Revision: Function definition

- A function definition consists of a name and a body (a block)
- The extent of the block is defined by indentation, which must be the same for all statements of a block
 - Standard indentation is 4 spaces
- This example has parameters
 - Parameters are specified in the function call, and are passed to the code block
- A custom function must be defined before it can be called

Revision: Function parameters and return

value		Australian
value	S	University

	parameters					
def	change_	in_per	ce	nt (ol	d,	new):
	diff =	new -	0	ld		
	return	(diff	/	old)	*	100

- Function (formal) parameters are (variable) names
 These variables can be used only in the function body
- Parameter values will be set only when the function is called
- return is a statement
 - when executed, it causes the function call to end, and return the value of the expression

Revision: Flow of execution



- Calling a function will interrupt the processive flow of program execution
- Calling a function causes the execution to skip to that function and continue executing from that position



• Execution continues until the end of the function is reached (and it returns to executing where the call was originally made)

Revision: the call stack



interact()

nteract(

- The 'to-do list' of where to come back to after each current function call is called the (execution or call) stack
- When evaluation of a function call begins, the current instruction sequence is put 'on hold' while the expression is evaluated and the function calls begin to 'stack up'

nteract

nteract(



Reading: Scope

Australian National University

Australia

• Covered in Think Python and ItSPwP, but..

- A better introduction is in: *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python*, Chapter 3, from Section 'Local and Global Scope' until the end of the chapter
- Remember: you have access to the Safari/O'Reilly bookstore through the ANU library: https://www.oreilly.com/library-access/
 - Search for 'Automate the Boring Stuff with Python'

Scope - Sweigart, Automate the Boring Stuff with Python, Ch 3

Australian National University

- We haven't talked yet about scope this is important
- So far, we have assumed that all defined variables are accessible all the time this is known as **global** scope
- But global scope becomes hazardous as:
 - A program gets larger
 - Includes code that comes from other developers (you might both use the same variable name)
- The parameter variables within a single function are **local** to the code block. If you try to access one of these outside the function code block, you will get an error.





Intro to Scope

COMP1730/3730

Chapter 3 : Sweigart, Automate the boring stuff with Python,

Or

Australian National University Section 9: https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/classes.html#pythonscopes-and-namespaces

Within a function, parameters are local

- Variables created/assigned in a function (including parameters) are local to that function:
 - Local variables have scope limited to the enclosing block
 - The interpreter uses a new namespace for each function call
 - Local variables that are not parameters are undefined before the first assignment in the function body. Then remain local to the function block
 - Variables with the same name used outside the function are unchanged after the call
- Within a function, you can still access variables in the global scope
- But, within function local scope, you cannot access the local scopes of other functions

Scope - why?

Australian

National



- There are very good reasons why every section of code should not be able to access the variables controlled by other sections.
 - For one thing, as your program gets bigger, the namespace of the program will start to get crowded.
 - You might be using the same variable name for two different things.
 - If you are using code from other developers (like importing functions), they might be using the same variable names as your program – but for different things
 - It makes good sense to compartmentalise variable scope, to avoid namespace-collisions





(Image from pythontutor.com)

return math.sin(x in rad)

ans = sin of deg(23)

print(ans)



Australian National University ~

Australian National University

import math # Convert degrees to radians def deg to rad(x): return x * math.pi / 180

Take sin of an angle in degrees def sin of deg(x): $x_in_rad = deg_to_rad(x)$ return math.sin(x in rad)

ans = sin of deg(23) print(ans)



(Image from pythontutor.com)

The call stack and scope



print(ans)



(Image from pythontutor.com)

The call stack and scope



The call stack and scope





Australian National University



module instance

function deg_to_rad(x)

Functional Abstraction

COMP1730/6730

Think Python Ch 4 (Encapsulation, Generalization, Interface Design) and Ch 6 (Leap of Faith)

Australian National University

Abstraction & Interfaces



- Imagine if when we write very large programs, that we needed to understand every line of code that our code is built on?
 - It would be terrible! Nothing complicated could get done easily. Slow!
 - In the first lecture, you saw how to open a file and train a basic ML model
 - General understanding is necessary (yes!), but detailed understanding of the implementation is not
- We rely on abstraction of details
- We implement code and software libraries that only require an understanding of the **interface**
- When we write functions, we should make them intuitive to provide this interface

Interfaces (Think Python, Ch. 4)

Australian National University

- Providing a simple interface to a complex task is the great value of software libraries. Other people write code that you don't know in detail but you can do the same tasks, with much less effort.
- Before long, you will be writing code where you didn't look at every line of the functions and libraries that you rely on.
- Ch 6 of *Think Python* calls this the 'Leap of faith':

Leap of Faith

Following the flow of execution is one way to read programs, but it can quickly become overwhelming. An alternative is what I call the "leap of faith". When you come to a function call, instead of following the flow of execution, you *assume* that the function works correctly and returns the right result.

• This is abstraction. Much of the detail in your software remains abstract. You are now thinking about code at a higher level.

More complicated: Python as a toolbox





https://d	pcs.pvthon.org/3/librarv/turt	le.html			
able of Contents turtle - Turtle stantics	turtle — Turtle graphics				
Starting a turtle environment Basic drawing Pen control The turtle's position Making alsorthmic	Introduction Turtle graphics is an implementation of the popular geometric drawing tools introduced in Logo. de- veloped by Wully Fuzzeria; Semour Papert and Cynthia Solonon in 1967.				
patterns • How to • Get started as quickly as possible • Use the turtle module	physical "turtle" (a little robot with a pen) that draws on a sheet of paper on the floor. It's an effective and well-proven way for learners to en- counter programming concepts and interaction with	Turtle star Turtle can draw intricate shapes using programs that repeat simple moves.			
namespace • Use turtle graphics in a script • Use object- oriented turtle graphics	software, as it provides instant, visible feedback. It also provides convenient access to graphical output in gen- eral. Turtle drawing was originally created as an educational				
Turtle graphics reference Turtle methods Methods of TurtleScreen/ Screen Methods of	tool, to be used by teachers in the classroom. For the programmer who needs to produce some graphical out- put it can be a way to do that without the overhead of in- troducing more complex or external libraries into their work				
Rw/Turtle/Turtle and corresponding functions • Turtle motion • Tell Turtle's state	Tutorial	ome of the basics of turtle drawing.			



Luke Taylor, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyqTY4q16iw





Abstract functions allow easy extensibility

• What if we now need to draw each cell as a circle – there is a function for turtle.circle():



Example: The Robot

• It can: • Move

• Grip boxes

- Lift mechanical arms up and down
- Sense position
- Be driven by a python code library

Things the robot does:

• Move left/right along a shelf with boxes on it:



• Move gripper up and down:





Australian National University



Open and close the gripper:

Folded

Closed

- When moving along the shelf of boxes, the gripper needs to be folded to avoid hitting the boxes
- Folding and unfolding the gripper may hit boxes, so important to lift the gripper up first

Open



The robot library >>> import robot Start new simulation: >>> robot.init() Start simulation with larger area: >>> robot.init(width = 11, height = 6) Start simulation with random boxes: >>> robot.init(width = 11, height = 6, boxes = "random") Drive right/left one step: >>> robot.drive_right() >>> robot.drive_left()

The robot library



Move the lift up one step:
>>> robot.lift_up()

Move the lift down one step:
>>> robot.lift_down()

Change gripper position:

- >>> robot.gripper_to_open()
- >>> robot.gripper_to_closed()
- >>> robot.gripper_to_folded()
- If the robot hits a box, no command works until a new simulation is started.



How to pick up a box?

- * How to pick up a box without hitting the box(es) next to it? robot.lift_up() robot.gripper_to_open()
- robot.lift_down()
 robot.gripper_to_closed()
 robot.lift_up()
- * A *program* is a sequence of instructions.





[•] This quickly gets very tedious!

Abstraction with functions

Australiar

Australian

• We only need to know what a function does. We don't need to know how it does it:

def grasp_box_on_shelf():
 robot.lift_up()
 robot.gripper_to_open()
 spaces robot.lift_down()
 robot.gripper_to_closed()
 robot.lift_up()

• And the idea is, there is a high-level function to do all the necessary

tasks: def release_and_pickup_next():
 robot.gripper_to_open()
 robot.lift_down()
 robot.gripper_to_closed()
 robot.lift_up()



How to build a tower of boxes?

robot.init(width = 9, boxes = "flat")
robot.drive_right()
grasp_box_on_shelf()
move_to_next_stack()
release_and_pickup_next()
move_to_next_stack()
release_and_pickup_next()
move_to_next_stack()
release_and_pickup_next()
move_to_next_stack()
robot.gripper_to_folded()
robot.lift_down()

Australian National

- Much better!
- And you needn't stop there:
- build_tower() ?

Exercises

Australian National University

• Exercises in this week's practical lab

Reading

Think Python Ch 4 (*Encapsulation, Generalization, Interface Design*) and Ch 6 (*Leap of Faith*)