


11: Modules

Modules in Python

- } Python subprograms can be collected into independent modules
 - } These modules can be imported in other programs
 - } This means, that you can reuse the code you have written in other programs without needing to copy-paste it.
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Useful modules in Python

- } Python comes with a set of useful modules you can use in your own programs.
- } We've already used some, including e.g. `math`, `string` and `__future__`.

Useful modules (cont.)

- } A complete list about global modules in Python 2.7 can be found here:

<http://docs.python.org/2.7/py-modindex.html>

Using modules

} To use a module, it needs to be imported

} The syntax for importing the whole module:

```
import module_name
```

} ...for example:

```
import math
```



Using modules (cont.)

- } When a module is imported, you can call any function or procedure from module by specifying the name of the module and a subroutine:

```
import math  
print math.sqrt(49) # square root for 49
```

Importing routines from module

- } If you only need a couple of routines from the module, you can specify them in the import statement. Use syntax

```
from module import routinelist
```

- } Routinelist specifies any number of routines, separated with commas

Importing routines (cont.)

- } For example, to import routines `sqrt` and `log10` from module `math`, use

```
from math import sqrt, log10
```

- } Or, to import routine `capwords` from module `string`, use

```
from string import capwords
```




Importing routines (cont.)

- } When a specified routine is imported from a module, you don't need to use module name when calling the routine:

```
from math import sqrt  
print sqrt(49)
```

- } ...Or...

```
import math  
print math.sqrt(49)
```



Naming imported routines

- } If you have imported the whole module (using `import module` statement), but are going to use a certain routine a lot, you can assign it a local name:

```
myFunctionName = module.routine
```

Naming imported routines (cont.)

- } When the routine is named, you can use that name to call the routine:

```
import math
```

```
square = math.sqrt  
print square(100) # outputs 10.0
```

```
lg = math.log10  
print lg(100) # outputs 2.0
```

Importing all routines from a module

- } An asterisk (*) can be used to import all routines from a module:

```
from module_name import *
```

- } This means, that you can call any routine from that module without using the module name. However, this has a tendency to lead to unreadable code, so it usually should be avoided.

Importing all routines... (cont.)


- } To import all routines from math, use

```
from math import *
```

- } Now you can call any routine from math module without specifying the module name:

```
print sqrt(250)  
print sin(90)  
print pi
```

Defining own modules

- } Any own program with subroutines (procedures or functions) can be used as a module.
 - } Program file's name is used as a module name.
 - } Note, that again Python interpreter looks at the *current folder* for modules.
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Defining own modules (cont.)

} For example, file my_module.py:

```
def add(a, b, c):  
    sum = a + b + c  
    return sum
```

```
def multi(a, b, c):  
    return a * b * c
```

Defining own modules (cont.)

} Using my_module.py:

```
import my_module #note, that no need for .py  
print my_module.add(1,2,3) # output 6
```

```
from my_module import multi  
print multi (2,2,2) # output 8
```


```
from my_module import *  
print multi(1,2,3) + add(2,3,4) # output 15
```


Reloading a module

- } If you make changes to your own module, and need to use updated version when old version is already loaded, you can reload the module by using the reload statement:

```
reload(my_module)
```

Bit more about function parameters

- } Especially, when using routines in modules (but in other use too), it is often handy to give some subprogram parameters default values.
 - } Parameters with default values are optional when calling the subprogram. If the value is not defined in the subprogram call, the default value will be used.
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Default parameter values

- } The default value for parameter can be assigned just like any other variable:

```
def myProcedure(a=3):  
    print a
```

```
myProcedure(5) # output 5  
myProcedure() # output 3
```

Default parameter values (cont.)

- } It is possible to define more than one default value:

```
def createPerson(name="John", age=21):  
    return (name, age)
```

```
print createPerson() # output ('John', 21)  
print createPerson("James") #output ('James', 21)  
print createPerson("Jane",24) #output ('Jane', 24)  
print createPerson(age=33) #output ('John',33)
```

Default parameter values (cont.)

- } It is also possible to mix default values with non-default values; the parameters with no default value are mandatory when calling the subprogram:

```
def multiplyString(str, number=2):  
    return str * number
```

```
print multiplyString("aa") # output 'aaaa'  
print multiplyString("bb",3) # output 'bbbbbb'
```


Example

- } A function that reads the contents of a file into a list, and removes line feeds from each line if wanted:

```
def fileToList(filename, removeLF = False):  
    f = open (filename, "r")  
    lst = f.readlines()  
    if removeLF:  
        for index, line in enumerate(lst):  
            lst[index] = line.replace("\n", "")  
    f.close()  
    return lst
```

```
m1 = fileToList("file.txt") # doesn't remove line feeds  
m2 = fileToList("file.txt", True) # removes lf:s
```

Using module as standalone

- } It's quite typical for the program acting as a module to include a main program as well
 - } If such program is imported, the main program is executed at import
 - } This may lead to potential problems
- 

Example

} Consider a program test_module.py:

```
def test():  
    print "Hello!"
```

```
# main program starts after functions  
print "Hi!"
```


Example (cont.)

} Test drive:

```
>>> import test_module  
Hi!  
>>> test_module.test()  
Hello!
```

The `__main__` variable

- } It is possible to check if the code is executed as a module or as a standalone program.
- } The trick is to check if the `__main__` variable's value is `"__main__"`
- } If `True`, the program is executed standalone, if `False`, as a module

Example

} Fixed example program:

```
def test():  
    print "Hello!"  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    # Main program goes here  
    print "Hi!"
```

Example (cont.)

} Example run:

```
>>> import test_module  
>>> test_module.test()  
Hello!
```

Back to modules


- } Finally, let's have a look at some of Python's global modules that can be used in own programs.

Module random

} Module for generating random numbers.
Some operations:

`random.randint(a,b)` – returns a random number between **a** and **b**, including end points

`random.choice(seq)` – returns a random item from sequence `seq`



Example

} Function that simulates a number of dice throws:

```
def throwDices(number):  
    lst = []  
    for i in xrange(number):  
        lst.append(random.randint(1,6))  
    return lst
```

Module fractions

} Module for implementing fraction numbers in Python. Some operations:

```
from fractions import Fraction
print Fraction(3,6) # output 1/2 (3/6 == 1/2)
res = Fraction(1,2) + Fraction(1,4)
print res # output 3/4
myFrac = Fraction(2,8)
print myFrac # output 1/4
print myFrac.numerator # outputs 1
print myFrac.denominator # outputs 4
print Fraction(0.75) # output 3/4
```


Module math

- } Module for various mathematical operations.
Some operations:

`math.fsum(seq)` – returns a floating point sum of all items in sequence `seq`

`math.pi` – returns π

`math.sin(x)`, `math.cos(x)`, `math.tan(x)` – return sine, cosine or tangent of `x` radians

Module string


} Module for various string operations. Some constants:

`string.ascii_letters` – returns a string with all letters `a...z + A...Z`

`string.ascii_lowercase` and `string.ascii_uppercase` – return only lowercase or uppercase letters

`string.digits` – returns a string with all digits `0...9`

See also formatting strings, which is useful for many occasions.



Module datetime

- } Module for various date and time functions.
Example of some operations:

```
from datetime import date
d = date.today()
print d.day # output current day number
print d.month # output current month number
print d.year # output current year
otherDate = date(2005, 6, 23) # 23.6.2005
diff = d - otherDate
print diff.days # days between dates
```

Module datetime (cont.)

- } Class datetime is useful if you want to utilize time with the date:

```
from datetime import datetime
# In order: year, month, day, hour, minutes, seconds
d = datetime(2016, 22, 11, 15, 15, 0)
d2 = datetime(2016, 22, 11, 16, 15, 0)
diff = d2 - d1
print diff.seconds # 3600 == one hour
```

Class timedelta

- } The timedelta class is useful when you want to roll the date forwards or backwards.

```
from date import date, timedelta
d1 = date(2016, 11, 22)
diff = timedelta(10) # 10 days
d2 = d1 + diff
print d2 # Outputs 2016-12-02
```

Class timedelta (cont.)

} Timedelta accepts different time formats:

```
dif1 = timedelta(4) # 4 days
dif2 = timedelta(hours = 5) # 5 hours
dif3 = timedelta(seconds = 44) # 44 seconds

dif4 = timedelta(days = 3, minutes = 10, seconds = 3)
print dif4.seconds # 603! Not including year/month/day
print dif4.days # 1
```

Class timedelta (cont.)

- } Note, that though you can use weeks, hours, minutes and seconds to initialize a timedelta object, you can only return **days** or **seconds**.
- } These are hence NOT supported:

```
td = timedelta(days = 2, hours = 3)
```

```
td.years # DOES NOT WORK
```

```
td.months # DOES NOT WORK
```

```
td.hours # DOES NOT WORK
```

```
td.minutes # DOES NOT WORK
```



Example 1

- } Query user for a string, then output 5 random letters from that string:

```
import random
str = raw_input("Give a string:")
for i in range(5):
    print random.choice(str)
```


Example 2

- } Query user for birthday, then display the number of days until next birthday

```
from datetime import date
mon = input("Month of birth (1-12):")
day = input("Day of birth (1-31):")
today = date.today()
# see if no birthday yet this year
if date(today.year, mon, day) > today:
    diff = date(today.year, mon, day) - today
else:
    diff = date(today.year + 1, mon, day) - today
print "Days until next birthday", diff.days
```

Example 3

- } Calculate the average of numbers in list by using the math module:

```
import math
```

```
def average(listOfNumbers):  
    sum = math.fsum(listOfNumbers)  
    return sum / len(listOfNumbers)
```