Introduction to Python Topics

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Table of Contents

- Review/Questions
- 2 Sequences
- 3 Lists, Tuples...
- 4 Looping
- Dictionaries and Sets

Review of Previous Class

- Recusive functions
- Truthiness
- Modules and name spaces

Lightning Talks

Lightning talks today:

Nate Flagg

Duane Wright

Jo-Anne Antoun

Josh Rakita



Homework review

Homework Questions?

My Solution

Sequences

Sequences are ordered collections of objects

They can be indexed, sliced, iterated over,...

They have a length: len(sequence)

Common sequences (Remember Duck Typing?):

- strings
- tuples
- lists



Indexing

```
square brackets for indexing: []
```

Indexing starts at zero

```
In [98]: s = "this is a string"
```

```
In [99]: s[0]
Out[99]: 't'
```

```
In [100]: s[5]
Out[100]: 'i'
```

Indexing

Negative indexes count from the end

```
In [105]: s = "this is a string"
In [106]: s[-1]
Out[106]: 'g'
In [107]: s[-6]
Out[107]: 's'
```

Slicing: Pulling a range out of a sequence

```
sequence[start:finish]
```

indexes for which:

start <= i < finish

```
In [121]: s = "a bunch of words"
In [122]: s[2]
Out[122]: 'b'
In [123]: s[6]
Out[123]: 'h'
In [124]: s[2:6]
Out[124]: 'bunc'
In [125]: s[2:7]
Out[125]: 'bunch'
```

the indexes point to the spaces between the items

Slicing satisfies nifty properties:

Indexing returns a single element

```
In [86]: 1
Out[86]: [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
In [87]: type(1)
Out[87]: list
In [88]: 1[3]
Out[88]: 3
In [89]: type(1[3])
Out[89]: int
```

Unless it's a string:

```
In [75]: s = "a string"
In [76]: s[3]
Out[76]: 't'
In [77]: type(s[3])
```

Out[77]: str

There is no single character type



Slicing returns a sequence:

```
In [68]: 1
Out[68]: [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
In [69]: 1[2:4]
Out[69]: [2, 3]
Even if it's one element long
In [70]: 1[2:3]
```

Out[70]: [2]

In [71]: type(1[2:3])

Out[71]: list

Indexing out of range produces an error

```
In [129]: s = "a bunch of words"
In [130]: s[17]
----> 1 s[17]
IndexError: string index out of range
```

Slicing just gives you what's there

```
In [131]: s[10:20]
Out[131]: 'words'
In [132]: s[20:30]
Out[132]: ''
(demo)
```

Multiplying and slicing

```
from CodingBat: Warmup-1 – front3
def front3(str):
  if len(str) < 3:
    return str+str+str
  else:
    return str[:3]+str[:3]+str[:3]
or
def front3(str):
    return str[:3] * 3
```

Slicing

```
from CodingBat: Warmup-1 - missing_char
```

```
def missing_char(str, n):
    front = str[0:n]
    l = len(str)-1
    back = str[n+1:l+1]
    return front + back

def missing_char(str, n):
    return str[:n] + str[n+1:]
```

Slicing

you can skip items, too

```
In [289]: string = "a fairly long string"
In [290]: string[0:15]
Out[290]: 'a fairly long s'
In [291]: string[0:15:2]
Out[291]: 'afil ogs'
In [292]: string[0:15:3]
Out[292]: 'aallg'
```

Command Line Input

input evaluates the input:

```
In [265]: val = input("a message> ")
a message> 4.5
In [266]: type(val)
Out [266]: float
raw_input gives you the plain string:
In [265]: val = input("a message> ")
a message> 4.5
In [266]: type(val)
Out[266]: float
(demo)
```

LAB

```
def count_them(letter):
```

- prompts the user to input a letter
- counts the number of times the given letter is input
- prompts the user for another letter
- continues until the user inputs "x"
- returns the count of the letter input

```
def count_letter_in_string(string, letter):
```

- counts the number of instances of the letter in the string
- ends when a period is encountered
- if no period is encountered prints "hey, there was no period!"



LAB

Write some functions that:

- return a string with the first and last characters exchanged.
- return a string with every other character removed
- return a string with the first and last 4 characters removed,
 and every other char in between
- return a string reversed (just with slicing)
- return a string with the middle, then last, then first third in a new order



Lightning Talk

Lightning Talks:

Nate Flag

Duane Wright

Lists

List Literals

```
>>> []
[]
>>> list()
[]
>>> [1, 2, 3]
[1, 2, 3]
>>> [1, 3.14, "abc"]
[1, 3.14, 'abc']
```

Lists

```
List "type"
  (also constructor)

>>> type(list)
<type 'type'>
>>> list( (1,2,3) )
[1, 2, 3]
>>> list( "a string" )
```

Takes any sequence, tries to turn it into a list

like int(), float(), etc.



List Indexing

Indexing just like all sequences

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food[2]
'ham'
>>> food[0]
'spam'
>>> food[42]
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
IndexError: list index out of range
```

List Mutability

Lists are mutable

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food[1] = 'raspberries'
>>> food
['spam', 'raspberries', 'ham']
```

List Elements

Each element is a value, and can be in multiple lists and have multiple names (or no name)

```
>>> name = 'Brian'
>>> a = [1, 2, name]
>>> b = [3, 4, name]
>>> name
 'Brian'
>>> a
 [1, 2, 'Brian']
>>> h
 [3, 4, 'Brian']
>>> a[2]
 'Brian'
>>> b[2]
```

List Methods

```
.append(), .insert()
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food.append('sushi')
>>> food
['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> food.insert(0, 'carrots')
>>> food
['carrots', 'spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
```

List Methods

```
.extend()
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food.extend(['fish', 'chips'])
>>> food
['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'fish', 'chips']
could be any sequence:
>>> food
>>> ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> silverware = ('fork', 'knife', 'spoon') # a tuple
>>> food.extend(silverware)
>>> food
>>> ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'fork', 'knife', 'spoon']
```

List Methods

```
pop(), remove()
In [203]: food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'toast']
In [204]: food.pop()
Out[204]: 'toast'
In [205]: food.pop(0)
Out [205]: 'spam'
In [206]: food
Out[206]: ['eggs', 'ham']
In [207]: food.remove('ham')
In [208]: food
Out[208]: ['eggs']
```

List Constructor

list() accepts any sequence and returns a list of that sequence

```
>>> word = 'Python '
>>> chars = []
>>> for char in word:
... chars.append(char)
>>> chars
['P', 'y', 't', 'h', 'o', 'n', ' ']
>>> list(word)
['P', 'y', 't', 'h', 'o', 'n', ' ']
```

String to List to String

If you need to change individual letters... you can do this, but usually somestring.replace() will be enough

```
In [216]: name = 'Chris'
In [217]: lname = list(name)
In [218]: lname[0:2] = 'K'
In [219]: name = ''.join(lname)
In [220]: name
Out[220]: 'Kris'
```

Building up strings in a list

```
In [221]: msg = []
In [222]: msg.append('The first line of a message')
In [223]: msg.append('The second line of a message')
In [224]: msg.append('And one more line')
In [225]: print '\n'.join(msg)
The first line of a message
The second line of a message
And one more line
```

List Slicing

```
Slicing makes a copy
```

```
In [227]: food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
In [228]: some_food = food[1:3]
In [229]: some_food[1] = 'bacon'
In [230]: food
Out[230]: ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
In [231]: some food
Out[231]: ['eggs', 'bacon']
```

List Slicing

```
Easy way to copy a whole list
```

```
In [232]: food
Out[232]: ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
In [233]: food2 = food[:]
In [234]: food is food2
Out[234]: False
```

but the copy is "shallow":

http://docs.python.org/library/copy.html



List Slicing

"Shallow" copy

```
In [249]: food = ['spam', ['eggs', 'ham']]
In [251]: food_copy = food[:]
In [252]: food[1].pop()
Out[252]: 'ham'
In [253]: food
Out[253]: ['spam', ['eggs']]
In [256]: food.pop(0)
Out [256]: 'spam'
In [257]: food
Out[257]: [['eggs']]
In [258]: food_copy
Out[258]: ['spam', ['eggs']]
```

Name Binding

Assigning to a name does not copy:

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> food_again = food
>>> food_copy = food[:]
>>> food.remove('sushi')
>>> food
['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food_again
['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food_copy
['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
```

List Iterating

Iterating over a list

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> for x in food:
... print x
...
spam
eggs
ham
sushi
```

Processing Lists

A common pattern

```
filtered = []
for x in somelist:
    if should_be_included(x):
        filtered.append(x)
del(somelist) # maybe
```

you don't want to be deleting items from the list while iterating...

Mutating Lists

if you're going to change the list, iterate over a copy for safety

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> for x in food[:]:
    ... # change the list somehow
    ...
```

insidious bugs otherwise

operators vs methods

What's the difference?

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
   >>> more = ['fish', 'chips']
   >>> food = food + more
   >>> food
   ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'fish', 'chips']
  >>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
   >>> more = ['fish', 'chips']
  >>> food.extend(more)
  >>> food
   ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'fish', 'chips']
(the operator makes a new list...)
```

in

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> 'eggs' in food
True
>>> 'chicken feet' in food
False
```

reverse()

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham']
>>> food.reverse()
>>> food
['ham', 'eggs', 'spam']
```

sort()

```
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> food.sort()
>>> food
['eggs', 'ham', 'spam', 'sushi']
note:
>>> food = ['spam', 'eggs', 'ham', 'sushi']
>>> result = food.sort()
>>> print result
None
```

How should this sort?

```
>>> s
[[2, 'a'], [1, 'b'], [1, 'c'], [1, 'a'], [2, 'c']]
```

How should this sort?

```
>>> s
[[2, 'a'], [1, 'b'], [1, 'c'], [1, 'a'], [2, 'c']]
>>> s.sort()
>>> s
[[1, 'a'], [1, 'b'], [1, 'c'], [2, 'a'], [2, 'c']]
```

You can specify your own compare function:

```
In [279]: s = [[2, 'a'], [1, 'b'], [1, 'c'], [1, 'a'], [2,
In [281]: def comp(s1,s2):
              if s1[1] > s2[1]: return 1
   . . . . . :
   ....: elif s1[1]<s2[1]: return -1
  ....: else:
   . . . . . :
                  if s1[0] > s2[0]: return 1
                  elif s1[0] < s2[0]: return -1
   . . . . . :
   . . . . . :
              return 0
In [282]: s.sort(comp)
In [283]: s
Out[283]: [[1, 'a'], [2, 'a'], [1, 'b'], [1, 'c'], [2, 'c']
```

Mixed types can be sorted.

"objects of different types always compare unequal, and are ordered consistently but arbitrarily."

```
http:
```

//docs.python.org/reference/expressions.html#not-in

Searching

Finding or Counting items

```
In [288]: 1 = [3,1,7,5,4,3]
```

In [289]: 1.index(5)

Out[289]: 3

In [290]: 1.count(3)

Out[290]: 2

List Performance

- indexing is fast and constant time: O(1)
- x in s proportional to n: O(n)
- visiting all is proportional to n: O(n)
- operating on the end of list is fast and constant time: O(1) append(), pop()
- operating on the front (or middle) of the list depends on n:
 O(n)
 pop(0), insert(0, v)

But, reversing is fast. Also, collections.deque

http://wiki.python.org/moin/TimeComplexity

Lists vs. Tuples

List or Tuples

If it needs to mutable: list

If it needs to be immutable: tuple (dict key, safety when passing to a function)

Otherwise ... taste and convention

List vs Tuple

Convention:

Lists are Collections (homogeneous):

- contain values of the same type
- simplifies iterating, sorting, etc

tuples are mixed types:

Group multiple values into one logical thing –
 Kind of like simple C structs.



List vs Tuple

- Do the same operation to each element?
- Small collection of values which make a single logical item?
- To document that these values won't change?
- Build it iteratively?
- Transform, filter, etc?

List vs Tuple

- Do the same operation to each element? list
- Small collection of values which make a single logical item? tuple
- To document that these values won't change?tuple
- Build it iteratively? list
- Transform, filter, etc? list



List Docs

The list docs:

```
http://docs.python.org/library/stdtypes.html#
mutable-sequence-types
```

```
(actually any mutable sequence....)
```

tuples and commas..

Tuples don't NEED parentheses...

```
In [161]: t = (1,2,3)
In [162]: t
Out[162]: (1, 2, 3)
In [163]: t = 1,2,3
In [164]: t
Out[164]: (1, 2, 3)
In [165]: type(t)
Out[165]: tuple
```

tuples and commas..

Tuples do need commas...

```
In [156]: t = (3)
In [157]: type(t)
Out[157]: int
In [158]: t = (3,)
In [159]: t
Out[159]: (3,)
In [160]: type(t)
Out[160]: tuple
```

LAB

List Lab

week-03/code/list_lab.rst

Lightning Talk

Lightning Talks:

Jo-Anne Antoun

Josh Rakita

for loops

looping through sequences

```
for x in sequence:
    do_something_with_x
```

for loops

```
In [170]: for x in "a string":
                      print x
    . . . . . :
    . . . . . :
а
S
t
r
i
n
g
```

range

looping a known number of times..

```
In [171]: for i in range(5):
    ....:
    print i
    ....:
0
1
2
3
4
```

(you don't need to do anything with i...



range

range defined similarly to indexing

```
In [183]: range(4)
Out[183]: [0, 1, 2, 3]
In [184]: range(2,4)
Out[184]: [2, 3]
In [185]: range(2,10,2)
Out[185]: [2, 4, 6, 8]
```

indexing?

Python only loops through a sequence – not like C, Javascript, etc...

```
for(var i=0; i<arr.length; i++) {
   var value = arr[i];
   alert(i =") "+value);
}</pre>
```

indexing?

```
Use range?
```

```
In [193]: letters = "Python"
In [194]: for i in range(len(letters)):
                print letters[i]
   . . . . . :
   . . . . . :
P
h
0
n
```

indexing?

More Pythonic – for loops through sequences

```
In [196]: for l in letters:
    ....: print l
    ....:
P
y
t
h
o
n
```

Never index in normal cases



enumerate

If you need an index - enumerate

multiple sequences - zip

If you need to loop though parallel sequences — zip

xrange

```
range creates the whole list
xrange is a generator - creates it as it's needed -
a good idea for large numbers
```

for

for does NOT create a name space:

while

while is for when you don't know how many loops you need

Continues to execute the body until condition is not True

```
while a_condition:
    some_code
    in_the_body
```

while

while is more general than for — you can always express for as while, but not always vice-versa.

while is more error-prone — requires some care to terminate

loop body must make progress, so condition can become False

potential error: infinite loops



while vs. for

```
letters = 'Python'
i=0
while i < len(letters):
    print letters[i]
    i += 1
VS.
letters = 'Python'
for c in letters:
    print c
```

while

Shortcut: recall – 0 or empty sequence is False

break

break ends a loop early

```
x = 0
while True:
    print x
    if x > 3:
        break
    x = x + 1
In [216]: run for_while.py
0
3
4
```

break

same way with a for loop

```
name = "Chris Barker"
for c in name:
    print c,
    if c == "B":
        break
print "I'm done"

C h r i s B
I'm done
```

continue

continue skips to the start of the loop again

```
print "continue in a for loop"
name = "Chris Barker"
for c in name:
   if c == "B":
       continue
   print c,
print "\nI'm done"
continue in a for loop
Chris arker
I'm done
```

continue

continue works for a while loop too.

```
print "continue in a while loop"
x = 6
while x > 0:
    x = x-1
    if x%2:
        continue
    print x,
print "\nI'm done"
continue in a while loop
4 2 0
I'm done
```

else again

else block run if the loop finished naturally — no break

```
print "else in a for loop"
x = 5
for i in range(5):
    print i
    if i == x:
        break
else:
    print "else block run"
```

Dictionary

Python calls it a dict

Other languages call it:

- dictionary
- associative array
- map
- hash table
- hash
- key-value pair



Dictionary Constructors

```
>>> {'key1': 3, 'key2': 5}
{'key1': 3, 'key2': 5}
>>> dict([('key1', 3),('key2', 5)])
{'key1': 3, 'key2': 5}
>>> dict(key1=3, key2= 5)
{'key1': 3, 'key2': 5}
>>> d = {}
>>> d['key1'] = 3
>>> d['key2'] = 5
>>> d
{'key1': 3, 'key2': 5}
```

```
>>> d = {'name': 'Brian', 'score': 42}
>>> d['score']
42
>>> d = {1: 'one', 0: 'zero'}
>>> d[0]
'zero'
>>> d['non-existing key']
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'non-existing key'
```

Keys can be any immutable:

- numbers
- string
- tuples

```
In [325]: d[3] = 'string'
In [326]: d[3.14] = 'pi'
In [327]: d['pi'] = 3.14
In [328]: d[ (1,2,3) ] = 'a tuple key'
In [329]: d[ [1,2,3] ] = 'a list key'
    TypeError: unhashable type: 'list'
```

Actually – any "hashable" type.



hash functions convert arbitrarily large data to a small proxy (usually int)

always return the same proxy for the same input

MD5, SHA, etc



Dictionaries hash the key to an integer proxy and use it to find the key and value

Key lookup is efficient because the hash function leads directly to a bucket with a very few keys (often just one)

What would happen if the proxy changed after storing a key?

Hashability requires immutability

Key lookup is very efficient

Same average time regardless of size

also... Python name look-ups are implemented with dict:

— its highly optimized



key to value lookup is one way

value to key requires visiting the whole dict

if you need to check dict values often, create another dict or set (up to you to keep them in sync)



Dictionary Ordering (not)

dictionaries have no defined order

```
In [352]: d = {'one':1, 'two':2, 'three':3}
In [353]: d
Out[353]: {'one': 1, 'three': 3, 'two': 2}
In [354]: d.keys()
Out[354]: ['three', 'two', 'one']
```

Dictionary Iterating

for iterates the keys

```
>>> d = {'name': 'Brian', 'score': 42}
>>> for x in d:
... print x
...
score name
```

note the different order...

dict keys and values

```
>>> d.keys()
['score', 'name']
>>> d.values()
[42, 'Brian']
>>> d.items()
[('score', 42), ('name', 'Brian')]
```

dict keys and values

iterating on everything

```
>>> d = {'name': 'Brian', 'score': 42}
>>> for k, v in d.items():
... print "%s: %s" % (k, v)
...
score: 42
name: Brian
```

Dictionary Performance

- indexing is fast and constant time: O(1)
- \times in s cpnstant time: O(1)
- visiting all is proportional to n: O(n)
- inserting is constant time: O(1)
- deleting is constant time: O(1)

http://wiki.python.org/moin/TimeComplexity

Dict Comprehensions

```
You can do it with dicts, too:
```

```
new_dict = { key:value for variable in a_sequence}
same as for loop:
new_dict = {}
for key in a_list:
    new_dict[key] = value
```

Dict Comprehensions

Example

```
(not as useful with the dict() constructor...)
```

Switch?

How do you spell switch/case in Python?

Put the values to switch on in the keys:

Functions to call in values:

demo: sample code (switch_case.py)

Sets

set is an unordered collection of distinct values

Essentially a dict with only keys

Set Constructors

```
>>> set()
set([])
>>> set([1, 2, 3])
set([1, 2, 3])
# as of 2.7
>>> {1, 2, 3}
set([1, 2, 3])
>>> s = set()
>>> s.update([1, 2, 3])
>>> s
set([1, 2, 3])
```

Set Properties

Set members must be hashable

Like dictionary keys – and for same reason (efficient lookup)

No indexing (unordered)

```
>>> s[1]
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
TypeError: 'set' object does not support indexing
```

Set Methods

```
>> s = set([1])
>>> s.pop() # an arbitrary member
1
>>> s.pop()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'pop from an empty set'
>>> s = set([1, 2, 3])
>>> s.remove(2)
>>> s.remove(2)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 2
```

Set Methods

```
s.isdisjoint(other)
s.issubset(other)
s.union(other, ...)
s.intersection(other, ...)
s.difference(other, ...)
s.symmetric_difference( other, ...)
```

Frozen Set

```
Also frozenset
```

```
immutable — for use as a key in a dict (or another set...)
```

```
>>> fs = frozenset((3,8,5))
>>> fs.add(9)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'frozenset' object has no attribute 'add'
```

LAB

Some lab excercises

Lightning Talk

Lightning Talks:

person 1

person 2

Homework

Recommended Reading:

some stuff

Do:

Some things

Homework

Recommended Reading:

- Read Think Python: 9, 14
- extra: string methods: http://docs.python.org/library/ stdtypes.html#string-methods
- extra: unicode: http: //www.joelonsoftware.com/articles/Unicode.html

Do:

- Six more CodingBat exercises.
- LPTHW: for extra practice with the concepts some of:

```
strings: ex5, ex6, ex7, ex8, ex9, ex10
raw_input(), sys.argv: ex12, ex13, ex14 (needed for files)
    files: ex15, ex16, ex17
```