# CSc 110, Autumn 2017

Lecture 24: Lists for Tallying; Text Processing

Adapted from slides by Marty Stepp and Stuart Reges



# "list mystery" problem

- traversal: An examination of each element of an list.
- What element values are stored in the following list?

# A multi-counter problem

- Problem: Write a function most\_frequent\_digit that returns the digit value that occurs most frequently in a number.
  - Example: The number 669260267 contains: one 0, two 2s, four 6es, one 7, and one 9. most\_frequent\_digit(669260267) returns 6.
  - If there is a tie, return the digit with the lower value. most\_frequent\_digit(57135203) returns 3.

# A multi-counter problem

• We could declare 10 counter variables ...

counter0, counter1, counter2, counter3, counter4, counter5, counter6, counter7, counter8, counter9

- But a better solution is to use a list of size 10.
  - The element at index *i* will store the counter for digit value *i*.
  - Example for 669260267:

• How do we build such an list? And how does it help?

### Creating a list of tallies

```
\# assume n = 669260267
counts = [0] * 10
while n > 0:
    # pluck off a digit and add to proper counter
    digit = n % 10
    counts[digit] += 1
    n = n / / 10
     index 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
                                1
              0
                 2
      value
                    0
                       0
                          0
                                   0
                                       0
                             4
```

### Tally solution

```
# Returns the digit value that occurs most frequently in n.
# Breaks ties by choosing the smaller value.
def most_frequent_digit(n):
    counts = [0] * 10
    while n > 0:
        digit = n % 10  # pluck off a digit and tally it
        counts[digit] += 1
        n = n // 10
```

# find the most frequently occurring digit

```
best_index = 0
for i in range(1, len(counts)):
    if counts[i] > counts[best_index]:
        best_index = i
return best_index
```

# Section attendance question

• Read a file of section attendance (see next slide):

#### • And produce the following output:

```
Section 1

Student points: [20, 16, 17, 14, 11]

Student grades: [100.0, 80.0, 85.0, 70.0, 55.0]

Section 2

Student points: [16, 19, 14, 14, 8]

Student grades: [80.0, 95.0, 70.0, 70.0, 40.0]

Section 3

Student points: [16, 15, 16, 18, 14]

Student grades: [80.0, 75.0, 80.0, 90.0, 70.0]
```

• Students earn 3 points for each section attended up to 20.

# Section input file



- Each line represents a section.
- A line consists of 9 weeks' worth of data.
  - Each week has 5 characters because there are 5 students.
- Within each week, each character represents one student.
  - a means the student was absent (+0 points)
  - n means they attended but didn't do the problems
  - $\ensuremath{\mathtt{y}}$  means they attended and did the problems

(+1 points) (+3 points)

### Section attendance answer

```
def main():
    file = open("sections.txt")
    lines = file.readlines()
    section = 1
    for line in lines:
        points = [0] * 5
        for i in range(len(line)):
            student = i % 5
            earned = 0
            if line[i] == 'y': # c == 'y' or 'n' or 'a'
                 earned = 3
            elif line[i] == 'n':
                earned = 1
            points[student] = min(20, points[student] + earned)
        qrades = [0] * 5
        for i in range(len(points)):
            grades[i] = 100.0 * points[i] / 20
        print("Section", section)
        print("Student points:", points)
        print("Student grades:", grades)
        print()
        section += 1
```

## Data transformations

- In many problems we transform data between forms.
  - Example: digits  $\rightarrow$  count of each digit  $\rightarrow$  most frequent digit
  - Often each transformation is computed/stored as an list.
  - For structure, a transformation is often put in its own function.
- Sometimes we map between data and list indexes.
  - by position (store the *i*<sup>th</sup> value we read at index *i*)
  - tally (if input value is *i*, store it at array index *i*)
  - explicit mapping (count 'J' at index 0, count 'X' at index 1)
- *Exercise:* Modify our Sections program to use functions that use lists as parameters and returns.

### List param/return answer

# This program reads a file representing which students attended # which discussion sections and produces output of the students' # section attendance and scores.

```
def main():
    file = open("sections.txt")
    lines = file.readlines()
    section = 1
    for line in lines:
        # process one section
        points = count_points(line)
        grades = compute_grades(points)
        results(section, points, grades)
        section += 1
# Produces all output about a particular section.
```

```
def results(section, points, grades):
    print("Section", section)
    print("Student scores:", points)
    print("Student grades:", grades)
    print()
```

. . .

### List param/return answer

. . .

```
# Computes the points earned for each student for a particular section.
def count_points(line):
    points = [0] * 5
    for i in range(len(line)):
        student = i % 5
        earned = 0
        if line[i] == 'y': # c == 'y' or c == 'n'
            earned = 3
        elif line[i] == 'n':
            earned = 2
        points[student] = min(20, points[student] + earned)
        return points
```

```
# Computes the percentage for each student for a particular section.
def compute_grades(points):
    grades = [0] * 5
    for i in range(len(points)):
        grades[i] = 100.0 * points[i] / 20
    return grades
```