collections



collections overview

Python has a number of built-in collections which we use every day - lists, tuples, sets, dicts. In addition to them we have several useful data types in standard library

Today we are gonna to cover these ones

- Counter useful when you need to ... well, count something
- defaultdict nice in case of dicts with some objects as values

Counter

text = '''Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. '''

from collections import Counter, defaultdict

Counter(text)

Counter({' ': 69, 'i': 42, 'e': 37, 't': 32, 'o': 29, 'a': 29, 'u': 28, 'n': 24, 'r': 22, 'l': 21, 's': 18, 'd': 18, 'm': 17, 'c': 16, 'p': 11, 'q': 5, ',': 4, '.': 4, 'g': 3, 'b': 3, 'v': 3, 'x': 3, 'f': 3, 'L': 1, 'U': 1, 'D': 1, 'h': 1, 'E': 1})

What's going on

As you can see, Counter applied to string counts frequency of each symbol

This is generalized to every iterable with hashable elements (they can be dict keys) - elements of iterable are counted

Counter: You get counted element: Counted by noob!

Counter methods

Counter is a variant of dictionary with additional methods

```
issubclass(Counter, dict)
True
```

- most_common(n=None) returns list with tuples (element, count)
 sorted from most abundant to most rare; if n was specified returns
 list with tuples for n most abundant elements
- elements() returns specific iterator, where you iterate count times for each corresponding element

```
numbers = (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 1, 10, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 5, 1, 7)
# Count it
freqs = Counter(numbers)
fregs
Counter({1: 6, 2: 4, 3: 2, 10: 1, 4: 1, 5: 1, 7: 1})
# Similar to list(freqs.items())
freqs.most_common()
[(1, 6), (2, 4), (3, 2), (10, 1), (4, 1), (5, 1), (7, 1)]
# Get most common element data
freqs.most_common(1)
[(1, 6)]
```

```
for elem in freqs.elements():
   print(elem)
```

defaultdict

Really cool sometimes, because can free your code from unnecessary blocks of defining initial key values

```
orders = defaultdict(list)
orders
defaultdict(<class 'list'>, {})
orders['today'].append('destroy enemies')
orders['today'].extend(('conquer the world', 'celebrate it'))
orders['today']
['destroy enemies', 'conquer the world', 'celebrate it']
```

```
defaultdict(<class 'list'>, {'today': ['destroy enemies', 'conquer the world',
                            'celebrate it']})
# Analogous to this block
orders2 = []
# Create empty list as start point for this key
if 'today' not in orders2: # Also there is setdefault method
   orders2['today'] = []
orders2['today'].append('destroy enemies')
orders2['today'].extend(('conquer the world', 'celebrate it'))
orders2
{'today': ['destroy enemies', 'conquer the world', 'celebrate it']}
```

orders

Typical pipeline

- 1. Think do you need some default value for keys in your dict
- 2. If so, which value should it be?
 - a. you are going to store many things for 1 key tuple, list, set ot dict
 - b. you are going to operate with numbers int or float
 - c. you wanna modify some complex object for each key object of this class
- 3. Create defaultdict with selected default value
- 4. Operate with it in a proper manner
- 5. Profit!

```
# 1st example - store words and numbers in different keys
text = '2430 AD is a good story, really. Read it if you
       haven\'t yet'
# Initial value will be []
words = defaultdict(list)
for word in text.split():
   if word.isdigit():
       words['numbers'].append(word)
   else:
       words['words'].append(word)
words
defaultdict(<class 'list'>, {'numbers': ['2430'], 'words':
 ['AD', 'is', 'a', 'good', 'story,', 'really.', 'Read',
  'it', 'if', 'you', "haven't", 'yet']})
```

```
# 2nd example - I would like to store product of some
 values for 2 keys
some_values = [1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5]
keys = cycle('AB')
# Let initial value be 1
products = defaultdict(lambda: 1)
# Simulate hard work
for key, number in zip(keys, some_values):
   products[key] *= number
products
defaultdict(<function <lambda> at 0x7ff5e7e5d488>, {'A':
 12, 'B': 30})
```