

Lecture 12: Nested Lists

(Sections 10.8-10.13, 12.1, 12.2)

CS 1110

Introduction to Computing Using Python

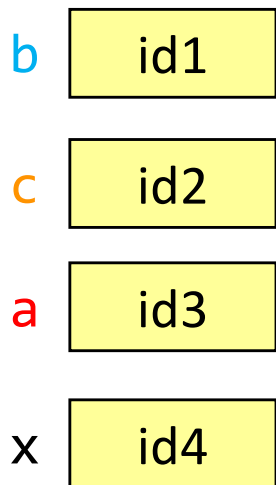
[E. Andersen, A. Bracy, D. Gries, L. Lee, S. Marschner, C. Van Loan, W. White]

Nested Lists

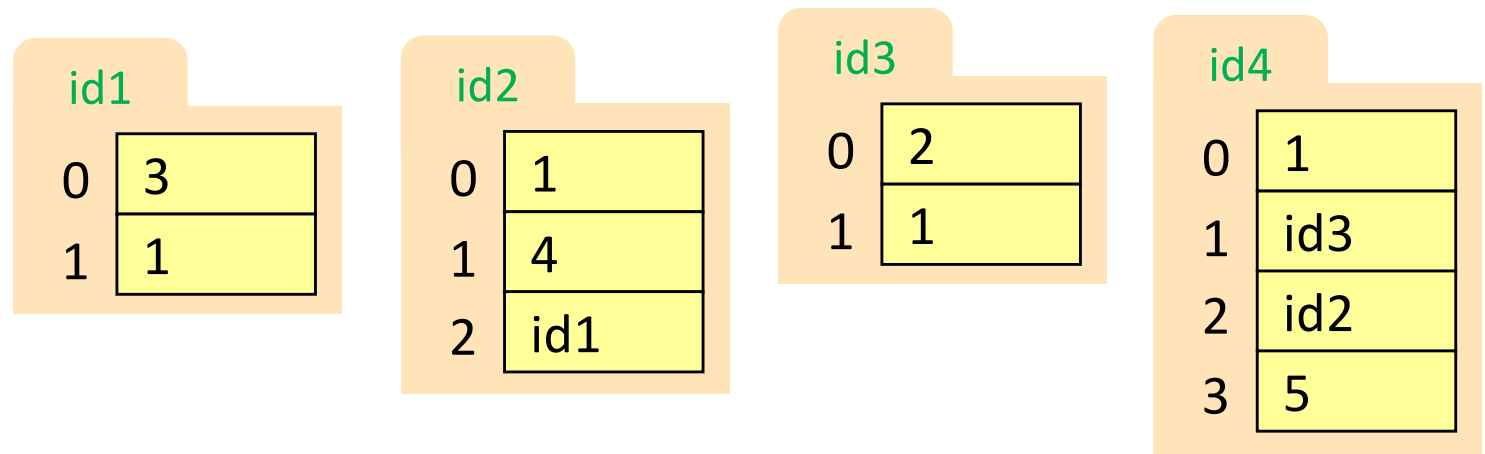
- Lists can hold any objects
- Lists are objects
- Therefore lists can hold other lists!

```
b = [3, 1]
c = [1, 4, b]
a = [2, 1]
x = [1, a, c, 5]
```

Global Space



Heap



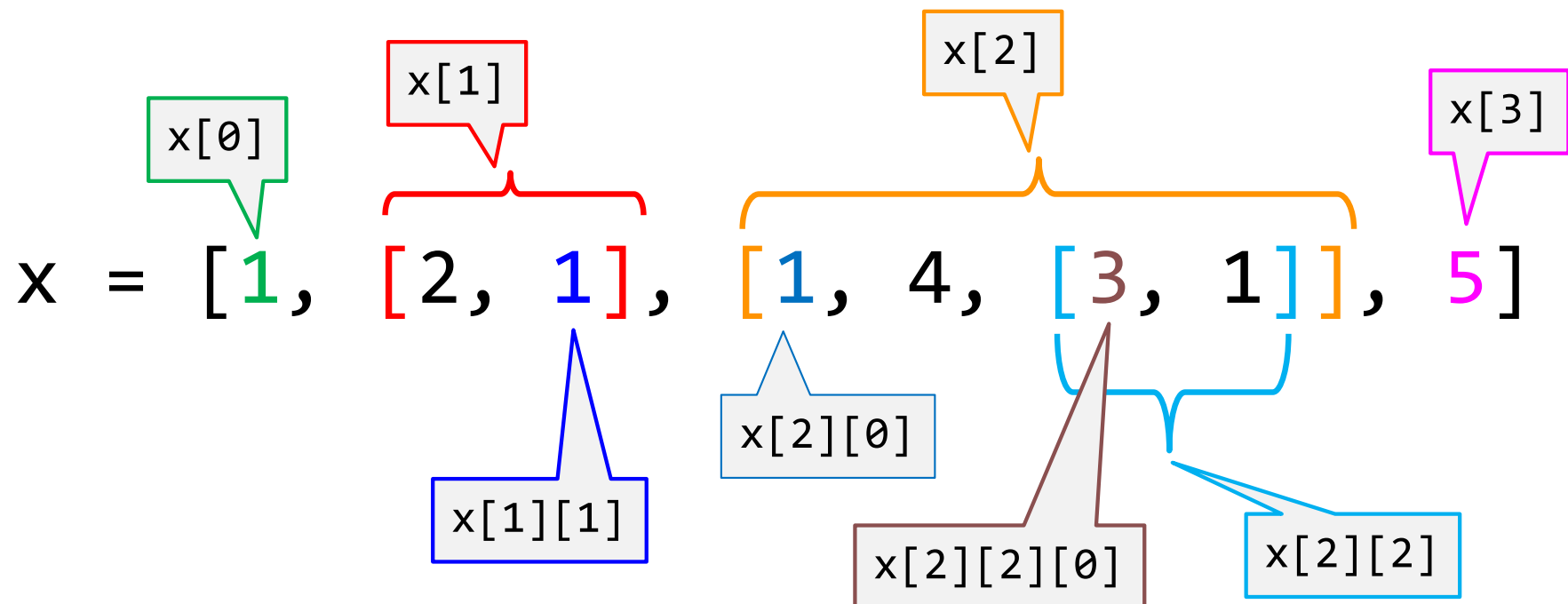
This is drawing accurate, but a little hard to reason about...

Nested Lists

Conceptually, you can visualize nested lists like this:

```
b = [3, 1]
c = [1, 4, b]
a = [2, 1]
x = [1, a, c, 5]
```

$x = [1, [2, 1], [1, 4, [3, 1]], 5]$



"Table-shaped" Two-Dimensional Lists

Table of Data

	0	1	2	3
0	5	4	7	3
1	4	8	9	7
2	5	1	2	3
3	4	1	2	9
4	6	7	8	0

"Table-shaped" Two-Dimensional Lists

Table of Data

The diagram illustrates a table-shaped two-dimensional list. It features a central table with row and column indices. A vertical callout on the left points to the row indices, and a horizontal callout on top points to the column indices. A larger callout on the right explains the data storage format.

	0	1	2	3
0	5	4	7	3
1	4	8	9	7
2	5	1	2	3
3	4	1	2	9
4	6	7	8	0

E.g., shop ID

E.g., product ID

Each row, column of the table stores data (a value). Here, the number of units of product 3 sold by the shop with ID 1

"Table-shaped" Two-Dimensional Lists

Table of Data

		Column index			
Row index	0	5	4	7	3
	1	4	8	9	7
	2	5	1	2	3
	3	4	1	2	9
	4	6	7	8	0

Each row, col has a value

Really a **list of lists**, but convenient to think about it as a **table**, since all inner lists (rows) have the same number of elements.

Store them as a list of lists ("**row-major order**")

```
tdlist = [[5, 4, 7, 3], [4, 8, 9, 7], [5, 1, 2, 3],  
          [4, 1, 2, 9], [6, 7, 8, 0]]
```

Overview of Two-Dimensional Lists

	0	1	2	3
0	5	4	7	3
1	4	8	9	7
2	5	1	2	3
3	4	1	2	9

```
>>> tdlist = [[5,4,7,3],[4,8,9,7],[5,1,2,3],[4,1,2,9]]
>>> tdlist[3][2]
2
>>> tdlist[3][2] = 8
>>> tdlist
[[5, 4, 7, 3], [4, 8, 9, 7], [5, 1, 2, 3], [4, 1, 8, 9]]
>>> len(tdlist)
4
>>> len(tdlist[2])
4
```

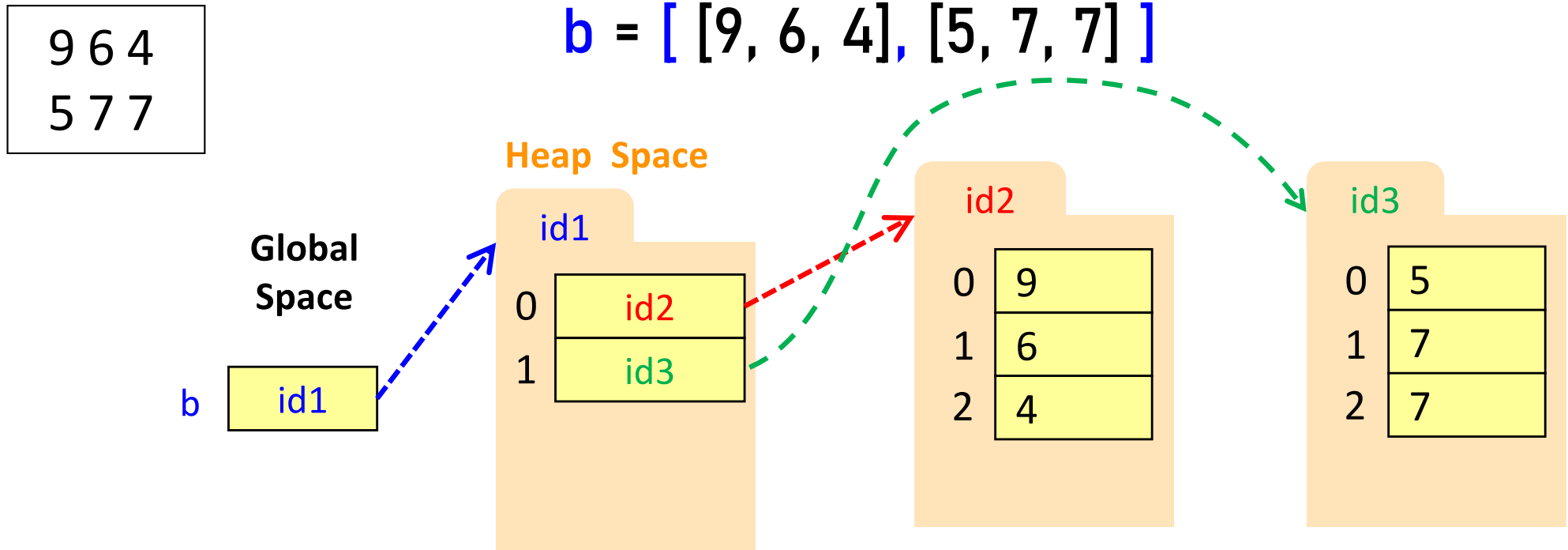
Access value at row 3, col 2

Assign value at row 3, col 2

Number of rows of tdlist

Number of cols in row 2 of tdlist

How Multidimensional Lists are Stored

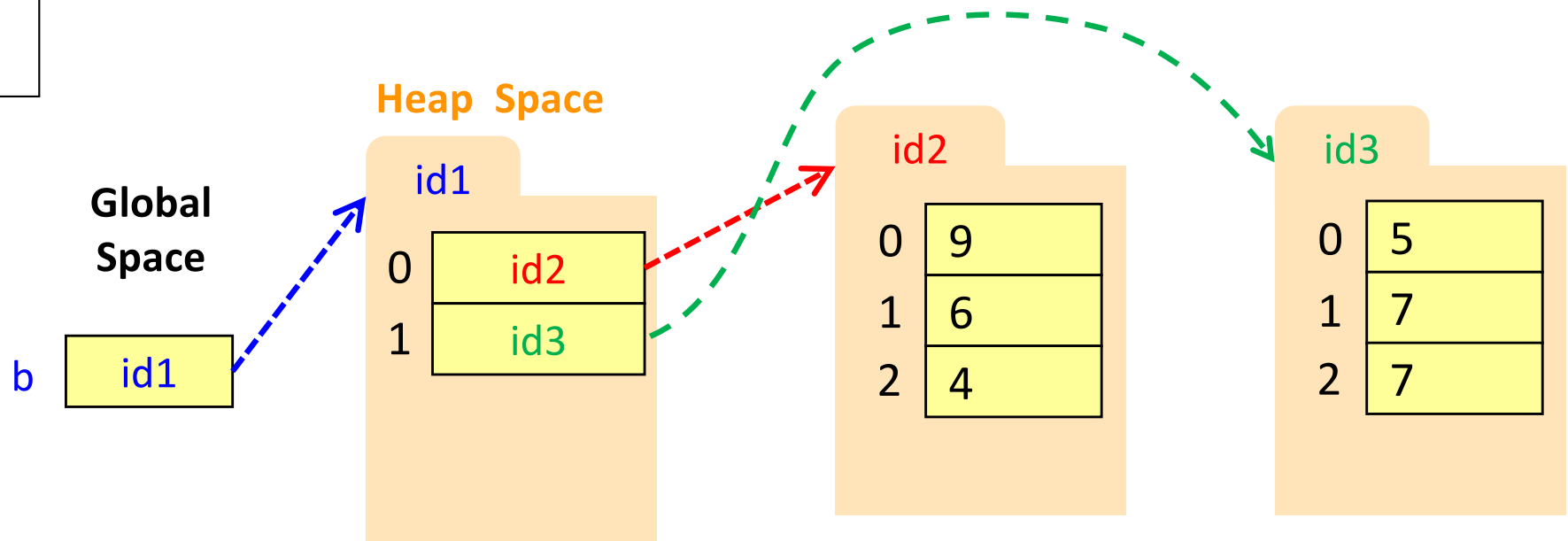


- **b** holds **id** of a one-dimensional list
 - Has **len(b)** elements
- **b[i]** holds **id** of a list
 - Has **len(b[i])** elements

How to access every element of nested list?

9	6	4
5	7	7

b = [[9, 6, 4], [5, 7, 7]]



- **b** holds **id** of a one-dimensional list
 - Has **len(b)** elements # len(b) rows
- **b[i]** holds **id** of a list
 - Has **len(b[i])** elements

row i has len(b(i)) elements

Need: a loop to go row by row. At each row, a loop to go column by column.
→ Nested loops!

Exercise 1

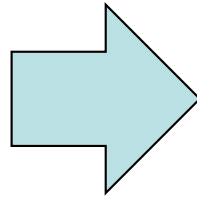
```
def print_all_rows(my_table):  
    """Prints all rows of the table,  
    one row (list) on each line.  
    Preconditions:  my_table is a table of numbers  
                   my_table is not empty    """
```

Exercise 2

```
def print_all_elements(my_table):  
    """Prints all elements of the table,  
    one element on each line.  
    Preconditions:  my_table is a table of numbers  
                   my_table is not empty    """
```

Data Wrangling: Transpose Idea

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8



1	3	5	7
2	4	6	8

2 lists: 4 elements in each

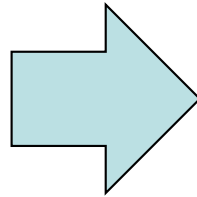
4 lists: 2 elements in each

How to transpose?

- 1st element of each list gets appended to 1st list
- 2nd element of each list gets appended to 2nd list

Data Wrangling: Transpose Idea

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8



1	3	5	7
2	4	6	8

2 lists: 4 elements in each

4 lists: 2 elements in each

How to transpose?

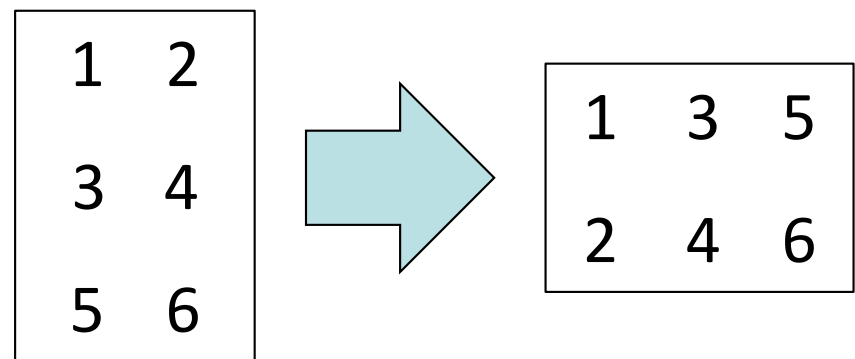
- 1st element of each list gets appended to 1st list
- 2nd element of each list gets appended to 2nd list

Data Wrangling: Transpose Code

```
def transpose(table):  
    """Returns: copy of table with rows and columns swapped  
    Precondition: table is a (non-ragged) 2d List"""  
    n_rows = len(table)  
    n_cols = len(table[0]) # All rows have same no. cols  
    new_table = [] # Result accumulator
```

```
    return new_table
```

```
d = [[1,2],[3,4],[5,6]]  
d_v2 = transpose(d)
```

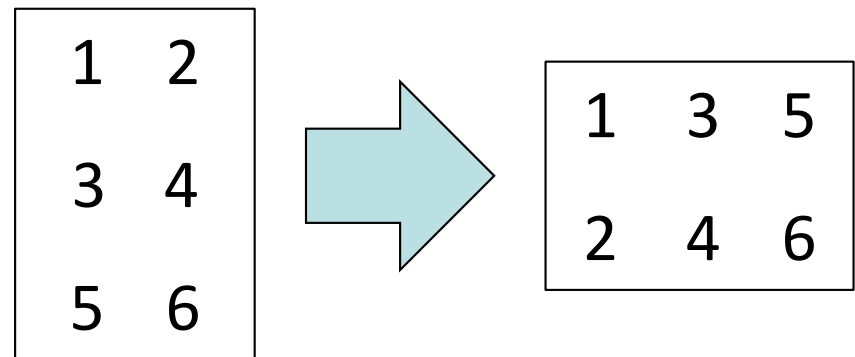


Data Wrangling: Transpose Code

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    new_table = [] # Result accumulator
```

```
    return new_table
```

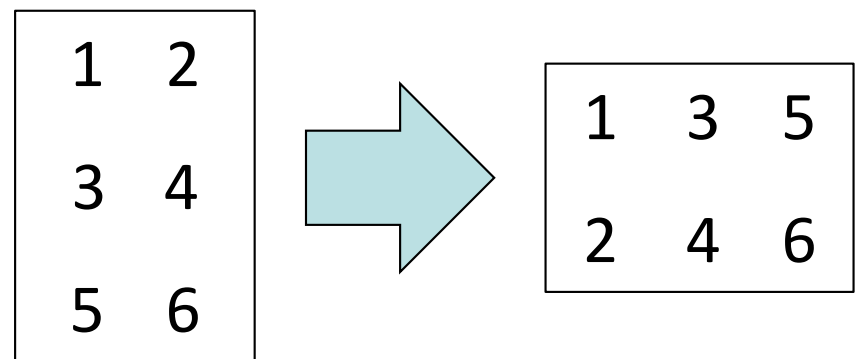
```
d = [[1,2],[3,4],[5,6]]  
d_v2 = transpose(d)
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Data Wrangling: Transpose Code

```
def transpose(table):  
    """Returns: copy of table with rows and columns swapped  
    Precondition: table is a (non-ragged) 2d List"""  
    n_rows = len(table)  
    n_cols = len(table[0]) # All rows have same no. cols  
    new_table = [] # Result accumulator  
  
    for c in range(n_cols):  
        row = [] # Single row accumulator  
        for r in range(n_rows):  
            row.append(table[r][c]) # Build up new row  
        new_table.append(row) # Add new row to new table  
    return new_table
```

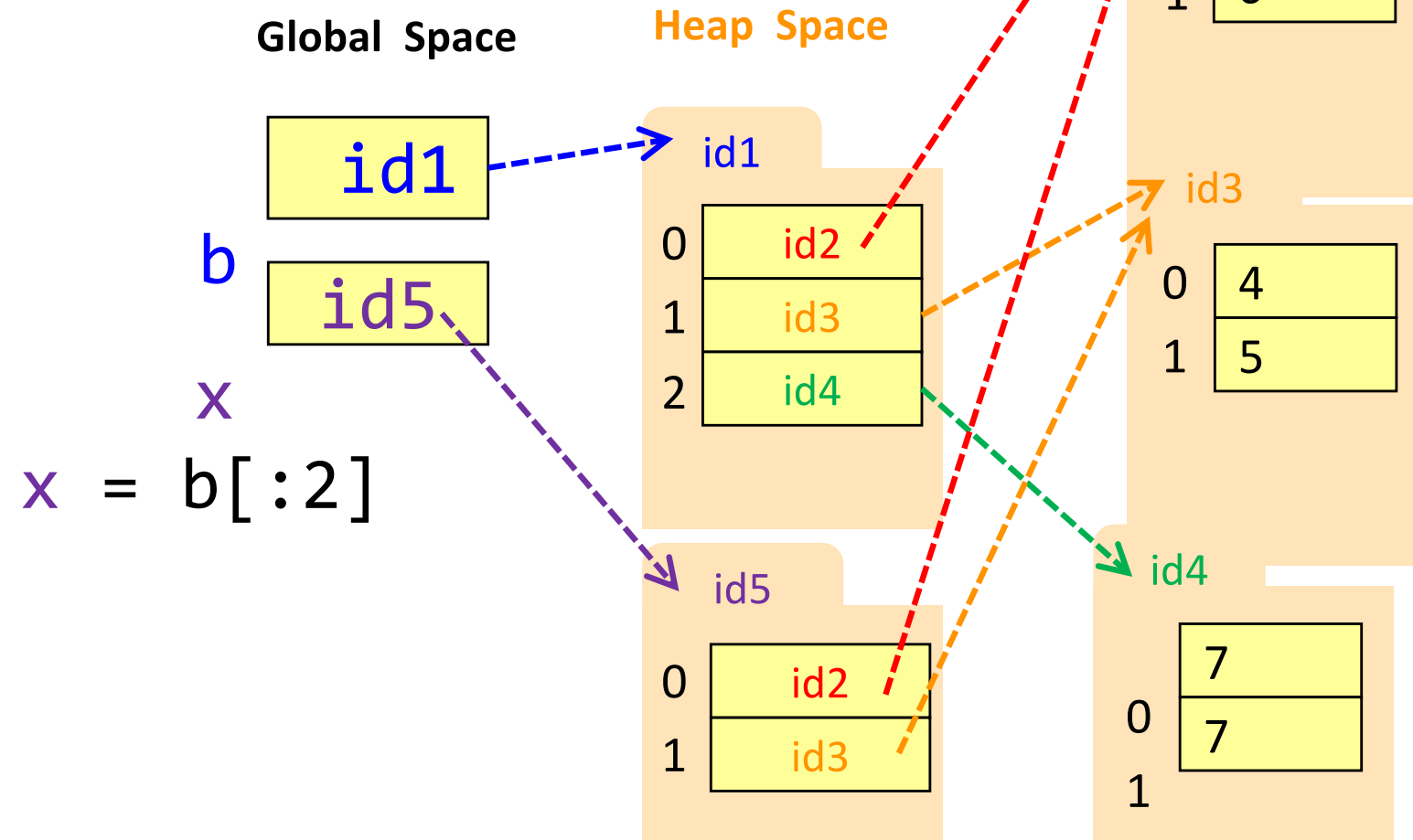
```
d = [[1,2],[3,4],[5,6]]  
d_v2 = transpose(d)
```



Slices and Multidimensional Lists

- Only “top-level” list is copied.
- Contents of the list are not altered

$b = [[9, 6], [4, 5], [7, 7]]$



Slices & Multidimensional Lists (Q1)

- Create a nested list

```
>>> b = [[9,6],[4,5],[7,7]]
```

- Get a slice

```
>>> x = b[:2]
```

- Append to a row of x

```
>>> x[1].append(10)
```

What is now in **x**?

A: `[[9,6,10]]`

B: `[[9,6],[4,5,10]]`

C: `[[9,6],[4,5,10],[7,7]]`

D: `[[9,6],[4,10],[7,7]]`

E: I don't know

Slices & Multidimensional Lists (Q2)

- Create a nested list

```
>>> b = [[9,6],[4,5],[7,7]]
```

- Get a slice

```
>>> x = b[:2]
```

- Append to a row of x

```
>>> x[1].append(10)
```

- x now has nested list

```
[[9, 6], [4, 5, 10]]
```

- What is now in b?

A: [[9,6],[4,5],[7,7]]

B: [[9,6],[4,5,10]]

C: [[9,6],[4,5,10],[7,7]]

D: [[9,6],[4,10],[7,7]]

E: I don't know