

Introduction to Python

Built-In Sequences: Lists

Topics

- 1) Lists
 - a) Indexing and Slicing
 - b) List Methods
- 3) List comprehensions
- 4) Iterables
- 5) Membership and Operations

Containers

Python includes several built-in sequences: *lists*, *tuples*, *strings*.

We discussed strings in the previous lecture. String is a flat sequence which holds item of one type. Flat sequences physically store the value of each item within its own memory space.

Lists and *tuples* are *container sequences*, which can hold items of different type. They hold references to objects they contain (more on this later).

Another way of grouping sequence types is by *mutability*. Lists are *mutable* (can be modified) sequences while strings and tuples are *immutable* sequences. We discuss lists in this lecture and tuples in the next.

Lists

Lists are the basic *ordered* and *mutable* data collection type in Python. They can be defined with comma-separated values between square brackets.

```
In[1]: L = [2, 3, 5, 7]
```

```
In [2]: len(L) # len also worked with strings
```

```
Out [2]: 4
```

```
In [3]: L.append(11) # append to the end of the list
```

```
In [4]: L
```

```
Out [4]: [2, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

Indexing

Indexing is a means the fetching of a single value from the list. This is a 0-based indexing scheme. This is similar to strings from the previous lecture.

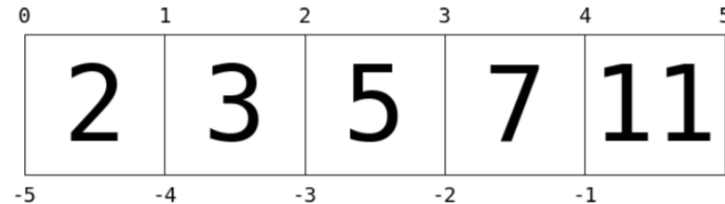
```
In[1]: L = [2, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

```
In [2]: L[0]
```

```
Out [2]: 2
```

```
In [3]: L[1]
```

```
Out [3]: 3
```



```
In [4]: L[5] # index out of bounds error.
```

Indexing

Negative index wraps around the end.

```
In[1]: L = [2, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

```
In [2]: L[-1]
```

```
Out [2]: 11
```

```
In [3]: L[-2]
```

```
Out [3]: 7
```

Lists can contain different types of objects

List can contain different types and even other lists.

```
In [1]: L = [1, 'two', 3.14, [0, 3, 5]]
```

```
In [2]: L[0]
```

```
Out [2]: 3
```

```
In [3]: L[3]
```

```
Out [3]: [0, 3, 5]
```

Slicing

Similar to strings, lists also support slicing. *Slicing* is accessing multiple values from the list. It uses a colon to indicate the start point (inclusive) and end point (non-inclusive) of the subarray.

```
In[1]: L = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

```
In [2]: L[0:3]
```

```
Out [2]: [1, 2, 3]
```

```
In [3]: L[:3]
```

```
Out [3]: [1, 2, 3]
```

Leaving out the first index defaults to 0.

```
In [4]: L[-3:]
```

```
Out [4]: [3, 4, 5]
```

Leaving out the last index defaults to length of list.

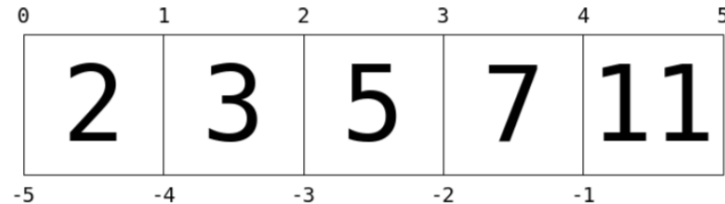
Slicing

Finally, it is possible to specify a third integer that represents the step size.

```
In[1]:L = [2, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

```
In [2]: L[::2] # equivalent to L[0:len(L):2]
```

```
Out [2]: [2, 5, 11]
```



Slicing

A particularly useful version of this is to specify a negative step, which will reverse the list. In this case, the default start index is at the end of the list and the default stop index is at the beginning(inclusive).

```
In [1]: L = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

```
In [2]: L[::-1]    # defaults end of array to beginning
```

```
Out [2]: [5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
```

```
In [3]: L[1::-1]   # first two items reversed
```

```
Out [3]: [2, 1]
```

```
In [4]: L[:-3:-1]  # last two items reversed
```

```
Out [4]: [5, 4]
```

```
In [5]: L[-3::-1]  # everything except last two items reversed
```

```
Out [5]: [3, 2, 1]
```

Slicing

Both indexing and slicing can be used to set elements as well as access them.

```
In [1]: L[0] = 100
```

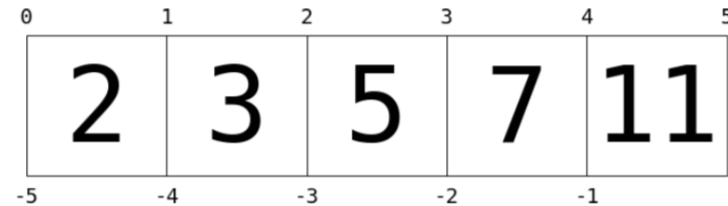
```
In [2]: print(L)
```

```
[100, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

```
In[3]: L[1:3] = [99, 99]
```

```
In [4]: print(L)
```

```
[100, 99, 99, 7, 11]
```



Lists: Concatenation

List Concatenation: + operator will concatenate two lists.

```
In[1]: L = [2, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

```
In [2]: L + [13, 17, 19]
```

```
Out [1]: [2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19]
```

List Methods

The following is a short list of useful list methods.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| append(value) | appends value to the end of the list |
| insert(index, value) | inserts value at position given by index, shifts elements to the right. |
| pop(index) | removes object at index from list, shifts elements left and returns removed object. Returns last element if index is omitted. |
| remove(value) | removes object from list by value . |
| index(value) | returns index of first occurrence of value if exists, otherwise throws a <code>ValueError</code> . |
| count(value) | returns the number times value appear in list. |

List Methods

```
In [1]: L = [3, "hi", -4, 6]
```

```
In [2]: L.append(2) # [3, "hi", -4, 6, 2]
```

```
In [3]: L.insert(1, "hello") # [3, "hello", "hi", -4, 6, 2]
```

```
In [4]: a = L.pop(3) # [3, "hello", "hi", 6, 2]
```

```
In [5]: print(a)
```

-4

```
In [6]: L.pop() # [3, "hello", "hi", 6]
```

```
In [7]: L.remove("hi") # [3, "hello", 6]
```

```
In [8]: ind = L.index(6) # 2
```

```
In [9]: L.count("hello") # 1
```

list()

Converting between a string and a list can be done using the `list()` constructor.

```
In [1]: message = "python"  
        list(message)
```

```
Out [1]: ['p', 'y', 't', 'h', 'o', 'n']
```

list()

A useful operation is to use list() with range() to create new lists easily.

```
In [1]: lst = list(range(1,7))
```

```
In [2]: lst
```

```
Out [2]: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

```
In [3]: lst2 = list(range(1,1000))
```


List Comprehensions

List comprehension(or listcomp) is a concise and readable way of creating a new list from another iterable(list, tuple, string).

Suppose we want to square all numbers from a list.

```
In [1]: lst = [2, 3, 5, 7]
        new_lst = []
        for x in lst:
            new_lst.append(x ** 2)
        print(new_lst)
```

4 9 25 49

We can use list comprehension to do this much simpler and more Pythonic.

List Comprehensions

We can use list comprehension to do the previous problem much simpler and more Pythonic.

```
In[2]: lst = [2, 3, 5, 7]
        new_lst = [x**2 for x in lst]
        print(new_lst)
```

```
4 9 25 49
```

For loops are used to do many things: scan through a list, pick out items, compute sums, counts and averages, etc... Listcomp is a one trick pony: create new lists.

List Comprehensions

List comprehension can also contain conditions.

```
In[3]: lst = [x**2 for x in range(7) if x % 2 == 0]  
        print(lst)
```

```
0 4 16 36
```

List Comprehensions

List comprehension can also contain nested loops. A list of lists can be created in this way.

```
In[1]: colors = ["red", "black"]
```

```
In[2]: sizes = ["S", "M", "L"]
```

```
In[3]: shirts = [[color, size] for color in colors  
                  for size in sizes]
```

```
In[4]: shirts
```

```
Out[4]:
```

```
[['red', 'S'], ['red', 'M'], ['red', 'L'], ['black', 'S'],  
 ['black', 'M'], ['black', 'L']]
```

Iterables

An iterable is an object from which we can loop over. Lists and strings are iterables.

```
In[1]: lst = [2, 3, 5, 7]
        for x in lst:
            print(x, end=' ')
```

2 3 5 7

```
In[2]: message = "python"
        for x in message:
            print(x, end=' ')
```

p y t h o n

split()

split() method splits a string into a list. A separator can be specified. The default separator is any whitespace.

```
In [1]: fruits = "apple mango banana grape"  
        fruits.split()
```

```
Out [1]: ['apple', 'mango', 'banana', 'grape']
```

```
In [2]: list = "hi, I am Mike, I just graduate."  
        list.split(", ")
```

```
Out [2]: ['hi', 'I am Mike', 'I just graduate.']
```

split()

When using `split()` to split a string of integers into a list of integers, remember to use the `int()` constructor to convert the list elements into integers.

```
s = input("Enter a list of integers separated by spaces: ")  
list_nums = [int(x) for x in s.split()]  
print(list_nums) # list of integers instead of strings
```

Membership and Operations

| Operator | Description |
|-------------------------|---|
| <code>a is b</code> | True if a and b are identical objects |
| <code>a is not b</code> | True if a and b are not identical objects |
| <code>a in b</code> | True if a is a member of b |
| <code>a not in b</code> | True if a is not a member of b |

Identity Operations

The comparison operator `==` checks for *object equality*. It checks to see if two objects have the same content.

```
In [1]: a = [1,2,3]
```

```
        b = [1,2,3]
```

```
In[2]: a == b # a and b are different lists, same content
```

```
Out [2]: True
```

Identity Operations

The identity operators, `is` and `is not`, check for *object identity*. They check whether two variable references the same object.

```
In[3]: a is b
```

```
Out [3]: False
```

```
In[4]: a is not b
```

```
Out [4]: True
```

```
In [5]: a = [1,2,3]
```

```
        b = a
```

```
        a is b
```

```
Out [5]: True
```

Membership Operations

Membership operators check for membership within compound objects like lists.

```
In [1]: 1 in [1, 2, 3]
```

```
Out [1]: True
```

```
In[2]: 2 not in [1,2,3]
```

```
Out [2]: False
```

```
In[3]: 'a' in "python"
```

```
Out [3]: False
```

Variables Are Pointers

```
In [1]: x = [1, 2, 3]
```

```
        y = x
```

```
In [2]: print(y)
```

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

```
In [3]: x.append(4) # append 4 to the list pointed to by x
        print(y)    # y's list is modified as well!
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4]
```

```
In [4]: x = 'something else'
```

```
        print(y) # y is unchanged
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4]
```

List items hold references

Items in lists and tuples hold references to objects they contain.

```
In [1]: x = [1, 2, [3, 4, 5]]
```

```
In [2]: y = x[2] # y and x[2] both references [3,4,5]
```

```
In [3]: y[1] = 44 # modifying y will modify x[2] also!
```

```
In [3]: y
```

```
[3, 44, 5]
```

```
In [5]: x
```

```
[1, 2, [3, 44, 5]]
```

Both `x[2]` and `y` reference (points to the address) to the same list object. Modifying one will affect the other!

References

- 1) Vanderplas, Jake, A Whirlwind Tour of Python, O'reilly Media.
- 2) Luciano, Ramalho, Fluent Python, O'reilly Media.