

# The LastK ADT

The following abstract data type will be used in the next homework.

*Note: It doesn't use a mapping data structure.*

A `LastK` data structure is a collection that only keeps the last  $k$  items added, where  $k$  is a parameter specified when initializing a new instance. It should support the following operations.

- `__init__(self, k)` - Initialize a new `LastK` data structure to store the last  $k$  items.
- `add(self, item)` - add `item` to the collection. If there are already  $k$  items in the collection, then the oldest one will be evicted.
- `__getitem__(self, i)` - returns the item with index  $i$  in the sorted list of the last  $k$  items added. For example, if we added 1,2,3,4,5 in order to a `LastK` object `C` and  $k = 4$ , then `C[0] = 2`, `C[1] = 3`, `C[2] = 4`, and `C[3] = 5`. If the index is negative or is greater than or equal to the number of items in the collection, then `__getitem__` should raise an `IndexError`.
- `first(self)` - returns the oldest item in the collection. Raise an `IndexError` if the collection is empty.
- `last(self)` - returns the newest item in the collection. Raise an `IndexError` if the collection is empty.
- `clear` - resets back to an empty collection.
- `__len__` - return the number of items currently stored. This should be a number from 0 to  $k$ .

## What to do

Implement a class called `LastK` that implements the LastK ADT. Put it in a file called `lastk.py`. The goal is to implement `add` and `__getitem__` in  $O(1)$  time and  $O(k)$  space. The best way to implement this is with a so-called circular list. Just keep a single list of length  $k$ , keep track of which index is the start, and use modular arithmetic to "wrap" the indices back around to the beginning of the list. This way, when it is full, new entries overwrite the one that is no longer needed automatically.