Introduction to: Computers & Programming: Review for Final

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Summary

• Some Procedural Matters
• Summary of Topics Covered This Semester
  – Focus on a Subset of these topics
• The Practice Midterm
Procedural Matters Regarding the Midterm

• The 004 test is on Mon May 16 8:00 to 9:50 AM
• The 009 test is on Tues, May 17 8:00 to 9:50 AM
• Both tests are in the respective “normal” classrooms
• I will take attendance – please bring your School ID
• The test will be graded on a curve
• The final counts for 35% of the final grade
Type of Questions that Could Be on the Test

• Section I: Answer questions about Code
  – What is printed out?
    • Look for “print” commands (sometimes include several rounds of interaction for a complex program)
  – What value is returned by a function?
    • Look for “return” commands
  – What is the value of a certain variable
    • Look at assignment statements (with =)
  – Open ended questions:
    • what does a function called by the main program do, e.g., checks if input is incorrect form
    • What are the conditions that will cause the program to end? (look at if and while statements to figure out answer)

• Section II: Write functions that solve stated problems
  – Read questions carefully
  – Common errors involve misreading questions and writing functions that solve problems other than those stated in the question
What you should know

• Basics: algorithm, function, program, operator, input, output (return), side effects (print), variables (global, local, scope), comments

• Data Types: integer, float, boolean, range, character, string, list, stream, dictionary, turtle, error, none

• Control Structures and Related Programming Approaches: if/else/elif, decision trees, loops (for & while), try/except, recursion (optional)

• Working with sequences: indices, slices, for-loops, sequence methods and functions

• Packages: math, os, random, time, turtle

• Graphics (turtles), File handling (renaming files, creating directories, pathnames)
Basics: Planning a Program

• Write a big function that solves the problem, with clear input and output names

• Break problem down into smaller parts (also functions), some of which repeat (using loops).

• Example:
  
  – `def color_wall(paint, paint_brush, wall):
    for section in wall:
      apply_paint(paint, paint_brush, section)
  
• Repeat process until all functions are defined
  
  – Perhaps `apply_paint` uses robotics package that defines functions like:
    
    • `dip_paint(brush, paint)` and `brush_wall_section(brush, wall_section)`
Functions

• Functions communicate with each other in programs using parameters and return statements

• `def calculate_average(inlist):
  total = 0 ## accumulator variable
  for num in inlist:
    total = total+num
  return(total/len(inlist))  ## return exits function, determines ## value of function call

• `def add_averages(list1,list2):
  output = calculate_average(list1)+calculate_average(list2)
  return(output)`
Variables

• Global Variables
  – Can be defined outside of functions
  – Should be declared “global” inside of functions

• Local Variables – internal to functions
  – parameters or variables initialized in functions
  – other functions cannot “see” local variables
  – values can be “passed” by setting local variables to values returned by other functions

• Variable assignment with =
  – variable1 = 5  ## assign a variable to a value
  – variable2 = str(5) ## assign a variable to the output returned from a function
  – variable1,variable2 = 5,10 ## assign multiple values to multiple variables
  – variable1,variable2 = [5,10]  ## same, but using a sequence
  – variable1,variable2 = func_returning_2_values(20) ## same with function
Interaction with (Human) User

• **print**
  – provide human beings with explanations that are printed on the screen
  – do **NOT** return output
  – Take multiple parameters separated by commas
  – Allow 2 key word parameters: sep and end
  – Example: `print(1,2,3,sep='*and*',end='-->go')`

• **input**
  – provides human beings a way of providing string input to a program
  – takes one string parameter (a prompt)
  – returns string input by the human being (ignoring newline character)
  – Example: `number = int(input('Give me a number '))`
  – Note: Do **NOT** overuse input statements – parameters are more appropriate for functions called by other programs
## Example Sequences and Accumulator Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Initial Value</th>
<th>Incremental Change</th>
<th>Final Value</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>add next number from list of numbers</td>
<td>Total numbers in list</td>
<td>Need total for average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>add next number in range</td>
<td>Product of numbers in range</td>
<td>Factorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>empty string</td>
<td>concatenate code derived from next char in input string</td>
<td>Coded version of sentence</td>
<td>Convert string to code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td>Empty list</td>
<td>Convert next string in list of strings to other form and append it to accumulator</td>
<td>List of output values from list of strings</td>
<td>Collect a list of values for some function (length, lowercase, a code, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lists of Lists

• A list of lists of lists of lists of …
  – Each “level” represents something
  – Example 1
    • student_list = list of students in a major
    • dept_list = list of student_list
    • school_list = list of dept_list
  – Example 2
    • product_description = list of traits in fixed order
    • Inventory = list of product_description

• A list of lists can represent dimensions
  – rows and columns in a table
  – X and Y in a Cartesian graph
  – Example
    • Tic_tac_toe_row = list of three positions filled by X, O or _ (underscore)
    • Tic_tac_toe_board = list of Tic_tac_toe_row
    • Tic_tac_toe_board[0][1] → item occupying middle position of first row
Mutability of Lists and Dictionaries

• Immutable types like strings and numbers
  – New values are created based on immutable types

• Mutable types like lists and Dictionaries
  – The original lists and dictionary can be changed
  – Variables point to these objects
    • Functions applied to variables can change these objects
  – Example:
    • my_dict = {1:'a',2:'b',3:'c'}
    • my_dict2 = my_dict
    • my_dict[4] ='d'
    • my_dict2 → {1:'a',2:'b',3:'c',4:'d'}
Raising an Exception

def check_for_traps(character, tool, hit_points):
    import random
    if hit_points > 100:
        raise Exception('This is not a legal character: You are a hacker!')
    else:
        die_role = random.randint(1, 6)
        if die_role > 2:
            print('Boom: you lose 30 hit points')
            return(hit_points-30)
        else:
            return(hit_points)
Handling Exceptions with Try/Except

def divide_10_by_an_integer():
    while True: ## only exits if a value is returned
        try:
            number = int(input('Pick an integer: '))
            output = 10 / number
            return(output)
        except ValueError:
            print('That wasn\'t an integer!')
        except ZeroDivisionError:
            print('You can\'t divide by zero!')
        except:
            print('Something is wrong! Try again!')
File Input/Output

- Simple reading lines in
  - def do_something_to_input_lines(input_file):
    with open(input_file,'r') as instream:
      for line in instream:
        line = line.strip(os.linesp)
        do_something_to_line(line)

- Simple writing lines to a file
  - def write_out_lines_to_file(list_of_lines,output_file):
    with open(output_file,'w') as outstream:
      for line in list_of_lines:
        # possibly add end of line character, e.g.,
        # line = line+'\n'
        outstream.write(line)

- With X as Y syntax for streams
  - Same as opening and closing a stream, e.g.,
    - def do_something_to_input_lines(input_file):
      instream = open(input_file,'r')
      for line in instream:
        line = line.strip(os.linesp)
        do_something_to_line(line)
      instream.close()
Reading & Writing Standard Data Formats

• File I/O works provided there are standard ways to read and write to your files
• Shared standards make programs easier for others to modify or integrate with their programs
• We discussed two standard file formats in class:
  – .tsv files, in which each line represents a set of fields, divided by tabs, e.g., 'Adam\tMeyers\tProfessor\t13'
  – .csv files, in which each line represents a set of fields, divided by commas, e.g., 'Adam,Meyers,Professor,13'
• Optionally, for the first line of such files can list the categories, e.g., 'First_Name\tLast_Name\tJob\tshoe_size'
Practice Midterm

• I will go over this in detail today
  – http://cs.nyu.edu/courses/fall15/CSCI-UA.0002-007/practice_final.py

• Structure is similar to midterm:
  – 4 Part 1 questions
  – 2 out of 3 Part 2 questions
  – Time is 1:50 minutes (about 1.5 times the 1:15 allowed for midterm)
Timing

• There are 6 questions to be completed in 1:50. This is about 50% more time than the midterms (1:15), but some of the questions may take a little longer.
• I suggest budgeting your time, e.g.,
  – 10 min X 4 part 1 questions = 40 min
    • Skip part 1 questions that are difficult and go back to them later
  – 20 min X 2 part 2 question = 40 min
  – Extra time for going over budget: 30 minutes
Reminder: A Test is a Game

• Unfortunately, tests are imperfect for measuring a person's expertise because (independent of such expertise) some people know how to play the test game better than others

• How to win the test game
  – Study sample test instructions
  – Time is a crucial factor (you have 1 hour and fifty minutes)
  – Do easy problems before hard ones
  – Do not spend a lot of time on low-point problems
  – Do not get stuck on details that you don't need
    • Solving all problems is more important than doing 1 problem elegantly
  – Go for partial credit on program questions (most points)
    • If you cannot program some detail – write pseudo code
    • Basic solution strategy is more important than perfect syntax
The Final is Next Week

- Please feel free to ask me any questions
- We will go over the practice midterm in class: ask questions
- Suggested Studying Materials
  - Previous class lectures, notes, homeworks, etc.
  - The Practice Final
  - Practice problems of your choosing
  - Previous tests:
    - Midterms from this class
    - Tests from previous Intro to Programming classes listed on my website
      - http://nlp.cs.nyu.edu/people/meyers.html
      - Recent tests should be similar than older ones
- I am also available for office hours prior to the test
- Good luck!