Python Lists

Chapter 8

Python for Everybody
www.py4e.com

Programming

Algorithms

– A set of rules or steps used to solve a problem

Data Structures

– A particular way of organizing data in a computer

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algorithm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_structure

What is Not A "Collection"?

Most of our variables have one value in them - when we put a new value in the variable, the old value is overwritten

```
$ python
>>> x = 2
>>> x = 4
>>> print(x)
4
```

A List Is a Kind of Collection

- A collection allows us to put many values in a single “variable”
- A collection is nice because we can carry many values around in one convenient package.

```
friends = [ 'Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally' ]

carryon = [ 'socks', 'shirt', 'perfume' ]
```

List Constants

- List constants are surrounded by square brackets and the elements in the list are separated by commas

- A list element can be any Python object - even another list

- A list can be empty

```
>>> print([1, 24, 76])
[1, 24, 76]
>>> print(['red', 'yellow',
'blue'])
['red', 'yellow', 'blue']
>>> print(['red', 24, 98.6])
['red', 24, 98.6]
>>> print([ 1, [5, 6], 7])
[1, [5, 6], 7]
>>> print([])
[]
```

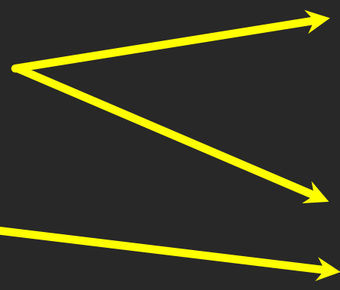
We Already Use Lists!

```
for i in [5, 4, 3, 2, 1] :
    print(i)
print('Blastoff!')
```

```
5
4
3
2
1
Blastoff!
```

Lists and Definite Loops – Best Pals

```
friends = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']
for friend in friends :
    print('Happy New Year:',  friend)
print('Done!')
```



```
Happy New Year: Joseph
Happy New Year: Glenn
Happy New Year: Sally
Done!
```

```
z = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']
for x in z:
    print('Happy New Year:',  x)
print('Done!')
```

Looking Inside Lists

Just like strings, we can get at any single element in a list using an index specified in square brackets

Joseph	Glenn	Sally
0	1	2

```
>>> friends = [ 'Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally' ]
>>> print(friends[1])
Glenn
>>>
```

Lists Are Mutable

- Strings are “immutable” - we cannot change the contents of a string - we must make a new string to make any change
- Lists are “mutable” - we can change an element of a list using the index operator

```
>>> fruit = 'Banana'
>>> fruit[0] = 'b'
Traceback
TypeError: 'str' object does not
support item assignment
>>> x = fruit.lower()
>>> print(x)
banana
>>> lotto = [2, 14, 26, 41, 63]
>>> print(lotto)
[2, 14, 26, 41, 63]
>>> lotto[2] = 28
>>> print(lotto)
[2, 14, 28, 41, 63]
```

How Long is a List?

- The len() function takes a list as a parameter and returns the number of elements in the list
- Actually len() tells us the number of elements of any set or sequence (such as a string...)

```
>>> greet = 'Hello Bob'
>>> print(len(greet))
9
>>> x = [ 1, 2, 'joe', 99]
>>> print(len(x))
4
>>>
```

Using the Range Function

- The range function returns a list of numbers that range from zero to one less than the parameter

- We can construct an index loop using for and an integer iterator

```
>>> print(range(4))
[0, 1, 2, 3]
>>> friends = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']
>>> print(len(friends))
3
>>> print(list(range(len(friends))))
[0, 1, 2]
>>>
```

A Tale of Two Loops...

```
friends = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']

for friend in friends :
    print('Happy New Year:',  friend)

for i in range(len(friends)) :
    friend = friends[i]
    print('Happy New Year:',  friend)
```

```
>>> friends = ['Joseph', 'Glenn', 'Sally']
>>> print(len(friends))
3
>>> print(list(range(len(friends))))
[0, 1, 2]
>>>
```

Happy New Year: Joseph

Happy New Year: Glenn

Happy New Year: Sally