List comprehensions

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Three Ways to Define a List

- Explicitly write out the whole thing:

```
squares = [0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100]
```

- Write a loop to create it:

```
squares = []
for i in range(11):
    squares.append(i * i)
```

- Write a **list comprehension**:

```
squares = [i * i for i in range(11)]
```

- A list comprehension is a concise description of a list
- A list comprehension is shorthand for a loop

Two ways to convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit

```
ctemps = [17.1, 22.3, 18.4, 19.1]
```

With a loop:

```
ftemps = []
for c in ctemps:
    f = celsius_to_farenheit(c)
    ftemps.append(f)
```
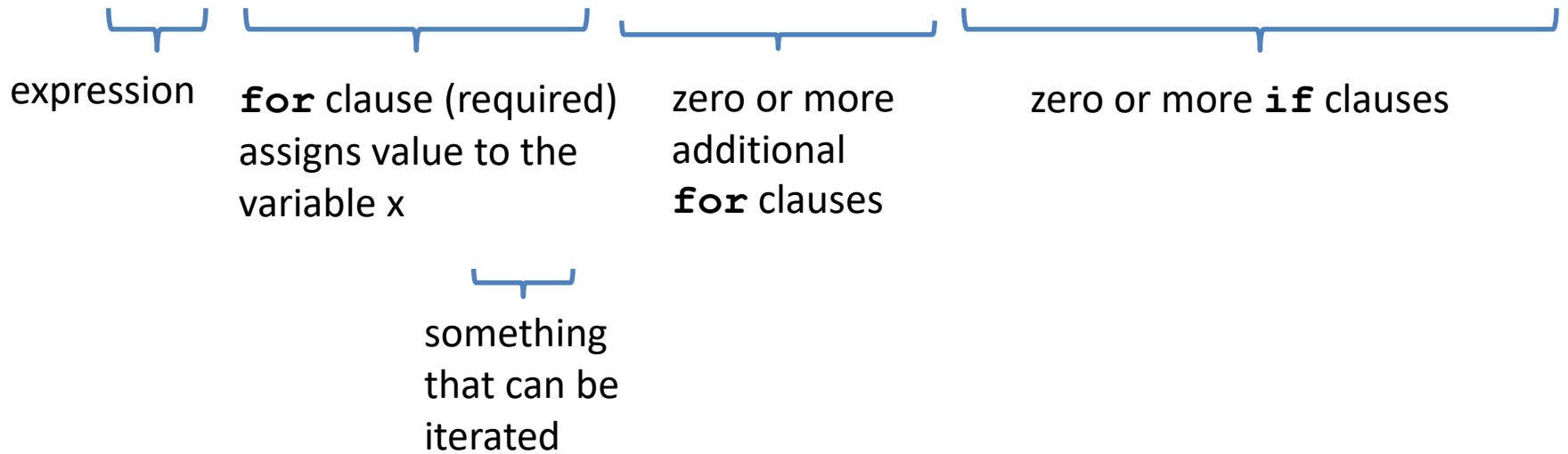
With a list comprehension:

```
ftemps = [celsius_to_farenheit(c) for c in ctemps]
```

The comprehension is usually shorter, more readable, and more efficient

Syntax of a comprehension

`[(x, y) for x in seq1 for y in seq2 if sim(x, y) > threshold]`

expression

for clause (required) assigns value to the variable x

something that can be iterated

zero or more additional **for** clauses

zero or more **if** clauses

Semantics of a comprehension

```
result =
  [(x, y) for x in seq1 for y in seq2 if sim(x, y) > threshold]

  result = []
  for x in seq1:
    for y in seq2:
      if sim(x, y) > threshold:
        result.append((x, y))
  … use result …
```

Types of comprehensions

List

```
[i * 2 for i in range(3)]
```

Set

```
{i * 2 for i in range(3)}
```

Dictionary

{ *key*: *value* for *item* in *sequence ...*}
```
{i: i * 2 for i in range(3)}
```

Cubes of the first 10 natural numbers

Goal:

Produce: [0, 1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, 343, 512, 729]

With a loop:

```
cubes = []
for x in range(10):
    cubes.append(x ** 3)
```

With a list comprehension:

```
cubes = [x ** 3 for x in range(10)]
```

Powers of 2: (2^0 through 2^{10})

Goal: [1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024]

```python
powers = [2 ** i for i in range(11)]
```

Lengths of elements of a list

Goal: Write a list comprehension that computes the length of each string in the list colors.

```
colors = ["red", "blue", "purple", "gold", "orange"]
lengths = [**your expression goes here**]
```

$\Rightarrow$ [3, 4, 6, 4, 6]

Even elements of a list

Goal: Given an input list `nums`, produce a list of the even numbers in `nums`

```
nums = [3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6, 5]
evens = [**your expression goes here**]
```

$\Rightarrow$ [4, 2, 6]

Dictionary of squares

Goal: Given an input list nums, produce a dictionary that maps each number to the square of that number.

```
nums = [3, 1, 4, 5, 9, 2, 6, 7]
square_dict = {**your expression goes here**}
```

Normalize a list

```python
num_list = [6, 4, 2, 8, 9, 10, 3, 2, 1, 3]
total = sum(num_list)
```

With a loop:

```python
for i in range(len(num_list)):
    num_list[i] = num_list[i] / total
```

With a list comprehension:

```python
num_list = [num / total for num in num_list]
```

Dice Rolls

Goal: A list of all possible dice rolls.

With a loop:
```
rolls = []
for r1 in range(1, 7):
  for r2 in range(1, 7):
    rolls.append((r1, r2))
```

With a list comprehension:
```
rolls = [(r1, r2) for r1 in range(1, 7)
                  for r2 in range(1, 7)]
```

All above-average 2-die rolls

Goal: Result list should be a list of 2-tuples:
[(2, 6), (3, 5), (3, 6), (4, 4), (4, 5), (4, 6), (5, 3), (5, 4), (5, 5), (5, 6), (6, 2), (6, 3), (6, 4), (6, 5), (6, 6)]

```
[(r1, r2) for r1 in range(1, 7)
          for r2 in range(1, 7)
          if r1 + r2 > 7]
```
OR

```
[(r1, r2) for r1 in range(1, 7)
          for r2 in range(8 - r1, 7)]
```

Sum of above-average 2-die rolls

Goal: Result list should be a list of integers:

```
[r1 + r2 for r1 in range(1, 7)
          for r2 in range(1, 7)
          if r1 + r2 > 7]
```
$\Rightarrow$ `[8, 8, 9, 8, 9, 10, 8, 9, 10, 11, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]`

Remove Duplicates: Use Set Comprehensions
```
{r1 + r2 for r1 in range(1, 7)
          for r2 in range(1, 7)
          if r1 + r2 > 7}
```
$\Rightarrow$ `{8, 9, 10, 11, 12}`

Making a Grid

Goal: A grid were each element is the sum of it's row # and column #.
(e.g. `[[0, 1, 2], [1, 2, 3]]`)

With a loop:

```python
grid = []
for i in range(2):
    row = []
    for j in range(3):
        row.append(i + j)
    grid.append(row)
```

With a list comprehension:

```python
grid = [[i + j for j in range(3)] for i in range(2)]
```

A word of caution

List comprehensions are great, but they can get confusing.
Err on the side of readability.

```
nums = [n for n in range(100) if
        sum([int(j) for j in str(n)]) % 7 == 0]
```
or

```
nums = []
for n in range(100):
    digit_sum = sum([int(j) for j in str(n)])
    if digit_sum % 7 == 0:
        nums.append(n)
```

A word of caution

List comprehensions are great, but they can get confusing.
Err on the side of readability.

```
nums = [n for n in range(100) if
         sum([int(j) for j in str(n)]) % 7 == 0]
```
or

```
def sum_digits(n):
    digit_list = [int(i) for i in str(n)]
    return sum(digit_list)

nums = [n for n in range(100) if
         sum_digits(n) % 7 == 0]
```