

Lecture 11, 15 September 2026

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Programming and Data Structures with Python

Arrays, Lists, Dictionaries

Arrays : Contiguous storage, "random" access
Insertion/deletion is expensive

Lists : Flexible storage, spend time prop to i to access $l[i]$, Insertion/deletion is constant time, "re-plumbing"



Python "lists" are arrays

Extra space - double the allocation & copy the elements

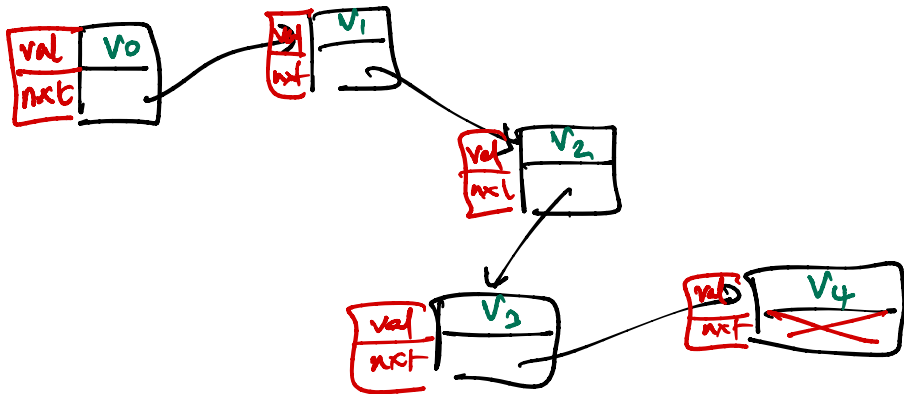
"Amortized" cost analysis

Dictionaries

key $k \rightsquigarrow$ hash $h(k) \rightsquigarrow$ location

↳ inserts are constant time (assuming no collisions!)

Lists



Dictionary implementation

Empty list:

$dl = \{\}$

Insert 5

$dl["val"] = 5$

$dl["next"] = \{\}$

val	5
next	$\{\}$

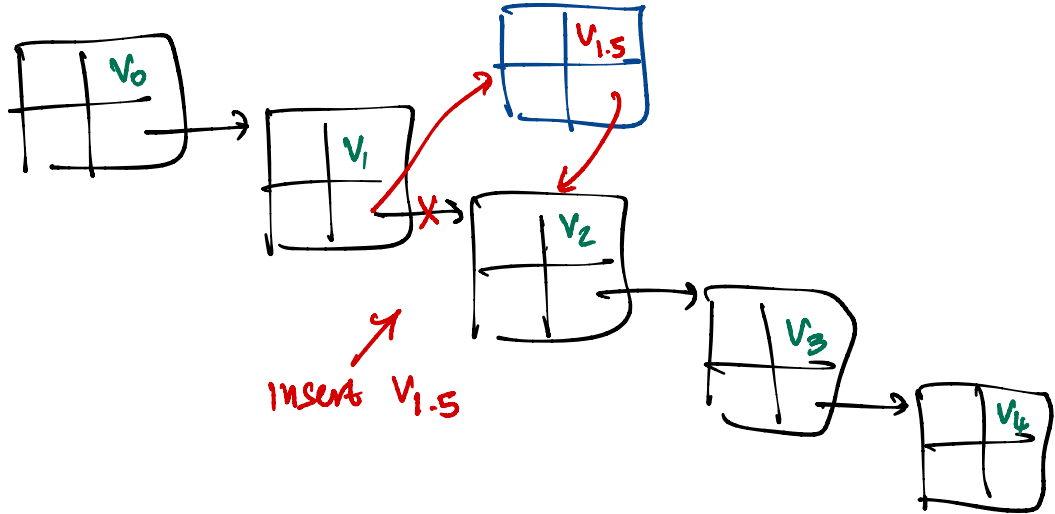
Append 7

$dl["next"]["val"] = 5$

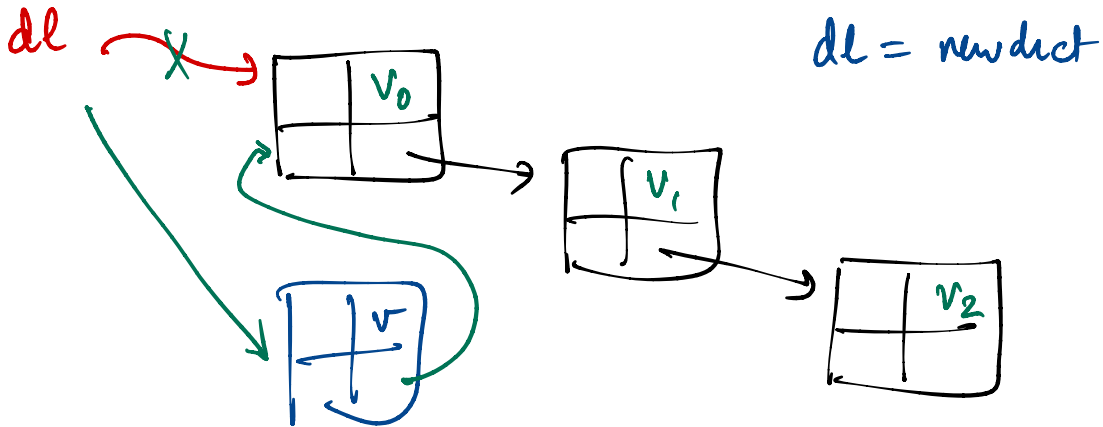
$dl["next"]["next"] = \{\}$

val	6
next	$\{\}$

Insert



$l.insert(0, v)$



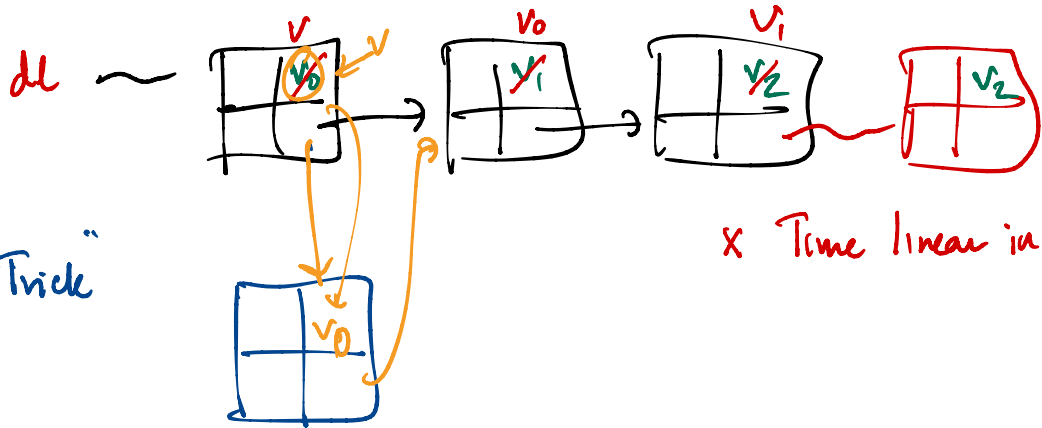
recall

def badconcat (l_1, l_2):

$l_1 = l_1 + l_2$
return

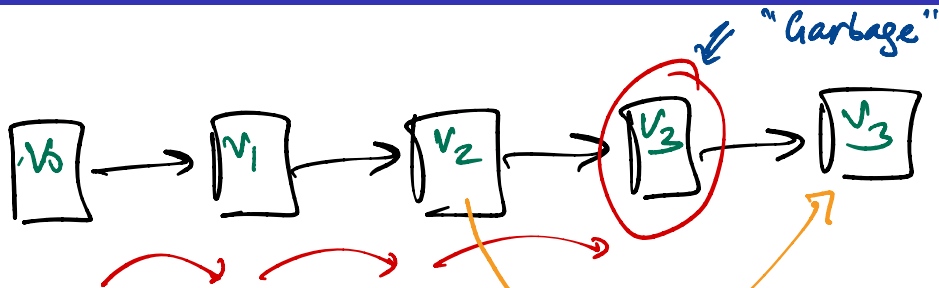
(vs $l_1.\text{extend}(l_2)$)

new
local
 l_1



delete

del. v_3



look ahead — if next value is v_3 ,
bypass

Inductive definitions

Proof by induction

Prove for $n=0$ "base case"

If it holds for n , it holds for $n+1$ "induction step"

$$\sum_{i=0}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n+1$$

Factorial

Base case: $0! = 1$

$$n+1! : (n!) \times (n+1)$$

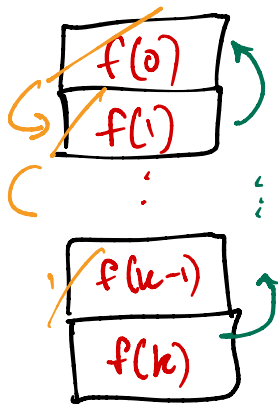
"Compute" $f(k)$, where f is defined inductively.

Base case? $k=0 \rightarrow \text{return } f(0)$

$k > 0 \rightarrow \text{compute } f(k-1)$

"combine" $f(k-1), k$ to get $f(k)$

$f(k) \rightarrow \text{compute } f(k-1) \rightarrow \text{compute } f(k-2)$



$\vdots$
 $f(0)$

"Recursion"

Data structures are also inductive

List is

either empty

or a value followed by a list

Append v to l

if l is empty

 "create" a dictionary with v

otherwise

 append v to $l["next"]$