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 `count_down(3)`

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

```python
def is_prime (n):
    '''is\_prime: Nat -> Bool
    Requires: n > 0'''
    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 'ACGGGGCTCG' :
    print(base)
for loop examples using range

```python
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.
What does this function do?

```python
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:
\[ L = \begin{bmatrix} [1,2], [], [7,8,9,10] \end{bmatrix} \]

What is printed by the following?

```python
for m in L:
    print(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?

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

```
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 `while` and `for` loops
• Be able to use a loop to solve a problem