

# STREAMS, ITERATORS, AND GENERATORS

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COMPUTER SCIENCE MENTORS 61A

April 4 to April 9, 2016

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## 1 Iterators

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1. What is difference between an iterable and an iterator?

**Solution:** Iterator: Mutable object that tracks a position in a sequence, advancing on each call to `next`

Iterable: Represents a sequence and returns a new iterator on each call to `iter`

To use in an English sentence: Lists are "iterable". To go through a list, you make an object called an "iterator" to scan through the list.

**2. Accumulator** Write an iterator class that takes in a list and calculates the sum of the list thus far.

```
>>> accu = Accumulator([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6])
>>> for a in accu:
    print(a)

1
3
6
10
15
21
```

**Solution:**

```
class Accumulator:
    def __init__(self, lst):
        self.lst = lst
        self.index = 0
        self.sum = 0
    def __next__(self):
        if self.index >= len(self.lst):
            raise StopIteration()
        self.sum += self.lst[self.index]
        self.index += 1
        return self.sum
    def __iter__(self):
        return self
```

3. Is this an iterator or an iterable or both?

**Solution:** Both; the `iter` method returns `self` and the `next` method is implemented. Note that an iterator is always an iterable, but an iterable is not always an iterator.

4. (Optional) Write `Accumulator` so it works if it takes in any iterable, not just a list

**Solution:**

```
class Accumulator:
    def __init__(self, iterable):
        self.iterable = iterable
        self.iterator = iter(iterable)
        self.sum = 0
    def __next__(self):
        self.sum += next(self.iterator)
        return self.sum
    def __iter__(self):
        return self
```

## 2 Generators

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5. What does the following code block output?

```
def foo():
    a = 0
    if a < 10:
        print("Hello")
        yield a
        print("World")

for i in foo():
    print(i)
```

**Solution:**

```
Hello
0
World
```

First time you call foo, it will yield a (which starts as 0)

6. How can we modify foo so that `list(foo()) == [1, 2, 3, . . . , 10]`? (You do not need to care about what gets printed)

**Solution:** Change the if to a while statement, and make sure to increment a. This looks like:

```
def foo():
    a = 0
    while a < 10:
        a += 1
        yield a
```

7. Define `hailstone_sequence` a generator that yields the hailstone sequence. Remember, for the hailstone sequence, if `n` is even, we need to divide by two, otherwise, we will multiply by 3 and add by 1.

```
; Doctests:
>>> hs_gen = hailstone_sequence(10)
>>> hs_gen.__next__()
10
>>> next(hs_gen) #equivalent to previous
5
>>> for i in hs_gen:
>>>     print(i)
16
8
4
2
1
```

**Solution:**

```
def hailstone_sequence(n):
    while n != 1:
        yield n
        if n % 2 == 0:
            n = n // 2
        else:
            n = n*3 + 1
    yield n
```

8. (Optional) Define `tree_sequence` a generator that iterates through a tree by first yielding the root value and then yield each branch.

```
>>> tree = Tree(1, [Tree(2, [Tree(5)]), Tree(3, [Tree(4)])])
>>> print(list(tree_sequence(tree)))
[1, 2, 5, 3, 4]
```

**Solution:**

```
def tree_sequence(tree):
    yield tree.entry
    for branch in tree.branches:
        for value in tree_sequence(branch):
            yield value
```

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### 3 Streams

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9. Whats the advantage of using a stream over a linked list?

**Solution:** Lazy evaluation. We only evaluate up to what we need.

10. Whats the maximum size of a stream?

**Solution:** Infinity

11. Whats stored in first and rest? What are their types?

**Solution:** First is a value, rest is another stream (either a method to calculate it, or an already calculated stream). In the case of Scheme, this is called a promise.

12. When is the next element actually calculated?

**Solution:** Only when it's requested (and hasn't already been calculated)

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## 4 What Would Scheme Print?

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13. For each of the following lines of code, write what scheme would output.

```
scm> (define x 1)
```

**Solution:** x

```
scm> (if 2 3 4)
```

**Solution:** 3

```
scm> (delay (+ x 1))
```

**Solution:**  
#[promise]

```
scm> (define (foo x) (+ x 10))
```

**Solution:** foo

```
scm> (define bar (cons-stream (foo 1) (cons-stream (foo 2)
  bar)))
```

**Solution:** bar

```
scm> (car bar)
```

**Solution:** 11

```
scm> (cdr bar)
```

**Solution:**  
#[promise]

```
scm> (define (foo x) (+ x 1))
```

**Solution:** foo

```
scm> (cdr-stream bar)
```

**Solution:**  
(3 . #[promise])

```
scm> (define (foo x) (+ x 5))
```

**Solution:** foo

```
scm> (car bar)
```

**Solution:** 11

```
scm> (cdr-stream bar)
```

**Solution:**  
(3 . #[promise])



## 5 Code Writing for Streams

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14. Write out `double_naturals`, which is a stream that evaluates to the sequence 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, etc.

```
(define (double_naturals)
  (double_naturals_helper 1 0)
)

(define (double_naturals_helper first flag)
```

```
)
```

**Solution:**

```
(define (double_naturals_helper first flag)
  (if (= 1 flag)
    (cons-stream first (double_naturals_helper (+ 1
      first) 0))
    (cons-stream first (double_naturals_helper first
      1)))
  )
)
```

**;Alternative Solutions**

```
(define (double_naturals_helper first flag)
  (cons-stream first (double_naturals_helper (+ flag
    first) (- 1 flag))))
)
```

15. Write out `interleave`, which returns a stream that alternates between the values in `stream1` and `stream2`. Assume that the streams are infinitely long.

```
(define (interleave stream1 stream2)
```

```
)
```

**Solution:**

```
(define (interleave stream1 stream2)
  (cons-stream (car stream1)
    (interleave stream2 (cdr-stream stream1)))

  (cons-stream (car stream1)
    (cons-stream (car stream2)
      (interleave (cdr-stream stream1)
        (cdr-stream stream2)))))
)
```