

Functions

TEAM INFDEV

Introduction

Problem discussion

General idea

Technical

details
Assignments

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Hogeschool Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands



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Lecture topics

- So far we have shown how data representation can be abstracted away
- Building useful containers only once makes it possible to reuse their definition
- Many data structures (tuples, lists, maps, sets, etc.)
 become thus a new layer of abstraction



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Lecture topics

- Manipulating these data structures happens in user code
- Often, user code needs to perform operations that are similar to each other
- Similar operations should not require rewriting everything every time



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- Consider many operation on lists
 - finding or removing a specific element in a container
 - computing the length of a list
 - removing all elements that satisfy a condition
 - ...



Lenght of a list

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```
cnt = 0
x = 1
while not(x.IsEmpty):
    cnt = cnt + 1
x = x.Tail
```

print("List_l_contains_" + str(cnt) + "_elements.")



Lenght of a list

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Conclusion

```
cnt = 0
x = 1
while not(x.IsEmpty):
  cnt = cnt + 1
x = x.Tail
print("Listulucontainsu" + str(cnt) + "uelements.")
```

- What does 1 contain?
- What do we do with the values of the list?
- Do they even matter?



Problem discussion

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- Suppose that we now have another list, k
- We wish to know its length
- How do we do it?



Lenght of a list

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```
cnt = 0
x = k
while not(x.IsEmpty):
cnt = cnt + 1
x = x.Tail
print("Listuk_contains_" + str(cnt) + "_elements.")
```



Lenght of a list

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```
cnt = 0
x = k
while not(x.IsEmpty):
  cnt = cnt + 1
x = x.Tail
print("List_uk_ucontains_u" + str(cnt) + "_uelements.")
```

- Looks suspiciously like the previous code block
- Why?



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Adding our own layers

- The goal of this lecture is to add a new layer of abstraction to our programs
- We wish to reuse **implementations**, not only data structures
- This layer of abstraction is called functions



Adding our own layers

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Description

- A function is a collection of instructions and variables
- Some instructions and variables are fixed inside its body
- Other instructions and variables come from outside the function, and thus are not fixed; these are called parameters of the function
- We try to strike the right balance between flexibility and work done
- The function returns a final result that can be recovered by the code that uses the function



Blueprint of a function (NOT ACTUAL PYTHON CODE!)

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```
length of a list 1:
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
    cnt = cnt + 1
    x = x.Tail
    return cnt as the final result
```

Description



Blueprint of a function (NOT ACTUAL PYTHON CODE!)

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```
length of a list 1:
  cnt = 0
  x = 1
  while not(x.IsEmpty):
    cnt = cnt + 1
    x = x.Tail
  return cnt as the final result
```

Description

- length is the function name
- 1 is the only parameter
- Lines 2 through 6 are fixed
- cnt is the final result



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Using the function

- Code that needs the length of a function can now simply invoke function length
- The resulting code will simply be 1_len = length(1)
- 1_len will be assigned with the value returned by the function



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Conclusion

- A function can be defined in Python quite easily
- The syntax is:
 - def <<name>>(<<pre>parameters>>):ab
 - body
 - return <<result>>
- Inside a function we can put whatever instructions we need
 - if
 - for
 - ...

^aParameters might be none, thus we can write simply ()

^bMultiple parameters are separated by a comma, thus



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Using the function

- After we declare a function, we can use it
- The syntax is quite simple
 - <<name>>(<<pre>call the function and
 ignore the result
 - <<v>> = <<name>>(<<parameters>>) to call the
 function and assign the result to the <<v>> variable
- After calling the function, we enter the local environment of the function
- Variables, the PC, etc. are separate from those of the calling site

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```
S PC 9
```

н

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
    cnt = cnt + 1
    x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

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```
S PC 9
```

н 🖳

def length(1):

```
cnt = 0
x = 1
while not(x.IsEmpty):
  cnt = cnt + 1
  x = x.Tail
return cnt
```

```
print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

ш	0	1		
н	[E → true]	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 10; T \mapsto ref(0)]$		

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```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

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```
 \begin{array}{c|cccc} \mathsf{H} & & & 1 \\ \hline [\mathsf{E} \mapsto \mathsf{true}] & & [\mathsf{E} \mapsto \mathsf{false}; \, \mathsf{V} \mapsto \mathsf{10}; \, \mathsf{T} \mapsto \mathsf{ref}(\mathsf{0})] \end{array}
```

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I
        cnt

        9
        nil
        3
        ref(1)
        0
```

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```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

def length(1):

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```
        PC
        push
        PC
        I
        cnt

        9
        length
        3
        ref(1)
        0
```

```
H  \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 1 \\ \hline [E \mapsto true] & [E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 10; T \mapsto ref(0)] \end{array}
```

```
cnt = 0
x = 1
while not(x.IsEmpty):
   cnt = cnt + 1
x = x.Tail
   return cnt
print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

```
\mathsf{H} \qquad \boxed{ \begin{array}{c|c} \mathsf{0} & \mathsf{1} \\ \hline [\mathsf{E} \mapsto \mathsf{true}] & [\mathsf{E} \mapsto \mathsf{false}; \, \mathsf{V} \mapsto \mathsf{10}; \, \mathsf{T} \mapsto \mathsf{ref}(\mathsf{0})] \end{array} }
```

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After a few steps...

Н

```
S PC length PC I cnt x
9 nil 7 ref(1) 1 ref(0)
```

```
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 \\ \hline [E \mapsto \mathsf{true}] & [E \mapsto \mathsf{false}; \ \mathsf{V} \mapsto \mathsf{10}; \ \mathsf{T} \mapsto \mathsf{ref}(\mathsf{0})] \\ \hline \end{array}
```

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

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After a few steps...

Н

c	PC	length	PC	I	cnt	×
3	9	nil	7	ref(1)	1	ref(0)

```
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline 0 & 1 \\ \hline [E \mapsto \mathsf{true}] & [E \mapsto \mathsf{false}; \, \mathsf{V} \mapsto \mathsf{10}; \, \mathsf{T} \mapsto \mathsf{ref}(\mathsf{0})] \\ \hline \end{array}
```

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt
print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

Do we still need all the local variables of the function?



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c	PC	length	PC	- 1	cnt	×
3	9	nil	7	ref(1)	1	ref(0)

0	1
$[E \mapsto true]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 10; T \mapsto ref(0)]$

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

Do we still need all the local variables of the function? Where do we put the result?



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н

c	PC	length	PC	1	cnt	×
3	9	nil	7	ref(1)	1	ref(0)

```
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|}\hline 0 & 1 \\\hline [E \mapsto \mathsf{true}] & [E \mapsto \mathsf{false}; \mathsf{V} \mapsto \mathsf{10}; \, \mathsf{T} \mapsto \mathsf{ref}(\mathsf{0})] \\\hline \end{array}
```

```
def length(1):
    cnt = 0
    x = 1
    while not(x.IsEmpty):
        cnt = cnt + 1
        x = x.Tail
    return cnt

print(length(Node(10, Empty)))
```

Do we still need all the local variables of the function? Where do we put the result?

```
S PC length 9 1
```

ш	0	1		
П	[E → true]	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 10; T \mapsto ref(0)]$		



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Syntax and semantics

- We will now describe how Python functions work precisely
 - This is a fundamental bit of knowledge that determines if you really do learn how to program or not
- This absolutely requires a lot of focus to get
- Please panic a bit on the inside



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Subtleties that make functions "fun" to use

- About variables
 - Variables and parameters inside a function have precise scope (visibility)
 - Primitive values given as parameters can be changed only locally to the function
 - References given as parameters can be permanently changed from within the function
 - Global variables defined outside the function may be read but not changed from within the function^a
- About behaviour
 - A function may call itself, in a process known as recursion
 - A function may get as parameters and return other functions, in a process known as higher order functions

^aUnless you use some tricks we strongly discourage



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Local and global variables (basics of scope)

- The parameters of a function are added to the list of accessible variables
- They are only visible from inside the function
- Global variables are also visible from inside the function



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Local and global variables (basics of scope)

- Every call to a function generates a new value of the stack memory S
- This contains (private copy of) all local variables
- The heap memory H remains the same
- The original stack memory (the global variables) remains accessible, just read-only



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Local and global variables (basics of scope)

- Every call to a function also reserves some special locations in the stack
- The local PC of the function
- The local variables of the function
- The returned value when the function is done



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```
x = 1

def f(z):
   return x * z

print(f(10))
print(f(30))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function



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```
x = 1
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
print(f(30))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program print?



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```
x = 1
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
print(f(30))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program print?
- 10, 30, 20

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```
S PC
```

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x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

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```
S PC 1
```

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x = 1

```
def f(z):
   return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

```
S PC x 6 1
```

Н

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```
S PC x 6 1
```

н 📙

x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

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```
x = 1
```

def f(z):
 return x * z

print(f(10))

x = 2 print(f(10))

S	PC	×	f	PC	z
5	6	1	nil	4	10

Н



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s	PC	×	f	PC	z
3	6	1	nil	4	10

н 📙

x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

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```
S PC x f PC z 6 1 nil 4 10
```

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x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
```

print(f(10))

```
S PC x f
7 1 10
```

Н

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```
S PC x f
7 1 10
```

н 📙

x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

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```
S PC x f
7 1 10
```

н 📙

x = 1

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
```

print(f(10))

```
S PC x 8 2
```

Н

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s	PC	×	f	PC	z
3	8	2	nil	4	10

```
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
x = 2
```

print(f(10))

Н

x = 1

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s	PC	×	f	PC	z
3	8	2	nil	4	10

```
x = 1
```

Н

```
def f(z):
    return x * z

print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
```

c	PC	×	f
3	8	2	20

н



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```
x = 1
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
print(z)
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function



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```
x = 1
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
print(z)
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program do?



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```
x = 1
def f(z):
    return x * z
print(f(10))
x = 2
print(f(10))
print(z)
```

- x is a global variable, visible outside and inside the function
- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program do?
- Crash with NameError: name 'z' is not defined



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```
def f(z):
    z = z + 1
    return z * 2
print(f(10))
print(f(30))
```

Local and global variables (basics of scope)

• z is a local variable, visible only inside the function



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Technical details print(f(30))

print(f(10))

return z * 2

def f(z):

- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program print?



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Conclusion

```
def f(z):
   z = z + 1
   return z * 2
print(f(10))
print(f(30))
```

- z is a local variable, visible only inside the function
- What does this program print?
- 22, 62



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- The parameters of a function have priority over globals
- They supersede global variables of the same name



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```
x = 1
def f(x):
    return x * 2
print(f(10))
print(f(20))
```

- x is a global variable, potentially visible inside the function
- x is also a local variable of the function, which has priority over the global x



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```
x = 1
def f(x):
    return x * 2
print(f(10))
print(f(20))
```

- x is a global variable, potentially visible inside the function
- x is also a local variable of the function, which has priority over the global x
- What does this program print?



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```
x = 1
def f(x):
   return x * 2
print(f(10))
print(f(20))
```

- x is a global variable, potentially visible inside the function
- x is also a local variable of the function, which has priority over the global x
- What does this program print?
- 20, 40

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x = 1

def f(x):
 return x * 2

print(f(10))
print(f(20))

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```
S PC x 6 1
```

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x = 1

def f(x):
 return x * 2

print(f(10))

print(f(20))

S	PC	×	f	PC	×
ا ا	6	1	nil	4	10

н

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```
S PC x f PC x
6 1 nil 4 10
```

Н

x = 1

```
def f(x):
   return x * 2
```

print(f(10))
print(f(20))

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c	PC	X	f	PC	×
3	6	1	nil	4	10

н 🗀

x = 1

```
def f(x):
   return x * 2
```

print(f(10))
print(f(20))

S	PC	×	f	
	7	1	20	

н |

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```
S PC x f 7 1 20
```

н 📙

x = 1

```
def f(x):
   return x * 2
```

return x *

```
print(f(10))
print(f(20))
```

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н 📙

x = 1

def f(x):
 return x * 2

print(f(10)) print(f(20))

> S PC x f PC x 7 1 nil 4 20

н

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c	PC	×	f	PC	х
3	7	1	nil	4	20

н 🗀

x = 1

```
def f(x):
   return x * 2
```

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```
print(f(10))
print(f(20))
```

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x = 1

S

def f(x): return x * 2

print(f(10))

print(f(20))

S 40

Н



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Recursion

- (Recursive) functions are all functions that call themselves in their bodies
- This is based on the principle of induction and in general a very powerful technique
- This leads to a compacter and often more easily correct representation
 - Code is not easier to read, especially to the untrained eye



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Recursion

- Remember that calling a function creates a new instance of stack memory
- Recursive functions do this a lot
- Each recursive call has its own environment



Recursion

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Conclusion

```
def length(1):
   if l.IsEmpty:
     return 0
   else:
    return length(l.Tail) + 1
```

Recursion

• How many 1's shall we have?



Recursion

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, 133.6....

Conclusion

```
def length(1):
   if l.IsEmpty:
     return 0
   else:
    return length(l.Tail) + 1
```

Recursion

- How many 1's shall we have?
- As many as the nodes of the initial value

Recursion

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```
S PC 7
```

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def length(1):

```
if 1.IsEmpty:
    return 0
else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
```

```
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
S PC 7
```

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def length(1):

```
if 1.IsEmpty:
    return 0
else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
```

print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))

0	1	2
$[E \mapsto true]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \; mapsto \; ref(0)]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \; mapsto \; ref(1)]$

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```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I

        7
        nil
        2
        ref(2)
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
     return 0
else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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S

length PC. 2 ref(2) nil

Н $[E \mapsto true]$

 $[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ mapsto \ ref(0)]$

 $[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \ mapsto \ ref(1)]$

```
def length(1):
  if 1. IsEmpty:
    return 0
  else:
```

return length(1.Tail) + 1

print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))

PC length PC. S nil

n [E → true]

Н

 $[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ maps to \ ref(0)]$

ref(2)





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```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I

        7
        nil
        5
        ref(2)
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
     return 0
else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I

        7
        nil
        5
        ref(2)
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
    return 0
   else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
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```

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S H

 PC
 length
 PC
 I

 7
 nil
 5
 ref(2)

| length | PC | I | | ref(1)

```
def length(1):
   if 1.1sEmpty:
     return 0
else:
   return length(1.Tail) + 1
```

print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))

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```
def length(1):
    if 1.IsEmpty:
        return 0
    else:
        return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
PC.
                                                                               length
                  length
                                                length
                                                            PC.
                                                                                           PC.
S
                              5
                                     ref(2)
                                                             5
                                                                    ref(1)
                                                                                           2
                    nil
                                                   nil
                                                                                 nil
                                                                                                   ref(0)
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
     return 0
   else:
     return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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Assignments

```
PC
                 length
                             PC.
                                                length
                                                            PC.
                                                                               length
                                                                                          PC.
S
                                                                   ref(1)
                              5
                                     ref(2)
                                                            5
                                                                                          2
                                                                                                  ref(0)
                    nil
                                                  nil
                                                                                nil
```

0	1	2
[E → true]	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ mapsto \ ref(0)]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \; mapsto \; ref(1)]$

```
def length(1):
    if 1.IsEmpty:
       return 0
    else:
       return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

```
PC
                 length
                            PC
                                               length
                                                          PC
                                                                             length
                                                                                        PC.
S
                   nil
                              5
                                    ref(2)
                                                 nil
                                                           5
                                                                  ref(1)
                                                                               nil
                                                                                         3
                                                                                                ref(0)
```

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```
PC.
                                                                               length
                  length
                                                 length
                                                            PC.
                                                                                           PC.
S
                               5
                                      ref(2)
                                                             5
                                                                    ref(1)
                                                                                 nil
                                                                                            3
                                                                                                   ref(0)
                    nil
                                                   nil
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
      return 0
   else:
      return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
length
                              PC.
                                                  length
                                                              PC.
                                                                                 length
                                                                                             PC.
S
                                      ref(2)
                                                               5
                                                                      ref(1)
                                                                                               3
                                                                                                     ref(0)
                    nil
                               5
                                                    nil
                                                                                   nil
```

```
def length(1):
    if 1.IsEmpty:
       return 0
    else:
       return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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0	1	2
$[E \mapsto true]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ maps to \ ref(0)]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \; mapsto \; ref(1)]$

```
def length(1):
    if l.IsEmpty:
       return 0
    else:
       return length(l.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
length
           PC.
                               length
                                           PC.
                   ref(2)
                                           5
                                                   ref(1)
 nil
            5
                                 nil
```

 $[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ mapsto \ ref(0)]$ [E → true] $[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \ mapsto \ ref(1)]$

length

n

```
def length(1):
  if 1. IsEmpty:
    return 0
  else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

```
PC
                  length
                             PC.
                                                length
S
                   nil
                              5
                                     ref(2)
```

```
n
[E → true]
                    [E \mapsto false: V \mapsto 2: T \ maps to \ ref(0)]
                                                                          [E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \ maps to \ ref(1)]
```

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```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I
        length

        7
        nil
        5
        ref(2)
        1
```

0	1	2
[E → true]	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ mapsto \ ref(0)]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \; mapsto \; ref(1)]$

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
      return 0
   else:
      return length(1.Tail) + 1
   print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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Н

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```
        PC
        length
        PC
        I
        length

        7
        nil
        5
        ref(2)
        1
```

$\begin{tabular}{ l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l$	0	1	2
	[E → true]	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 2; T \ mapsto \ ref(0)]$	$[E \mapsto false; V \mapsto 1; T \ mapsto \ ref(1)]$

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
    return 0
else:
    return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

```
S PC length 7 2
```

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```
S PC length 7 2
```

```
def length(1):
   if 1.IsEmpty:
     return 0
   else:
     return length(1.Tail) + 1
   print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

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```
S PC length 7 2
```

```
def length(1):
    if 1.IsEmpty:
        return 0
    else:
        return length(1.Tail) + 1
print(length(Node(1,Node(2,Empty))))
```

```
S PC 8
```



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Build and test, on paper...

- A function add that increments all elements of a list by a fixed value:
 - add(10, Node(1,Node(2,Node(3,Empty)))) ->
 Node(11,Node(12,Node(13,Empty)))
- A function filterEven that removes all odd elements from a list:
 - filterEven(Node(1,Node(2,Node(3,Empty)))) ->
 Node(2,Empty)
- A function sum that adds all elements of a list:
 - sum(Node(1,Node(2,Node(3,Empty)))) -> 6



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Lecture topics

- Often, user code needs to perform operations that are similar to each other
- Through the mechanism of function definition, we can recycle code
- Functions can encode algorithms in many way
 - Simple code abstractions to avoid repetition
 - Recursive problems



This is it!

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The best of luck, and thanks for the attention!