SENG 265

Even more Python

Topics

- Python data model
- Decorators
- Generators
- itertools
- Coda: __setitem__

Python data model

• We have seen some of the special method names used by Python

```
■ __repr__
```

• There are many others, and these permit our code to implement, support, and interact with such things as:

- iteration; collections; attribute access;
- operator overloading; function and method invocation;
- object creation and destruction;
- string representation and formatting
- managed contexts

- The data model, however, may seem strange if approached from knowledge of Java.
- When Java-ness is set aside, and Python-nese is embraced, this helps encourage a style of coding called **Pythonic**.
- To unpick this a little bit, let's look at an example involving two special methods
 - getitem__
 - len
- Our example will be a card deck
- We'll also introduce the concept of a **named tuple** (a useful cross between a tuple and a dictionary)

```
In [ ]: import collections # Part of base Python
        Card = collections.namedtuple('Card',
                                       ['rank', 'suit'])
        class FrenchDeck:
            # No constructor!
            def len (self):
                return 52
            def getitem (self, position):
                if position >= 52:
                    raise IndexError
                suit index = position // 13
                rank index = (position % 13) + 2
                if (suit index == 0): suit = "spades"
                elif (suit index == 1): suit = "hearts"
                elif (suit index == 2): suit = "diamonds"
                else:
                                         suit = "clubs"
                if rank index >= 2 and rank index <= 10:</pre>
                    rank = rank index
                elif rank index == 11: rank = 'J'
                elif rank index == 12: rank = 'Q'
                elif rank index == 13: rank = 'K'
                elif rank index == 14: rank = 'A'
                return Card(str(rank), str(suit))
```

```
In [ ]: devils_bedpost = Card('4', 'clubs')
    devils_bedpost
```

```
In []: # Because of __getitem__ we can use [] to
# index an item

deck = FrenchDeck()
print(deck[0])
print(deck[-1])
```

```
In [ ]: # "Uno" card deck
Card('green', '4') in deck
```

```
In [ ]: # Because of __len__ and __getitem__, we can use a deck
# in a for-loop

for card in deck:
    print(card)
```

```
In [ ]: for card in reversed(deck):
    print(card)
```

•	With the use of	_len_	_and _	_getitem_	_, we get lots of useful Python behavior
	for free!				
	■ [] based	dacces	s of ele	ments	

■ iteration through a FrenchDeck object

■ in operator

- However, we quickly run into some limits
- For example:
 - Can we take the first three cards off the pile?

```
In [ ]: deck[:3]
```

- No.
- We would need to implement slicing behavior in our class.

- Let us re-write the card deck
- We'll be a bit more clever now with our implementation, and exploit the power of lists.

```
In [ ]:
        import collections # Part of base Python
        Card = collections.namedtuple('Card', ['rank', 'suit'])
        class AnotherFrenchDeck: # The card deck you know and love was invented in Fran
        ce
            ranks = [str(n) for n in range(2, 11)] + list("JQKA")
            suits = "spades hearts diamonds clubs".split()
            def init (self):
                self. cards = [Card(rank, suit) for suit in self.suits
                                               for rank in self.ranks]
            def len (self):
                return len(self. cards)
            def getitem (self, position):
                return self. cards[position]
```

```
In [ ]: deck = AnotherFrenchDeck()
    print(deck[0])
    print("-" * 40)
    from random import choice
    print(choice(deck))
    print(choice(deck))
```

```
In [ ]: for card in deck:
    print(card)
```

```
In [ ]: for card in reversed(deck):
    print(card)
```

```
In [ ]: Card('Q', 'hearts') in deck
```

- We could also sort the cards
 - Let's sort first by rank (aces high) and then by suit (spades high)
 - This is a bit different from how we often sort a playing deck
 - Our key function will convert a card (rank + suit) into a number
 - Therefore 2 of Clubs comes before a 2 of Diamonds, which all come before a 3 of Clubs, ..., with A of hearts and A of Spades at the end of sorted order.

```
In [ ]: suit_values = { "spades":3, "hearts":2, "diamonds":1, "clubs":0 }

def card_key(card):
    rank_value = AnotherFrenchDeck.ranks.index(card.rank)
    return rank_value * len(suit_values) + suit_values[card.suit]

In [ ]: for card in sorted(deck, key=card_key):
    print(card)
```

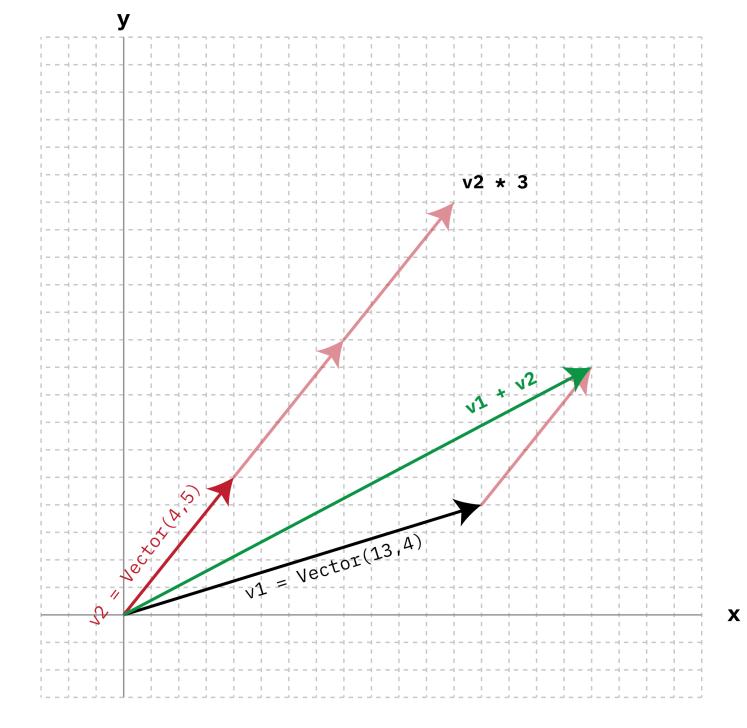
• Can we shuffle?

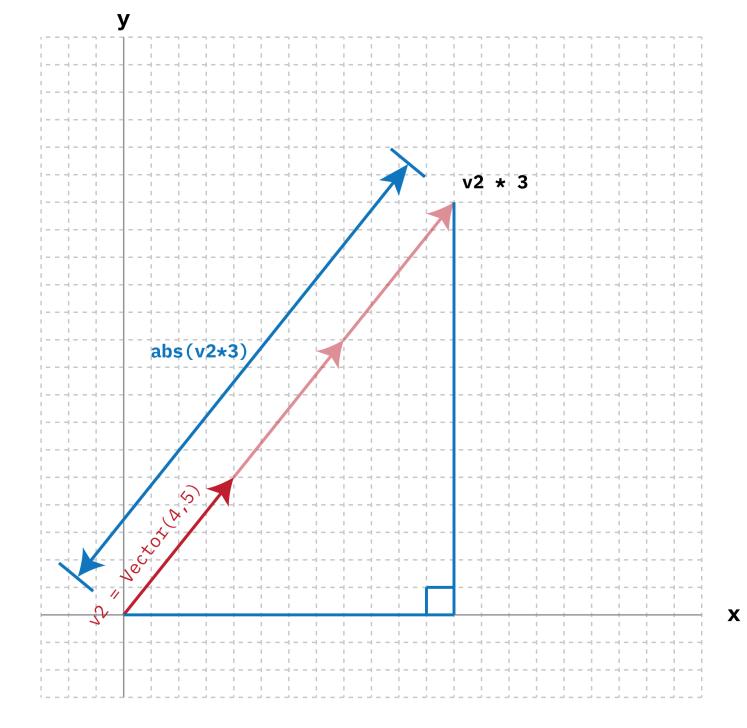
```
In [ ]: import random
    demo = list(range(10))
    random.shuffle(demo)
    demo

In [ ]: random.shuffle(deck)
    deck
```

- The problem is the AlternateFrenchDeck appears to be immutable
 - Later we'll see how to fix this via the setitem special method.
- The important points to understand here:
 - Python supports classes ...
 - ... but does not use them like Java does to indicate inherited functionality.
 - Rather: the Python data model permits objects to be used as they are at runtime ...
 - ... so if that object has __len__ and __getattr__ attributes, then that object can be used in ways available through those special methods

- Another example: a two-dimensional Vector class
- We'd like to have:
 - expressions such as Vector(13, 4) to create vectors
 - use the + operator to add vectors together (i.e., new vector with corresponding components added)
 - obtain the magnitude of a vector
 - use a scalar multiplier on a vector





```
In [ ]: | import math
        class Vector:
            def init (self, x=0, y=0):
                self.x = x
                self.y = y
            def repr (self):
                return 'Vector(%r, %r)' % \
                    (self.x, self.y)
            def abs (self):
                return math.hypot(self.x, self.y)
            def bool (self):
                return bool(abs(self))
            def add (self, other):
                x = self.x + other.x
                y = self.y + other.y
                return Vector(x, y)
            def mul (self, scalar):
                return Vector(self.x * scalar,
                              self.y * scalar)
In [ ]: v1 = Vector(13, 4)
        v2 = Vector(4, 5)
        v1 + v2
```

In []: | abs(v1)

In []: | v2 * 3

• Special method names that **do not involve** operator symbols (not an exhaustive list)

category	method names
string/bytes representation	repr,str,format,bytes
emulating collections	len,getitem,setitem,delitem,contains
instance creation and destruction	new,init,del
conversion to number	_abs_,_bool_,_complex_,_int_,_float_,_hash
etc.	etc.

• Special method names that **do** involve operator symbols (not an exhaustive list)

category	method names
unary numeric operators	neg,pos+,abs abs()
rich comparison operators	lt<,le<=,eq==,ne!=, (etc.)
arithmetic operators	add+,sub,mul*,truediv/,floordiv//,(etc.)
augumentic assignment arithmetic operators	iadd,isub,imul,itruediv,_ifloordiv,(etc.)
etc.	etc.

• See: https://docs.python.org/3.7/reference/datamodel.html

Decorators

- For many programmers -- even those with much experience using Python -decorators can seem mysterious
- Part of this is because there are several dimension to decorators:
 - 1. The syntax necessary to use a decorator
 - 2. **Implementing a decorator from scratch** (including learning some new syntax)
 - 3. The typical use-cases involving **best practices when using the Python library**

- Unfortunately we cannot get very deep into decorators in these lectures ...
- ... but what follows here is meant to give you a stronger intuition of what is going on
- ... such that when you begin to use decorators in the Python library, the result will seem much less mysterious.

• Some re	eview/context: What d	o we achieve by w	riting and using fu	nctions?

```
operation W
operation X
. . .
operation Y
operation Z
. . .
operation Y
operation Z
. . .
operation W
operation X
operation Y
operation Z
. . .
```

```
function_WX()
function_YZ()
function_YZ()
function_WX()
. . .
function_YZ()
. . .
```

```
def function_WX():
    operation W
    operation X
```

```
def function_YZ():
    operation Y
    operation Z
```

operation A
function_WX()
operation B

operation A
function_YZ()
operation B

operation A
function_YZ()
operation B

operation A
function_WX()
operation B

operation A
function_YZ()
operation B

def function_WX():
 operation W
 operation X

def function_YZ():
 operation Y
 operation Z

function_WX()

function_YZ()

function_YZ()

function_WX()

function_YZ()

@decorator_AB

def function_WX():
 operation W
 operation X

@decorator_AB

def function_YZ():
 operation Y
 operation Z

def decorator_AB(f):

operation A
<use f somehow>
operation B

- The intuition behind decorators is therefore:
 - A **decorator** is meant to perform some actions **around** some specified function (which becomes the **decorated function**).
 - Tricky bit is recognizing how that given function is called within the decorator...
 - ... plus how the decorator ensures the function receives its needed arguments.
- Example (without decorators): Adding some timing code around existing queries for some user information

```
In [ ]: def obtain name(greeting):
            n = input(greeting + " What is your name? ")
            return n
        def obtain age():
            while (True):
                try:
                     age = input("What is your age (in years)? ")
                     age = int(age)
                     return age
                except ValueError:
                     print("Sorry, we need a whole number. Try again.")
        def main():
            n = obtain name("Welcome to Bluefish Insurance Brokers.")
            a = obtain age()
            print(n, "is", a, "years of age. Woot, I say.")
        main()
```

- Suppose now we want to somehow capture the time taken to provide input?
- That is:
 - Need to determine the current time before obtain_name or obtain_age are called...
 - ... then perform the function itself (i.e. either obtain_name or obtain age) ...
 - ... then determine the current time when the function is finished ...
 - ... and finally report the difference (in a human-readable form).

```
In []: import time

def duration(func):
    def stopwatch(*args):
        t0 = time.perf_counter()
        result = func(*args)
        elapsed = time.perf_counter() - t0
        print('[%0.8fs]' % (elapsed))
        return result
    return stopwatch
```

- Line 3: Name of decorator, with function to be decorated to be acccessed using func parameter.
- Line 4: stopwatch is a **nested function** -- but there is no intention for any other code in the program to *directly* called stopwatch by name.
- Also line 4: *args gets access to all positional arguments passed to stopwatch (explained in a moment!)
- Line 5: Current time
- Line 6: Call the function that has been generated (func), passing all arguments given to stopwatch to func
- Lines 7 & 8: Current time, compute duration, print result

```
In [ ]: import time

def duration(func):
    def stopwatch(*args):
        t0 = time.perf_counter()
        result = func(*args)
        elapsed = time.perf_counter() - t0
        print('[%0.8fs]' % (elapsed))
        return result
    return stopwatch
```

- Line 9 and 10: The tricky parts!
 - But let's explain these after we see the resulting code.

```
In [ ]: @duration
        def obtain name(greeting):
             n = input(greeting + " What is your name? ")
            return n
        @duration
        def obtain age():
            while (True):
                 try:
                     age = input("What is your age (in years)? ")
                     age = int(age)
                     return age
                 except ValueError:
                     print("Sorry, we need a whole number. Try again.")
        def main():
             n = obtain name("Welcome to Bluefish Insurance Brokers.")
            a = obtain age()
            print(n, "is", a, "years of age. Woot, I say.")
        main()
```

```
In []: # ....

def duration(func):
    def stopwatch(*args):
        t0 = time.perf_counter()
        result = func(*args)
        elapsed = time.perf_counter() - t0
        print('[%0.8fs]' % (elapsed))
        return result
    return stopwatch

# ....
```

- Line 10: This line returns a function that is also known as a closure
 - All uses of this return value have the meaning of func in stopwatch already embedded into a bundle of heap memory with an instance of stopwatch.
 - Now even though we think we're calling obtain_name or obtain_age or main, we're really calling stopwatch, but where stopwatch has additional state to know which of the three functions to call.

```
In [ ]: | # @duration
        def obtain name(greeting):
            n = input(greeting + " What is your name? ")
            return n
        @duration
        def obtain age():
            while (True):
                try:
                     age = input("What is your age (in years)? ")
                     age = int(age)
                     return age
                 except ValueError:
                     print("Sorry, we need a whole number. Try again.")
        def main():
            n = obtain name("Welcome to Bluefish Insurance Brokers.")
             a = obtain age()
            print(n, "is", a, "years of age. Woot, I say.")
        main()
```

```
In [ ]: print(obtain_name)
    print(obtain_age)
    print(main)
```

```
In [ ]: b = lambda x : x * 2
    print( b("aardvark") )
    print( duration(b)("timmy") )
```

- Decorators are usually brought out as a solution to some standard problems
 - That is, some already-existing functions in user code needs some additional properties
 - Rather than re-write the function, we add the properties via a decorator
- Library module functools
 - See https://docs.python.org/3.6/library/functools.html

- Your first use of decorators with regular code will probably end up as a form of "Harry Potter" programming:
 - Library author informs you how to call functions in the library.
 - Author may also suggest how to use decorators to add what you might need
- Decorators can also be **stacked**:
 - Decorating a decorated function
- So now you know what decorators look like...

Generators

S

 Before we look at generators, let's look at something much simpler: a Sentence class

```
In [ ]:
        import reprlib
        class Sentence:
                def init (self, text):
                    self.text = text
                    self.words = text.split()
                def getitem (self, index):
                    return self.words[index]
                def len (self):
                    return len(self.words)
                def repr (self):
                    return 'Sentence(%s)' % reprlib.repr(self.text)
In [ ]: | s = Sentence("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?")
```

```
In [ ]: for word in s:
    print(word)
In [ ]: list(s)
```

- All sequences in Python are iterable
 - And they are iterable because all sequences implement the __iter__
 function...
 - ... either as a built-in (i.e., part of the Python interpreter) ...
 - ... or explicitly written (i.e., in the class)
- That is, when Python needs to iterate of an object x, it calls iter(x) on the object:
 - And this returns the result of the __iter__ method if it has been implemented in the object's class...
 - ... and if this isn't the case, but __getitem__ is implemented, then Python creates an iterator using __getitem__ (i.e., to proceed from item 0 up to the number of items) ...
 - ... and if *this* isn't the case, then Python raises a TypeError.

Now this begins to get subtle...

- There is a different between **iterable** and **iterators**
 - Is it a little bit like the difference between an interface and an implementation.
- iterable is a property/characteristic possessed by some object.
- an **iterator** is method/code that implements two methods:
 - __next__: returns next available item, raising StopIteration when there are no more items
 - __iter__: returns self (i.e., for cases when object is used by a for loop and an iterable is expected.

```
In [ ]: s = 'ABC'
    for char in s:
        print(char)

In [ ]: s = 'ABC'
    it = iter(s)
    while True:
        try:
            print(next(it))
        except StopIteration:
            del it
            break
```

- On right:
 - line 2 creates an iterable for the sequence ABC
 - line 5 fetches the next item in the sequence
 - lines 6, 7, and 8 are needed to stop the loop (and line 7 discards the iterator object)

- Let us re-write Sentence to use a custom iterator.
- Note: This is not necessarily the best practice (i.e., we should use what is built-in to Python as much as possible)...
- ... but we want to expose some of the machinery of an iterator as this will help make sense of generators.

```
In [ ]: import reprlib
        class Sentence:
                def init (self, text):
                    self.text = text
                     self.words = text.split()
                 11 11 11
                def getitem (self, index):
                    return self.words[index]
                def len (self):
                    return len(self.words)
                 11 11 11
                def repr (self):
                    return 'Sentence(%s)' % reprlib.repr(self.text)
                # New code
                def iter (self):
                    return SentenceIterator(self.words)
```

```
def init (self, words):
                self.words = words
                self.index = 0
            def next (self):
                try:
                    word = self.words[self.index]
                except IndexError:
                    raise StopIteration()
                                                 # needed by Python to terminate a `for`
        loop
                self.index += 1
                                                  # update our current "position" in the
         sequence
                return word
            def iter (self):
                return self
In [ ]: s = Sentence("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?")
        for word in s:
            print(word)
```

In []: class SentenceIterator:

- Our SentenceIterator is used by the Python-interpreter's machine for a for
 - That is, everything the for machinery requires is provided by the iterator
- However, recall what that machinery needs:
 - An object with a next method that returns the next word
- Let us rewrite Sentence in a way that does **not** use a separate iterator class...
- ... but rather generates an object that itself has a next operation.
- Before we do that, however, let's look at the Python feature that will make this happen: the yield statement.

```
In [ ]: | def gen_ABC():
              yield 'A'
              yield 'B'
yield 'C'
In [ ]: | gen_ABC
In [ ]: | g = gen_ABC()
         next(g)
In [ ]: | next(g)
In [ ]: | next(g)
In [ ]: | next(g)
```

- The big idea here
 - yield produces a generator object
 - When code calls next() on such an object, Python resumes the generator from the statement after the previous yield, and returns the value with the upcoming yield as the result of next().
 - (That is, the yield statement yields a value or produces a value)
 - Special cases are the first call to next()...
 - ... and when next() resumes at a point in the code where there is nothing following the previous yield (i.e., the function that created the generator is complete).
- That is:
 - generators are also iterators

```
In [ ]: import reprlib
        class Sentence:
                def init (self, text):
                    self.text = text
                    self.words = text.split()
                def repr (self):
                    return 'Sentence(%s)' % reprlib.repr(self.text)
                # New code
                def iter (self):
                    for word in self.words:
                        yield word
                    return
                # That's all!!
In [ ]: | s = Sentence("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?")
        it = s. iter ()
        next(it)
In [ ]: s = Sentence("You are my sunshine, my darling sunshine.")
        for w in s:
            print(w)
In [ ]: next(it)
```

- And:
- We can use a generator to implement a sequence that is infinitely long!
- In practice, we evaluate that sequence **lazily** (i.e., only calculate as much If the sequence as is needed in some step)
- Syntactic point for code that follows:
 - We can determine the type of a value at runtime using the type built-in
 - This built-in returns an class object.

• With the class object for some numeric value A, we can then convert some other number B that into the numeric type of A.

• Notice the loop below from lines 12 to 15:

```
In [ ]: class ArithmeticProgression:
            def init (self, begin, step, end=None):
                 self.begin = begin
                 self.step = step
                 self.end = end # None implies an
                                # "infinite sequence/series"
            def iter (self):
                result = type(self.begin + self.step)(self.begin)
                 forever = self.end is None
                 index = 0
                while forever or result < self.end:</pre>
                     vield result
                     index += 1
                     result = self.begin + self.step * index
In [ ]: | cardinal = ArithmeticProgression(0, 1.1)
        # list(cardinal)
        cc = iter(cardinal)
        for in range(10000000):
            p = next(cc)
        print(p)
In [ ]: | vals = cc[:10]
```

- The yield statement is short yet surprisingly powerful.
- The hard part is to accept that the use of the next() built-in function will cause the generator to resume from the statement following the yield
- The ability to create an infinite series is delightful...
- ... but is not the main purpose of a generator ...
- ... although when you see the use of an infinite sequence (lazily evaluated) then having this mechanism results in a robust and extensible solutions.

itertools

- Sometimes we may have a sequence or collection over which we want to iterate
- We may also want **select**, **compute**, or **rearrange** as we iterate.
- Python provides a rich library of **generator** functions that help with this
 - Idea: Given a sequence seq plus some function f that works on a sequence item ...
 - ... the generator function applies f in a particular way on items in seq.
- The easiest way to explain this is to show with some examples

itertools: filtering

• Assume the following function that we define:

```
In [ ]: # returns True or False

def vowel(c):
    return c.upper() in 'AEIOU'
```

• There is already a built-in function named filter which can use a function such a vowel:

```
In [ ]: list(filter(vowel, "eelgrass"))
```

• Here are some generator functions in itertools that can be used for **filtering**:

```
In []: import itertools
    itertools.filterfalse(vowel, "eelgrass")

In []: list(itertools.filterfalse(vowel, "eelgrass"))

In []: list(itertools.takewhile(vowel, "eelgrass"))

In []: list(itertools.dropwhile(vowel, "eelgrass"))

In []: list(itertools.compress("eelgrass", [1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1]))
```

itertools: computation

• Here are some generator functions that perform computation along with **mapping**:

```
In [ ]: data = [31, 41, 59, 26, 53, 58, 97, 93, 23, 84, 62, 6, 43]
    import itertools
    list(itertools.accumulate(data)) # default operation is `+`: running sum

In [ ]: list(itertools.accumulate(data, min)) # running minimum value

In [ ]: list(itertools.accumulate(data, max)) # running maximum value
```

```
In []: import operator
    list(itertools.accumulate(data, operator.mul)) # running product

In []: list(itertools.accumulate(range(1,11), operator.mul)) # factorials from 1! to 1
0!

In []: # map is a powerful general-purpose generator
    # Notice two lists (parameters 2 and 3)
    list(map(operator.mul, range(12), range(12))) # squares from 0 to 11

In []: # starmap does some similar
    # Notice the list as the second parameter (a list of duples)
    list(itertools.starmap(operator.pow, [(1, 3), (4, 9), (12, 0.5), (5, -2)]))
```

itertools: merging

• You may have seen these described in Python code-examples that you have seen from web searches:

```
In []: # Given two sequences, create duples
    # (limited by shortest sequence)
    list(zip('ABC', range(5))) # Given two sequences, create duples (lim)

In []: # Given three sequences, create triples
    # (limited by shortest sequence)
    list(zip('ABC', range(5), ["u", "v", "w", "x", "y", "z"]))

In []: # Given three sequences, create triples
    # (if some sequences are too short, substitute "???" where necessary)
    list(itertools.zip_longest('ABC', range(5), ["u", "v", "w", "x", "y", "z"], fillva lue="???"))
```

itertools: product

- Some of these can be already expresses as list comprehensions...
- ... but the generator-nature of itertools means the result sequences are built lazily (i.e., only when needed)

itertools: much more

- There is a lot of functionality in this module.
- The point of these slides is not to simply present one d*mn thing after another!
- Rather:
 - Sometimes we can obtain in one line what would normally require many other lines of Python.
 - Perhaps will spend as much time thinking about the immediate problem we're trying to solve...
 - ... but by writing less code, we increase the program's accuracy and extensibility.

Last two slides

Remember how AnotherFrenchDeck could not be shuffled?

```
import collections # Part of base Python
In [ ]:
        Card = collections.namedtuple('Card', ['rank', 'suit'])
        class AnotherFrenchDeck: # The card deck you know and love was invented in Fran
        ce
            ranks = [str(n) for n in range(2, 11)] + list("JQKA")
            suits = "spades hearts diamonds clubs".split()
            def init (self):
                self. cards = [Card(rank, suit) for suit in self.suits
                                               for rank in self.ranks]
            def len (self):
                return len(self. cards)
            def getitem (self, position):
                return self. cards[position]
```

```
In []: import random

deck = AnotherFrenchDeck()
    print(deck[:3])
    random.shuffle(deck)
```

- We could modify the class definition to add __setitem_...
- .. or we could perform a **monkey patch** where we simply add the method directly to the class outside the definition!

- Cool, n'est pas?
- (oder, "Kul, nicht wahr?")

Summary

- Python's power and flexibility is a combination of:
 - A carefully thought-out data model
 - A rich library of operators and functions that use this data model
 - A class mechanism that is not over encumbered by interface features (as is the case with Java)
- Getting use to this combination takes a bit of experience and effort
 - These lectures are really meant to open a window a bit wider for you...