

Lab 5: Linked Lists Solution

1) Practice with linked lists

For this task: we have commented out the doctests in the methods. You will not be able to run them until you finish step (3) of this task, at which point you may uncomment them. We recommend you read all of the steps in this task before you begin.

1. In the starter code, find and read the docstring of the method `__len__`, and then implement it.

You already implemented this method in this week's prep, but it's good practice to implement it again. (And if you missed this week's prep, do it now!)

```
1      class LinkedList:
2          ...
3          def __len__(self) -> int:
4              """Return the number of elements in this list.
5
6              # >>> lst = LinkedList([])
7              # >>> len(lst)                # Equivalent to lst.
8
9              # 0
10             # >>> lst = LinkedList([1, 2, 3])
11             # >>> len(lst)
12             # 3
13             """
14             curr = self._first
15             count = 0
16
17             while curr is not None:
18                 curr = curr.next
19                 count += 1
20
21             return count
```

2. Then, implement the methods `count`, `index`, and `__setitem__`.

3. You might have noticed that all the doctests were commented out in the previous part. This is because they use a more powerful initializer than the one we've started with.

Your final task in this section is to implement a new initializer with the following interface:

```
1     def __init__(self, items: list) -> None:
2         """Initialize a new linked list containing the given items.
3
4         The first node in the linked list contains the first item
5         in <items>.
6         """
7
```

The lecture notes suggest one way to do this using *append*; however, here we want you to try doing this without using *append* (or any other helper method).

There are many different ways you could implement this method, but the key idea is that you need to loop through *items*, create a new *_Node* for each item, link the nodes together, and initialize *self._first*.

Spend time drawing some pictures before writing any code!