

Lesson 1: Week 10

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Exercise 1: Word ladders

Write a program `word_ladder.py` that computes all transformations of a word `word_1` into a word `word_2`, consisting of sequences of words of minimal length, starting with `word_1`, ending in `word_2`, and such that two consecutive words in the sequence differ by at most one letter. All words have to occur in a dictionary with name `dictionary.txt`, stored in the working directory. It is convenient and effective to first create a dictionary whose keys are all words in the dictionary `dictionary.txt` with one letter replaced by a "slot", the value for a given key being the list of words that match the key with the "slot" being replaced by an appropriate letter. From this dictionary, one can then build a dictionary with words as keys, and as value for a given key the list of words that differ in only one letter from the key. The program implements a function `word_ladder(word_1, word_2)` that returns the list of all solutions, a solution being as previously described. Below is a possible interaction:

```
$ python3 ... >>> from word_ladder import * >>> for ladder in word_ladder('cold', 'warm'): print(ladder) ... ['COLD', 'CORD', 'CARD', 'WARD', 'WARM'] ['COLD', 'CORD', 'WORD', 'WORM', 'WARM'] ['COLD', 'CORD', 'WORD', 'WARD', 'WARM'] >>> for ladder in word_ladder('three', 'seven'): print(ladder) ... ['THREE', 'THREW', 'SHREW', 'SHRED', 'SIRED', 'SITED', 'SATED', 'SAVED', 'SAVER', 'SEVER', 'SEVEN'] >>> for ladder in word_ladder('train', 'bikes'): print(ladder) ... ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'BORES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CARES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CARES', 'CAKES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'PORES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'CAKES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'BORES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CARES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CAKES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'PORES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'GRAIN', 'GROIN', 'GROWN', 'GROWS', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'CAKES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DRAWS', 'DRAGS', 'BRAGS', 'BRATS', 'BEATS', 'BELTS', 'BELLS', 'BALLS', 'BALES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DRAWS', 'DRAGS', 'BRAGS', 'BRATS', 'BEATS', 'BESTS', 'BUSTS', 'BUSES', 'BASES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'BORES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CARES', 'BARES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'CAKES', 'BAKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'PORES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'POKES', 'PIKES', 'BIKES'] ['TRAIN', 'DRAIN', 'DRAWN', 'DROWN', 'CROWN', 'CROWS', 'CROPS', 'COOPS', 'CORPS', 'CORES', 'COKES', 'CAKE...
```

Exercise 2: Word search puzzle

Word search puzzle consists of a grid of letters and a number of words, that have to be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally, in either direction. Write a program `word_search.py` that defines a class `WordSearch` with the following properties: To create a `WordSearch` object, the name of a file has to be provided. This file is meant to store a number of lines all with the same number of uppercase letters, those lines possibly containing spaces anywhere, and the file possibly containing extra blank lines. `__str__()` is implemented. It has a method `number_of_solutions()` to display the number of solutions for each word length for which a solution exists. It has a method `locate_word_in_grid()` that takes a word as argument; it returns `None` if the word cannot be read in the grid, and otherwise returns the `x` and `y` coordinates of an occurrence of the first letter of the word in the grid and the direction to follow (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, or

Exercise 3: Possible subtractions yielding a given sum

Exercise 4: Voting systems

Find out (e.g., in Wikipedia) about these voting systems: (a) one round method, (b) two round method, (c) elimination method, (d) De Borda count, and (e) De Condorcet count. The elimination method works as follows. One adds up the tallies of all candidates who rank 1st and eliminate the candidate(s) who get the minimal number of votes (as ranked 1st candidates). For a given ordering, the candidates who remain and were ranked after the eliminated candidate(s) see their ranking go up so that the ordering is preserved, and rankings range from 1 up to the number of candidates that remain. For instance, if to start with, there are 5 candidates, A, B, C, D, and E who are ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, and if B and D are eliminated because they get the least number of votes as 1st candidates across all rankings, then for that particular ranking, A remains ranked 1st, C becomes ranked 2nd, and E becomes ranked third. The process is repeated until there is only one candidate left, or all candidates that remain get exactly the same number of votes as preferred candidates. Then design a program `election.py` that defines a class

Exercise 5: Context free grammars

A context free grammar is a set of production rules of the form: $\text{symbol}_0 \rightarrow \text{symbol}_1 \dots \text{symbol}_n$ where $\text{symbol}_0, \dots, \text{symbol}_n$ are either terminal or nonterminal symbols, with symbol_0 being necessarily nonterminal. A symbol is a nonterminal symbol iff it is denoted by a word built from underscores or uppercase letters. A special nonterminal symbol is called the start symbol. The language generated by the grammar is the set of sequences of terminal symbols obtained by replacing a nonterminal symbol by the sequence on the right hand side of a rule having that nonterminal symbol on the left hand side, starting with the start symbol. For instance, the following, where **EXPRESSION** is the start symbol, is a context free grammar for a set of arithmetic expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{EXPRESSION} &\rightarrow \text{EXPRESSION TERM_OPERATOR TERM} \\ \text{EXPRESSION} &\rightarrow \text{TERM} \\ \text{TERM} &\rightarrow \text{TERM_OPERATOR FACTOR} \\ \text{TERM} &\rightarrow \text{FACTOR} \\ \text{FACTOR} &\rightarrow \text{NUMBER} \\ \text{FACTOR} &\rightarrow (\text{EXPRESSION}) \\ \text{NUMBER} &\rightarrow \text{DIGIT} \\ \text{NUMBER} &\mid \text{DIGIT DIGIT} \\ \text{DIGIT} &\rightarrow 0 \dots 9 \\ \text{TERM_OPERATOR} &\rightarrow + \\ \text{TERM_OPERATOR} &\rightarrow - \\ \text{TERM_OPERATOR} &\rightarrow * \\ \text{TERM_OPERATOR} &\rightarrow / \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, blank characters (spaces or tabs) can be inserted anywhere except inside a number. For instance, $(2 + 3) * (10 - 2) - 12 * (1000 + 15)$ is an arithmetic expression generated by the grammar. Note that operators associate to the left. The grammar is unambiguous, in the sense that every expression generated by the grammar has a unique evaluation. Write down a program `context_free_grammar.py` that implements a function `evaluate()` which takes a string representing an expression as an argument, checks whether the expression can be generated by the grammar, and in case the answer is yes, returns the value of the expression, provided that no division by 0 is attempted; otherwise, the function returns `None`. Below is a possible interaction:

```
$ python3 ... >>> from context_free_grammar import * >>> evaluate('100') 100 >>>
evaluate('(100)') 100 >>> evaluate('1 - 20 + 300') 281 >>> evaluate('((((1))-(20))+((300))))' 281 >>>
evaluate('20 * 4 / 5') 16.0 >>> evaluate('((((20))*(4))/((5))))' 16.0 >>> evaluate('1 + 20 * 30 - 400 / 500')
600.2 >>> evaluate('1 + (20*30-400) / 500') 1.4 >>> evaluate('1+(20 / 30 * 400)- 500')
-232.33333333333337 >>> evaluate('1 + 2 * (3+4*5) / (6*7-8/9)') 2.1189189189189186 >>>
evaluate('(100)') >>> evaluate('100 + ') >>> evaluate('100 + -3') >>> evaluate('100 ÷ 50') >>> evaluate('100
/ 0')
Before you tackle the exercise, find out about recursive descent parsers. To easily tokenise the string, check out the findall() function from the re module. See also related content Week 10 - Notes 15 Context Free Grammars discussed in Week 10 Tuesday Lecture.
```