Lecture #11: Sequences

Announcements

- HKN review session for Midterm 1 in 145 Dwinelle from 5-8 PM TONIGHT.
- Rooms for midterm to be assigned by login. Please watch website and Piazza.
- Please watch Piazza for news about TA review session on Monday.
- Alternative exams will be given in the labs on Wednesday.
- No labs next week. Also no Wednesday lecture.

Sequences

- The term sequence refers generally to a data structure consisting of an indexed collection of values.
- That is, there is a first, second, third value (which CS types call #0, #1, #2, etc.
- A sequence may be finite (with a length) or infinite.
- As an object, it may be mutable (elements can change) or immutable.
- There are numerous alternative interfaces (i.e., sets of operations) for manipulating it.
- And, of course, numerous alternative implementations.
- Today: immutable, finite sequences, recursively defined.

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A Recursive Definition

- A possible definition: A sequence consists of
 - An empty sequence, or
 - A first element and a sequence consisting of the rest of the elements of the sequence other than the first (its tail).
- The definition is clearly recursive ("a sequence consists of ... and a sequence ..."), so let's call it an rlist for now.
- Suggests the following ADT interface:

```
# The empty rlist (unique).
empty_rlist = ...
def rlist(first, rest = empty_rlist):
    """A recursive list, r, such that first(R) is FIRST and
    rest(R) is REST, which must be an rlist."""
def first(r):
    """The first item in R."""
def rest(r):
    """The tail of R: the sequence consisting of items 1, 2,...,
    renumbered from 0."""
```

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Implementation With Pairs

An obvious implementation uses two-element tuples (pairs). The result is called a linked list.

```
empty_rlist = None
def rlist(first, rest = empty_rlist):
    return first, rest
def first(r):
    return r[0]
def rest(r):
    return r[1]
```

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Box-and-Pointer Diagrams for Linked Lists

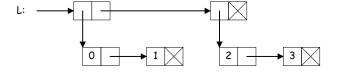
• Diagrammatically, one gets structures like this:

Tuple containing head

Rest of list

Adding Dimensions

Our rlists can contain anything, including other rlists:



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Recursive Lists vs. Python Tuples

- In Python, tuples are not limited to pairs.
- Could have used (1, 3, 0, 4) or ((0, 1), (2, 3)).
- But there are advantages to rlists:
 - For tuples, rest(L) corresponds to L[1:].
 - The time and spaced required for this operation increases linearly with the length of ${\sf L}.$
 - But rest(L) on an rlist takes constant time and no additional space.
- On the other hand,
 - Computing the length or the kth element of an rlist takes time proportional to the length of the sequence,
 - But for tuples, these are constant-time operations.

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From Recursive Structure to Recursive Algorithm

- The cases in the recursive definition of list often suggest a recursive approach to implementing functions on them.
- Example: length of an rlist:

- Q: Why do we know the comment is accurate?
- A: Recursive thinking: Because we assume the comment is accurate! (For "smaller" arguments, that is).
- Not tail recursive: can't directly make len_rlist iterative.

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Tail Recursion (Again)

• But a slight modification makes iteration possible:

```
def len_rlist(s):
    def len(sofar, s):
        """Return SOFAR + the length of rlist S."""
        if s == empty_rlist:
            return sofar
        else:
            return len(sofar + 1, rest(s))
        len(0, s)
```

 We simply return the value of the recursive call to len directly, so this version is tail recursive, and can become a loop:

```
def len_rlist(s):
    sofar = 0
    while s != empty_rlist:
        sofar, s = sofar+1, rest(s)
    return sofar
```

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Another Example: Selection

- Want to extract item #k from an rlist (number from 0).
- Recursively:

```
def getitem_rlist(s, k):
    """Return the element at index K of recursive list S.
    Assumes K >= 0.
    >>> getitem_rlist(rlist(2, rlist(3, rlist (4))), 1)
    3"""

if k == 0:
    return first(s)
else:
    return getitem_rlist(rest(s), k-1)
```

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Iterative getitem_rlist

• From the previous version:

```
def getitem_rlist(s, k):
    if k == 0:
        return first(s)
    else:
        return getitem_rlist(rest(s), k-1)
```

• Can transform into an iterative version:

```
def getitem_rlist(s, k):
    """Return the element at index K of recursive list S.
    Assumes K >= 0."""

while k != 0:
    s, k = rest(s), k-1
    return first(s)
```

Applying to All Elements

• Given an rlist, I'd like to create the list of the squares of its elements:

```
def square_rlist(s):
    """The list of squares of the elements of rlist S."""
    if s == empty_rlist:
        return empty_rlist:
    else:
        return rlist(first(s)**2, square_rlist(rest(s)))
```

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On to Higher Orders!

```
def map_rlist(f, s):
    """The list of values F(x) for each element x of S in order."""
    if s == empty_rlist:
        return empty_rlist
    else:
        return rlist(f(first(s)), map_rlist(f, rest(s)))
```

- So square_rlist(L) is map_rlist(lambda x:x**2, L).
- [Python 3 produces a different kind of result from its map function; we'll get to it.]
- Iterative version difficult here!

Extending rlists

Joining two lists together is called "appending" in most languages.
 Python uses "append" to mean "add an item," and uses the term "extend" for joining lists.

```
"""The sequence of items of rlist 'left'
followed by the items of 'right'."""
if left == empty_rlist:
    return right
else:
    return rlist(first(left), extend_rlist(rest(left), right))
```

• Again, iterative version is difficult.

def extend_rlist(left, right):

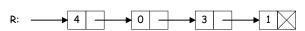
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Reversing

 Given a sequence represented by an rlist L, how can I create the reverse sequence, reverse_rlist(L)?



- \bullet What is the reverse of empty_rlist? $\underline{empty_rlist}.$
- Given an rlist L, what is the relationship between first(L), rest(L), and R=reverse_rlist(L)?

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Iterative Reversing

- The iterative version of rlist_reverse is actually not bad.
- Rlists are most conveniently build from the end (because a tuple, once created, can't be changed).
- The last item of a reversed list is the first item of the original list.
- This leads to the following tail recursion:

Iterative version?

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