Module 06

Topics:

• Iterative structure in Python

Readings: ThinkP 7
In Python, repetition can be recursive

def count_down_rec(x):
    ''' Produces the list
        [x, x-1, x-2, ..., 1,0]
    count_down:Nat->(listof Nat)'''
    if x == 0:
        return [0]
    else:
        return [x] + count_down_rec(x-1)
def count_down(x):
    answer = []
    while x >= 0:
        answer.append(x)
        x = x - 1
    return answer

What happens when we call `count_down(3)`?
Calling \texttt{count\_down(3)}

- \texttt{L1, L2: }x \leftarrow 3, \text{ answer } \leftarrow []
- \texttt{L3: }Since \texttt{x} \geq 0, \text{ execute } \texttt{L4, L5}:
  - \texttt{answer } \leftarrow [3], \text{ x } \leftarrow 2
- \text{Now, return to } \texttt{L3: } since \texttt{x} \geq 0, \text{ execute } \texttt{L4, L5}:
  - \texttt{answer } \leftarrow [3,2], \text{ x } \leftarrow 1
- \text{Now, return to } \texttt{L3: } since \texttt{x} \geq 0, \text{ execute } \texttt{L4, L5}:
  - \texttt{answer } \leftarrow [3,2,1], \text{ x } \leftarrow 0
- \text{Now, return to } \texttt{L3: } since \texttt{x} \geq 0, \text{ execute } \texttt{L4, L5}:
  - \texttt{answer } \leftarrow [3,2,1,0], \text{ x } \leftarrow -1
- \text{Now, return to } \texttt{L3: } since \texttt{x} < 0, \text{ do not execute } \texttt{L4, L5}
- \texttt{L6: }\text{return } [3,2,1,0]
**while** loop basics

- If the continuation test is **True**,  
  - Execute the loop body
- If the continuation test is **False**,  
  - Do not execute the loop body
- After completing the loop body:  
  - Evaluate the continuation test again
- The body usually includes an update of variables used in the continuation test
while loop template

## initialize loop variables

while test:

  ## body, including statements to:
  ## - update variables used in test
  ## - update value being calculated
  ## additional processing
Steps for writing a **while** loop

You must determine

- how to initialize variables outside the loop
- when the loop body should be executed, or, when it should stop
- what variables must be updated in the loop body so the loop will eventually stop
- what other actions are needed within the loop body

Note: these can be determined in any order – just fill in the template!
Example: Checking Primality

A number \( n \geq 2 \) is prime if it has no factors other than 1 and itself.

To test if a number \( n \) is prime:
• Check every number from 2 to \( n-1 \)
• If you find a factor of \( n \), stop and return \textbf{False}
• If none of them are, stop and return \textbf{True}
• Determine what steps should be inside the loop, and which should be outside.
Implementation of `prime`

```python
def is_prime (n):
    '''is_prime: Nat -> Bool
       Requires: n >= 2'''
    test_factor = 2
    while test_factor < n:
        if n % test_factor == 0:
            return False
        else:
            test_factor = test_factor + 1
    ## tried all the numbers from 2 to n-1
    return True
```
Testing a `while` loop

Include tests, when possible, for which the body executes

- zero times
- exactly one time
- a "typical" number of times
- the maximum number of times

Also, if the continuation test involves multiple conditions, test each way that the loop may terminate
Testing `is_prime`

Consider the following test cases:

- **n=2** (loop body does not execute)
- **n=3** (loop body executes once, terminates because `test_factor` equals `n`)
- **n=4** (loop body executes once, terminates because 2 is a factor)
- **n=5** (maximum iterations, no factors found)
- **n=77** (larger composite number)
- **n=127** (larger prime number)
Beware of “infinite loops”

```python
while True:
    print( 'runs forever' )

x = -5
total = 0
while x < 0:
    total = 2.0 ** x
    x = x-1
print( total )
```

Notes:
- *it is impossible to write a program that identifies if a loop will run indefinitely* (more in CS360)
- *The code will eventually be terminated in WingIDE with an error – it isn’t really “infinite”*
Exercise: factorial

Write a Python function to calculate \( n! \)

- Use a `while` loop that counts from 1 to \( n \)
- Use a `while` loop that counts down from \( n \) to 1
Why use loops instead of recursion?

• Iteration, like accumulative recursion, may allow for a more “natural” solution
• Python won’t let us recurse thousands of times
• Iteration is more memory efficient
  – for each recursive call, we need memory for parameters
  – for an iterative call, we may just need to update an existing variable
• Iteration will generally run faster
Another type of loop: **for**

- While loops are called *guarded* iteration:
  - If the test evaluates to `True`, execute the body
- Another approach:
  - Iterate over all members in a collection
  - Called *bounded* iteration

```python
for item in collection:
    loop_body
```
for loop examples

for food in ['avocado', 'banana', 'cabbage']:
    print(food.upper())

for base in 'ACGGGCTCG':
    print(base)
for loop examples using range

sum_all = 0
for i in range(2,5):
    sq = i*i
    sum_all = sum_all + sq
print(sum_all)

for j in range(10,2,2):
    print(j)

• range is used to generate a collection of integers
  – the next value in the range is computed automatically with each pass through the for loop
**for and while**

**while**
- Loop counter should be initialized outside loop
- Includes continuation test before body
- Should update loop variables in body of loop
- Body contains steps to repeat

**for**
- Loop counter initialized automatically
- Continues while more elements in the collection
- Loop variable updated automatically – do not update in loop
- Body contains steps to repeat
Revisiting `multiply_by` example

The function `multiply_by` consumes a list of integers (called `values`) and an integer (called `factor`) and mutates `values` by multiplying each entry in `values` by `factor`. The function returns `None`.

Implement `multiply_by` using a loop.
def smaller(L,x):
    p = 0
    while p < len(L):
        if L[p] < x:
            return p
        else:
            p = p+1
    return None

How many iterations would smaller([10,8,6],3) involve? smaller([7,10,2], 8)? smaller(L,x) for any L and x?
Nested Lists and Loops

In Module 04, we considered nested lists like:
\[ L = [[1,2], [], [7,8,9,10]] \]

What is printed by the following?
\[
\text{for } m \text{ in } L:
    \text{print}(\text{sum}(m))
\]

What if we want to access all values in a list like \( L \)?
def nested_max(alol):
    '''produces the largest value in alol
    nested_max: (listof (listof Int)) -> Int
    requires: alol is nonempty
                Lists in alol are nonempty
    Example:
    nested_max([[1,5,3], [3],[35,1,2]]) =>  35
    '''
    cur_max = alol[0][0]
    for L in alol:  # each list in alol
        for elem in L:  # each value in L
            if elem > cur_max:
                cur_max = elem
    return cur_max
What does this function do?

def mult_table(n):
    table = []
    for r in range(n):
        row = []
        for c in range(n):
            row.append(r*c)
        table.append(row)
    return table

How many total iterations would \texttt{mult_table(5)} involve? \texttt{mult_table(n)} for any Nat n?
Question: What is the value of $L$ after the following `for` loop terminates?

$L = [2, 4, 6, 8, 10]$

```python
for x in L:
    if x%2==0:
        L.remove(x)
```

*Warning*: Do not add/remove entries in a list that you are looping over using a `for` loop.
Goals of Module 06

• Understand that iteration is central to Python
• Understand the difference between \texttt{while} and \texttt{for} loops
• Be able to use a loop to solve a problem