0.1 Lists II

In this lecture we look at some functions on lists. For the full documentation of all functions and how they work, see: https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#list and https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#more-on-lists.

Disclaimer: most, if not all, techniques below for lists also work for tuples.

0.1.1 Parallel assignment

The elements of tuples can be assigned to variables in parallel:

```
T = (4,3,2,1)
a, b, c, d = T
print("a =", a)
print("b =", b)
print("c =", c)
print("d =", d)
```

```
a = 4
b = 3
c = 2
d = 1
```

The above is the same as the less concise:

```
T = (4,3,2,1)
a = T[0]
b = T[1]
c = T[2]
d = T[3]
print("a =", a)
print("b =", b)
print("c =", c)
print("d =", d)
```

```
a = 4
b = 3
c = 2
d = 1
```
You can choose to use either of the above. At this point, there is no preference apart from your own.

The same works with lists, but we advise against that. If you have the wrong number of variables, python will not like it.

```python
[4]: L = [1,2,3]
a, b, c = L
print("a =", a)
print("b =", b)
print("c =", c)
a = 1
b = 2
c = 3

[5]: L = [1,2,3]
a, b = L

---------------------------------------------------------------------------
ValueError                       Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-5-65ec8422e863> in <module>()
     1 L = [1,2,3]
----> 2 a, b = L

ValueError: too many values to unpack (expected 2)

[6]: L = [1,2,3]
a, b, c, d = L

---------------------------------------------------------------------------
ValueError                       Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-6-44fe1f5e4ebf> in <module>()
     1 L = [1,2,3]
----> 2 a, b, c, d = L

ValueError: not enough values to unpack (expected 4, got 3)
```
0.1.2 Negative indexing

List indexing admits the use of negative values to indicate positions starting from the end.

```
[7]: L = [1,2,3,4,5]
    last = L[-1]
    second_last = L[-2]
    # and so on and so forth
    print("last =", last)
    print("second_last =", second_last)

last = 5
second_last = 4
```

0.1.3 Double indexing

Suppose L is a list of lists. We can fetch elements from the inner list by first indexing by the list we want, and then by the element we want.

For example, the first element from the second list can be obtained like this: L[1][0].

*Note:* Also works for tuples.

```
[8]: L = [[11,12,13], [21,22,23], [31,32,33]]
    x = L[1][0]
    y = L[2][2]
    print("x =", x)
    print("y =", y)

x = 21
y = 33

You can do this in two steps if you prefer:

```
[9]: L = [[11,12,13], [21,22,23], [31,32,33]]
    last_list = L[-1]
    x = last_list[0]
    # or: x = L[-1][0]
    print("x =", x)

x = 31
```

0.1.4 List comparison

Lists can be compared using the usual boolean operators: <, <=, ==, !=, >=, >.

Comparison follows the *lexicographic order* (same way as you would sort words): - compare the first element - if they are the same, compare the second element - if they are the same, compare the third element - . . .

Observe that the length of the list is not important, unless all elements are the same.
L1 = [3, 4, 6, 2]
L2 = [3, 2, 8, 8, 8]
print("L1 < L2?", L1 < L2)
print("L1 > L2?", L1 > L2)
L1 < L2? False
L1 > L2? True

L1 = [3, 4, 6, 2]
L2 = [3, 4, 6, 2, 8]
print("L1 < L2?", L1 < L2)
print("L1 > L2?", L1 > L2)
L1 < L2? True
L1 > L2? False

0.1.5 min/max

min and max are functions on lists and tuples. It is self-evident what they do.

L = [5, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 22, 3, 563, 2, 567, 3, 23, 560, 148, 287, 397, 517]
min = min(L)
mx = max(L)
print("min in L is", mn)
print("max in L is", mx)
min in L is 2
max in L is 567

You can call min and max on a set of values as well:

mn = min(423, 543, 134)
mx = max(423, 543, 134)
print("mn =", mn)
print("mx =", mx)
mn = 134
mx = 543

0.1.6 Exercise:

Implement the function nonDecreasing(L) that returns a list with the elements in L in non-decreasing order.

def nonDecreasing(L):
    return []

L = [5, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 22, 3, 563, 2, 567, 3, 23, 560, 148, 287, 397, 517]
Ls = nonDecreasing(L)
print("Ls =", Ls)
Implement the function `nonIncreasing(L)` that returns a list with the elements in `L` in non-increasing order.

```python
[15]: def nonIncreasing(L):
    return []
L = [5,3,4,6,8,9,22,3,563,2,567,3,23,560,148,287,397,517]
Ls = nonIncreasing(L)
print("Ls =", Ls)
Ls = []
```

### 0.1.7 sum

`sum` is a function that returns the sum of elements of a list or tuple.

```python
[16]: L = [4,5,5,2]
s = sum(L)
print("s =", s)
s = 16
[17]: sum((3,7,9))
[17]: 19
```

### 0.1.8 sorted

`sorted(L)` returns a list with the elements in `L` in non-decreasing order.

```python
[18]: L = [4,7,5,9,2,5,8]
Ls = sorted(L)
print("Ls =", Ls)
Ls = [2, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 9]
Or in non-increasing order if we specify reverse=True as one of the arguments.
[19]: L = [4,7,5,9,2,5,8]
Ls = sorted(L, reverse=True)
print("Ls =", Ls)
Ls = [9, 8, 7, 5, 5, 4, 2]
```

### 0.1.9 reversed

`reversed(L)` returns an `iterator` to the elements of `L` in reverse order. `Iterator` is a construct in Python, but you do not need to worry about what it is exactly. Just remember to convert it to a list by using `list(reversed(L))`. 
0.10 count

L.count(x) counts the number of times the element x occurs in the list L.

Side note: The dot notation is related to a notion of classes and objects, used in object oriented programming. In this technique, some types are defined in classes, and these classes have built-in operators. If O is an object of class (“type”) C, and class C defined the operator op(), then op() on O can be invoked as O.op(). You do not need to completely understand this at this point in time. Just know that this is a thing.

0.11 index

L.index(x) returns the index of the first occurrence of x in L.

L.index(x, s) returns the index of the first occurrence of x in L starting from position s.

Note: Observe the dot notation. This means that index is a built-in operator in the list class.

0.2 List mutability

List, as opposed to the other types we have seen in this course so far, are mutable or destructable structures. This means that we can do in-place modification of lists (i.e., without assigning it to another variable).

The destructive operators are part of the list class, so they are used via the dot notation.
One of the reasons for having destructive operations is to optimize the amount of memory a program takes. Imagine that you have a list with \(10 \times 9\) elements. Each time you add a new element using \(L = L + [x]\), python will create a new list with \((10 \times 9) + 1\) elements, by copying all the elements from \(L\). This is very inefficient, so python provides a way for you to simply add the element at the end of \(L\), modifying it instead of copying all its elements.

In the scope of this course, you will not have to worry about memory efficiency to that level. But this is useful to know about, in case you want to handle really big data.

0.2.1 append

\(L.append(x)\) will place the element \(x\) at the end of list \(L\), by modifying \(L\) itself.

This is the destructive version of \(L + [x]\).

*Side note:* Interestingly, and counter-intuitively, \(L += [x]\) is the same as \(L.append(x)\), in the sense that it does not create a copy of the list, and different from \(L = L + [x]\).

```
[23]: L = [3,2,4,5]
    print("before L =", L)
    L.append(100)
    print("after L =", L)

before L = [3, 2, 4, 5]
after L = [3, 2, 4, 5, 100]
```

0.2.2 extend

\(L.extend(L1)\) extends the list \(L\) by list \(L1\), by modifying \(L\) itself. Nothing happens to the list \(L1\).

This is the destructive version of \(L + L1\).

```
[24]: L = [3,2,4,5]
    L1 = [10,20,30]
    print("before L =", L)
    print("before L1 =", L1)
    L.extend(L1)
    print("after L =", L)
    print("after L1 =", L1)

before L = [3, 2, 4, 5]
before L1 = [10, 20, 30]
after L = [3, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30]
after L1 = [10, 20, 30]
```

0.2.3 insert

\(L.insert(i,x)\) modifies \(L\) by placing element \(x\) immediately before element at position \(i\).

This is the destructive version of \(L[:i] + [x] + L[i:]\).
0.2.4  sort and reverse

L.sort() and L.reverse() are the destructive versions of sorted(L) and reversed(L).

0.2.5  List assignment

Since lists are built from classes (i.e., every individual list is an object), it behaves differently from basic types in assignments.

Assignment L2 = L1 will not create a copy of L1 and store it in L2. Instead, it makes the two names L1 and L2 refer to the same list. That means that, when L1 is modified, so is L2.

This is better illustrated by an example:

# Behavior for basic types
x = 10
y = x
x = x + 1
print("x =", x)
print("y =", y)

x = 11
y = 10

# Behavior for objects
L1 = [1,2,3,4]
L2 = L1
L1[0] = 10
print("L1 =", L1)
print("L2 =", L2)

L1 = [10, 2, 3, 4]
L2 = [10, 2, 3, 4]

If you want an actual copy of the list, you can use the L.copy() function.
L1 = [1, 2, 3, 4]
L2 = L1.copy()
L1[0] = 10
print("L1 =", L1)
print("L2 =", L2)

L1 = [10, 2, 3, 4]
L2 = [1, 2, 3, 4]

Side note: If your lists have lists or other complex data-structures inside, and you also want those copied, you need to use the deepcopy() function.

# Copy will not create an actual copy of the inner lists
L1 = [[11,12],[21,22],[31,32],[41,42]]
L2 = L1.copy()
L1[0][0] = 100
print("L1 =", L1)
print("L2 =", L2)

L1 = [[100, 12], [21, 22], [31, 32], [41, 42]]
L2 = [[100, 12], [21, 22], [31, 32], [41, 42]]

# But deepcopy will
import copy
L1 = [[11,12],[21,22],[31,32],[41,42]]
L2 = copy.deepcopy(L1)
L1[0][0] = 100
print("L1 =", L1)
print("L2 =", L2)

L1 = [[100, 12], [21, 22], [31, 32], [41, 42]]
L2 = [[11, 12], [21, 22], [31, 32], [41, 42]]

0.3 Exercise:
Multiple choice exams usually have an answer sheet like this:
After students fill in the answer, an optical reader will scan the paper and assign shades of grey to each bubble of each question. A value of 0 indicates that the bubble is all black (i.e. the student marked that bubble), and a value of 255 indicates that the bubble is all white (i.e. the student did not mark that bubble). Since students fill in the bubbles in various different ways and with pens/pencils of different shades, the convention is that shades less than or equal to 127 are considered marked bubbles, and shades greater than 127 are considered unmarked bubbles.

The result of the scan of one answer sheet is represented as a list of lists. The inner lists have 5
elements, a number between 0 and 255, representing the shades of grey scanned for the bubbles A, B, C, D, and E. Your job is to implement the function answers(A) that takes as input the list of lists as described above, and returns a list containing the answers on that answer sheet. The answers are mapped to integers in the following way: 1 for A, 2 for B, 3 for C, 4 for D, and 5 for E. If no or multiple answers are selected for a question, map it to -1.

For example, let:

A = [ [0, 255, 255, 255, 255],
      [255, 255, 255, 255, 0 ],
      [255, 255, 127, 255, 255] ]

then answers(A) should return [1,5,3].

```
[32]: def answers(A):
    return []

A1 = [ [0, 255, 255, 255, 255],
      [255, 255, 255, 255, 0 ],
      [255, 255, 127, 255, 255] ]

A2 = [ [200, 200, 200, 0, 200],
      [200, 1, 200, 200, 1],
      [1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
      [255, 5, 200, 130, 205] ]
```