



15-110 PRINCIPLES OF COMPUTING – S19

LECTURE 6: LISTS AND TUPLES DATA STRUCTURES

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Tuple and Lists: Generalization and extension of strings

- **String:** (non-scalar type) ordered sequence of characters, immutable

H	e	I	I	o		J	o	e
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

H	e	I	I	o		J	o	e
-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1

- **Immutable:** cannot change its value(s)

s = "Hello Joe"

s[3] = 'L'

s[1:4] = 'abc'

X

Not allowed

s = "Hello Joe" ✓
s = "New hello"

Generalization of strings

- **Tuple:** (non-scalar type) ordered sequence of objects (any type, not need same type), immutable
- **List:** (non-scalar type) ordered sequence of objects (any type, not need same type), mutable

Tuple type

- **Tuple:** (non-scalar type) ordered sequence of objects (any type, not need same type), immutable
- Purpose: **group items together in the same (immutable) object**
- Syntax: **(a , b , c , ... ,)**
 - Examples of tuple variables assigned with tuple literals

```
prime_numbers = (1, 3, 5, 7, 11)
irrational_numbers = (2.71828, 3.14159, 1.41421)
fruits = ('apple', 'pear', 'banana', 'orange')
colors = ('red', 'blue', 'green')
person_info = ('Donald', 'Trump', 14, 'June', 1946, 'President')
fruit_info = ('melon', 3.6, 'yellow', 12.5)
logical_values = (True, False, True, 255)
empty_sequence = ()
one_element_sequence = (5, ) → one_integer_var = (5)
```

Tuple type

- **Syntax:** `(a, b, c, ...,)`
- ... but also **any comma-separated sequence of objects:** `a, b, c, d`

```
prime_numbers = 1, 3, 5, 7, 11
irrational_numbers = 2.71828, 3.14159, 1.41421
fruits = 'apple', 'pear', 'banana', 'orange'
colors = 'red', 'blue', green'
person_info = 'Donald', 'Trump', 14, 'June', 1946, 'President'
fruit_info = 'melon', 3.6, 'yellow', 12.5
logical_values = True, False, True, 255
one_element_sequence = 5,
```

`a,b,c = 1,3,6.` → three variables of `int` type
`a = 1,3,6` → one variable of `tuple` type

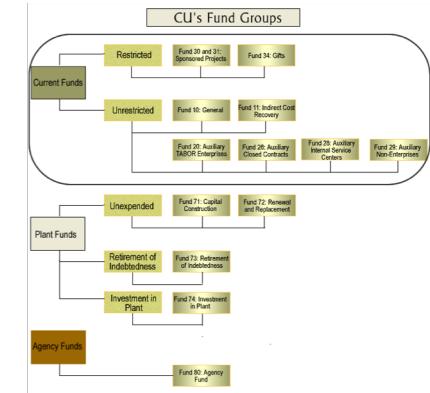
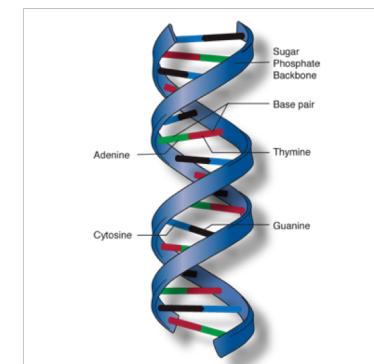
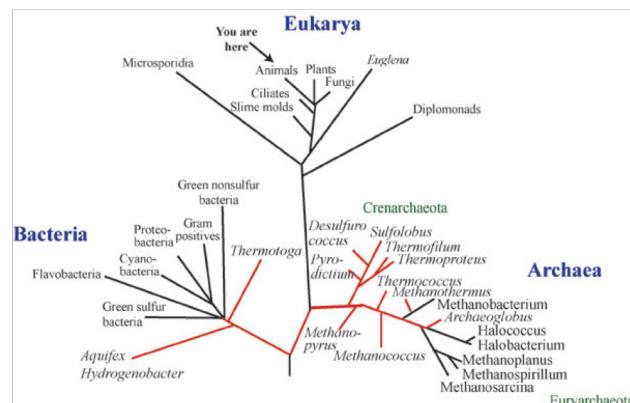
List type

- **List:** (non-scalar type) ordered sequence of *objects* (any type, not need same type), mutable
 - Purpose: **group items together in the same (mutable) object**
 - Syntax: **[a , b , c , ... ,]**
- Examples of list variables assigned with list literals

```
prime_numbers = [1, 3, 5, 7, 11]
irrational_numbers = [2.71828, 3.14159, 1.41421]
fruits = ['apple', 'pear', 'banana', 'orange']
colors = ['red', 'blue', green']
person_info = ['Donald', 'Trump', 14, 'June', 1946, 'President']
fruit_info = ['melon', 3.6, 'yellow', 12.5]
logical_values = [True, False, True, 255]
empty_list = []
one_element_list = [5] or one_element_list = [5,]
list_of_lists = [1, 'sedan', ['Toyota', 'Corolla', 1.8, 2012], 52000]
```

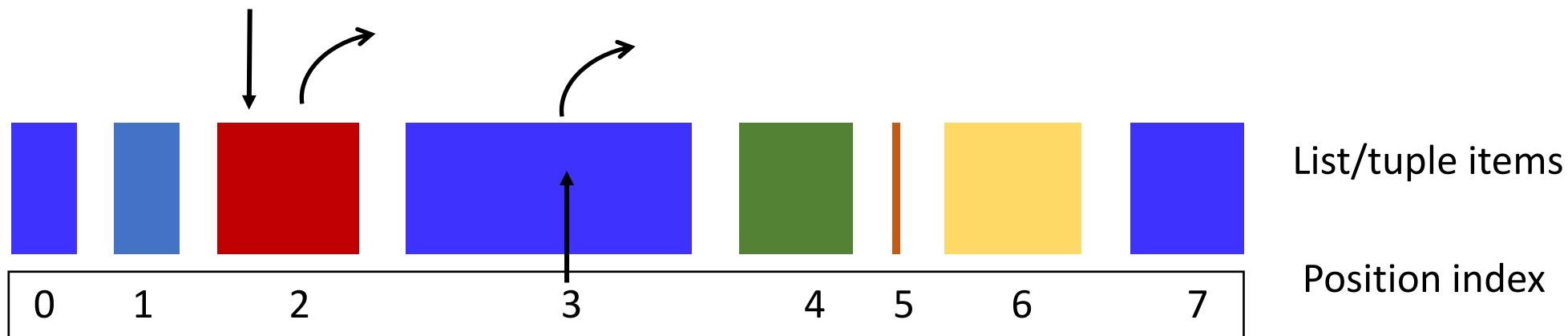
List and tuples: fundamental *data structures* in python

- **Data structure:** Container used to store data (information) in a specific organized form, a *layout*
- A given *layout* determines a data structure to be efficient in some operations and/or effective in the representation of parts of information, and maybe inefficient / ineffective in others
- E.g., the layout affects how we access *access / find / change / add / remove / sort/organize* data



List and tuples data structures: basic operations

- **Data structure:** Container used to store data (information) in a specific organized form, a *layout*
- List/tuple layout is *linear*: based on a sequential arrangement of the data → position indexes
- **Access (read) operations**, at any position, for both lists and tuples:
 - get data by index (in 2 steps time)
 - find data by content (linear number steps for scanning the list, depending on item's position)



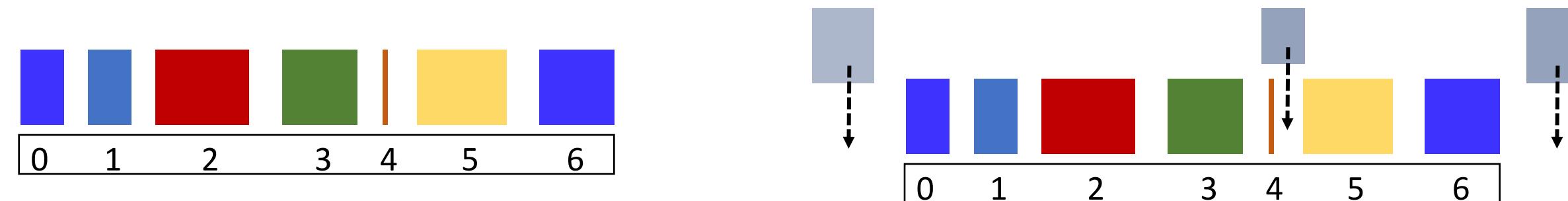
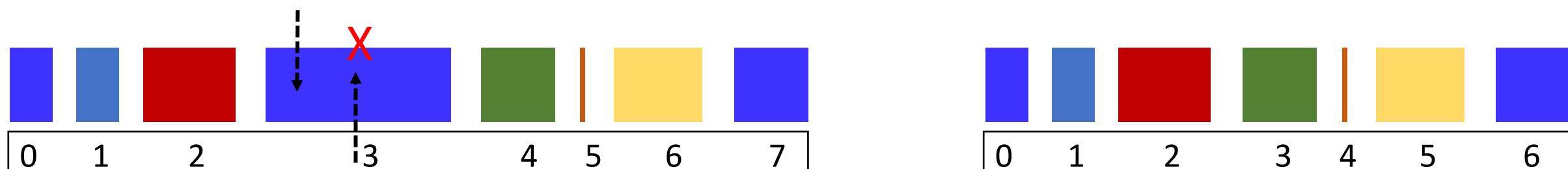
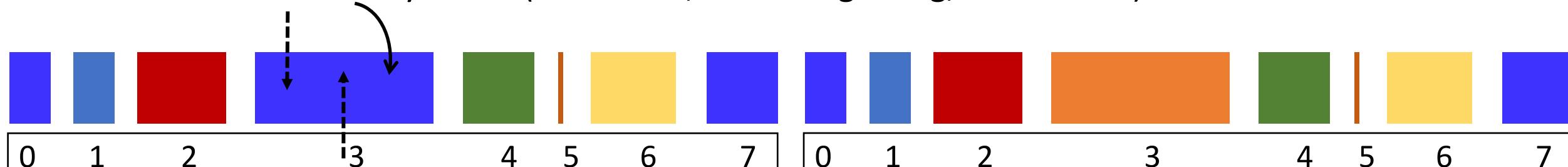
List data structures: basic operations

- **Update operations, at any position, only for lists:**

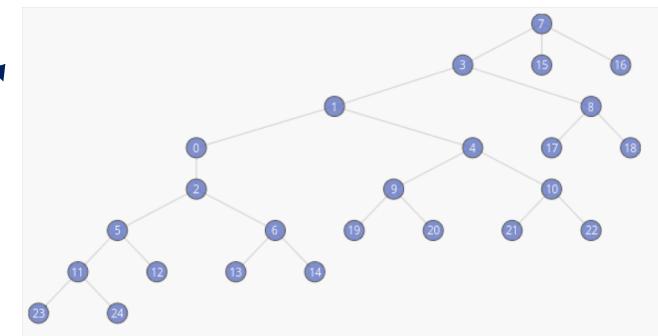
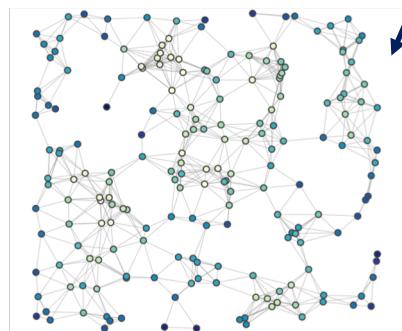
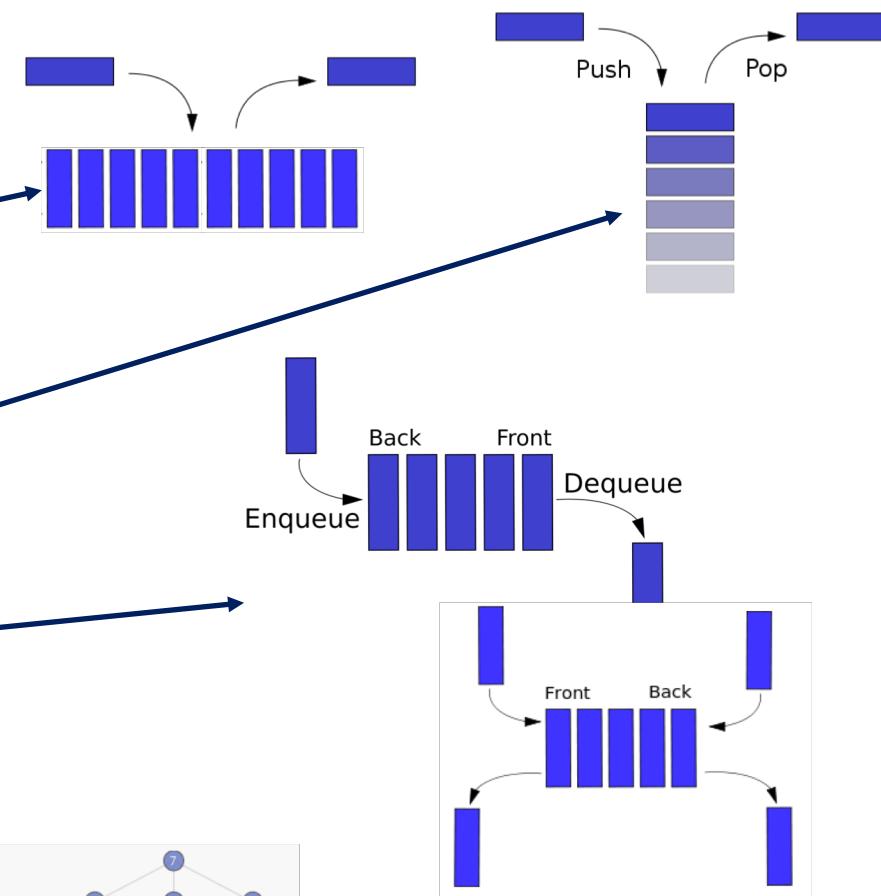
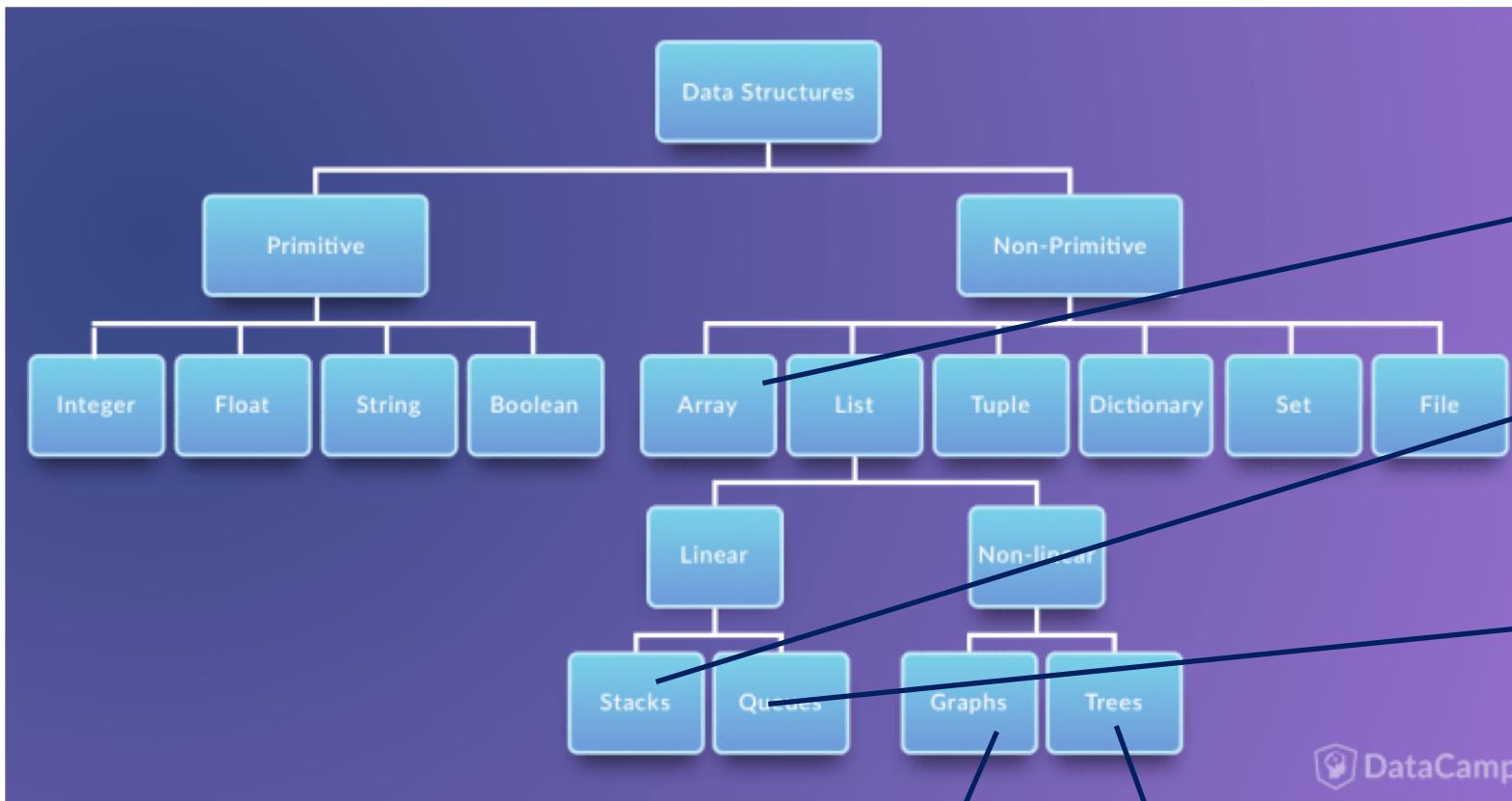
➤ **change** the value of an item

➤ **remove** one item

➤ **add** a new item anywhere (at the end, at the beginning, in between)



Other data structures in python (building on lists)



Accessing tuple / list values: [], [:], [::]

- **Syntax:** the same used for strings

- Single tuple/list element: `[index]`
- Subsequence of the tuple/list: `[start : end]`
- Subsequence with a stride: `[start : end : step]`

tuple list

```
prime_numbers = (1, 3, 5, 7, 11) or prime_numbers = [1, 3, 5, 7, 11]
```

`x = prime_numbers[0]` → `x` is of type `int` and has value 1

`x = prime_numbers[2]` → `x` is of type `int` and has value 5

`x = prime_numbers[-3]` → `x` is of type `int` and has value 5

`x = prime_numbers[1:3]` → `x` is of type `tuple/list` and has value `(3, 5)`
corresponding to the tuple/list elements of index 1 and 2

`x = prime_numbers[1:4:2]` → `x` is of type `tuple/list` and has value `(3, 7)`
corresponding to the tuple/list elements of index 1 and 3

Accessing tuple/list values that are inside tuples/lists

```
cars = [1, 'sedan', ['Toyota', 'Corolla', 1.8, 2012], 52000]
```

- How do we access the item Corolla in the list variable cars?

```
model = cars[2][1]
```

```
list
```

```
list
```

```
list[1]
```

Equivalent to:

```
model = (cars[2])[1]
```

```
['Toyota', 'Corolla', 1.8, 2012]
```

'Corolla'

- How do we access to the 4rd character in the model variable? (of type str)

Equivalent to:

```
model = ((cars[2])[1])[3]
```

```
model3 = cars[2][1][3]
```

```
list
```

```
list
```

```
list[1]
```

```
list[1][3]
```

```
['Toyota', 'Corolla', 1.8, 2012]
```

'Corolla'
'o'

Updating tuple values: No!

- Updating tuple values: **No!** tuples are immutable types, like strings

- *Invalid operations:*

```
prime_numbers = (1, 3, 5, 7, 11)
```

```
prime_numbers[4] = 13 → an existing element cannot be modified
```

```
prime_numbers[5] = 13 → it cannot be extended to an additional element
```

- “Update” the tuple by creating a new tuple from the existing one

```
prime_numbers = (1, 3, 5, 7, 11)
```

```
new_prime_numbers = (1, 3, 5, 7, 13)
```

```
new_prime_numbers = prime_numbers[0:4] + (13, )
```

```
new_prime_numbers = prime_numbers + (13, 17)
```

Updating list values: [], [:], [::]

- **Updating list values:** yes, they are mutable types, syntax is `L[index] = new_value`

`colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue', 'cyan']`

`colors[1] = 'yellow'` → same colors list, with modified value, 'yellow', for item in position 1

`colors[0] = None` → same colors list, with modified value and type, None, for item in position 0

`colors[4] = 'purple'` → **error!** the list doesn't include an item at position 4 and the list cannot be *extended* in this way

`numbers = []` → defines an empty list, `numbers[0]` does not exist (yet)!

`numbers[1]` → **error!** the list doesn't include an item at position 1 and the list cannot be *extended* in this way

`colors[0:3] = ('brown', 'magenta', 'pink')` → updating a subsequence of adjacent items

`colors[0:3:2] = ('brown', 'magenta')` → updating a subsequence of non-adjacent items

Mutable vs. Immutable types: int

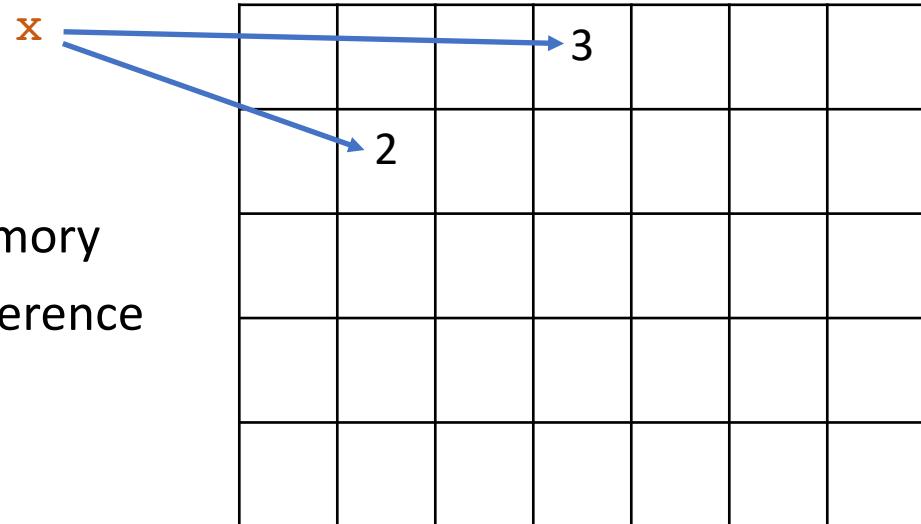
1. In the high-level program:

`x = 2` meaning that variable `x` has (int) value 2

- Internal to python / computer:

variable `x` holds the **reference** (the address) to the memory location to where its value 2 is currently *stored* (the reference is associated to the identity `id()` of the variable)

```
print( id(x) )
```



2. Next instruction in the high-level program:

`x = 3` meaning that variable `x` has changed its (int) value to 3

- Internal to python / computer:

variable `x` is of immutable type `int`, meaning that *its value in memory cannot be changed* → A new memory location is allocated to hold the integer literal 3. `x` now holds the reference to the new memory location (check `id(x)`!)

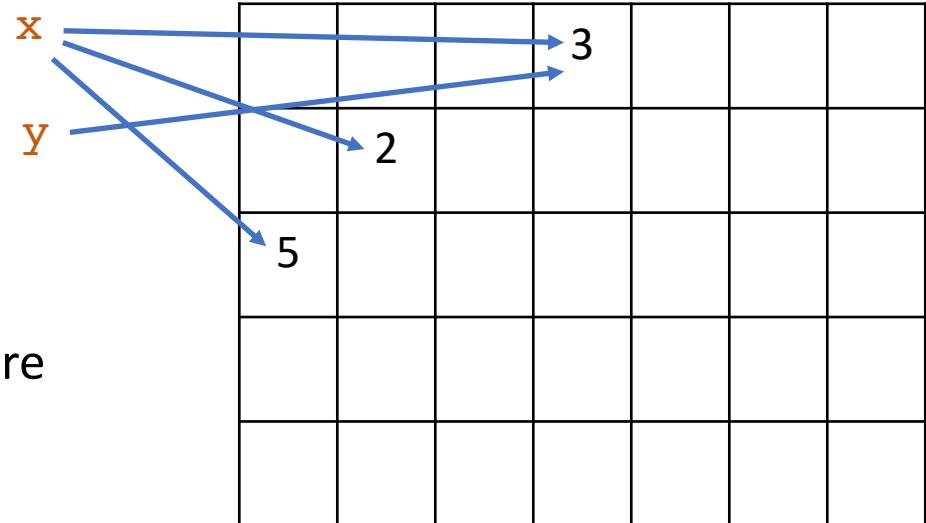
Mutable vs. Immutable types: int

3. Next instruction in the high-level program:

$y = x$ meaning that variable y gets the same value of x , and vice versa!

- Internal to python / computer:

variable y gets the reference held by x , y and x are bound to the **same memory location** for their value



- int is an *immutable type*, such that any further change in the values of either x or y brakes their bound, creating a *new variable*

4. Next instruction in the high-level program:

$x = 5$ meaning that variable x now gets a new value, which is allocated to a new, different memory location

- Internal to python / computer:

variable x gets the new reference associate to 5's memory location

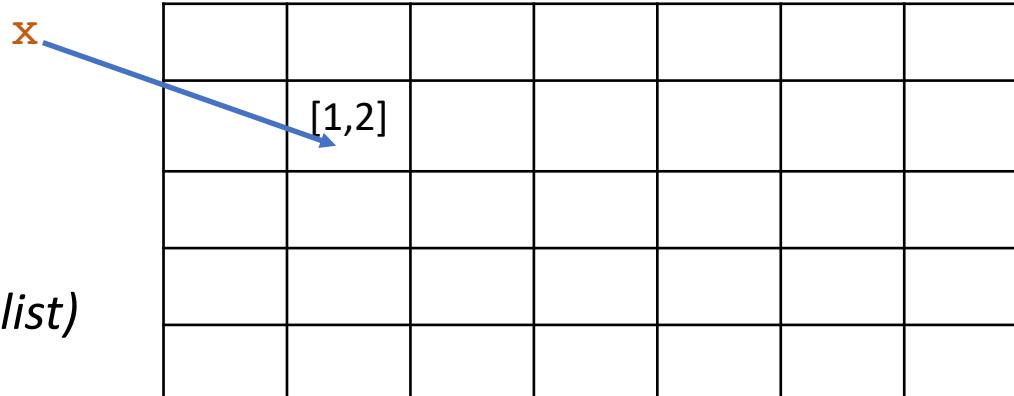
Mutable vs. Immutable types: list

1. In the high-level program:

`x = [1, 2]` meaning that list `x` has value `[1, 2]`

- Internal to python / computer:

variable `x` holds the **reference (address)** to the memory location to where the list values are stored (*head of the list*)

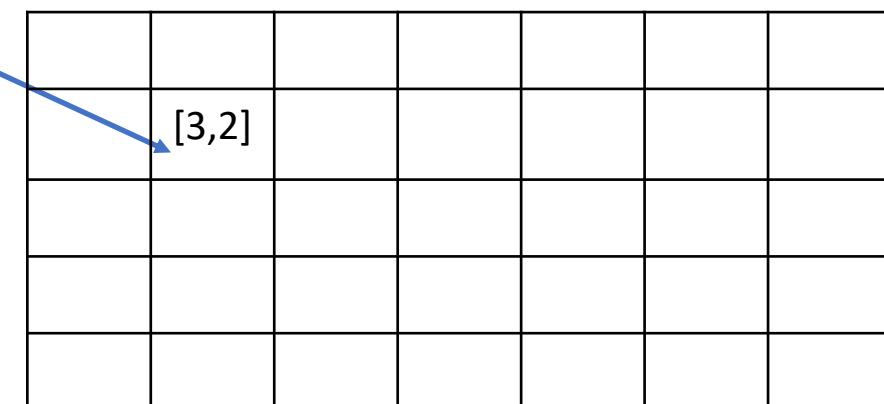


2. Next instruction in the high-level program:

`x[0] = 3` meaning that the value at index 0 has changed to 3

- Internal to python / computer:

variable `x` is of mutable type `list`, meaning that *its values in memory can be changed* → The value at the memory location holding `x[0]` is updated with the value 3.
`x` holds the same reference as prior this instruction

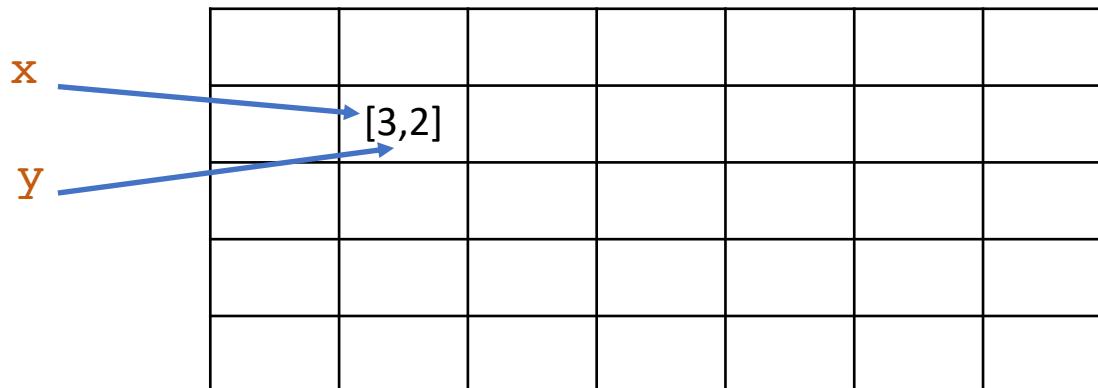


Mutable vs. Immutable types: list

3. Next instruction in the high-level program:

$y = x$ meaning that list variable y gets the same value of x , and vice versa!

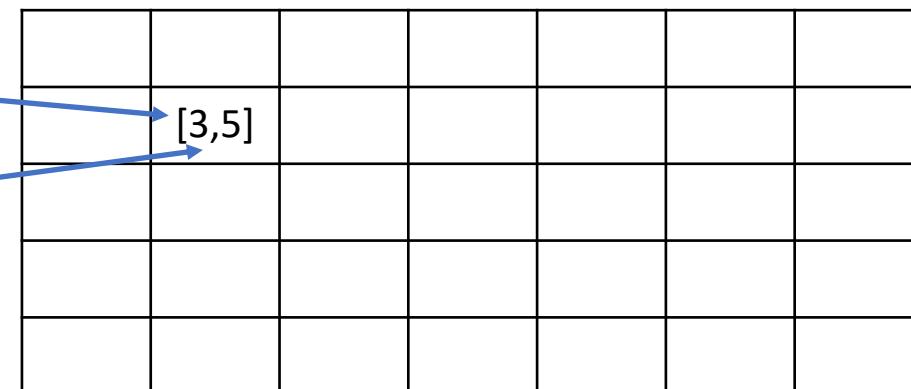
- Internal to python / computer:
variable y gets the reference held by x , y and x are bound to the **same memory location** for their value
- *list* is a *mutable type*, such that any further change in the values of either x or y will be reflected in the other list because of their bound



4. Next instruction in the high-level program:

$x[1] = 5$ meaning that variable x updates to 5 its value at index 1

- Internal to python / computer:
the memory location referenced by both x and y gets updated in value → both x and y now have value $[3,5]$



Cloning vs. Aliasing: Issues and opportunities of mutability

- What about initializing a list with another list?

```
primes = [1, 3, 5, 7]
numbers = primes

primes[1] = 29
```

what about numbers?

- What about initializing a list with the contents of another list using a range?

```
primes = [1, 3, 5, 7]
numbers = primes[0:3]

primes[1] = 29
```

what about numbers?

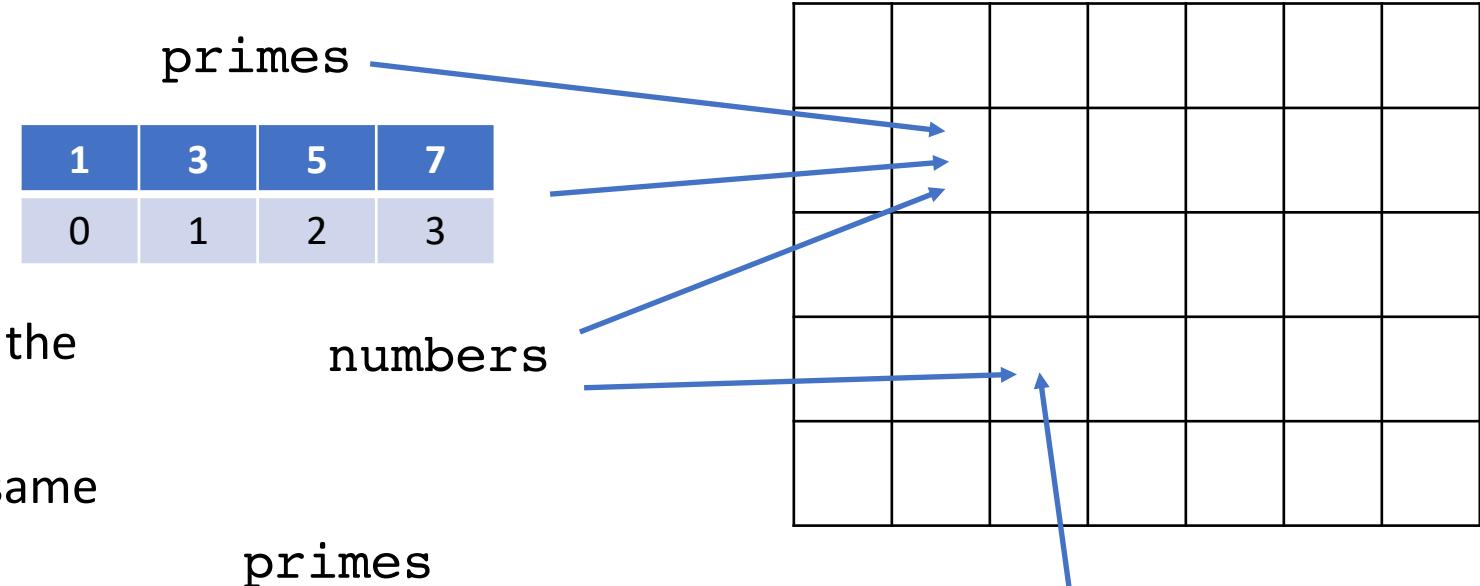
```
print("Do the lists have the same contents?", numbers == primes)
print("Primes:", primes)
print("Numbers:", numbers)
print("Are the two lists the 'same' list?", id(primes) == id(numbers))
```

Cloning vs. Aliasing: Issues and opportunities of mutability

Two different ways of *copying* between data variables (transfer data from one variable to another)

```
primes = [1, 3, 5, 7]  
numbers = primes
```

Variables are passed by identity,
by *reference address* → **Aliasing**



- numbers and primes are *alias* for the same mutable list in memory!
 - ✓ `numbers[1] = 29` has the same effects than `primes[1]=29`

```
primes = [1, 3, 5, 7]  
numbers = primes[0:3]
```



Slicing extracts content from one list, makes a *copy* of it,
and pass it to the receiving list → **Cloning, shallow copy**

**Pay attention to statements resulting
in cloning vs. aliasing!**

Cloning vs. Aliasing: Issues and opportunities of mutability

- Previous reasoning apply also when we create list of lists:

```
p = [1, 3, 5, 7]
pp = [11, 13, 17]
n = [p, pp]
```

Any (in-place) change to either p or pp is reflected on n, and vice versa

Cloning vs. Aliasing: Issues and opportunities of mutability

What about the following piece of code with `int` variables?

```
p = 1
n = p
print(n, p, id(n), id(p))
p = 29
print(p, n)
n = -1
print(p, n)
```

`int (float, bool, str)` variables are immutable: we don't update the content at the same memory location, every time a change is made, a new memory variable (memory location) is potentially generated, that potentially has a new identity