

Loops and lists

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Alternative implementations

WHILE loops as FOR loops
Range construction
FOR loops with list indexes
Modify list elements
List comprehension
Multiple lists

Nested lists

Tables as row/column lists
Printing objects
Extracting sublists
Traversing nested lists
Some list operations

Tuples

Loops and lists Foundation of programming (CK0030)

Francesco Corona

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FdP

- Intro to variables, objects, modules, and text formatting
- ⊗ **Programming with WHILE- and FOR-loops, and lists**
- ⊗ Functions and IF-ELSE tests
- ⊗ Data reading and writing
- ⊗ Error handling
- ⊗ Making modules
- ⊗ Arrays and array computing
- ⊗ Plotting curves and surfaces

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Alternative implementations

Usually, there are alternative ways to write code that solves a problem

- We explore alternative constructs and programs
- Store numbers in lists and print out tables

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WHILE loops as FOR loops

Definition

Any *FOR-loop* can be implemented as a *WHILE-loop*

Consider the general piece of code

```
1 for element in somelist:
2     <process element>
```

It can be re-written

```
1 index = 0
2
3 while index < len(somelist):
4     element = somelist[index]
5     <process element>
6     index += 1
```



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Example

Printout of the Celsius-Fahrenheit table of temperatures

```
1 Cdegrees = [-20,-15,-10,-5,0,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40]
2
3 print '    C    F'
4
5 index = 0
6 while index < len(Cdegrees):
7     C = Cdegrees[index]
8     F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
9     print '%5d %5.1f' % (C, F)
10    index += 1
```

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```
1 Cdegrees = [-20,-15,-10,-5,0,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40]
2
3 print '    C    F'
4
5 for C in Cdegrees:
6     F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
7     print '%5d %5.1f' % (C, F)
```

```
1 C = -20
2 dC = 5
3
4 while C <= 40:
5     F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
6     print C, F
7     C = C + dC
```



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Range construction

It is often tedious to manually type the many elements in `Cdegrees`

- We should use a loop to automate the list construction

```
1 C_value = -50
2 C_max = 200
3 Cdegrees = []
4
5 while C_value <= C_max:
6     Cdegrees.append(C_value)
7     C_value += 2.5 # C_value = C_value + 2.5
```

The **range construction** is a particularly useful tool for the task

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Range construction (cont.)

Definition

range(n)

range(n) generates a **list** of sequential integers in $[0, n - 1]$

- (Integer n is not included)

$\leadsto 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$

range(start, stop, step) generates a list of integers in a sequence

$\leadsto start, start + (1*step), start + (2*step)$ up to $stop$

- ($stop$ is not included)

range(start, stop) is the same as ***range(start, stop, 1)***

$\leadsto start, start + (1*1), start + (2*1)$ up to $stop$

- (That is, $step = 1$)

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Range construction (cont.)

Things to remember

In Python 2.x, function **range(n)** returns a **list object**

In Python 3.x, function **range(n)** returns a **range object**

- A **range object** can be converted to a **list object**

$\leadsto \text{list}(\text{range}(n))$

This exists in Python 2.x as function **xrange(n)**

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Range construction (cont.)

Example

Consider the following examples

`range(2, 8, 3)`

- The output

~ 2

~ $2 + (1*3) = 5$ (but not $8 = 2 + (2*3)$)

`range(1, 11, 2)`

- The output

~ 1

~ $3 = 1 + (1*2)$

~ $5 = 1 + (2*2)$

~ $7 = 1 + (3*2)$

~ $9 = 1 + (4*2)$



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Range construction (cont.)

A **FOR-loop** over the **list** (object) of integers (type **int** objects) from **range**

```
1 for i in range(start, stop, step):
2     ...                               # Some operation on element
3                                     # <Process element>
```

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Range construction (cont.)

Example

We use **range** to create a list **Cdegrees** with values `[-20,-15,...,35,40]`

- Two ways (with and without a loop)

```
1 Cdegrees = []                                # Create empty list to be filled
2
3 for C in range(-20, 45, 5):                  # Pick element C from a list
4     Cdegrees.append(C)                       # of sequential integers
5
6                                     # Element C, inside the FOR loop
7                                     # 1st element: -20
8                                     # 2nd element: -20 + (1*5) = -15
9                                     # 3rd element: -20 + (2*5) = -10
10                                    # ...
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 45, 5)
```

To include integer 40, the upper limit must be greater than 40

~ This is important



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Range construction (cont.)

Example

Suppose that now we want to create a slightly different **Cdegrees** list

- `[-10, -7.5, -5, ..., 35, 37.5, 40]`
- The spacing between entries is 2.5
- The entries are real numbers

We cannot use **range** directly, we must adapt its use

~ `range(-10, 45, 2.5)` would give an error

~ **range** can only create integers

~ We have decimal degrees

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Range construction (cont.)

We must introduce an **integer counter** i generate by function **range**

- We generate C values by $C = -10 + \underbrace{i}_{\uparrow} \cdot 2.5, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 20$

```
1 Cdegrees = []
2
3 for i in range(0, 21):           # Generate a range of integers
4     C = -10 + i*2.5              # Element i is used here
5     Cdegrees.append(C)
```



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FOR-loops with list indexes

Consider an alternative to iterating over (the elements of) a list directly

```
1 for element in somelist:
2     ...                         # Some operation on element
3     ...                         # <Process element>
```

We can iterate over list indices and then index the list inside the loop

```
1 for i in range(len(somelist)):
2     element = somelist[i]
3     ...                         # Some operation on element
4     ...                         # <Process element>
```

`len(somelist)` returns the length of `somelist`

↪ Indices start at 0, the largest valid index is `len(somelist)-1`

↪ `range(len(somelist))` is `[0, 1, ..., len(somelist)-1]`

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FOR loops with list indexes (cont.)

Iterating over loop indices is often a useful programming practice

- An example is when we need to process two lists
- (At the same time)

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FOR loops with list indexes (cont.)

Example

Suppose that we want to create two lists, **Cdegrees** and **Fdegrees**

Then, suppose that we want to use the two lists to write a table

- The table must have **Cdegrees** and **Fdegrees** as columns

```
1 n = 21
2 C_min = -10; C_max = 40 # Min and max value of C
3 dC = (C_max - C_min)/float(n-1) # Increment in C
4
5
6 Cdegrees = [] # Build the C list
7 for i in range(0, n): # Initially empty
8     C = -10 + i*dC
9     Cdegrees.append(C)
10
11
12 Fdegrees = [] # Build the F list
13 for C in Cdegrees: # Initially empty
14     F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
15     Fdegrees.append(F)
16
17
18 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)): # Print the joint table
19     C = Cdegrees[i] # Loop over indexes
20     F = Fdegrees[i] # Loop over indexes
21     print '%5.1f %5.1f' % (C, F)
```

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FOR loops with list indexes (cont.)

In the example, we started with empty lists then appended new elements

We can start with lists of correct size, containing, say, zeros

- Then, we index the lists to fill in actual values

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FOR loops with list indexes (cont.)

Definition

A list of zeros

How to create a list of length *n* consisting of zeros

```
1 somelist = [0]*n
```

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FOR loops with list indexes (cont.)

Example

```
1 n = 21
2 C_min = -10 # Min value of C
3 C_max = +40 # Max value of C
4 dC = (C_max - C_min)/float(n-1) # Increment in C
5
6
7 Cdegrees = [0]*n # Cdegrees must be of correct length
8 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)): # Initially full of zeros
9     Cdegrees[i] = -10 + i*dC
10
11
12 Fdegrees = [0]*n # Fdegrees must be of correct length
13 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)): # Initially full of zeros
14     Fdegrees[i] = (9.0/5)*Cdegrees[i] + 32
15
16
17 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)):
18     print '%5.1f %5.1f' % (Cdegrees[i], Fdegrees[i])
```

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Modify list elements

Consider some list of temperature values accessible with name `Cdegrees`

Suppose that we want to change the value of each of its elements

- We want to add 5 (degrees)

```
1 n = 21; C_min = -10; C_max = 40
2 dC = (C_max - C_min)/float(n-1)
3
4 Cdegrees = []
5 for i in range(0, n):
6     C = -10 + i*dC
7     Cdegrees.append(C)
8
9 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)):
10     Cdegrees[i] += 5           # Adjust the i-th element to be equal
11                               # to itself plus five
```

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Modify list elements (cont.)

Things that do NOT work

```
1 for c in Cdegrees:
2     c += 5
3
4 ...
5 c = Cdegrees[0]           # Automatically done in a FOR statement
6 c += 5
7
8 ...
9 c = Cdegrees[1]           # Automatically done in a FOR statement
10 c += 5
11 ...
```

Variable `c` can only be used to read list elements

- ~ It does not change them
- ~ Only `c` is changed

Things that DO work

Remark

To change a list element, `Cdegrees[i]`, an assignment must be used

```
1 Cdegrees[i] = ...           # Change the i-th list element
```

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List comprehension

‘Run thru a list and for each element create a new element in another list

- This is a frequently encountered task

~ (Fdegrees[i] from Cdegrees[i])

Python has a special compact syntax for this

~ **List comprehension**

List comprehension (cont.)

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Definition

List comprehension

The general syntax for **list comprehension**

```
1 ...  
2  
3 newlist = [E(e) for e in list]  
4  
5 ...
```

*E(e) is some **expression** involving element *e* of list *list**

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List comprehension (cont.)

Example

Consider the following code, the tasks should be familiar

```
1 Cdegrees = [-5+i*0.5 for i in range(n)]      # List comprehension  
2                                           # Build list Cdegrees  
3  
4 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C+32 for C in Cdegrees]  # List comprehension  
5                                           # Build list Fdegrees  
6  
7 C_plus_5 = [C+5 for C in Cdegrees]           # Build list C_plus_5
```

How does the computation evolve in each case?

What are the elements of the lists?

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Travessing multiple lists

Suppose that we want to use lists `Cdegrees` and `Fdegrees` to make a table

- We need to traverse both arrays

A `for element in list` construction is not suitable here

- It extracts elements from one list only

A solution is to use a **FOR-loop** over indices

- So that we can index both lists
- (We silently used this already)

Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

Example

Consider this piece of code for printing a table of temperature values

```
1 n=21
2
3 Cdegrees = [-5+i*0.5 for i in range(n)]           # List comprehension
4 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C+32 for C in Cdegrees]       # List comprehension
5
6 for i in range(len(Cdegrees)):
7     print '%5d %5.1f' % (Cdegrees[i], Fdegrees[i]) # Print temperatures
```

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Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

It often happens that two or more lists need be traversed simultaneously

Python offers an alternative to the loop over indices

- ↪ A special syntax
- The `zip` function

Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

Definition

Zip

Function `zip` turns n lists (`list1`, `list2`, ...) into a single list of n -tuples

```
1 for e1, e2, ... in zip(list1, list2, ...):
2                                     # Element e1 from list1
3                                     # Element e2 from list2
4                                     # ...
```

For each n -tuple (`e1`, `e2`, ...),

- The first element (`e1`) is from the first list (`list1`)
- The second element `e2` is from second list (`list2`)
- ...
- The n -th element `e2` is from second list (`listn`)

The loop stops when the end of the shortest list is reached

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Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

Example

Consider the following code using list comprehension and the zip function

```
1 n=21
2 Cdegrees = [-5+i*0.5 for i in range(n)]           # List comprehension
3 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C+32 for C in Cdegrees]        # List comprehension
4
5 for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees):               # Print temperatures
6     print '%5.1f %5.1f' % (C, F)                  # Use zip
7     function
```

Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

The result of the execution of the first part of the code

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```
1 >>> Cdegrees
2 [-5.0,
3  -4.5,
4  -4.0,
5  ...
6   4.0,
7   4.5,
8   5.0]
10 >>> Fdegrees
11 [23.0,
12  23.9,
13  24.8,
14  ...
15  39.2,
16  40.1,
17  41.0]
```

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Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

The result of the execution of the second part of the code

```
1 -5.0 23.0
2 -4.5 23.9
3 -4.0 24.8
4 -3.5 25.7
5 -3.0 26.6
6 -2.5 27.5
7 -2.0 28.4
8 -1.5 29.3
9 -1.0 30.2
10 -0.5 31.1
11 0.0 32.0
12 0.5 32.9
13 1.0 33.8
14 1.5 34.7
15 2.0 35.6
16 2.5 36.5
17 3.0 37.4
18 3.5 38.3
19 4.0 39.2
20 4.5 40.1
21 5.0 41.0
```

Travessing multiple lists (cont.)

Consider the continuation code using the zip function and list comprehension

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```
1 table = []
2 table = [[C,F] for C,F in zip(Cdegrees,Fdegrees)]
1 >>> table
2 [[-5.0, 23.0],
3  [-4.5, 23.9],
4  [-4.0, 24.8],
5  [-3.5, 25.7],
6  [-3.0, 26.6],
7  [-2.5, 27.5],
8  [-2.0, 28.4],
9  [-1.5, 29.3],
10 [-1.0, 30.2],
11 [-0.5, 31.1],
12 [0.0, 32.0],
13 [0.5, 32.9],
14 [1.0, 33.8],
15 [1.5, 34.7],
16 [2.0, 35.6],
17 [2.5, 36.5],
18 [3.0, 37.4],
19 [3.5, 38.3],
20 [4.0, 39.2],
21 [4.5, 40.1],
22 [5.0, 41.0]]
```

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Nested lists are **list objects**, the **list elements** are **list objects**

We use some examples to motivate the need for nested lists

- We shall also illustrate some basic operations

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A table as a row or column list

In our table of temperatures, we used a separate list for each table column

↪ With n columns, we need n **list objects** to handle table data

```
1 n=21
2 Cdegrees = [-5+i*0.5 for i in range(n)]
3 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C+32 for C in Cdegrees]
4 Kdegrees = [C+273.15 for C in Cdegrees]
5
6 table = []
7 table = [[C,F,K] for C,F,K in zip(Cdegrees,Fdegrees,Kdegrees)]
```

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A table as a row or column list

```
1 >>> table
2 [[-5.0, 23.0, 268.15],
3  [-4.5, 23.9, 268.65],
4  [-4.0, 24.8, 269.15],
5  ..., ..., ...
6  [4.0, 39.2, 277.15],
7  [4.5, 40.1, 277.65],
8  [5.0, 41.0, 278.15]]
```

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

We think of a table as a single entity, not a collection of n columns

- It is natural to use one argument for the whole table

In Python this can be achieved by using a **nested list**

- Each entry in the list is a list itself

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

A **table object** is understood as a list of lists

We can see it as two different cases

- Either it is a list of the row elements of the table
- Or, it is a list of the column elements of the table

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

Example

```
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 41, 5) # -20, -15, ..., 35, 40
2 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
3
4 table = [Cdegrees, Fdegrees]
```

↪ The table is a list of two columns

↪ Each column is a list of numbers

```
1 >>> table
2 [[ -20,-15, -10,  -5,   0,   5,  10,  15,  20,  25,  30,  35,  40],
3  [-4.0,5.0,14.0,23.0,32.0,41.0,50.0,59.0,68.0,77.0,86.0,95.0,104.0]]
```

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

```
1 >>> table
2 [[ -20,-15, -10,  -5,   0,   5,  10,  15,  20,  25,  30,  35,  40],
3  [-4.0,5.0,14.0,23.0,32.0,41.0,50.0,59.0,68.0,77.0,86.0,95.0,104.0]]
```

With `table[0]`, we access the first element in the table

~ (The `Cdegrees` list)

With `table[1]`, we access the first element in the table

~ (The `Fdegrees` list)

```
1 >>> table[0]
2 [-20, -15, -10,  -5,   0,   5,  10,  15,  20,  25,  30,  35,  40]
3 >>> Cdegrees
4 [-20, -15, -10,  -5,   0,   5,  10,  15,  20,  25,  30,  35,  40]
5
6 >>> table[1]
7 [-4.0,  5.0, 14.0, 23.0, 32.0, 41.0, 50.0, 59.0, 68.0, 77.0, 86.0, 95.0,
8  104.0]
9 >>> Fdegrees
9 [-4.0,  5.0, 14.0, 23.0, 32.0, 41.0, 50.0, 59.0, 68.0, 77.0, 86.0, 95.0,
10 104.0]
```

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

`table[0][2]` is the third element in the first element (which is a list)

```
1 >>> table[0]
2 [-20, -15, -10,  -5,   0,   5,  10,  15,  20,  25,  30,  35,  40]
3
4 >>> table[0][2]
5 -10
```

That is also `Cdegrees[2]`



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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

Consider tabular data with rows and columns

- The underlying data are a nested list
- The first index counts the rows
- The second index counts the columns

This is the convention for indexing elements

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A table as a row or column list (cont.)

Example

We can construct `table` as a list of `[C, F]` pairs

- The first index will then run over rows `[C, F]`

```
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 41, 5)
2 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
3
4 table = []
5 for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees):
6     table.append([C, F])
```

This construction is based on looping through pairs `C` and `F`

- At each pass, we create a list element `[C, F]`
- Then, we append it as last element to `table`

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```
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 41, 5)
2 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
3
4 table = []
5 for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees):
6     table.append([C, F])
```

```
>>> table
[[-20, -4.0],
 [-15,  5.0],
 [-10, 14.0],
 [-5,  23.0],
 [0,  32.0],
 [5,  41.0],
 [10, 50.0],
 [15, 59.0],
 [20, 68.0],
 [25, 77.0],
 [30, 86.0],
 [35, 95.0],
 [40, 104.0]]
>>> table[5]
[5, 41.0]
>>> table[5][1]
41.0
```

`table[5]` refers to the sixth element in `table`, a `[C, F]` pair

- With `table[5][0]`, we access the `C` value
- With `table[5][1]`, we access the `F` value

A table as a row or column list (cont.)

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```
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 41, 5)
2 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
3
4 table = []
5 for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees):
6     table.append([C, F])
```

More compactly, we can obtain the same result by using list comprehension

```
1 Cdegrees = range(-20, 41, 5)
2 Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
3
4 table = [[C, F] for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees)]
```

This construction is based on looping through pairs `C` and `F`

- At each pass, we create a list element `[C, F]`
- (The process of appending it not explicit)



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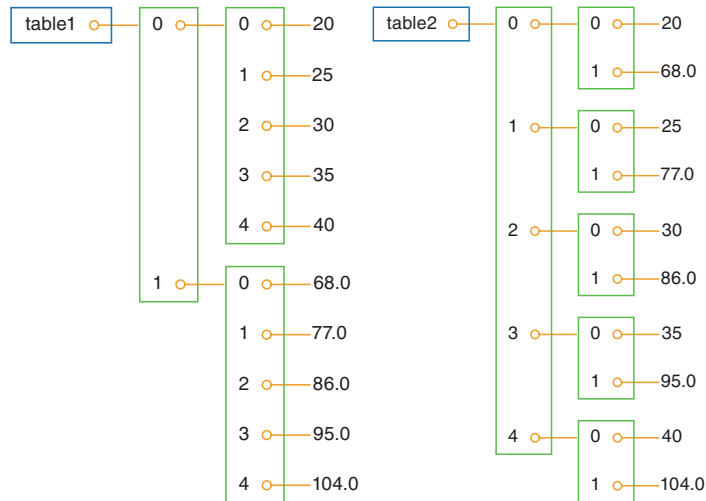
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A list of columns and a list of pairs



The first index looks up an element in the outer list

- This element can be indexed with the second index

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Printing objects

To immediately view the nested list `table`, we may write `print table`

- Any object `obj` can be printed to screen by `print obj`

The output is usually one line, which may be very long with packed lists

Example

A long list, like the `table` variable, needs a long line when printed

```
1 [[-20, -4.0], [-15, 5.0], [-10, 14.0], ..., ..., [40, 104.0]]
```

Splitting the output over shorter lines makes the layout more readable

Printing objects (cont.)

The `pprint` module offers a **pretty print** embellishing functionality

Example

```
1 import pprint
2 pprint.pprint(table)
```

```
1 [[-20, -4.0],
2  [-15, 5.0],
3  [-10, 14.0],
4  [-5, 23.0],
5  [0, 32.0],
6  [5, 41.0],
7  [10, 50.0],
8  [15, 59.0],
9  [20, 68.0],
10 [25, 77.0],
11 [30, 86.0],
12 [35, 95.0],
13 [40, 104.0]]
```

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Printing objects (cont.)

The book offers a modified `pprint` module, named `scitools.pprint2`

- Format control over printing of **float objects** in **list objects**
- `scitools.pprint2.float_format`, as **printf format** string

Example

How the output format of real numbers can be changed

```
1 >>> import pprint, scitools.pprint2
2 >>> somelist = [15.8, [0.2, 1.7]]
3 >>> pprint.pprint(somelist)
4 [15.800000000000001, [0.20000000000000001, 1.7]]
5
6 >>> scitools.pprint2.pprint(somelist)
7 [15.8, [0.2, 1.7]]
8
9 >>> # default output is '%g', change this to
10 >>> scitools.pprint2.float_format = '%.2e'
11 >>> scitools.pprint2.pprint(somelist)
12 [1.58e+01, [2.00e-01, 1.70e+00]]
```

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Printing objects (cont.)

The `pprint` module writes floating-point numbers with lots of digits

- To explicitly facilitate detection of round-off errors

Many find this type of output annoying and prefer the default output

- `scitools.pprint2` returns a conventional output

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Printing objects (cont.)

Definition

`pprint` and `scitools.pprint2` modules have function `pformat`

- *It returns a formatted string, rather than printing a string*
- *It works as `pprint`*

```
1 s = pprint.pformat(somelist)
2 print s
```

The `print` statement prints like `pprint.pprint(somelist)`

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Printing objects (cont.)

Tabular data like in **nested table lists** are not printed in a pretty way

~ A limitation of the **pprint module**

The expected pretty output is two aligned columns

We will have to code the formatting

~ To produce such output

Example

Loop over each row, extract the two elements **C** and **F** in each row

- Print these in fixed width fields
- Use the **printf** syntax

```
1 for C, F in table:
2     print '%5d %5.1f' % (C, F)
```

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Extracting sublists

Python has a syntax for extracting/accessing parts of a **list** structure

- **Sublists** or **slices**

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

A[i:] refers to the sublist of **A** starting with index **i** in **A** till the end of **A**

```
1 >>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
2 #      0   1   2   3
3
4 >>> A[2:]
5 [8, 10]
```

A[:i] refers to the sublist of **A** starting with index of 0 in **A** till index **i-1**

```
1 >>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
2 #      0   1   2   3
3
4 >>> A[:3]
5 [2, 3.5, 8]
```

- The last index that is considered is **i-1**
- (This is important to remember)

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

A[i:j] refers to the sublist of **A** starting with index **i** in **A** till index **j-1**

```
1 >>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
2 #      0   1   2   3
3
4 >>> A[1:3]
5 [3.5, 8]
```

- The last index that is considered is **j-1**
- (This is important to remember)

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

A[1:-1] extracts all elements except the first and the last

- (Index **-1** refers to the last element)

```
1 >>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
2 #      0   1   2   3
3
4 >>> A[1:-1]
5 [3.5, 8]
```

A[:] refers to the whole list

```
1 >>> A[:]
2 [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
```

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

```
1 [[-20, -4.0], # table[0]
2 [-15, 5.0], # table[1]
3 [-10, 14.0], # table[2]
4 [-5, 23.0], # table[3]
5 [0, 32.0], # table[4]
6 [5, 41.0], # table[5]
7 [10, 50.0], # table[6]
8 [15, 59.0], # table[7]
9 [20, 68.0], # table[8]
10 [25, 77.0], # table[9]
11 [30, 86.0], # table[10]
12 [35, 95.0], # table[11]
13 [40, 104.0]] # table[12]
```

With nested lists, it is possible to use slices in the first index

```
1 >>> table[4:]
2 [[0, 32.0], [5, 41.0], [10, 50.0], [15, 59.0], [20, 68.0],
3 [25, 77.0], [30, 86.0], [35, 95.0], [40, 104.0]]
```

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

```
1 [[-20, -4.0], # table[0]
2 [-15, 5.0], # table[1]
3 [-10, 14.0], # table[2]
4 [-5, 23.0], # table[3]
5 [0, 32.0], # table[4]
6 [5, 41.0], # table[5]
7 [10, 50.0], # table[6]
8 [15, 59.0], # table[7]
9 [20, 68.0], # table[8]
10 [25, 77.0], # table[9]
11 [30, 86.0], # table[10]
12 [35, 95.0], # table[11]
13 [40, 104.0]] # table[12]
```

We can also slice the second index, or both indices

```
1 >>> table[4:7][0:2]
2 [[0, 32.0], [5, 41.0]]
```

`table[4:7]` makes a 3-element list

- Indices 4, 5 and 6
- ~ `[[0, 32.0], [5, 41.0], [10, 50.0]]`

Slice `[0:2]` acts on it, picks its first two elements

- Indices 0 and 1
- ~ `[[0, 32.0], [5, 41.0], [10, 50.0]]`

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

Sublists are always copies of the original list

- This is important

Example

```
1 >>> list_1 = [1, 4, 3] # Define list_1
2
3 >>> list_2 = list_1[:-1] # Define list_2
4 # It is a sublist of list_1
5 # Elements 0 to -2
6 >>> list_2
7 [1, 4]
8
9 >>> list_1[0] = 100 # First element of list_1
10 >>> list_1 # List_1 is modified
11 [100, 4, 3]
12
13 >>> list_2 # List_2 is not modified
14 [1, 4]
```

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Remark

Suppose that you have pre-defined/available some list

- Suppose that you extract some sublist from it
- Suppose that you modify such sublist

Whatever the modification on the sublist, the original list remains unaltered

- The *vice versa* is also true

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Remark

`B == A` is **True** if all elements in `B` equal corresponding elements in `A`

The test `B is A` is **True** if `A` and `B` are names for the same list

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

Example

Consider the following piece of code

```
1 >>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
2 >>> B = A[:]
3 >>> C = A
4
5 >>> B == A
6       True
7
8 >>> B is A
9       False
10
11 >>> C is A
12       True
```

Setting `B = A[:]` makes `B` refer to a copy of the list referred to by `A`

Setting `C = A` makes `C` refer to the same list object as `A`

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Extracting sublists (cont.)

Example

Write the part of the table list of `[C, F]` rows where the degrees Celsius are between `10` and `35` (not including `35`)

```
1 >>> for C, F in table[Cdegrees.index(10):Cdegrees.index(35)]:
2     ... print '%5.0f %5.1f' % (C, F)
3     ...
4
5     10 50.0
6     15 59.0
7     20 68.0
8     25 77.0
9     30 86.0
```

- `Cdegrees.index(10)` is the index of value `10` in the `Cdegrees` list
- `Cdegrees.index(35)` is the index of value `35` in the `Cdegrees` list

A **FOR-loop** does an equivalent job

~ `for C, F in table[6:11]:`

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Traversing nested lists

Traversing the **nested list** `table` could be done by a loop

```
1 for C, F in table:
2     <process C and F>
```

Natural, when we know that `table` is a list of `[C, F]` lists

More general nested lists must be handled differently

- Unknown how many elements there are in each list
- (Lists are the element of the main list)

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Travessing nested lists (cont.)

Example

Consider a nested list `scores` recording the scores of players in some game

- `scores[i]` holds the list of scores obtained by player number `i`

Different players have played the game a different number of times

- The length of `scores[i]` depends on `i`, the player

```
1 scores = []
2
3 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 0:
4 scores.append([12, 16, 11, 12])           # Length 4
5
6 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 1:
7 scores.append([9])                       # Length 1
8
9 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 2:
10 scores.append([6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 15, 14, 20]) # Length 8
```

The list has three elements, each element corresponds to a player

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```
1 scores = []
2
3 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 0:
4 scores.append([12, 16, 11, 12])           # Length 4
5
6 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 1:
7 scores.append([9])                       # Length 1
8
9 # Hypothetical scores of player no. 2:
10 scores.append([6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 15, 14, 20]) # Length 8
```

Consider element number `g` in the list `scores[p]`, `scores[p][g]`

- It corresponds to the score in game `g` played by player `p`

The length of the individual lists `scores[p]` varies

- It equals 4, 1, and 8 for `p` equal 0, 1, and 2, respectively

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Remark

Consider `n` players, some may have played a large number of times

This makes `scores` a big nested list, potentially

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Example

Consider the data initialised earlier, the table of scores

The scores can be written out in the following form

```
1 12 16 11 12
2 9
3 6 9 11 14 17 15 14 20
```

How to traverse the list and put it in table format

~ With well formatted columns?

The esired properties of the table formatting

- 1 Each row must correspond to a player
- 2 Columns must correspond to scores

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```
1 12 16 11 12
2 9
3 6 9 11 14 17 15 14 20
```

We may use two nested loops

- One loop for the elements in `scores`
- One loop for the elements in the sublists of `scores`

There are two basic ways of traversing a nested list

- We use integer indices for each index
- We use variables for the list elements

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An index-based version

```
1 scores = []
2 scores.append([12, 16, 11, 12])
3 scores.append([9])
4 scores.append([6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 15, 14, 20])
5
6 for p in range(len(scores)):
7     for g in range(len(scores[p])):
8         score = scores[p][g]
9         print '%4d' % score,
10    print
```

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We used the trailing comma after `'print string'`

```
1 scores = []
2 scores.append([12, 16, 11, 12])
3 scores.append([9])
4 scores.append([6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 15, 14, 20])
5
6 for p in range(len(scores)):
7     for g in range(len(scores[p])):
8         score = scores[p][g]
9         print '%4d' % score,
10    print
```

The `print` after the loop over `p` adds a new (empty) line after each row

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With variables for iterating over the elements in `scores` and its sublists

```
1 for player in scores:
2     for game in player:
3
4         print '%4d' % game,
5    print
```

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Travessing nested lists (cont.)

Definition

Consider the general case of nested lists with many indices

\leadsto `somelist [i1][i2][i3] ...`

Suppose that we are interested in visiting each element in the list

We can use as many nested *FOR-loops* as there are indices



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As a practical example consider a nested list with four indices

```
1 for i1 in range(len(somelist)):
2   for i2 in range(len(somelist[i1])):
3     for i3 in range(len(somelist[i1][i2])):
4       for i4 in range(len(somelist[i1][i2][i3])):
5
6         value = somelist[i1][i2][i3][i4]
7         # perform some operation with this current value
```

This is what iterating over integer indices looks like

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The corresponding version by iterating over sublists

```
1 for sublist1 in somelist:
2   for sublist2 in sublist1:
3     for sublist3 in sublist2:
4       for sublist4 in sublist3:
5
6         value = sublist4
7         # perform some operation with this current value
```

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Construct	Explanation
<code>a = []</code>	Initialise an empty string
<code>a = [1, 4.4, 'run.py']</code>	Initialise a list
<code>a.append(elem)</code>	Add <code>element</code>
<code>a + [1.3]</code>	Add two lists
<code>a.insert(i, e)</code>	Insert element <code>e</code> before index <code>i</code>
<code>a[3]</code>	Index a list element
<code>a[-1]</code>	Get last lists element
<code>a[1:3]</code>	Slide: Copy data to sublist
<code>del a[3]</code>	Delete an element
<code>a.remove(e)</code>	Remove an element with value <code>e</code>

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Some list operations (cont.)

Construct	Explanation
<code>a.index('run.py')</code>	Index corresponding to element's value
<code>'run.py' in a</code>	Test if a value is in the list
<code>a.count(v)</code>	Count elements with value <code>v</code>
<code>len(a)</code>	Number of elements in list <code>a</code>
<code>min(a)</code>	The smallest element in list <code>a</code>
<code>max(a)</code>	The largest element in list <code>a</code>
<code>sum(a)</code>	Add all elements in <code>a</code>
<code>sorted(a)</code>	Return sorted version of <code>a</code>
<code>reversed(a)</code>	Return returned version of <code>a</code>
<code>b[3][0][2]</code>	Nested list indexing
<code>isinstance(a, list)</code>	<code>True</code> if <code>a</code> is a list
<code>type(a) is list</code>	<code>True</code> if <code>a</code> is a list

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Tuples

Tuples are similar to **lists**, but **tuple objects** cannot be changed

- A **tuple object** can be viewed as a constant **list object**

Lists use square brackets, **tuples** employ standard parentheses

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Tuples (cont.)

```
1 t = (2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf') # Define a tuple
2                               # Name t
3
4 t = 2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf'    # Define a tuple
5                               # Name t
6                               # W/O parenthesis
```

A comma-separated sequence of objects is a **tuple object**

- Parentheses are not necessary, though common

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Tuples (cont.)

We can use **FOR-loop** to loop over a tuple

```
1 for element in 'myfile.txt', 'urfile.txt', 'herfile.txt':
2     print element,
```

Note the trailing comma (,) in the **print** statement

```
1 myfile.txt yourfile.txt herfile.txt
```

The comma suppresses the final newline that **print** command would add

- The output of **print** is a **string object**

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Tuples (cont.)

Many of the usual functionalities for lists are also available for tuples

```
1 >>> t = (2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf') # Define a tuple
2
3 >>> t = t + (-1.0, -2.0)      # Add two tuples
4 >>> t                         # Define a tuple
5     (2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf', -1.0, -2.0)
6
7 >>> t[1]                      # Indexing
8     4
9
10 >>> t[2:]                    # Subtuple/slice
11     (6, 'temp.pdf', -1.0, -2.0)
12
13 >>> 6 in t                   # Membership
14     True
```

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Tuples (cont.)

Operations for lists that change the list do not work for tuples

```
1 >>> t[1] = -1
2     ...
3     TypeError: object does not support item assignment
4
5 >>> t.append(0)
6     ...
7     AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'append'
8
9 >>> del t[1]
10     ...
11     TypeError: object doesn't support item deletion
```

Some methods for lists (like **index**) are not available for tuples

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Tuples (cont.)

So why do we need tuples at all when lists can do more than tuples?

- ↪ Tuples protect against accidental changes of their contents
- ↪ Code based on tuples is faster than code based on lists
- ↪ Tuples are often used in Python software that you will use
 - (You need to know this data type!)

There is also a fourth argument, the data-type called dictionaries

- Tuples can be used as keys in dictionaries
- Lists cannot