8/28/13 Function Reuse

Function Reuse

Calling functions within other function definitions

The problem: Calculate the semi-perimeter of a triangle.

The approach: Function semiperimeter calls function perimeter.

```
def perimeter(side1, side2, side3):
    '''(number, number, number) -> number
   Return the perimeter of a triangle with sides of length
    side1, side2 and side3.
   >>> perimeter(3, 4, 5)
    12
    >>> perimeter(10.5, 6, 9.3)
    return side1 + side2 + side3
def semiperimeter(side1, side2, side3):
    '''(number, number, number) -> float
   Return the perimeter of a triangle with sides of
    length side1, side2 and side3.
   >>> semiperimeter(3, 4, 5)
    6.0
    >>> semiperimeter(10.5, 6, 9.3)
    12.9
    return perimeter(side1, side2, side3) / 2
```

Calling functions within other function calls

The problem: One triangle has a base of length 3.8 and a height of length 7.0. A second triangle has a base of length 3.5 and a height of length 6.8. Calculate which of two triangles' areas is biggest.

The approach: Pass calls to function area as arguments to built-in function max.

```
\max(\text{area}(3.8, 7.0), \text{area}(3.5, 6.8))
```

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Functions
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Python Provides

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Practical Programming