Ch.2: Loops and lists (part 2)

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Plan for August 30

- Exercise 2.1 and 2.4 from *Primer on Scientific Programming with Python*
- More on loops and lists
  - The `for` loop
  - `range` and `zip`
  - Nested lists
- Exercise 2.3 and 2.8 from *Primer ...*

The for loop is used for iterating over a list

A for loop iterates over elements in a list, and performs operations on each:

```
for element in list:
    <statement 1>
    <statement 2>
    ...
<first statement after loop>
```

- Simpler than the while loop (no conditional needed)
- Slightly less flexible

Example: For loop for temperature conversion

Task: Create a list of Celsius values similar to the previous one. Use a for-loop to iterate over the list, compute the corresponding Fahrenheit values and printing the values to the screen

Loop over elements in a list with a for loop

Use a *for* loop to loop over a list and process each element:

```
degrees = [0, 10, 20, 40, 100]
for C in degrees:
    print('Celsius degrees:', C)
    F = 9/5.*C + 32
    print('Fahrenheit:', F)
print('The degrees list has', len(degrees), 'elements')
```

As with *while* loops, the statements in the loop must be indented!

Simulate a for loop by hand

```
degrees = [0, 10, 20, 40, 100]
for C in degrees:
    print C
print('The degrees list has', len(degrees), 'elements')
```

Simulation by hand:

- First pass: `C` is 0
- Second pass: `C` is 10 ...and so on...
- Third pass: `C` is 20 ...and so on...
- Fifth pass: `C` is 100, now the loop is over and the program flow jumps to the first statement with the same indentation as the `for C in degrees` line

Making a table with a for loop

Table of Celsius and Fahreheit degrees:

```
Cdegrees = [-20, -15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15,
            20, 25, 30, 35, 40]
for C in Cdegrees:
    F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
    print(C, F)
```

Note: `print(C, F)` gives ugly output. Use printf syntax to nicely format the two columns:

```
print('%5d %5.1f' % (C, F))
```

Output:

```
-20  -4.0
-15   5.0
-10  14.0
 -5  23.0
  0  32.0
  ......
 35  95.0
 40 104.0
```

A for loop can always be translated to a while loop

The for loop

```
for element in somelist:
    # process element
```

can always be transformed to a corresponding while loop

```
index = 0
while index < len(somelist):
    element = somelist[index]
    # process element
    index += 1
```

But not all while loops can be expressed as for loops!

Storing the table columns as lists

Let us put all the Fahrenheit values in a list as well:

```
Cdegrees = [-20, -15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10,
            15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40]
Fdegrees = []                  # start with empty list
for C in Cdegrees:
    F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
    Fdegrees.append(F)    # add new element to Fdegrees
print(Fdegrees)
```

`print(Fdegrees)` results in

```
[-4.0, 5.0, 14.0, 23.0, 32.0, 41.0, 50.0, 59.0,
 68.0, 77.0, 86.0, 95.0, 104.0]
```

Using range to loop over indices

Sometimes we don't have a list, but want to repeat an operation N times. The Python function `range` returns a list of integers:

```
C = 0
for i in range(N):
    F = (9.0/5)*C + 32
    print(F)
```

- `range(start, stop, inc)` generates a list of integers `start`, `start+inc`, `start+2*inc`, and so on up to, *but not including*, `stop`.
- `range(stop)` is short for `range(0, stop, 1)`.

(In Python 3, range returns an *iterator*, which is not strictly a list, but behaves similarly when used in a `for` loop.)

Implement a mathematical sum via a loop

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{N} i^2$$

```
N = 14

S = 0
for i in range(1, N+1):
    S += i**2
```

Or (less common):

```
S = 0
i = 1
while i <= N:
    S += i**2
    i += 1
```

Mathematical sums appear often so remember the implementation!

How can we change the elements in a list?

Say we want to add 2 to all numbers in a list:

```
>>> v = [-1, 1, 10]
>>> for e in v:
...         e = e + 2
...
>>> v
[-1, 1, 10]    # unaltered!!
```

Changing a list element requires assignment to an indexed element

What is the problem?
Inside the loop, e is an ordinary (`int`) variable, first time e becomes 1, next time e becomes 3, and then 12 - but the list `v` is unaltered
Solution: must *index a list element* to change its value:

```
>>> v[1] = 4     # assign 4 to 2nd element (index 1) in v
>>> v
[-1, 4, 10]
>>>
>>> for i in range(len(v)):
...     v[i] = v[i] + 2
...
>>> v
[1, 6, 12]
```

List comprehensions: compact creation of lists

Example: compute two lists in a for loop

```
n = 16
Cdegrees = [];  Fdegrees = []   # empty lists

for i in range(n):
    Cdegrees.append(-5 + i*0.5)
    Fdegrees.append((9.0/5)*Cdegrees[i] + 32)
```

Python has a compact construct, called *list comprehension*, for generating lists from a for loop:

```
Cdegrees = [-5 + i*0.5 for i in range(n)]
Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]
```

General form of a list comprehension:

```
somelist = [expression for element in somelist]
```

where `expression` involves `element`

Traversing multiple lists simultaneously with zip

Can we have one loop running over two lists?

Solution 1: loop over indices

```
for i in range(len(Cdegrees)):
    print(Cdegrees[i], Fdegrees[i])
```

Solution 2: use the `zip` construct (more "Pythonic"):

```
for C, F in zip(Cdegrees, Fdegrees):
    print(C, F)
```

Example with three lists:

```
>>> l1 = [3, 6, 1];  l2 = [1.5, 1, 0];  l3 = [9.1, 3, 2]
>>> for e1, e2, e3 in zip(l1, l2, l3):
...     print(e1, e2, e3)
...
3 1.5 9.1
6 1 3
1 0 2
```

Nested lists: list of lists

- A list can contain *any* object, also another list
- Instead of storing a table as two separate lists (one for each column), we can stick the two lists together in a new list:

```
Cdegrees = list(range(-20, 41, 5)) #range returns an iterator, convert
Fdegrees = [(9.0/5)*C + 32 for C in Cdegrees]

table1 = [Cdegrees, Fdegrees]  # list of two lists

print(table1[0])    # the Cdegrees list
print(table1[1])    # the Fdegrees list
print(table1[1][2])  # the 3rd element in Fdegrees
```

Extracting sublists (or slices)

We can easily grab parts of a list:

```
>>> A = [2, 3.5, 8, 10]
>>> A[2:]   # from index 2 to end of list
[8, 10]

>>> A[1:3]  # from index 1 up to, but not incl., index 3
[3.5, 8]

>>> A[:3]   # from start up to, but not incl., index 3
[2, 3.5, 8]

>>> A[1:-1] # from index 1 to next last element
[3.5, 8]

>>> A[:]    # the whole list
[2, 3.5, 8, 10]
```

Note: sublists (slices) are *copies* of the original list!

Iteration over general nested lists

List with many indices: `somelist[i1][i2][i3]...`

Loops over list indices:

```
for i1 in range(len(somelist)):
    for i2 in range(len(somelist[i1])):
        for i3 in range(len(somelist[i1][i2])):
            for i4 in range(len(somelist[i1][i2][i3])):
                value = somelist[i1][i2][i3][i4]
                # work with value
```

Loops over sublists:

```
for sublist1 in somelist:
    for sublist2 in sublist1:
        for sublist3 in sublist2:
            for sublist4 in sublist3:
                value = sublist4
                # work with value
```

Iteration over a specific nested list

```
L = [[9, 7], [-1, 5, 6]]
for row in L:
    for column in row:
        print(column)
```

Simulate this program by hand!

Question

How can we index element with value 5?

Tuples are constant lists

Tuples are constant lists that cannot be changed:

```
>>> t = (2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf')     # define a tuple
>>> t =  2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf'      # can skip parenthesis
>>> t[1] = -1
...
TypeError: object does not support item assignment

>>> t.append(0)
...
AttributeError: 'tuple' object has no attribute 'append'

>>> del t[1]
...
TypeError: object doesn't support item deletion
```

Tuples can do much of what lists can do:

```
>>> t = t + (-1.0, -2.0)            # add two tuples
>>> t
(2, 4, 6, 'temp.pdf', -1.0, -2.0)
>>> t[1]                            # indexing
4
>>> t[2:]                           # subtuple/slice
(6, 'temp.pdf', -1.0, -2.0)
>>> 6 in t                          # membership
True
```

Why tuples when lists have more functionality?

- Tuples are constant and thus protected against accidental changes
- Tuples are faster than lists
- Tuples are widely used in Python software
  (so you need to know about them!)
- Tuples (but not lists) can be used as keys is dictionaries
  (more about dictionaries later)

Key topics from this chapter

- While loops
- Boolean expressions
- For loops
- Lists
- Nested lists
- Tuples

Summary of loops, lists and tuples

While loops and for loops:

```
while condition:
    <block of statements>

for element in somelist:
    <block of statements>
```

Lists and tuples:

```
mylist  = ['a string', 2.5, 6, 'another string']
mytuple = ('a string', 2.5, 6, 'another string')
mylist[1]  = -10
mylist.append('a third string')
mytuple[1] = -10  # illegal: cannot change a tuple
```

List operations self study: insert, delete

```
>>> C
[-10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45]
>>> C.insert(0, -15)      # insert -15 as index 0
>>> C
[-15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45]
>>> del C[2]              # delete 3rd element
>>> C
[-15, -10, 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45]
>>> del C[2]              # delete what is now 3rd element
>>> C
[-15, -10, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45]
```

List operations self study: search, negative indices

```
>>> C.index(10)    # index of the first element with value 10
3
>>> 10 in C        # is 10 an element in C?
True
>>> C[-1]          # the last list element
45
>>> C[-2]          # the next last list element
40
>>> somelist = ['book.tex', 'book.log', 'book.pdf']
>>> texfile, logfile, pdf = somelist  # assign directly to variables
>>> texfile
'book.tex'
>>> logfile
'book.log'
>>> pdf
'book.pdf'
```

List operations self study: summary

Construction	Meaning
`a = []`	initialize an empty list
`a = [1, 4.4, 'run.py']`	initialize a list
`a.append(elem)`	add `elem` object to the end
`a + [1,3]`	add two lists
`a.insert(i, e)`	insert element `e` before index `i`
`a[3]`	index a list element
`a[-1]`	get last list element
`a[1:3]`	slice: copy data to sublist (here: index 1, 2)
`del a[3]`	delete an element (index 3)
`a.remove(e)`	remove an element with value `e`
`a.index('run.py')`	find index corresponding to an element's value
`'run.py' in a`	test if a value is contained in the list
`a.count(v)`	count how many elements that have the value `v`
`len(a)`	number of elements in list `a`
`min(a)`	the smallest element in `a`
`max(a)`	the largest element in `a`
`sum(a)`	add all elements in `a`
`sorted(a)`	return sorted version of list `a`
`reversed(a)`	return reversed sorted version of list `a`
`b[3][0][2]`	nested list indexing
`isinstance(a, list)`	is `True` if `a` is a list
`type(a) is list`	is `True` if `a` is a list