

Higher-Order Functions; List Comprehensions

Computer Science 111
Boston University

Vahid Azadeh-Ranjbar, Ph.D.

Another Useful Built-In Function

- `sum(list)`: computes & returns the sum of a list of numbers

```
>>> sum([4, 10, 2])  
16
```

Useful Built-In Functions (cont.)

- `range(low, high)`: allows us to work with the range of integers from `low` to `high-1`
 - if you omit `low`, the range will start at 0
- You can think of `range` as producing a list, and in many cases it can be used like one.
- To see the actual list, we need to use `range` in conjunction with another function called `list`:

```
>>> list(range(5, 10))  
[5, 6, 7, 8, 9]  
>>> list(range(7))  
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

`map()`

- A higher-order function
- Syntax:

```
map(function, sequence)
```

 - applies *function* to each element of *sequence* and returns the results
- As with `range`:
 - you can think of `map` as producing a list
 - in many cases it can be used like one
 - to see the actual list, we need to use `map` with `list`

map() Examples

```
def triple(x):  
    return 3*x
```

```
def square(x):  
    return x*x
```

```
def first_char(s):  
    return s[0]
```

```
>>> list(map(triple, [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]))  
[0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15]
```

```
>>> list(map(square, range(6)))  
[0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25]
```

```
>>> list(map(first_char, ['python', 'is', 'fun!']))  
['p', 'i', 'f']
```

```
>>> list(map(triple, 'python'))  
['ppp', 'yyy', 'ttt', 'hhh', 'ooo', 'nnn']
```

List Comprehensions

The same as map, *only better!*

```
[expression for variable in sequence]
```

```
>>> [3*x for x in [0,1,2,3,4,5]]
```

List Comprehensions

The same as map, *only better!*

`[expression for variable in sequence]`

>>> `[3*x for x in [0,1,2,3,4,5]]`

`x` takes on each value

and `3*x` is output for each one

List Comprehensions

The same as map, *only better!*

`[expression for variable in sequence]`

>>> `[3*x for x in [0,1,2,3,4,5]]`

[0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15]

List Comprehensions

The same as map, *only better!*

`[expression for variable in sequence]`

this "runner" variable can have *any* name...

```
>>> [3*x for x in [0,1,2,3,4,5]]
```

and $3*x$ is output for each one

x takes on each value

`[0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15]`

List Comprehensions (LCs)

The same as map, *only better!*

- Syntax:

`[expression for variable in sequence]`

or

`[expression for variable in sequence if boolean]`

More Examples

```
>>> [n - 2 for n in range(10, 15)]  
[8, 9, 10, 11, 12]  
  
>>> [s[-1]*2 for s in ['go', 'terriers!']]  
['oo', '!!!']  
  
>>> [z for z in range(6)]  
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]  
  
>>> [z for z in range(6) if z % 2 == 1]  
[1, 3, 5]  
  
>>> [z % 4 == 0 for z in [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]]  
[True, False, False, False, True]  
  
>>> [1 for x in [4, 5, 6, 7, 8] if x % 4 == 0]  
[1, 1]  
  
>>> sum([1 for x in [4, 5, 6, 7, 8] if x % 4 == 0])  
2
```

What is the output of this code?

```
lc = [x for x in range(5) if x**2 > 4]  
print(lc)
```

- A. [9, 16]
- B. [9, 16, 25]
- C. [3, 4]
- D. [3, 4, 5]
- E. none of these

What is the output of this code?

```
lc = [x for x in range(5) if x**2 > 4]
print(lc)
```

- A. [9, 16]
- B. [9, 16, 25]
- C. [3, 4]
- D. [3, 4, 5]
- E. none of these

What is the output of this code?

```
lc = [x for x in range(5) if x**2 > 4]
print(lc)
```

[0,1,2,3,4]
[0,1,4,9,16] ← x**2

- A. [9, 16]
- B. [9, 16, 25]
- C. [3, 4]
- D. [3, 4, 5]
- E. none of these

LC Puzzles! – Fill in the blanks

```
>>> [_____ for x in range(4)]  
[0, 14, 28, 42]
```

```
>>> [_____ for s in ['boston', 'university', 'cs']  
['bos', 'uni', 'cs']]
```

```
>>> [_____ for c in 'compsci']  
['cc', 'oo', 'mm', 'pp', 'ss', 'cc', 'ii']]
```

```
>>> [_____ for x in range(20, 30) if _____]  
[20, 22, 24, 26, 28]
```

```
>>> [_____ for w in ['I', 'like', 'ice', 'cream']]  
[1, 4, 3, 5]
```

LC Puzzles! – Fill in the blanks

```
>>> [ 14*x for x in range(4)]  
[0, 14, 28, 42]
```

```
>>> [ s[:3] for s in ['boston', 'university', 'cs']  
['bos', 'uni', 'cs']]
```

```
>>> [ c*2 for c in 'compsci']  
['cc', 'oo', 'mm', 'pp', 'ss', 'cc', 'ii']]
```

```
>>> [ x for x in range(20, 30) if x % 2 == 0 ]  
[20, 22, 24, 26, 28]
```

```
>>> [ len(w) for w in ['I', 'like', 'ice', 'cream']]  
[1, 4, 3, 5]
```


LCs vs. Raw Recursion

```
# raw recursion
def mylen(seq):
    if seq == '' or seq == []:
        return 0
    else:
        len_rest = mylen(seq[1:])
        return 1 + len_rest

# using an LC
def mylen(seq):
    lc = [1 for x in seq]
    return sum(lc)

# here's a one-liner!
def mylen(seq):
    return sum([1 for x in seq])
```

LCs vs. Raw Recursion (cont.)

```
# raw recursion
def num_vowels(s):
    if s == '':
        return 0
    else:
        num_in_rest = num_vowels(s[1:])
        if s[0] in 'aeiou':
            return 1 + num_in_rest
        else:
            return 0 + num_in_rest

# using an LC
def num_vowels(s):
    lc = [1 for c in s if c in 'aeiou']
    return sum(lc)

# here's a one-liner!
def num_vowels(s):
    return sum([1 for c in s if c in 'aeiou'])
```

What list comprehension(s) would work here?

```
def num_odds(values):  
    """ returns the number of odd #s in a list  
        input: a list of 0 or more integers  
    """  
    lc = _____  
    return sum(lc)
```

- A. `[x for x in values if x // 2 == 1]`
- B. `[1 for x in values if x // 2 == 1]`
- C. `[x for x in values if x % 2 == 1]`
- D. `[1 for x in values if x % 2 == 1]`
- E. none of these

What list comprehension(s) would work here?

```
def num_odds(values):  
    """ returns the number of odd #s in a list  
        input: a list of 0 or more integers  
    """  
    lc = _____  
    return sum(lc)
```

- A. `[x for x in values if x // 2 == 1]`
- B. `[1 for x in values if x // 2 == 1]`
- C. `[x for x in values if x % 2 == 1]`
- D. `[1 for x in values if x % 2 == 1]`
- E. none of these

Fill in the Blanks

```
def avg_len(wordlist):  
    """ returns the average length of the strings  
        in wordlist as a float  
        input: a list of 1 or more strings  
    """  
    lc = [_____ for ____ in _____]  
    return _____ / _____
```

```
>>> avg_len(['commonwealth', 'avenue'])
```

```
9.0
```

```
>>> avg_len(['keep', 'calm', 'and', 'code', 'on'])
```

```
3.4
```

Fill in the Blanks

```
def avg_len(wordlist):  
    """ returns the average length of the strings  
        in wordlist as a float  
        input: a list of 1 or more strings  
    """  
    lc = [len(word) for word in wordlist]  
    return sum(lc) / len(lc) # or len(wordlist)
```

```
>>> avg_len(['commonwealth', 'avenue'])
```

```
9.0
```

```
>>> avg_len(['keep', 'calm', 'and', 'code', 'on'])
```

```
3.4
```

What is the output of this program?

```
def myst(s):  
    lc = [c for c in s if c != 'a']  
    return lc  
  
result = myst('banana')  
print(result)
```

- A. ['banana']
- B. ['bnn']
- C. ['b n n ']
- D. ['b', 'n', 'n']
- E. ['b', '', 'n', '', 'n', '']

What is the output of this program?

```
def myst(s):  
    lc = [c for c in s if c != 'a']  
    return lc  
  
result = myst('banana')  
print(result)
```

s = 'banana'		
c	c != 'a'	lc
'b'	True	['b']
'a'	False	['b']
'n'	True	['b', 'n']
'a'	False	['b', 'n']
'n'	True	['b', 'n', 'n']
'a'	False	['b', 'n', 'n']

- A. ['banana']
- B. ['bnn']
- C. ['b n n ']
- D. ['b', 'n', 'n']
- E. ['b', '', 'n', '', 'n', '']