Documenting with Python:

Part I: Coding in Style

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Guang Yang

What's a Style Guide?

- Set of conventions about how to write code in a particular language

Why Use a Style Guide

- Easier for other people to read your code

- Easier for you to read other people's codes

- Easier to maintain a project with multiple contributors

google-styleguide

- Made for Google-originated open-source projects

- Different styles guides for different languages (Python, C++, R, Java, Javascript, …)

Python Language Rules

Pertinent to the language itself

Examples:

• Global Variables: generally avoid for potentially changing module behavior during import

• List Comprehensions: ok to use for simple cases

• Lambda Functions: ok for one-liners

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Python Style Rules

Pertinent to how the code looks

Examples:

- Indentation: indent your code blocks with 4 spaces (no tabs)

- Classes: if a class inherits from no other base classes, explicitly inherit from 'object'

- TODO Comments: use for code that is temporary or a short-term solution

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Your Turn

- Read <u>Google Python Style Guide</u>

- Keep these rules in mind next time you code in Python!

References

- Check out my git repository, where I will be posting slides for future/past tutorials and other relevant resources.

- Here's the google style guide for python

- Special thanks to Prof John DeNero for the lovely template, check out his *CS61A course* in Python