I'd like to add a new method, Enumerable#slice_between.

It is similar to Enumerable#slice_before but it can use not only the element after the slice position but also the element before the slice position.

```ruby
enum.slice_between(pattern_before, pattern_after=nil) -> an Enumerator
enum.slice_between{|elt_before, elt_after| bool} -> an Enumerator
```

I found several people try to use Enumerable#slice_before for compacting sequence of integers using hyphens:

```
1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21 to 1,2,4,9-12,15,16,19-21.
```

- [ruby-talk:370132 Dave Thomas and James Edward Gray II](http://d.hatena.ne.jp/keyesberry/20120107/p1) (in Japanese)

`slice_before` needs state management to do it.

`slice_between` can be used more easily for this situation:

```
a = [1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21]
p a.slice_between{|i, j| i+1 != j}.map{|a| a.length < 3 ? a : "#{a.first}-#{a.last}" }.join("",
```

Or more verbosely as:

```
a = [1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21]
b = a.slice_between{|i, j| i+1 != j}
c = b.to_a #-> [[1, 2], [4], [9, 10, 11, 12], [15, 16], [19, 20, 21]]
d = c #=> [1, 2], [4], ["9-12", [15, 16], "19-21"]
```

Also, I found several usages for Enumerable#slice_between.

- [ruby-talk:359255 split logs where interval is 30s or more.](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/6258971/how-do-i-return-a-group-of-sequential-numbers-that-might-exist-in-an-array)
- [ruby-talk:415057 collects same elements. (Enumerable#chunk can be used, though.)](http://d.hatena.ne.jp/keyesberry/20120107/p1) (in Japanese)

Any idea?
enum.c (enum_slice_when): New method: Enumerable#slice_when.
  (slicewhen_i): New function.
  (slicewhen_ii): New function.

enumerator.c (InitVM_Enumerator): New method:
  Enumerator::Lazy#slice_when.

Revision 47652 - 09/20/2014 06:52 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)
enumerator.c (enum_slice_when): New method: Enumerable#slice_when.
(slicewhen_i): New function.
(slicewhen_ii): New function.

enumerator.c (InitVM_Enumerator): New method:
  Enumerator::Lazy#slice_when.

---

**History**

#1 - 05/12/2014 09:47 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)
- File slice_between2.patch added

I updated the patch to simplify argument handling.

#2 - 05/17/2014 06:26 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
- Status changed from Open to Feedback

I understand the use-case, and I'd like to add the feature.
But slice_between does not describe what it does.
Try another name.

Matz.

#3 - 05/18/2014 04:09 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)
- File slice_between3.patch added

I updated the patch to be applied cleanly for HEAD after slice_after merge.

#4 - 05/18/2014 04:11 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)

Yukihiro Matsumoto wrote:

  But slice_between does not describe what it does.
  Try another name.

I searched "between" with wordnet.

```bash
% wordnet between -over
```

Overview of adv between

The adv between has 2 senses (first 2 from tagged texts)

1. (1) between, betwixt -- (in the interval; "dancing all the dances with little rest between")
2. (1) between, 'tween -- (in between; "two houses with a tree between")

I agree that enum.slice_between(X,Y) doesn't behave as "in the interval".
There is no interval between X and Y.

However I feel the 2nd meaning is appropriate.
So, slice_between itself may be possible.
slice_in_between may be more clear.

Some idea:

- slice_between
- slice_in_between
I'd like to ask others (especially English native speakers).

Any opinion?

---

**#5 - 05/18/2014 05:35 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)**

There can be another method that works the opposite to the proposed method with respect to the truthfulness of the block, and I think the two methods should come in a pair. And I have a feeling that cons should somehow be used in the name of these methods. For example, the method implemented by Akira Tanaka may be called `slice_cons`, and the opposite one may be called `chunk_cons`, and the following could be equivalent:

```ruby
[1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21].slice_cons{|i, j| i+1 != j}
[1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21].chunk_cons{|i, j| i+1 == j}
```

But by analogy from the method `each_cons`, the cons in the names may imply that the arity of the block need not be two. I have no clear idea how this feature can be extended to take a block of other arity, and if the implication is a problem, then the word `pair` might work better:

```ruby
[1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21].slice_pair{|i, j| i+1 != j}
[1,2,4,9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21].chunk_pair{|i, j| i+1 == j}
```

---

**#6 - 09/04/2014 12:08 PM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)**

---

**#7 - 09/04/2014 03:07 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)**

I prefer `slice_when`. Besides that, could you explain the behavior when no block is given? `slice_when` might not suitable for that calling pattern. But maybe we don't need that.

Matz.

---

**#8 - 09/05/2014 05:35 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)**

I'm grad to see an acceptable name.

Non-block form can be used to split paragraphs (sequence of non-empty lines with trailing empty lines), for example.

```ruby
% ruby -e 'lines = ["foo
", "bar
", "\n", "baz
", "\n", "\n", "qux\n", "quux\n"] lines.slice_when(\A\s*\z/, \S/).each {|para| p para }
' ["foo
", "bar
", "\n"] ["baz
", "\n", "\n"] ["qux\n", "quux\n"]
```

If the name, `slice_when`, is not appropriate to this form, I can drop the form.

The block form can same task as follows. (It is bit longer, of course.)

```ruby
% ruby -e 'lines = ["foo
", "bar
", "\n", "baz
", "\n", "\n", "qux\n", "quux\n"] lines.slice_when{|l1, l2| /\A\s*\z/ =~ l1 && /\S/ =~ l2 }.each {|para| p para }
' ["foo\n", "bar\n", "\n"] ["baz\n", "\n", "\n"] ["qux\n", "quux\n"]
```

---

**#9 - 09/18/2014 04:30 AM - akr (Akira Tanaka)**

- File `slice_when.patch` added

I updated the patch at today's lunch break: `slice_when.patch`. It defines `Enumerable#slice_when` and it doesn't support non-block form.

---

**#10 - 09/20/2014 06:30 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)**

- Status changed from Feedback to Open
- Assignee set to akr (Akira Tanaka)

Agreed with `slice_when`. Gi ahead.
enum.c (enum_slice_when): New method: Enumerable#slice_when.
(slicewhen_i): New function.
(slicewhen_ii): New function.

enumerator.c (InitVM_Enumerator): New method:
Enumerator::Lazy#slice_when.

[ruby-core:62499] [Feature #9826]

Files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slice_between.patch</td>
<td>10 KB</td>
<td>05/10/2014</td>
<td>akr (Akira Tanaka)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slice_between2.patch</td>
<td>9.7 KB</td>
<td>05/12/2014</td>
<td>akr (Akira Tanaka)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slice_between3.patch</td>
<td>9.71 KB</td>
<td>05/18/2014</td>
<td>akr (Akira Tanaka)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slice_when.patch</td>
<td>7.49 KB</td>
<td>09/18/2014</td>
<td>akr (Akira Tanaka)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>