Ouiz #4: Iterators ICS-33 Winter 2016

When working on this quiz, recall the rules stated on the Academic Integrity statement that you signed. You can download the **q4helper** project folder (available for Friday, on the **Weekly Schedule** link) in which to write/test/debug your code. Submit your completed **q4solution** module online by Thursday, 11:30pm. I will post my solutions to EEE reachable via the **Solutions** link on Friday morning.

Remember, if an argument is iterable, it means that you can call only iter on it, and you can call next on the value iter returns. There is no guarantee you can call len on the iterable or index it. You cannot copy all the values of an iterable into a list so that you can perform these operations.

- 1. (20 pts) Write generators below (each one is worth 4 points) that satisfy the following specifications. You **may not** import any of the generators in **itertools** or any other modules to write your generators. You **may** use functions like **zip** and **enumerate**.
 - a. The **start_when** generator takes an **iterable** and a predicate (a function of one argument that returns a **bool**) as parameters: it produces every value from the **iterable**, starting with the first value for which the predicate returns **True** (later values are not tested). Hint: you can use a **for** or **while** loop. For example

```
for i in start_when('combustible', lambda x : x >= 'q'):
    print(i,end='')
```

prints ustible: u is the first character greater than q, so it doesn't produce the letters c, o, m, and b.

b. The **differences** generator takes two **iterables** as parameters: it produces a 3-tuple for every difference in value in the **iterables**, showing the index (the index of the first value in each **iterable** is 1) and the different values in each **iterable**. Hint: use a **for** loop with **zip** and **enumerate**. For example

```
for i in differences('3.14159265', '3x14129285'):
print(i,end='')
```

```
prints (2, '.', 'x') (6, '5', '2') (9, '6', '8'); on the values in indexes 2, 6, and 9 are different.
```

c. The once_in_a_row generator takes one iterable as a parameter: it produces every value from the iterable, but it never produces the same value twice in a row. Hint: use a for loop, remembering the last value produced (how do you handle this to always produce the first value?). For example

```
for i in once_in_a_row(hide('abcccaaabddeee')):
    print(i,end='')
```

prints **abcabde**: if there is a sequence of the same values, one following the other, only one is produced.

d. The alternate generator takes any number of iterables as parameters: it produces the first value from the first parameter, then the first value from the second parameter, ..., then the first value from the last parameter; then the second value from the first parameter, then the second value from the second parameter, ..., then the second value from the last parameter; etc. If any iterable produces no more values, this generator produces no more values. For example

```
for i in alternate_all('abcde','fg','hijk'):
    print(i,end='')
```

prints **afhbgic**. Hint: I called **iter** and **next** directly, using a **list** that I iterated over with a **for** loop inside a **while** loop. This **list** that I created just has one value for each **iterable**; it doesn't store all the values the **iterables** produce, so it doesn't violate the conditions for using **iterables**.

e. The windows generator takes one iterable and two ints (call them m and n; m's default value is 1) as parameters: it produces lists of n values: the first list contains the first n values; every subsequent list

drops the first m from the previous list and adds the next m values from the iterable, until there are fewer than n values to put in the returned list. For example

```
for i in windows('abcdefghijk', 4,2):
    print(i,end='')
```

prints ['a','b','c','d'] ['c','d','e','f'] ['e','f','g','h'] ['g','h','i','j']. Hint: I called iter and next directly, and used a list that always contains n values, so it doesn't violate the conditions for using iterables

2. (5 pts) Write a function named ascending, which is passed an integer argument (call it n) and an iterable argument whose values are all comparable (e.g., they could be all int or all str). This function returns a list of 2-tuples, whose values are the first and last values in a sequence that ascends (gets strictly bigger) for n or more numbers: for example, ascending(3,[5,5,2,4,6,2,4]) returns [(2,6)] and ascending(3,[2,3,1,4,6,7,2,0,2,4,3]) returns [(1,7), (0, 4)]. Raise an AssertionError if n is not at least 2

You **must** use a **while** loop, and explicit calls to **iter** and **next**; the only data structure that you can create is the **list** that is returned; you cannot create any intermediate data structures to help the computation: e.g., you cannot create a **list** with all the values in the **iterable** to process it more easily.

Hint: This function is intricate. I used the following variables: start stores the start of each possible ascending sequence, prev and curr are the previous and current value gotten from the iterable, and up counts how many values have been increasing since start was set. Comparing prev to curr determines whether the current ascending sequence is longer (just increase up) or that the current ascending sequence has ended: if ended, we check up to determine whether to put start and prev (the first and last value in the ascending sequence) into the answer list, and then reset start and up for a new possible ascending sequence. My function body was 20 lines long. It included one try/except statement, one while loop, and three if statements (one in the except clause).