

# Sets and Dictionaries

## **Tuples**



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```
>>> things = set()
>>> things.add('a string')
>>> print things
set(['a string'])
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>>> things.add([1, 2, 3])
TypeError: unhashable type: 'list'
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#### What's wrong?



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What's wrong?

And what does the error message mean?

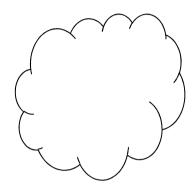


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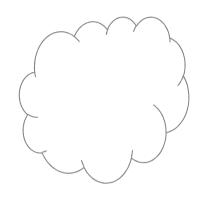
Allocate a blob of memory to store references to set elements



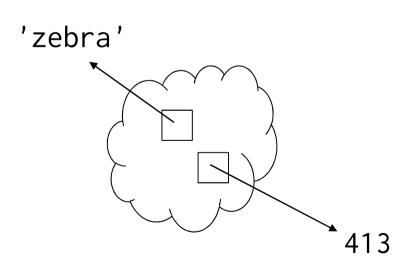


To understand, need to know how sets are stored

Allocate a blob of memory to store references to set elements



Use a *hash function* to calculate where to store each element's reference







"zebra"

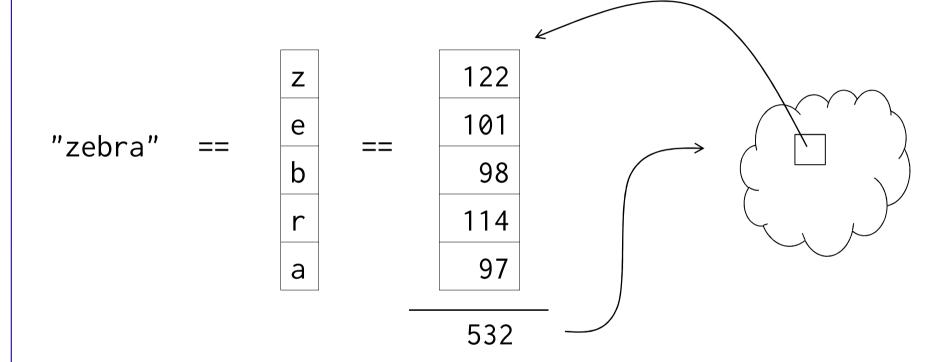
"zebra" == 
$$\frac{e}{b}$$



$$z$$
 ==  $z$  ==





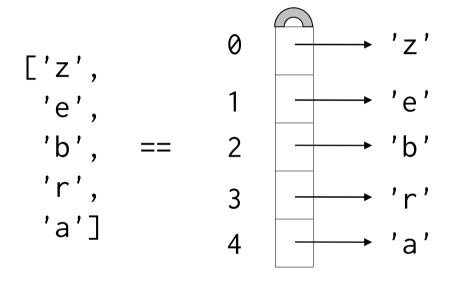




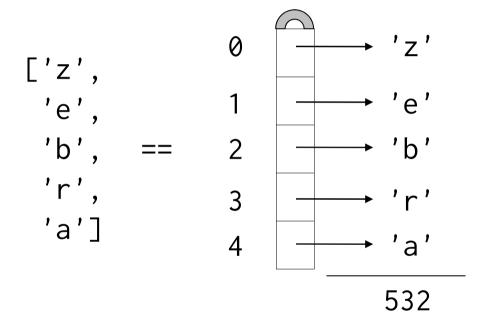


```
['z',
'e',
'b',
'r',
'a']
```

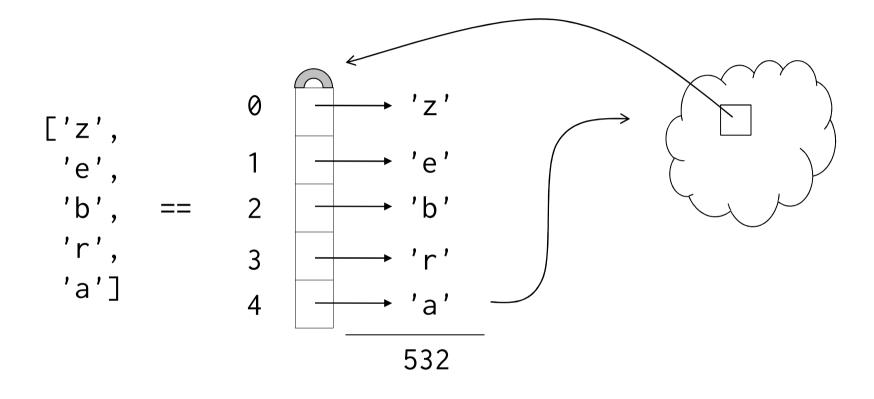






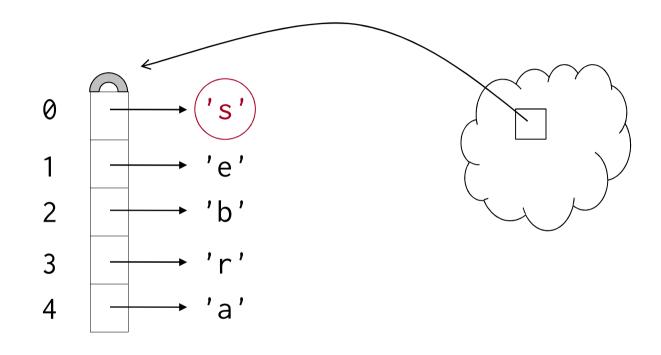




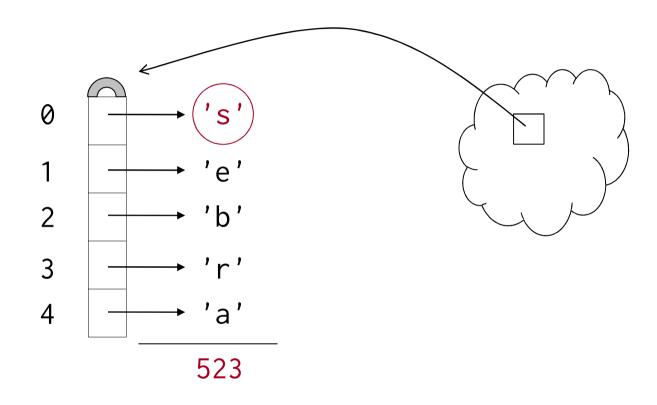




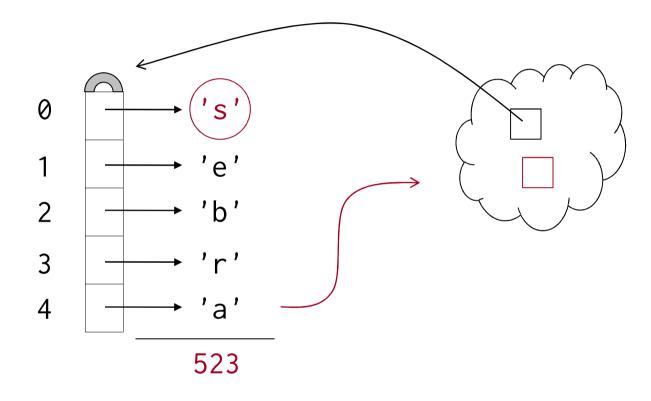




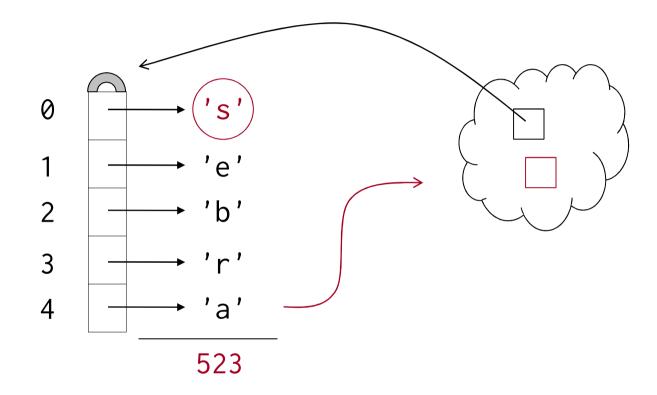












['s,'e','b','r','a'] in S will give a false negative!



This problem arises with any *mutable* structure



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Option #1: keep track of the sets an object is in, and update pointers every time the object changes





Option #2: allow it, and blame the programmer



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Very expensive when it goes wrong



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Option #3: only permit *immutable* objects in sets



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(If an object can't change, neither can its hash value)



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Slightly restrictive, but never disastrous



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Code has to be littered with joins and splits





An immutable list



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Contents cannot be changed after tuple is created



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```
>>> full_name = ('Charles', 'Darwin')
```



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Use '()' instead of '[]'
```



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Contents cannot be changed after tuple is created

```
>>> full_name = ('Charles', 'Darwin')
>>> full_name[0]
Charles
```

>>> full\_name = ('Charles', 'Darwin')

An immutable list

Contents cannot be changed after tuple is created

```
>>> full_name[0]
Charles
>>> full_name[0] = 'Erasmus'
TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item
assignment
```



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>>> names = set()
>>> names.add(('Charles', 'Darwin'))
>>> names
set([('Charles', 'Darwin')])
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Cannot look up partial entries



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E.g., cannot look for "any tuple ending in 'Darwin'"



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Next episode will introduce a data structure that (sort of) allows this



created by

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**July 2010** 



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