Introduction to iterators

PYTHON DATA SCIENCE TOOLBOX (PART 2)

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Iterating with a for loop

- We can iterate over a list using a for loop

```
employees = ['Nick', 'Lore', 'Hugo']

for employee in employees:
    print(employee)
```

```
Nick
Lore
Hugo
```

Iterating with a for loop

- We can iterate over a string using a for loop

```
for letter in 'DataCamp':
    print(letter)
```

```
D
a
t
a
C
a
m
p
```

Iterating with a for loop

- We can iterate over a range object using a for loop

```
for i in range(4):
    print(i)
```

```
0
1
2
3
```

Iterators vs. iterables

- Iterable
  - Examples: lists, strings, dictionaries, file connections
  - An object with an associated `iter()` method
  - Applying `iter()` to an iterable creates an iterator
- Iterator
  - Produces next value with `next()`

Iterating over iterables: next()

```
word = 'Da'
it = iter(word)
next(it)
```

```
'D'
```

```
next(it)
```

```
'a'
```

```
next(it)
```

```
StopIteration                    Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-11-2cdb14c0d4d6> in <module>()
-> 1 next(it)
StopIteration:
```

Iterating at once with *

```
word = 'Data'
it = iter(word)

print(*it)
```

The star operator unpacks all elements of an iterator or an iterable.
(splat operators)

```
D a t a
```

```
print(*it)
```

Be warned that once you do *, you cannot do it again as there are no more values to iterate through.

- No more values to go through!

Iterating over dictionaries

```
pythonistas = {'hugo': 'bowne-anderson', 'francis': 'castro'}
for key, value in pythonistas.items():
    print(key, value)
```

```
francis castro
hugo bowne-anderson
```

Iterating over file connections

```
file = open('file.txt')
it = iter(file)

print(next(it))
```

```
This is the first line.
```

```
print(next(it))
```

```
This is the second line.
```

Let's practice!

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Playing with iterators

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Using enumerate()

```
avengers = ['hawkeye', 'iron man', 'thor', 'quicksilver']
e = enumerate(avengers)
print(type(e))
```

add a counter to any iterable
take any iterable as argument (s)

```
<class 'enumerate'>
```

```
e_list = list(e)
print(e_list)
```

a list of tuples

```
[(0, 'hawkeye'), (1, 'iron man'), (2, 'thor'), (3, 'quicksilver')]
```

enumerate() and unpack

```
avengers = ['hawkeye', 'iron man', 'thor', 'quicksilver']
for index, value in enumerate(avengers):
    print(index, value)
```

also an iterable

```
0 hawkeye
1 iron man
2 thor
3 quicksilver
```

```
for index, value in enumerate(avengers, start=10):
    print(index, value)
```

```
10 hawkeye
11 iron man
12 thor
13 quicksilver
```

Using zip()

stitch together an arbitrary number of iterables and returns an iterator of tuples

```
avengers = ['hawkeye', 'iron man', 'thor', 'quicksilver']
names = ['barton', 'stark', 'odinson', 'maximoff']
z = zip(avengers, names)
print(type(z))
```

```
<class 'zip'>
```

```
z_list = list(z)
print(z_list)
```

```
[('hawkeye', 'barton'), ('iron man', 'stark'),
('thor', 'odinson'), ('quicksilver', 'maximoff')]
```

zip() and unpack

```
avengers = ['hawkeye', 'iron man', 'thor', 'quicksilver']
names = ['barton', 'stark', 'odinson', 'maximoff']
for z1, z2 in zip(avengers, names):
    print(z1, z2)
```

```
hawkeye barton
iron man stark
thor odinson
quicksilver maximoff
```

Print zip with *

```
avengers = ['hawkeye', 'iron man', 'thor', 'quicksilver']
names = ['barton', 'stark', 'odinson', 'maximoff']
z = zip(avengers, names)
print(*z)
```

* unpacks an iterable such as a list or a tuple into positional arguments in a function call.

```
('hawkeye', 'barton') ('iron man', 'stark')
('thor', 'odinson') ('quicksilver', 'maximoff')
```

Let's practice!

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Using iterators to load large files into memory

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Loading data in chunks

- There can be too much data to hold in memory
- Solution: load data in chunks!
- Pandas function: `read_csv()`
  - Specify the chunk: `chunk_size`

Sometimes, the data we have to process reaches a size that is too much for a computer's memory to handle.
This is a common problem faced by data scientists.
A solution to this is to process an entire data source chunk by chunk, instead of a single go all at once.

Iterating over data

```
import pandas as pd
result = []
for chunk in pd.read_csv('data.csv', chunksize=1000):
    result.append(sum(chunk['x']))
total = sum(result)
print(total)
```

each chunk will be a DataFrame

```
4252532
```

Iterating over data

```
import pandas as pd
total = 0

for chunk in pd.read_csv('data.csv', chunksize=1000):
    total += sum(chunk['x'])

print(total)
```

```
4252532
```

Let's practice!

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Congratulations!

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What's next?

- List comprehensions and generators
- List comprehensions:
  - Create lists from other lists, DataFrame columns, etc.
  - Single line of code
  - More efficient than using a for loop

Let's practice!

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