



# ASK THE RECRUITER: *UNC CS CAREER PANEL*

Learn how to stand out as an applicant, the dos and don'ts of reaching out, recruiting timelines, and more!

Plus, you will have a chance to ask your questions and network following the event.



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**OCT 1**

**6:30 PM | SN014**





# Sets and Dictionaries

# Announcements

- CQ02 (released on Friday) due today at 11:59pm
  - Follow along with the [video](#) and submit your completed memory diagram to Gradescope
  - If you submitted a different memory diagram, please resubmit with this memory diagram
- EX03 – List Utils due today at 11:59pm
- Quiz 01 regrade requests open till Wednesday at 11:59pm
- Quiz 02 on Friday, Oct 10
  - If you will have a university-approved absence on 10/10 and you want to take the quiz, let me know ahead of time
  - If you take your quizzes with ARS, please ensure you are scheduled to take it with them

# Limits of Lists for collections of data (1/2)

Using a list, we *could* store everyone in COMP110's PID associated with ONYEN

list[str]	
Index	Value
0	""
1	""
... 710,453,081 items elided ...	
710453084	"krisj"
... 9,857,700 items elided ...	
720310785	"abyrnes1"
... 9,809,924 items elided ...	
730120710	"ihinks"

Warm-up question:  
Why does using a `list[str]` feel  
wrong/inefficient?

## Limits of Lists for collections of data (2/2)

onyens:

list[str]	
Index	Value
0	"ihinks"
1	"abyrnes1"
2	"sjiang3"
... 296 items elided ...	
299	"krisj"

pids:

list[int]	
Index	Value
0	730120710
1	720310785
2	730820837
... 296 items elided ...	
299	710453084

Suppose we model ONYENs and PIDs with lists. One list has ONYENs, the other has the person's PID at the same index.

**Given the onyen "sjiang3", how do you algorithmically find their PID?**

We could use the `in` operator (a new concept)...

```
1  # Pretend we initialized pids to hold all of our PIDs
2  pids: list[int] = [700000000, 700000001, 700000002, ..., 710453084, 730120710]
3  pids_of_interest: list[int] = [710453084, 730120710]
4  idx: int = 0
5  while idx < len(pids_of_interest):
6      if pids_of_interest[idx] in pids:
7          print("We found a PID in the list!")
8      idx += 1
```

... but try to avoid using it on lists!

# Enter: sets!

Sets, like lists, are a *data structure* for storing collections of values.

Unlike lists, sets are *unordered* and each value has to be *unique*.

Lists: *always* zero-based, sequential, integer indices!

Benefit of sets: testing for the existence of an item takes only one “operation,” regardless of the set’s size.

```
pids: set[int] = {730120710, 730234567, 730000000}
```

Great! ... But what if we want to associate people’s PIDs with their ONYENs in a data structure?

# Enter: Dictionaries!

Dictionaries, like lists, are a *data structure* for storing collections of values.

Unlike lists, dictionaries give *you* the ability to decide what to *index* your data by.

Lists: *always* zero-based, sequential, integer indices!

Dictionaries are indexed by keys associated with values. *This is a unique, one-way mapping!*

Analogous: A real-world dictionary's keys are *words* and associated values are *definitions*.

pid\_to\_onyen:

dict[int, str]	
key	value
730120710	"ihinks"
710453084	"krisj"
720310785	"abyrnes1"

onyen\_to\_seat:

dict[str, str]	
key	value
"ihinks"	"A1"
"abyrnes1"	"A2"
"sjiang3"	"A3"
"krisj"	"N17"



# Let's diagram key concepts

```
1  # USD exchange rate to other currencies
2  exchange: dict[str, float] = {
3      "CNY": 7.10, # Chinese Yuan
4      "GBP": 0.77, # British Pound
5      "DKK": 6.86, # Danish Kroner
6  }
7
8  dollars: float = 100.0
9
10 # Access dictionary value by its key
11 pounds: float = dollars * exchange["GBP"]
12
13 # Append a key-value entry to dictionary
14 exchange["EUR"] = 0.92
15
16 # Update a key-value entry in dictionary
17 exchange["CNY"] -= 1.00
18
19 # len is the number of key-value entries
20 count: int = len(exchange)
```

# Let's explore Dictionary syntax in VSCode together...

In your cl directory, add a file named cl22\_dictionaries.py with the following starter:

```
"""Examples of dictionary syntax with Ice Cream Shop order tallies."""
```

```
ice_cream: dict[str, int] = {  
    "chocolate": 12,  
    "vanilla": 8,  
    "strawberry": 4,  
}
```

Save, then open up this file in Trailhead's REPL and we will explore key syntax together.

Ready to go? Try evaluating the following expression:

```
ice_cream["vanilla"] += 110
```

# Syntax

Data type:

```
name: dict[<key type>, <value type>]  
temps: dict[str, float]
```

Construct an empty dict:

```
temps: dict[str, float] = dict() or  
temps: dict[str, float] = {}
```

Construct a populated dict:

```
temps: dict[str, float] = {"Florida": 72.5, "Raleigh": 56.0}
```

## *Let's try it!*

Create a dictionary called ice\_cream that stores the following orders

Keys	Values
chocolate	12
vanilla	8
strawberry	5

# Length of dictionary

`len(<dict name>)`

`len(temps)`

## *Let's try it!*

Print out the length of ice\_cream.

What exactly is this telling you?

# Adding elements

We use subscription notation.

`<dict name>[<key>] = <value>`

`temps["DC"] = 52.1`

*Let's try it!*

Add 3 orders of "mint" to your  
ice\_cream dictionary.

## Access + Modify

To access a value,  
use subscription notation:

```
<dict name>[<key>]  
temps["DC"]
```

To modify, also use subscription notation:

```
<dict name>[<key>] = new_value  
temps["DC"] = 53.1 or temps["DC"] += 1
```

### *Let's try it!*

Print out how many orders there  
are of "chocolate".  
Update the number of orders of  
Vanilla to 10.

# Important Note: Can't Have Multiple of Same Key

(Duplicate values are okay.)

Flavor	Num Orders
"chocolate"	12
"vanilla"	10
"strawberry"	5
"chocolate"	10

Flavor	Num Orders
"chocolate"	12
"vanilla"	10
"strawberry"	5
"mint"	5

# Check if key in dictionary

`<key> in <dict name>`

`"DC" in temps`

`"Florida" in temps`

## *Let's try it!*

Check if both the flavors "mint" and "chocolate" are in ice\_cream.

Write a conditional that behaves the following way:  
If "mint" is in ice\_cream, print out how many orders of "mint" there are.  
If it's not, print "no orders of mint".



# Removing elements

Similar to lists, we use pop()

```
<dict name>.pop(<key>)
```

```
temps.pop("Florida")
```

*Let's try it!*

Remove the orders of "strawberry"  
from ice\_cream.

# "for" Loops

"for" loops iterate over the **keys** by default

## Let's try it!

Use a for loop to print:  
chocolate has 12 orders.  
vanilla has 10 orders.  
strawberry has 5 orders.

```
for key in ice_cream:  
    print(key)
```

```
for key in ice_cream:  
    print(ice_cream[key])
```

Flavor	Num Orders
"chocolate"	12
"vanilla"	10
"strawberry"	5

This is the code we wrote together,  
for reference.

```
1  """Examples of dictionary syntax with Ice Cream Shop order tallies."""
2
3  # Dictionary type is dict[key_type, value_type].
4  # Dictionary literals are curly brackets
5  # that surround with key:value pairs.
6  ice_cream: dict[str, int] = {
7      "chocolate": 12,
8      "vanilla": 8,
9      "strawberry": 4,
10 }
11
12 # len evaluates to number of key-value entries
13 print(f"{len(ice_cream)} flavors")
14
15 # Add key-value entries using subscription notation
16 ice_cream["mint"] = 3
17
18 # Access values by their key using subscription
19 print(ice_cream["chocolate"])
20
21 # Re-assign values by their key using assignment
22 ice_cream["vanilla"] += 10
23
24 # Remove items by key using the pop method
25 ice_cream.pop("strawberry")
26
27 # Loop through items using for-in loops
28 total_orders: int = 0
29 # The variable (e.g. flavor) iterates over
30 # each key one-by-one in the dictionary.
31 for flavor in ice_cream:
32     print(f"{flavor}: {ice_cream[flavor]}")
33     total_orders += ice_cream[flavor]
34
35 print(f"Total orders: {total_orders}")
```

As the lengths of **a** and **b** grow, the number of operations grows *quadratically*

```
1 def intersection(a: list[str], b: list[str]) -> list[str]:
2     result: list[str] = []
3
4     idx_a: int = 0
5     while idx_a < len(a):
6         idx_b: int = 0
7         found: bool = False
8         while not found and idx_b < len(b):
9             if a[idx_a] == b[idx_b]:
10                 found = True
11                 result.append(a[idx_a])
12                 idx_b += 1
13             idx_a += 1
14
15     return result
16
17
18 foo: list[str] = ["a", "b"]
19 bar: list[str] = ["c", "b"]
20 print(intersection(foo, bar))
```

- Outer while loop iterates through each element of **a**
  - If there are  $N$  elements, we'll iterate  $N$  times
- And within each iteration of the outer while loop...
- The inner while loop iterates through elements of **b** until either:
  - We find a value that  $==$  the current element in **a** OR,
  - We have “visited” (accessed) every element in **b**
    - If there are  $M$  elements in **b**, we'll iterate up to  $M$  times

Assuming **a** and **b** both have 3 elements...

1. Example of values of **a** and **b** that will cause the **fewest** operations to occur?  
`intersection(a=["a", "a", "a"], b=["a", "b", "c"])`
2. Example of values of **a** and **b** that will cause the **most** operations to occur?  
`intersection(a=["a", "b", "c"], b=["d", "e", "f"])`

If list **a** has  $N$  elements and list **b** has  $M$  elements, the “worst case scenario” is that this code will cause  $N \cdot M$  operations to occur.

# Comparing lists and sets

```
1 def intersection(a: list[str], b: list[str]) -> list[str]:
2     result: list[str] = []
3
4     idx_a: int = 0
5     while idx_a < len(a):
6         if a[idx_a] in b:
7             result.append(a[idx_a])
8             idx_a += 1
9
10    return result
```

```
1 def intersection(a: list[str], b: set[str]) -> set[str]:
2     result: set[str] = set()
3
4     idx_a: int = 0
5     while idx_a < len(a):
6         if a[idx_a] in b:
7             result.add(a[idx_a])
8             idx_a += 1
9
10    return result
```

Suppose **a** and **b** each had 1,000,000 elements. The worst case difference here is approximately 1,000,000 operations, versus  $1,000,000^{**}2$  or 1,000,000,000,000 operations.

If your device can perform 100,000,000 operations per second, then...

A call to **a** will complete in 2.78 hours and **b** will complete in 1/100th of a second.