Written exam

Introduction to Python

Duration: 2 hours

The use of a computer to test your code is allowed. All your answers should be written and handed in on a piece of paper. Please indicate clearly the indentations in your code.

Exercise 1 (Computation of a sum)

1. Write a function sum(N) that returns the value of the following sum:

$$\underbrace{4 - \frac{4}{3} + \frac{4}{5} - \frac{4}{7} + \frac{4}{9} - \frac{4}{11} + \frac{4}{13} - \ldots \pm \frac{4}{2N - 1}}_{N \text{ terms in total}}$$

For example, sum(4) should return the value of $4 - \frac{4}{3} + \frac{4}{5} - \frac{4}{7}$.

2. Compute this sum, taking some high value for N. Which well-known number do you recognize ?

Exercise 2 (Morse code converter)

The Morse code was used to communicate when telegraphy was still in use during the 19th century.

In this exercise, we represent a dot by 0 and a dash by 1.

Suppose we have already defined a dictionary morse that maps characters of the alphabet to strings of 0's and 1's, representing the Morse code. In other words, suppose we already have the following piece of code:

"110", "h": "0000", and so on... }

- 1. Write a function morseEncode(S) that takes some string S as an argument and returns its encryption according to the Morse code. It should return False whenever unknown characters are encountered in S. For example morseEncode("hello") should return "000000100010111", and morseEncode("it's ok") should return False (since the apostrophe and whitespace characters are absent from the dictionary morse).
- 2. Write a function morseDecode (T) that takes some encoded string T of O's and 1's, and returns its decryption according to the Morse code. For example morseDecode("00000010001011") should return "hello".

Exercise 3 (Chained lists)

Chained lists are a recursive data structure which we represent in Python as follows. A chained list can be one of two things:

- either the object None which represents the empty list.
- either a tuple (head, tail) where head is of any type, and tail is a chained list.

Examples:

- A = None defines an empty chained list.
- B = (3,(1,(2,(1,None)))) defines a chained list containing four elements: the integers 3, 1, 2 and 1. The head of B is 3 and the tail of B is (1,(2,(1,None))).
- C = ("hello", None) defines a chained list containing only one element: the string "hello". The head of C is "hello" and the tail of C is None (the empty chained list).
- 1. Write a recursive function length(L) that takes a chained list L as an argument and returns its number of elements.
- 2. Write a recursive function contains(L,x) that tests whether an element equal to x is contained in the chained list L (returns a boolean).
- 3. Write a recursive function chainedToOrdinary(L) that takes a chained list L as argument, and returns its conversion to an ordinary Python list.

For example chainedToOrdinary((3,(1,(2,(1,None))))) should return [3,1,2,1].

4. Write a recursive function invert(L) that takes a chained list L as an argument, and returns a chained list where the order of the elements of L is inverted. At no point you should use ordinary lists.

For example invert((3,(1,(2,(1,None))))) should return (1,(2,(1,(3,None)))).

Indication: Use an accumulator. In other words, the header of your function should be something like:

def invert(L,accumulator=None):

...