

Sorting

Ruth Anderson

UW CSE 160

Spring 2018

sorted vs. sort

- `sorted(itr)` - is a function that takes an iterable as a parameter (e.g. sequence types: list, string, tuple) and returns a sorted version of that parameter
- `lst.sort` - is a method that sorts the list that it is called on in-place (and returns **None**). `.sort` can only be called on lists

```
my_lst = [5, 3, 4, 2]
```

```
print sorted(my_lst)
```

→ [2, 3, 4, 5]

Returns a new sorted list

```
print my_lst
```

→ [5, 3, 4, 2]

Does not modify original list

```
my_lst.sort()
```

```
print my_lst
```

→ [2, 3, 4, 5]

Modifies the list **in place**, returns **None**

sorted vs. sort example

```
hamlet = "to be or not to be that is the  
question whether tis nobler in the mind to  
suffer".split()
```

```
print "hamlet:", hamlet
```

```
print "sorted(hamlet):", sorted(hamlet)  
print "hamlet:", hamlet
```

```
print "hamlet.sort():", hamlet.sort()  
print "hamlet:", hamlet
```

Returns a new sorted list (does not modify the original list)

Modifies the list in place, returns None

- Lists are **mutable** – they can be changed
 - including by functions

Customizing the sort order

Goal: sort a list of names *by last name*

```
names = ["Isaac Newton", "Albert Einstein", "Niels  
Bohr", "Marie Curie", "Charles Darwin", "Louis  
Pasteur", "Galileo Galilei", "Margaret Mead"]
```

```
print "names:", names
```

This does not work:

```
print "sorted(names):", sorted(names)
```

When sorting, how should we compare these names?

```
"Niels Bohr"
```

```
"Charles Darwin"
```

Sort key

- A **sort key** is a **function** that can be called on each list element to extract/create a value that will be used to make comparisons.
- We can use this to sort on a value (e.g. “last_name”) other than the actual list element (e.g. “first_name last_name”).
- We could use the following function as a sort key to help us sort by last names:

```
def last_name(str):  
    return str.split(" ")[1]
```

```
print 'last_name("Isaac Newton"):', last_name("Isaac Newton")
```

Use a sort key as the key argument

Supply the **key argument** to the **sorted** function or the **sort** function

```
def last_name(str):  
    return str.split(" ")[1]
```

```
names = ["Isaac Newton", "Ada Lovelace", "Fig Newton", "Grace Hopper"]  
print sorted(names, key=last_name)
```

```
print sorted(names, key=len)
```

```
def last_name_len(name):  
    return len(last_name(name))
```

```
print sorted(names, key=last_name_len)
```

If there is a tie in last names, preserves original order of values.

itemgetter is a function that returns a function

Useful for creating a function that will return particular elements from a sequence (e.g. list, string, tuple):

`import operator`

Returns a **function**

Call **function** passing in this **list** as an argument

<code>operator.itemgetter(2) ([7, 3, 8])</code>	<code>→ 8</code>
<code>operator.itemgetter(0) ([7, 3, 8])</code>	<code>→ 7</code>
<code>operator.itemgetter(1) ([7, 3, 8])</code>	<code>→ 3</code>
<code>operator.itemgetter(0, 1) ([7, 3, 8])</code>	<code>→ (7, 3)</code>
<code>operator.itemgetter(3) ([7, 3, 8])</code>	<code>→</code>

`IndexError: list index out of range`

A **tuple**

Itemgetter Example

```
import operator
```

Returns a **function**

Call **function** passing in this **string** as an argument

```
operator.itemgetter(2, 7, 9, 10) ("dumbstricken")  
operator.itemgetter(2, 5, 7, 9) ("homesickness")  
operator.itemgetter(2, 7, 9, 10) ("pumpernickel")  
operator.itemgetter(2, 3, 6, 7) ("seminaked")  
operator.itemgetter(1, 2, 4, 5) ("smirker")  
# Could even return elements in a different order  
operator.itemgetter(9, 7, 6, 1) ("beatnikism")  
operator.itemgetter(14, 13, 5, 1) ("Gedankenexperiment")  
operator.itemgetter(12, 10, 9, 5) ("mountebankism")
```


Two ways to Import `itemgetter`

```
import operator
```

```
student_score = ('Robert', 8)
```

```
operator.itemgetter(0)(student_score) ⇒ "Robert"
```

```
operator.itemgetter(1)(student_score) ⇒ 8
```

A tuple

Or

```
from operator import itemgetter
```

```
student_score = ('Robert', 8)
```

```
itemgetter(0)(student_score) ⇒ "Robert"
```

```
itemgetter(1)(student_score) ⇒ 8
```

Another way to import, allows you to call `itemgetter` directly.

Using itemgetter

```
from operator import itemgetter
```

Another way to import, allows you to call `itemgetter` directly.

```
student_score = ('Robert', 8)
```

```
itemgetter(0)(student_score) ⇒ "Robert"
```

```
itemgetter(1)(student_score) ⇒ 8
```

```
student_scores =
```

```
[('Robert', 8), ('Alice', 9), ('Tina', 7)]
```

Sort the list by **name**:

```
sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(0))
```

Sort the list by **score**

```
sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(1))
```

Sorting based on two criteria

Goal: sort based on score;
if there is a tie within score, sort by name

Two approaches:

Approach #1: Use an itemgetter with two arguments

Approach #2: Sort twice (most important sort *last*)

```
student_scores = [('Robert', 8), ('Alice', 9),  
                  ('Tina', 10), ('James', 8)]
```

Approach #1:

```
sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(1,0))
```

Approach #2:

```
sorted_by_name = sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(0))  
sorted_by_score = sorted(sorted_by_name, key=itemgetter(1))
```

Sort on most important criteria LAST

- Sorted by score (ascending), when there is a tie on score, sort using name

```
from operator import itemgetter
student_scores = [('Robert', 8), ('Alice', 9), ('Tina', 10), ('James', 8)]
```

```
sorted_by_name = sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(0))
```

```
>>> sorted_by_name
```

```
[('Alice', 9), ('James', 8), ('Robert', 8), ('Tina', 10)]
```

```
sorted_by_score = sorted(sorted_by_name, key=itemgetter(1))
```

```
>>> sorted_by_score
```

```
[('James', 8), ('Robert', 8), ('Alice', 9), ('Tina', 10)]
```

More sorting based on two criteria

If you want to sort different criteria **in different directions**, you must use multiple calls to `sort` or `sorted`

```
student_scores = [('Robert', 8), ('Alice', 9), \
                  ('Tina', 10), ('James', 8)]
```

Goal: sort score from **highest to lowest**; if there is a tie within score, sort by name alphabetically (= **lowest to highest**)

```
sorted_by_name = sorted(student_scores, key=itemgetter(0))
sorted_by_hi_score = sorted(sorted_by_name,
                             key=itemgetter(1), reverse=True)
```

Remember: Sort on most important criteria LAST

Digression: Lexicographic Order

'Aaron'	[1, 9, 9]
'Andrew'	[2, 1]
'Angie'	[3]
'with'	[1]
'withhold'	[1, 1]
'withholding'	[1, 1, 1]
'Able'	[1, 1]
'Charlie'	[1, 1, 2]
'baker'	[1, 2]
'delta'	[1, 2]

Sorting: strings vs. numbers

- Sorting the powers of 5:

```
>>> sorted([125, 5, 3125, 625, 25])  
[5, 25, 125, 625, 3125]
```

```
>>> sorted(["125", "5", "3125", "625", "25"])  
['125', '25', '3125', '5', '625']
```

Aside: Use a sort key to create a new list

Create a **different list** that contains the value returned by the sort key, sort it, then extract the relevant part:

```
names = ["Isaac Newton", "Fig Newton", "Niels Bohr"]
# keyed_names is a list of [lastname, fullname] lists
keyed_names = []
for name in names:
    keyed_names.append([last_name(name), name])

sorted_keyed_names = sorted(keyed_names)
sorted_names = []
for keyed_name in sorted_keyed_names:
    sorted_names.append(keyed_name[1])
print "sorted_names:", sorted_names
```

1) Create the new list.

2) Sort the list new list.
If there is a tie in last names, sort by next item in list: fullname

3) Extract the relevant part.