turtle — Turtle graphics for Tk

Introduction

Turtle graphics is a popular way for introducing programming to kids. It was part of the original Logo programming language developed by Wally Feurzig and Seymour Papert in 1966.

Imagine a robotic turtle starting at (0, 0) in the x-y plane. Give it the command turtle.forward(15), and it moves (on-screen!) 15 pixels in the direction it is facing, drawing a line as it moves. Give it the command turtle.left(25), and it rotates in-place 25 degrees clockwise.

By combining together these and similar commands, intricate shapes and pictures can easily be drawn.

The turtle module is an extended reimplementation of the same-named module from the Python standard distribution up to version Python 2.5.

It tries to keep the merits of the old turtle module and to be (nearly) 100% compatible with it. This means in the first place to enable the learning programmer to use all the commands, classes and methods interactively when using the module from within IDLE run with the -n switch.

The turtle module provides turtle graphics primitives, in both object-oriented and procedure-oriented ways. Because it uses Tkinter for the underlying graphics, it needs a version of python installed with Tk support.

The object-oriented interface uses essentially two+two classes:

1. The TurtleScreen class defines graphics windows as a playground for the drawing turtles. Its constructor needs a Tkinter.Canvas Or a ScrolledCanvas as argument. It should be used when turtle is used as part of some application.

The function Screen() returns a singleton object of a TurtleScreen subclass. This function should be used when turtle is used as a standalone tool for doing graphics. As a singleton object, inheriting from its class is not possible.

All methods of TurtleScreen/Screen also exist as functions, i.e. as part of the procedure-oriented interface.

2. RawTurtle (alias: RawPen) defines Turtle objects which draw on a TurtleScreen. Its constructor needs a Canvas, ScrolledCanvas or TurtleScreen as argument, so the RawTurtle objects know where to draw.

Derived from RawTurtle is the subclass Turtle (alias: Pen), which draws on "the" Screen - instance which is automatically created, if not already present.

All methods of RawTurtle/Turtle also exist as functions, i.e. part of the procedure-oriented interface.

The procedural interface provides functions which are derived from the methods of the classes **Screen** and **Turtle**. They have the same names as the corresponding methods. A screen object is automativally created whenever a function derived from a Screen method is called. An (unnamed) turtle object is automatically created whenever any of the functions derived from a Turtle method is called.

To use multiple turtles an a screen one has to use the object-oriented interface.

Note: In the following documentation the argument list for functions is given. Methods, of course, have the additional first argument *self* which is omitted here.

Overview over available Turtle and Screen methods

Turtle methods

Turtle motion

Move and draw

```
forward() | fd()
backward() | bk() | back()
right() | rt()
left() | lt()
goto() | setpos() | setposition()
setx()
sety()
setheading() | seth()
home()
circle()
dot()
stamp()
clearstamp()
clearstamps()
```

```
undo()
        speed()
    Tell Turtle's state
        position() | pos()
        towards()
        xcor()
        ycor()
        heading()
        distance()
    Setting and measurement
        degrees()
        radians()
Pen control
    Drawing state
        pendown() | pd() | down()
        penup() | pu() | up()
        pensize() | width()
        pen()
        isdown()
    Color control
        color()
        pencolor()
        fillcolor()
    Filling
        filling()
        begin_fill()
        end_fill()
    More drawing control
        reset()
        clear()
        write()
```

```
Turtle state
    Visibility
        showturtle() | st()
        hideturtle() | ht()
        isvisible()
    Appearance
        shape()
        resizemode()
        shapesize() | turtlesize()
        settiltangle()
        tiltangle()
        tilt()
Using events
    onclick()
    onrelease()
    ondrag()
Special Turtle methods
    begin_poly()
    end_poly()
    get_poly()
    clone()
    getturtle() | getpen()
    getscreen()
    setundobuffer()
    undobufferentries()
```

Methods of TurtleScreen/Screen

Window control

```
bgcolor()
bgpic()
clear() | clearscreen()
reset() | resetscreen()
```

```
screensize()
    setworldcoordinates()
Animation control
    delay()
    tracer()
    update()
Using screen events
    listen()
    onkey()
    onclick() | onscreenclick()
    ontimer()
Settings and special methods
    mode()
    colormode()
    getcanvas()
    getshapes()
    register_shape() | addshape()
    turtles()
    window_height()
    window_width()
Methods specific to Screen
    bye()
    exitonclick()
    setup()
    title()
```

Methods of RawTurtle/Turtle and corresponding functions

Most of the examples in this section refer to a Turtle instance called turtle.

Turtle motion

```
turtle. forward (distance)
```

turtle. fd (distance)

Parameter: *distance* – a number (integer or float)

Move the turtle forward by the specified distance, in the direction the turtle is headed.

```
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00, 0.00)
>>> turtle.forward(25)
>>> turtle.position()
(25.00,0.00)
>>> turtle.forward(-75)
>>> turtle.position()
(-50.00,0.00)
```

```
turtle.back(distance)
turtle.bk(distance)
turtle.backward(distance)
```

Parameter: distance – a number

Move the turtle backward by distance, opposite to the direction the turtle is headed. Do not change the turtle's heading.

```
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00, 0.00)
>>> turtle.backward(30)
>>> turtle.position()
(-30.00, 0.00)
```

```
turtle.right(angle)
turtle.rt(angle)
```

Parameter: angle – a number (integer or float)

Turn turtle right by *angle* units. (Units are by default degrees, but can be set via the degrees() and radians() functions.) Angle orientation depends on the turtle mode, see mode().

```
>>> turtle.heading()
22.0
>>> turtle.right(45)
>>> turtle.heading()
337.0
```

```
turtle.left(angle)
turtle.lt(angle)
```

Parameter: angle – a number (integer or float)

Turn turtle left by *angle* units. (Units are by default degrees, but can be set via the degrees() and radians() functions.) Angle orientation depends on the turtle mode, see mode().

```
>>> turtle.heading()
22.0
>>> turtle.left(45)
>>> turtle.heading()
67.0
```

```
turtle.goto(x, y=None)
turtle.setpos(x, y=None)
turtle.setposition(x, y=None)
```

Parameters: • x - a number or a pair/vector of numbers

• y - a number or None

If y is None, x must be a pair of coordinates or a Vec2D (e.g. as returned by pos()).

Move turtle to an absolute position. If the pen is down, draw line. Do not change the turtle's orientation.

```
>>> tp = turtle.pos()
>>> tp
(0.00, 0.00)
>>> turtle.setpos(60,30)
>>> turtle.pos()
(60.00,30.00)
>>> turtle.setpos((20,80))
>>> turtle.setpos()
(20.00,80.00)
>>> turtle.setpos(tp)
>>> turtle.setpos()
```

```
turtle. setx(x)
```

Parameter: x – a number (integer or float)

Set the turtle's first coordinate to *x*, leave second coordinate unchanged.

```
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00, 240.00)
>>> turtle.setx(10)
>>> turtle.position()
(10.00, 240.00)
```

turtle. sety(y)

Parameter: y - a number (integer or float)

Set the turtle's second coordinate to y, leave first coordinate unchanged.

```
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00, 40.00)
>>> turtle.sety(-10)
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00, -10.00)
```

turtle.setheading (to_angle) turtle.seth(to_angle)

Parameter: *to_angle* – a number (integer or float)

Set the orientation of the turtle to *to_angle*. Here are some common directions in degrees:

standard mode logo mode

0 - north	
90 - east	
180 - south	
270 - west	

```
>>> turtle.setheading(90)
>>> turtle.heading()
90
```

turtle.home()

Move turtle to the origin – coordinates (0,0) – and set its heading to its start-orientation (which depends on the mode, see mode()).

turtle.circle(radius, extent=None, steps=None)

Parameters: • radius – a number

- extent a number (or None)
- steps an integer (or None)

Draw a circle with given *radius*. The center is *radius* units left of the turtle; *extent* – an angle – determines which part of the circle is drawn. If *extent* is not given, draw the entire circle. If *extent* is not a full circle, one endpoint of the arc is the current pen position. Draw the arc in counterclockwise direction if *radius* is positive, otherwise in clockwise direction. Finally the direction of the turtle is changed by the amount of *extent*.

As the circle is approximated by an inscribed regular polygon, *steps* determines the number of steps to use. If not given, it will be calculated automatically. May be used to draw regular polygons.

```
>>> turtle.circle(50)
>>> turtle.circle(120, 180) # draw a semicircle
```

turtle.dot(size=None, *color)

Parameters: • size – an integer >= 1 (if given)

• color – a colorstring or a numeric color tuple

Draw a circular dot with diameter size, using color. If size is not given, the maximum of pensize+4 and 2*pensize is used.

```
>>> turtle.dot()
>>> turtle.fd(50); turtle.dot(20, "blue"); turtle.fd(50)
```

turtle.stamp()

Stamp a copy of the turtle shape onto the canvas at the current turtle position. Return a stamp_id for that stamp, which can be used to delete it by calling clearstamp(stamp_id).

```
>>> turtle.color("blue")
>>> turtle.stamp()
13
>>> turtle.fd(50)
```

turtle.clearstamp(stampid)

Parameter: stampid – an integer, must be return value of previous stamp() call

Delete stamp with given stampid.

```
>>> turtle.color("blue")
>>> astamp = turtle.stamp()
>>> turtle.fd(50)
>>> turtle.clearstamp(astamp)
```

turtle.clearstamps (n=None)

Parameter: n – an integer (or None)

Delete all or first/last n of turtle's stamps. If n is None, delete all stamps, if n > 0 delete first n stamps, else if n < 0 delete last n stamps.

```
>>> for i in range(8):
...    turtle.stamp(); turtle.fd(30)
>>> turtle.clearstamps(2)
>>> turtle.clearstamps(-2)
>>> turtle.clearstamps()
```

turtle.undo()

Undo (repeatedly) the last turtle action(s). Number of available undo actions is determined by the size of the undobuffer.

```
>>> for i in range(4):
...    turtle.fd(50); turtle.lt(80)
...
>>> for i in range(8):
...    turtle.undo()
```

turtle.speed(speed=None)

Parameter: speed – an integer in the range 0..10 or a speedstring (see below)

Set the turtle's speed to an integer value in the range 0..10. If no argument is given, return current speed.

If input is a number greater than 10 or smaller than 0.5, speed is set to 0. Speedstrings are mapped to speedvalues as follows:

```
 "fastest": 0 "fast": 10 "normal": 6 "slow": 3 "slowest": 1
```

Speeds from 1 to 10 enforce increasingly faster animation of line drawing and turtle turning.

Attention: *speed* = 0 means that *no* animation takes place. forward/back makes turtle jump and likewise left/right make the turtle turn instantly.

```
>>> turtle.speed(3)
```

Tell Turtle's state

```
turtle.position()
turtle.pos()
```

Return the turtle's current location (x,y) (as a Vec2D vector).

```
>>> turtle.pos()
(0.00, 240.00)
```

turtle. towards (x, y=None)

Parameters: • x – a number or a pair/vector of numbers or a turtle instance

• y - a number if x is a number, else None

Return the angle between the line from turtle position to position specified by (x,y), the vector or the other turtle. This depends on the turtle's start orientation which depends on the mode - "standard"/"world" or "logo").

```
>>> turtle.pos()
(10.00, 10.00)
>>> turtle.towards(0,0)
225.0
```

turtle.xcor()

Return the turtle's x coordinate.

```
>>> reset()
>>> turtle.left(60)
>>> turtle.forward(100)
>>> print turtle.xcor()
50.0
```

```
turtle.ycor()
```

Return the turtle's y coordinate.

```
>>> reset()
>>> turtle.left(60)
>>> turtle.forward(100)
>>> print turtle.ycor()
86.6025403784
```

turtle.heading()

Return the turtle's current heading (value depends on the turtle mode, see mode()).

```
>>> turtle.left(67)
>>> turtle.heading()
67.0
```

turtle.distance(x, y=None)

Parameters: • x – a number or a pair/vector of numbers or a turtle instance

• y - a number if x is a number, else None

Return the distance from the turtle to (x,y), the given vector, or the given other turtle, in turtle step units.

```
>>> turtle.pos()
(0.00, 0.00)
>>> turtle.distance(30,40)
50.0
>>> joe = Turtle()
>>> joe.forward(77)
>>> turtle.distance(joe)
77.0
```

Settings for measurement

turtle. degrees (fullcircle=360.0)

Parameter: fullcircle - a number

Set angle measurement units, i.e. set number of "degrees" for a full circle. Default value is 360 degrees.

```
>>> turtle.left(90)
>>> turtle.heading()
90
>>> turtle.degrees(400.0) # angle measurement in gon
```

```
>>> turtle.heading()
100
```

turtle. radians()

Set the angle measurement units to radians. Equivalent to degrees (2*math.pi).

```
>>> turtle.heading()
90
>>> turtle.radians()
>>> turtle.heading()
1.5707963267948966
```

Pen control

Drawing state

```
turtle.pendown()
turtle.pd()
turtle.down()
   Pull the pen down - drawing when moving.

turtle.penup()
turtle.pu()
turtle.up()
   Pull the pen up - no drawing when moving.

turtle.pensize(width=None)
turtle.width(width=None)
Parameter: width - a positive number
```

Set the line thickness to *width* or return it. If resizemode is set to "auto" and turtleshape is a polygon, that polygon is drawn with the same line thickness. If no argument is given, the current pensize is returned.

```
>>> turtle.pensize()
1
>>> turtle.pensize(10)  # from here on lines of width 10 are drawn
```

turtle.pen(pen=None, **pendict)

Parameters: • pen – a dictionary with some or all of the below listed keys

pendict – one or more keyword-arguments with the below listed keys as keywords

Return or set the pen's attributes in a "pen-dictionary" with the following key/value pairs:

- "shown": True/False
- "pendown": True/False
- "pencolor": color-string or color-tuple
- "fillcolor": color-string or color-tuple
- "pensize": positive number
- "speed": number in range 0..10
- "resizemode": "auto" or "user" or "noresize"
- "stretchfactor": (positive number, positive number)
- "outline": positive number
- "tilt": number

This dicionary can be used as argument for a subsequent call to pen() to restore the former pen-state. Moreover one or more of these attributes can be provided as keyword-arguments. This can be used to set several pen attributes in one statement.

```
>>> turtle.pen(fillcolor="black", pencolor="red", pensize=10)
>>> turtle.pen()
{'pensize': 10, 'shown': True, 'resizemode': 'auto', 'outline': 1,
'pencolor': 'red', 'pendown': True, 'fillcolor': 'black',
'stretchfactor': (1,1), 'speed': 3}
>>> penstate=turtle.pen()
>>> turtle.color("yellow","")
>>> turtle.penup()
>>> turtle.pen()
{'pensize': 10, 'shown': True, 'resizemode': 'auto', 'outline': 1,
'pencolor': 'yellow', 'pendown': False, 'fillcolor': '',
'stretchfactor': (1,1), 'speed': 3}
>>> p.pen(penstate, fillcolor="green")
>>> p.pen()
{'pensize': 10, 'shown': True, 'resizemode': 'auto', 'outline': 1,
'pencolor': 'red', 'pendown': True, 'fillcolor': 'green',
'stretchfactor': (1,1), 'speed': 3}
```

turtle.isdown()

Return True if pen is down, False if it's up.

```
>>> turtle.penup()
>>> turtle.isdown()
False
>>> turtle.pendown()
>>> turtle.isdown()
True
```

Color control

turtle.pencolor(*args)

Return or set the pencolor.

Four input formats are allowed:

```
pencolor()
```

Return the current pencolor as color specification string, possibly in hex-number format (see example). May be used as input to another color/pencolor/fillcolor call.

```
pencolor(colorstring)
```

Set pencolor to colorstring, which is a Tk color specification string, such as "red", "yellow", or "#33cc8c".

```
pencolor((r, g, b))
```

Set pencolor to the RGB color represented by the tuple of r, g, and b. Each of r, g, and b must be in the range 0..colormode, where colormode is either 1.0 or 255 (see colormode()).

```
pencolor(r, g, b)
```

Set pencolor to the RGB color represented by r, g, and b. Each of r, g, and b must be in the range 0..colormode.

If turtleshape is a polygon, the outline of that polygon is drawn with the newly set pencolor.

```
>>> turtle.pencolor("brown")
>>> tup = (0.2, 0.8, 0.55)
>>> turtle.pencolor(tup)
>>> turtle.pencolor()
"#33cc8c"
```

turtle. fillcolor (*args)

Return or set the fillcolor.

Four input formats are allowed:

```
fillcolor()
```

Return the current fillcolor as color specification string, possibly in hex-number format (see example). May be used as input to another color/pencolor/fillcolor call.

```
fillcolor(colorstring)
```

Set fillcolor to colorstring, which is a Tk color specification string, such as "red", "yellow", or "#33cc8c".

```
fillcolor((r, g, b))
```

Set fillcolor to the RGB color represented by the tuple of r, g, and b. Each of r, g, and b must be in the range 0..colormode, where colormode is either 1.0 or 255 (see colormode()).

```
fillcolor(r, g, b)
```

Set fillcolor to the RGB color represented by *r*, *g*, and *b*. Each of *r*, *g*, and *b* must be in the range 0..colormode.

If turtleshape is a polygon, the interior of that polygon is drawn with the newly set fillcolor.

```
>>> turtle.fillcolor("violet")
>>> col = turtle.pencolor()
>>> turtle.fillcolor(col)
>>> turtle.fillcolor(0, .5, 0)
```

turtle.color(*args)

Return or set pencolor and fillcolor.

Several input formats are allowed. They use 0 to 3 arguments as follows:

```
color()
```

Return the current pencolor and the current fillcolor as a pair of color specification strings as returned by pencolor() and fillcolor().

```
color(colorstring), color((r,g,b)), color(r,g,b)
```

Inputs as in pencolor(), set both, fillcolor and pencolor, to the given value.

```
color(colorstring1, colorstring2), color((r1,g1,b1), (r2,g2,b2))
```

Equivalent to pencolor(colorstring1) and fillcolor(colorstring2) and analogously if the other input format is used.

If turtleshape is a polygon, outline and interior of that polygon is drawn with the newly set colors.

```
>>> turtle.color("red", "green")
>>> turtle.color()
("red", "green")
>>> colormode(255)
>>> color((40, 80, 120), (160, 200, 240))
>>> color()
("#285078", "#a0c8f0")
```

See also: Screen method colormode().

Filling

turtle.filling()

Return fillstate (True if filling, False else).

```
>>> turtle.begin_fill()
>>> if turtle.filling():
...    turtle.pensize(5)
else:
...    turtle.pensize(3)
```

turtle.begin_fill()

To be called just before drawing a shape to be filled.

```
>>> turtle.color("black", "red")
>>> turtle.begin_fill()
>>> turtle.circle(60)
>>> turtle.end_fill()
```

turtle.end_fill()

Fill the shape drawn after the last call to begin_fill().

More drawing control

turtle. reset()

Delete the turtle's drawings from the screen, re-center the turtle and set variables to the default values.

```
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00,-22.00)
>>> turtle.heading()
100.0
>>> turtle.reset()
>>> turtle.position()
(0.00,0.00)
>>> turtle.heading()
0.0
```

turtle.clear()

Delete the turtle's drawings from the screen. Do not move turtle. State and position of the turtle as well as drawings of other turtles are not affected.

turtle.write(arg, move=False, align="left", font=("Arial", 8, "normal"))

Parameters: • arg – object to be written to the TurtleScreen

- move True/False
- align one of the strings "left", "center" or right"
- *font* a triple (fontname, fontsize, fonttype)

Write text - the string representation of *arg* - at the current turtle position according to *align* ("left", "center" or right") and with the given font. If *move* is True, the pen is moved to the bottom-right corner of the text. By default, *move* is False.

```
>>> turtle.write("Home = ", True, align="center")
>>> turtle.write((0,0), True)
```

Turtle state

Visibility

```
turtle.showturtle()
turtle.st()
```

Make the turtle visible.

```
>>> turtle.hideturtle()
>>> turtle.showturtle()
```

```
turtle.hideturtle()
turtle.ht()
```

Make the turtle invisible. It's a good idea to do this while you're in the middle of doing some complex drawing, because hiding the turtle speeds up the drawing observably.

```
>>> turtle.hideturtle()
```

turtle.isvisible()

Return True if the Turtle is shown, False if it's hidden.

```
>>> turtle.hideturtle()
>>> print turtle.isvisible():
False
```

Appearance

turtle.shape(name=None)

Parameter: *name* – a string which is a valid shapename

Set turtle shape to shape with given *name* or, if name is not given, return name of current shape. Shape with *name* must exist in the TurtleScreen's shape dictionary. Initially there are the following polygon shapes: "arrow", "turtle", "circle", "square", "triangle", "classic". To learn about how to deal with shapes see Screen method register shape().

```
>>> turtle.shape()
"arrow"
>>> turtle.shape("turtle")
>>> turtle.shape()
"turtle"
```

turtle. resizemode (rmode=None)

Parameter: *rmode* – one of the strings "auto", "user", "noresize"

Set resizemode to one of the values: "auto", "user", "noresize". If *rmode* is not given, return current resizemode. Different resizemodes have the following effects:

• "auto": adapts the appearance of the turtle corresponding to the value of pensize.

- "user": adapts the appearance of the turtle according to the values of stretchfactor and outlinewidth (outline), which are set by shapesize().
- "noresize": no adaption of the turtle's appearance takes place.

resizemode("user") is called by shapesize() when used with arguments.

```
>>> turtle.resizemode("noresize")
>>> turtle.resizemode()
"noresize"
```

turtle.shapesize(stretch_wid=None, stretch_len=None, outline=None)

Parameters: • *stretch_wid* – positive number

- *stretch_len* positive number
- *outline* positive number

Return or set the pen's attributes x/y-stretchfactors and/or outline. Set resizemode to "user". If and only if resizemode is set to "user", the turtle will be displayed stretched according to its stretchfactors: *stretch_wid* is stretchfactor perpendicular to its orientation, *stretch_len* is stretchfactor in direction of its orientation, *outline* determines the width of the shapes's outline.

```
>>> turtle.resizemode("user")
>>> turtle.shapesize(5, 5, 12)
>>> turtle.shapesize(outline=8)
```

turtle.tilt(angle)

Parameter: angle – a number

Rotate the turtleshape by *angle* from its current tilt-angle, but do *not* change the turtle's heading (direction of movement).

```
>>> turtle.shape("circle")
>>> turtle.shapesize(5,2)
>>> turtle.tilt(30)
>>> turtle.fd(50)
>>> turtle.tilt(30)
>>> turtle.fd(50)
```

turtle.settiltangle (angle)

Parameter: angle – a number

Rotate the turtleshape to point in the direction specified by *angle*, regardless of its current tilt-angle. *Do not* change the turtle's heading (direction of movement).

```
>>> turtle.shape("circle")
>>> turtle.shapesize(5,2)
>>> turtle.settiltangle(45)
>>> stamp()
>>> turtle.settiltangle(-45)
>>> turtle.settiltangle(-45)
>>> turtle.fd(50)
```

turtle.tiltangle()

Return the current tilt-angle, i.e. the angle between the orientation of the turtleshape and the heading of the turtle (its direction of movement).

```
>>> turtle.shape("circle")
>>> turtle.shapesize(5,2)
>>> turtle.tilt(45)
>>> turtle.tiltangle()
```

Using events

turtle.onclick(fun, btn=1, add=None)

Parameters: • fun – a function with two arguments which will be called with the coordinates of the clicked point on the canvas

- num number of the mouse-button, defaults to 1 (left mouse button)
- add True or False if True, a new binding will be added, otherwise it will replace a former binding

Bind *fun* to mouse-click events on this turtle. If *fun* is None, existing bindings are removed. Example for the anonymous turtle, i.e. the procedural way:

```
>>> def turn(x, y):
... left(180)
>>> onclick(turn) # Now clicking into the turtle will turn it.
>>> onclick(None) # event-binding will be removed
```

turtle.onrelease (fun, btn=1, add=None)

Parameters: • fun – a function with two arguments which will be called with the coordinates of the clicked point on the canvas

- *num* number of the mouse-button, defaults to 1 (left mouse button)
- add True or False if True, a new binding will be added, otherwise it will replace a former binding

Bind fun to mouse-button-release events on this turtle. If fun is None, existing bindings are removed.

```
>>> class MyTurtle(Turtle):
...     def glow(self,x,y):
...         self.fillcolor("red")
...         def unglow(self,x,y):
...         self.fillcolor("")
...
>>> turtle = MyTurtle()
>>> turtle.onclick(turtle.glow)  # clicking on turtle turns fillcolor red,
>>> turtle.onrelease(turtle.unglow) # releasing turns it to transparent.
```

turtle.ondrag(fun, btn=1, add=None)

Parameters: • fun – a function with two arguments which will be called with the coordinates of the clicked point on the canvas

- *num* number of the mouse-button, defaults to 1 (left mouse button)
- add True or False if True, a new binding will be added, otherwise it will replace a former binding

Bind *fun* to mouse-move events on this turtle. If *fun* is **None**, existing bindings are removed.

Remark: Every sequence of mouse-move-events on a turtle is preceded by a mouse-click event on that turtle.

```
>>> turtle.ondrag(turtle.goto)
# Subsequently, clicking and dragging the Turtle will move it across
# the screen thereby producing handdrawings (if pen is down).
```

Special Turtle methods

turtle.begin poly()

Start recording the vertices of a polygon. Current turtle position is first vertex of polygon.

```
turtle.end_poly()
```

Stop recording the vertices of a polygon. Current turtle position is last vertex of polygon. This will be connected with the first vertex.

turtle.get poly()

Return the last recorded polygon.

```
>>> p = turtle.get_poly()
>>> turtle.register shape("myFavouriteShape", p)
```

turtle.clone()

Create and return a clone of the turtle with same position, heading and turtle properties.

```
>>> mick = Turtle()
>>> joe = mick.clone()
```

turtle.getturtle()

Return the Turtle object itself. Only reasonable use: as a function to return the "anonymous turtle":

```
>>> pet = getturtle()
>>> pet.fd(50)
>>> pet
<turtle.Turtle object at 0x01417350>
>>> turtles()
[<turtle.Turtle object at 0x01417350>]
```

turtle.getscreen()

Return the TurtleScreen object the turtle is drawing on. TurtleScreen methods can then be called for that object.

```
>>> ts = turtle.getscreen()
>>> ts
<turtle.Screen object at 0x01417710>
>>> ts.bgcolor("pink")
```

turtle.setundobuffer (size)

Parameter: size – an integer or None

Set or disable undobuffer. If *size* is an integer an empty undobuffer of given size is installed. *size* gives the maximum number of turtle actions that can be undone by the undo() method/function. If *size* is None, the undobuffer is disabled.

```
>>> turtle.setundobuffer(42)
```

turtle.undobufferentries()

Return number of entries in the undobuffer.

```
>>> while undobufferentries():
... undo()
```

Excursus about the use of compound shapes

To use compound turtle shapes, which consist of several polygons of different color, you must use the helper class **Shape** explicitly as described below:

- 1. Create an empty Shape object of type "compound".
- 2. Add as many components to this object as desired, using the addcomponent() method.

For example:

```
>>> s = Shape("compound")
>>> poly1 = ((0,0),(10,-5),(0,10),(-10,-5))
>>> s.addcomponent(poly1, "red", "blue")
>>> poly2 = ((0,0),(10,-5),(-10,-5))
>>> s.addcomponent(poly2, "blue", "red")
```

3. Now add the Shape to the Screen's shapelist and use it:

```
>>> register_shape("myshape", s)
>>> shape("myshape")
```

Note: The **Shape** class is used internally by the **register_shape()** method in different ways. The application programmer has to deal with the Shape class *only* when using compound shapes like shown above!

Methods of TurtleScreen/Screen and corresponding functions

Most of the examples in this section refer to a TurtleScreen instance called screen.

Window control

```
turtle.bgcolor(*args)
```

Parameter: args – a color string or three numbers in the range 0..colormode or a 3-tuple of such numbers

Set or return background color of the TurtleScreen.

```
>>> screen.bgcolor("orange")
>>> screen.bgcolor()
"orange"
>>> screen.bgcolor(0.5,0,0.5)
>>> screen.bgcolor()
"#800080"
```

turtle.bgpic (picname=None)

Parameter: picname - a string, name of a gif-file or "nopic", or None

Set background image or return name of current backgroundimage. If *picname* is a filename, set the corresponding image as background. If *picname* is "nopic", delete background image, if present. If *picname* is None, return the filename of the current backgroundimage.

```
>>> screen.bgpic()
"nopic"
>>> screen.bgpic("landscape.gif")
>>> screen.bgpic()
"landscape.gif"
```

```
turtle.clear()
turtle.clearscreen()
```

Delete all drawings and all turtles from the TurtleScreen. Reset the now empty TurtleScreen to its initial state: white background, no background image, no event bindings and tracing on.

Note: This TurtleScreen method is available as a global function only under the name clearscreen. The global function clear is another one derived from the Turtle method clear.

```
turtle.reset()
turtle.resetscreen()
```

Reset all Turtles on the Screen to their initial state.

Note: This TurtleScreen method is available as a global function only under the name resetscreen. The global function reset is another one derived from the Turtle method reset.

turtle.screensize (canvwidth=None, canvheight=None, bg=None)

Parameters: • canvwidth – positive integer, new width of canvas in pixels

- canvheight positive integer, new height of canvas in pixels
- bg colorstring or color-tupel, new background color

If no arguments are given, return current (canvaswidth, canvasheight). Else resize the canvas the turtles are drawing on. Do not alter the drawing window. To observe hidden parts of the canvas, use the scrollbars. With this method, one can make visible those parts of a drawing which were outside the canvas before.

```
>>> turtle.screensize(2000,1500)
# e.g. to search for an erroneously escaped turtle ;-)
```

turtle.setworldcoordinates (//x, //y, urx, ury)

Parameters: • l/x – a number, x-coordinate of lower left corner of canvas

- *Ily* a number, y-coordinate of lower left corner of canvas
- urx a number, x-coordinate of upper right corner of canvas
- *ury* a number, y-coordinate of upper right corner of canvas

Set up user-defined coordinate system and switch to mode "world" if necessary. This performs a screen.reset(). If mode "world" is already active, all drawings are redrawn according to the new coordinates.

ATTENTION: in user-defined coordinate systems angles may appear distorted.

Animation control

turtle.delay(delay=None)

Parameter: delay – positive integer

Set or return the drawing *delay* in milliseconds. (This is approximately the time interval between two consecutive canvas updates.) The longer the drawing delay, the slower the animation.

Optional argument:

```
>>> screen.delay(15)
>>> screen.delay()
15
```

turtle.tracer(n=None, delay=None)

Parameters: • *n* − nonnegative integer

• delay – nonnegative integer

Turn turtle animation on/off and set delay for update drawings. If n is given, only each n-th regular screen update is really performed. (Can be used to accelerate the drawing of complex graphics.) Second argument sets delay value (see delay()).

```
>>> screen.tracer(8, 25)
>>> dist = 2
>>> for i in range(200):
... fd(dist)
... rt(90)
... dist += 2
```

turtle.update()

Perform a TurtleScreen update. To be used when tracer is turned off.

See also the RawTurtle/Turtle method speed().

Using screen events

```
turtle.listen(xdummy=None, ydummy=None)
```

Set focus on TurtleScreen (in order to collect key-events). Dummy arguments are provided in order to be able to pass listen() to the onclick method.

```
turtle.onkey (fun, key)
```

Parameters: • fun – a function with no arguments or None

• key – a string: key (e.g. "a") or key-symbol (e.g. "space")

Bind *fun* to key-release event of key. If *fun* is None, event bindings are removed. Remark: in order to be able to register key-events, TurtleScreen must have the focus. (See method Listen().)

```
>>> def f():
fd(50)
```

```
... lt(60)
...
>>> screen.onkey(f, "Up")
>>> screen.listen()
```

```
turtle.onclick(fun, btn=1, add=None)
turtle.onscreenclick(fun, btn=1, add=None)
```

Parameters: • fun – a function with two arguments which will be called with the coordinates of the clicked point on the canvas

- num number of the mouse-button, defaults to 1 (left mouse button)
- add True or False if True, a new binding will be added, otherwise it will replace a former binding

Bind *fun* to mouse-click events on this screen. If *fun* is None, existing bindings are removed.

Example for a TurtleScreen instance named screen and a Turtle instance named turtle:

```
>>> screen.onclick(turtle.goto)
# Subsequently clicking into the TurtleScreen will
# make the turtle move to the clicked point.
>>> screen.onclick(None) # remove event binding again
```

Note: This TurtleScreen method is available as a global function only under the name onscreenclick. The global function onclick is another one derived from the Turtle method onclick.

```
turtle.ontimer(fun, t=0)
```

Parameters: • fun – a function with no arguments

t − a number >= 0

Install a timer that calls fun after t milliseconds.

Settings and special methods

turtle.mode(mode=None)

Parameter: mode – one of the strings "standard", "logo" or "world"

Set turtle mode ("standard", "logo" or "world") and perform reset. If mode is not given, current mode is returned.

Mode "standard" is compatible with old turtle. Mode "logo" is compatible with most Logo turtle graphics. Mode "world" uses user-defined "world coordinates". **Attention**: in this mode angles appear distorted if x/y unit-ratio doesn't equal 1.

Mode	Initial turtle heading	positive angles
"standard"	to the right (east)	counterclockwise
"logo"	upward (north)	clockwise
>>> mode("	'logo") # resets tur	tle heading to nor

turtle.colormode(cmode=None)

Parameter: cmode – one of the values 1.0 or 255

Return the colormode or set it to 1.0 or 255. Subsequently *r*, *g*, *b* values of color triples have to be in the range 0..*cmode*.

```
>>> screen.colormode()
1.0
>>> screen.colormode(255)
>>> turtle.pencolor(240,160,80)
```

turtle.getcanvas()

>>> mode()
"logo"

Return the Canvas of this TurtleScreen. Useful for insiders who know what to do with a Tkinter Canvas.

```
>>> cv = screen.getcanvas()
>>> cv
<turtle.ScrolledCanvas instance at 0x010742D8>
```

turtle.getshapes()

Return a list of names of all currently available turtle shapes.

```
>>> screen.getshapes()
["arrow", "blank", "circle", ..., "turtle"]
```

```
turtle.register_shape (name, shape=None)
turtle.addshape (name, shape=None)
```

There are three different ways to call this function:

1. *name* is the name of a gif-file and *shape* is None: Install the corresponding image shape.

Note: Image shapes do not rotate when turning the turtle, so they do not display the heading of the turtle!

- 2. name is an arbitrary string and shape is a tuple of pairs of coordinates: Install the corresponding polygon shape.
- 3. name is an arbitrary string and shape is a (compound) Shape object: Install the corresponding compound shape.

Add a turtle shape to TurtleScreen's shapelist. Only thusly registered shapes can be used by issuing the command shape(shapename).

```
>>> screen.register_shape("turtle.gif")
>>> screen.register_shape("triangle", ((5,-3), (0,5), (-5,-3)))
```

turtle.turtles()

Return the list of turtles on the screen.

```
>>> for turtle in screen.turtles()
... turtle.color("red")
```

turtle.window height()

Return the height of the turtle window.

```
>>> screen.window_height()
480
```

turtle.window_width()

Return the width of the turtle window.

```
>>> screen.window_width()
640
```

Methods specific to Screen, not inherited from TirtleScreen

turtle.bye()

Shut the turtlegraphics window.

turtle.exitonclick()

Bind bye() method to mouse clicks on the Screen.

If the value "using_IDLE" in the configuration dictionary is False (default value), also enter mainloop. Remark: If IDLE with the -n switch (no subprocess) is used, this value should be set to True in turtle.cfg. In this case IDLE's own mainloop is active also for the client script.

 ${\tt turtle.} \ \textbf{setup} \ (\textit{width} = \textit{CFG}[\textit{, "width"}], \ \textit{height} = \textit{CFG}[\textit{, "height"}], \ \textit{startx} = \textit{CFG}[\textit{, "leftright"}], \ \textit{starty} = \textit{CFG}[\textit{, "topbottom"}])$

Set the size and position of the main window. Default values of arguments are stored in the configuration dicionary and can be changed via a turtle.cfg file.

Parameters: • width – if an integer, a size in pixels, if a float, a fraction of the screen; default is 50% of screen

- height if an integer, the height in pixels, if a float, a fraction of the screen; default is 75% of screen
- *startx* if positive, starting position in pixels from the left edge of the screen, if negative from the right edge, if None, center window horizontally
- *startx* if positive, starting position in pixels from the top edge of the screen, if negative from the bottom edge, if None, center window vertically

```
>>> screen.setup (width=200, height=200, startx=0, starty=0)
# sets window to 200x200 pixels, in upper left of screen
>>> screen.setup(width=.75, height=0.5, startx=None, starty=None)
# sets window to 75% of screen by 50% of screen and centers
```

turtle.title(titlestring)

Parameter: *titlestring* – a string that is shown in the titlebar of the turtle graphics window

Set title of turtle window to *titlestring*.

```
>>> screen.title("Welcome to the turtle zoo!")
```

The public classes of the module turtle

class turtle.RawTurtle (canvas)
class turtle.RawPen (canvas)

Parameter: canvas -

a Tkinter. Canvas, a ScrolledCanvas Or a

TurtleScreen

Create a turtle. The turtle has all methods described above as "methods of Turtle/RawTurtle".

class turtle. Turtle

Subclass of RawTurtle, has the same interface but draws on a default **Screen** object created automatically when needed for the first time.

class turtle. TurtleScreen (cv)

Parameter: CV - a Tkinter.Canvas

Provides screen oriented methods like setbg() etc. that are described above.

class turtle. Screen

Subclass of TurtleScreen, with four methods added.

class turtle.ScrolledCavas (master)

Parameter: master – some Tkinter widget to contain the ScrolledCanvas, i.e. a Tkinter-canvas with scrollbars added

Used by class Screen, which thus automatically provides a ScrolledCanvas as playground for the turtles.

class turtle.Shape(type_, data)

Parameter: *type_* – one of the strings "polygon", "image", "compound"

Data structure modeling shapes. The pair (type_, data) must follow this specification:

type_	data		
"polygon" a polygon-tuple, i.e. a tuple of pairs of coordinates			
"image"	an image (in this form only used internally!)		
"compound"	None (a compund shape has to be constructed using the addcomponent() method)		

addcomponent (poly, fill, outline=None)

Parameters: • poly – a polygon, i.e. a tuple of pairs of numbers

- fill a color the poly will be filled with
- *outline* a color for the poly's outline (if given)

Example:

```
>>> poly = ((0,0),(10,-5),(0,10),(-10,-5))
>>> s = Shape("compound")
>>> s.addcomponent(poly, "red", "blue")
# .. add more components and then use register_shape()
```

See Excursus about the use of compound shapes.

```
class turtle. Vec2D (x, y)
```

A two-dimensional vector class, used as a helper class for implementing turtle graphics. May be useful for turtle graphics programs too. Derived from tuple, so a vector is a tuple!

Provides (for a, b vectors, k number):

- a + b vector addition
- a b vector subtraction
- a * b inner product
- k * a and a * k multiplication with scalar
- abs(a) absolute value of a
- a.rotate(angle) rotation

Help and configuration

How to use help

The public methods of the Screen and Turtle classes are documented extensively via docstrings. So these can be used as online-help via the Python help facilities:

- When using IDLE, tooltips show the signatures and first lines of the docstrings of typed in function-/method calls.
- Calling help() on methods or functions displays the docstrings:

```
>>> help(Screen.bgcolor)
Help on method bacolor in module turtle:
bgcolor(self, *args) unbound turtle.Screen method
    Set or return backgroundcolor of the TurtleScreen.
    Arguments (if given): a color string or three numbers
    in the range O..colormode or a 3-tuple of such numbers.
     >>> screen.bgcolor("orange")
     >>> screen.bgcolor()
      "orange"
     >>> screen.bgcolor(0.5,0,0.5)
      >>> screen.bgcolor()
      "#800080"
>>> help(Turtle.penup)
Help on method penup in module turtle:
penup(self) unbound turtle. Turtle method
    Pull the pen up -- no drawing when moving.
    Aliases: penup | pu | up
    No argument
    >>> turtle.penup()
```

• The docstrings of the functions which are derived from methods have a modified form:

```
>>> help(bgcolor)
Help on function bgcolor in module turtle:

bgcolor(*args)
   Set or return backgroundcolor of the TurtleScreen.

Arguments (if given): a color string or three numbers in the range 0..colormode or a 3-tuple of such numbers.

Example::

   >>> bgcolor("orange")
   >>> bgcolor()
   "orange"
   >>> bgcolor(0.5,0,0.5)
   >>> bgcolor()
```

```
"#800080"

>>> help(penup)
Help on function penup in module turtle:

penup()
   Pull the pen up -- no drawing when moving.

Aliases: penup | pu | up

No argument

Example:
   >>> penup()
```

These modified docstrings are created automatically together with the function definitions that are derived from the methods at import time.

Translation of docstrings into different languages

There is a utility to create a dictionary the keys of which are the method names and the values of which are the docstrings of the public methods of the classes Screen and Turtle.

```
turtle.write_docstringdict (filename="turtle_docstringdict")
```

Parameter: filename – a string, used as filename

Create and write docstring-dictionary to a Python script with the given filename. This function has to be called explicitly (it is not used by the turtle graphics classes). The docstring dictionary will be written to the Python script filename.py. It is intended to serve as a template for translation of the docstrings into different languages.

If you (or your students) want to use turtle with online help in your native language, you have to translate the docstrings and save the resulting file as e.g. turtle_docstringdict_german.py

If you have an appropriate entry in your turtle.cfg file this dictionary will be read in at import time and will replace the original English docstrings.

At the time of this writing there are docstring dictionaries in German and in Italian. (Requests please to glingl@aon.at.)

How to configure Screen and Tirtles

The built-in default configuration mimics the appearance and behaviour of the old turtle module in order to retain best possible compatibility with it.

If you want to use a different configuration which better reflects the features of this module or which better fits to your needs, e.g. for use in a classroom, you can prepare a configuration file turtle.cfg which will be read at import time and modify the configuration according to its settings.

The built in configuration would correspond to the following turtle.cfg:

```
width = 0.5
height = 0.75
leftright = None
topbottom = None
canvwidth = 400
canvheight = 300
mode = standard
colormode = 1.0
delav = 10
undobuffersize = 1000
shape = classic
pencolor = black
fillcolor = black
resizemode = noresize
visible = True
language = english
exampleturtle = turtle
examplescreen = screen
title = Python Turtle Graphics
using IDLE = False
```

Short explanation of selected entries:

- The first four lines correspond to the arguments of the Screen.setup() method.
- Line 5 and 6 correspond to the arguments of the method Screen.screensize().
- shape can be any of the built-in shapes, e.g. arrow, turtle, etc. For more info try help(shape).
- If you want to use no fillcolor (i.e. make the turtle transparent), you have to write fillcolor = "" (but all nonempty strings must not have quotes in the cfg-file).
- If you want to reflect the turtle its state, you have to use resizemode = auto.
- If you set e.g. language = italian the docstringdict turtle_docstringdict_italian.pywill be loaded at import time (if present on the import path, e.g. in the same directory as turtle.

- The entries exampleturtle and examplescreen define the names of these objects as they occur in the docstrings. The transformation of method-docstrings to function-docstrings will delete these names from the docstrings.
- using_IDLE: Set this to True if you regularly work with IDLE and its -n switch ("no subprocess"). This will prevent exitonclick() to enter the mainloop.

There can be a turtle.cfg file in the directory where turtle is stored and an additional one in the current working directory. The latter will override the settings of the first one.

The Demo/turtle directory contains a turtle.cfg file. You can study it as an example and see its effects when running the demos (preferably not from within the demo-viewer).

Demo scripts

There is a set of demo scripts in the turtledemo directory located in the Demo/turtle directory in the source distribution.

It contains:

- a set of 15 demo scripts demonstrating differet features of the new module turtle
- a demo viewer turtleDemo.py which can be used to view the sourcecode of the scripts and run them at the same time. 14 of the examples can be accessed via the Examples menu; all of them can also be run standalone.
- The example turtledemo_two_canvases.pydemonstrates the simultaneous use of two canvases with the turtle module. Therefore it only can be run standalone.
- There is a turtle.cfg file in this directory, which also serves as an example for how to write and use such files.

The demoscripts are:

Name	Description	Features
bytedesign	complex classical turtlegraphics pattern	tracer(), delay, update()
chaos	graphs verhust dynamics, proves that you must not world coordinates trust computers' computations	
clock	analog clock showing time of your computer	turtles as clock's hands, ontimer
colormixer	experiment with r, g, b	ondrag()
fractalcurves	Hilbert & Koch curves	recursion
lindenmayer	ethnomathematics (indian kolams)	L-System
minimal_hanoi	Towers of Hanoi	Rectangular Turtles as Hanoi discs (shape, shapesize)

paint	super minimalistic drawing program	onclick()
peace	elementary	turtle: appearance and animation
penrose	aperiodic tiling with kites and darts	stamp()
planet_and_moon	simulation of gravitational system	compound shapes, Vec2D
tree	a (graphical) breadth first tree (using generators)	clone()
wikipedia	a pattern from the wikipedia article on turtle graphics	clone(), undo()
yingyang	another elementary example	circle()

Have fun!

Changes since Python 2.6

- The methods Turtle.tracer(), Turtle.window_width() and Turtle.window_height() have been eliminated. Methods with these names and functionality are now available only as methods of Screen. The functions derived from these remain available. (In fact already in Python 2.6 these methods were merely duplications of the corresponding TurtleScreen/Screen-methods.)
- The method Turtle.fill() has been eliminated. The behaviour of begin_fill() and end_fill() have changed slightly: now every filling-process must be completed with an end_fill() call.
- A method Turtle.filling() has been added. It returns a boolean value: True if a filling process is under way, False otherwise. This behaviour corresponds to a fill() call without arguments in Python 2.6.