CSC148 winter 2014
linked structures
week 7

Danny Heap
heap@cs.toronto.edu
BA4270 (behind elevators)
http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/148/W14/
416-978-5899

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Outline
Start by designing a class hierarchy. What information is needed for each type of regular expression tree? What information is specialized? What’s general? Look at last week’s Tree class for ideas.
linear trees?

Trees of arity (branching factor) 1 can be thought of as a sequence of lists. Every node has no more than one child, and every node (other than the lone leaf) has no less than one child.
linked lists, conceptually

- **data**: Sequence of nodes, each with a head (value) and a reference to rest (its successors).

- **operations**: prepend(value), _contains_(value)
class LinkedList:
    '''Linked list class'''

def __init__(self: 'LinkedList', head: object=None, rest: 'LinkedList'=None) -> None:
    '''Create a new LinkedList.
    head - The first element of the linked list,
    Not present if self will be the empty linked list.
    rest - The linked list that contains the elements after head
    Not present if self will be the empty linked list.'''
    self.empty = (head is None) and (rest is None)
    if not self.empty:
        self.head = head
        if rest is None:
            self.rest = LinkedList()
        else:
            self.rest = rest
design choices

**LinkedList** initialization reveals design choices

- **LinkedList()** creates an empty list — how do you know?

- empty lists are special — where can they occur, and what might they mean?

- it’s possible for `head` to refer to `None` — why might you want this?

- **rest** refers to another **LinkedList** with the same structure

This isn’t the only design for a linked list, for example How to think like a computer scientist show the “wrapper” approach.
implement `prepend(head)`

main goals are to preserve the list identity (same id) and preserve the previous contents

- start the rest of the list with the current attributes (shallow copy them)
- change the current head to the one passed in
- change the current rest to the copy!

Try drawing the result of `prepend(5)`

```
12 • 99 • 37 •
```
implement \_\_contains\_

There are really three possibilities:

- this LinkedList is empty, so it can’t possibly contain the value being sought

- the head of this LinkedList matches the value we seek

- the head doesn’t match, so check whether the rest contains the value we seek