



AIE1001 Introduction to AI Programming

Lecture 5 List

Prof. Junjie Hu
School of Artificial Intelligence



Outline

- List basics
 - List constants
 - Looking inside lists
 - Lists are mutable
 - Len() and range()
 - Two ways looping over a list
 - Concatenating (+, *) and slicing (:) lists
- List methods
 - Building a list from scratch with **list()** and **append()**
 - Use **in** to check if something in a list
 - Sort list with **sort()**
 - Built-in functions: **max()**, **min()**, **sum()**, etc.

List is kind of a collection

- A collection allows us to put **many values** in a **single** “variable”
- Instead of creating a separate variable for each item, we put them all in one “container” variable.



What is not a collection

- Most of our variables have only **one value** in them – when we put a new value in the variable, the old value will be **over-written**

```
>>> x=2  
>>> x=4  
>>> print(x)  
4
```

List constants

- List constants are surrounded by square brackets and the elements in the list are separated by commas
- A list element can be any Python object – even another list
- A list can be empty

```
>>> print([1, 24, 76])
[1, 24, 76]
>>> print(['red', 'yellow', 'blue'])
['red', 'yellow', 'blue']
>>> print(['red', 24, 98.6])
['red', 24, 98.6]
>>> print(1, [5, 6], 7)
1 [5, 6] 7
>>> print([])
[]
```

List and definite loop - best pal

```
friends = ['Tom', 'Jerry', 'Bat']
for friend in friends:
    print('Happy new year', friend)
print('Done')
```

```
Happy new year Tom  
Happy new year Jerry  
Happy new year Bat  
Done
```

Looking inside lists

- Just like strings, we can access any **single element** in a list using an **index** specified in square bracket



```
>>> friends = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']
>>> print(friends[1])
Glenn
```

Lists are mutable

- Strings are “immutable” – we cannot change the contents of a string unless we make a new string
- Lists are “mutable” – we can change an element of a list using index operator

```
>>> fruit = 'Banana'
>>> fruit[0] = 'b'
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#3>", line 1, in <module>
    fruit[0] = 'b'
TypeError: 'str' object does not support item assignment
>>>
>>> x=fruit.lower()
>>> print(x)
banana
>>>
>>> lotto = [2, 14, 26, 41, 63]
>>> print(lotto)
[2, 14, 26, 41, 63]
>>> lotto[2]=28
>>> print(lotto)
[2, 14, 28, 41, 63]
```

Mutable and immutable Variable

Property	Mutable	Immutable
Can change in place?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Memory location after change	Same	New
Examples	list, dict, set	str, tuple, int, float

How long is a list?

- The `len()` function takes a **list** as input and returns the **number of elements** in that list
- Actually `len()` tells us the number of elements in **any sequence** (e.g. strings)

```
>>> greet = 'Hello Bob'  
>>> print(len(greet))  
9  
>>> x=[1, 2, 'joe', 99]  
>>> print(len(x))  
4
```

Range() function

- The `range()` function returns a **list of numbers**
- We can construct an **index loop** using `for` and an integer iterator

```
range(start, stop, step)
```

- **start** → the number to start from (**default = 0**).
- **stop** → the number to stop **before** (this number is not included).
- **step** → how much to increase each time (**default = 1**).

```
>>> x=range(4)
>>> x
range(0, 4)
>>> x[0]
0
>>> x[1]
1
>>> x[2]
2
>>> x[3]
3
>>> x=range(2, 10, 2)
>>> x[0]
2
>>> x[3]
8
>>> x[4]
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#31>", line 1, in <module>
    x[4]
IndexError: range object index out of range
```

Two ways looping over a list

Example

```
friends = ['Tom', 'Jerry', 'Bat']

for friend in friends:
    print('Happy new year, ', friend)

for i in range(len(friends)):
    friend = friends[i]
    print('Happy new year, ', friend)
```

Output

```
Happy new year, Tom
Happy new year, Jerry
Happy new year, Bat
Happy new year, Tom
Happy new year, Jerry
Happy new year, Bat
>>> |
```

Concatenating lists using + and *

- Similar to strings, we can **add** two existing lists together to create a **new list**
- We can also repeat a list with many times using *****

```
>>> a=[1, 2, 3]
>>> b=[4, 5, 6]
>>> c=a+b
>>> print(c)
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
>>> print(a)
[1, 2, 3]
```

```
# Original list
numbers = [1, 2, 3]

# Repeat the list 3 times
repeated_list = numbers * 3

print(repeated_list)
```

Output:

```
[1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
```

Lists can be sliced using :

- Remember: similar to strings, the second number is “up to but no including”

```
>>> t=[9, 41, 12, 3, 74, 15]
>>> t[1:3]
[41, 12]
>>> t[:4]
[9, 41, 12, 3]
>>> t[3:]
[3, 74, 15]
>>> t[:]
[9, 41, 12, 3, 74, 15]
```

List methods

```
>>> x=list()
>>> type(x)
<class 'list'>
>>> dir(x)
['__add__', '__class__', '__contains__', '__delattr__', '__delitem__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__', '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattribute__', '__getitem__', '__gt__', '__hash__', '__iadd__', '__imul__', '__init__', '__iter__', '__le__', '__len__', '__lt__', '__mul__', '__ne__', '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__reversed__', '__rmul__', '__setattr__', '__setitem__', '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', 'append', 'clear', 'copy', 'count', 'extend', 'index', 'insert', 'pop', 'remove', 'reverse', 'sort']
```

<https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#more-on-lists>

Building a list from scratch

- We can **create** an empty list using `list()`, and then **add elements** using `append()` method
- The list stays **in order**, and new elements are added at the **end** of the list

```
>>> stuff = list()
>>> stuff.append('book')
>>> stuff.append(99)
>>> print(stuff)
['book', 99]
>>> stuff.append('cookie')
>>> print(stuff)
['book', 99, 'cookie']
```

Is something in a list

- Python provides two **operators** to check whether an item is in a list
- These are logical operators that return **True** or **False**
- They **do not** modify the list

```
>>> some = [1, 9, 21, 10, 16]
>>> 9 in some
True
>>> 15 in some
False
>>> 20 not in some
True
```

A list is an ordered sequence

- A list can hold many items and keeps them **in the order** until we do something to change the order
- A list can be **sorted** (i.e. change the order)
- The **sort()** method means “sort yourself”

```
>>> friend = ['Tom', 'Jerry', 'Bat']
>>> friends.sort()
>>> print(friends)
['Bat', 'Jerry', 'Tom']
>>> print(friends[1])
Jerry
>>>
>>> numbers = [1, 2, 5, 100, 32, 7, 97, 1001]
>>> numbers.sort()
>>> print(numbers)
[1, 2, 5, 7, 32, 97, 100, 1001]
...
```

Built-in functions and lists

- There are a number of **functions** built into Python that take lists **as inputs**
- Remember the loops we built? These are much simpler

```
>>> numbers = [3, 41, 12, 9, 74, 15]
>>> print(len(numbers))
6
>>> print(max(numbers))
74
>>> print(min(numbers))
3
>>> print(sum(numbers))
154
>>> print(sum(numbers)/len(numbers))
25.666666666666668
```

Averaging with a list

```
total = 0
count = 0
while True:
    inp = input('Enter a number: ')
    if inp == 'done': break
    value = float(inp)
    total = total + value
    count = count + 1

average = total/count
print('The average is:', average)
```

Practice

- Write a program to instruct the user to input several numbers and calculate their average using list methods

Best friends: strings and lists

- Use the `split()` method to break up a string into a **list of strings**
- We think of these as **words**
- We can access a particular word or loop through all the words

```
>>> myStr = 'Catch me if you can'  
>>> words = myStr.split()  
>>> print(words)  
['Catch', 'me', 'if', 'you', 'can']  
>>> print(len(words))  
5  
>>> print(words[0])  
Catch  
  
>>> for w in words: print(w)  
  
Catch  
me  
if  
you  
can
```

- When you do not specify a **delimiter**, multiple spaces are treated like “one” delimiter
- You can specify **what delimiter character** to use in splitting

```
string.split(separator, maxsplit)
```

- **separator** → the delimiter (default is space " ") .
- **maxsplit** → optional, limits how many splits happen.

```
>>> line = 'A lot of spaces'  
>>> etc = line.split()  
>>> print(etc)  
['A', 'lot', 'of', 'spaces']  
>>>  
>>> line = 'first;second;third'  
>>> thing = line.split()  
>>> print(thing)  
['first;second;third']  
>>> len(thing)  
1  
>>>  
>>> thing = line.split(';')  
>>> print(thing)  
['first', 'second', 'third']  
>>> print(len(thing))  
3
```

Practice

- The header of an email takes the following format:

From professor.xman@uct.edu Sat Jan 5 09:14:16 2008

For a given email header, write a program to find out the domain of email address, and the month in which this email is sent

The double split pattern

- Sometimes we split a line one way, and then grab **one piece** of the line and **split it again**

From professor.xman@uct.edu Sat Jan 5 09:14:16 2008

```
words = header.split()  
address = words[1].split('@')
```

Outline

- Dictionary basics
 - Definition
 - List v.s. dictionary
 - Dictionary literals
 - Counting with a dictionary
 - The get() method
 - Retrieving lists of keys and values
 - Look through a dictionary
 - For
 - Two iteration variables-key and value
- Tuples

A story of two collections

- **List:** a linear collection of values that stay in order
- **Dictionary:** a “bag” of values, each with its own label



Dictionary

- Dictionaries are Python's most powerful data collection
- Dictionaries allow us to do fast **database-like operations** in Python
- Dictionaries have different names in different languages
 - **Associative arrays** – Perl/PHP
 - **Properties** or **Map** or **HashMap** – Java
 - **Property Bag** – C#/.Net

Dictionary

- Lists **index** their entries based on the position in the list
- **Dictionaries** are like bags – no order
- We **index** the elements we put in the dictionary with a “lookup tag”

```
>>> purse = dict()  
>>> purse['money'] = 12  
>>> purse['candy'] = 3  
>>> purse['tissues'] = 75  
>>> print(purse)  
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 3}  
>>> print(purse['candy'])  
3  
  
>>> purse['candy']=purse['candy']+2  
>>> print(purse)  
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 5}  
  
>>> purse[3] = 77  
>>> print(purse)  
{3: 77, 'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 5}
```

List v.s. dictionary

- Dictionaries are similar to **lists**, except that they use **keys** instead of numbers to **look up** values

```
>>> lst = list()  
>>> lst.append(21)  
>>> lst.append(183)  
>>> print(lst)  
[21, 183]  
>>> lst[0] = 23  
>>> print(lst)  
[23, 183]
```

```
>>> ddd = dict()  
>>> ddd['age']=21  
>>> ddd['course']=182  
>>> print(ddd)  
{'age': 21, 'course': 182}  
>>> ddd['age']=23  
>>> print(ddd)  
{'age': 23, 'course': 182}
```

Feature	List	Dictionary
Data organization	Ordered collection of items	Collection of key-value pairs
Access method	By index number (0, 1, 2...)	By key (unique label)
Keys / Index	Index: integers starting at 0	Keys: can be strings, numbers, tuples
Duplicates	Can have duplicate values	Keys must be unique, values can be duplicate
Ordering	Maintains insertion order	Python 3.7+ maintains insertion order for keys
Mutability	Mutable (can add, remove, change)	Mutable (can add, remove, change)
Example use	Storing a simple list of names or numbers	Storing labeled data like a student's info

Dictionary literals (constants)

- Dictionary literals use **curly braces** and have list of **key:value** pairs
- You can make an **empty** dictionary using empty curly braces

```
>>> jjj = {'chuck':1, 'fred':42, 'jan':100}
>>> print(jjj)
{'fred': 42, 'chuck': 1, 'jan': 100}
>>> ooo={}
>>> print(ooo)
{}
```

Counting with a dictionary

- A common use of dictionary is counting how often we “see” something

```
>>> ccc=dict()
>>> ccc['csev']=1
>>> ccc['cwen']=1
>>> print(ccc)
{'csev': 1, 'cwen': 1}
>>> ccc['cwen']=ccc['cwen']+1
>>> print(ccc['cwen'])
2
```

Dictionary tracebacks

- It is an error to reference a key which is not in the dictionary
- We can use the `in` operator to see if a key is in the dictionary

```
>>> ccc=dict()
>>> print(ccc['csev'])
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#46>", line 1, in <module>
    print(ccc['csev'])
KeyError: 'csev'
>>> 'csev' in ccc
False
```

Practice

- Write a program to instruct the user to continuously input some words, and use dictionary to count how many times a word has been inputted before.

The get() method

- This pattern of checking to see if a **key** is already in a dictionary, and assuming a default value if the key is not there is so common, that there is a **method** called **get()** that does this for us

```
>>> counts = {'aaa':1, 'bbb':2, 'ccc':5}  
>>> print(counts.get('eee', 0))  
0
```

```
dictionary.get(key, default_value)
```

- **key** → The key you want to look up.
- **default_value** (*optional*) → Returned if the key doesn't exist in the dictionary.

Practice

- Write a program to instruct the user to input a line of texts, and use dictionary to count how many times a word has been seen in this line. You should use the `get()` method in this program.

Retrieving lists of keys and values

- You can get a list of **keys**, **values** or **items** (both) from a dictionary

```
>>> jjj = {'chuck':1,'fred':42,'jan':100}
>>> print(list(jjj))
['jan', 'fred', 'chuck']

>>> print(list(jjj.keys()))
['jan', 'fred', 'chuck']

>>> print(list(jjj.values()))
[100, 42, 1]
>>> print(list(jjj.items()))
[('jan', 100), ('fred', 42), ('chuck', 1)]
```

Definite loops and dictionaries

- Even though dictionaries are **not stored in order**, we can write a **for** loop that goes through all elements in a dictionary – actually it goes through **all the keys** in that dictionary and looks up the values

```
counts = {'chuck':1, 'fred':42, 'jan':100}
```

```
for key in counts:  
    print(key, counts[key])
```

```
jan 100  
fred 42  
chuck 1
```

Bonus: two iteration variables

- We loop through the **key-value** pairs in a dictionary using **two** iteration variables
- Each iteration, the first variable is the **key**, and the second variable is the **corresponding value** for the key

```
counts = {'chuck':1, 'fred':42, 'jan':100}
for key, value in counts.items():
    print(key, value)
```

```
chuck 1
fred 42
jan 100
```

Tuples

- Tuples are another type of sequence that function more like a list – they have elements which are indexed starting from 0

```
>>> x=('Glenn','Sally','Joseph')           >>> for i in y:  
>>> print(x)                           print(i)  
('Glenn','Sally','Joseph')  
>>> y=(1,9,2)                         1  
>>> print(y)                           9  
(1, 9, 2) ____  
>>> print(max(y))                     2  
9
```

But, tuples are “immutable”

- Unlike a list, once you create a tuple, you cannot change its contents
 - similar to a string

```
>>> x=[9, 8, 7] >>> y='abc'  
>>> x[2]=6      >>> y[2]='e'  
>>> print(x)   Traceback (most recent call last)  
[9, 8, 6]          :  
                  File "<pyshell#23>", line 1, in  
<module>  
                  y[2]='e'  
TypeError: 'str' object does not  
support item assignment  
...
```

```
>>> z=(5, 4, 3)  
>>> z[2]  
3  
>>> z[2]=0  
Traceback (most recent call last)  
:  
      File "<pyshell#28>", line 1, in  
<module>  
      z[2]=0  
TypeError: 'tuple' object does no  
t support item assignment
```

Some things that you cannot do with tuples

```
>>> x=(1, 2, 3)
>>> x.sort()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#32>", line 1, in <module>
    x.sort()
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'sort'
>>> x.append(5)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#33>", line 1, in <module>
    x.append(5)
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'append'
>>> x.reverse()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#34>", line 1, in <module>
    x.reverse()
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'reverse'
```

A tale of two sequences

```
>>> l = list()
>>> dir(l)
['__add__', '__class__', '__contains__', '__delattr__', '__delitem__', '__dir__', '__doc__',
 '__eq__', '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattribute__', '__getitem__', '__init__', '__iter__',
 '__len__', '__hash__', '__iadd__', '__imul__', '__init__', '__iter__', '__le__', '__len__',
 '__lt__', '__mul__', '__ne__', '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__',
 '__reversed__', '__rmul__', '__setattr__', '__setitem__', '__sizeof__', '__str__',
 '__subclasshook__', 'append', 'clear', 'copy', 'count', 'extend', 'index', 'insert',
 'pop', 'remove', 'reverse', 'sort']
>>> t = tuple()
>>> dir(t)
['__add__', '__class__', '__contains__', '__delattr__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__',
 '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattribute__', '__getitem__', '__getnewargs__',
 '__gt__', '__hash__', '__init__', '__iter__', '__le__', '__len__', '__lt__', '__mul__',
 '__ne__', '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__rmul__',
 '__setattr__', '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', 'count', 'index']
```

Tuples are more efficient

- Since Python does not have to build tuple structures to be modifiable, they are simpler and more efficient in terms of memory use and performance than lists
- In our program when we are making “temporary variables” we prefer tuples over lists

Tuples and dictionaries

- The `item()` method in dictionaries returns a list of (key, value) tuples

```
>>> d=dict()
>>> d['csev']=2
>>> d['owen']=4
>>> for (k, v) in d.items():
    print(k, v)

csev 2
owen 4
>>> tups = d.items()
>>> print(tups)
dict_items([('csev', 2), ('owen', 4)])
>>> print(list(tups))
[('csev', 2), ('owen', 4)]

>>> tups = list(tups)
>>> tups[1]
('owen', 4)
```

Tuples are comparable

- The **comparison** operators work with tuples and other sequences if the **first item is equal**. Python goes on to the next element, until it finds the **elements which are different**

```
>>> (0, 1, 2) < (5, 1, 2)
True
>>> (0, 1, 200000) < (0, 3, 4)
True
>>> ('Jones', 'Sally') < ('Jones', 'Fred')
False
>>> ('Jones', 'Sally') > ('Adams', 'Sam')
True
```

Sorting lists of tuples

- We can take advantage of the ability to sort a list of **tuples** to get a sorted version of a dictionary
- First we sort the dictionary by the key using the **items()** method

```
d = {'a':10, 'c':22, 'b':1}  
t = d.items()
```

```
t = List(t)  
print(t)
```

```
t.sort()  
print(t)
```

```
[('a', 10), ('c', 22), ('b', 1)]  
[('a', 10), ('b', 1), ('c', 22)]
```

Using sorted()

- We can also do this using a built-in function `sorted()` which takes a sequence as a parameter and returns a sorted sequence

```
sorted(iterable, key=None, reverse=False)
```

```
d = {'a':10, 'c':22, 'b':1}
t = d.items()

w = sorted(d.items())
print(w)
print(t)
```

```
[('a', 10), ('b', 1), ('c', 22)]
dict_items([('a', 10), ('c', 22), ('b', 1)])
```

- **iterable** → the sequence or collection you want to sort.
- **key** → (optional) a function used to customize sorting rules.
- **reverse** → (optional) set `True` for descending order.

Sort vs Sorted

- Use `.sort()` if you want to sort a list and keep only the sorted version.
- Use `sorted()` when you want a sorted copy but keep the original unchanged.

Feature	<code>.sort()</code>	<code>sorted()</code>
Works on	Lists only	Any iterable (list, tuple, string, dict items)
Changes original?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (returns new list)
Return value	None	New sorted list

Practice

- Write a program, which sorts the elements of a dictionary by the value of each element

Sort by values instead of key

- If we could construct a list of **tuples** of the form **(key, value)** we could **sort** by value
- We do this with a for loop that creates a list of tuples

```
>>> d={'a':10, 'b':1, 'c':22}
>>> tmp = list()
>>> for k, v in d.items():
...     tmp.append((v, k))
...
>>> print(tmp)
[(22, 'c'), (1, 'b'), (10, 'a')]
>>> tmp.sort(reverse=True)
>>> print(tmp)
[(22, 'c'), (10, 'a'), (1, 'b')]
```

Example: Finding the 10 most common words in a file

```
fhand = open('myhost.txt', 'r')
counts = dict()
for line in fhand:
    words = line.split()
    for word in words:
        counts[word] = counts.get(word, 0)+1

lst = list()
for key, val in counts.items():
    lst.append((val, key))

lst.sort(reverse = True)

for val, key in lst[:10]:
    print(key, val)
```