

Python Programming

Functions

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Introduction

Outline

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Hands on!

User Defined Functions

- A function is a named sequence of statements that performs some piece of work.
- Later on that function can be called multiple times by using its name.

User Defined Functions

Defining a function

A function definition includes its `name`, `parameters`, and `body`:

```
def _name ( parameters ):  
    body
```

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functions.py

```
1 def greeting():  
2     print('Hello!')
```

User Defined Functions

Calling a function

A function is called by using its `name` and by providing the required `arguments`:

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name ( arguments )
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4 greeting()
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User Defined Functions

Calling a function

A function is called by using its **name** and by providing the required **arguments**:

```
name ( arguments )
```

functions.py

```
1 def greeting():  
2     print('Hello!')  
3  
4 greeting()
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
Hello!
```


User Defined Functions

Calling a function

A function is called by using its **name** and by providing the required **arguments**:

```
name ( arguments )
```

Now let's add some **parameters**:

functions.py

```
1 def greeting(name):  
2     print('Hello! {}'.format(name))  
3  
4 greeting('students')
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
Hello students !
```

User Defined Functions

The Return Statement

Used to return a certain result value back to the caller.

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2
```

User Defined Functions

The Return Statement

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functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 print(add_two(5))
```

User Defined Functions

The Return Statement

Used to return a certain result value back to the caller.

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 print(add_two(5))
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
7
```

User Defined Functions

The Return Statement

Used to return a certain result value back to the caller.

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 for i in range(5):  
5     print(i, '->', add_two(i))
```

User Defined Functions

The Return Statement

Used to return a certain result value back to the caller.

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 for i in range(5):  
5     print(i, '->', add_two(i))
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
0 -> 2  
1 -> 3  
2 -> 4  
3 -> 5  
4 -> 6
```

Arguments

Required

Have to be passed during the function call (precisely in the right order).

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 print(add_two())
```

Arguments

Required

Have to be passed during the function call (precisely in the right order).

functions.py

```
1 def add_two(number):  
2     return number + 2  
3  
4 print(add_two())
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
File "functions.py", line 4, in <module>  
    add_two()  
TypeError: add_two() missing 1 required positional argument: 'number'
```


Arguments

Default

Take a default value if no argument value is passed during the function call.

functions.py

```
1 def add_value(number, value=2):  
2     return number + value  
3  
4 print(add_value(5))
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
7
```

Arguments

Default

Take a default value if no argument value is passed during the function call.

functions.py

```
1 def add_value(number, value=2):  
2     return number + value  
3  
4 print(add_value(5))  
5 print(add_value(5, 5))
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
7  
10
```

Arguments

Explicit parameter mentioning

When you want to make sure that the mapping is correct.

functions.py

```
1 def add_value(number, value=2):  
2     return number + value  
3  
4 print(add_value(5, value=2))  
5 print(add_value(number=5, value=2))  
6 print(add_value(value=2, number=5))
```

terminal

```
$ python functions.py  
7  
7  
7
```

The range where a variable is visible.

Roughly speaking:

- The whole program forms one scope.
- A function definition creates a new (nested) scope.
- Variables inside a nested scope are not visible in the outer scope.
- Variables from the outside scope are visible in the inner nested scope, but you cannot (re)-assign a value to them (read-only) unless they are declared global.

Variable Scope

Hiding variables

If in a new scope a variable is created that already existed in an outer scope, the new variable will hide the outer variable.

Variable Scope

Scope of function arguments

Arguments of a function declaration are also only visible inside the function.

Function as values

Functions are values

We can pass functions around just like other values, and call them.

function_values.py

```
1 def add_two(number):
2     return number + 2
3
4 def add_some_other_number(number, other_number=12):
5     return number + other_number
6
7 functions = [add_two, add_some_other_number]
8 for function in functions:
9     print(function(7))
10
11 # Simple anonymous functions can be created with lambda.
12 functions.append(lambda x: x * 7)
13 for function in functions:
14     print(function(4))
```

Like many other definitions, functions can have docstrings.

- Docstrings are regular string values which you start the definition body with.
- You can access an object's docstring using help.

docstring_example.py

```
1 def factorial(n):  
2     """Compute factorial of n in the obvious way."""  
3     if n == 0:  
4         return 1  
5     else:  
6         return factorial(n - 1) * n
```


Higher-order functions

Take a function as an argument.

IPython

```
In [1]: help(map)
Help on class map in module builtins:
class map(object)
|   map(func, *iterables) --> map object
|
|   Make an iterator that computes the function using arguments from
|   each of the iterables. Stops when the shortest iterable is
|   exhausted.

In [2]: list(map(add_two, [1, 2, 3, 4]))
Out[2]: [3, 4, 5, 6]
```

Hands on!

1. Write a Python function that returns the maximum of two numbers.
2. Write a Python function that returns the maximum of three numbers. Try to reuse the first maximum of two numbers function.
3. Write a Python function that accepts a string as parameter. Next, it calculates and prints the number of upper case letters and lower case letters. Make use of the `isupper` and `islower` built in methods.

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