

Building a Linked Data Structure

In this lab, you will build a data structure suitable for storing information about a music CD collection. In doing so, you will employ the two main techniques for representing a sequential collection (contiguous and linked).

1. Open IDLE and use it to create a new file called `cds.py`. Put some comments at the top identifying your team members.
2. Create a class definition for `MusicCD`. A `MusicCD` object has attributes for `artist(string)`, `album(string)`, and `tracks(list)`. Artist and title are supplied when the `MusicCD` is created. The list of tracks is initially empty. Put this `main()` program in to test your constructor:

```
def main():
    c1 = MusicCD("Pink Floyd", "The Final Cut")
    assert c1.artist == "Pink Floyd"
    assert c1.album == "The Final Cut"
    assert c1.tracks == []
```

3. Add two more CDs of your own choosing to your testing code. Store them in the variables `c2` and `c3`.
4. Add an `addtrack` method to the `MusicCD` class. A track consists of a `title(string)` and a `duration(int, in seconds)`. Use the method to add a couple tracks to each of your CDs in your testing code.

```
c1.addtrack("The Post War Dream", 182)
c1.addtrack("Your Possible Pasts", 262)
...
assert c1.tracks == [("The Post War Dream", 182), ("Your Possible Pasts", 262)]
```

5. Wait for all groups to catch up, then listen to your instructor for the next step. While you are waiting, you can create more CDs in your test code and/or add the following functionality.

- (a) Write a `duration()` method that returns to total running time of a CD (in seconds).

```
assert c1.duration() == 444
```

- (b) Write an `info()` method that returns a three line string:

```
assert c1.info() == "Album: The Final Cut\nArtist: Pink Floyd\nDuration: 444"
```

6. Link your CDs into a collection. Add an instance variable called `link` to `MusicCD`. Set it to `None` in the constructor. Then modify your `main` so that you have a single variable, `collection`, that contains a chain of all your CDs together. Here's a snippet:

```
collection = c1
c1.link = c2
c2.link = c3
...
assert collection.album == "The Final Cut"
assert collection.link.album == <whatever it should be>
assert collection.link.link.album == <whatever it should be>
```

7. Write a function (not a class method) `printCDs` that takes `collection` as a parameter and loops through the collection to print out information on all of the CDs. It should not matter how many albums are in the collection. Note: If you have not implemented the `info()` method from part 5, then just print out the album title. Here's the algorithm:

```
set local variable current to collection
while current is a MusicCD (i.e. it is not None):
    print out current's info
    set current to the next CD in the collection
```

8. Use the insight from part 7 to create a `CDCollection` class. A `CDCollection` has a single instance variable, `first`, that stores the first CD in the collection.
- (a) Write a constructor that sets `first` to `None`
 - (b) Write an `addCD` method that takes a `MusicCD` as a parameter and adds it to the beginning of the collection. Here's an algorithm:
 - set the `newCD`'s link to what `first` is now
 - set `first` to the `newCD`
 - (c) Make your `printCDs` function into a class method inside `CDCollection`.
 - (d) Add test code in `main()` to create a `CDCollection`, add your CDs to the collection and then test printing them out. Note: they will print in the reverse order that you added them (why?).