloads. For example, suppose we modify the above snippet so it calls `summarize` instead of `unsafe_func`:

```python
some_list: List[str] = []
summarize(some_list) + "danger danger"  # Type safe, yet crashes at runtime!
```

We run into a similar issue here. This program type checks if we look just at the annotations on the overloads. But since `summarize(...)` is designed to be biased towards returning a float when it receives an empty list, this program will actually crash during runtime.

The reason mypy does not flag definitions like `summarize` as being potentially unsafe is because if it did, it would be extremely difficult to write a safe overload. For example, suppose we define an overload with two variants that accept types `A` and `B` respectively. Even if those two types were completely unrelated, the user could still potentially trigger a runtime error similar to the ones above by passing in a value of some third type `C` that inherits from both `A` and `B`.

Thankfully, these types of situations are relatively rare. What this does mean, however, is that you should exercise caution when designing or using an overloaded function that can potentially receive values that are an instance of two seemingly unrelated types.

### 18.3.4 Type checking the implementation

The body of an implementation is type-checked against the type hints provided on the implementation. For example, in the `MyList` example up above, the code in the body is checked with argument list `index: Union[int, slice]` and a return type of `Union[T, Sequence[T]]`. If there are no annotations on the implementation, then the body is not type checked. If you want to force mypy to check the body anyways, use the `--check-untyped-defs` flag (more details here).
The variants must also also be compatible with the implementation type hints. In the `MyList` example, mypy will check that the parameter type `int` and the return type `T` are compatible with `Union[int, slice]` and `Union[T, Sequence]` for the first variant. For the second variant it verifies the parameter type `slice` and the return type `Sequence[T]` are compatible with `Union[int, slice]` and `Union[T, Sequence]`.

Note: The overload semantics documented above are new as of mypy 0.620.

Previously, mypy used to perform type erasure on all overload variants. For example, the `summarize` example from the previous section used to be illegal because `List[str]` and `List[int]` both erased to just `List[Any]`. This restriction was removed in mypy 0.620.

Mypy also previously used to select the best matching variant using a different algorithm. If this algorithm failed to find a match, it would default to returning `Any`. The new algorithm uses the “pick the first match” rule and will fall back to returning `Any` only if the input arguments also contain `Any`.

### 18.4 Advanced uses of self-types

Normally, mypy doesn’t require annotations for the first arguments of instance and class methods. However, they may be needed to have more precise static typing for certain programming patterns.

#### 18.4.1 Restricted methods in generic classes

In generic classes some methods may be allowed to be called only for certain values of type arguments:

```python
T = TypeVar('T')

class Tag(Generic[T]):
    item: T
    def uppercase_item(self: Tag[str]) -> str:
        return self.item.upper()

def label(ti: Tag[int], ts: Tag[str]) -> None:
    ti.uppercase_item()  # E: Invalid self argument "Tag[int]" to attribute function "uppercase_item" with type "Callable[[Tag[str]], str]"
    ts.uppercase_item()  # This is OK
```

This pattern also allows matching on nested types in situations where the type argument is itself generic:

```python
T = TypeVar('T')
S = TypeVar('S')

class Storage(Generic[T]):
    def __init__(self, content: T) -> None:
        self.content = content
    def first_chunk(self: Storage[Sequence[S]]) -> S:
        return self.content[0]

page: Storage[List[str]]
page.first_chunk()  # OK, type is "str"

Storage(0).first_chunk()  # Error: Invalid self argument "Storage[int]" to attribute function "first_chunk" with type "Callable[[Storage[Sequence[S]]], S]"
```

(continues on next page)
Finally, one can use overloads on self-type to express precise types of some tricky methods:

```python
T = TypeVar('T')

class Tag(Generic[T]):
    @overload
def export(self: Tag[str]) -> str: ...
    @overload
def export(self, converter: Callable[[T], str]) -> str: ...

def export(self, converter=None):
    if isinstance(self.item, str):
        return self.item
    return converter(self.item)
```

In particular, an `__init__()` method overloaded on self-type may be useful to annotate generic class constructors where type arguments depend on constructor parameters in a non-trivial way, see e.g. `Popen`.

### 18.4.2 Mixin classes

Using host class protocol as a self-type in mixin methods allows more code re-usability for static typing of mixin classes. For example, one can define a protocol that defines common functionality for host classes instead of adding required abstract methods to every mixin:

```python
class Lockable(Protocol):
    @property
def lock(self) -> Lock: ...

class AtomicCloseMixin:
def atomic_close(self: Lockable) -> int:
    with self.lock:
        # perform actions

class AtomicOpenMixin:
def atomic_open(self: Lockable) -> int:
    with self.lock:
        # perform actions

class File(AtomicCloseMixin, AtomicOpenMixin):
def __init__(self) -> None:
    self.lock = Lock()

class Bad(AtomicCloseMixin):
    pass
```

```python
f = File()
b: Bad
f.atomic_close()  # OK
b.atomic_close()  # Error: Invalid self type for "atomic_close"
```

Note that the explicit self-type is `required` to be a protocol whenever it is not a supertype of the current class. In this case mypy will check the validity of the self-type only at the call site.
18.4.3 Precise typing of alternative constructors

Some classes may define alternative constructors. If these classes are generic, self-type allows giving them precise signatures:

```python
T = TypeVar('T')

class Base[Generic[T]]:
    Q = TypeVar('Q', bound='Base[T]')

    def __init__(self, item: T) -> None:
        self.item = item

    @classmethod
    def make_pair(cls: Type[Q], item: T) -> Tuple[Q, Q]:
        return cls(item), cls(item)

class Sub[Base[T]]:
    ...

pair = Sub.make_pair('yes')  # Type is "Tuple[Sub[str], Sub[str]]"
bad = Sub[int].make_pair('no')  # Error: Argument 1 to "make_pair" of "Base"
    # has incompatible type "str"; expected "int"
```

18.5 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.

```python
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 Coroutine[Any, Any, T], which is a subtype of Awaitable[T]:

```python
my_coroutine = countdown_1("Millennium Falcon", 5)
reveal_type(my_coroutine)  # has type 'Coroutine[Any, Any, str]'""
Note: `reveal_type()` displays the inferred static type of an expression.

If you want to use coroutines in Python 3.4, which does 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.

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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.
18.6 TypedDict

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

```python
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:

```python
from typing_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:

```python
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:

```python
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:

```python
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 a compatible with (a subtype of) a narrower TypedDict, assuming item types are compatible (totality also affects subtyping, as discussed below).

A TypedDict object is not a subtype of the regular Dict[...] type (and vice versa), since Dict allows arbitrary keys to be added and removed, unlike TypedDict. However, any TypedDict object is a subtype of (that is,
compatible with) `Mapping[str, object]`, since `Mapping` only provides read-only access to the dictionary items:

```python
def print_typed_dict(obj: Mapping[str, object]) -> None:
    for key, value in obj.items():
        print('{}: {}'.format(key, value))

print_typed_dict(Movie(name='Toy Story', year=1995))  # OK
```

**Note:** Unless you are on Python 3.8 or newer (where `TypedDict` is available in standard library `typing` module) you need to install `typing_extensions` using pip to use `TypedDict`:

```bash
python3 -m pip install --upgrade typing-extensions
```

Or, if you are using Python 2:

```bash
pip install --upgrade typing-extensions
```

## 18.6.1 Totality

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

```python
# 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:

```python
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 `TypedDict`s as well.)

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

```python
# 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 `TypedDict` is not valid when a partial one is expected.

## 18.6.2 Supported operations

`TypedDict` objects support a subset of dictionary operations and methods. You must use string literals as keys when calling most of the methods, as otherwise mypy won’t be able to check that the key is valid. List of supported operations:
• Anything included in Mapping:
  - d[key]
  - key in d
  - len(d)
  - for key in d (iteration)
  - d.get(key[, default])
  - d.keys()
  - d.values()
  - d.items()
• d.copy()
• d.setdefault(key, default)
• d1.update(d2)
• d.pop(key[, default]) (partial TypedDicts only)
• del d[key] (partial TypedDicts only)

In Python 2 code, these methods are also supported:
• has_key(key)
• viewitems()
• viewkeys()
• viewvalues()

Note: clear() and popitem() are not supported since they are unsafe – they could delete required TypedDict items that are not visible to mypy because of structural subtyping.

18.6.3 Class-based syntax

An alternative, class-based syntax to define a TypedDict is supported in Python 3.6 and later:

```python
from typing_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:

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

(continues on next page)
class BookBasedMovie(Movie):
    based_on: str

Now BookBasedMovie has keys name, year and based_on.

### 18.6.4 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:

```python
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`.

### 18.6.5 Unions of TypedDicts

Since `TypedDicts` are really just regular dicts at runtime, it is not possible to use `isinstance` checks to distinguish between different variants of a Union of `TypedDict` in the same way you can with regular objects.

Instead, you can use the tagged union pattern. The referenced section of the docs has a full description with an example, but in short, you will need to give each `TypedDict` the same key where each value has a unique unique `Literal` type. Then, check that key to distinguish between your `TypedDicts`. 
Literal types let you indicate that an expression is equal to some specific primitive value. For example, if we annotate a variable with type `Literal["foo"]`, mypy will understand that variable is not only of type `str`, but is also equal to specifically the string "foo".

This feature is primarily useful when annotating functions that behave differently based on the exact value the caller provides. For example, suppose we have a function `fetch_data(...)` that returns `bytes` if the first argument is `True`, and `str` if it’s `False`. We can construct a precise type signature for this function using `Literal[...]` and overloads:

```python
from typing import overload, Union, Literal

# The first two overloads use Literal[...] so we can
# have precise return types:

@overload
def fetch_data(raw: Literal[True]) -> bytes: ...
@overload
def fetch_data(raw: Literal[False]) -> str: ...

# The last overload is a fallback in case the caller
# provides a regular bool:

@overload
def fetch_data(raw: bool) -> Union[bytes, str]: ...

def fetch_data(raw: bool) -> Union[bytes, str]:
    # Implementation is omitted
    ...

reveal_type(fetch_data(True))  # Revealed type is "bytes"
reveal_type(fetch_data(False))  # Revealed type is "str"

# Variables declared without annotations will continue to have an
# inferred type of 'bool'.
```

(continues on next page)
variable = True
reveal_type(fetch_data(variable))  # Revealed type is "Union[bytes, str]"

Note: The examples in this page import Literal as well as Final and TypedDict from the typing module. These types were added to typing in Python 3.8, but are also available for use in Python 2.7 and 3.4 - 3.7 via the typing_extensions package.

19.1 Parameterizing Literals

Literal types may contain one or more literal bools, ints, strs, bytes, and enum values. However, literal types cannot contain arbitrary expressions: types like Literal[my_string.trim()], Literal[x > 3], or Literal[3j + 4] are all illegal.

Literals containing two or more values are equivalent to the union of those values. So, Literal[-3, b"foo", MyEnum.A] is equivalent to Union[Literal[-3], Literal[b"foo"], Literal[MyEnum.A]]. This makes writing more complex types involving literals a little more convenient.

Literal types may also contain None. Mypy will treat Literal[None] as being equivalent to just None. This means that Literal[4, None], Union[Literal[4], None], and Optional[Literal[4]] are all equivalent.

Literals may also contain aliases to other literal types. For example, the following program is legal:

```python
PrimaryColors = Literal["red", "blue", "yellow"]
SecondaryColors = Literal["purple", "green", "orange"]
AllowedColors = Literal[PrimaryColors, SecondaryColors]

def paint(color: AllowedColors) -> None: ...

paint("red")  # Type checks!
paint("turquoise") # Does not type check
```

Literals may not contain any other kind of type or expression. This means doing Literal[my_instance], Literal[Any], Literal[3.14], or Literal[{"foo": 2, "bar": 5}] are all illegal.

19.2 Declaring literal variables

You must explicitly add an annotation to a variable to declare that it has a literal type:

```python
a: Literal[19] = 19
reveal_type(a)  # Revealed type is "Literal[19]"
```

In order to preserve backwards-compatibility, variables without this annotation are not assumed to be literals:

```python
b = 19
reveal_type(b)  # Revealed type is "int"
```

If you find repeating the value of the variable in the type hint to be tedious, you can instead change the variable to be Final (see Final names, methods and classes):
from typing import Final, Literal

def expects_literal(x: Literal[19]) -> None: pass

c: Final = 19
reveal_type(c)  # Revealed type is "Literal[19]"
expects_literal(c)  # ...and this type checks!

If you do not provide an explicit type in the Final, the type of c becomes context-sensitive: mypy will basically try “substituting” the original assigned value whenever it’s used before performing type checking. This is why the revealed type of c is Literal[19]?: the question mark at the end reflects this context-sensitive nature.

For example, mypy will type check the above program almost as if it were written like so:

from typing import Final, Literal

def expects_literal(x: Literal[19]) -> None: pass

reveal_type(19)  # Revealed type is "int"
expects_literal(19)

This means that while changing a variable to be Final is not quite the same thing as adding an explicit Literal[..] annotation, it often leads to the same effect in practice.

The main cases where the behavior of context-sensitive vs true literal types differ are when you try using those types in places that are not explicitly expecting a Literal[..]. For example, compare and contrast what happens when you try appending these types to a list:

from typing import Final, Literal

a: Final = 19
b: Literal[19] = 19
# Mypy will chose to infer List[int] here.
list_of_ints = []
list_of_ints.append(a)
reveal_type(list_of_ints)  # Revealed type is "List[int]"

# But if the variable you're appending is an explicit Literal, mypy
# will infer List[Literal[19]].
list_of_lits = []
list_of_lits.append(b)
reveal_type(list_of_lits)  # Revealed type is "List[Literal[19]]"

19.3 Intelligent indexing

We can use Literal types to more precisely index into structured heterogeneous types such as tuples, NamedTuples, and TypedDicts. This feature is known as intelligent indexing.

For example, when we index into a tuple using some int, the inferred type is normally the union of the tuple item types. However, if we want just the type corresponding to some particular index, we can use Literal types like so:

from typing import TypedDict

(continues on next page)
tup = ("foo", 3.4)

# Indexing with an int literal gives us the exact type for that index
reveal_type(tup[0])  # Revealed type is "str"

# But what if we want the index to be a variable? Normally mypy won't
# know exactly what the index is and so will return a less precise type:
int_index = 1
reveal_type(tup[int_index])  # Revealed type is "Union[str, float]"

# But if we use either Literal types or a Final int, we can gain back
# the precision we originally had:
lit_index: Literal[1] = 1
fin_index: Final = 1
reveal_type(tup[lit_index])  # Revealed type is "str"
reveal_type(tup[fin_index])  # Revealed type is "str"

# We can do the same thing with with TypedDict and str keys:

class MyDict(TypedDict):
    name: str
    main_id: int
    backup_id: int

d: MyDict = {"name": "Saanvi", "main_id": 111, "backup_id": 222}
name_key: Final = "name"
reveal_type(d[name_key])  # Revealed type is "str"

# You can also index using unions of literals
id_key: Literal["main_id", "backup_id"]
reveal_type(d[id_key])  # Revealed type is "int"

19.4 Tagged unions

When you have a union of types, you can normally discriminate between each type in the union by using
isinstance checks. For example, if you had a variable x of type Union[int, str], you could write some
code that runs only if x is an int by doing if isinstance(x, int): ....

However, it is not always possible or convenient to do this. For example, it is not possible to use isinstance to
distinguish between two different TypedDicts since at runtime, your variable will simply be just a dict.

Instead, what you can do is label or tag your TypedDicts with a distinct Literal type. Then, you can discriminate
between each kind of TypedDict by checking the label:

from typing import Literal, TypedDict, Union

class NewJobEvent(TypedDict):
    tag: Literal["new-job"]
    job_name: str
    config_file_path: str

class CancelJobEvent(TypedDict):
    tag: Literal["cancel-job"]
    job_id: int

(continues on next page)
Event = Union[NewJobEvent, CancelJobEvent]

```python
def process_event(event: Event) -> None:
    # Since we made sure both TypedDicts have a key named 'tag', it's
    # safe to do 'event['tag']'. This expression normally has the type
    # Literal['new-job', 'cancel-job'], but the check below will narrow
    # the type to either Literal['new-job'] or Literal['cancel-job'].
    #
    # This in turns narrows the type of 'event' to either NewJobEvent
    # or CancelJobEvent.
    if event['tag'] == 'new-job':
        print(event['job_name'])
    else:
        print(event['job_id'])
```

While this feature is mostly useful when working with TypedDicts, you can also use the same technique with regular objects, tuples, or nametuples.

Similarly, tags do not need to be specifically str Literals: they can be any type you can normally narrow within if statements and the like. For example, you could have your tags be int or Enum Literals or even regular classes you narrow using `isinstance()`:

```python
from typing import Generic, TypeVar, Union

T = TypeVar('T')

class Wrapper(Generic[T]):
    def __init__(self, inner: T) -> None:
        self.inner = inner

    def process(w: Union[Wrapper[int], Wrapper[str]]) -> None:
        # Doing `if isinstance(w, Wrapper[int])` does not work: isinstance requires
        # that the second argument always be an *erased* type, with no generics.
        # This is because generics are a typing-only concept and do not exist at
        # runtime in a way `isinstance` can always check.
        #
        # However, we can side-step this by checking the type of `w.inner` to
        # narrow `w` itself:
        if isinstance(w.inner, int):
            reveal_type(w)  # Revealed type is "Wrapper[int]"
        else:
            reveal_type(w)  # Revealed type is "Wrapper[str]"
```

This feature is sometimes called “sum types” or “discriminated union types” in other programming languages.

### 19.5 Limitations

Mypy will not understand expressions that use variables of type Literal[..] on a deep level. For example, if you have a variable a of type Literal[3] and another variable b of type Literal[5], mypy will infer that a + b has type int, not type Literal[8].

The basic rule is that literal types are treated as just regular subtypes of whatever type the parameter has. For example, Literal[3] is treated as a subtype of int and so will inherit all of int’s methods directly. This means that Literal[3].__add__ accepts the same arguments and has the same return type as int.__add__.
This section introduces these related features:

1. **Final names** are variables or attributes that should not be reassigned after initialization. They are useful for declaring constants.

2. **Final methods** should not be overridden in a subclass.

3. **Final classes** should not be subclassed.

All of these are only enforced by mypy, and only in annotated code. They is no runtime enforcement by the Python runtime.

**Note:** The examples in this page import `Final` and `final` from the `typing` module. These types were added to `typing` in Python 3.8, but are also available for use in Python 2.7 and 3.4 - 3.7 via the `typing_extensions` package.

## 20.1 Final names

You can use the `typing.Final` qualifier to indicate that a name or attribute should not be reassigned, redefined, or overridden. This is often useful for module and class level constants as a way to prevent unintended modification. Mypy will prevent further assignments to final names in type-checked code:

```python
from typing import Final

RATE: Final = 3000

class Base:
    DEFAULT_ID: Final = 0

RATE = 300  # Error: can't assign to final attribute
Base.DEFAULT_ID = 1  # Error: can't override a final attribute
```
Another use case for final attributes is to protect certain attributes from being overridden in a subclass:

```python
from typing import Final

class Window:
    BORDER_WIDTH: Final = 2.5
...

class ListView(Window):
    BORDER_WIDTH = 3  # Error: can't override a final attribute
```

You can use `@property` to make an attribute read-only, but unlike `Final`, it doesn’t work with module attributes, and it doesn’t prevent overriding in subclasses.

### 20.1.1 Syntax variants

You can use `Final` in one of these forms:

- You can provide an explicit type using the syntax `Final[type]`. Example:

  ```python
  ID: Final[int] = 1
  ```

  Here mypy will infer type `int` for `ID`.

- You can omit the type:

  ```python
  ID: Final = 1
  ```

  Here mypy will infer type `Literal[1]` for `ID`. Note that unlike for generic classes this is not the same as `Final[Any]`.

- In class bodies and stub files you can omit the right hand side and just write `ID: Final[int]`.

- Finally, you can write `self.id: Final = 1` (also optionally with a type in square brackets). This is allowed only in `__init__` methods, so that the final instance attribute is assigned only once when an instance is created.

### 20.1.2 Details of using `Final`

These are the two main rules for defining a final name:

- There can be at most one final declaration per module or class for a given attribute. There can’t be separate class-level and instance-level constants with the same name.

- There must be exactly one assignment to a final name.

A final attribute declared in a class body without an initializer must be initialized in the `__init__` method (you can skip the initializer in stub files):

```python
class ImmutablePoint:
    x: Final[int]
    y: Final[int]  # Error: final attribute without an initializer

    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.x = 1  # Good
```

`Final` can only be used as the outermost type in assignments or variable annotations. Using it in any other position is an error. In particular, `Final` can’t be used in annotations for function arguments:
Final and `ClassVar` should not be used together. Mypy will infer the scope of a final declaration automatically depending on whether it was initialized in the class body or in `__init__`.

A final attribute can’t be overridden by a subclass (even with another explicit final declaration). Note however that a final attribute can override a read-only property:

```python
class Base:
    @property
def ID(self) -> int: ...

class Derived(Base):
def ID: Final = 1  # OK
```

Declaring a name as final only guarantees that the name will not be re-bound to another value. It doesn’t make the value immutable. You can use immutable ABCs and containers to prevent mutating such values:

```python
x: Final = ['a', 'b']
x.append('c')  # OK

y: Final[Sequence[str]] = ['a', 'b']
y.append('x')  # Error: Sequence is immutable
z: Final = ('a', 'b')  # Also an option
```

## 20.2 Final methods

Like with attributes, sometimes it is useful to protect a method from overriding. You can use the `typing.final` decorator for this purpose:

```python
from typing import final
class Base:
    @final
def common_name(self) -> None:
        ...

class Derived(Base):
def common_name(self) -> None:  # Error: cannot override a final method
    ...
```

This `@final` decorator can be used with instance methods, class methods, static methods, and properties.

For overloaded methods you should add `@final` on the implementation to make it final (or on the first overload in stubs):

```python
from typing import Any, overload
class Base:
    @overload
def method(self) -> None:
        ...
```
20.3 Final classes

You can apply the `typing.final` decorator to a class to indicate to mypy that it should not be subclassed:

```python
from typing import final

@final
class Leaf:
   ...

class MyLeaf(Leaf):  # Error: Leaf can't be subclassed
   ...
```

The decorator acts as a declaration for mypy (and as documentation for humans), but it doesn’t actually prevent subclassing at runtime.

Here are some situations where using a final class may be useful:

- A class wasn’t designed to be subclassed. Perhaps subclassing would not work as expected, or subclassing would be error-prone.
- Subclassing would make code harder to understand or maintain. For example, you may want to prevent unnecessarily tight coupling between base classes and subclasses.
- You want to retain the freedom to arbitrarily change the class implementation in the future, and these changes might break subclasses.

An abstract class that defines at least one abstract method or property and has `@final` decorator will generate an error from mypy, since those attributes could never be implemented.

```python
from abc import ABCMeta, abstractmethod
from typing import final

@final
class A(metaclass=ABCMeta):  # error: Final class A has abstract attributes "f"
   @abstractmethod
   def f(self, x: int) -> None: pass
```
A metaclass is a class that describes the construction and behavior of other classes, similarly to how classes describe the construction and behavior of objects. The default metaclass is `type`, but it’s possible to use other metaclasses. Metaclasses allows one to create “a different kind of class”, such as Enums, NamedTuples and singletons.

Mypy has some special understanding of `ABCMeta` and `EnumMeta`.

### 21.1 Defining a metaclass

```python
class M(type):
    pass

class A(metaclass=M):
    pass
```

In Python 2, the syntax for defining a metaclass is different:

```python
class A(object):
    __metaclass__ = M
```

Mypy also supports using `six.with_metaclass()` and `@six.add_metaclass` to define metaclass in a portable way:

```python
import six

class A(six.with_metaclass(M)):
    pass

@six.add_metaclass(M)
class C(object):
    pass
```
21.2 Metaclass usage example

Mypy supports the lookup of attributes in the metaclass:

```python
from typing import Type, TypeVar, ClassVar
T = TypeVar('T')

class M(type):
    count: ClassVar[int] = 0

    def make(cls: Type[T]) -> T:
        M.count += 1
        return cls()

class A(metaclass=M):
    pass

a: A = A.make()  # make() is looked up at M; the result is an object of type A
print(A.count)

class B(A):
    pass

b: B = B.make()  # metaclasses are inherited
print(B.count + " objects were created")  # Error: Unsupported operand types for + ("int" and "str")
```

21.3 Gotchas and limitations of metaclass support

Note that metaclasses pose some requirements on the inheritance structure, so it’s better not to combine metaclasses and class hierarchies:

```python
class M1(type): pass
class M2(type): pass

class A1(metaclass=M1): pass
class A2(metaclass=M2): pass

class B1(A1, metaclass=M2): pass  # Mypy Error: Inconsistent metaclass structure for 'B1'
    # At runtime the above definition raises an exception
    # TypeError: metaclass conflict: the metaclass of a derived class must be a (non-
    # strict) subclass of the metaclasses of all its bases
    # Same runtime error as in B1, but mypy does not catch it yet
    class B12(A1, A2): pass
```

- Mypy does not understand dynamically-computed metaclasses, such as `class A(metaclass=f()): ..`.
- Mypy does not and cannot understand arbitrary metaclass code.
- Mypy only recognizes subclasses of `type` as potential metaclasses.
Running mypy and managing imports

The \textit{Getting started} page should have already introduced you to the basics of how to run mypy – pass in the files and directories you want to type check via the command line:

\begin{verbatim}
$ mypy foo.py bar.py some_directory
\end{verbatim}

This page discusses in more detail how exactly to specify what files you want mypy to type check, how mypy discovers imported modules, and recommendations on how to handle any issues you may encounter along the way.

If you are interested in learning about how to configure the actual way mypy type checks your code, see our \textit{The mypy command line} guide.

\section{Specifying code to be checked}

Mypy lets you specify what files it should type check in several different ways.

Note that if you use namespace packages (in particular, packages without \texttt{\_\_init\_.py}), you’ll need to specify \texttt{--namespace-packages}.

1. First, you can pass in paths to Python files and directories you want to type check. For example:

\begin{verbatim}
$ mypy file_1.py foo/file_2.py file_3.pyi some/directory
\end{verbatim}

The above command tells mypy it should type check all of the provided files together. In addition, mypy will recursively type check the entire contents of any provided directories.

For more details about how exactly this is done, see \textit{Mapping file paths to modules}.

2. Second, you can use the \texttt{--m} flag (long form: \texttt{--module}) to specify a module name to be type checked. The name of a module is identical to the name you would use to import that module within a Python program. For example, running:

\begin{verbatim}
$ mypy -m html.parser
\end{verbatim}
...will type check the module `html.parser` (this happens to be a library stub).

Mypy will use an algorithm very similar to the one Python uses to find where modules and imports are located on the file system. For more details, see *How imports are found*.

3. Third, you can use the `-p` (long form: `--package`) flag to specify a package to be (recursively) type checked. This flag is almost identical to the `-m` flag except that if you give it a package name, mypy will recursively type check all submodules and subpackages of that package. For example, running:

   ```bash
   $ mypy -p html
   ...
   ```

   ...will type check the entire `html` package (of library stubs). In contrast, if we had used the `-m` flag, mypy would have type checked just `html`'s `__init__.py` file and anything imported from there.

   Note that we can specify multiple packages and modules on the command line. For example:

   ```bash
   $ mypy --package p.a --package p.b --module c
   ```

4. Fourth, you can also instruct mypy to directly type check small strings as programs by using the `-c` (long form: `--command`) flag. For example:

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

   ...will type check the above string as a mini-program (and in this case, will report that `List[int]` is not callable).

**22.2 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:

```bash
$ mypy $(cat file_of_files.txt)
```

you can use this instead:

```bash
$ mypy @file_of_files.txt
```

This file can technically also contain any command line flag, not just file paths. However, if you want to configure many different flags, the recommended approach is to use a *configuration file* instead.

**22.3 How mypy handles imports**

When mypy encounters an `import` statement, it will first *attempt to locate* that module or type stubs for that module in the file system. Mypy will then type check the imported module. There are three different outcomes of this process:

1. Mypy is unable to follow the import: the module either does not exist, or is a third party library that does not use type hints.
2. Mypy is able to follow and type check the import, but you did not want mypy to type check that module at all.
3. Mypy is able to successfully both follow and type check the module, and you want mypy to type check that module.

The third outcome is what mypy will do in the ideal case. The following sections will discuss what to do in the other two cases.
# 22.4 Missing imports

When you import a module, mypy may report that it is unable to follow the import.

This can cause errors that look like the following:

```python
main.py:1: error: Library stubs not installed for "requests" (or incompatible with Python 3.8)
main.py:2: error: Skipping analyzing 'django': found module but no type hints or library stubs
main.py:3: error: Cannot find implementation or library stub for module named "this_module_does_not_exist"
```

If you get any of these errors on an import, mypy will assume the type of that module is `Any`, the dynamic type. This means attempting to access any attribute of the module will automatically succeed:

```python
# Error: Cannot find implementation or library stub for module named 'does_not_exist'
import does_not_exist

# But this type checks, and x will have type 'Any'
x = does_not_exist.foobar()
```

The next sections describe what each error means and recommended next steps.

## 22.4.1 Library stubs not installed

If mypy can’t find stubs for a third-party library, and it knows that stubs exist for the library, you will get a message like this:

```python
main.py:1: error: Library stubs not installed for "yaml" (or incompatible with Python 3.8)
main.py:1: note: Hint: "python3 -m pip install types-YAML"
```

You can resolve the issue by running the suggested `pip` command or commands. Alternatively, you can use `--install-types` to install all known missing stubs:

```bash
mypy --install-types
```

This installs any stub packages that were suggested in the previous mypy run. You can also use your normal mypy command line with the extra `--install-types` option to install missing stubs at the end of the run (if any were found).

You can also get this message if the stubs only support Python 3 and your target Python version is Python 2, or vice versa. In this case follow instructions in *Missing type hints for third party library*.

## 22.4.2 Missing type hints for third party library

If you are getting a “Skipping analyzing X: found module but no type hints or library stubs”, error, this means mypy was able to find the module you were importing, but no corresponding type hints.

Mypy will not try inferring the types of any 3rd party libraries you have installed unless they either have declared themselves to be PEP 561 compliant stub package (e.g. with a `py.typed` file) or have registered themselves on typeshed, the repository of types for the standard library and some 3rd party libraries.

If you are getting this error, try:
1. Upgrading the version of the library you’re using, in case a newer version has started to include type hints.

2. Searching to see if there is a PEP 561 compliant stub package, corresponding to your third party library. Stub packages let you install type hints independently from the library itself.

   For example, if you want type hints for the django library, you can install the django-stubs package.

3. Writing your own stub files containing type hints for the library. You can point mypy at your type hints either by passing them in via the command line, by using the files or mypy_path config file options, or by adding the location to the MYPYPATH environment variable.

   These stub files do not need to be complete! A good strategy is to use stubgen, a program that comes bundled with mypy, to generate a first rough draft of the stubs. You can then iterate on just the parts of the library you need.

   If you want to share your work, you can try contributing your stubs back to the library – see our documentation on creating PEP 561 compliant packages.

If you are unable to find any existing type hints nor have time to write your own, you can instead suppress the errors. All this will do is make mypy stop reporting an error on the line containing the import: the imported module will continue to be of type Any.

1. To suppress a single missing import error, add a # type: ignore at the end of the line containing the import.

2. To suppress all missing import imports errors from a single library, add a section to your mypy config file for that library setting ignore_missing_imports to True. For example, suppose your codebase makes heavy use of an (untyped) library named foobar. You can silence all import errors associated with that library and that library alone by adding the following section to your config file:

   ```
   [mypy-foobar.*]
   ignore_missing_imports = True
   ```

   Note: this option is equivalent to adding a # type: ignore to every import of foobar in your codebase. For more information, see the documentation about configuring import discovery in config files. The .* after foobar will ignore imports of foobar modules and subpackages in addition to the foobar top-level package namespace.

3. To suppress all missing import errors for all libraries in your codebase, invoke mypy with the --ignore-missing-imports command line flag or set the ignore_missing_imports config file option to True in the global section of your mypy config file:

   ```
   [mypy]
   ignore_missing_imports = True
   ```

   We recommend using this approach only as a last resort: it’s equivalent to adding a # type: ignore to all unresolved imports in your codebase.

22.4.3 Unable to find module

If you are getting a “Cannot find implementation or library stub for module” error, this means mypy was not able to find the module you are trying to import, whether it comes bundled with type hints or not. If you are getting this error, try:

1. Making sure your import does not contain a typo.

2. If the module is a third party library, making sure that mypy is able to find the interpreter containing the installed library.
Mypy Documentation, Release 0.820+dev.2ac722ac7d844f4c5ae2f3c36f3470543cf01b11.dirty

For example, if you are running your code in a virtualenv, make sure to install and use mypy within the virtualenv. Alternatively, if you want to use a globally installed mypy, set the `--python-executable` command line flag to point the Python interpreter containing your installed third party packages.

2. Reading the *How imports are found* section below to make sure you understand how exactly mypy searches for and finds modules and modify how you’re invoking mypy accordingly.

3. Directly specifying the directory containing the module you want to type check from the command line, by using the `mypy_path` or `files` config file options, or by using the `MYPYPATH` environment variable.

Note: if the module you are trying to import is actually a submodule of some package, you should specify the directory containing the `entire` package. For example, suppose you are trying to add the module `foo.bar.baz` which is located at `~/foo-project/src/foo/bar/baz.py`. In this case, you must run `mypy ~/foo-project/src` (or set the `MYPYPATH` to `~/foo-project/src`.

4. If you are using namespace packages – packages which do not contain `__init__.py` files within each sub-folder – using the `--namespace-packages` command line flag.

In some rare cases, you may get the “Cannot find implementation or library stub for module” error even when the module is installed in your system. This can happen when the module is both missing type hints and is installed on your system in an unconventional way.

In this case, follow the steps above on how to handle *missing type hints in third party libraries*.

### 22.5 Following imports

Mypy is designed to *doggedly follow all imports*, even if the imported module is not a file you explicitly wanted mypy to check.

For example, suppose we have two modules `mycode.foo` and `mycode.bar`: the former has type hints and the latter does not. We run `mypy -m mycode.foo` and mypy discovers that `mycode.foo` imports `mycode.bar`.

How do we want mypy to type check `mycode.bar`? Mypy’s behaviour here is configurable – although we *strongly recommend* using the default – by using the `--follow-imports` flag. This flag accepts one of four string values:

- **normal** (the default, recommended) follows all imports normally and type checks all top level code (as well as the bodies of all functions and methods with at least one type annotation in the signature).
- **silent** behaves in the same way as normal but will additionally *suppress* any error messages.
- **skip** will not follow imports and instead will silently replace the module (and *anything imported from it*) with an object of type `Any`.
- **error** behaves in the same way as skip but is not quite as silent – it will flag the import as an error, like this:

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

If you are starting a new codebase and plan on using type hints from the start, we recommend you use either `--follow-imports=normal` (the default) or `--follow-imports=error`. Either option will help make sure you are not skipping checking any part of your codebase by accident.

If you are planning on adding type hints to a large, existing code base, we recommend you start by trying to make your entire codebase (including files that do not use type hints) pass under `--follow-imports=normal`. This is usually not too difficult to do: mypy is designed to report as few error messages as possible when it is looking at unannotated code.

Only if doing this is intractable, we recommend passing mypy just the files you want to type check and use `--follow-imports=silent`. Even if mypy is unable to perfectly type check a file, it can still glean some
useful information by parsing it (for example, understanding what methods a given object has). See *Using mypy with an existing codebase* for more recommendations.

We do not recommend using `skip` unless you know what you are doing: while this option can be quite powerful, it can also cause many hard-to-debug errors.

## 22.6 Mapping file paths to modules

One of the main ways you can tell mypy what to type check is by providing mypy a list of paths. For example:

```
$ mypy file_1.py foo/file_2.py file_3.pyi some/directory
```

This section describes how exactly mypy maps the provided paths to modules to type check.

- Mypy will check all paths provided that correspond to files.
- Mypy will recursively discover and check all files ending in `.py` or `.pyi` in directory paths provided, after accounting for `--exclude`.
- For each file to be checked, mypy will attempt to associate the file (e.g. `project/foo/bar/baz.py`) with a fully qualified module name (e.g. `foo.bar.baz`). The directory the package is in (project) is then added to mypy’s module search paths.

How mypy determines fully qualified module names depends on if the options `--namespace-packages` and `--explicit-package-bases` are set.

1. If `--namespace-packages` is off, mypy will rely solely upon the presence of `__init__.py` files to determine the fully qualified module name. That is, mypy will crawl up the directory tree for as long as it continues to find `__init__.py` (or `__init__.pyi`) files.

   For example, if your directory tree consists of `pkg/subpkg/mod.py`, mypy would require `pkg/__init__.py` and `pkg/subpkg/__init__.py` to exist in order correctly associate `mod.py` with `pkg.subpkg.mod`.

2. If `--namespace-packages` is on, but `--explicit-package-bases` is off, mypy will allow for the possibility that directories without `__init__.py` files are packages. Specifically, mypy will look at all parent directories of the file and use the location of the highest `__init__.py` file in the directory tree to determine the top-level package.

   For example, say your directory tree consists solely of `pkg/__init__.py` and `pkg/a/b/c/d/mod.py`. When determining `mod.py`'s fully qualified module name, mypy will look at `pkg/__init__.py` and conclude that the associated module name is `pkg.a.b.c.d.mod`.

3. You’ll notice that the above case still relies on `__init__.py`. If you can’t put an `__init__.py` in your top-level package, but still wish to pass paths (as opposed to packages or modules using the `-p` or `-m` flags), `--explicit-package-bases` provides a solution.

   With `--explicit-package-bases`, mypy will locate the nearest parent directory that is a member of the `MYPYPATH` environment variable, the `mypy_path` config or is the current working directory. Mypy will then use the relative path to determine the fully qualified module name.

   For example, say your directory tree consists solely of `src/namespace_pkg/mod.py`. If you run the command following command, mypy will correctly associate `mod.py` with `namespace_pkg.mod`:

   ```
   $ MYPYPATH=src mypy --namespace-packages --explicit-package-bases .
   ```

   If you pass a file not ending in `.py[i]`, the module name assumed is `__main__` (matching the behavior of the Python interpreter), unless `--scripts-are-modules` is passed.
22.7 How imports are found

When mypy encounters an import statement or receives module names from the command line via the --module or --package flags, mypy 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 mypy_path config file option.
- The directories containing the sources given on the command line (see Mapping file paths to modules).
- The installed packages marked as safe for type checking (see PEP 561 support)
- The relevant directories of the typeshed repo.

Note: You cannot point to a PEP 561 package via the MYPYPATH, it must be installed (see PEP 561 support)

Second, mypy searches for stub files in addition to regular Python files and packages. The rules for searching for a module foo 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 foo is found (i.e. a directory foo containing an __init__.py or __init__.pyi file) that’s a match.
- If a stub file named foo.pyi is found, that’s a match.
- If a Python module named foo.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.)

22.8 Other advice and best practices

There are multiple ways of telling mypy what files to type check, ranging from passing in command line arguments to using the files or mypy_path config file options to setting the MYPYPATH environment variable.

However, in practice, it is usually sufficient to just use either command line arguments or the files config file option (the two are largely interchangeable).

Setting mypy_path/MYPYPATH is mostly useful in the case where you want to try running mypy against multiple distinct sets of files that happen to share some common dependencies.

For example, if you have multiple projects that happen to be using the same set of work-in-progress stubs, it could be convenient to just have your MYPYPATH point to a single directory containing the stubs.
This section documents mypy’s command line interface. You can view a quick summary of the available flags by running `mypy --help`.

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

### 23.1 Specifying what to type check

By default, you can specify what code you want mypy to type check by passing in the paths to what you want to have type checked:

```
$ mypy foo.py bar.py some_directory
```

Note that directories are checked recursively.

Mypy also lets you specify what code to type check in several other ways. A short summary of the relevant flags is included below: for full details, see *Running mypy and managing imports*.

- `-m MODULE, --module MODULE`  
  
  Asks mypy to type check the provided module. This flag may be repeated multiple times.

  Mypy will not recursively type check any submodules of the provided module.

- `-p PACKAGE, --package PACKAGE`  
  
  Asks mypy to type check the provided package. This flag may be repeated multiple times.

  Mypy will recursively type check any submodules of the provided package. This flag is identical to `--module` apart from this behavior.

- `-c PROGRAM_TEXT, --command PROGRAM_TEXT`  
  
  Asks mypy to type check the provided string as a program.
--exclude
A regular expression that matches file names, directory names and paths which mypy should ignore while recursively discovering files to check. Use forward slashes on all platforms.

For instance, to avoid discovering any files named setup.py you could pass --exclude '/setup\.py$'. Similarly, you can ignore discovering directories with a given name by e.g. --exclude /build/ or those matching a subpath with --exclude /project/vendor/.

Note that this flag only affects recursive discovery, that is, when mypy is discovering files within a directory tree or submodules of a package to check. If you pass a file or module explicitly it will still be checked. For instance, mypy --exclude '/setup.py$' but_still_check/setup.py.

Note that mypy will never recursively discover files and directories named “site-packages”, “node_modules” or “__pycache__”, or those whose name starts with a period, exactly as --exclude '/(site-packages|node_modules|__pycache__|\..*)/$' would. Mypy will also never recursively discover files with extensions other than .py or .pyi.

23.2 Optional arguments

-h, --help
Show help message and exit.

-v, --verbose
More verbose messages.

-V, --version
Show program’s version number and exit.

23.3 Config file

--config-file CONFIG_FILE
This flag makes mypy read configuration settings from the given file.

By default settings are read from mypy.ini, mypy.ini, or setup.cfg in the current directory. Settings override mypy’s built-in defaults and command line flags can override settings.

Specifying --config-file= (with no filename) will ignore all config files.

See The mypy configuration file for the syntax of configuration files.

--warn-unused-configs
This flag makes mypy warn about unused [mypy-<pattern>] config file sections. (This requires turning off incremental mode using --no-incremental.)

23.4 Import discovery

The following flags customize how exactly mypy discovers and follows imports.

--namespace-packages
This flag enables import discovery to use namespace packages (see PEP 420). In particular, this allows discovery of imported packages that don’t have an __init__.py (or __init__.pyi) file.

Namespace packages are found (using the PEP 420 rules, which prefers “classic” packages over namespace packages) along the module search path – this is primarily set from the source files passed on the command line, the MYPYPATH environment variable, and the mypy_path config option.
This flag affects how mypy finds modules and packages explicitly passed on the command line. It also affects how mypy determines fully qualified module names for files passed on the command line. See `Mapping file paths to modules` for details.

---explicit-package-bases
This flag tells mypy that top-level packages will be based in either the current directory, or a member of the `MYPYPATH` environment variable or `mypy_path` config option. This option is only useful in conjunction with `--namespace-packages`. See `Mapping file paths to modules` for details.

---ignore-missing-imports
This flag makes mypy ignore all missing imports. It is equivalent to adding `# type: ignore` comments to all unresolved imports within your codebase.

Note that this flag does not suppress errors about missing names in successfully resolved modules. For example, if one has the following files:

```bash
package/__init__.py
package/mod.py
```

Then mypy will generate the following errors with `--ignore-missing-imports`:

```python
import package.unknown       # No error, ignored
x = package.unknown.func()  # OK. 'func' is assumed to be of type 'Any'

from package import unknown  # No error, ignored
from package.mod import NonExisting # Error: Module has no attribute 'NonExisting'
```

For more details, see `Missing imports`.

---follow-imports {normal,silent,skip,error}
This flag adjusts how mypy follows imported modules that were not explicitly passed in via the command line.

The default option is `normal`: mypy will follow and type check all modules. For more information on what the other options do, see `Following imports`.

---python-executable EXECUTABLE
This flag will have mypy collect type information from PEP 561 compliant packages installed for the Python executable `EXECUTABLE`. If not provided, mypy will use PEP 561 compliant packages installed for the Python executable running mypy.

See `Using installed packages` for more on making PEP 561 compliant packages.

---no-site-packages
This flag will disable searching for PEP 561 compliant packages. This will also disable searching for a usable Python executable.

Use this flag if mypy cannot find a Python executable for the version of Python being checked, and you don’t need to use PEP 561 typed packages. Otherwise, use `--python-executable`.

---no-silence-site-packages
By default, mypy will suppress any error messages generated within PEP 561 compliant packages. Adding this flag will disable this behavior.

### 23.5 Platform configuration

By default, mypy will assume that you intend to run your code using the same operating system and Python version you are using to run mypy itself. The following flags let you modify this behavior.
For more information on how to use these flags, see *Python version and system platform checks*.

```
--python-version X.Y
```

This flag will make mypy type check 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`.

This flag will attempt to find a Python executable of the corresponding version to search for PEP 561 compliant packages. If you’d like to disable this, use the `--no-site-packages` flag (see *Import discovery* for more details).

```
-2, --py2
```

Equivalent to running `--python-version 2.7`.

**Note:** To check Python 2 code with mypy, you’ll need to install mypy with `pip install 'mypy[python2]'`.

```
--platform PLATFORM
```

This flag will make mypy type check your code as if it were run under the given operating system. Without this option, mypy will default to using whatever operating system you are currently using.

The `PLATFORM` parameter may be any string supported by `sys.platform`.

```
--always-true NAME
```

This flag will treat all variables named `NAME` as compile-time constants that are always true. This flag may be repeated.

```
--always-false NAME
```

This flag will treat all variables named `NAME` as compile-time constants that are always false. This flag may be repeated.

### 23.6 Disallow dynamic typing

The *Any* type is used represent a value that has a *dynamic type*. The `--disallow-any` family of flags will disallow various uses of the *Any* type in a module – this lets us strategically disallow the use of dynamic typing in a controlled way.

The following options are available:

```
--disallow-any-unimported
```

This flag 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.

```
--disallow-any-explicit
```

This flag 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.

```
--disallow-any-decorated
```

This flag disallows functions that have *Any* in their signature after decorator transformation.

```
--disallow-any-explicit
```

This flag disallows explicit *Any* in type positions such as type annotations and generic type parameters.
--disallow-any-generics
This flag 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-subclassing-any
This flag 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.

23.7 Untyped definitions and calls

The following flags configure how mypy handles untyped function definitions or calls.

--disallow-untyped-calls
This flag reports an error whenever a function with type annotations calls a function defined without annotations.

--disallow-untyped-defs
This flag reports an error whenever it encounters a function definition without type annotations.

--disallow-incomplete-defs
This flag reports an error whenever it encounters a partly annotated function definition.

--check-untyped-defs
This flag is less severe than the previous two options – 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-decorators
This flag reports an error whenever a function with type annotations is decorated with a decorator without annotations.

23.8 None and Optional handling

The following flags adjust how mypy handles values of type None. For more details, see Disabling strict optional checking.

--no-implicit-optional
This flag causes mypy to stop treating arguments with a None default value as having an implicit Optional type.

For example, by default mypy will assume that the x parameter is of type Optional[int] in the code snippet below since the default parameter is None:

```python
def foo(x: int = None) -> None:
    print(x)
```

If this flag is set, the above snippet will no longer type check: we must now explicitly indicate that the type is Optional[int]:

```python
def foo(x: Optional[int]) -> None:
    print(x)
```
def foo(x: Optional[int] = None) -> None:
    print(x)

--no-strict-optional
This flag disables strict checking of Optional types and None values. With this option, mypy doesn’t generally check the use of None values – they are valid everywhere. See Disabling strict optional checking for more about this feature.

Note: Strict optional checking was enabled by default starting in mypy 0.600, and in previous versions it had to be explicitly enabled using --strict-optional (which is still accepted).

23.9 Configuring warnings

The follow flags enable warnings for code that is sound but is potentially problematic or redundant in some way.

--warn-redundant-casts
This flag will make mypy report an error whenever your code uses an unnecessary cast that can safely be removed.

--warn-unused-ignores
This flag will make mypy report an error whenever your code uses a # type: ignore comment on a line that is not actually generating an error message.

This flag, along with the --warn-redundant-casts flag, are both particularly useful when you are upgrading mypy. Previously, you may have needed to add casts or # type: ignore annotations to work around bugs in mypy or missing stubs for 3rd party libraries.

These two flags let you discover cases where either workarounds are no longer necessary.

--no-warn-no-return
By default, mypy will generate errors when a function is missing return statements in some execution paths. The only exceptions are when:

• The function has a None or Any return type
• The function has an empty body or a body that is just ellipsis (...). Empty functions are often used for abstract methods.

Passing in --no-warn-no-return will disable these error messages in all cases.

--warn-return-any
This flag causes mypy to generate a warning when returning a value with type Any from a function declared with a non-Any return type.

--warn-unreachable
This flag will make mypy report an error whenever it encounters code determined to be unreachable or redundant after performing type analysis. This can be a helpful way of detecting certain kinds of bugs in your code.

For example, enabling this flag will make mypy report that the x > 7 check is redundant and that the else block below is unreachable.

```python
def process(x: int) -> None:
    # Error: Right operand of "or" is never evaluated
    if isinstance(x, int) or x > 7:
        # Error: Unsupported operand types for + ("int" and "str")
        print(x + "bad")
    else:
```

(continues on next page)
To help prevent mypy from generating spurious warnings, the “Statement is unreachable” warning will be silenced in exactly two cases:

1. When the unreachable statement is a `raise` statement, is an `assert False` statement, or calls a function that has the `NoReturn` return type hint. In other words, when the unreachable statement throws an error or terminates the program in some way.

2. When the unreachable statement was intentionally marked as unreachable using Python version and system platform checks.

Note: Mypy currently cannot detect and report unreachable or redundant code inside any functions using Type variables with value restriction.

This limitation will be removed in future releases of mypy.

### 23.10 Miscellaneous strictness flags

This section documents any other flags that do not neatly fall under any of the above sections.

---

#### **allow-untyped-globals**

This flag causes mypy to suppress errors caused by not being able to fully infer the types of global and class variables.

#### **allow-redefinition**

By default, mypy won’t allow a variable to be redefined with an unrelated type. This flag enables redefinition of a variable with an arbitrary type in some contexts: only redefinitions within the same block and nesting depth as the original definition are allowed. Example where this can be useful:

```python
def process(items: List[str]) -> None:
    # 'items' has type List[str]
    items = [item.split() for item in items]
    # 'items' now has type List[List[str]]
    ...
```

#### **local-partial-types**

In mypy, the most common cases for partial types are variables initialized using `None`, but without explicit `Optional` annotations. By default, mypy won’t check partial types spanning module top level or class top level. This flag changes the behavior to only allow partial types at local level, therefore it disallows inferring variable type for `None` from two assignments in different scopes. For example:

```python
from typing import Optional

a = None  # Need type annotation here if using --local-partial-types
b = None  # type: Optional[int]

class Foo:
    bar = None  # Need type annotation here if using --local-partial-types
    baz = None  # type: Optional[int]

    def __init__(self) -> None:
```

(continues on next page)
self.bar = 1
reveal_type(Foo().bar)  # Union[int, None] without --local-partial-types

Note: this option is always implicitly enabled in mypy daemon and will become enabled by default for mypy in a future release.

--no-implicit-reexport

By default, imported values to a module are treated as exported and mypy allows other modules to import them. This flag changes the behavior to not re-export unless the item is imported using from-as or is included in __all__. Note this is always treated as enabled for stub files. For example:

```python
# This won't re-export the value
from foo import bar
# This will re-export it as bar and allow other modules to import it
from foo import bar as bar
# This will also re-export bar
from foo import bar
__all__ = ['bar']
```

--strict-equality

By default, mypy allows always-false comparisons like 42 == 'no'. Use this flag to prohibit such comparisons of non-overlapping types, and similar identity and container checks:

```python
from typing import List, Text
items: List[int]
if 'some string' in items:  # Error: non-overlapping container check!
...
text: Text
if text != b'other bytes':  # Error: non-overlapping equality check!
...
assert text is not None  # OK, check against None is allowed as a special case.
```

--strict

This flag mode enables all optional error checking flags. You can see the list of flags enabled by strict mode in the full mypy --help output.

Note: the exact list of flags enabled by running --strict may change over time.

--disable-error-code

This flag allows disabling one or multiple error codes globally.

```python
# no flag
x = 'a string'
x.trim()  # error: "str" has no attribute "trim" [attr-defined]

# --disable-error-code attr-defined
x = 'a string'
x.trim()
```

--enable-error-code

This flag allows enabling one or multiple error codes globally.

Note: This flag will override disabled error codes from the --disable-error-code flag.
# --disable-error-code attr-defined
x = 'a string'
x.trim()

# --disable-error-code attr-defined --enable-error-code attr-defined
x = 'a string'
x.trim()  # error: "str" has no attribute "trim" [attr-defined]

## 23.11 Configuring error messages

The following flags let you adjust how much detail mypy displays in error messages.

### --show-error-context
This flag will precede all errors with “note” messages explaining the context of the error. For example, consider the following program:

```python
class Test:
    def foo(self, x: int) -> int:
        return x + "bar"
```

Mypy normally displays an error message that looks like this:

```
main.py:3: error: Unsupported operand types for + ("int" and "str")
```

If we enable this flag, the error message now looks like this:

```
main.py: note: In member "foo" of class "Test":
main.py:3: error: Unsupported operand types for + ("int" and "str")
```

### --show-column-numbers
This flag 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")
```

### --show-error-codes
This flag will add an error code [<code>] to error messages. The error code is shown after each error message:

```
prog.py:1: error: "str" has no attribute "trim" [attr-defined]
```

See Error codes for more information.

### --pretty
Use visually nicer output in error messages: use soft word wrap, show source code snippets, and show error location markers.

### --no-color-output
This flag will disable color output in error messages, enabled by default.

### --no-error-summary
This flag will disable error summary. By default mypy shows a summary line including total number of errors, number of files with errors, and number of files checked.

### --show-absolute-path
Show absolute paths to files.
23.12 Incremental mode

By default, mypy will store type information into a cache. Mypy will use this information to avoid unnecessary recomputation when it type checks your code again. This can help speed up the type checking process, especially when most parts of your program have not changed since the previous mypy run.

If you want to speed up how long it takes to recheck your code beyond what incremental mode can offer, try running mypy in daemon mode.

`--no-incremental`

This flag disables incremental mode: mypy will no longer reference the cache when re-run.

Note that mypy will still write out to the cache even when incremental mode is disabled: see the `--cache-dir` flag below for more details.

`--cache-dir` `DIR`

By default, mypy stores all cache data inside of a folder named `.mypy_cache` in the current directory. This flag lets you change this folder. This flag can also be useful for controlling cache use when using remote caching.

This setting will override the `MYPY_CACHE_DIR` environment variable if it is set.

Mypy will also always write to the cache even when incremental mode is disabled so it can “warm up” the cache. To disable writing to the cache, use `--cache-dir=/dev/null` (UNIX) or `--cache-dir=\` (Windows).

`--sqlite-cache`

Use an SQLite database to store the cache.

`--cache-fine-grained`

Include fine-grained dependency information in the cache for the mypy daemon.

`--skip-version-check`

By default, mypy will ignore cache data generated by a different version of mypy. This flag disables that behavior.

`--skip-cache-mtime-checks`

Skip cache internal consistency checks based on mtime.

23.13 Advanced options

The following flags are useful mostly for people who are interested in developing or debugging mypy internals.

`--pdb`

This flag will invoke the Python debugger when mypy encounters a fatal error.

`--show-traceback`, `--tb`

If set, this flag will display a full traceback when mypy encounters a fatal error.

`--raise-exceptions`

Raise exception on fatal error.

`--custom-typing-module` `MODULE`

This flag lets you use a custom module as a substitute for the `typing` module.

`--custom-typeshed-dir` `DIR`

This flag specifies the directory where mypy looks for standard library 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.

Note that this doesn’t affect third-party library stubs.
--warn-incomplete-stub
This flag modifies both the --disallow-untyped-defs and --disallow-incomplete-defs flags so they also report errors if stubs in typeshed are missing type annotations or has incomplete annotations. If both flags are missing, --warn-incomplete-stub also does nothing.

This flag is mainly intended to be used by people who want contribute to typeshed and would like a convenient way to find gaps and omissions.

If you want mypy to report an error when your codebase uses an untyped function, whether that function is defined in typeshed or not, use the --disallow-untyped-calls flag. See Untyped definitions and calls for more details.

--shadow-file SOURCE_FILE SHADOW_FILE
When mypy is asked to type check SOURCE_FILE, this flag makes mypy read from and type check the contents of SHADOW_FILE instead. However, diagnostics will continue to refer to SOURCE_FILE.

Specifying this argument multiple times (--shadow-file X1 Y1 --shadow-file X2 Y2) will allow mypy to perform multiple substitutions.

This allows tooling to create temporary files with helpful modifications without having to change the source file in place. For example, suppose we have a pipeline that adds reveal_type for certain variables. This pipeline is run on original.py to produce temp.py. Running mypy --shadow-file original.py temp.py original.py will then cause mypy to type check the contents of temp.py instead of original.py, but error messages will still reference original.py.

### 23.14 Report generation

If these flags are set, mypy will generate a report in the specified format into the specified directory.

--any-exprs-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a text file report documenting how many expressions of type Any are present within your codebase.

--cobertura-xml-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a Cobertura XML type checking coverage report.

You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

--html-report / --xslt-html-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate an HTML type checking coverage report.

You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

--linecount-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a text file report documenting the functions and lines that are typed and untyped within your codebase.

--linecoverage-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a JSON file that maps each source file’s absolute filename to a list of line numbers that belong to typed functions in that file.

--lineprecision-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a flat text file report with per-module statistics of how many lines are typechecked etc.

--txt-report / --xslt-txt-report DIR
Causes mypy to generate a text file type checking coverage report.

You must install the lxml library to generate this report.
**--xml-report** DIR

Causes mypy to generate an XML type checking coverage report.

You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

### 23.15 Miscellaneous

**--install-types**

This flag causes mypy to install known missing stub packages for third-party libraries using pip. It will display the pip command line to run, and expects a confirmation before installing anything.

If you use this option without providing any files or modules to type check, mypy will install stub packages suggested during the previous mypy run. If there are files or modules to type check, mypy first type checks those, and proposes to install missing stubs at the end of the run, but only if any missing modules were detected.

**Note:** This is new in mypy 0.900. Previous mypy versions included a selection of third-party package stubs, instead of having them installed separately.

**--junit-xml** JUNIT_XML

Causes mypy to 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

This flag will make mypy print out all usages of a class member based on static type information. This feature is experimental.

**--scripts-are-modules**

This flag 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 lets you check 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.)
The mypy configuration file

Mypy supports reading configuration settings from a file. By default it uses the file `mypy.ini` with a fallback to `.mypy.ini`, then `setup.cfg` in the current directory, then `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/mypy/config`, then `~/.config/mypy/config`, and finally `.mypy.ini` in the user home directory if none of them are found; 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`, then `.mypy.ini`, and finally `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.

Some flags support user home directory and environment variable expansion. To refer to the user home directory, use `~` at the beginning of the path. To expand environment variables use `$VARNAME` or `${VARNAME}`.

### 24.1 Config file format

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 comma-separated patterns of fully-qualified module names, with some components optionally replaced by the `*` character (e.g. `foo.bar, foo.bar.*, foo.*.baz`). These sections specify additional flags that only apply to modules whose name matches at least one of the patterns.

A pattern of the form `qualified_module_name` matches only the named module, while `dotted_module_name.*` matches `dotted_module_name` and any submodules (so `foo.bar.*` would match all of `foo.bar, foo.bar.baz, and foo.bar.baz.quux`).
Patterns may also be “unstructured” wildcards, in which stars may appear in the middle of a name (e.g. `site.*.migrations.*`). Stars match zero or more module components (so `site.*.migrations.*` can match `site.migrations`).

When options conflict, the precedence order for configuration is:

1. **Inline configuration** in the source file
2. Sections with concrete module names (e.g. `foo.bar`)
3. Sections with “unstructured” wildcard patterns (e.g. `foo.*.baz`), with sections later in the configuration file overriding sections earlier.
4. Sections with “well-structured” wildcard patterns (e.g. `foo.bar.*`), with more specific overriding more general.
5. Command line options.
6. Top-level configuration file options.

The difference in precedence order between “structured” patterns (by specificity) and “unstructured” patterns (by order in the file) is unfortunate, and is subject to change in future versions.

**Note:** The `warn_unused_configs` flag may be useful to debug misspelled section names.

**Note:** Configuration flags are liable to change between releases.

### 24.2 Per-module and global options

Some of the config options may be set either globally (in the `[mypy]` section) or on a per-module basis (in sections like `[mypy-foo.bar]`).

If you set an option both globally and for a specific module, the module configuration options take precedence. This lets you set global defaults and override them on a module-by-module basis. If multiple pattern sections match a module, the options from the most specific section are used where they disagree.

Some other options, as specified in their description, may only be set in the global section ([`mypy`]).

### 24.3 Inverting option values

Options that take a boolean value may be inverted by adding `no_` to their name or by (when applicable) swapping their prefix from `disallow` to `allow` (and vice versa).

### 24.4 Examples

Here is an example of a `mypy.ini` file. To use this config file, place it at the root of your repo and run mypy.

```ini
# Global options:

[mypy]
python_version = 2.7
```

(continues on next page)
warn_return_any = True
warn_unused_configs = True

# Per-module options:

[mypy-mycode.foo.*]
disable_untyped_defs = True

[mypy-mycode.bar]
warn_return_any = False

[mypy-somelibrary]
ignore_missing_imports = True

This config file specifies three global options in the [mypy] section. These three options will:

1. Type-check your entire project assuming it will be run using Python 2.7. (This is equivalent to using the
   --python-version 2.7 or -2 flag).
2. Report an error whenever a function returns a value that is inferred to have type Any.
3. Report any config options that are unused by mypy. (This will help us catch typos when making changes to our
   config file).

Next, this module specifies three per-module options. The first two options change how mypy type checks code in
mycode.foo.* and mycode.bar, which we assume here are two modules that you wrote. The final config option
changes how mypy type checks somelibrary, which we assume here is some 3rd party library you’ve installed and
are importing. These options will:

1. Selectively disallow untyped function definitions only within the mycode.foo package – that is, only for
   function definitions defined in the mycode/foo directory.
2. Selectively disable the “function is returning any” warnings within mycode.bar only. This overrides the
   global default we set earlier.
3. Suppress any error messages generated when your codebase tries importing the module somelibrary. This
   is useful if somelibrary is some 3rd party library missing type hints.

### 24.5 Import discovery

For more information, see the Import discovery section of the command line docs.

**mypy_path**

Type: 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. Multiple paths are always separated with a : or , regardless of the platform. User home directory and environment variables will be expanded.

Relative paths are treated relative to the working directory of the mypy command, not the config file. Use the MYPY_CONFIG_FILE_DIR environment variable to refer to paths relative to the config file (e.g. mypy_path = "$MYPY_CONFIG_FILE_DIR/src").

This option may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**Note:** On Windows, use UNC paths to avoid using : (e.g. \127.0.0.1\X$\MyDir where X is the drive letter).
files

Type  comma-separated list of strings

A comma-separated list of paths which should be checked by mypy if none are given on the command line. Supports recursive file globbing using `glob`, where `*` (e.g. `*.py`) matches files in the current directory and `**` (e.g. `**/*.py`) matches files in any directories below the current one. User home directory and environment variables will be expanded.

This option may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

exclude

Type  regular expression

A regular expression that matches file names, directory names and paths which mypy should ignore while recursively discovering files to check. Use forward slashes on all platforms.

For more details, see `--exclude`.

This option may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

namespace_packages

Type  boolean

Default  False

Enables PEP 420 style namespace packages. See the corresponding flag `--namespace-packages` for more information.

This option may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

explicit_package_bases

Type  boolean

Default  False

This flag tells mypy that top-level packages will be based in either the current directory, or a member of the MYPYPATH environment variable or mypy_path config option. This option is only useful in conjunction with namespace_packages. See Mapping file paths to modules for details.

This option may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

ignore_missing_imports

Type  boolean

Default  False

Suppresses error messages about imports that cannot be resolved.

If this option is used in a per-module section, the module name should match the name of the imported module, not the module containing the import statement.

follow_imports

Type  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 provided 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.
If this option is used in a per-module section, the module name should match the name of the imported module, not the module containing the import statement.

**follow_imports_for_stubs**

  Type boolean
  Default False

Determines whether to respect the `follow_imports` setting even for stub (.pyi) files.

Used in conjunction with `follow_imports=skip`, this can be used to suppress the import of a module from typeshed, replacing it with Any.

Used in conjunction with `follow_imports=error`, this can be used to make any use of a particular typeshed module an error.

---

**python_executable**

  Type string

Specifies the path to the Python executable to inspect to collect a list of available PEP 561 packages. User home directory and environment variables will be expanded. Defaults to the executable used to run mypy.

This option may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**no_site_packages**

  Type bool
  Default False

Disables using type information in installed packages (see PEP 561). This will also disable searching for a usable Python executable. This acts the same as `--no-site-packages` command line flag.

**no_silence_site_packages**

  Type boolean
  Default False

Enables reporting error messages generated within installed packages (see PEP 561 for more details on distributing type information). Those error messages are suppressed by default, since you are usually not able to control errors in 3rd party code.

This option may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

### 24.6 Platform configuration

**python_version**

  Type string

Specifies the Python version used to parse and check the target program. The string should be in the format `DIGIT.DIGIT` – for example `2.7`. The default is the version of the Python interpreter used to run mypy.

This option may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**platform**

  Type 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.

This option may only be set in the global section (`[mypy]`).

**always_true**

  Type  comma-separated list of strings

  Specifies a list of variables that mypy will treat as compile-time constants that are always true.

**always_false**

  Type  comma-separated list of strings

  Specifies a list of variables that mypy will treat as compile-time constants that are always false.

### 24.7 Disallow dynamic typing

For more information, see the *Disallow dynamic typing* section of the command line docs.

**disallow_any_unimported**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False

  Disallows usage of types that come from unfollowed imports (anything imported from an unfollowed import is automatically given a type of `Any`).

**disallow_any_expr**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False

  Disallows all expressions in the module that have type `Any`.

**disallow_any_decorated**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False

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

**disallow_any_explicit**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False

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

**disallow_any_generics**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False

  Disallows usage of generic types that do not specify explicit type parameters.

**disallow_subclassing_any**

  Type  boolean

  Default  False
Disallows subclassing a value of type `Any`.

## 24.8 Untyped definitions and calls

For more information, see the *Untyped definitions and calls* section of the command line docs.

- **disallow_untyped_calls**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Disallows calling functions without type annotations from functions with type annotations.

- **disallow_untyped_defs**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Disallows defining functions without type annotations or with incomplete type annotations.

- **disallow_incomplete_defs**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Disallows defining functions with incomplete type annotations.

- **check_untyped_defs**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Type-checks the interior of functions without type annotations.

- **disallow_untyped_decorators**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Reports an error whenever a function with type annotations is decorated with a decorator without annotations.

## 24.9 None and Optional handling

For more information, see the *None and Optional handling* section of the command line docs.

- **no_implicit_optional**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: False
  - Changes the treatment of arguments with a default value of `None` by not implicitly making their type `Optional`.

- **strict_optional**
  - Type: boolean
  - Default: True
Enables or disables strict Optional checks. If False, mypy treats None as compatible with every type.

Note: This was False by default in mypy versions earlier than 0.600.

### 24.10 Configuring warnings

For more information, see the *Configuring warnings* section of the command line docs.

**warn_redundant_casts**

Type: boolean

Default: False

Warns about casting an expression to its inferred type.

This option may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**warn_unused_ignores**

Type: boolean

Default: False

Warns about unneeded # type: ignore comments.

**warn_no_return**

Type: boolean

Default: True

Shows errors for missing return statements on some execution paths.

**warn_return_any**

Type: boolean

Default: False

Shows a warning when returning a value with type Any from a function declared with a non-Any return type.

**warn_unreachable**

Type: boolean

Default: False

Shows a warning when encountering any code inferred to be unreachable or redundant after performing type analysis.

### 24.11 Suppressing errors

Note: these configuration options are available in the config file only. There is no analog available via the command line options.

**show_none_errors**

Type: boolean

Default: True

Shows errors related to strict None checking, if the global strict Optional flag is enabled.
ignore_errors
  Type boolean
  Default False
  Ignores all non-fatal errors.

24.12 Miscellaneous strictness flags

For more information, see the Miscellaneous strictness flags section of the command line docs.

allow_untypedGlobals
  Type boolean
  Default False
  Causes mypy to suppress errors caused by not being able to fully infer the types of global and class variables.

allow_redefinition
  Type boolean
  Default False
  Allows variables to be redefined with an arbitrary type, as long as the redefinition is in the same block and nesting level as the original definition.

local_partial_types
  Type boolean
  Default False
  Disallows inferring variable type for None from two assignments in different scopes. This is always implicitly enabled when using the mypy daemon.

disable_error_code
  Type comma-separated list of strings
  Allows disabling one or multiple error codes globally.

implicit_reexport
  Type boolean
  Default True
  By default, imported values to a module are treated as exported and mypy allows other modules to import them. When false, mypy will not re-export unless the item is imported using from-as or is included in __all__. Note that mypy treats stub files as if this is always disabled. For example:

```python
# This won’t re-export the value
from foo import bar
# This will re-export it as bar and allow other modules to import it
from foo import bar as bar
# This will also re-export bar
from foo import bar
__all__ = ['bar']
```

strict_equality
  type boolean
default  False

Prohibit equality checks, identity checks, and container checks between non-overlapping types.

## 24.13 Configuring error messages

For more information, see the *Configuring error messages* section of the command line docs.

These options may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**show_error_context**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False

Prefixes each error with the relevant context.

**show_column_numbers**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False

Shows column numbers in error messages.

**show_error_codes**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False

Shows error codes in error messages. See *Error codes* for more information.

**pretty**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False

Use visually nicer output in error messages: use soft word wrap, show source code snippets, and show error location markers.

**color_output**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: True

Shows error messages with color enabled.

**error_summary**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: True

Shows a short summary line after error messages.

**show_absolute_path**

- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False

Show absolute paths to files.
24.14 Incremental mode

These options may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**incremental**
- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: True
  - Enables *incremental mode*.

**cache_dir**
- **Type**: string
- **Default**: .mypy_cache
  - Specifies the location where mypy stores incremental cache info. User home directory and environment variables will be expanded. This setting will be overridden by the MYPY_CACHE_DIR environment variable.
  - Note that the cache is only read when incremental mode is enabled but is always written to, unless the value is set to /dev/null (UNIX) or null (Windows).

**sqlite_cache**
- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False
  - Use an SQLite database to store the cache.

**cache_fine_grained**
- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False
  - Include fine-grained dependency information in the cache for the mypy daemon.

**skip_version_check**
- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False
  - Makes mypy use incremental cache data even if it was generated by a different version of mypy. (By default, mypy will perform a version check and regenerate the cache if it was written by older versions of mypy.)

**skip_cache_mtime_checks**
- **Type**: boolean
- **Default**: False
  - Skip cache internal consistency checks based on mtime.

24.15 Advanced options

These options may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

**plugins**
- **Type**: comma-separated list of strings
  - A comma-separated list of mypy plugins. See *Extending mypy using plugins*.
pdbg
  Type  boolean
  Default  False
  Invokes pdb on fatal error.

show_traceback
  Type  boolean
  Default  False
  Shows traceback on fatal error.

raise_exceptions
  Type  boolean
  Default  False
  Raise exception on fatal error.

custom_typing_module
  Type  string
  Specifies a custom module to use as a substitute for the typing module.

custom_typeshed_dir
  Type  string
  Specifies an alternative directory to look for stubs instead of the default typeshed directory. User home directory and environment variables will be expanded.

warn_incomplete_stub
  Type  boolean
  Default  False
  Warns about missing type annotations in typeshed. This is only relevant in combination with disallow_untyped_defs or disallow_incomplete_defs.

24.16 Report generation

If these options are set, mypy will generate a report in the specified format into the specified directory.

any_exprs_report
  Type  string
  Causes mypy to generate a text file report documenting how many expressions of type Any are present within your codebase.

cobertura_xml_report
  Type  string
  Causes mypy to generate a Cobertura XML type checking coverage report.
  You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

html_report / xslt_html_report
Type string
Causes mypy to generate an HTML type checking coverage report.
You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

```
linecount_report
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate a text file report documenting the functions and lines that are typed and untyped within
your codebase.

```
linecoverage_report
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate a JSON file that maps each source file’s absolute filename to a list of line numbers that
belong to typed functions in that file.

```
lineprecision_report
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate a flat text file report with per-module statistics of how many lines are typechecked etc.

```
txt_report / xslt_txt_report
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate a text file type checking coverage report.
You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

```
xml_report
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate an XML type checking coverage report.
You must install the lxml library to generate this report.

## 24.17 Miscellaneous

These options may only be set in the global section ([mypy]).

```
junit_xml
```
Type string
Causes mypy to generate a JUnit XML test result document with type checking results. This can make it easier
to integrate mypy with continuous integration (CI) tools.

```
scripts_are_modules
```
Type boolean
Default False
Makes script $x$ become module $x$ instead of __main___. This is useful when checking multiple scripts in a
single run.

```
warn_unused_configs
```
Type boolean
Default False

24.17. Miscellaneous 157
Warns about per-module sections in the config file that do not match any files processed when invoking mypy. (This requires turning off incremental mode using `incremental = False`.)

**verbosity**

Type  integer

Default  0

Controls how much debug output will be generated. Higher numbers are more verbose.
Mypy supports setting per-file configuration options inside files themselves using `# mypy:` comments. For example:

```plaintext
# mypy: disallow-any-generics
# mypy: always-true=FOO
```

Inline configuration comments take precedence over all other configuration mechanisms.

### 25.1 Configuration comment format

Flags correspond to `config file flags` but allow hyphens to be substituted for underscores.

Values are specified using `=`, but `= True` may be omitted:

```plaintext
# mypy: disallow-any-generics
# mypy: always-true=FOO
```

Multiple flags can be separated by commas or placed on separate lines. To include a comma as part of an option’s value, place the value inside quotes:

```plaintext
# mypy: disallow-untyped-defs, always-true="FOO,BAR"
```

Like in the configuration file, options that take a boolean value may be inverted by adding `no-` to their name or by (when applicable) swapping their prefix from `disallow` to `allow` (and vice versa):

```plaintext
# mypy: allow-untyped-defs, no-strict-optional
```
Instead of running mypy as a command-line tool, you can also run it as a long-running daemon (server) process and use a command-line client to send type-checking requests to the server. This way mypy can perform type checking much faster, since program state cached from previous runs is kept in memory and doesn’t have to be read from the file system on each run. The server also uses finer-grained dependency tracking to reduce the amount of work that needs to be done.

If you have a large codebase to check, running mypy using the mypy daemon can be 10 or more times faster than the regular command-line mypy tool, especially if your workflow involves running mypy repeatedly after small edits – which is often a good idea, as this way you’ll find errors sooner.

**Note:** The command-line interface of mypy daemon may change in future mypy releases.

**Note:** Each mypy daemon process supports one user and one set of source files, and it can only process one type checking request at a time. You can run multiple mypy daemon processes to type check multiple repositories.

### 26.1 Basic usage

The client utility `dmypy` is used to control the mypy daemon. Use `dmypy run -- <flags> <files>` to type check a set of files (or directories). This will launch the daemon if it is not running. You can use almost arbitrary mypy flags after `--`. The daemon will always run on the current host. Example:

```
dmypy run -- prog.py pkg/*\.py
```

`dmypy run` will automatically restart the daemon if the configuration or mypy version changes.

The initial run will process all the code and may take a while to finish, but subsequent runs will be quick, especially if you’ve only changed a few files. (You can use `remote caching` to speed up the initial run. The speedup can be significant if you have a large codebase.)
Note: Mypy 0.780 added support for following imports in dmypy (enabled by default). This functionality is still experimental. You can use --follow-imports=skip or --follow-imports=error to fall back to the stable functionality. See Following imports for details on how these work.

## 26.2 Daemon client commands

While dmypy run is sufficient for most uses, some workflows (ones using remote caching, perhaps), require more precise control over the lifetime of the daemon process:

- dmypy stop stops the daemon.
- dmypy start -- <flags> starts the daemon but does not check any files. You can use almost arbitrary mypy flags after --.
- dmypy restart -- <flags> restarts the daemon. The flags are the same as with dmypy start. This is equivalent to a stop command followed by a start.
- Use dmypy run --timeout SECONDS -- <flags> (or start or restart) to automatically shut down the daemon after inactivity. By default, the daemon runs until it’s explicitly stopped.
- dmypy check <files> checks a set of files using an already running daemon.
- dmypy recheck checks the same set of files as the most recent check or recheck command. (You can also use the --update and --remove options to alter the set of files, and to define which files should be processed.)
- dmypy status checks whether a daemon is running. It prints a diagnostic and exits with 0 if there is a running daemon.

Use dmypy --help for help on additional commands and command-line options not discussed here, and dmypy <command> --help for help on command-specific options.

## 26.3 Additional daemon flags

- **--status-file** FILE
  Use FILE as the status file for storing daemon runtime state. This is normally a JSON file that contains information about daemon process and connection. The default path is .dmypy.json in the current working directory.

- **--log-file** FILE
  Direct daemon stdout/stderr to FILE. This is useful for debugging daemon crashes, since the server traceback is not always printed by the client. This is available for the start, restart, and run commands.

- **--timeout** TIMEOUT
  Automatically shut down server after TIMEOUT seconds of inactivity. This is available for the start, restart, and run commands.

- **--update** FILE
  Re-check FILE, or add it to the set of files being checked (and check it). This option may be repeated, and it’s only available for the recheck command. By default, mypy finds and checks all files changed since the previous run and files that depend on them. However, if you use this option (and/or --remove), mypy assumes that only the explicitly specified files have changed. This is only useful to speed up mypy if you type check a very large number of files, and use an external, fast file system watcher, such as watchman or watchdog.
to determine which files got edited or deleted. *Note:* This option is never required and is only available for performance tuning.

```
--remove FILE
```
Remove FILE from the set of files being checked. This option may be repeated. This is only available for the recheck command. See `--update` above for when this may be useful. *Note:* This option is never required and is only available for performance tuning.

```
--fswatcher-dump-file FILE
```
Collect information about the current internal file state. This is only available for the status command. This will dump JSON to FILE in the format `{path: [modification_time, size, content_hash]}`). This is useful for debugging the built-in file system watcher. *Note:* This is an internal flag and the format may change.

```
--perf-stats-file FILE
```
Write performance profiling information to FILE. This is only available for the check, recheck, and run commands.

### 26.4 Static inference of annotations

The mypy daemon supports (as an experimental feature) statically inferring draft function and method type annotations. Use `dmypy suggest FUNCTION` to generate a draft signature in the format `(param_type_1, param_type_2, ...) -> ret_type` (types are included for all arguments, including keyword-only arguments, `*args` and `**kwargs`).

This is a low-level feature intended to be used by editor integrations, IDEs, and other tools (for example, the mypy plugin for PyCharm), to automatically add annotations to source files, or to propose function signatures.

In this example, the function `format_id()` has no annotation:

```python
def format_id(user):
    return "User: ".format(user)
root = format_id(0)
```

dmypy suggest uses call sites, return statements, and other heuristics (such as looking for signatures in base classes) to infer that `format_id()` accepts an `int` argument and returns a `str`. Use `dmypy suggest module. format_id` to print the suggested signature for the function.

More generally, the target function may be specified in two ways:

- By its fully qualified name, i.e. `package.module.class.function`.
- By its location in a source file, i.e. `/path/to/file.py:line`. The path can be absolute or relative, and line can refer to any line number within the function body.

This command can also be used to find a more precise alternative for an existing, imprecise annotation with some `Any` types.

The following flags customize various aspects of the `dmypy suggest` command.

```
--json
```
Output the signature as JSON, so that `PyAnnotate` can read it and add the signature to the source file. Here is what the JSON looks like:

```json
{"func_name": "example.format_id",
"line": 1,
"path": "/absolute/path/to/example.py",
(continues on next page)
"samples": 0,
"signature": {"arg_types": ["int"], "return_type": "str"}]

--no-errors
Only produce suggestions that cause no errors in the checked code. By default, mypy will try to find the most precise type, even if it causes some type errors.

--no-any
Only produce suggestions that don’t contain Any types. By default mypy proposes the most precise signature found, even if it contains Any types.

--flex-any FRACTION
Only allow some fraction of types in the suggested signature to be Any types. The fraction ranges from 0 (same as --no-any) to 1.

--try-text
Try also using unicode wherever str is inferred. This flag may be useful for annotating Python 2/3 straddling code.

--callsites
Only find call sites for a given function instead of suggesting a type. This will produce a list with line numbers and types of actual arguments for each call: /path/to/file.py:line: (arg_type_1, arg_type_2, ...).

--use-fixme NAME
Use a dummy name instead of plain Any for types that cannot be inferred. This may be useful to emphasize to a user that a given type couldn’t be inferred and needs to be entered manually.

--max-guesses NUMBER
Set the maximum number of types to try for a function (default: 64).
CHAPTER 27

Using installed packages

Packages installed with pip can declare that they support type checking. For example, the aiohttp package has built-in support for type checking.

Packages can also provide stubs for a library. For example, types-requests is a stub-only package that provides stubs for the requests package. Stub packages are usually published from typeshed, a shared repository for Python library stubs, and have a name of form types-<library>. Note that many stub packages are not maintained by the original maintainers of the package.

The sections below explain how mypy can use these packages, and how you can create such packages.

Note: PEP 561 specifies how a package can declare that it supports type checking.

27.1 Using installed packages with mypy (PEP 561)

Typically mypy will automatically find and use installed packages that support type checking or provide stubs. This requires that you install the packages in the Python environment that you use to run mypy. As many packages don’t support type checking yet, you may also have to install a separate stub package, usually named types-<library>. (See Missing imports for how to deal with libraries that don’t support type checking and are also missing stubs.)

If you have installed typed packages in another Python installation or environment, mypy won’t automatically find them. One option is to install another copy of those packages in the environment in which you use to run mypy. Alternatively, you can use the --python-executable flag to point to the target Python executable, and mypy will find packages installed for that Python executable.

Note that mypy does not support some more advanced import features, such as zip imports and custom import hooks.

If you don’t want to use installed packages that provide type information at all, use the --no-site-packages flag to disable searching for installed packages.

Note that stub-only packages cannot be used with MYPYPATH. If you want mypy to find the package, it must be installed. For a package foo, the name of the stub-only package (foo-stubs) is not a legal package name, so mypy will not find it, unless it is installed (see PEP 561: Stub-only Packages for more information).
27.2 Creating PEP 561 compatible packages

**Note:** You can generally ignore this section unless you maintain a package on PyPI, or want to publish type information for an existing PyPI package.

**PEP 561** describes three main ways to distribute type information:

1. A package has inline type annotations in the Python implementation.
2. A package ships *stub files* with type information alongside the Python implementation.
3. A package ships type information for another package separately as stub files (also known as a “stub-only package”).

If you want to create a stub-only package for an existing library, the simplest way is to contribute stubs to the typeshed repository, and a stub package will automatically be uploaded to PyPI.

If you would like to publish a library package to a package repository yourself (e.g. on PyPI) for either internal or external use in type checking, packages that supply type information via type comments or annotations in the code should put a `py.typed` file in their package directory. For example, here is a typical directory structure:

```python
code directory

setup.py
package_a/
    __init__.py
    lib.py
    py.typed
```

The `setup.py` file could look like this:

```python
from distutils.core import setup

setup(
    name="SuperPackageA",
    author="Me",
    version="0.1",
    package_data={"package_a": ["py.typed"]},
    packages=["package_a"]
)
```

**Note:** If you use `setuptools`, you must pass the option `zip_safe=False` to `setup()`, or mypy will not be able to find the installed package.

Some packages have a mix of stub files and runtime files. These packages also require a `py.typed` file. An example can be seen below:

```python
code directory

setup.py
package_b/
    __init__.py
    lib.py
    lib.pyi
    py.typed
```

The `setup.py` file might look like this:
from distutils.core import setup

setup(
    name="SuperPackageB",
    author="Me",
    version="0.1",
    package_data={"package_b": ["py.typed", "lib.pyi"]},
    packages=["package_b"]
)

In this example, both lib.py and the lib.pyi stub file exist. At runtime, the Python interpreter will use lib.py, but mypy will use lib.pyi instead.

If the package is stub-only (not imported at runtime), the package should have a prefix of the runtime package name and a suffix of -stubs. A py.typed file is not needed for stub-only packages. For example, if we had stubs for package_c, we might do the following:

setup.py
package_c-stubs/
    __init__.pyi
    lib.pyi

The setup.py might look like this:

from distutils.core import setup

setup(
    name="SuperPackageC",
    author="Me",
    version="0.1",
    package_data={"package_c-stubs": ["__init__.pyi", "lib.pyi"]},
    packages=["package_c-stubs"]
)

If you have separate stubs for Python 2 and Python 3, you can place the Python 2 stubs in a directory with the suffix -python2-stubs. We recommend that Python 2 and Python 3 stubs are bundled together for simplicity, instead of distributing them separately.
Extending and integrating mypy

28.1 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

```python
import sys
from mypy import api

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

if result[0]:
    print('Type checking report:
')
    print(result[0])  # stdout

if result[1]:
    print('Error report:
')
    print(result[1])  # stderr

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

28.2 Extending mypy using plugins

Python is a highly dynamic language and has extensive metaprogramming capabilities. Many popular libraries use these to create APIs that may be more flexible and/or natural for humans, but are hard to express using static types.
Extending the PEP 484 type system to accommodate all existing dynamic patterns is impractical and often just impossible.

Mypy supports a plugin system that lets you customize the way mypy type checks code. This can be useful if you want to extend mypy so it can type check code that uses a library that is difficult to express using just PEP 484 types.

The plugin system is focused on improving mypy’s understanding of semantics of third party frameworks. There is currently no way to define new first class kinds of types.

**Note:** The plugin system is experimental and prone to change. If you want to write a mypy plugin, we recommend you start by contacting the mypy core developers on **gitter**. In particular, there are no guarantees about backwards compatibility.

Backwards incompatible changes may be made without a deprecation period, but we will announce them in the plugin API changes announcement issue.

### 28.3 Configuring mypy to use plugins

Plugins are Python files that can be specified in a mypy **config file** using the **plugins** option and one of the two formats: relative or absolute path to the plugin file, or a module name (if the plugin is installed using pip install in the same virtual environment where mypy is running). The two formats can be mixed, for example:

```ini
[mypy]
plugins = /one/plugin.py, other.plugin
```

Mypy will try to import the plugins and will look for an entry point function named **plugin**. If the plugin entry point function has a different name, it can be specified after colon:

```ini
[mypy]
plugins = custom_plugin:custom_entry_point
```

In the following sections we describe the basics of the plugin system with some examples. For more technical details, please read the docstrings in **mypy/plugin.py** in mypy source code. Also you can find good examples in the bundled plugins located in `mypy/plugins`.

### 28.4 High-level overview

Every entry point function should accept a single string argument that is a full mypy version and return a subclass of mypy.plugin.Plugin:

```python
from mypy.plugin import Plugin

class CustomPlugin(Plugin):
    def get_type_analyze_hook(self, fullname: str):
        # see explanation below
        ...

    def plugin(version: str):
        # ignore version argument if the plugin works with all mypy versions.
        return CustomPlugin
```
During different phases of analyzing the code (first in semantic analysis, and then in type checking) mypy calls plugin methods such as \texttt{get\_type\_analyze\_hook()} on user plugins. This particular method, for example, can return a callback that mypy will use to analyze unbound types with the given full name. See the full plugin hook method list below.

Mypy maintains a list of plugins it gets from the config file plus the default (built-in) plugin that is always enabled. Mypy calls a method once for each plugin in the list until one of the methods returns a non-\texttt{None} value. This callback will be then used to customize the corresponding aspect of analyzing/checking the current abstract syntax tree node.

The callback returned by the \texttt{get\_xxx} method will be given a detailed current context and an API to create new nodes, new types, emit error messages, etc., and the result will be used for further processing.

Plugin developers should ensure that their plugins work well in incremental and daemon modes. In particular, plugins should not hold global state due to caching of plugin hook results.

\section*{28.5 Current list of plugin hooks}

\textbf{get\_type\_analyze\_hook()} customizes behaviour of the type analyzer. For example, \texttt{PEP 484} doesn't support defining variadic generic types:

\begin{Verbatim}
from lib import Vector

a: Vector[int, int]
b: Vector[int, int, int]
\end{Verbatim}

When analyzing this code, mypy will call \texttt{get\_type\_analyze\_hook("lib.Vector")}, so the plugin can return some valid type for each variable.

\textbf{get\_function\_hook()} is used to adjust the return type of a function call. This is a good choice if the return type of some function depends on values of some arguments that can't be expressed using literal types (for example a function may return an \texttt{int} for positive arguments and a \texttt{float} for negative arguments). This hook will be also called for instantiation of classes. For example:

\begin{Verbatim}
from contextlib import contextmanager
from typing import TypeVar, Callable

T = TypeVar('T')

@contextmanager # built-in plugin can infer a precise type here
def stopwatch(timer: Callable[[], T]) -> Iterator[T]:
    ...
    yield timer()
\end{Verbatim}

\textbf{get\_function\_signature\_hook} is used to adjust the signature of a function.

\textbf{get\_method\_hook()} is the same as \texttt{get\_function\_hook()} but for methods instead of module level functions.

\textbf{get\_method\_signature\_hook()} is used to adjust the signature of a method. This includes special Python methods except \texttt{__init__()} and \texttt{__new__()} for example in this code:

\begin{Verbatim}
from ctypes import Array, c_int

x: Array[c_int]
x[0] = 42
\end{Verbatim}

mypy will call \texttt{get\_method\_signature\_hook("ctypes.Array.__setitem__")} so that the plugin can mimic the \texttt{ctypes} auto-convert behavior.
get_attribute_hook() overrides instance member field lookups and property access (not assignments, and not method calls). This hook is only called for fields which already exist on the class. Exception: if __getattr__ or __getattribute__ is a method on the class, the hook is called for all fields which do not refer to methods.

get_class_decorator_hook() can be used to update class definition for given class decorators. For example, you can add some attributes to the class to match runtime behaviour:

```python
from dataclasses import dataclass

@dataclass
# built-in plugin adds `__init__` method here
class User:
    name: str

user = User(name='example')  # mypy can understand this using a plugin
```

get_metaclass_hook() is similar to above, but for metaclasses.

get_base_class_hook() is similar to above, but for base classes.

get_dynamic_class_hook() can be used to allow dynamic class definitions in mypy. This plugin hook is called for every assignment to a simple name where right hand side is a function call:

```python
from lib import dynamic_class

X = dynamic_class('X', [])
```

For such definition, mypy will call get_dynamic_class_hook("lib.dynamic_class"). The plugin should create the corresponding mypy.nodes.TypeInfo object, and place it into a relevant symbol table. (Instances of this class represent classes in mypy and hold essential information such as qualified name, method resolution order, etc.)

get_customize_class_mro_hook() can be used to modify class MRO (for example insert some entries there) before the class body is analyzed.

get_additional_deps() can be used to add new dependencies for a module. It is called before semantic analysis. For example, this can be used if a library has dependencies that are dynamically loaded based on configuration information.

report_config_data() can be used if the plugin has some sort of per-module configuration that can affect typechecking. In that case, when the configuration for a module changes, we want to invalidate mypy’s cache for that module so that it can be rechecked. This hook should be used to report to mypy any relevant configuration data, so that mypy knows to recheck the module if the configuration changes. The hooks should return data encodable as JSON.

### 28.6 Notes about the semantic analyzer

Mypy 0.710 introduced a new semantic analyzer, and the old semantic analyzer was removed in mypy 0.730. Support for the new semantic analyzer required some changes to existing plugins. Here is a short summary of the most important changes:

- The order of processing AST nodes is different. Code outside functions is processed first, and functions and methods are processed afterwards.

- Each AST node can be processed multiple times to resolve forward references. The same plugin hook may be called multiple times, so they need to be idempotent.

- The anal_type() API method returns None if some part of the type is not available yet due to forward references, for example.

- When looking up symbols, you may encounter placeholder nodes that are used for names that haven’t been fully processed yet. You’ll generally want to request another semantic analysis iteration by deferring in that case.
See the docstring at the top of `mypy/plugin.py` for more details.
Automatic stub generation (stubgen)

A stub file (see PEP 484) contains only type hints for the public interface of a module, with empty function bodies. Mypy can use a stub file instead of the real implementation to provide type information for the module. They are useful for third-party modules whose authors have not yet added type hints (and when no stubs are available in typeshed) and C extension modules (which mypy can’t directly process).

Mypy includes the *stubgen* tool that can automatically generate stub files (.pyi files) for Python modules and C extension modules. For example, consider this source file:

```python
from other_module import dynamic

BORDER_WIDTH = 15

class Window:
    parent = dynamic()
    def __init__(self, width, height):
        self.width = width
        self.height = height

def create_empty() -> Window:
    return Window(0, 0)
```

Stubgen can generate this stub file based on the above file:

```python
from typing import Any

BORDER_WIDTH: int = ...

class Window:
    parent: Any = ...
    width: Any = ...
    height: Any = ...
    def __init__(self, width, height) -> None: ...

def create_empty() -> Window: ...
```
Stubgen generates *draft* stubs. The auto-generated stub files often require some manual updates, and most types will default to `Any`. The stubs will be much more useful if you add more precise type annotations, at least for the most commonly used functionality.

The rest of this section documents the command line interface of stubgen. Run `stubgen --help` for a quick summary of options.

**Note:** The command-line flags may change between releases.

### 29.1 Specifying what to stub

You can give stubgen paths of the source files for which you want to generate stubs:

```bash
$ stubgen foo.py bar.py
```

This generates stubs `out/foo.pyi` and `out/bar.pyi`. The default output directory `out` can be overridden with `-o DIR`.

You can also pass directories, and stubgen will recursively search them for any `.py` files and generate stubs for all of them:

```bash
$ stubgen my_pkg_dir
```

Alternatively, you can give module or package names using the `-m` or `-p` options:

```bash
$ stubgen -m foo -m bar -p my_pkg_dir
```

Details of the options:

- `-m` **MODULE**,  **--module** **MODULE**
  Generate a stub file for the given module. This flag may be repeated multiple times.
  Stubgen will not recursively generate stubs for any submodules of the provided module.

- `-p` **PACKAGE**,  **--package** **PACKAGE**
  Generate stubs for the given package. This flag may be repeated multiple times.
  Stubgen will recursively generate stubs for all submodules of the provided package. This flag is identical to `--module` apart from this behavior.

**Note:** You can’t mix paths and `-m/-p` options in the same stubgen invocation.

Stubgen applies heuristics to avoid generating stubs for submodules that include tests or vendored third-party packages.

### 29.2 Specifying how to generate stubs

By default stubgen will try to import the target modules and packages. This allows stubgen to use runtime introspection to generate stubs for C extension modules and to improve the quality of the generated stubs. By default, stubgen will also use mypy to perform light-weight semantic analysis of any Python modules. Use the following flags to alter the default behavior:
**--no-import**
Don’t try to import modules. Instead only use mypy’s normal search mechanism to find sources. This does not support C extension modules. This flag also disables runtime introspection functionality, which mypy uses to find the value of `__all__`. As result the set of exported imported names in stubs may be incomplete. This flag is generally only useful when importing a module causes unwanted side effects, such as the running of tests. Stubgen tries to skip test modules even without this option, but this does not always work.

**--parse-only**
Don’t perform semantic analysis of source files. This may generate worse stubs – in particular, some module, class, and function aliases may be represented as variables with the `Any` type. This is generally only useful if semantic analysis causes a critical mypy error.

**--doc-dir** **PATH**
Try to infer better signatures by parsing .rst documentation in **PATH**. This may result in better stubs, but currently it only works for C extension modules.

### 29.3 Additional flags

**-h, --help**
Show help message and exit.

**--py2**
Run stubgen in Python 2 mode (the default is Python 3 mode).

**--ignore-errors**
If an exception was raised during stub generation, continue to process any remaining modules instead of immediately failing with an error.

**--include-private**
Include definitions that are considered private in stubs (with names such as `_foo` with single leading underscore and no trailing underscores).

**--export-less**
Don’t export all names imported from other modules within the same package. Instead, only export imported names that are not referenced in the module that contains the import.

**--search-path** **PATH**
Specify module search directories, separated by colons (only used if **--no-import** is given).

**--python-executable** **PATH**
Use Python interpreter at **PATH** for importing modules and runtime introspection. This has no effect with **--no-import**, and this only works in Python 2 mode. In Python 3 mode the Python interpreter used to run stubgen will always be used.

**-o** **PATH**, **--output** **PATH**
Change the output directory. By default the stubs are written in the `.out` directory. The output directory will be created if it doesn’t exist. Existing stubs in the output directory will be overwritten without warning.

**-v, --verbose**
Produce more verbose output.

**-q, --quiet**
Produce less verbose output.
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 (except for type annotations), but sometimes you need to do things slightly differently.

### 30.1 Can’t install mypy using pip

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

- MyPy needs Python 3.5 or later to run.
- You may have to run pip like this: `python3 -m pip install mypy`.

### 30.2 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. Where that isn’t possible, functions without annotations can be checked using `--check-untyped-defs`.

  Example:

  ```python
  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:

```python
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).

• **`__init__` method has no annotated arguments or return type annotation.**  `__init__` is considered fully-annotated if at least one argument is annotated, while mypy will infer the return type as None. The implication is that, for a `__init__` method that has no argument, you’ll have to explicitly annotate the return type as None to type-check this `__init__` method:

```python
def foo(s: str) -> str:
    return s
class A():
    def __init__(self, value: str):
        self.value = value
        foo()  # error: Argument 1 to "foo" has incompatible type "int"; expected +"str"

class B():
    def __init__(self):
        foo()  # No error!

class C():
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        foo()  # error: Argument 1 to "foo" has incompatible type "int"; expected +"str"
```

• **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*.

• **A function annotated as returning a non-optional type returns ‘None’ and mypy doesn’t complain.**

```python
def foo() -> str:
    return None  # No error!
```

You may have disabled strict optional checking (see *Disabling strict optional checking* for more).
30.3 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 `frobnicate`, and there’s no stub available. Mypy will complain about this, as it has no information about the module:

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

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

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

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

**Note:** You can use the form `# type: ignore[code]` to only ignore specific errors on the line. This way you are less likely to silence unexpected errors that are not safe to ignore, and this will also document what the purpose of the comment is. See Error codes for more information.

**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 `frobnicate` then mypy would ignore the `# type: ignore` comment and typecheck the stub as usual.

Another option is to explicitly annotate values with type `Any` – mypy will let you perform arbitrary operations on `Any` values. Sometimes there is no more precise type you can use for a particular value, especially if you use dynamic Python features such as `__getattr__`:

```python
class Wrapper:
    ...
    def __getattr__(self, a: str) -> Any:
        return getattr(self._wrapped, a)
```

Finally, you can create a stub file (`.pyi`) for a file that generates spurious errors. Mypy will only look at the stub file and ignore the implementation, since stub files take precedence over `.py` files.

30.4 Ignoring a whole file

A `# type: ignore` comment at the top of a module (before any statements, including imports or docstrings) has the effect of ignoring the `entire` module.

```python
# type: ignore
import foo
foo.bar()
```
### 30.5 Unexpected errors about ‘None’ and/or ‘Optional’ types

Starting from mypy 0.600, mypy uses **strict optional checking** by default, and the `None` value is not compatible with non-optional types. It’s easy to switch back to the older behavior where `None` was compatible with arbitrary types (see *Disabling strict optional checking*). You can also fall back to this behavior if strict optional checking would require a large number of `assert foo is not None` checks to be inserted, and you want to minimize the number of code changes required to get a clean mypy run.

### 30.6 Issues with code at runtime

Idiomatic use of type annotations can sometimes run up against what a given version of Python considers legal code. These can result in some of the following errors when trying to run your code:

- *ImportError* from circular imports
- *NameError*: name "X" is not defined from forward references
- *TypeError*: 'type' object is not subscriptable from types that are not generic at runtime
- *ImportError* or *ModuleNotFoundError* from use of stub definitions not available at runtime
- *TypeError*: unsupported operand type(s) for |: 'type' and 'type' from use of new syntax

For dealing with these, see *Annotation issues at runtime*.

### 30.7 Mypy runs are slow

If your mypy runs feel slow, you should probably use the *mypy daemon*, which can speed up incremental mypy runtimes by a factor of 10 or more. *Remote caching* can make cold mypy runs several times faster.

### 30.8 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:

```python
a: 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):

```python
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!
30.9 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.

```python
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:

```python
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!
```

30.10 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:

```python
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:

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

- Make a copy of the right hand side:

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

- Use immutable collections as annotations whenever possible:

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

def f_good(x: Sequence[A]) -> A:
```

(continues on next page)
30.11 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):

```python
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:

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

30.12 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:

```python
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()`:

```python
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.
30.13 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:

```python
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
```

As a special case, you can also use one of these checks in a top-level (unindented) `assert`; this makes mypy skip the rest of the file. Example:

```python
import sys

assert sys.platform != 'win32'

# The rest of this file doesn't apply to Windows.
```

Some other expressions exhibit similar behavior; in particular, `TYPE_CHECKING`, variables named `MYPY`, and any variable whose name is passed to `--always-true` or `--always-false`. (However, `True` and `False` are not treated specially!)

---

**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.
30.14 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]"
```

You can also use `reveal_locals()` at any line in a file to see the types of all local variables at once. Example:

```
a = 1
b = 'one'
reveal_locals()
# Revealed local types are:
# a: builtins.int
# b: builtins.str
```

**Note:** `reveal_type` and `reveal_locals` are only understood by mypy and don’t exist in Python. If you try to run your program, you’ll have to remove any `reveal_type` and `reveal_locals` calls before you can run your code. Both are always available and you don’t need to import them.

30.15 Silencing linters

In some cases, linters will complain about unused imports or code. In these cases, you can silence them with a comment after type comments, or on the same line as the import:

```
# to silence complaints about unused imports
from typing import List  # noqa
a = None  # type: List[int]
```

To silence the linter on the same line as a type comment put the linter comment after the type comment:

```
a = some_complex_thing()  # type: ignore  # noqa
```

30.16 Covariant subtyping of mutable protocol members is rejected

Mypy rejects this because this is potentially unsafe. Consider this example:

```
from typing_extensions import Protocol

class P(Protocol):
    x: float

def fun(arg: P) -> None:
    arg.x = 3.14

class C:
    x = 42
c = C()
fun(c)  # This is not safe
c.x << 5  # Since this will fail!
```
To work around this problem consider whether “mutating” is actually part of a protocol. If not, then one can use a `@property` in the protocol definition:

```python
typing_extensions import Protocol

class P(Protocol):
    @property
    def x(self) -> float:
        pass

def fun(arg: P) -> None:
    ...

class C:
    x = 42
fun(C())  # OK
```

## 30.17 Dealing with conflicting names

Suppose you have a class with a method whose name is the same as an imported (or built-in) type, and you want to use the type in another method signature. E.g.:

```python
class Message:
    def bytes(self):
        ...
    def register(self, path: bytes):
        # error: Invalid type "mod.Message.bytes"
        ...
```

The third line elicits an error because mypy sees the argument type `bytes` as a reference to the method by that name. Other than renaming the method, a work-around is to use an alias:

```python
bytes_ = bytes
class Message:
    def bytes(self):
        ...
    def register(self, path: bytes_):
        ...
```

## 30.18 Using a development mypy build

You can install the latest development version of mypy from source. Clone the mypy repository on GitHub, and then run `pip install` locally:

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

## 30.19 Variables vs type aliases

Mypy has both type aliases and variables with types like `Type[...]` and it is important to know their difference.
1. Variables with type `Type[...]` should be created by assignments with an explicit type annotations:

```python
class A: ...
tp: Type[A] = A
```

2. Aliases are created by assignments without an explicit type:

```python
class A: ...
Alias = A
```

3. The difference is that aliases are completely known statically and can be used in type context (annotations):

```python
class A: ...
class B: ...
if random() > 0.5:
    Alias = A
else:
    Alias = B  # error: Cannot assign multiple types to name "Alias" without an explicit "Type[...]" annotation \ 
              # error: Incompatible types in assignment (expression has type "Type[B] -> ", variable has type "Type[A]")

tp: Type[object]  # tp is a type variable
if random() > 0.5:
    tp = A
else:
    tp = B  # This is OK

def fun1(x: Alias) -> None: ...  # This is OK
def fun2(x: tp) -> None: ...  # error: Variable "__main__.tp" is not valid as a type
```

### 30.20 Incompatible overrides

It’s unsafe to override a method with a more specific argument type, as it violates the Liskov substitution principle. For return types, it’s unsafe to override a method with a more general return type.

Other incompatible signature changes in method overrides, such as adding an extra required parameter, or removing an optional parameter, will also generate errors. The signature of a method in a subclass should accept all valid calls to the base class method. Mypy treats a subclass as a subtype of the base class. An instance of a subclass is valid everywhere where an instance of the base class is valid.

This example demonstrates both safe and unsafe overrides:

```python
from typing import Sequence, List, Iterable

class A:
    def test(self, t: Sequence[int]) -> Sequence[str]: ...

class GeneralizedArgument(A):
    # A more general argument type is okay
    def test(self, t: Iterable[int]) -> Sequence[str]:  # OK ...

class NarrowerArgument(A):
```

(continues on next page)
# A more specific argument type isn’t accepted

def test(self, t: List[int]) -> Sequence[str]:  # Error
  ...

class NarrowerReturn(A):
  # A more specific return type is fine
  def test(self, t: Sequence[int]) -> List[str]:  # OK
    ...

class GeneralizedReturn(A):
  # A more general return type is an error
  def test(self, t: Sequence[int]) -> Iterable[str]:  # Error
    ...

You can use `# type: ignore[override]` to silence the error. Add it to the line that generates the error, if you
decide that type safety is not necessary:

```python
class NarrowerArgument(A):
  def test(self, t: List[int]) -> Sequence[str]:  # type: ignore[override]
    ...
```

## 30.21 Unreachable code

Mypy may consider some code as unreachable, even if it might not be immediately obvious why. It’s important to
note that mypy will not type check such code. Consider this example:

```python
class Foo:
  bar: str = ''

def bar() -> None:
  foo: Foo = Foo()
  return
  x: int = 'abc'  # Unreachable -- no error
```

It’s easy to see that any statement after `return` is unreachable, and hence mypy will not complain about the mis-typed
code below it. For a more subtle example, consider this code:

```python
class Foo:
  bar: str = ''

def bar() -> None:
  foo: Foo = Foo()
  assert foo.bar is None
  x: int = 'abc'  # Unreachable -- no error
```

Again, mypy will not report any errors. The type of `foo.bar` is `str`, and mypy reasons that it can never be `None`. Hence the `assert` statement will always fail and the statement below will never be executed. (Note that in Python, `None` is not an empty reference but an object of type `None`.)

In this example mypy will go on to check the last line and report an error, since mypy thinks that the condition could
be either True or False:

```python
class Foo:
  bar: str = ''
```

(continues on next page)
def bar() -> None:
    foo: Foo = Foo()
    if not foo.bar:
        return
    x: int = 'abc'  # Reachable -- error

If you use the --warn-unreachable flag, mypy will generate an error about each unreachable code block.

30.22 Narrowing and inner functions

Because closures in Python are late-binding (https://docs.python-guide.org/writing/gotchas/#late-binding-closures), mypy will not narrow the type of a captured variable in an inner function. This is best understood via an example:

```python
def foo(x: Optional[int]) -> Callable[[], int]:
    if x is None:
        x = 5
    print(x + 1)  # mypy correctly deduces x must be an int here
    def inner() -> int:
        return x + 1  # but (correctly) complains about this line
    x = None  # because x could later be assigned None
    return inner

inner = foo(5)
inner()  # this will raise an error when called
```

To get this code to type check, you could assign `y = x` after `x` has been narrowed, and use `y` in the inner function, or add an assert in the inner function.
CHAPTER 31

Supported Python features

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

- Unsupported Python features

### 31.1 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.
Mypy can optionally display an error code such as `[attr-defined]` after each error message. Error codes serve two purposes:

1. It’s possible to silence specific error codes on a line using `# type: ignore[code]`. This way you won’t accidentally ignore other, potentially more serious errors.

2. The error code can be used to find documentation about the error. The next two topics (*Error codes enabled by default* and *Error codes for optional checks*) document the various error codes mypy can report.

Most error codes are shared between multiple related error messages. Error codes may change in future mypy releases.

### 32.1 Displaying error codes

Error codes are not displayed by default. Use `--show-error-codes` or config `show_error_codes = True` to display error codes. Error codes are shown inside square brackets:

```bash
g$ mypy --show-error-codes prog.py
prog.py:1: error: "str" has no attribute "trim" [attr-defined]
```

### 32.2 Silencing errors based on error codes

You can use a special comment `# type: ignore[code, ...]` to only ignore errors with a specific error code (or codes) on a particular line. This can be used even if you have not configured mypy to show error codes. Currently it’s only possible to disable arbitrary error codes on individual lines using this comment.

**Note:** There are command-line flags and config file settings for enabling certain optional error codes, such as `--disallow-untyped-defs`, which enables the no-untyped-def error code.

This example shows how to ignore an error about an imported name mypy thinks is undefined:
'foo' is defined in 'foolib', even though mypy can't see the
# definition.

from foolib import foo  # type: ignore[attr-defined]
CHAPTER 33

Error codes enabled by default

This section documents various errors codes that mypy can generate with default options. See Error codes for general documentation about error codes. Error codes for optional checks documents additional error codes that you can enable.

33.1 Check that attribute exists [attr-defined]

Mypy checks that an attribute is defined in the target class or module when using the dot operator. This applies to both getting and setting an attribute. New attributes are defined by assignments in the class body, or assignments to self.x in methods. These assignments don’t generate attr-defined errors.

Example:

```python
class Resource:
    def __init__(self, name: str) -> None:
        self.name = name

r = Resource('x')
print(r.name)  # OK
print(r.id)  # Error: "Resource" has no attribute "id" [attr-defined]
r.id = 5  # Error: "Resource" has no attribute "id" [attr-defined]
```

This error code is also generated if an imported name is not defined in the module in a from ... import statement (as long as the target module can be found):

```python
# Error: Module "os" has no attribute "non_existent" [attr-defined]
from os import non_existent
```

A reference to a missing attribute is given the Any type. In the above example, the type of non_existent will be Any, which can be important if you silence the error.
33.2 Check that attribute exists in each union item [union-attr]

If you access the attribute of a value with a union type, mypy checks that the attribute is defined for every type in that union. Otherwise the operation can fail at runtime. This also applies to optional types.

Example:

```python
from typing import Union

class Cat:
    def sleep(self) -> None: ...
    def miaow(self) -> None: ...

class Dog:
    def sleep(self) -> None: ...
    def follow_me(self) -> None: ...

def func(animal: Union[Cat, Dog]) -> None:
    # OK: 'sleep' is defined for both Cat and Dog
    animal.sleep()
    # Error: Item "Cat" of "Union[Cat, Dog]" has no attribute "follow_me" [union-attr]
    animal.follow_me()
```

You can often work around these errors by using `assert isinstance(obj, ClassName)` or `assert obj is not None` to tell mypy that you know that the type is more specific than what mypy thinks.

33.3 Check that name is defined [name-defined]

Mypy expects that all references to names have a corresponding definition in an active scope, such as an assignment, function definition or an import. This can catch missing definitions, missing imports, and typos.

This example accidentally calls `sort()` instead of `sorted()`:

```python
x = sort([3, 2, 4])  # Error: Name "sort" is not defined [name-defined]
```

33.4 Check arguments in calls [call-arg]

Mypy expects that the number and names of arguments match the called function. Note that argument type checks have a separate error code `arg-type`.

Example:

```python
from typing import Sequence

def greet(name: str) -> None:
    print('hello', name)

greet('jack')  # OK

greet('jill', 'jack')  # Error: Too many arguments for "greet" [call-arg]
```
33.5 Check argument types [arg-type]

Mypy checks that argument types in a call match the declared argument types in the signature of the called function (if one exists).

Example:

```python
from typing import List, Optional

def first(x: List[int]) -> Optional[int]:
    return x[0] if x else 0

t = (5, 4)
# Error: Argument 1 to "first" has incompatible type "Tuple[int, int]"; # expected "List[int]" [arg-type]
print(first(t))
```

33.6 Check calls to overloaded functions [call-overload]

When you call an overloaded function, mypy checks that at least one of the signatures of the overload items match the argument types in the call.

Example:

```python
from typing import overload, Optional

@overload
def inc_maybe(x: None) -> None: ...

@overload
def inc_maybe(x: int) -> int: ...

def inc_maybe(x: Optional[int]) -> Optional[int]:
    if x is None:
        return None
    else:
        return x + 1

inc_maybe(None)  # OK
inc_maybe(5)     # OK

# Error: No overload variant of "inc_maybe" matches argument type "float" [call-overload]
inc_maybe(1.2)
```

33.7 Check validity of types [valid-type]

Mypy checks that each type annotation and any expression that represents a type is a valid type. Examples of valid types include classes, union types, callable types, type aliases, and literal types. Examples of invalid types include bare integer literals, functions, variables, and modules.

This example incorrectly uses the function `log` as a type:
from typing import List
def log(x: object) -> None:
    print('log:', repr(x))

# Error: Function "t.log" is not valid as a type [valid-type]
def log_all(objs: List[object], f: log) -> None:
    for x in objs:
        f(x)

You can use Callable as the type for callable objects:

from typing import List, Callable

# OK
def log_all(objs: List[object], f: Callable[[object], None]) -> None:
    for x in objs:
        f(x)

33.8 Require annotation if variable type is unclear [var-annotated]

In some cases mypy can’t infer the type of a variable without an explicit annotation. Mypy treats this as an error. This
typically happens when you initialize a variable with an empty collection or None. If mypy can’t infer the collection
item type, mypy replaces any parts of the type it couldn’t infer with Any and generates an error.

Example with an error:

class Bundle:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        # Error: Need type annotation for "items"
        # (hint: "items: List<[type]> = ...") [var-annotated]
        self.items = []

reveal_type(Bundle().items)  # list[Any]

To address this, we add an explicit annotation:

from typing import List
class Bundle:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.items: List[str] = []  # OK

reveal_type(Bundle().items)  # list[str]

33.9 Check validity of overrides [override]

Mypy checks that an overridden method or attribute is compatible with the base class. A method in a subclass must
accept all arguments that the base class method accepts, and the return type must conform to the return type in the
base class (Liskov substitution principle).

Argument types can be more general is a subclass (i.e., they can vary contravariantly). The return type can be narrowed
in a subclass (i.e., it can vary covariantly). It’s okay to define additional arguments in a subclass method, as long all
extra arguments have default values or can be left out (*args, for example).

Example:

```python
from typing import Optional, Union

class Base:
    def method(self, arg: int) -> Optional[int]:
        ...

class Derived(Base):
    def method(self, arg: Union[int, str]) -> int:  # OK
        ...

class DerivedBad(Base):
    # Error: Argument 1 of "method" is incompatible with "Base" [override]
    def method(self, arg: bool) -> int:
        ...
```

### 33.10 Check that function returns a value [return]

If a function has a non-None return type, mypy expects that the function always explicitly returns a value (or raises an exception). The function should not fall off the end of the function, since this is often a bug.

Example:

```python
# Error: Missing return statement [return]
def show(x: int) -> int:
    print(x)

# Error: Missing return statement [return]
def pred1(x: int) -> int:
    if x > 0:
        return x - 1
# OK
def pred2(x: int) -> int:
    if x > 0:
        return x - 1
    else:
        raise ValueError('not defined for zero')
```

### 33.11 Check that return value is compatible [return-value]

Mypy checks that the returned value is compatible with the type signature of the function.

Example:
def func(x: int) -> str:
    # Error: Incompatible return value type (got "int", expected "str") [return-value]
    return x + 1

33.12 Check types in assignment statement [assignment]

Mypy checks that the assigned expression is compatible with the assignment target (or targets).

Example:

class Resource:
    def __init__(self, name: str) -> None:
        self.name = name

r = Resource('A')

r.name = 'B'  # OK

# Error: Incompatible types in assignment (expression has type "int", variable has type "str") [assignment]
r.name = 5

33.13 Check type variable values [type-var]

Mypy checks that value of a type variable is compatible with a value restriction or the upper bound type.

Example:

from typing import TypeVar

Tl = TypeVar('Tl', int, float)

def add(x: Tl, y: Tl) -> Tl:
    return x + y

add(4, 5.5)  # OK

# Error: Value of type variable "Tl" of "add" cannot be "str" [type-var]
add('x', 'y')

33.14 Check uses of various operators [operator]

Mypy checks that operands support a binary or unary operation, such as + or ~. Indexing operations are so common that they have their own error code index (see below).

Example:

# Error: Unsupported operand types for + ("int" and "str") [operator]
1 + 'x'
33.15 Check indexing operations [index]

Mypy checks that the indexed value in indexing operation such as $x[y]$ supports indexing, and that the index expression has a valid type.

Example:

```python
a = {'x': 1, 'y': 2}
a['x']  # OK

# Error: Invalid index type "int" for "Dict[str, int]"; expected type "str"  [index]
print(a[1])

# Error: Invalid index type "bytes" for "Dict[str, int]"; expected type "str"  [index]
a[b'x'] = 4
```

33.16 Check list items [list-item]

When constructing a list using `[item, ...]`, mypy checks that each item is compatible with the list type that is inferred from the surrounding context.

Example:

```python
from typing import List

# Error: List item 0 has incompatible type "int"; expected "str"  [list-item]
a: List[str] = [0]
```

33.17 Check dict items [dict-item]

When constructing a dictionary using `{key: value, ...}` or `dict(key=value, ...)`, mypy checks that each key and value is compatible with the dictionary type that is inferred from the surrounding context.

Example:

```python
from typing import Dict

# Error: Dict entry 0 has incompatible type "str": "str"; expected "str": "int"  [dict-item]
d: Dict[str, int] = {'key': 'value'}
```

33.18 Check TypedDict items [typeddict-item]

When constructing a `TypedDict` object, mypy checks that each key and value is compatible with the `TypedDict` type that is inferred from the surrounding context.

Example:
from typing_extensions import TypedDict

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

# Error: Incompatible types (expression has type "float",
#   TypedDict item "x" has type "int") [typeddict-item]
p: Point = {'x': 1.2, 'y': 4}

### 33.19 Check that type of target is known [has-type]

Mypy sometimes generates an error when it hasn’t inferred any type for a variable being referenced. This can happen for references to variables that are initialized later in the source file, and for references across modules that form an import cycle. When this happens, the reference gets an implicit `Any` type.

In this example the definitions of `x` and `y` are circular:

```python
class Problem:
    def set_x(self) -> None:
        # Error: Cannot determine type of "y" [has-type]
        self.x = self.y

    def set_y(self) -> None:
        self.y = self.x
```

To work around this error, you can add an explicit type annotation to the target variable or attribute. Sometimes you can also reorganize the code so that the definition of the variable is placed earlier than the reference to the variable in a source file. Untangling cyclic imports may also help.

We add an explicit annotation to the `y` attribute to work around the issue:

```python
class Problem:
    def set_x(self) -> None:
        self.x = self.y  # OK

    def set_y(self) -> None:
        self.y: int = self.x  # Added annotation here
```

### 33.20 Check that import target can be found [import]

Mypy generates an error if it can’t find the source code or a stub file for an imported module.

Example:

```python
# Error: Cannot find implementation or library stub for module named 'acme' [import]
import acme
```

See *Missing imports* for how to work around these errors.
33.21 Check that each name is defined once [no-redef]

Mypy may generate an error if you have multiple definitions for a name in the same namespace. The reason is that this is often an error, as the second definition may overwrite the first one. Also, mypy often can’t be able to determine whether references point to the first or the second definition, which would compromise type checking.

If you silence this error, all references to the defined name refer to the first definition.

Example:

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

class A:  # Error: Name 'A' already defined on line 1 [no-redef]
    def __init__(self, x: str) -> None: ...

# Error: Argument 1 to "A" has incompatible type "str"; expected "int"
#       (the first definition wins!)
A('x')
```

33.22 Check that called function returns a value [func-returns-value]

Mypy reports an error if you call a function with a `None` return type and don’t ignore the return value, as this is usually (but not always) a programming error.

In this example, the `if f()` check is always false since `f` returns `None`:

```python
def f() -> None:
    ...

# OK: we don't do anything with the return value
f()

# Error: "f" does not return a value [func-returns-value]
if f():
    print("not false")
```

33.23 Check instantiation of abstract classes [abstract]

Mypy generates an error if you try to instantiate an abstract base class (ABC). An abstract base class is a class with at least one abstract method or attribute. (See also `abc` module documentation)

Sometimes a class is made accidentally abstract, often due to an unimplemented abstract method. In a case like this you need to provide an implementation for the method to make the class concrete (non-abstract).

Example:

```python
from abc import ABCMeta, abstractmethod

class Persistent(metaclass=ABCMeta):
    @abstractmethod
    def save(self) -> None: ...
```
class Thing(Persistent):
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        ...
        # No "save" method

# Error: Cannot instantiate abstract class "Thing" with abstract attribute "save" → [abstract]
t = Thing()

33.24 Check the target of NewType [valid-newtype]

The target of a `NewType` definition must be a class type. It can’t be a union type, `Any`, or various other special types. You can also get this error if the target has been imported from a module whose source mypy cannot find, since any such definitions are treated by mypy as values with `Any` types. Example:

```python
from typing import NewType
# The source for "acme" is not available for mypy
from acme import Entity # type: ignore
# Error: Argument 2 to NewType(...) must be subclassable (got "Any") [valid-newtype]
UserEntity = NewType('UserEntity', Entity)
```

To work around the issue, you can either give mypy access to the sources for `acme` or create a stub file for the module. See Missing imports for more information.

33.25 Check the return type of __exit__ [exit-return]

If mypy can determine that `__exit__` always returns `False`, mypy checks that the return type is `not bool`. The boolean value of the return type affects which lines mypy thinks are reachable after a `with` statement, since any `__exit__` method that can return `True` may swallow exceptions. An imprecise return type can result in mysterious errors reported near with statements.

To fix this, use either `typing_extensions.Literal[False]` or `None` as the return type. Returning `None` is equivalent to returning `False` in this context, since both are treated as false values.

Example:

```python
class MyContext:
    ...
    def __exit__(self, exc, value, tb) -> bool: # Error
        print('exit')
        return False
```

This produces the following output from mypy:

```python
example.py:3: error: "bool" is invalid as return type for "__exit__" that always returns False
example.py:3: note: Use "typing_extensions.Literal[False]" as the return type or change it to
```
"None"
example.py:3: note: If return type of "__exit__" implies that it may return True, the context manager may swallow exceptions

You can use `Literal[False]` to fix the error:

```python
from typing_extensions import Literal
class MyContext:
    ...
def __exit__(self, exc, value, tb) -> Literal[False]: # OK
    print('exit')
    return False
```

You can also use `None`:

```python
class MyContext:
    ...
def __exit__(self, exc, value, tb) -> None: # Also OK
    print('exit')
```

### 33.26 Check that naming is consistent [name-match]

The definition of a named tuple or a TypedDict must be named consistently when using the call-based syntax. Example:

```python
from typing import NamedTuple
Point2D = NamedTuple("Point", ["x", int], ["y", int])
```

### 33.27 Report syntax errors [syntax]

If the code being checked is not syntactically valid, mypy issues a syntax error. Most, but not all, syntax errors are blocking errors: they can’t be ignored with a `# type: ignore` comment.

### 33.28 Miscellaneous checks [misc]

Mypy performs numerous other, less commonly failing checks that don’t have specific error codes. These use the `misc` error code. Other than being used for multiple unrelated errors, the `misc` error code is not special. For example, you can ignore all errors in this category by using `# type: ignore[misc]` comment. Since these errors are not expected to be common, it’s unlikely that you’ll see two different errors with the `misc` code on a single line – though this can certainly happen once in a while.

**Note:** Future mypy versions will likely add new error codes for some errors that currently use the `misc` error code.
Error codes for optional checks

This section documents various errors codes that mypy generates only if you enable certain options. See Error codes for general documentation about error codes. Error codes enabled by default documents error codes that are enabled by default.

Note: The examples in this section use inline configuration to specify mypy options. You can also set the same options by using a configuration file or command-line options.

34.1 Check that type arguments exist [type-arg]

If you use --disallow-any-generics, mypy requires that each generic type has values for each type argument. For example, the types List or dict would be rejected. You should instead use types like List[int] or Dict[str, int]. Any omitted generic type arguments get implicit Any values. The type List is equivalent to List[Any], and so on.

Example:

```
# mypy: disallow-any-generics
from typing import List

# Error: Missing type parameters for generic type "List" [type-arg]
def remove_dups(items: List) -> List:
    ...
```

34.2 Check that every function has an annotation [no-untyped-def]

If you use --disallow-untyped-defs, mypy requires that all functions have annotations (either a Python 3 annotation or a type comment).
Example:

```python
# mypy: disallow-untyped-defs
def inc(x):  # Error: Function is missing a type annotation  [no-untyped-def]
    return x + 1
def inc_ok(x: int) -> int:  # OK
    return x + 1
class Counter:
    # Error: Function is missing a type annotation  [no-untyped-def]
    def __init__(self):
        self.value = 0
class CounterOk:
    # OK: An explicit "-> None" is needed if "__init__" takes no arguments
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        self.value = 0
```

### 34.3 Check that cast is not redundant [redundant-cast]

If you use `--warn-redundant-casts`, mypy will generate an error if the source type of a cast is the same as the target type.

Example:

```python
# mypy: warn-redundant-casts
from typing import cast
Count = int
def example(x: Count) -> int:
    # Error: Redundant cast to "int"  [redundant-cast]
    return cast(int, x)
```

### 34.4 Check that comparisons are overlapping [comparison-overlap]

If you use `--strict-equality`, mypy will generate an error if it thinks that a comparison operation is always true or false. These are often bugs. Sometimes mypy is too picky and the comparison can actually be useful. Instead of disabling strict equality checking everywhere, you can use `# type: ignore[comparison-overlap]` to ignore the issue on a particular line only.

Example:

```python
# mypy: strict-equality
def is_magic(x: bytes) -> bool:
    # Error: Non-overlapping equality check (left operand type: "bytes",
    # right operand type: "str")  [comparison-overlap]
    return x == 'magic'
```

We can fix the error by changing the string literal to a bytes literal:
# mypy: strict-equality

```python
def is_magic(x: bytes) -> bool:
    return x == b'magic'  # OK
```

34.5 Check that no untyped functions are called [no-untyped-call]

If you use `--disallow-untyped-calls`, mypy generates an error when you call an unannotated function in an annotated function.

Example:

```python
# mypy: disallow-untyped-calls

def do_it() -> None:
    # Error: Call to untyped function "bad" in typed context  [no-untyped-call]
    bad()

def bad():
    ...
```

34.6 Check that function does not return Any value [no-any-return]

If you use `--warn-return-any`, mypy generates an error if you return a value with an Any type in a function that is annotated to return a non-Any value.

Example:

```python
# mypy: warn-return-any

def fields(s):
    return s.split(',')

def first_field(x: str) -> str:
    # Error: Returning Any from function declared to return "str"  [no-any-return]
    return fields(x)[0]
```

34.7 Check that types have no Any components due to missing imports [no-any-unimported]

If you use `--disallow-any-unimported`, mypy generates an error if a component of a type becomes Any because mypy couldn’t resolve an import. These “stealth” Any types can be surprising and accidentally cause imprecise type checking.

In this example, we assume that mypy can’t find the module `animals`, which means that `Cat` falls back to Any in a type annotation:

```python
# mypy: disallow-any-unimported

from animals import Cat  # type: ignore
```

(continues on next page)
34.8 Check that statement or expression is unreachable [unreachable]

If you use --warn-unreachable, mypy generates an error if it thinks that a statement or expression will never be executed. In most cases, this is due to incorrect control flow or conditional checks that are accidentally always true or false.

```python
# mypy: warn-unreachable

def example(x: int) -> None:
    assert isinstance(x, int) or x == 'unused'
    return
    print('unreachable')
```

34.9 Check that expression is redundant [redundant-expr]

If you use --enable-error-code redundant-expr, mypy generates an error if it thinks that an expression is redundant.

```python
# mypy: enable-error-code redundant-expr

def example(x: int) -> None:
    if isinstance(x, int) and x > 0:
        pass

    if isinstance(x, int) else 0

    [i for i in range(x) if isinstance(i, int)]
```
CHAPTER 35

Additional features

This section discusses various features that did not fit in naturally in one of the previous sections.

35.1 Dataclasses

In Python 3.7, a new `dataclasses` module has been added to the standard library. This module allows defining and customizing simple boilerplate-free classes. They can be defined using the `@dataclasses.dataclass` decorator:

```python
from dataclasses import dataclass, field

@dataclass
class Application:
    name: str
    plugins: List[str] = field(default_factory=list)

test = Application("Testing...")  # OK
bad = Application("Testing...", "with plugin")  # Error: List[str] expected
```

Mypy will detect special methods (such as `__lt__`) depending on the flags used to define dataclasses. For example:

```python
from dataclasses import dataclass

@dataclass(order=True)
class OrderedPoint:
    x: int
    y: int

@dataclass(order=False)
class UnorderedPoint:
    x: int
    y: int
```

(continues on next page)
OrderedPoint(1, 2) < OrderedPoint(3, 4)  # OK
UnorderedPoint(1, 2) < UnorderedPoint(3, 4)  # Error: Unsupported operand types

Dataclasses can be generic and can be used in any other way a normal class can be used:

```python
from dataclasses import dataclass
from typing import Generic, TypeVar

T = TypeVar('T')

@dataclass
class BoxedData(Generic[T]):
    data: T
    label: str

    def unbox(bd: BoxedData[T]) -> T:
        ...

val = unbox(BoxedData(42, '<important>'))  # OK, inferred type is int
```

For more information see official docs and PEP 557.

### 35.1.1 Caveats/Known Issues

Some functions in the `dataclasses` module, such as `replace()` and `asdict()`, have imprecise (too permissive) types. This will be fixed in future releases.

Mypy does not yet recognize aliases of `dataclasses.dataclass`, and will probably never recognize dynamically computed decorators. The following examples do not work:

```python
from dataclasses import dataclass
dataclass_alias = dataclass
def dataclass_wrapper(cls):
    return dataclass(cls)

@dataclass_alias
class AliasDecorated:
    """
    Mypy doesn't recognize this as a dataclass because it is decorated by an
    alias of `dataclass` rather than by `dataclass` itself.
    """
    attribute: int

@dataclass_wrapper
class DynamicallyDecorated:
    """
    Mypy doesn't recognize this as a dataclass because it is decorated by a
    function returning `dataclass` rather than by `dataclass` itself.
    """
    attribute: int

AliasDecorated(attribute=1)  # error: Unexpected keyword argument
DynamicallyDecorated(attribute=1)  # error: Unexpected keyword argument
```
35.2 The attrs package

attrs is a package that lets you define classes without writing boilerplate code. Mypy can detect uses of the package and will generate the necessary method definitions for decorated classes using the type annotations it finds. Type annotations can be added as follows:

```python
import attr

@attr.s
class A:
    one: int = attr.ib() # Variable annotation (Python 3.6+)
    two = attr.ib()  # type: int  # Type comment
    three = attr.ib(type=int) # type= argument
```

If you’re using `auto_attribs=True` you must use variable annotations.

```python
import attr

@attr.s(auto_attribs=True)
class A:
    one: int
    two: int = 7
    three: int = attr.ib(8)
```

Typeshed has a couple of “white lie” annotations to make type checking easier. `attr.ib()` and `attr.Factory` actually return objects, but the annotation says these return the types that they expect to be assigned to. That enables this to work:

```python
import attr
from typing import Dict

@attr.s(auto_attribs=True)
class A:
    one: int = attr.ib(8)
    two: Dict[str, str] = attr.Factory(dict)
    bad: str = attr.ib(16) # Error: can't assign int to str
```

35.2.1 Caveats/Known Issues

- The detection of attr classes and attributes works by function name only. This means that if you have your own helper functions that, for example, `return attr.ib()` mypy will not see them.

- All boolean arguments that mypy cares about must be literal `True` or `False`. E.g the following will not work:

```python
import attr
YES = True
@attr.s(init=YES)
class A:
    ...
```

- Currently, `converter` only supports named functions. If mypy finds something else it will complain about not understanding the argument and the type annotation in `__init__` will be replaced by `Any`.

- Validator decorators and default decorators are not type-checked against the attribute they are setting/validating.

- Method definitions added by mypy currently overwrite any existing method definitions.
35.3 Using a remote cache to speed up mypy runs

Mypy performs type checking incrementally, reusing results from previous runs to speed up successive runs. If you are type checking a large codebase, mypy can still be sometimes slower than desirable. For example, if you create a new branch based on a much more recent commit than the target of the previous mypy run, mypy may have to process almost every file, as a large fraction of source files may have changed. This can also happen after you’ve rebased a local branch.

Mypy supports using a remote cache to improve performance in cases such as the above. In a large codebase, remote caching can sometimes speed up mypy runs by a factor of 10, or more.

Mypy doesn’t include all components needed to set this up – generally you will have to perform some simple integration with your Continuous Integration (CI) or build system to configure mypy to use a remote cache. This discussion assumes you have a CI system set up for the mypy build you want to speed up, and that you are using a central git repository. Generalizing to different environments should not be difficult.

Here are the main components needed:

- A shared repository for storing mypy cache files for all landed commits.
- CI build that uploads mypy incremental cache files to the shared repository for each commit for which the CI build runs.
- A wrapper script around mypy that developers use to run mypy with remote caching enabled.

Below we discuss each of these components in some detail.

35.3.1 Shared repository for cache files

You need a repository that allows you to upload mypy cache files from your CI build and make the cache files available for download based on a commit id. A simple approach would be to produce an archive of the .mypy_cache directory (which contains the mypy cache data) as a downloadable build artifact from your CI build (depending on the capabilities of your CI system). Alternatively, you could upload the data to a web server or to S3, for example.

35.3.2 Continuous Integration build

The CI build would run a regular mypy build and create an archive containing the .mypy_cache directory produced by the build. Finally, it will produce the cache as a build artifact or upload it to a repository where it is accessible by the mypy wrapper script.

Your CI script might work like this:

- Run mypy normally. This will generate cache data under the .mypy_cache directory.
- Create a tarball from the .mypy_cache directory.
- Determine the current git master branch commit id (say, using git rev-parse HEAD).
- Upload the tarball to the shared repository with a name derived from the commit id.

35.3.3 Mypy wrapper script

The wrapper script is used by developers to run mypy locally during development instead of invoking mypy directly. The wrapper first populates the local .mypy_cache directory from the shared repository and then runs a normal incremental build.
The wrapper script needs some logic to determine the most recent central repository commit (by convention, the `origin/master` branch for git) the local development branch is based on. In a typical git setup you can do it like this:

```bash
git merge-base HEAD origin/master
```

The next step is to download the cache data (contents of the `.mypy_cache` directory) from the shared repository based on the commit id of the merge base produced by the git command above. The script will decompress the data so that mypy will start with a fresh `.mypy_cache`. Finally, the script runs mypy normally. And that’s all!

### 35.3.4 Caching with mypy daemon

You can also use remote caching with the `mypy daemon`. The remote cache will significantly speed up the first `dmypy check` run after starting or restarting the daemon.

The mypy daemon requires extra fine-grained dependency data in the cache files which aren’t included by default. To use caching with the mypy daemon, use the `--cache-fine-grained` option in your CI build:

```bash
$ mypy --cache-fine-grained <args...>
```

This flag adds extra information for the daemon to the cache. In order to use this extra information, you will also need to use the `--use-fine-grained-cache` option with `dmypy start` or `dmypy restart`. Example:

```bash
$ dmypy start -- --use-fine-grained-cache <options...>
```

Now your first `dmypy check` run should be much faster, as it can use cache information to avoid processing the whole program.

### 35.3.5 Refinements

There are several optional refinements that may improve things further, at least if your codebase is hundreds of thousands of lines or more:

- If the wrapper script determines that the merge base hasn’t changed from a previous run, there’s no need to download the cache data and it’s better to instead reuse the existing local cache data.
- If you use the mypy daemon, you may want to restart the daemon each time after the merge base or local branch has changed to avoid processing a potentially large number of changes in an incremental build, as this can be much slower than downloading cache data and restarting the daemon.
- If the current local branch is based on a very recent master commit, the remote cache data may not yet be available for that commit, as there will necessarily be some latency to build the cache files. It may be a good idea to look for cache data for, say, the 5 latest master commits and use the most recent data that is available.
- If the remote cache is not accessible for some reason (say, from a public network), the script can still fall back to a normal incremental build.
- You can have multiple local cache directories for different local branches using the `--cache-dir` option. If the user switches to an existing branch where downloaded cache data is already available, you can continue to use the existing cache data instead of redownloading the data.
- You can set up your CI build to use a remote cache to speed up the CI build. This would be particularly useful if each CI build starts from a fresh state without access to cache files from previous builds. It’s still recommended to run a full, non-incremental mypy build to create the cache data, as repeatedly updating cache data incrementally could result in drift over a long time period (due to a mypy caching issue, perhaps).
35.4 Extended Callable types

Note: This feature is deprecated. You can use callback protocols as a replacement.

As an experimental mypy extension, you can specify Callable types that support keyword arguments, optional arguments, and more. When 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:

```python
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:

```python
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.
```

(continues on next page)
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

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

is equivalent to the following:

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

A `Callable` with unspecified argument types, such as

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

is (roughly) equivalent to

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

**Note:** Each of the functions above currently just returns its `type` argument at runtime, 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.
36.1 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 or static typing for Python.

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.

36.2 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 helps you find errors quickly 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. The earlier you start, the easier it will be to adopt static typing.

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

Mypy supports most Python features and idioms, and many large Python projects are using mypy successfully. 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 codebase that are less dynamic.

36.4 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.

36.5 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.

36.6 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.

36.7 Can I use duck typing with mypy?

Mypy provides support for both nominal subtyping and structural subtyping. Structural subtyping can be thought of as “static duck typing”. Some argue that structural subtyping is better suited for languages with duck typing such as Python. Mypy however primarily uses nominal subtyping, leaving structural subtyping mostly opt-in (except for built-in protocols such as Iterable that always support structural subtyping). Here are some reasons why:

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 provides built-in support for nominal isinstance() tests and they are widely used in programs. Only limited support for structural isinstance() is available, and it’s less type safe than nominal type tests.
3. Many programmers are already familiar with static, nominal subtyping and it has been successfully used in languages such as Java, C++ and C#. Fewer languages use structural subtyping. However, structural subtyping can also be useful. For example, a “public API” may be more flexible if it is typed with protocols. Also, using protocol types removes the necessity to explicitly declare implementations of ABCs. As a rule of thumb, we recommend using nominal classes where possible, and protocols where necessary. For more details about protocol types and structural subtyping see *Protocols and structural subtyping* and *PEP 544*.

### 36.8 I like Python and I have no need for static typing

The aim of mypy is not to convince everybody to write statically typed Python – static typing is entirely optional, now and in the future. 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.

### 36.9 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 and solutions* mentions some modifications to Python code that may be required to make code type check without errors. Also, your code must make attributes explicit.

Mypy supports modular, efficient type checking, and this seems to rule out type checking some language features, such as arbitrary monkey patching of methods.

### 36.10 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.
36.11 Does it run on PyPy?

No. MyPy relies on typed-ast, which uses several APIs that PyPy does not support (including some internal CPython APIs).

36.12 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.
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