

HANDOUT

Types of collections: lists, tuples, permutations, subsets, multi-sets

Definition: When a collection of objects is formed and each element is chosen from a different pool, then the collection is generically called a LIST. In this case, the order of the elements must be specified before the list can be written down (any ordering can be used as long as the ordering is specified).

Example: 3- element list to describe age, eye color, and handedness of a person: (18, brown, left-handed)

pool = class

Definition: When each element is always chosen from the **same pool**, we distinguish four different types of collections depending on whether order matters and repetition is allowed and are labeled as follows:

*is 5, 3, 1
the same
as 3, 5, 1*

SAME POOL (for each choice of element)	Order Matters	Order Does Not Matter
	<i>memorize</i>	
Repetition Allowed	TUPLE ("List")	MULTI-SET
Repetition Not Allowed	PERMUTATION	SUBSET ("Combination")

Examples:

- 4-element **tuple** of test scores received by 4 students in a class (order of students must be specified):

4 tuple

A B C D
(9, 8, 9, 10)

(8, 10, 9, 11)

- 3-element **permutation** to describe first, second, and third-place finishers (in that order) in a sprint race by lane number:

from the same pool

(4, 2, 5)

(1, 5, 4)

- 3-element **subset** of Pick 3 lottery numbers (order does not matter):

delimiter

{21, 64, 35}

lottery #'s don't repeat

- 7-element **multi-set** of individual votes cast by 7 voters for 3 candidates (order does not matter):

<2, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 2>

all how this is # of votes

NOTE: Can also be described by a 3-element tuple representing the number of votes received by each candidate (order of candidates must be specified): (3, 2, 2)

Definition: A NESTED COLLECTION is a one whose elements are collections themselves.

Example:

- 3-element list of subsets:

{1, 3, 5}, {2, 4, 6, 8, 10}, {2, 3, 5, 7}

The first subset consists of odd integers, the second subset consists of even integers, and the third subset consists of prime integers.

- 4-element subset whose elements are 3-element permutations:

{(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6), (7, 8, 9), (10, 11, 12)}