CSC148 Worksheet 8 Solution

Hyungmo Gu

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Question 1

- No. It's not a good solution.

  The code is trying to count the number of elements in list.

  The *for* loop takes $\Theta(n)$ time, and this is not an efficient solution.

  We can do better than that by reducing the runtime to $\Theta(1)$ by using *len(...)* function.

  Correct Solution:

  No. It's not a good solution.

  Stacks are not iterable

Question 2

- Yes. This is a good solution.

  The quick points are

  - The method is trying to determine the number of elements in *Stack*.
  - *pop()* method removes an element from stack. This works as an indexing variable for the while loop.
  - *is_empty()* method checks for the condition of stack not having any elements. This allows while loop to terminate after using stack's *pop()* method sufficient number of times.
  - *count* variable allows the number of elements to be counted, as it is being removed from *Stack* by *pop* method.

Correct Solution:

No. This is not a good solution.

The quick points are

- The code uses *pop()* method.
- *pop()* method causes *Stack* to mutate in number of elements, and the next time the *size* function is called, it will return 0.
- *size()* function should not affect the number of elements in stack.

Question 3

- This is a good solution if the instance attribute *_items* is using list to store items.

  Going further, this is a good solution for any iterable objects with *__len__* method (it should be correctly defined as well!).

Correct Solution:

No. This is not a good solution.

s._item is a private attribute, and private attribute should not be used outside of *Stack*.

Question 4

- No. This is not a good solution.

  The quick points are

  - Parameter *s* is of type *Stack*
  - *Stack* is a class
  - Class passes function by reference. That is, changes made to class inside function also affects outside.
  - The variable *s_copy* is pointing to *s*
    - Unlike with string and integers, this doesn't copy class (this is a huge bad)
  - *pop()* method is used, and this causes *s* outside of function to have size 0 by the end of operation