Outline

abstract data types (ADTs)

implement an ADT with a class

idiomatic python
common ADTs

In CS we recycle our intuition about the outside world as ADTs. We abstract the data and operations:

- **Lists**
  - sequences of items; can be added, removed, accessed by position

- **Stacks**
  - specialized list where we only have access to most recently added item

- **Dictionaries**
  - collection of items accessed by their associated keys
stack example

visit this visualization of code and step through it

The calls to first and second are stored on a stack that defies gravity by growing downward
We’ll use this real-world description of a stack for our design:

A **stack** contains items of various sorts. New items are **pushed** on to the top of the stack, items may only be **popped** from the top of the stack. It’s a mistake to try to remove an item from an empty stack. We can tell how **big** a stack is, and what the **top item** is.

Take a few minutes to identify the main noun, verb, and attributes of the main noun, to guide our class design. Remember to be flexible about alternate names and designs for the same class.
The public interface of our Stack ADT should be constant, but inside we could implement it in various ways

- Use a python list, which already has a pop method and an append method

- Use a python list, but push and pop from position 0

- Use a python dictionary with integer keys 0, 1, ..., keeping track of the last index used
Use your docstring for testing as you develop, but use **unit testing** to make sure that your particular implementation remains consistent with your ADT’s interface. Be sure to:

- import the module `unittest`

- subclass `unittest.TestCase` for your tests, and begin each method that carries out a test with the string `test`

- compose `tests` before and during implementation
going with the (pep) tide

Python is more flexible than the community you are coding in. Try to figure out what the python way is

- don’t re-invent the wheel (except for academic exercises), e.g. sum, set

- use comprehensions when you mean to produce a new list (tuple, dictionary, set, ...)

- use ternary iff when you want an expression that evaluates in different ways, depending on a condition