

Mutability and Immutability :

PART: Mutability and Immutability of Atomic Data Types:

Mutation: To change from within.

Data type is mutable if value component of its objects can be changed after their creation.

Data type is immutable if value component of its objects can't be changed after their creation.

Mutability of int in C programming language.

int n = 10; 1010 → binary

00000000	00000000	00000000	100001010	5000
5003	5002	5001	5000	n

n = 20 10100 → binary

00000000	00000000	00000000	100010100	5000
5003	5002	5001	5000	n

This behaviour is possible because int is a mutable type in C.

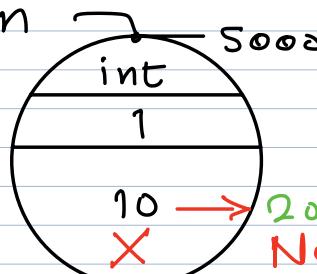
n = 10

n = 20

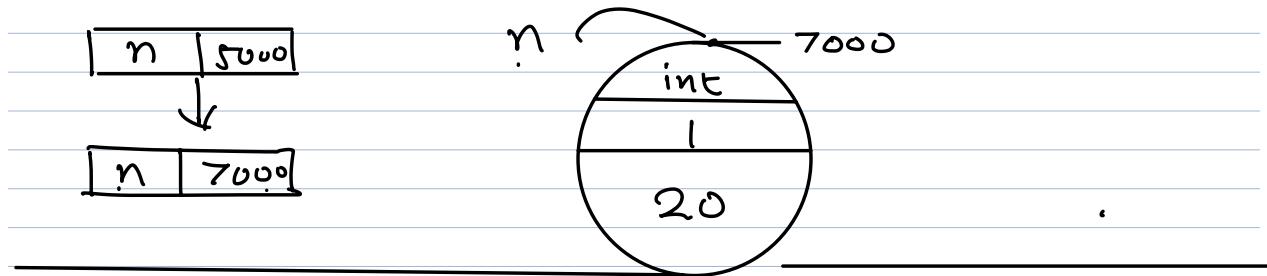
print(n)

20

n	5000
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because int
is immutable
in Python.



All atomic data types in Python are immutable.

$n = 10$ $n = 1.1$ $n = \text{False}$ $n = 'A'$
 $n = 20$ $n = 2.2$ $n = \text{True}$ $n = 'B'$

Existing variable name



left hand side of assignment



existing object \rightarrow UNBINDING.

new object \rightarrow BINDING.

$n = 10$ $\text{id}(n)$

$n = 100-90$ $\text{id}(n)$

PART B: Mutability and Immutability of containers.

① Add new element to a container object.

② Replace an existing object in a container by other object.

③ Remove an existing object from a container.

Value component of container object

\equiv

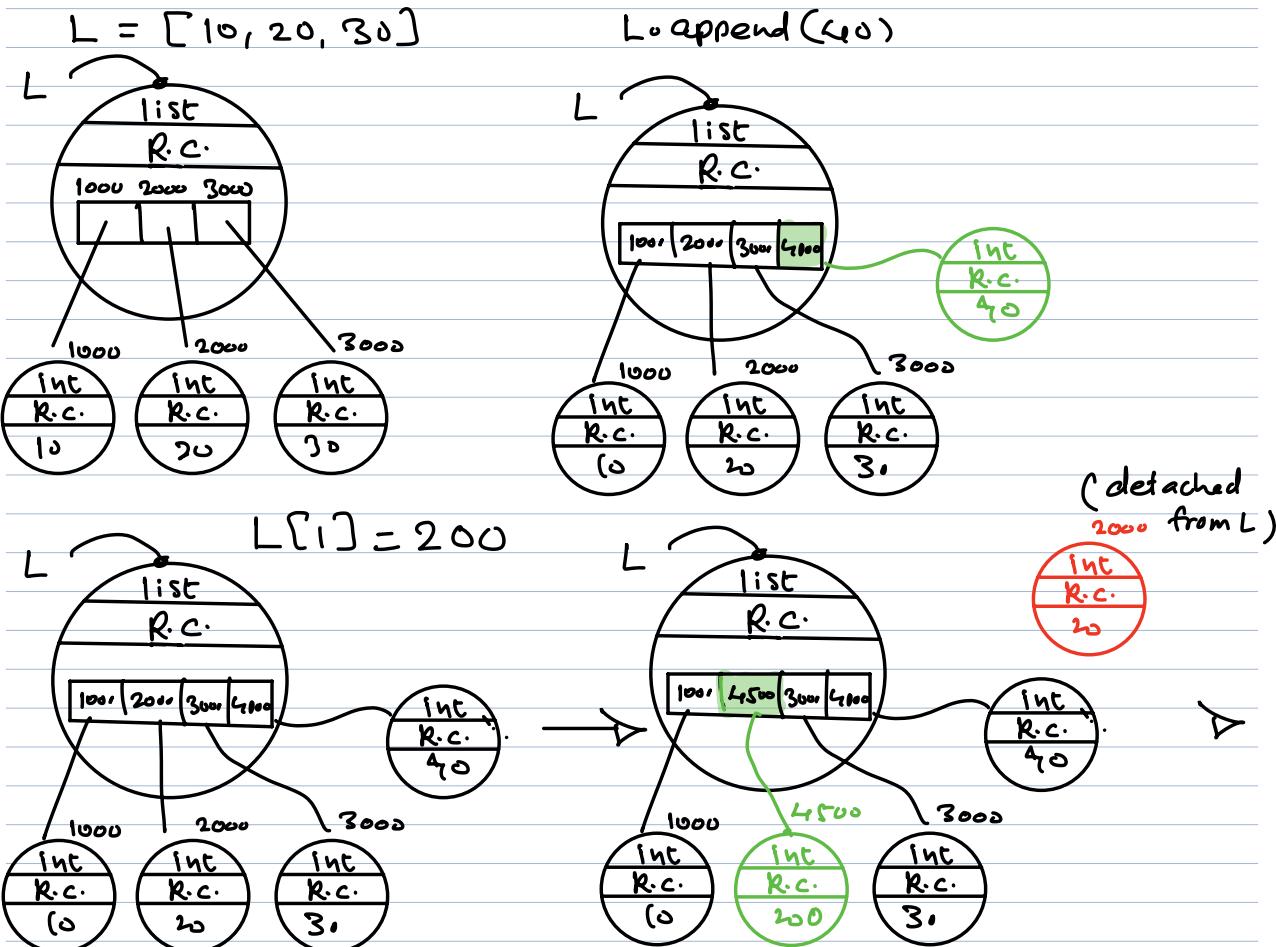
Collection of id's (addresses) of the contained objects.

Mutable Container Class

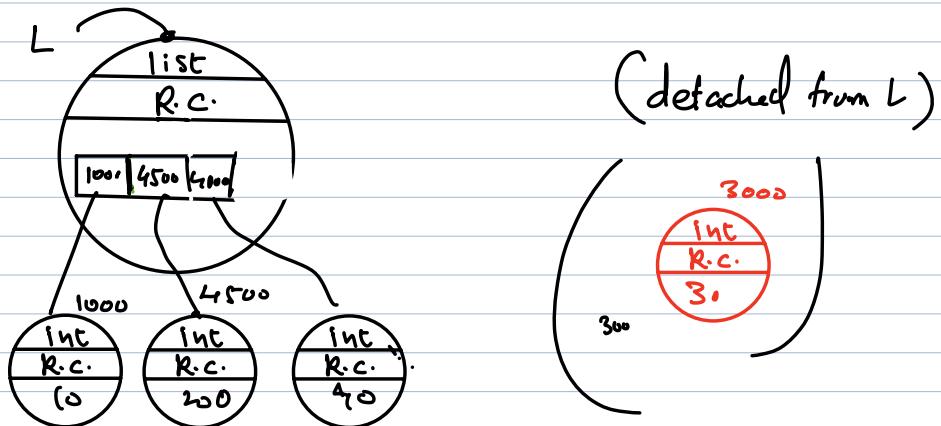
Such a container class whose object's value component (= collection of contained object's addresses) can be changed.

In case of list

L.append()	$L[i] = \text{rhs}$	$\text{del } L[i]$	L.remove()
L.extend()	$L[i:j] = \text{rhs}$	$\text{del } L[i:j]$	L.pop()
L.insert()	$L[i:j:k] = \text{rhs}$	$\text{del } L[i:j:k]$	L.clear()



L.remove(30)



dict / list → full immutability
add / replace / remove

Set

Set \rightarrow size mutable
add / remove

5000: Existing Content → 5000: New Content

Memory block

Memory block

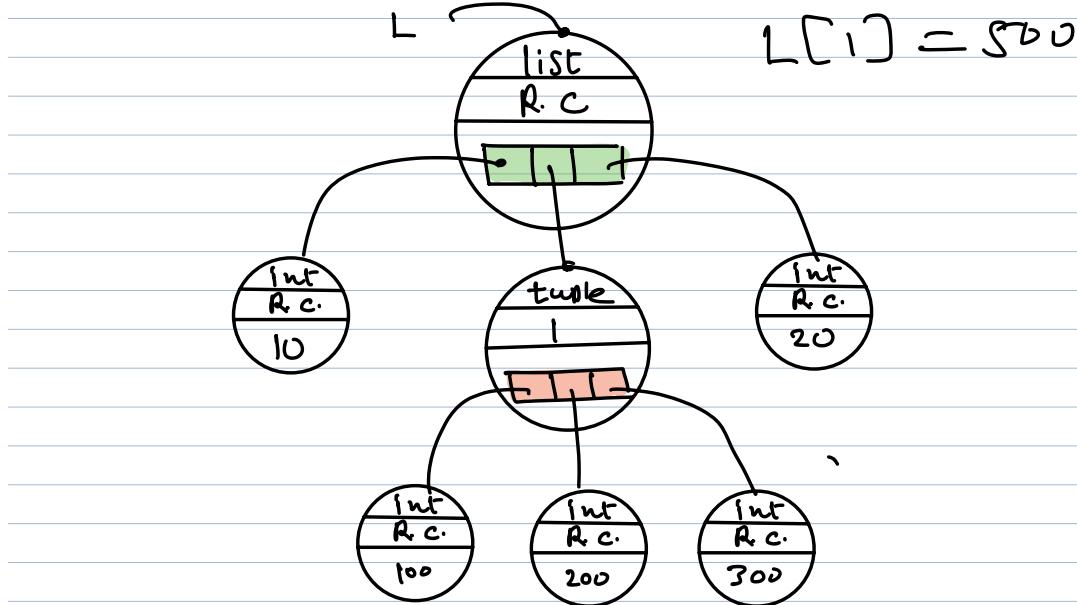
IN-PLACE CHANGE

Python data value → **NO IN-PLACE CHANGE**
Only for addresses → **IN-PLACE CHANGE**

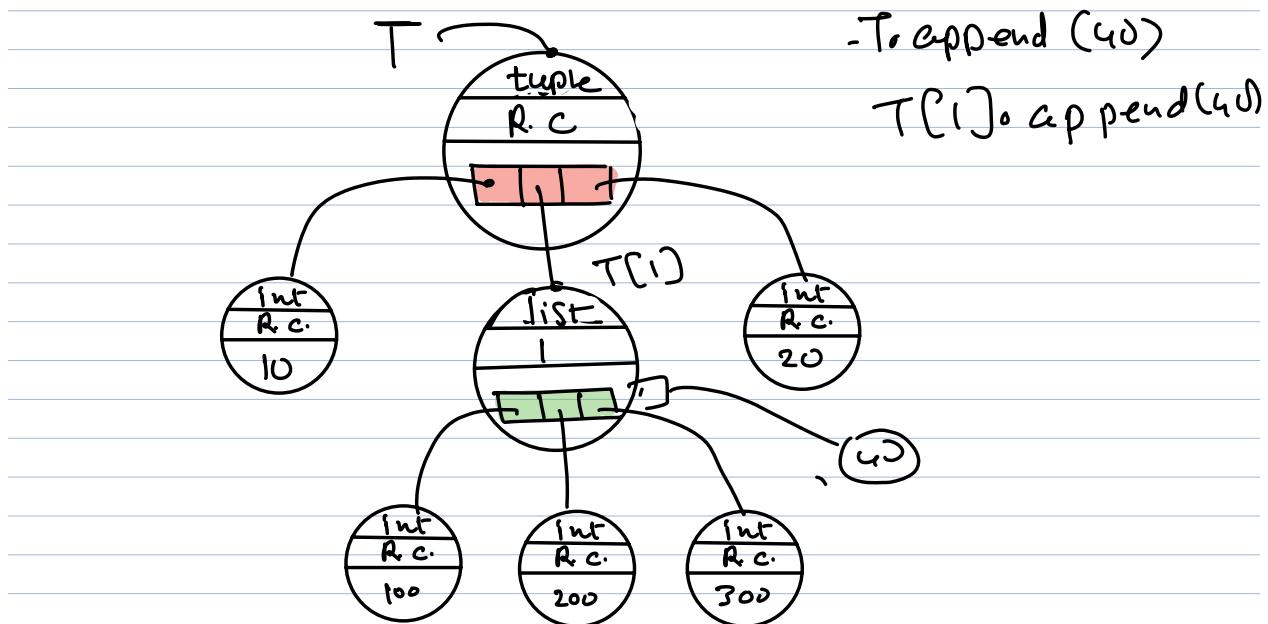
PRINCIPLE : Once Mutable, Anywhere / Always mutable

Once immutable, Anywhere / Always immutable.

$L = [10, (100, 200, 300), 20]$



$T = (10, [100, 200, 300], 20)$



`1 T = (10, [100, 200, 300], 20)`

`print(T)`

`(10, [100, 200, 300], 20)`

`T[1].append(400)`

`print(T)`

10^2
(Session)

`(10, [100, 200, 300, 400], 20)`

Shallow copy