STATS 507
Data Analysis in Python

Lecture 4: Dictionaries and Tuples
Two more fundamental built-in data structures

Dictionaries
Python dictionaries generalize lists
Allow indexing by arbitrary immutable objects rather than integers
Fast lookup and retrieval
https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#dictionaries

Tuples
Similar to a list, in that it is a sequence of values
But unlike lists, tuples are immutable
https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#tuples-and-sequences
Generalized lists: Python `dict()`

Python dictionary generalizes lists
- `list()`: indexed by integers
- `dict()`: indexed by (almost) any data type

Dictionary contains:
- a set of indices, called `keys`
- A set of values (called `values`, shockingly)

Each key associated with one (and only one) value
- `key-value pairs`, sometimes called `items`
- Like a function `f: keys -> values`
Dictionary maps keys to values.

E.g., ‘cat’ mapped to the float 2.718

Of course, the dictionary at the left is kind of silly. In practice, keys are often all of the same type, because they all represent a similar kind of object.

Example: might use a dictionary to map UMich unique names to people
Access the value associated to key $x$ by `dictionary[x]`.
Attempting to access the value associated to a non-existent key results in a `KeyError`, an error that Python supplies specifically for this situation.

Observe that `bird` is not a key in this dictionary, so when we try to index with it, we get an error.

```python
example_dict['bird']
```

```
KeyError: 'bird'
```
Creating and populating a dictionary

Example: University of Mishuges IT wants to store the correspondence between the usernames (UM IDs) of students to their actual names. A dictionary is a very natural data structure for this.
Creating and populating a dictionary

Create an empty dictionary (i.e., a dictionary with no key-value pairs stored in it. This should look familiar, since it is very similar to list creation.

```python
umid2name = dict()

umid2name['acstein'] = 'Albert Einstein'

umid2name['kyfan'] = 'Ky Fan'

umid2name['enoether'] = 'Emmy Noether'

umid2name['cshannon'] = 'Claude Shannon'
```

```python
1 umid2name['cshannon']

'Claude Shannon'

1 umid2name['enoether']

'Emmy Noether'

1 umid2name['enoether'] = 'Amalie Emmy Noether'

2 umid2name['enoether']

'Amalie Emmy Noether'
```
Creating and populating a dictionary

Populate the dictionary. We are adding four key-value pairs, corresponding to four users in the system.

```python
umid2name = dict()
umid2name['aeinstein'] = 'Albert Einstein'
umid2name['kyfan'] = 'Ky Fan'
umid2name['enoether'] = 'Emmy Noether'
umid2name['cshannon'] = 'Claude Shannon'
```

'Claude Shannon'

'Emmy Noether'

'Amalie Emmy Noether'
Creating and populating a dictionary

Retrieve the value associated with a key. This is called **lookup**.
Creating and populating a dictionary

Emmy Noether’s actual legal name was Amalie Emmy Noether, so we have to update her record. Note that updating is syntactically the same as initial population of the dictionary.
Displaying Items

Printing a dictionary lists its **items** (key-value pairs), in this rather odd format...

```python
example_dict
{3.1415: [1, 2, 3], 12: 'one', 'cat': 2.718, 'dog': 2.718, 'goat': 35}
```

...but I can use that format to create a new dictionary.

```python
umid2name

{'aeinstein': 'Albert Einstein',
 'cshannon': 'Claude Shannon',
 'enoether': 'Amalie Emmy Noether',
 'kyfan': 'Ky Fan'}
```

```python
umid2name = {'aeinstein': 'Albert Einstein',
             'cshannon': 'Claude Shannon',
             'enoether': 'Amalie Emmy Noether',
             'kyfan': 'Ky Fan'}
```

```python
umid2name['kyfan']

'Ky Fan'
```

**Note:** the order in which items are printed isn’t always the same, and (usually) isn’t predictable. This is due to how dictionaries are stored in memory. More on this soon.
Dictionaries have a length

```python
1 umid2name
2 {'aeinstein': 'Albert Einstein', 'cshannon': 'Claude Shannon', 'enoether': 'Amalie Emmy Noether', 'kyfan': 'Ky Fan'}

1 len(umid2name)
4

1 d = dict()
2 len(d)
0
```

Length of a dictionary is just the number of items.

Empty dictionary has length 0.

Note: we said earlier than all sequence objects support the length operation. But there exist objects that aren’t sequences that also have this attribute.
Suppose a new student, Andrey Kolmogorov is enrolling at UMish. We need to give him a unique name, but we want to make sure we aren't assigning a name that’s already taken.

```python
{'aeinstein': 'Albert Einstein', 'cshannon': 'Claude Shannon', 'enoether': 'Amalie Emmy Noether', 'kyfan': 'Ky Fan'}
```

Dictionaries support checking whether or not an element is present as a key, similar to how lists support checking whether or not an element is present in the list.

```
'akolmogorov' in umid2name
False
'
```

```
'enoether' in umid2name
True
```
Checking set membership: fast and slow

Lists and dictionaries provide our first example of how certain data structures are better for certain tasks than others.

Example: I have a large collection of phone numbers, and I need to check whether or not a given number appears in the collection. Both dictionaries and lists support membership checks of this sort, but it turns out that dictionaries are much better suited to the job.
Checking set membership: fast and slow

```python
from random import randint
listlen = 1000000
list_of_numbers = listlen*[0]
dict_of_numbers = dict()
for i in range(listlen):
    n = randint(1000000, 9999999)
    list_of_numbers[i] = n
    dict_of_numbers[n] = 1
```

This block of code generates 1000000 random “phone numbers”, and creates (1) a list of all the numbers and (2) a dictionary whose keys are all the numbers.

```
8675309 in list_of_numbers
False
```

```
1240893 in list_of_numbers
True
```

```
8675309 in dict_of_numbers
False
```

```
1240893 in dict_of_numbers
True
```
Checking set membership: fast and slow

```python
from random import randint

listlen = 1000000
list_of_numbers = listlen*[0]
dict_of_numbers = dict()
for i in range(listlen):
    n = randint(1000000, 9999999)
    list_of_numbers[i] = n
dict_of_numbers[n] = 1
```

The `random` module supports a bunch of random number generation operations. We’ll see more on this later in the course. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/random.html](https://docs.python.org/3/library/random.html)

```python
8675309 in list_of_numbers
False

1240893 in list_of_numbers
True

8675309 in dict_of_numbers
False

1240893 in dict_of_numbers
True
```
Checking set membership: fast and slow

```python
from random import randint

listlen = 1000000
list_of_numbers = listlen*[0]
dict_of_numbers = dict()

for i in range(listlen):
    n = randint(1000000, 9999999)
    list_of_numbers[i] = n
    dict_of_numbers[n] = 1
```

Initialize a list (of all zeros) and an empty dictionary.

```
8675309 in list_of_numbers
False

1240893 in list_of_numbers
True

8675309 in dict_of_numbers
False

1240893 in dict_of_numbers
True
```
Checking set membership: fast and slow

```python
from random import randint
listlen = 1000000
list_of_numbers = listlen*[0]
dict_of_numbers = dict()
for i in range(listlen):
    n = randint(1000000, 9999999)
    list_of_numbers[i] = n
    dict_of_numbers[n] = 1
```

Generate `listlen` random numbers, writing them to both the list and the dictionary.

```
8675309 in list_of_numbers
False
1240893 in list_of_numbers
True
8675309 in dict_of_numbers
False
1240893 in dict_of_numbers
True
```
Checking set membership: fast and slow

```python
from random import randint
listlen = 1000000
list_of_numbers = listlen*[0]
dict_of_numbers = dict()
for i in range(listlen):
    n = randint(1000000,9999999)
    list_of_numbers[i] = n
dict_of_numbers[n] = 1
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>8675309 in list_of_numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>False</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is slow.

This is fast.
Checking set membership: fast and slow

Let's get a more quantitative look at the difference in speed between lists and dicts.

```python
import time
start_time = time.time()
8675309 in list_of_numbers
time.time() - start_time
```

```
0.10922789573669434
```

The `time` module supports accessing the system clock, timing functions, and related operations.

https://docs.python.org/3/library/time.html

Timing parts of your program to find where performance can be improved is called **profiling** your code. Python provides some built-in tools for more profiling, which we'll discuss later in the course, if time allows.

https://docs.python.org/3/library/profile.html
Checking set membership: fast and slow

To see how long an operation takes, look at what time it is, perform the operation, and then look at what time it is again. The time difference is how long it took to perform the operation.

```
import time
start_time = time.time()
8675309 in list_of_numbers
time.time() - start_time
```

0.10922789573669434

```
import time
start_time = time.time()
8675309 in dict_of_numbers
time.time() - start_time
```

0.0002219676971435547

**Warning:** this can be influenced by other processes running on your computer. See documentation for ways to mitigate that inaccuracy.
Checking set membership: fast and slow

Checking membership in the dictionary is orders of magnitude faster! Why should that be?
Checking set membership: fast and slow

The time difference is due to how the in operation is implemented for lists and dictionaries.

Python compares $x$ against each element in the list until it finds a match or hits the end of the list. So this takes time \textit{linear} in the length of the list.

Python uses a \textbf{hash table}. For now, it suffices to know that this lets us check if $x$ is in the dictionary in (almost) the same amount of time, regardless of how many items are in the dictionary.
Let's say I have a set of 4 items:

I want to find a way to know **quickly** whether or not an item is in this set.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function $f$ maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

- $f(\text{red}) = 1$
- $f(\text{orange}) = 3$
- $f(\text{yellow}) = 2$
- $f(\text{green}) = 1$

Assign objects to buckets based on the outputs of the hash function.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?

\[ f(\text{item}) = 4 \]

Look in bucket 4. Nothing’s there, so the item wasn’t in the set.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?

\[ f(\text{item}) = 2 \]

Look in bucket 2, and we find the object, so it’s in the set.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?

\[ f(\bigcirc) = 1 \]

Look in bucket 1, and there’s more than one thing. Compare against each of them, eventually find a match.

When more than one object falls in the same bucket, we call it a hash collision.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Let’s say I have a set of 4 items:

Q: is this item in the set?

\[ f(\text{item}) = 1 \]

Look in bucket 1, and there’s more than one thing. Compare against each of them, no match, so it’s not in the set.

Worst possible case: have to check everything in the bucket only to conclude there’s no match.
Crash course: hash tables

Hash function maps objects to “buckets”

Key point: hash table lets us avoid comparing against every object in the set (provided we pick a good hash function that has few collisions)

More information:
  Downey Chapter B.4

For the purposes of this course, it suffices to know that dictionaries (and the related set object, which we'll see soon), have faster membership checking than lists because they use hash tables.
Common pattern: dictionary as counter

**Example:** counting word frequencies

**Naïve idea:** keep one variable to keep track of each word
   We’re gonna need a lot of variables!

**Better idea:** use a dictionary, keep track of only the words we see

```python
1  wdcounts = dict()
2  for w in list_of_words:
3      wdcounts[w] += 1
```

This code as written won’t work! It’s your job in one of your homework problems to flesh this out. You may find it useful to read about the `dict.get()` method:
[https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#dict.get](https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#dict.get)
Traversing a dictionary

Suppose I have a dictionary representing word counts…

...and now I want to display the counts for each word.

```python
for w in wdcnt:
    print(w, wdcnt[w])
```

This kind of traversal is, once again, a very common pattern when dealing with dictionaries. Dictionaries support iteration over their keys. They, like sequences, are **iterators**. We’ll see more of this as the course continues.

https://docs.python.org/dev/library/stdtypes.html#iterator-types

(Deconstructed) poem credit: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*
Common Pattern: Reverse Lookup and Inversion

Returning to our example, what if I want to map a (real) name to a uniqname? E.g., I want to look up Emmy Noether’s username from her real name.

```
1 umid2name

{'aeinstein': 'Albert Einstein',
 'cshannon': 'Claude Shannon',
 'enoether': 'Amalie Emmy Noether',
 'kyfan': 'Ky Fan'}
```

```
1 name2umid = dict()
2 for uname in umid2name:
3     truename = umid2name[uname]
4     name2umid[truename] = uname

{name2umid}

{'Albert Einstein': 'aeinstein',
 'Amalie Emmy Noether': 'enoether',
 'Claude Shannon': 'cshannon',
 'Ky Fan': 'kyfan'}
```

The keys of `umid2name` are the values of `name2umid` and vice versa. We say that `name2umid` is the reverse lookup table (or the inverse) for `umid2name`. 
Common Pattern: Reverse Lookup and Inversion

Returning to our example, what if I want to map a (real) name to a uniqname? E.g., I want to look up Emmy Noether’s username from her real name.

The keys of `umid2name` are the values of `name2umid` and vice versa. We say that `name2umid` is the reverse lookup table (or the inverse) for `umid2name`.

What if there are duplicate values? In the word count example, more than one word appears 2 times in the text… How do we deal with that?
Common Pattern: Reverse Lookup and Inversion

Here's our original word count dictionary (cropped for readability). Some values (e.g., 1 and 3) appear more than once.

Solution: map values with multiple keys to a list of all keys that had that value.

What if there are duplicate values? In the word count example, more than one word appears 2 times in the text... How do we deal with that?
Common Pattern: Reverse Lookup and Inversion

Here’s our original word count dictionary (cropped for readability). Some values (e.g., 1 and 3) appear more than once.

What if there are duplicate values? For example, in the word count example, more than one word appears 2 times in the text… How do we deal with that?

Solution: map values with multiple keys to a list of all keys that had that value.

Note: there is a more graceful way to do this part of the operation, mentioned in homework 2.

```python
1 print(wdct)

{'half': 3, 'a': 3, 'league': 3, 'onward': 1, 'all': 1, 'in': 1, 'the': 2, 'val1', 'six': 1, 'hundred': 1}

1 wdcnt_reverse = dict()
2 for w in wdcnt:
3     c = wdcnt[w]
4     if c in wdcnt_reverse:
5         wdcnt_reverse[c].append(w)
6     else:
7         wdcnt_reverse[c] = [w]

{1: ['onward', 'all', 'in', 'valley', 'of', 'death', 'rode', 'six', 'hundred'],
 2: ['the'],
 3: ['half', 'a', 'league']}
```
Keys Must be Hashable

```python
1 d = dict()
2 animals = ['cat','dog','bird','goat']
3 d[animals] = 1.61803
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-77-9fa9089d27b7> in <module>()
    1 d = dict()
    2 animals = ['cat','dog','bird','goat']
----> 3 d[animals] = 1.61803

TypeError: unhashable type: 'list'
```

From the documentation: “All of Python’s immutable built-in objects are hashable; mutable containers (such as lists or dictionaries) are not.”
https://docs.python.org/3/glossary.html#term-hashable
Dictionaries can have dictionaries as values!

Suppose I want to map pairs \((x,y)\) to numbers.

```python
1 times_table = dict()
2 for x in range(1,13):
3     if x not in times_table:
4         times_table[x] = dict()
5     for y in range(1,13):
6         times_table[x][y] = x*y
7 times_table[7][9]
```

Note: We’re putting this if-statement here to illustrate that in practice, we often don’t know the order in which we’re going to observe the objects we want to add to the dictionary.

Each value of \(x\) maps to another dictionary.
Dictionaries can have dictionaries as values!

Suppose I want to map pairs \((x,y)\) to numbers.

```python
1 times_table = dict()
2 for x in range(1,13):
3     if x not in times_table:
4         times_table[x] = dict()
5     for y in range(1,13):
6         times_table[x][y] = x*y
7 times_table[7][9]
```

In a few slides we’ll see a more natural way to perform this mapping in particular, but this “dictionary of dictionaries” pattern is common enough that it’s worth seeing.
Common pattern: memoization

```python
def naive_fibo(n):
    if n < 0:
        raise ValueError('Negative Fibonacci number?')
    elif n==0:
        return 0
    elif n==1:
        return 1
    else:
        return naive_fibo(n-1) + naive_fibo(n-2)
for i in range(8,13):
    print(naive_fibo(i))
```

Raise an error. You’ll need this in many of your future homeworks. [https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/errors.html#raising-exceptions](https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/errors.html#raising-exceptions)
Common pattern: memoization

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Raise an error. You’ll need this in many of your future homeworks. [https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/errors.html#raising-exceptions](https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/errors.html#raising-exceptions)

This gets slow as soon as the argument gets even moderately big. **Why?**
Common pattern: memoization

The inefficiency is clear when we draw the **call graph** of the function.

We’re doing extra work, computing the same thing over and over. This quickly gets out of hand.
Common pattern: memoization

The inefficiency is clear when we draw the **call graph** of the function. We’re doing extra work, computing the same thing over and over. This quickly gets out of hand.

**Solution:** store our computations for future reuse. This is called **memoization**.
Common pattern: memoization

This is the dictionary that we’ll use for memoization. We’ll store known[n] = fibo(n) the first time we compute fibo(n), and every time we need it again, we just look it up!

```python
known = {0: 0, 1: 1}
def fibo(n):
    if n in known:
        return known[n]
    else:
        f = fibo(n-1) + fibo(n-2)
        known[n] = f
        return f
fibo(30)
```
Common pattern: memoization

If we already know the n-th Fibonacci number, there’s no need to compute it again. Just look it up!

```python
known = {0: 0, 1: 1}
def fibo(n):
    if n in known:
        return known[n]
    else:
        f = fibo(n-1) + fibo(n-2)
        known[n] = f
        return(f)
fibonacci(30)
```
Common pattern: memoization

If we don't already know it, we have to compute it, but before we return the result, we memoize it in known for future reuse.
Common pattern: memoization

```python
import time
start_time = time.time()
naive_fibo(30)
time.time() - start_time
```

0.8452379703521729

The time difference is enormous!

```python
start_time = time.time()
fibo(30)
time.time() - start_time
```

0.0001568794250482812

Note: this was done with known set to its initial state, so this is a fair comparison.

```python
fibo(100)
```

354224848179261915075

If you try to do this with naive_fibo, you’ll be waiting for quite a bit!
Python runs out of levels of recursion. You can change this maximum recursion depth, but it can introduce instability: https://docs.python.org/3.5/library/sys.html#sys.setrecursionlimit

Our memoized Fibonacci function can compute some truly huge numbers!
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Our memoized Fibonacci function can compute some truly huge numbers!
Common pattern: memoization

```
known = {0: 0, 1: 1}
def fibo(n):
    if n in known:
        return known[n]
    else:
        f = fibo(n-1) + fibo(n-2)
        known[n] = f
        return f
fibo(30)
```

Congratulations! You’ve seen your first example of **dynamic programming**! Lots of popular interview questions fall under this purview. E.g., [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Hanoi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Hanoi)
Common pattern: memoization

```python
known = {0: 0, 1: 1}
def fibo(n):
    if n in known:
        return known[n]
    else:
        f = fibo(n-1) + fibo(n-2)
        known[n] = f
    return f

fibo(30)
```

Note: the dictionary known is declared outside the function fibo. There is a good reason for this: we don’t want known to disappear when we finish running fibo! We say that known is a global variable, because it is defined in the “main” program.
Name Spaces

A name space (or namespace) is a context in which code is executed.

The “outermost” namespace (also called a frame) is called `__main__`.

Running from the command line or in Jupyter? You’re in `__main__`.

Often shows up in error messages, something like,

“Error ... in __main__: blah blah blah”

Variables defined in `__main__` are said to be global.

Function definitions create their own local namespaces.

Variables defined in such a context are called local.

Local variables cannot be accessed from outside their frame/namespace.

Similar behavior inside for-loops, while-loops, etc.
Example: we have a program simulating a light bulb
Bulb state is represented by a global Boolean variable, `lightbulb_on`

Bulb is initially off.

Calling this function sets the bulb to the “on” state.

But after calling `lights_on`, the state variable is still `False`. What’s going on?
The fact that this code causes an error shows what is really at issue. By default, Python treats the variable `lightbulb_on` inside the function definition as being a different variable from the `lightbulb_on` defined in the main namespace. This is, generally, a good design. It prevents accidentally changing global state information.
Name Spaces

We have to tell Python that we want `lightbulb_on` to mean the `global` variable of the same name.

Tell Python that we want `lightbulb_on` to refer to the global variable of the same name.

Now, when we call `flip_switch`, the value of `lightbulb_on` is changed successfully.

```
1 lightbulb_on = False
2 def flip_switch():
3     global lightbulb_on
4     lightbulb_on = not lightbulb_on
5 flip_switch()
6 lightbulb_on
```

Warning: this is all well and good, but it is considered best practice to avoid global variables in large programs, as they can make debugging hard. This isn’t so crucial for our course, since we won’t be building anything especially large, but you should be aware of it.
Important note

Why is this okay, if known isn’t declared global?

```
known = {0:0, 1:1}
def fibo(n):
    if n in known:
        return known[n]
    else:
        f = fibo(n-1) + fibo(n-2)
        known[n] = f
    return(f)
fibo(30)
```

known is a dictionary, and thus mutable. Maybe mutable variables have special powers and don’t have to be declared as global?

Correct answer: global vs local distinction is only important for variable assignment. We aren’t performing any variable assignment in fibo, so no need for the global declaration. Contrast with lights_on, where we were reassigning lightbulb_on. Variable assignment is local by default.
Tuples

Similar to a list, in that it is a sequence of values

But unlike lists, tuples are immutable

Because they are immutable, they are hashable
   So we can use tuples where we wanted to key on a list

Documentation:

https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/datastructures.html#tuples-and-sequences
https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#tuples
Creating Tuples

Tuples created either with “comma notation”, optional parentheses.

Python always displays tuples with parentheses.

Creating a tuple of one element requires a trailing comma. Failure to include this comma, even with parentheses, yields… not a tuple.
Creating Tuples

Can also create a tuple using the `tuple()` function, which will cast any sequence to a tuple whose elements are those of the sequence.

```
1 t1 = tuple()
t1
()
```

```
1 t2 = tuple(range(5))
t2
(0, 1, 2, 3, 4)
```

```
1 t3 = tuple('goat')
t3
('g', 'o', 'a', 't')
```

```
1 tuple([[1,2,3],[4,5,6]])
tuple([[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]])
```

```
1 print(type(t2))
<class 'tuple'>
```
Tuples are Sequences

As sequences, tuples support indexing, slices, etc.

And of course, sequences have a length.

Reminder: sequences support all the operations listed here: https://docs.python.org/3.3/library/stdtypes.html#typesseq
Tuple Comparison

Tuples support comparison, which works analogously to string ordering.

0-th elements are compared. If they are equal, go to the 1-th element, etc.

Just like strings, the “prefix” tuple is ordered first.

Tuple comparison is element-wise, so we only need that each element-wise comparison is allowed by Python.
Tuples are Immutable

```python
fruits = ('apple', 'banana', 'orange', 'kiwi')
fruits[2] = 'grapefruit'
```

```
TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment
```

```
fruits = fruits[0:2] + (grapefruit,) + fruits[3:]
```

```python
('apple', 'banana', 'grapefruit', 'kiwi')
```

```
TypeError: can only concatenate tuple (not "str") to tuple
```

**Note:** even though `'grapefruit'` is a tuple, Python doesn’t know how to parse this line. Use parentheses!
Useful trick: tuple assignment

Tuples in Python allow us to make many variable assignments at once. Useful tricks like this are sometimes called *syntactic sugar*. 
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syntactic_sugar

```python
# Common pattern: swap the values of two variables.

tmp = a
a = b
b = tmp
print(a, b)
```

```python
# This line achieves the same end, but in a single assignment statement instead of three, and without the extra variable tmp.

a = 10
b = 5
(a, b) = (b, a)
print(a, b)
```
Useful trick: tuple assignment

Tuple assignment requires one variable on the left for each expression on the right.

```python
1 (x,y,z) = (2*'cat', 0.57721, [1,2,3])
2 (x,y,z)
('catcat', 0.57721, [1, 2, 3])
```

If the number of variables doesn’t match the number of expressions, that’s an error.

```python
1 (x,y,z) = ('a','b','c','d')
```

```
ValueError Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-68-e118c50f83dd> in <module>()
----> 1 (x,y,z) = ('a','b','c','d')

ValueError: too many values to unpack (expected 3)
```

```python
1 (x,y,z) = ('a','b')
```

```
ValueError Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-69-875f95cea434> in <module>()
----> 1 (x,y,z) = ('a','b')

ValueError: not enough values to unpack (expected 3, got 2)
```
Useful trick: tuple assignment

```python
1 email = 'klevin@umich.edu'
2 email.split('@')
['klevin', 'umich.edu']
```

The `string.split()` method returns a list of strings, obtained by splitting the calling string on the characters in its argument.

```python
1 (user, domain) = email.split('@')
2 user
'klevin'
```

Tuple assignment works so long as the right-hand side is any sequence, provided the number of variables matches the number of elements on the right. Here, the right-hand side is a list, `[‘klevin’, ‘umich.edu’]`.

```python
1 domain
'umich.edu'
```

A string is a sequence, so tuple assignment is allowed. Sequence elements are characters, and indeed, `x`, `y` and `z` are assigned to the three characters in the string.

```python
1 (x,y,z) = 'cat'
2 print(x, y, z)
cat
```
Tuples as Return Values

This function takes a list of numbers and returns a tuple summarizing the list. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five-number_summary

```python
import random
def five_numbers(t):
    t.sort()
    n = len(t)
    return (t[0], t[n//4], t[n//2], t[(3*n)//4], t[-1])
five_numbers([1,2,3,4,5,6,7])
```

```
(1, 2, 4, 6, 7)
```

```python
randnumlist = [random.randint(1,100) for x in range(60)]
(mini, lowq, med, upq, maxi) = five_numbers(randnumlist)
(mini, lowq, med, upq, maxi)
```

```
(3, 27, 54, 73, 98)
```

**Test your understanding:** what does this list comprehension do?
Tuples as Return Values

More generally, sometimes you want more than one return value

def divmod(a, b):
    return a // b, a % b

def main():
    quotient, remainder = divmod(13, 4)
    print(f'Quotient: {quotient}, Remainder: {remainder}')

main()
Useful trick: variable-length arguments

```python
def my_min( *args ):
    return min(args)
my_min(1,2,3)
```

A parameter name prefaced with *\text{gathers} all arguments supplied to the function into a tuple.

```python
my_min(4,5,6,10)
```

```python
def print_all( *args ):
    print(args)
    print_all('cat', 'dog', 'bird')
('cat', 'dog', 'bird')
```

\textbf{Note}: this is also one of several ways that one can implement optional arguments, though we’ll see better ways later in the course.
The opposite of the gather operation is **scatter**

```python
1 t = (13, 4)
2 divmod(t)
```

```python
TypeError
Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-106-c7c0a10eef7e> in <module>()
 1 t = (13, 4)
----> 2 divmod(t)

TypeError: divmod expected 2 arguments, got 1
```

```python
1 divmod(*t)
```

```
(3, 1)
```

Instead, we have to “untuple” the tuple, using the **scatter** operation. This makes the elements of the tuple into the arguments of the function.

**Note:** gather/scatter only works in certain contexts (e.g., for function arguments).
Combining lists: `zip`

Python includes a number of useful functions for combining lists and tuples

```python
1 t1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'kiwi']
2 t2 = [1, 2, 3, 4]
3 zip(t1, t2)

<zip at 0x10c95d5c8>
```

`zip()` returns a zip object, which is an `iterator` containing as its elements tuples formed from its arguments. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#zip](https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#zip)

```python
1 for tup in zip(t1, t2):
2     print(tup)

('apple', 1)
('orange', 2)
('banana', 3)
('kiwi', 4)
```

Iterators are, in essence, objects that support for-loops. All sequences are iterators. Iterators support, crucially, a method `__next__()`, which returns the “next element”. We’ll see this in more detail later in the course. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#iterator-types](https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#iterator-types)
Combining lists: `zip`

`zip()` returns a zip object, which is an iterator containing as its elements tuples formed from its arguments. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#zip](https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#zip)

Given arguments of different lengths, `zip` defaults to the shortest one.

`zip` takes any number of arguments, so long as they are all iterable. Sequences are iterable.

Iterables are, essentially, objects that can become iterators. We’ll see the distinction later in the course. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#typeiter](https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#typeiter)
Combining lists: `zip`

`zip` is especially useful for iterating over several lists in lockstep.

```python
def count_matches(s, t):
    cnt = 0
    for a, b in zip(s, t):
        if a == b:
            cnt += 1
    return cnt

count_matches([[1, 1, 2, 3, 5], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]])
```

Test your understanding: what should this return?
Combining lists: `zip`

`zip` is especially useful for iterating over several lists in lockstep.

```python
def count_matches(s, t):
    cnt = 0
    for a, b in zip(s, t):
        if a == b:
            cnt += 1
    return cnt

count_matches([[1, 1, 2, 3, 5], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]])
```

Test your understanding: what should this return?
Related function: `enumerate()`

```python
for t in enumerate('goat'):
    print(t)
```

```python
s = 'goat'
for i in range(len(s)):
    print((i, s[i]))
```

`enumerate` returns an `enumerate object`, which is an iterator of (index,element) pairs. It is a more graceful way of performing the pattern below, which we’ve seen before. [https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#enumerate](https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#enumerate)
Dictionaries revisited

```python
hist = {'cat': 3, 'dog': 12, 'goat': 18}
print(hist.items())
dict_items([(\'cat\', 3), (\'dog\', 12), (\'goat\', 18)])

for k,v in hist.items():
    print(k, ':', v)
cat: 3
dog: 12
goat: 18

d = dict([(0,\'zero\'),(1,\'one\'),(2,\'two\')])
print(d)
{0: \'zero\', 1: \'one\', 2: \'two\'}

dict( zip(\'cat\',\'dog\'))
{\'a\': \'o\', \'c\': \'d\', \'t\': \'g\'}
```

dict.items() returns a dict_items object, an iterator whose elements are (key,value) tuples.

Conversely, we can create a dictionary by supplying a list of (key,value) tuples.
Tuples as Keys

In (most) Western countries, the family name is said last (hence “last name”), but it is frequently useful to key on this name before keying on a given name.

Keying on tuples is especially useful for representing sparse structures. Consider a 20-by-20 matrix in which most entries are zeros. Storing all the entries requires 400 numbers, but if we only record the entries that are nonzero...
Data Structures: Lists vs Tuples

Use a **list** when:
- Length is not known ahead of time and/or may change during execution
- Frequent updates are likely

Use a **tuple** when:
- The set is unlikely to change during execution
- Need to key on the set (i.e., require immutability)
- Want to perform multiple assignment or for use in variable-length arg list

Most code you see will use lists, because mutability is quite useful