Arrays for tallying

Subset of the Supplement Lesson slides from: Building Java Programs, Chapter 7
by Stuart Reges and Marty Stepp (http://www.buildingjavaprograms.com/)

A multi-counter problem

- Problem: Write a method `mostFrequentDigit` that returns the digit value that occurs most frequently in a number.

  - Example: The number 669260267 contains:
    one 0, two 2s, four 6es, one 7, and one 9.
    `mostFrequentDigit(669260267)` returns 6.

  - If there is a tie, return the digit with the lower value.
    `mostFrequentDigit(57135203)` returns 3.

A multi-counter problem

- We could declare 10 counter variables ...

```
int counter0, counter1, counter2, counter3, counter4,
    counter5, counter6, counter7, counter8, counter9;
```

- But a better solution is to use an array of size 10.
  - The element at index *i* will store the counter for digit value *i*.
  - Example for 669260267:

index	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*
value	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0

  - How do we build such an array? And how does it help?

Creating an array of tallies

```
// assume n = 669260267
int[] counts = new int[10];
while (n > 0) {
    // pluck off a digit and add to proper counter
    int digit = n % 10;
    counts[digit]++;
    n = n / 10;
}
```

index	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*
value	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0

Tally solution

```
// Returns the digit value that occurs most frequently in n.
// Breaks ties by choosing the smaller value.
public static int mostFrequentDigit(int n) {
    int[] counts = new int[10];
    while (n > 0) {
        int digit = n % 10;  // pluck off a digit and tally it
        counts[digit]++;
        n = n / 10;
    }

    // find the most frequently occurring digit
    int bestIndex = 0;
    for (int i = 1; i < counts.length; i++) {
        if (counts[i] > counts[bestIndex]) {
            bestIndex = i;
        }
    }

    return bestIndex;
}
```

Array histogram question

- Given a file of integer exam scores, such as:

```
82
66
79
63
83
```

Write a program that will print a histogram of stars indicating the number of students who earned each unique exam score.

```
85: *****
86: ************
87: ***
88: *
91: ****
```

Array histogram answer

```
// Reads a file of test scores and shows a histogram of score distribution.
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;

public class Histogram {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws FileNotFoundException {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(new File("midterm.txt"));
        int[] counts = new int[101];      // counters of test scores 0 - 100

        while (input.hasNextInt()) {      // read file into counts array
            int score = input.nextInt();
            counts[score]++;              // if score is 87, then counts[87]++
        }

        for (int i = 0; i < counts.length; i++) {    // print star histogram
            if (counts[i] > 0) {
                System.out.print(i + ": ");
                for (int j = 0; j < counts[i]; j++) {
                    System.out.print("*");
                }
                System.out.println();
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Data transformations

- In many problems we transform data between forms.
  - Example: digits $\rightarrow$ count of each digit $\rightarrow$ most frequent digit
  - Often each transformation is computed/stored as an array.
  - For structure, a transformation is often put in its own method.

- Sometimes we map between data and array indexes.

– by position	(store the *i*th value we read at index *i*)
– tally	(if input value is *i*, store it at array index *i*)
– explicit mapping	(count `'J'` at index 0, count `'X'` at index 1)

- *Exercise:* Modify our Sections program to use static methods that use arrays as parameters and returns.