

 visual programming

Formal Parameter & Argument



Bachelor of Information Systems
Institut Teknologi Del



Learning Objective(s)

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This material should address the following question(s).

- What is a formal parameter?
- How it is different to an argument?

Discussion Point

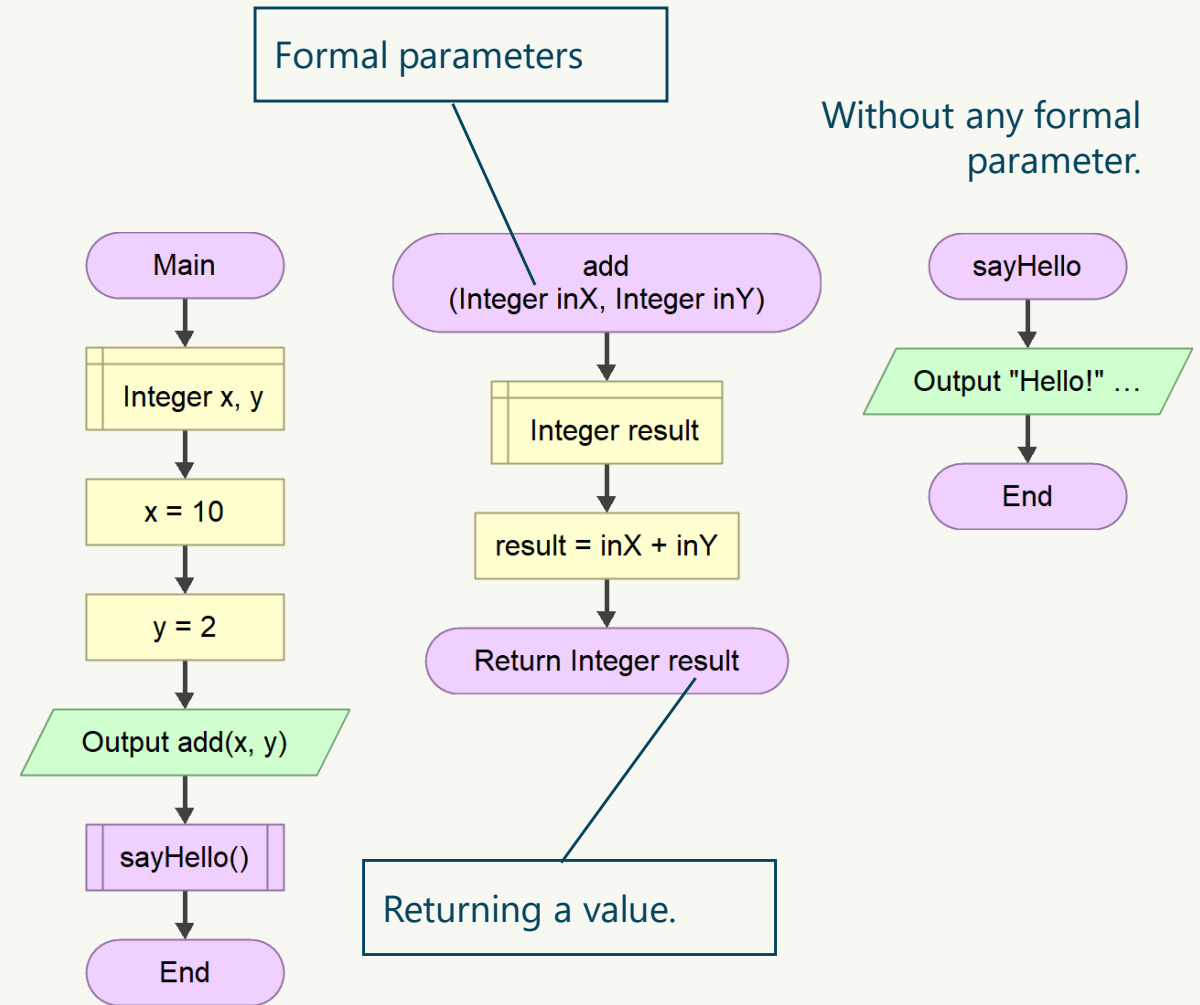
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Formal **Parameter**:
The Core Concepts.



An Example

- The add function has exactly two formal parameters:
 - inX – an integer; and
 - inY – also an integer.
- The sayHello function has no formal parameter.





Question

What is a **formal parameter**?

Definition

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 $f(x)$

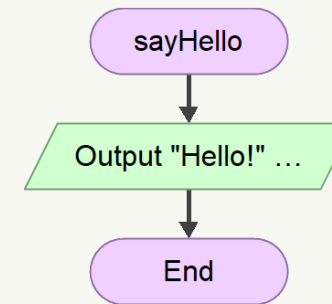
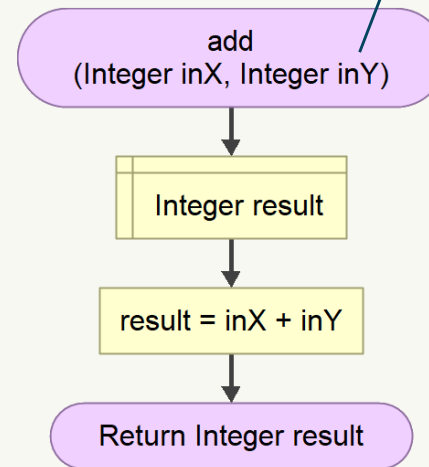
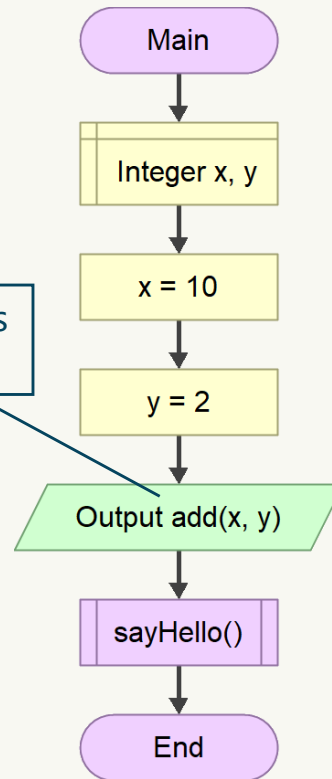
*A (formal) **parameter** is a value passed into a function. It is a way to provide input required by the function or to control the behavior of the function.*

A parameter is like a variable but defined at the beginning of a function and set with a value given during the function call.

The passed values are accepted and be available for the function as `inX` and `inY`.

Formal parameters.

The value of `x` and `y` are passed as **arguments** at the function call.



Both parameter and argument have the same value but seen from different perspectives. Argument is from the caller's perspective and parameter from the callee's. Sometimes both can be used interchangeably.

Final Thoughts.



Conclusion

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1. A parameter is a value passed into a function.
2. The sole difference between argument and parameter is the perspective.
 - argument sees the value from the caller's perspective whereas
 - parameter sees it from the callee's perspective.

References



Wassberg, J. (2020). Computer Programming for Absolute Beginners. Packt.



– EOF –



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