

LINKED LISTS

COMPUTER SCIENCE MENTORS 61A

February 22 to February 26, 2016

For each of the following problems, assume linked lists are defined as follows:

```
class Link:

    empty = ()

    def __init__(self, first, rest=empty):
        assert rest is Link.empty or isinstance(rest, Link)
        self.first = first
        self.rest = rest
```

To check if a Link is empty, compare it against the class attribute `Link.empty`:

```
if link is Link.empty:
    print('This linked list is empty!')
```

1 What Would Python Print?

1. What will Python output? Draw box-and-pointer diagrams to help determine this.

```
>>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3)))
```

Solution:

```
+---+---+ +---+---+ +---+---+
| 1 | --|->| 2 | --|->| 3 | / |
+---+---+ +---+---+ +---+---+
```

```
>>> a.first
```

Solution:

```
1
```

```
>>> a.first = 5
```

Solution:

```
+---+---+ +---+---+ +---+---+
| 5 | --|->| 2 | --|->| 3 | / |
+---+---+ +---+---+ +---+---+
```

```
>>> a.first
```

Solution: 5

```
>>> a.rest.first
```

Solution: 2

```
>>> a.rest.rest.rest.rest.first
```

Solution: Error: tuple object has no attribute rest (Link.empty has no rest)

```
>>> a.rest.rest.rest = a
```

Solution:

```

      +---+---+   +---+---+   +---+---+
+-->| 5 | --|->| 2 | --|->| 3 | --|--+
|   +---+---+   +---+---+   +---+---+ |
|                                     |
+-----+

```

```
>>> a.rest.rest.rest.rest.first
```

Solution:

```
2
```

2 Code Writing Questions

2. Write a function `skip`, which takes in a `Link` and returns a new `Link`.

```

def skip(lst):
    """
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(4))))
    >>> a
    Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(4))))
    >>> b = skip(a)
    >>> b
    Link(1, Link(3))
    >>> a
    Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(4)))) # Original is unchanged
    """

```

Solution:

```

    if lst is Link.empty or lst.rest is Link.empty:
        return lst
    return Link(lst.first, skip(lst.rest.rest))

```

3. Now write function `skip` by mutating the original list, instead of returning a new list. Do NOT call the `Link` constructor.

```
def skip(lst):  
    """  
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(4))))  
    >>> b = skip(a)  
    >>> b  
    Link(1, Link(3))  
    >>> a  
    Link(1, Link(3))  
    """
```

Solution:

```
def skip(lst): # Recursively  
    if lst is Link.empty or lst.rest is Link.empty:  
        return lst  
    lst.rest = skip(lst.rest.rest)  
    return lst  
  
def skip(lst): # Iteratively  
    if lst is Link.empty:  
        return Link.empty  
    original = lst  
    while lst.rest is not Link.empty:  
        lst.rest = lst.rest.rest  
        lst = lst.rest  
    return original
```

4. Write a function `reverse`, which takes in a `Link` and returns a new `Link` that has the order of the contents reversed.

Hint: You may want to use a helper function if you're solving this recursively.

```
def reverse(lst):
    """
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3)))
    >>> b = reverse(a)
    >>> b
    Link(3, Link(2, Link(1)))
    >>> a
    Link(1, Link(2, Link(3)))
    """
```

Solution: There are quite a few different methods. We have listed some here – can you think of any others?

Recursive w/ Helper

```
def reverse(lst):
    def helper(so_far, rest):
        if rest is Link.empty:
            return so_far
        else:
            return helper(Link(rest.first, so_far), rest.rest)
    return helper(Link.empty, lst)
```

Recursive w/o Helper

```
def reverse(lst):
    if lst is Link.empty or lst.rest is Link.empty:
        return lst
    secondElement = lst.rest
    lst.rest = Link.empty
    reversedRest = reverse(secondElement)
    secondElement.rest = lst
    return reversedRest
```

Iterative

```
def reverse(lst):
    rev = Link.empty
    while lst is not Link.empty:
        rev = Link(lst.first, rev)
        lst = lst.rest
    return rev
```

5. **(Optional)** Now write `reverse` by modifying the existing `Links`. Assume `reverse` returns the head of the new list (so the last `Link` object of the previous list).

First, draw out the box and pointer for the following:

```
>>> a = Link(1, Link(2))
>>> a.rest.rest = a
>>> a.rest = Link.empty
```

Observe how the pointers change, as well as the order in which they are modified.

Solution:

```

      +---+---+   +---+---+
+-->| 1 | / |   | 2 | --|--+
|   +---+---+   +---+---+ |
|                                     |
+-----+

```

Now, generalize this to reverse an entire linked list.

```
def reverse(lst):  
    """  
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3)))  
    >>> b = reverse(a)  
    >>> b  
    Link(3, Link(2, Link(1)))  
    >>> a  
    Link(3, Link(2, Link(1)))  
    """
```

Solution: Here are two possible solutions.

```
def reverse(lst):  
    if lst == Link.empty or lst.rest == Link.empty:  
        return lst  
    else:  
        new_start = reverse(lst.rest)  
        lst.rest.rest = lst  
        lst.rest = Link.empty  
        return new_start  
  
def reverse(lst):  
    if lst.rest is not Link.empty:  
        second, last = lst.rest, lst  
        lst = reverse(second)  
        second.rest, last.rest = last, Link.empty  
    return lst
```

6. **(Optional)** Write `has_cycle` which takes in a `Link` and returns `True` if and only if there is a cycle in the `Link`.

```
def has_cycle(s):  
    """  
    >>> has_cycle(Link.empty)  
    False  
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3)))  
    >>> has_cycle(a)  
    False  
    >>> a.rest.rest.rest = a  
    >>> has_cycle(a)  
    True  
    """
```

Solution:

```
if s is Link.empty:  
    return False  
slow, fast = s, s.rest  
while fast is not Link.empty:  
    if fast.rest is Link.empty:  
        return False  
    elif fast is slow or fast.rest is slow:  
        return True  
    slow, fast = slow.rest, fast.rest.rest  
return False
```