

Python Dictionaries

Chapter 9

What is a Collection?



- A collection is nice because we can put more than one value in it and carry them all around in one convenient package
- We have a bunch of values in a single “variable”
- We do this by having more than one place “in” the variable
- We have ways of finding the different places in the variable

What is not a “Collection”

- Most of our **variables** have one value in them - when we put a new value in the **variable** - the old value is overwritten

```
$ python
```

```
darwin
```

```
>>> x = 2
```

```
>>> x = 4
```

```
>>> print x
```

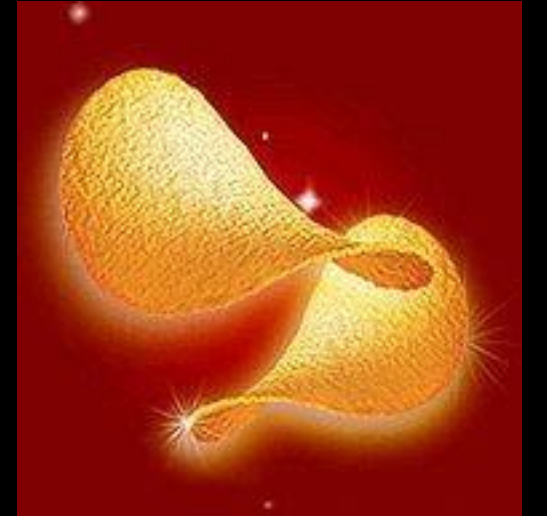
```
4
```



A Story of Two Collections..

- List

> A linear collection of values that stay in order



- Dictionary

> A “bag” of values, each with its own label



Dictionaries



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associative_array

Dictionaries



- Dictionaries are Python's most powerful data collection
- Dictionaries allow us to do fast database-like operations in Python
- Dictionaries have different names in different languages
 - > Associative Arrays - Perl / PHP
 - > Properties or Map or HashMap - Java
 - > Property Bag - C# / .Net

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associative_array

Dictionaries

- Lists **index** their entries based on the position in the list
- **Dictionaries** are like bags - no order
- So we **index** the things we put in the **dictionary** with a “lookup tag”

```
>>> purse = dict()
>>> purse['money'] = 12
>>> purse['candy'] = 3
>>> purse['tissues'] = 75
>>> print purse
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 3}
>>> print purse['candy']
3
>>> purse['candy'] = purse['candy'] + 2
>>> print purse
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 5}
```

Comparing Lists and Dictionaries

- Dictionaries are like lists except that they use keys instead of numbers to look up values

```
>>> lst = list()
>>> lst.append(21)
>>> lst.append(183)
>>> print lst
[21, 183]
>>> lst[0] = 23
>>> print lst
[23, 183]
```

```
>>> ddd = dict()
>>> ddd['age'] = 21
>>> ddd['course'] = 182
>>> print ddd
{'course': 182, 'age': 21}
>>> ddd['age'] = 23
>>> print ddd
{'course': 182, 'age': 23}
```



```
>>> lst = list()
>>> lst.append(21)
>>> lst.append(183)
>>> print lst
[21, 183]
>>> lst[0] = 23
>>> print lst
[23, 183]
```

List

Key	Value
[0]	21
[1]	183

lst

```
>>> ddd = dict()
>>> ddd['age'] = 21
>>> ddd['course'] = 182
>>> print ddd
{'course': 182, 'age': 21}
>>> ddd['age'] = 23
>>> print ddd
{'course': 182, 'age': 23}
```

Dictionary

Key	Value
['course']	182
['age']	21

ddd

Dictionary Literals (Constants)

- Dictionary literals use curly braces and have a list of **key** : **value** pairs
- You can make an **empty dictionary** using empty curly braces

```
>>> jjj = { 'DI'      : 1 , 'Team' : 42, 'jan' : 100}
>>> print jjj
{'jan': 100, 'DI': 1, 'Team': 42}
>>> ooo = { }
>>> print ooo
{}
>>>
```

Most Common Name?

marquard

cwen

cwen

zhen

marquard

zhen

csev

zhen

csev

marquard

zhen

csev

zhen

Most Common Name?

marquard

cwen

cwen

zhen

marquard

zhen

csev

zhen

csev

marquard

zhen

csev

zhen

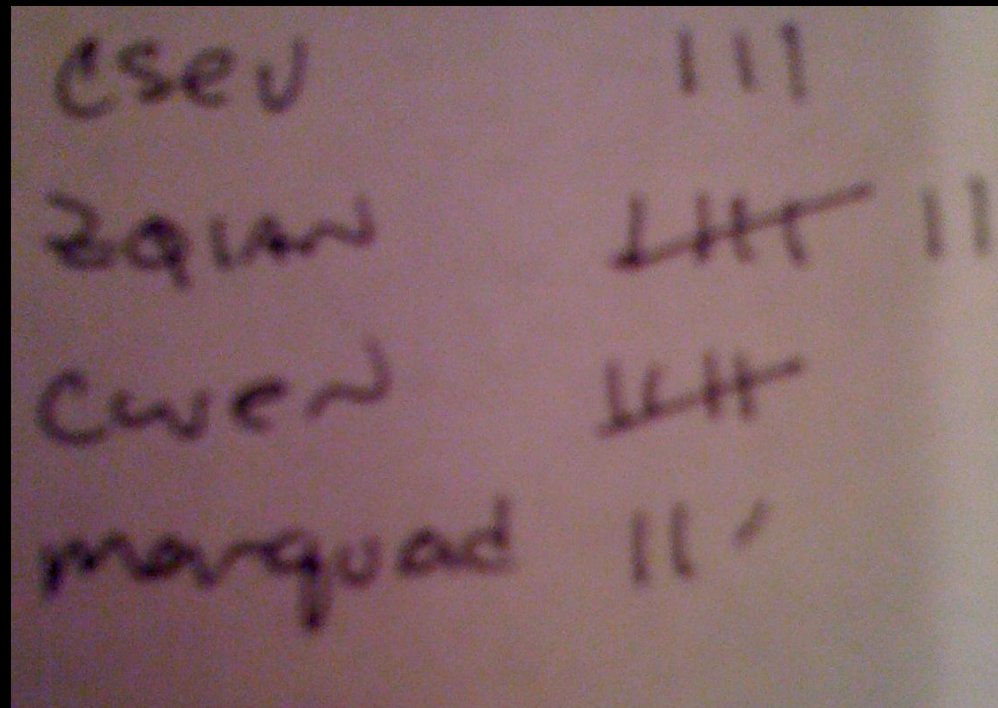
Most Common Name?

marquard

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csev

csev

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csev

marquard

zhen

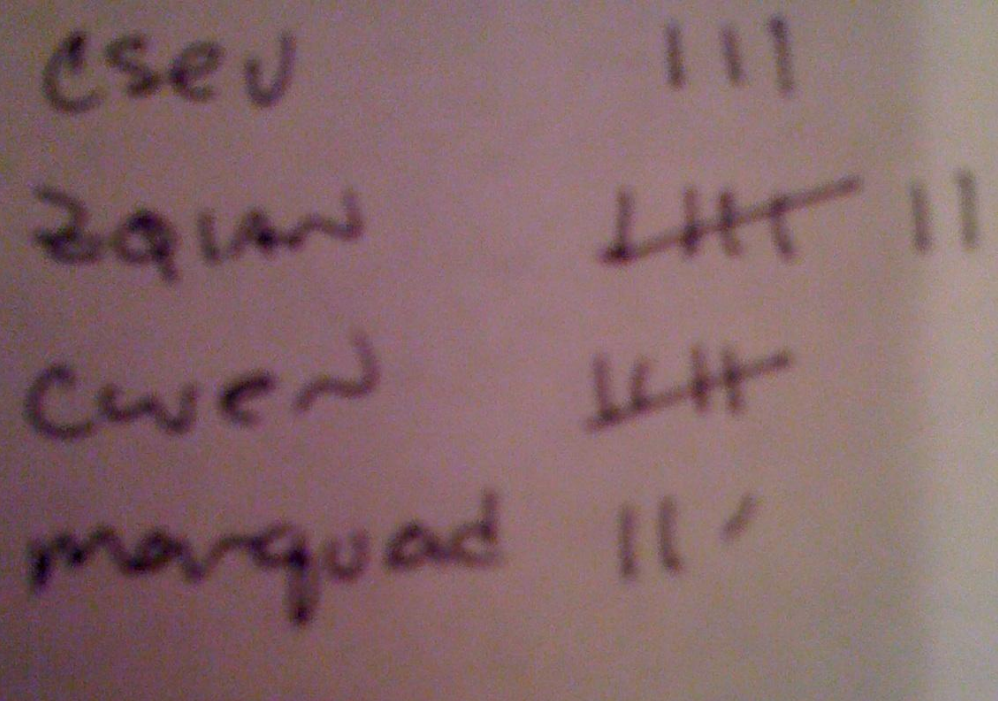
Many Counters with a Dictionary

- One common use of dictionary is **counting** how often we “see” something

```
>>> ccc = dict()
>>> ccc['csev'] = 1
>>> ccc['cwen'] = 1
>>> print ccc
{'csev': 1, 'cwen': 1}
>>> ccc['cwen'] = ccc['cwen'] + 1
>>> print ccc
{'csev': 1, 'cwen': 2}
```

Key

Value



csev	111
cwen	1111
marquard	111

Dictionary Tracebacks

- It is an **error** to reference a key which is not in the dictionary
- We can use the **in** operator to see if a key is in the dictionary

```
>>> ccc = dict()
>>> print ccc['csev']
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'csev'
>>> print 'csev' in ccc
False
```

When we see a new name

- When we encounter a new name, we need to add a new entry in the **dictionary** and if this the second or later time we have seen the **name**, we simply add one to the count in the **dictionary** under that **name**

```
counts = dict()
names = ['csev', 'cwen', 'csev', 'zqian', 'cwen']
for name in names :
    if name not in counts:
        counts[name] = 1
    else :
        counts[name] = counts[name] + 1
print counts
```

```
{'csev': 2, 'zqian': 1, 'cwen': 2}
```

The `get` method for dictionaries

- This pattern of checking to see if a `key` is already in a dictionary and assuming a default value if the `key` is not there is so common, that there is a `method` called `get()` that does this for us

```
if name in counts:  
    x = counts[name]  
else :  
    x = 0
```

```
x = counts.get(name, 0)
```

Default value if key does not exist
(and no Traceback).

```
{'csev': 2, 'zqian': 1, 'cwen': 2}
```

Simplified counting with `get()`

- We can use `get()` and provide a default value of zero when the key is not yet in the dictionary - and then just add one

```
counts = dict()
names = ['csev', 'cwen', 'csev', 'zqian', 'cwen']
for name in names :
    counts[name] = counts.get(name, 0) + 1
print counts
```

Default



`{'csev': 2, 'zqian': 1, 'cwen': 2}`

Simplified counting with `get()`

```
counts = dict()
names = ['csev', 'cwen', 'csev', 'zqian', 'cwen']
for name in names :
    counts[name] = counts.get(name, 0) + 1
print counts
```

Counting Pattern

```
counts = dict()
print 'Enter a line of text: '
line = raw_input('')

words = line.split()

print 'Words:', words

print 'Counting...'
for word in words:
    counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1
print 'Counts', counts
```

The general pattern to count the words in a line of text is to **split** the line into words, then loop through the words and use a **dictionary** to track the count of each word independently.

Counting Words

```
python wordcount.py
```

```
Enter a line of text:
```

```
the Clown      after the car and the car ran into the tent  
              ra  
              n
```

```
and the tent fell down on the clown and the car  
Words: ['the', 'clown', 'ran', 'after', 'the', 'car',  
'and', 'the', 'car', 'ran', 'into', 'the', 'tent', 'and',  
'the', 'tent', 'fell', 'down', 'on', 'the', 'clown',  
'and', 'the', 'car']
```

```
Counting...
```

```
Counts {'and': 3, 'on': 1, 'ran': 2, 'car': 3, 'into': 1,  
'after': 1, 'clown': 2, 'down': 1, 'fell': 1, 'the': 7,  
'tent': 2}
```

```
counts = dict()
print 'Enter a line of text:'
line = raw_input('')
words = line.split()

print 'Words:', words
print 'Counting...'

for word in words:
    counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1
print 'Counts', counts
```

python wordcount.py

Enter a line of text:

the clown ran after the car and the car ran
into the tent and the tent fell down on
the clown and the car

Words: ['the', 'clown', 'ran', 'after', 'the',
'car', 'and', 'the', 'car', 'ran', 'into', 'the',
'tent', 'and', 'the', 'tent', 'fell', 'down', 'on',
'the', 'clown', 'and', 'the', 'car']

Counting...

Counts {'and': 3, 'on': 1, 'ran': 2, 'car': 3,
'into': 1, 'after': 1, 'clown': 2, 'down': 1, 'fell':
1, 'the': 7, 'tent': 2}

Definite Loops and Dictionaries

- Even though **dictionaries** are not stored in order, we can write a **for** loop that goes through all the **entries** in a **dictionary** - actually it goes through all of the **keys** in the **dictionary** and **looks up** the values

```
>>> counts = { 'chuck' : 1 , 'fred' : 42, 'jan': 100}
>>> for key in counts:
...     print key, counts[key]
...
jan 100
chuck 1
fred 42
>>>
```

Retrieving lists of Keys and Values

- You can get a list of **keys**, **values**, or **items (both)** from a dictionary

```
>>> jjj = { 'DI' : 1 , 'Team' : 42, 'May': 100}
>>> print list(jjj)
['May', 'DI', 'Team']
>>> print jjj.keys()
['May', 'DI', 'Team']
>>> print jjj.values()
[100, 1, 42]
>>> print jjj.items()
[('May', 100), ('DI', 1), ('Team', 42)]
>>>
```

What is a 'tuple'? - coming soon...

Bonus: Two Iteration Variables!

- We loop through the **key-value** pairs in a dictionary using **two** iteration variables
- Each iteration, the first variable is the **key** and the second variable is the *corresponding value* for the key

```
>>> jjj = { 'DI' : 1 , 'Team' : 42 ,  
            'May' : 100 }  
>>> for aaa,bbb in jjj.items() :  
...     print aaa, bbb  
...  
May 100  
DI 1  
Team 42  
>>>
```

```
name = raw_input('Enter file:')
handle = open(name)
text = handle.read()
words = text.split()

counts = dict()
for word in words:
    counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1

bigcount = None
bigword = None
for word,count in counts.items():
    if bigcount is None or count > bigcount:
        bigword = word
        bigcount = count

print bigword, bigcount
```

```
python words.py
Enter file: words.txt
to 16
```

```
python words.py
Enter file: clown.txt
the 7
```


Summary

- What is a collection?
- Lists versus Dictionaries
- Dictionary constants
- The most common word
- Using the `get()` method
- Hashing, and lack of order
- Writing dictionary loops
- Sneak peek: tuples
- Sorting dictionaries