

Handling Repeating Patterns

Gibson Lam and David Rossiter

Outcomes

- After completing this presentation, you are expected to be able to:
 1. Use the modulus operator to identify odd/even numbers
 2. Write code to capture repeating patterns using the modulus operator

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 2

The Modulus Operator

- In this presentation we will look at using the modulus operator, %, to identify repeating patterns
- The % operator gives you 'the remainder after division'
- Here are some examples:
 - $10 \% 2 = 0$
 - $10 \% 3 = 1$
 - $10 \% 4 = 2$
 - $10 \% 5 = 0$
- The % operator always gives you a number between 0 and the divisor minus 1

Using % to Find Odd/Even Numbers

- A common use of the % operator is to determine whether a number is an odd/even number
- When an odd number is divided by 2 the remainder is 1, whereas the remainder of dividing an even number by 2 is 0
- By combining an if statement and the % operator you can make a program to tell the user whether a given number is an odd/even number, as shown on the next slide

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 4

An Example of Finding Odd/Even Numbers

- Here is the example:

```
number = int(input("Please give me a number: "))

if number % 2 == 1:
    print("It is an odd number!")
else:
    print("It is an even number!")
```

```
>>>
Please give me a number: 5
It is an odd number!
>>>
```

```
>>>
Please give me a number: 20
It is an even number!
>>>
```

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 5

Using Numbers as Conditions

- We can simplify this code:

```
if number % 2 == 1:
    ...the number is odd, do something...
```

into this:

```
if number % 2:
    ...the number is odd, do something...
```
- This is because in Python a value of 0 is equivalent to False and any other number is equivalent to True
- See examples on the next slide

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 6

Examples of Using Numbers as Conditions

- Using various numbers as an if condition:

```
>>> if 0: print("Zero means false...")
>>> if 1: print("Any other number means true!")
Any other number means true!
>>> if 5: print("5 is also true.")
5 is also true.
>>> if -10: print("Any negative number is true as well!")
Any negative number is true as well!
>>>
```

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 7

Using % for Patterns

- Odd/even numbers are a pattern with a cycle of two, as shown below:

number	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
number % 2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	...

Cycles in the repeating pattern
- If we use other numbers as the divisor we can find repeating patterns with a different size, e.g.:

number	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	...
number % 4	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	...

Cycles in the repeating pattern

Leap Years

- A leap year is a year which has 366 days (the years with 365 days are called common years)
- We have a leap year every four years
 - There are some exceptions to this, but we will ignore those exceptions in this presentation
- For example, if 2008 is a leap year, 2012 will also be a leap year because it is 4 years later
- Let's make a program to show the leap years between 2000 and 2015

COMP1021

Handling Repeating Patterns

Page 9

Finding Leap Years

- Leap years happen in a pattern with a 4-year cycle so let's use the % operator to find leap years
- We know that the year 2000 is a leap year and we can determine the location of a leap year within the 4-year cycle using `2000 % 4` i.e.:

```
>>> print(2000 % 4)
0
>>>
```

- The result is 0 which means a leap year is at the start of the 4-year cycle

The Program

- Since year 2000 is at the start of the 4-year cycle, any other year at the start of the cycle is also a leap year
- Using this, we can build a program to find the leap years between 2000 and 2015 like this:

```
startyear = 2000
endyear = 2015
```

```
for year in range(startyear, \
                  endyear + 1):
    print(year, end=" ")
```

```
    if year % 4 == 0:
        print("leap year")
    else:
        print("common year")
```

```
2000: leap year
2001: common year
2002: common year
2003: common year
2004: leap year
2005: common year
2006: common year
2007: common year
2008: leap year
2009: common year
2010: common year
2011: common year
2012: leap year
2013: common year
2014: common year
2015: common year
>>>
```