

Lecture 11, 11 September 2025

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Programming and Data Structures with Python

Variables & Values

Mutable vs Immutable



Call by
reference



Call by
value

"Aliasing"

Scope

```
def setx():  
    x = 5
```

```
setx()
```

```
x? print(x)?
```

Scope of a variable/name
⇒ where it is available
setx() defines a "local" x

Scope vs lifetime

```
def setx():
```

```
    x = 5
```

```
x = 0
```

```
setx()
```

```
print(x) ~?
```

2 different x :

"Global" $x \leftarrow 0$

"Local" x in `setx()` $\leftarrow 5$

"Name space"

Scope Lifetime

```
def setx():
```

$x = 5$

$x = 0$

setx()

print(x) ~?

$x = 0$

setx()

$x = 5$

print(x)

Global x	S	L	Local x	S	L
✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
↓					
	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
↓					
✓	✓	✓	x	x	x

Function calls & Memory

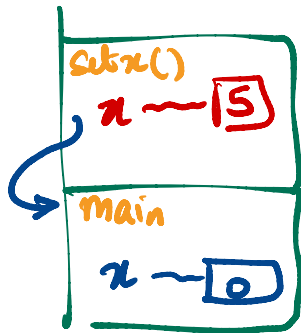
Stack

Last In
First Out

```
def setx():
```

```
    x = 3
```

```
"main" | x = 0  
      | setx()  
      | print(x) ~?
```



```
def sety():
```

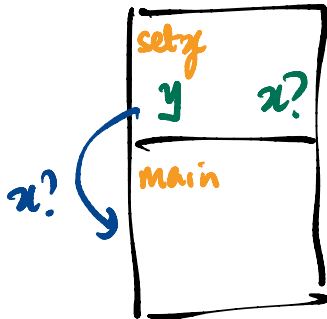
```
    y = x + 5 ?
```

```
    print(y) ?
```

↙
x = 3

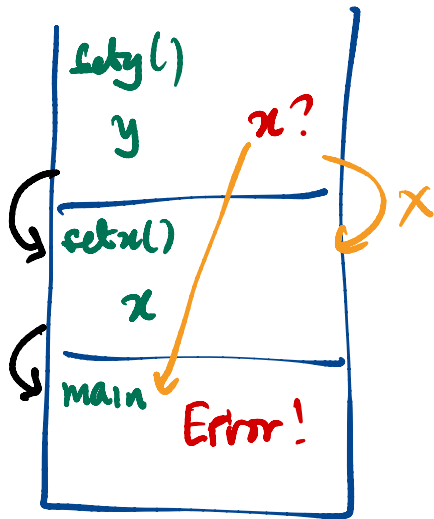
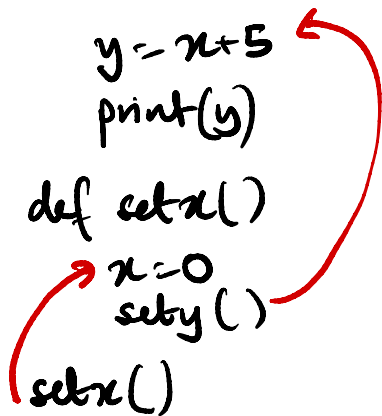
```
sety()
```

Global x is available in sety()
if it is not redefined



Static Scope

```
def sety():  
    y = x + 5  
    print(y)  
  
def setx()  
    x = 0  
    sety()  
  
setx()
```



Static vs dynamic scope

```
def city():
```

```
    y = x + 5
```

```
    print(y)
```

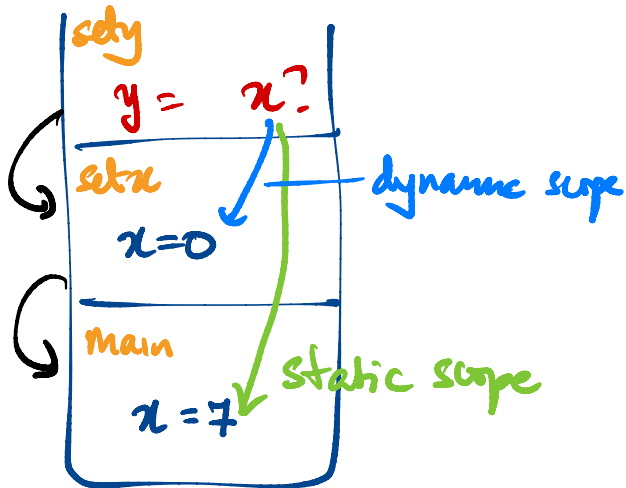
```
def setx():
```

```
    x = 0
```

```
    city()
```

```
x = 7
```

```
setx()
```



def f():

def g():

≡

Code fn
f

← local to f()

Static scope

$g \rightsquigarrow f \rightsquigarrow \text{main}$

```
def sety(a):
```

```
    if a < 0:
```

```
        y = 7
```

```
        print(x) — Error
```

```
    else:
```

```
        x = g(a)
```

```
        y = x + 9
```

$x = 22$

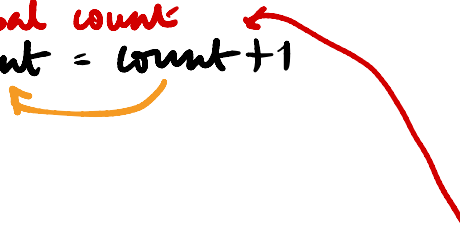
if False:

$x = g(a)$

Never execute

$y = x + 7$

```
def increment():  
    global count  
    count = count + 1
```



```
count = 0  
increment()
```

How would you write
something like this

Tell Python that both
"count" are same

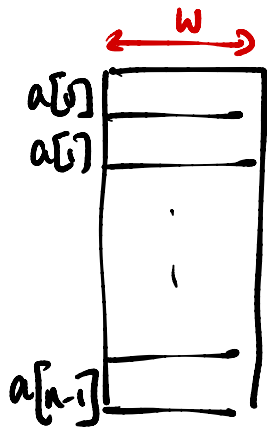
Arrays, Lists, Dictionaries



Array

Contiguous block of memory

Each entry of same size

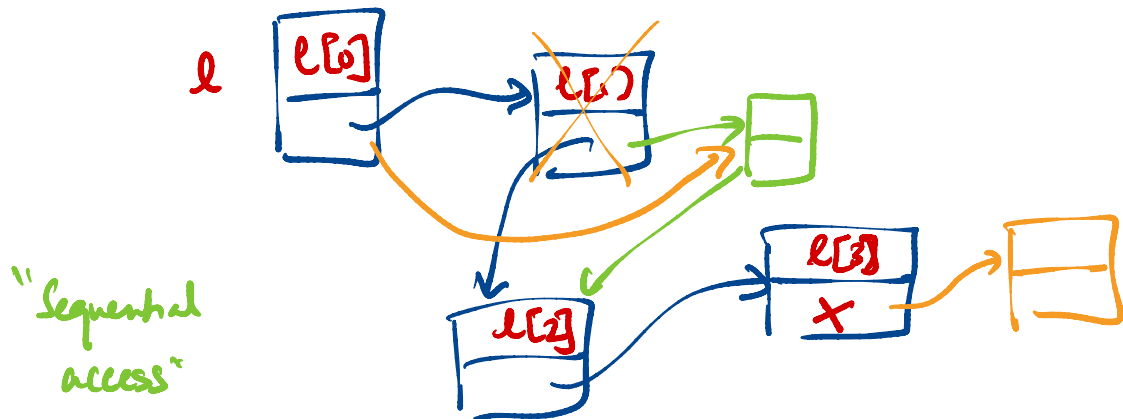


"Random
access"

$a[i]?$ $a[0] + i \times W$

Index lookup is "constant
time"

List

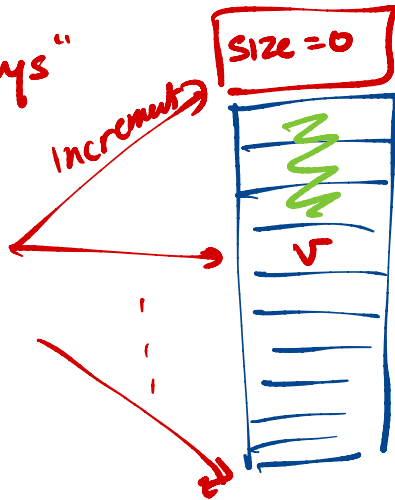


Python lists ?

"Flexible arrays"

`l = []`

`l.append(v)`



Run out space

Allocate double the space

Copy — Not unit cost

$a[i] = v$ — Original unit cost
— One unit of copy cost

"Amortised" cost

In array

$\text{del}(a[i])$ Undefined $a[i]$

$a[0 \dots i-1] \quad [i+1 \dots n-1]$

←
shift left

$a.\text{insert}(0, v)$