Ch08-1-Lists

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1 Lists

• http://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/python/english3e/lists.html

1.1 Topics

- list data structure
- syntax to create lists
- methods or operations provided to list objects
- list operators
- list traversal
- list applications and problems

1.2 List

- a type of sequence or container
- ordered collection of values called elements or items
- lists are similar to strings (ordered collections of characters) except that elements of a list can be of any type

1.3 Creating lists

• several ways; the simplest is to enclose the elements in square brackets []

```
[1]: alist = [] # an empty list

[2]: blist = list() # use list constructor

[3]: type(alist)

[3]: list

[4]: # creating lists with some elements of same type
    list1 = [10, 20, 30, 40]
    list2 = ['spam', 'bungee', 'swallow']

[5]: # lists with elements of different types
    list3 = ["hello", 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
```

```
[6]: # print list
      print(list3)
     ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
 [7]: # quickly create a list of range of numbers between 1 and 19
      list4 = list(range(1, 20, 1))
 [8]: print(list4)
     [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19]
 [9]: # print multiple lists
      print(alist, list1, list2, list3)
     [] [10, 20, 30, 40] ['spam', 'bungee', 'swallow'] ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi',
     'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
[10]: # Exercise: create a list of even numbers between 1 and 20 inclusive
[11]: # Exercise: create a list of odd numbers between 1 and 20 inclusive
[12]: # Exercise: create a list of numbers from 20 to 1 inclusive
     1.4 Accessing elements
        • same syntax for accessing characters of a string
        • use the index operator: listName[index]
[13]: # let's see what elements are in list1
      list1
[13]: [10, 20, 30, 40]
[14]: # access an element, which one?
      list1[0]
[14]: 10
[15]: list3
[15]: ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
[16]: list3[3][0]
[16]: 10
[17]: # list index can be variable as well
      index = 0
      print(list3[index])
```

```
hello
```

```
[18]: # can you use float value as an index?
      list3[1.0]
      TypeError
                                                 Traceback (most recent call last)
      <ipython-input-18-1fc6b2fe2f36> in <module>
             1 # can you use float value as an index?
       ---> 2 list3[1.0]
      TypeError: list indices must be integers or slices, not float
     1.5 Lenght of list
        • use len(listObject) to find length or number of elements in a list
[19]: # how many elements are there in list3?
      len(list3)
[19]: 5
[20]: # what happens if you access an index equal to the size of the list
      list3[5]
                                                 Traceback (most recent call last)
       <ipython-input-20-207cd7e1c880> in <module>
             1 # what happens if you access an index equal to the size of the list
       ----> 2 list3[5]
       IndexError: list index out of range
[21]: list3
[21]: ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
[22]: # Exercise: access and print the last element of list3
[23]: # Can we use negative index?
      # Can you guess the output of the following code?
      print(list3[-1])
     (1, 'uno')
[24]: # Exercise - access and print 'world' in list3
```

1.6 Checking for membership

('hi', 'world')

3.5

- checking if some data/object is a member/element in the given list
- in and not in boolean operators let's you check for membership

[25]: horsemen = ["war", "famine", "pestilence", ["death"]]

```
'death' in horsemen
[25]: False
[26]:
      'War' not in horsemen
[26]: True
[27]: ["death"] in horsemen
[27]: True
     1.7
          Traversing lists
        • for or while loop can be used to traverse through each element of a list
[28]: list3
[28]: ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
[29]: # common technique; use for loop
      for item in list3:
          print(item)
     hello
     2.0
     10
     [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5]
     (1, 'uno')
[30]: for item in list3:
          if isinstance(item, list) or isinstance(item, tuple):
              for 1 in item:
                  print(1)
          else:
              print(item)
     hello
     2.0
     10
     10
```

```
1
     uno
[31]: horsemen = ["war", "famine", "pestilence", "death"]
      for i in [0, 1, 2, 3]:
          print(horsemen[i])
      # better way to do the same thing?
     war
     famine
     pestilence
     death
[32]: print("traversing using indices")
      for i in range(len(horsemen)):
          print(horsemen[i])
     traversing using indices
     famine
     pestilence
     death
[33]: print('traversing each element')
      for ele in horsemen:
          print(ele)
     traversing each element
     war
     famine
     pestilence
     death
     1.8 list operators
        • + operator concatenates two lists and gives a bigger list
        • * operator repeats a list elements a given number of times
[34]: list2
[34]: ['spam', 'bungee', 'swallow']
[35]: list3
[35]: ['hello', 2.0, 10, [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5], (1, 'uno')]
[36]: list4 = list2 + list3
[37]: list4
```

```
[37]: ['spam',
       'bungee',
       'swallow',
       'hello',
       2.0,
       10,
       [10, ('hi', 'world'), 3.5],
       (1, 'uno')]
[38]: [0]*10
[38]: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
[39]: a = [1, 2, 3]*4
[40]: a
[40]: [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
[41]: b = [a]*3
[42]: b
[42]: [[1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3],
       [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3],
       [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]]
[43]: # 2-D list or matrix
      matrix = [[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]]
[44]: print(matrix)
     [[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]]
[45]: matrix
[45]: [[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]]
[46]: # How do you replace 5 with 50 in matrix?
      matrix[2][0] = 50
[47]: matrix
[47]: [[1, 2], [3, 4], [50, 6]]
```

1.9 Slicing lists

- all the slice operations that work with strings also work with lists
- syntax: [startIndex : endIndex : step]

• startIndex is inclusive; endIndex is exclusive; step is optional by default 1

```
[48]: # create a list of lower-case alphabets
      alphas = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g'] # add the rest...
[49]: alphas
[49]: ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g']
[50]: # there's better way to create lists of all lowercase ascii
      import string
      alphas = list(string.ascii lowercase)
[51]: print(alphas[:])
     ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p',
     'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z']
[52]: print(alphas[::3])
     ['a', 'd', 'g', 'j', 'm', 'p', 's', 'v', 'y']
[53]: print(alphas[1:3])
     ['b', 'c']
[54]: print(alphas[::-1])
     ['z', 'y', 'x', 'w', 'v', 'u', 't', 's', 'r', 'q', 'p', 'o', 'n', 'm', 'l', 'k',
     'j', 'i', 'h', 'g', 'f', 'e', 'd', 'c', 'b', 'a']
     1.10 Lists and strings
        • match made in heaven - work together really well:)
[55]: # convert string to list of characters
      alphaList = list(string.ascii lowercase)
[56]: alphaList
[56]: ['a',
       'b',
       'c',
       'd',
       'e',
       'f',
       'g',
       'h',
       'i',
       'j',
```

```
'k',
       '1',
       'm',
       'n',
       '0',
       'p',
       'q',
       'r',
       's',
       't',
       'u',
       'v',
       'w',
       'x',
       'y',
       'z']
[57]: # convert list to string by joining pairs of chars with a delimiter
      alphaStr = '|'.join(alphaList)
[58]: alphaStr
[58]: |a|b|c|d|e|f|g|h|i|j|k|l|m|n|o|p|q|r|s|t|u|v|w|x|y|z|
     1.11 lists are mutable
        • we can change/replace/update list elements in place
[59]: names = ["john", "David", "Alice"]
      names[0] = "jake"
[60]: names
[60]: ['jake', 'David', 'Alice']
[61]: # How to correct spelling of jake?
      names[0][0]
[61]: 'j'
[62]: names[0][0] = 'J'
       TypeError
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
       <ipython-input-62-0442e9474c4b> in <module>
       ----> 1 names[0][0] = 'J'
```

```
[63]: names[0] = 'Jake'
[64]: names
[64]: ['Jake', 'David', 'Alice']
[65]: alphas
[65]: ['a',
       'b',
       'c',
       'd',
       'e',
       'f',
       'g',
       'h',
       'i',
       'j',
       'k',
       '1',
       'm',
       'n',
       'o',
       'p',
       'q',
       'r',
       's',
       't',
       'u',
       'v',
       'W',
       'x',
       'y',
       'z']
[66]: alphas[:4] = ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D']
[67]: alphas
[67]: ['A',
       'B',
       'C',
       'D',
       'e',
       'f',
```

TypeError: 'str' object does not support item assignment

```
'g',
       'h',
       'i',
        'j',
       'k',
        '1',
       'm',
       'n',
       '0',
       'p',
        'q',
       'r',
        's',
       't',
       'u',
        'v',
       'w',
       'x',
       'y',
       'z']
[68]: alphas[:4] = []
[69]: alphas
[69]: ['e',
       'f',
       'g',
        'h',
       'i',
       'j',
       'k',
       '1',
       'm',
       'n',
       'o',
       'p',
       'q',
        'r',
       's',
       't',
       'u',
       'v',
        'w',
       'x',
       'y',
        'z']
```

1.12 Deleting list elements

• del statement removes an element from a list given its index

```
[70]: alphas
[70]: ['e',
        'f',
        'g',
        'h',
       'i',
        'j',
        'k',
        '1',
        'm',
        'n',
        '0',
        'p',
        'q',
        'r',
        's',
        't',
        'u',
        'v',
        'w',
        'x',
        'y',
        'z']
[71]: del alphas[0]
[72]:
      alphas
[72]: ['f',
        'g',
        'h',
        'i',
        'j',
        'k',
        '1',
        'm',
        'n',
        '0',
        'p',
        'q',
        'r',
        's',
        't',
```

```
'u',
       'v',
       'W',
       'x',
       'y',
       'z']
[73]: del alphas[26]
       IndexError
                                                    Traceback (most recent call last)
       <ipython-input-73-80e1a19bb44c> in <module>
       ----> 1 del alphas[26]
       IndexError: list assignment index out of range
[74]: alphas.index('z')
[74]: 20
[75]: alphas.index(alphas[-1])
[75]: 20
[76]: del alphas[1:3]
[77]: alphas
[77]: ['f',
       'i',
       'j',
       'k',
       '1',
       'm',
       'n',
       'o',
       'p',
       'q',
       'r',
       's',
       't',
       'u',
       'v',
       'W',
       'x',
       'y',
```

```
'z']
```

```
[78]: indexOfZ = alphas.index('z')
del alphas[indexOfZ]
```

```
[79]: print(alphas)
```

```
['f', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y']
```

1.13 Objects and references

• is operator can be used to test if two objects are referencing the same memory location — meaning they're essentially the same object with the same values

```
[80]: # even though a and b are two separate objects is still evaluates to True
a = 'apple'
b = 'apple'
a is b
```

[80]: True

```
[81]: # even though c and d are two separate objects is still evaluates to True
c = 10
d = 10
c is d
```

[81]: True

```
[82]: # what about tuple?
e = (1, 2)
f = (1, 2)
print(e == f)
print(e is f)
```

True False

```
[83]: # What about lists?

11 = [1, 2, 3]

12 = [1, 2, 3]

print(11 == 12)

print(11 is 12)
```

True False

1.14 Copying lists (Shallow copy vs Deep copy)

• see PythonTutor.com to visualize aliasing

• assignment = operator does shallow copy

```
[84]: a = [1, 2, 3]
      b = a
      print(a is b)
      print(a == b)
     True
     True
[85]: b[0] = 10
      print(a)
      print(b)
     [10, 2, 3]
     [10, 2, 3]
[86]: # How do you actually clone lists - do a deep copy?
      c = a[:] # easy way shallow copy
      d = a.copy() # shallow copy
      import copy
      e = copy.deepcopy(b)
[87]: c is a
[87]: False
[88]: d is a
[88]: False
[89]: b is e
[89]: False
     1.15 List methods
        • list objects have a bunch methods that can be invoked to work with list
        • run help(list)
[90]: help(list)
     Help on class list in module builtins:
     class list(object)
      list(iterable=(), /)
      | Built-in mutable sequence.
         If no argument is given, the constructor creates a new empty list.
```

```
The argument must be an iterable if specified.
Methods defined here:
__add__(self, value, /)
    Return self+value.
__contains__(self, key, /)
    Return key in self.
__delitem__(self, key, /)
    Delete self[key].
__eq__(self, value, /)
    Return self == value.
__ge__(self, value, /)
    Return self>=value.
__getattribute__(self, name, /)
    Return getattr(self, name).
__getitem__(...)
    x.__getitem__(y) <==> x[y]
__gt__(self, value, /)
    Return self>value.
__iadd__(self, value, /)
    Implement self+=value.
__imul__(self, value, /)
    Implement self*=value.
__init__(self, /, *args, **kwargs)
    Initialize self. See help(type(self)) for accurate signature.
__iter__(self, /)
    Implement iter(self).
__le__(self, value, /)
    Return self<=value.
__len__(self, /)
    Return len(self).
__lt__(self, value, /)
    Return self<value.
```

```
__mul__(self, value, /)
    Return self*value.
__ne__(self, value, /)
    Return self!=value.
__repr__(self, /)
    Return repr(self).
__reversed__(self, /)
    Return a reverse iterator over the list.
__rmul__(self, value, /)
    Return value*self.
__setitem__(self, key, value, /)
    Set self[key] to value.
__sizeof__(self, /)
    Return the size of the list in memory, in bytes.
append(self, object, /)
    Append object to the end of the list.
clear(self, /)
    Remove all items from list.
copy(self, /)
    Return a shallow copy of the list.
count(self, value, /)
    Return number of occurrences of value.
extend(self, iterable, /)
    Extend list by appending elements from the iterable.
index(self, value, start=0, stop=9223372036854775807, /)
    Return first index of value.
    Raises ValueError if the value is not present.
insert(self, index, object, /)
    Insert object before index.
pop(self, index=-1, /)
    Remove and return item at index (default last).
```

```
remove(self, value, /)
             Remove first occurrence of value.
             Raises ValueError if the value is not present.
         reverse(self, /)
             Reverse *IN PLACE*.
         sort(self, /, *, key=None, reverse=False)
             Sort the list in ascending order and return None.
             The sort is in-place (i.e. the list itself is modified) and stable (i.e.
     the
             order of two equal elements is maintained).
             If a key function is given, apply it once to each list item and sort
     them,
             ascending or descending, according to their function values.
             The reverse flag can be set to sort in descending order.
        Static methods defined here:
         __new__(*args, **kwargs) from builtins.type
             Create and return a new object. See help(type) for accurate signature.
         Data and other attributes defined here:
         __hash__ = None
[91]: a = []
      a.append(1)
      a.append(2)
      a.append([2, 3])
[92]: a
[92]: [1, 2, [2, 3]]
[93]: a.extend([3, 4])
[94]: a
```

Raises IndexError if list is empty or index is out of range.

```
[94]: [1, 2, [2, 3], 3, 4]
 [95]: a.append([5, 6])
 [96]: a
 [96]: [1, 2, [2, 3], 3, 4, [5, 6]]
 [97]: a.insert(0, 'hi')
 [98]: a
 [98]: ['hi', 1, 2, [2, 3], 3, 4, [5, 6]]
 [99]: a.reverse()
[100]: a[0].reverse()
[101]: a
[101]: [[6, 5], 4, 3, [2, 3], 2, 1, 'hi']
[102]: a.sort()
        TypeError
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
        <ipython-input-102-2ed0d7de6146> in <module>
        ----> 1 a.sort()
        TypeError: '<' not supported between instances of 'int' and 'list'</pre>
[103]: | # let's create a list of numbers in descending order to sort
       blist = list(range(10, 0, -1))
[104]: blist
[104]: [10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
[105]: blist.sort()
[106]: print(blist)
      [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
[107]: # sort blist in reverse/descending order
       blist.sort(reverse=True)
[108]: blist
```

```
[108]: [10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
[109]: m = max(blist)
       mI = blist.index(m)
[110]: print(mI)
      0
[111]: min(blist)
[111]: 1
[112]: # how many 100s are in blist?
       print(blist.count(100))
      0
      1.16 List applications
      1.16.1 convert a string to list of integers
  [1]: nums = input('Enter 5 numbers separated by space: ')
      Enter 5 numbers separated by space: 10 15 1 3 4
  [2]: nums
  [2]: '10 15 1 3 4'
  [3]: nums = nums.split(' ')
  [4]: nums
  [4]: ['10', '15', '1', '3', '4']
  [5]: intNums = []
       for n in nums:
           intN = int(n)
           intNums.append(intN)
  [6]: intNums
  [6]: [10, 15, 1, 3, 4]
  [7]: intNums.sort(reverse=True)
  [8]: intNums
  [8]: [15, 10, 4, 3, 1]
```

1.16.2 convert list of integers to string

```
[9]: ' '.join(intNums)
       TypeError
                                                  Traceback (most recent call last)
       <ipython-input-9-0dd63a44d5ec> in <module>
       ----> 1 ' '.join(intNums)
       TypeError: sequence item 0: expected str instance, int found
[10]: strNum = []
      for n in intNums:
          strNum.append(str(n))
[11]: strNum
[11]: ['15', '10', '4', '3', '1']
[12]: strNum = ' '.join(strNum)
[13]: strNum
[13]: '15 10 4 3 1'
     1.17 Passing list to function - passed-by-reference
        • mutable types such as list are passed-by-reference
        • a reference/location is passed instead of a copy of the data
[14]: def getData(someList): # someList is formal parameter
          for i in range(5):
              a = int(input('enter a number: '))
              someList.append(a)
[16]: alist = []
      getData(alist) # alist is actual parameter/argument
     enter a number: 100
     enter a number: 99
     enter a number: 75
     enter a number: 33
     enter a number: 13
[17]: # when formal parameter is updated, actual parameter is also updated
      alist
[17]: [100, 99, 75, 33, 13]
```

1.17.1 visualize - pass-by-reference with pythontutor.com

1.18 return list from functions

• lists can be returned from functions

```
[18]: def getMaxMin(alist):
    m = max(alist)
    minVal = min(alist)
    return [m, minVal]

[19]: alist = range(-1000, 20000000)
    print(getMaxMin(alist))

    [1999999, -1000]

[20]: assert getMaxMin(alist) == [1999999, -1000]
```

1.19 Casting list into tuple and back

- since tuples are immutable it may be benefitial to cast them into lists and update
- can convert list back to tuple again

```
[21]: atuple = (1, 2, 3)
alist = list(atuple)
print(alist)
```

[1, 2, 3]

```
[22]: btuple = tuple(alist)
```

```
[23]: print(btuple)
```

(1, 2, 3)

```
[24]: atuple == btuple
```

[24]: True

```
[25]: # eventhough the elements are equal; the types of two objects are not
print(atuple, alist)
print(atuple == alist)
```

```
(1, 2, 3) [1, 2, 3] False
```

1.20 Exercises

- 1. Practice with the rest of the methods of list
- 2. Draw memory state snapshot for a and b after the following Python code is executed:

```
a = [1, 2, 3]
b = a[:]
b[0] = 5
```

3. Lists can be used to represent mathematical vectors. Write a function add_vectors(u, v) that takes two lists of numbers of the same length, and returns a new list containing the sums of the corresponding elements of each. The following test cases must pass once the add vectors is complete.

```
[26]: def add_vectors(a, b):
    pass
```

[27]: # test cases

assert add_vectors([1, 1], [1, 1]) == [2, 2], 'vectors not added correctly'

assert add_vectors([1, 2], [1, 4]) == [2, 6], 'vectors not added correctly'

assert add_vectors([1, 2, 1], [1, 4, 3]) == [2, 6, 4], 'vectors not added_u

correctly'

1.21 Kattis problems

- the following Kattis problems can be solved using list
- 1. Dice Game https://open.kattis.com/problems/dicegame
- 2. Height Ordering https://open.kattis.com/problems/height
- 3. What does the fox say? https://open.kattis.com/problems/whatdoesthefoxsay
- 4. Army Strength (Easy) https://open.kattis.com/problems/armystrengtheasy
- 5. Army Strength (Hard) https://open.kattis.com/problems/armystrengthhard
- 6. Black Friday https://open.kattis.com/problems/blackfriday

1.21.1 List sorting with two keys

- 1. Roll Call https://open.kattis.com/problems/rollcall
- 2. Cooking Water https://open.kattis.com/problems/cookingwater

```
[]:
```