TCSS 142 – Introduction to Programming

Autumn 2014
Day 09

Day 9 Overview

- Python Commandments
- Modularization
- Function definitions and calls

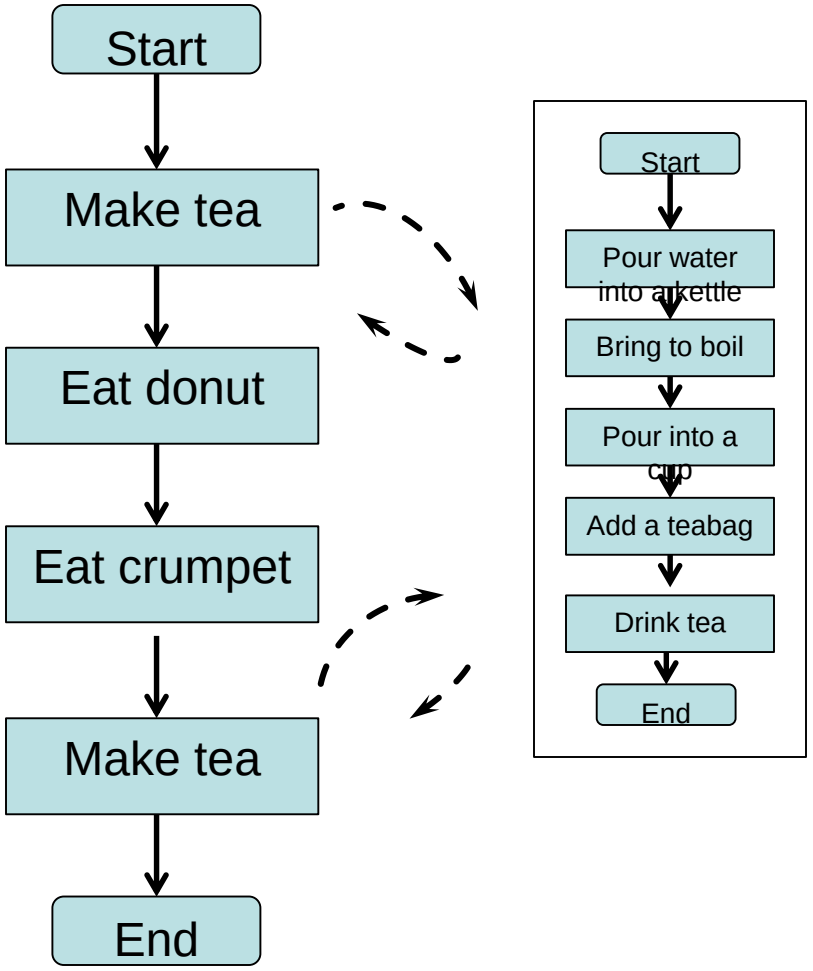
Functions

- Function: a group of statements within a program that performs a specific task

- Function definition: specifies what function does

```
def function_name():
    statement
    statement
```

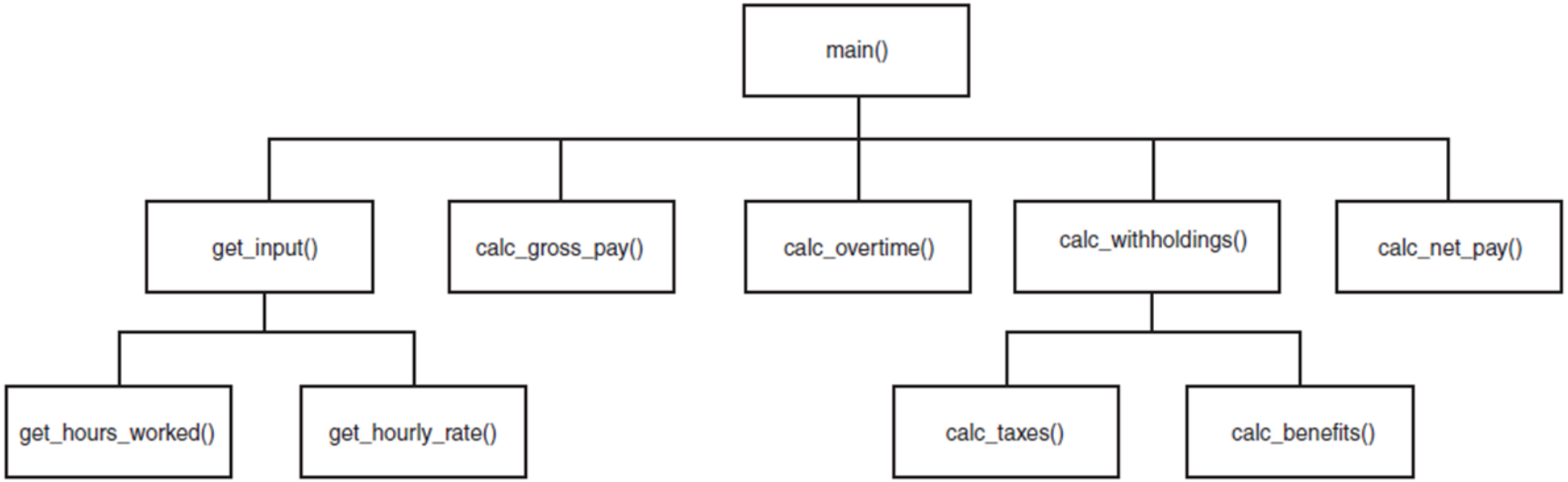
- A function name has to follow identifier naming rules (same as with variables)



Modularization

- Modularized program: program wherein each task within the program is in its own function

Figure 5-10 A hierarchy chart



Procedural Decomposition

- **top-down design:** technique for breaking algorithm into functions
- **procedural decomposition**: dividing a problem into tasks
- **stepwise refinement**: the process of producing a program in stages, adding new functionality at each step

Using Functions

1. Design the algorithm.
   - Look at the structure, and which commands are repeated.
   - Decide what are the important overall tasks.

2. **Declare** (write down) the functions.
   - Arrange statements into groups and give each group a name.

3. **Call** (run) the functions.
   - So far, we have been writing the code line by line, now our main part of the program will be in a function called main, which will execute other functions, if any

Design of an algorithm

```
# Step 1: Make the cake batter.
print("Mix the dry ingredients.")
print("Cream the butter and sugar.")
print("Beat in the eggs.")
print("Stir in the dry ingredients.")
print()
# Step 2a: Bake cookies (first batch).
print("Set the oven temperature.")
print("Set the timer.")
print("Place a batch of cookies into the oven.")
print("Allow the cookies to bake.")
print()
# Step 2b: Bake cookies (second batch).
print("Set the oven temperature.")
print("Set the timer.")
print("Place a batch of cookies into the oven.")
print("Allow the cookies to bake.")
print()
# Step 3: Decorate the cookies.
print("Mix ingredients for frosting.")
print("Spread frosting and sprinkles.")
```

Final cookie program

```
# Step 1: Make the cake batter.
def makeBatter():
    print("Mix the dry ingredients.")
    print("Cream the butter and sugar.")
    print("Beat in the eggs.")
    print("Stir in the dry ingredients.")
    print()

# Step 2: Bake cookies.
def bakeCookies():
    print("Set the oven temperature.")
    print("Set the timer.")
    print("Place a batch of cookies into the oven.")
    print("Allow the cookies to bake.")
    print()
```

Final cookie program

```
# Step 3: Decorate the cookies.
def decorateCookies():
    print("Mix ingredients for frosting.")
    print("Spread frosting and sprinkles.")
    print()

def main():
    makeBatter()
    bakeCookies()
    bakeCookies()
    decorateCookies()

main()
```

Calling a Function

Executes the function's code

- Syntax:

```
name()
```

  - You can call the same function many times if you like
  - One function can call other functions
  - It can even call itself (recursion)

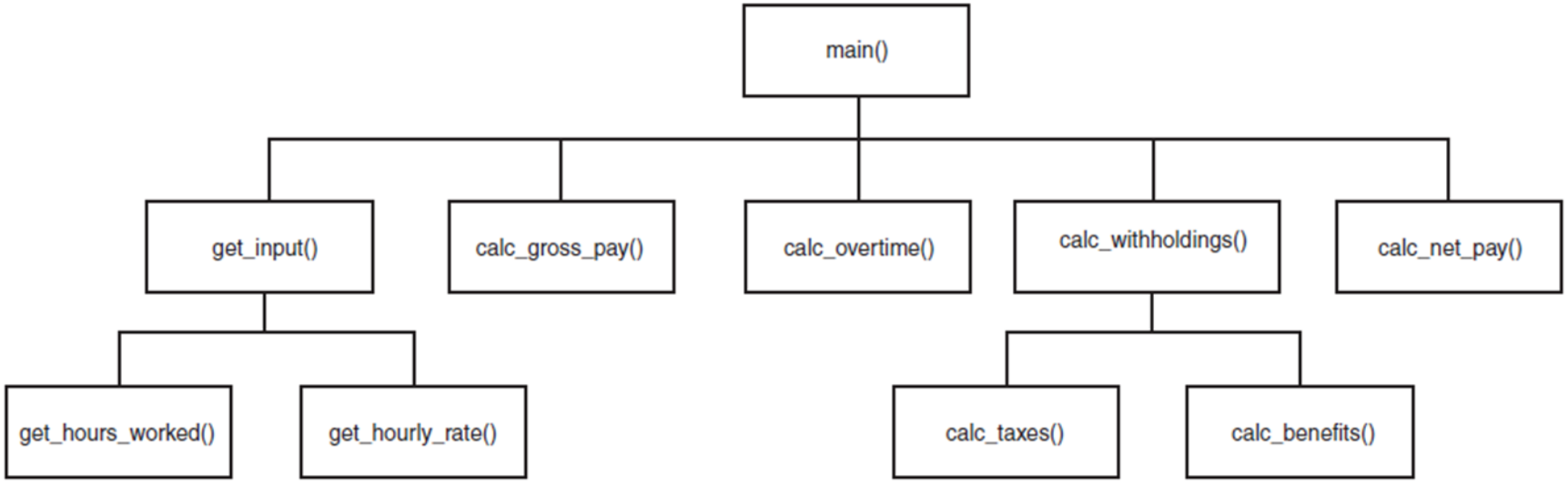
When to Use Functions

- Place statements into a function if:
  - The statements are related structurally, and/or
  - The statements are repeated.

- You should not create functions for:
  - An individual print statement.
  - Only blank lines. (Put blank print in main.)
  - Unrelated or weakly related statements. (Consider splitting them into two smaller functions.)

Functions Calling Functions

Figure 5-10 A hierarchy chart



Functions Calling Functions

```
def main():
    message1()
    message2()
    print("Done with main.")

def message1():
    print("This is message1.")

def message2():
    print("This is message2.")
    message1()
    print("Done with message2.")

main()
```

Control flow

- When a function is called, the program's execution...
  - "jumps" into that function, executing its statements, then
  - "jumps" back to the point where the function was called.

```
def main():
    message1()

    message2()


    print("Done with main.")


    ...
```

```
message1():
    print("This is message1.")
}
```

```
message2():
    print("This is message2.")
    message1()

    print("Done with message2.")
```

Control flow

- When a method is called, the program's execution...
  - "jumps" into that function, executing its statements, then
  - "jumps" back to the point where the function was called.

```
def main():
    message1()

    message2()



    print("Done with main.")



    ...
```

```
message1():
    print("This is message1.")
}
```

```
message2():
    print("This is message2.")
    message1()

    print("Done with message2.")
```

Exercise

- Download the program `fightSong.py`. Run it to see the output produced by the program. The program has poor structure and redundancy. Crete a copy of the program called `fightSongBetter.py` and restructure it by adding main and at least two other functions.

- Can you do better? main + 3 functions

Local Variables

- Local variable: variable that is assigned a value inside a function
  - Belongs to the function in which it was created
  - Only statements inside that function can access it, error will occur if another function tries to access the variable
- Local variable cannot be accessed by statements inside its function which precede its creation.
- Different functions may have local variables with the same name
  - Each function does not see the other function's local variables, so no confusion

Scope Implications

- **scope**: The part of a program where a variable is visible

```
def main():
    size = 4        # size variable local to main
    func1()
    func2()

def func1():
    for var in range(size):
     # ERROR: size not visible
        ...
```

Scope Implications

```
def func2():
    size = 18  # size variable local to func2
    for z in range(size):
      # ok, refers to local size
        print(message)
      # ERROR: message not created yet

    message = "I will crash your program"
    # message variable local to func2
```

- Problem: so what do we do if we want a variable visible in a function?

Last Slide ☺

- Read chapter 5 and complete the quiz by the next class meeting on Tuesday.

- Class ends at 17:10