

# A typical Python program

```
def function_1(...):  
    -  
def function_2(...):  
    -  
    :  
def function_k(...):  
    -  
  
statement_1  
statement_2  
    :  
statement_n
```

# A typical Python program

```
def function_1(...):  
    -  
def function_2(...):  
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    :  
def function_k(...):  
    -  
  
statement_1  
statement_2  
    :  
statement_n
```

- Interpreter executes statements from top to bottom
- Function definitions are “digested” for future use
- Actual computation starts from `statement_1`

# A more messy program

```
statement_1
```

```
def function_1(...,...):
```

```
...
```

```
statement_2
```

```
statement_3
```

```
def function_2(...,...):
```

```
...
```

```
statement_4
```

```
:
```

# A more messy program



```
statement_1  
  
def function_1(...):  
    ...  
  
statement_2  
statement_3  
  
def function_2(...):  
    ...  
  
statement_4
```

- Python allows free mixing of function definitions and statements
- But programs written like this are likely to be harder to understand and debug

# Assignment statement

- Assign a **value** to a **name**

```
i = 5
```

```
j = 2*i
```

```
j = j + 5
```

# Assignment statement

- Assign a **value** to a **name**

```
i = 5
```

```
j = 2 * i
```

```
j = j + 5
```

- Left hand side is a **name**
- Right hand side is an **expression**
  - Operations in expression depend on **type** of value

# Numeric values

- Numbers come in two flavours



- `int` — integers
- `float` — fractional numbers



# int vs float

- Why are these different types?
- Internally, a value is stored as a finite sequence of 0's and 1's (binary digits, or bits)
- For an `int`, this sequence is read off as a binary number
- For a `float`, this sequence breaks up into a **mantissa** and **exponent**
  - Like "scientific" notation:  $0.602 \times 10^{24}$



# Operations on numbers

- Normal arithmetic operations: `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`
  - Note that `/` always produces a float
  - `7/3.5` is `2.0`, `7/2` is `3.5`
- Quotient and remainder: `//` and `%`
  - `9//5` is `1`, `9%5` is `4`
- Exponentiation: `**`
  - `3**4` is `81`

# Other operations on numbers

- `log()`, `sqrt()`, `sin()`, ...
- Built in to Python, but not available by default
- Must include `math` “library”
  - `from math import *`

# Names, values and types

- Values have types
  - Type determines what operations are legal
- Names inherit their type from their current value
  - Type of a name is not fixed
  - Unlike languages like C, C++, Java where each name is “declared” in advance with its type

# Names, values and types

- Names can be assigned values of different types as the program evolves

```
i = 5      # i is int
i = 7*1    # i is still int
j = i/3    # j is float, / creates float
-
i = 2*j    # i is now float
```

# Names, values and types

- Names can be assigned values of different types as the program evolves

```
i = 5      # i is int
i = 7*1    # i is still int
j = i/3    # j is float, / creates float
-
i = 2*j    # i is now float
```

- `type(e)` returns type of expression `e`
- Not good style to assign values of mixed types to same name!

```
mathew@mathewknight:~/python-2014-jul/mash3$ python2.5
Python 2.5.2 (v2.5.2:444621a48, Jun 25 2006, 10:47:28)
[GCC 4.2.1 (Apple Inc. build 5086) (dot 3)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> i = 5
>>> type(i)
<class 'int'>
>>> j = 7.5
>>> type(j)
<class 'float'>
>>> i = 3*j
>>> i
15.0
>>> type(i)
<class 'float'>
>>>
```

# Boolean values: `bool`

- `True`, `False`
- Logical operators: `not`, `and`, `or`
  - `not True` is `False`, `not False` is `True`
  - `x and y` is `True` if both of `x,y` are `True`
  - `x or y` is `True` if at least one of `x,y` is `True`



# Boolean values: `bool`

- `True`, `False`
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  - `not True` is `False`, `not False` is `True`
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# Comparisons

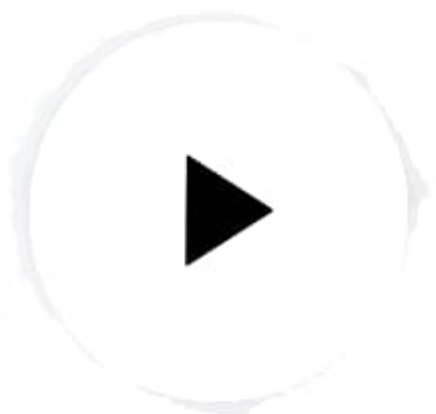
- $x == y$ ,  $a != b$ ,  
 $z < 17 * 5$ ,  $n > m$ ,  
 $i <= j + k$ ,  $19 >= 44 * d$
- Combine using logical operators
  - $n > 0$  and  $m \% n == 0$
- Assign a boolean expression to a name
  - $divisor = (m \% n == 0)$

# Examples

```
def divides(m,n):  
    if n % m == 0:  
        return(True)  
    else:  
        return(False)
```

# Examples

```
def divides(m,n):  
    if n%m == 0:  
        return(True)  
    else:  
        return(False)
```



```
def even(n):  
    return(divides(2,n))
```

```
def odd(n):  
    return(not divides(2,n))
```

# Summary

- Values have types
  - Determine what operations are allowed
- Names inherit type from currently assigned value
  - Can assign values of different types to a name
- `int`, `float`, `bool`

# Names, values and types

- Values have types
  - Determine what operations are allowed
- Names inherit type from currently assigned value
  - Can assign values of different types to a name
- `int`, `float`, `bool`
- `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, ...    `and`, `or`, ...    `==`, `!=`, `>`, ...

# Manipulating text

- Computation is a lot more than number crunching
- Text processing is increasingly important
  - Document preparation
  - Importing/exporting spreadsheet data
  - Matching search queries to content



# Strings — type `str`

- Type string, `str`, a sequence of characters
  - A single character is a string of length 1
  - No separate type `char`
- Enclose in quotes — single, double, even triple!  

```
city = 'Chennai'
```

```
title = "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
```

# Strings — type `str`

- Type string, `str`, a sequence of characters
  - A single character is a string of length 1
  - No separate type `char`
- Enclose in quotes — single, double, even triple!

```
city = 'Chennai'
```

```
title = "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
```

```
dialogue = '''He said his favourite book is  
"Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"'''
```

```
Last login: Mon Jul 18 12:11:00 on ttys002
madhavan@dolphinair:~$ python3.5
Python 3.5.2 (v3.5.2:4def2a2901a5, Jun 26 2016, 10:47:25)
[GCC 4.2.1 (Apple Inc. build 5666) (dot 3)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> s = 'Channel'
>>> s
'Channel'
>>> type(s)
<class 'str'>
>>> t = 'X'
>>> type(t)
<class 'str'>
>>> title = "Mitchhiker's"
>>> title
'Mitchhiker's'
>>> type(title)
<class 'str'>
>>> myquote = '''Mitchhiker's'''
>>> myquote
'Mitchhiker\'s'
>>>
```

# Strings as sequences

- String: sequence or list of characters
- Positions 0,1,2,...,n-1 for a string of length n
  - `s = "hello"`

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  | h | e | l | l | o |
- Positions -1,-2,... count backwards from end
  - `-1`

# Strings as sequences

- String: sequence or list of characters
- Positions 0,1,2,...,n-1 for a string of length n
  - `s = "hello"`

|    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| h  | e  | l  | l  | o  |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 |
- Positions -1,-2,... count backwards from end
  - `s[1] == "e", s[-2] == "l"`

# Operations on strings

- Combine two strings: concatenation, operator +
  - `s = "hello"`
  - `t = s + ", there"`
  - `t` is now "hello, there"

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- Combine two strings: concatenation, operator +
  - `s = "hello"`
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  - `t` is now "hello, there"
- `len(s)` returns length of `s`



# Operations on strings

- Combine two strings: concatenation, operator +
  - `s = "hello"`
  - `t = s + ", there"`
  - `t` is now "hello, there"
- `len(s)` returns length of `s`
- Will see other functions to manipulate strings later

# Extracting substrings

A **slice** is a "segment" of a string

- `s = "hello"`
- `s[1:4]` is `"ell"`
- `s[i:j]` starts at `s[i]` and ends at `s[j-1]`

# Extracting substrings

A **slice** is a "segment" of a string

- `s = "hello"`
- `s[1:4]` is "ell"
- `s[i:j]` starts at `s[i]` and ends at `s[j-1]`
- `s[:j]` starts at `s[0]`, so `s[0:j]`
- `s[i:]` ends at `s[len(s)-1]`, so `s[i:len(s)]`

```
>>> s = "hello"
>>> s[1:4]
'ell'
>>> s[:3]
'hel'
>>> s[2:]
'llo'
>>> s[3:1]
''
>>> s[0:7]
'hello'
>>> █
```

# Modifying strings

- Cannot update a string "in place"
  - `s = "hello"`, want to change to `"help!"`
  - `s[3] = "p"` — error!
- Instead, use slices and concatenation
  - `s = s[0:3] + "p!"`
- Strings are **immutable** values (more later)

# Summary

- Text values — type `str`, sequence of characters
  - Single character is string of length 1
- Extract individual characters by position
- Slices extract substrings
- `+` glues strings together
- Cannot update strings directly — `immutable`

# Types of values in Python

- Numbers: `int`, `float`
  - Arithmetic operations `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, `-`
- Logical values: `bool`, `{True, False}`
  - Logical operations `not`, `and`, ...
  - Comparisons `==`, `!=`, `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`
- Strings: `str`, sequences of characters
  - Extract by position `s[i]`, slice `s[i:j]`
  - Concatenation `+`, length `len()`, ...



# Lists

- Sequences of values

```
factors = [1,2,5,10]
```

```
names = ["Anand", "Charles", "Muqsit"]
```

- Type need not be uniform

```
mixed = [3, True, "Yellow"]
```

# Lists

- Sequences of values

```
factors = [1,2,5,10]
```

```
names = ["Anand","Charles","Muqsit"]
```

- Type need not be uniform

```
mixed = [3, True, "Yellow"]
```

- Extract values by position, slice, like str

```
factors[3] is 10, mixed[0:2] is [3,True]
```

# Lists

- Sequences of values

```
factors = [1,2,5,10]
```

```
names = ["Anand","Charles","Muqsit"]
```

- Type need not be uniform

```
mixed = [3, True, "Yellow"]
```

- Extract values by position, slice, like str

```
factors[3] is 10, mixed[0:2] is [3,True]
```

- Length is given by len()

```
len(names) is 3
```

# Lists and strings

- For `str`, both a single position and a slice return strings

```
h = "hello"
```

```
h[0] == h[0:1] == "h"
```

- For lists, a single position returns a value, a slice returns a list

```
factors = [1,2,5,10]
```

```
factors[0] == 1, factors[0:1] == [1]
```

# Lists and strings

- For `str`, both a single position and a slice return strings

```
h = "hello"
```

```
h[0] == h[0:1] == "h"
```

- For lists, a single position returns a value, a slice returns a list

```
factors = [1, 2, 5, 10]
```

```
factors[0] == 1, factors[0:1] == [1]
```



# Nested lists

- Lists can contain other lists

```
nested = [[2, [37]], 4, ["hello"]]
```

nested[0] is [2, [37]]

nested[1] is 4

nested[2][0][3] is "\

nested[0][1:2] is [[37]]

```
>>> nested=[[2,[37]],4,['hello']]
```

```
>>> nested
```

```
[2, [37], 4, ['hello']]
```

```
>>> nested[0]
```

```
2, [37]
```

```
>>> nested[1]
```

```
4
```

```
>>> nested[2]
```

```
['hello']
```

```
>>> nested[2][0]
```

```
'h'
```

```
>>> nested[2][0][3]
```

```
'l'
```

```
>>> nested[0][1:2]
```

```
[37]
```

```
>>>
```



# Updating lists

- Unlike strings, lists can be updated in place

```
nested = [[2,[37]],4,["hello"]]
```

```
nested[1] = 7
```

```
nested is now [[2,[37]],7,["hello"]]
```

```
nested[0][1][0] = 19
```

```
nested is now [[2,[19]],7,["hello"]]
```

- Lists are **mutable**, unlike strings

```
>>> nested=[[2,[37]],4,['hello']]
```

```
>>> nested
```

```
[2, [37]], 4, ['hello']
```

```
>>> nested[0]
```

```
[2, [37]]
```

```
>>> nested[1]
```

```
>>> nested[2]
```

```
['hello']
```

```
>>> nested[2][0]
```

```
h
```

```
>>> nested[2][0][3]
```

```
l
```

```
>>> nested[0][1:2]
```

```
[37]
```

```
>>>
```

# Mutable vs immutable

- What happens when we assign names?

x = 5 ✓

y = x •

x = 7

# Mutable vs immutable

- What happens when we assign names?

```
x = 5
```

```
y = x
```

```
x = 7
```

- Has the value of `y` changed?
  - No, why should it?
  - Does assignment copy the value or make both names point to the same value?

# Mutable vs immutable ...

- Does assignment copy the value or make both names point to the same value?
- For **immutable** values, we can assume that assignment makes a fresh copy of a value
  - Values of type `int`, `float`, `bool`, `str` are immutable
- Updating one value does not affect the copy

# Mutable vs immutable ...

- For mutable values, assignment **does not** make a fresh copy

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]  
list2 = list1  
list1[2] = 4
```

- What is `list2[2]` now?

```
>>> Mord = [1,1,1,1]
>>> Mord = Mord
>>> Mord
[1, 1, 1, 1]
>>> Mord[0] = 4
>>> Mord
[1, 1, 4, 1]
>>> Mord
[1, 1, 4, 1]
>>>
```



# Mutable vs immutable ...

- For mutable values, assignment **does not** make a fresh copy

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = list1
list1[2] = 4
```

- What is list2[2] now?
  - list2[2] is also 4
- list1 and list2 are two names for the **same** list

# Copying lists

- How can we make a copy of a list?
- A slice creates a new (sub)list from an old one
- Recall `l[:k]` is `l[0:k]`, `l[k:]` is `l[k:len(l)]`
- Omitting both end points gives a **full slice**

`l[:] == l[0:len(l)]`

- To make a copy of a list use a full slice

`list2 = list1[0:]`      `list2 = list1[:len(list1)]`

# Digression on equality

- Consider the following assignments

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
```

```
list2 = [1,3,5,7]
```

```
list3 = list2
```

## Digression on equality ...

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]  
list2 = [1,3,5,7]  
list3 = list2
```

- $x == y$  checks if  $x$  and  $y$  have same value

## Digression on equality ...

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = [1,3,5,7]
list3 = list2
```

- `x == y` checks if `x` and `y` have same value
- `x is y` checks if `x` and `y` refer to same object

```
list1 == list2 is True
list2 == list3 is True
```

## Digression on equality ...

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]  
list2 = [1,3,5,7]  
list3 = list2
```

- `x == y` checks if `x` and `y` have same value
- `x is y` checks if `x` and `y` refer to same object

```
list1 == list2 is True  
list2 == list3 is True  
list2 is list3 is True  
list1 is list2 is False
```

```

>>> list1 = [1,3,5,7]
>>> list2 = [1,3,5,7]
>>> list3 = list2
>>> list1 == list2
True
>>> list1 is list2
False
>>> list2 is list3
True
>>> list2[2] = 4
>>> list2
[1, 3, 4, 7]
>>> list1 == list2
False
>>> list1
[1, 3, 5, 7]
>>> list2 == list3
True
>>> list3
[1, 3, 4, 7]
>>> 

```



# Concatenation

- Like strings, lists can be glued together using +

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = [4,5,6,8]
list3 = list1 + list2
```

- list3 is now [1,3,5,7,4,5,6,8]
- Note that + always produces a new list

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = list1
list1 = list1 + [9]
```

# Concatenation

- Like strings, lists can be glued together using +

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = [4,5,6,8]
list3 = list1 + list2
```

- list3 is now [1,3,5,7,4,5,6,8]
- Note that + always produces a new list

```
list1 = [1,3,5,7]
list2 = list1
list1 = list1 + [9]
```

- list1 and list2 no longer point to the same object

```
see list1 = [1,2,3,7]
see list2 = list1
see list1 is list2
True
see list1 = list1 + [8]
see list1
<class 'list'>
see list1
[1, 2, 3, 7, 8]
see list2
[1, 2, 3, 7]
see
see list1
```

# Summary

- Lists are sequences of values
  - Values need not be of uniform type
  - Lists may be nested
- Can access value at a position, or a slice
- Lists are mutable, can update in place
  - Assignment does not copy the value
  - Use full slice to make a copy of a list

# A typical Python program



```
def function_1(...):  
    ...  
def function_2(...):  
    ...  
    ...  
def function_k(...):  
    ...  
  
statement_1  
statement_2  
    ...  
statement_n
```

- Interpreter executes statements from top to bottom
- Function definitions are “digested” for future use
- Actual computation starts from `statement_1`

# Control flow

- Need to vary computation steps as values change
- Control flow — determines order in which statements are executed
  - Conditional execution
  - Repeated execution — loops
  - Function definitions



# Conditional execution

```
if m%n != 0:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)
```

- Second statement is executed only if the condition `m%n != 0` is True
- Indentation demarcates **body** of if — must be uniform

```
if condition:  
    statement_1    # Execute conditionally  
    statement_2    # Execute conditionally  
statement_3        # Execute unconditionally
```



# Alternative execution

.

```
if m%n != 0:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
else:  
    gcd = n
```

- **else:** is optional

# Shortcuts for conditions

- Numeric value `0` is treated as `False`
- Empty sequence `''`, `[]` is treated as `False`
- Everything else is `True`

```
if m%n:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
else:  
    gcd = n
```


## Multiway branching, elif:

```
if x == 1:  
    y = f1(x)  
else:  
    if x == 2:  
        y = f2(x)  
    else:  
        if x == 3:  
            y = f3(x)  
        else:  
            y = f4(x)
```

# Multiway branching, elif

```
if x == 1:
    y = f1(x)
else:
    if x == 2:
        y = f2(x)
    else:
        if x == 3:
            y = f3(x)
        else:
            y = f4(x)
```

```
if x == 1:
    y = f1(x) ✓
elif x == 2:
    y = f2(x)
elif x == 3:
    y = f3(x)
else:
    y = f4(x)
```



# Loops: repeated actions

- Repeat something a fixed number of times

```
for i in [1,2,3,4]:  
    y = y*i  
    z = z+1
```

- Again, indentation to mark body of loop

# Loops: repeated actions

- Repeat something a number of times

```
for i in [1,2,3,
```

```
    y = y*i
```

```
    z = z+1
```

||

$y \times 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4$

$z + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

- Again, indentation to mark body of loop

# Loops: repeated actions

- Repeat something a fixed number of times

```
for i in [1,2,3,4]:
```

```
    y = y*i
```

```
    z = z+1
```

$y \times 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4$

$z + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

- Again, indentation to mark body of loop



# Repeating n times

- Often we want to do something exactly  $n$  times  
for  $i$  in  $[1, 2, \dots, n]$ :  
    . . .
- `range(0, n)` generates sequence  $0, 1, \dots, n-1$   
for  $i$  in `range(0, n)`:  
    . . .
- `range(i, j)` generates sequence  $i, i+1, \dots, j-1$ 
  - More details about `range()` later

# Example

- Find all factors of a number  $n$
- Factors must lie between 1 and  $n$

```
def factors(n):  
    flist = []  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        if n%i == 0:  
            flist = flist + [i]  
    return(flist)
```

# Loop based on a condition

- Often we don't know number of repetitions in advance

```
while condition:  
    . . .
```

- Execute body if `condition` evaluates to `True`
- After each iteration, check `condition` again
- Body must ensure progress towards termination!

# Example

- Euclid's gcd algorithm using remainder
- Update  $m, n$  till we find  $n$  to be a divisor of  $m$

```
def gcd(m,n):  
    if m < n:  
        (m,n) = (n,m)  
    while m%n != 0:  
        (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
    return(n)
```

# Summary

- Normally, statements are executed top to bottom, in sequence
- Can alter the **control flow**
  - `if ... elif ... else` — conditional execution
  - `for i in ...` — repeat a fixed number of times
  - `while ...` — repeat based on a condition

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```
def function_1(...):  
    -  
def function_2(...):  
    -  
    .  
def function_k(...):  
    -  
  
statement_1  
statement_2  
    .  
statement_n
```

- Interpreter executes statements from top to bottom
- Function definitions are “digested” for future use
- Actual computation starts from `statement_1`

# Function definition

```
def f(a,b,c):  
    statement_1  
    statement_2  
    ..  
    return(v)  
    ..
```



- Function name, arguments/parameters
- Body is indented



# Function definition

```
def f(a,b,c):  
    statement_1  
    statement_2  
    ..  
    return(v)  
    ..
```

return(v)



- Function name, arguments/parameters
- Body is indented
- `return()` statement exits and returns a value

# Passing values to functions

- **Argument value is substituted for name**

```
def power(x,n):  
    ans = 1  
    for i in range(0,n):  
        ans = ans*x  
    return(ans)
```

# Passing values to functions

- Argument value is substituted for name

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <pre>def power(x,n):<br/>    ans = 1<br/>    for i in range(0,n):<br/>        ans = ans*x<br/>    return(ans)</pre> | <pre>power(3,5)<br/>x = 3<br/>n = 5<br/>ans = 1<br/>for i in range..</pre> |
|---|--|

- Like an implicit assignment statement

# Passing values ...

- Same rules apply for mutable, immutable values
  - Immutable value will not be affected at calling point
  - Mutable values will be affected

# Example

```
def update(l,i,v):  
    if i >= 0 and i < len(l):  
        l[i] = v  
        return(True)  
    else:  
        v = v+1  
        return(False)
```

# Example

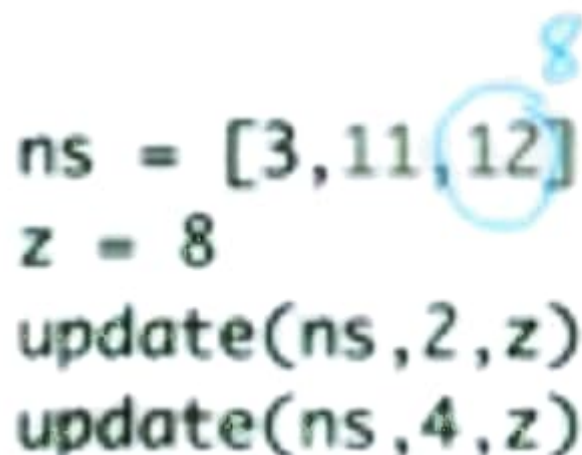
```
def update(l,i,v):  
    if i >= 0 and i < len(l):  
        l[i] = v  
        return(True)  
    else:  
        v = v+1  
        return(False)
```

```
ns = [3,11,12]  
z = 8  
update(ns,2,z)  
update(ns,4,z)
```

# Example

```
def update(l,i,v):  
    if i >= 0 and i < len(l):  
        l[i] = v  
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# Example

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- ns is [3,11,8]
- z remains 8

# Example

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def update(l,i,v):  
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ns = [3,11,12]  
z = 8  
update(ns,2,z)  
update(ns,4,z)
```

- ns is [3,11,8]
- z remains 8

- Return value may be ignored
- If there is no return(), function ends when last statement is reached

# Example

```
def update(l,i,v):          ns = [3,11,12]
    if i >= 0 and i < len(l): z = 8
        l[i] = v
        ✓ res = update(ns,2,z)
        ✓ res = update(ns,4,z)
        return(True)
    else:
        v = v+1
        return(False)
```

- ns is [3,11,8]
- z remains 8

- Return value may be ignored ✓
- If there is no return(), function ends when last statement is reached

# Scope of names

- Names within a function have local **scope**

```
def stupid(x):  
    n = 17  
    return(x)
```

```
n = 7  
v = stupid(28)  
# What is n now?
```

# Scope of names

- Names within a function have local **scope**

```
def stupid(x):
```

```
    n = 17
```

```
    return(x)
```

```
n = 7
```

```
28 ← v = stupid(28)
```

```
# What is n now?
```

# Scope of names

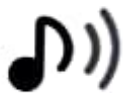
- Names within a function have local **scope**

```
def stupid(x):  
    n = 17  
    return(x)
```

```
n = 7  
v = stupid(28)  
# What is n now?
```

- n is still 7

# Defining functions



- A function must be defined before it is invoked
- This is OK

```
def f(x):  
    return g(x+1)
```

```
def g(y):  
    return(y+3)
```

```
z = f(77)
```



# Defining functions

- A function must be defined before it is invoked

- This is OK

```
def f(x):  
    return g(x+1)
```

```
def g(y):  
    return(y+3)
```

```
z = f(77)
```

- This is not

```
def f(x):  
    return g(x+1)
```

```
z = f(77)
```

```
def g(y):  
    return(y+3)
```

# Recursive functions

- A function can call itself — **recursion**

```
def factorial(n):  
    if n <= 0:  
        return(1)  
    else:  
        val = n * factorial(n-1)  
        return(val)
```

# Recursive functions

$$n! = n \underbrace{(n-1)(n-2) \dots 1}_{(n-1)!}$$
$$0! = 1$$

- A function can call itself — **recursion**

```
def factorial(n):  
    if n <= 0: Base :  
        return 1  
    else:  
        val = n * factorial(n-1)  
        return val
```

# Summary

- Functions are a good way to organise code in logical chunks
- Passing arguments to a function is like assigning values to names
  - Only mutable values can be updated
- Names in functions have local scope
- Functions must be defined before use
- Recursion — a function can call itself

# Some examples

- Find all factors of a number  $n$
- Factors must lie between 1 and  $n$

```
def factors(n):  
    factorlist = []  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        if n%i == 0:  
            factorlist = factorlist + [i]  
    return(factorlist)
```

# Primes

- Prime number — only factors are 1 and itself
- `factors(17)` is `[1,17]`
- `factors(18)` is `[1,2,3,6,9,18]`

```
def isprime(n):  
    return(factors(n) == [1,n])
```

- 1 should not be reported as a prime
  - `factors(1)` is `[1]`, not `[1,1]`

# Primes upto $n$

- List all primes below a given number

```
def primesupto(n):  
    primelist = []  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        if isprime(i):  
            primelist = primelist + [i]  
    return(primelist)
```



# First *n* primes



- List the first *n* primes

```
def nprimes(n):  
    (count,i,plist) = (0,1,[])  
    while(count < n):  
        if isprime(i):  
            (count,plist) = (count+1,plist+[i])  
        i = i+1  
    return(plist)
```

# First $n$ primes

- List the first  $n$  primes — How many to scan?

```
def nprimes(n):  
    (count, i, plist) = (0, 1, [])  
    while(count < n):  
        if isprime(i):  
            (count, plist) = (count+1, plist+[i])  
        i = i+1  
    return(plist)
```

count = 0  
i = 1  
plist

# for and while

- `primesupto()`
  - Know we have to scan from 1 to  $n$ , use `for`
- `nprimes()`
  - Range to scan not known in advance, use `while`

# for and while

- Can use while to simulate for

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| for n in range(i,j): | n = i        |
| statement            | while n < j: |
|                      | statement    |
|                      | n = n+1      |

---

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| for n in l: | <u>i = 0</u>                 |
| statement   | while <u>i &lt; len(l)</u> : |
|             | n = l[i]                     |
|             | statement                    |
|             | i = i+1                      |

# for and while

- Can use `while` to simulate `for`
- However, use `for` where it is natural
  - Makes for more readable code
- What makes a good program?
  - Correctness and efficiency — algorithm
  - Readability, ease of maintenance — style
  - What you say, and how you say it