THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

MASTERS IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

MACS 30111

Functions

Misc

- Final exam! 12/5 10am TBD on in person vs online
- 10/13 Friday PA 1
- 10/16 Monday PA 1 reflection

Agenda

- Deep / shallow copies
- Introduction to functions
- Function call control flow
- Return statements
- Parameters
- Scoping
- Abstraction

Lists of lists: where it gets weird

- Test out the following:
  - m = `[[0]*5]*5`
  - m1 = `[[0]*5 for i in range(5)]`

- Now, try: m1[2][3] =1 vs m[2][3] = 1

Lists of lists

```
m = [[0]*5]*5
```

```
[[0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]]
```

```
m[2][3] = 1
```

```
[[0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
 [0, 0, 0, 1, 0]]
```

```
m = [[0]*5 for i in range(5)]
```

```
m = [[0]*5 for i in range(5)]
```

Memory

m[2][3] =1

m= [[0]*5 for i in range(5)]
Memory
m2 = m
Heap
m
m2
Shallow Copy
0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0

```
m = [[0]*5 for i in range(5)]
```

Memory

```
m2 = m
m[2][3] = 1
```

Memory: TL;DR

- SHALLOW VS DEEP
- Modify with new vs in-place

- Challenge q: can I use m[:] to make a deep copy of m?

Functions!

Example function

keyword name parameters

```
def multiply(a, b):
    '''
    Compute the product of two values.

    Inputs:
      a, b: the values to be multiplied.

    Returns: the product of the inputs
    '''

    n = a * b
    return n
```

Function header

docstring

body

Coding practice: 1.4.1

Function Call Control Flow

Calling a function alters the control flow of a program.

```
1  def multiply(a, b):
2      print("Start of multiply(a, b) function")
3      rv = a * b
4      print("End of multiply(a, b) function")
5      return rv
6
7  def main():
8      x = 5
9      y = 4
10     print("calling multiply(x, y)...")
11     z = multiply(x, y)
12     print("Returned from multiply(x, y)")
13     print("The value of z is", z)
```

return: specify the value to be returned to the caller and to transfer control back to the call site.

TT2: anatomy of a project

- Good to start working through TT to see what questions are coming up
- Items:
  - TT files (linked on Canvas)
    - geometry
    - list_exercises
    - min_max
  - Walkthrough (on course page): https://classes.ssd.uchicago.edu/macss/macs30121/modules/tt/tt2.html

TT2: anatomy of a project

- Suggested workflow:
    - Follow along with page
    - Try it all on your own (pretend solutions do not exist! Resist temptation!)
    - Read through and compare your solution to the published solution – how are they different? What does that mean about your code?

TT2: checking in + workflow

- Talk with partner
- Work on Ed discussion

Testing: Zero, One, Many

- What does this mean?
- Why / how might it be meaningful?

PA 1: IT’S COMING!!!

- MULTIPLE STEPS
- TIME CONSUMING
- NEED GOOD WORKFLOW
- START NOW!!!
    - Ideally you are at least on task 4
    - Task 5 will likely take awhile to go back and ensure everything comes together

Topics:

- Introduction to functions
- Function call control flow
- Return statements
- Parameters
- Scoping
- Abstraction

Mathematical Functions

Mathematical functions: take some values and produce a result.
Python functions: take some parameters as inputs and return some values as outputs.

Return Statements: multiple return statements

A return statement can appear **anywhere** in the function and can appear **multiple times**.

```python
def absolute(x):
    '''
    Compute the absolute value of a number.

    Inputs:
        n (number): operand

    Returns (number): the magnitude of the input
    '''

    if x < 0:
        return -x
    else:
        return x
```

```python
def is_prime(n):
    '''
    Determines whether the input is prime.

    Inputs:
      n (int): value to be checked

    Returns (boolean): True, if the input is prime and False
    otherwise
    '''

    if n == 1:
        return False

    for i in range(2, n):
        if n % i == 0:
            return False

    return True
```

Return Statements: multiple return statements

A return statement can appear **anywhere** in the function and can appear **multiple times**.

```
def is_prime(n):
    '''
    Determines whether the input is prime.

    Inputs:
      n (int): value to be checked

    Returns (boolean): True, if the input is prime and False
    otherwise
    '''

    if n == 1:
        return False

    for i in range(2, n):
        if n % i == 0:
            return False

    return True
```

Return Statements: return multiple values

A function can return **multiple values** using a tuple.

```
def bounds(lst):
    min_val = min(lst)
    max_val = max(lst)
    return min_val, max_val
```

Parameters

Call-by-value

```
def multiply(a,b):
'''
Compute the product of two values.
Inputs: a, b: the values to be
multiplied.
Returns: the product of the inputs.
'''

n = a * b
return n
```

Different ways to call the function:

```
multiply (3, 4)

2 + multiply(3, 4)
print("2 x 3 =", multiply (2,3))

x = 3
y = 5

multiply(x,y)

multiply(x-1, y+1)
multiply(4, multiply (3,2))
```

Parameters with Default Values

- specify a default value for parameters
- come at the end
- can be omitted or overwritten

```
def multiply(a, b = 10):
'''
Compute the product of two values.
Inputs: a, b: the values to be multiplied.
Returns: the product of the inputs.
'''

n = a * b
return n
```

```
multiply(2,3)
multiply(2)
multiply(a=2, b=5)
```

Coding practice: 1.4.6.2

Positional and Keyword Parameters

- Map to specific parameters depending on the position in the list of arguments.
- Specify the exact parameter using keyword arguments, position doesn't matter.
- Combining positional and keyword arguments, positional arguments must come first

```
def multiply(a,b):
'''
Compute the product of two values.
Inputs: a, b: the values to be
multiplied.
Returns: the product of the inputs.
'''

n = a * b
return n
```

```
multiply(2,3)
multiply(2, b = 3)
multiply(a=2, b=5)
```

Note: be careful if you only specify one variable

Coding practice: 1.4.6.3

Topics:

- Introduction to functions
- Function call control flow
- Return statements
- Parameters
- **Scoping**
- Abstraction

Scoping

- Variables are only valid in a specific part of the code
- **Local** variables: variables defined inside a function, only valid within the function
- **Global** variables: variables defined outside of a function.
- When a global variable and a local variable have the same name, the local variable shadows the global variable.

```
c = 5

def add_c(x, c):
'''
Add x and c
'''
return x + c

add_c(3,2)
```

```
def update_c(new_c):
'''
Update value of c
'''

global c
c = new_c
```

Coding practice: 1.4.5 / 1.4.7

Functions as an abstraction mechanism

- **Organize** work into separate tasks
  - Every function should have a clear purpose.
- **Reuse** code (and avoid repeated code)
  - Whenever you find yourself cutting-and-pasting a block of code, ask yourself whether it would be better to create a function instead of repeating the block of code.
- **Test** the solution for a task in (relative) isolation

Coding practice: 1.4.2

Functions: return vs print

- Print: displays in console
- Returns: what ‘comes out’ from the function

```
def multiply(a, b):
    ''' Print the product of two values. Inputs: a, b: the
            values to be multiplied. Returns: None '''

    n = a * b
    print(n)

rv = multiply(5, 2)
print("The return value is:", rv)
```

The return value is: None

```
def multiply(a, b):
    ''' Print the product of two values. Inputs: a, b: the
            values to be multiplied. Returns: None '''

    n = a * b
    return n

rv = multiply(5, 2)
print("The return value is:", rv)
```

The return value is: 10

Note: what happens when you call rv = multiply(5,2)?

Functions: how to think about them deeply

- What are you trying to do?
- How can you break it down?
- Where are the complex parts of your code?
- Where do you think you might run into issues?

Simulate a game with dice

- Going to Boston
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbBwiAUsSI8

- Rules:
  - roll all three dice and set aside the largest one
  - roll the remaining two dice and set aside the largest one
  - roll the remaining die
  - sum of the above values is the score for the round
  - The players keep playing until one reaches 500 and wins.

Coding practice: 1.4.4