

**NPTEL MOOC**

# **PROGRAMMING, DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS IN PYTHON**

**Week 2, Lecture 4**

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# A typical Python program

```
def function_1(..,..):  
    ...  
def function_2(..,..):  
    ...  
    :  
def function_k(..,..):  
    ...  
  
statement_1  
statement_2  
    :  
statement_n
```

- \* Interpreter executes statements from top to bottom
- \* Function definitions are “digested” for future use
- \* Actual computation starts from `statement_1`



# Control flow

- \* Need to vary computation steps as values change
- \* Control flow — determines order in which statements are executed
  - \* Conditional execution
  - \* Repeated execution — loops
  - \* Function definitions



# Conditional execution

```
if m%n != 0:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)
```

- \* Second statement is executed only if the condition `m%n != 0` is True
- \* Indentation demarcates **body** of `if` — must be uniform

```
if condition:  
    statement_1    # Execute conditionally  
    statement_2    # Execute conditionally  
statement_3        # Execute unconditionally
```



# Alternative execution

```
if m%n != 0:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
else:  
    gcd = n
```

\* else: is optional



# Shortcuts for conditions

- \* Numeric value `0` is treated as `False`
- \* Empty sequence `""`, `[]` is treated as `False`
- \* Everything else is `True`

```
if m%n:  
    (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
else:  
    gcd = n
```



# Multiway branching, elif:

```
if x == 1:
    y = f1(x)
else:
    if x == 2:
        y = f2(x)
    else:
        if x == 3:
            y = f3(x)
        else:
            y = f4(x)
```

```
if x == 1:
    y = f1(x)
elif x == 2:
    y = f2(x)
elif x == 3:
    y = f3(x)
else:
    y = f4(x)
```



# Loops: repeated actions

- \* Repeat something a fixed number of times

```
for i in [1,2,3,4]:  
    y = y*i  
    z = z+1
```

- \* Again, indentation to mark body of loop



# Repeating n times

- \* Often we want to do something exactly `n` times

```
for i in [1,2,...,n]:  
    . . .
```

- \* `range(0,n)` generates sequence `0,1,...,n-1`

```
for i in range(0,n):  
    . . .
```

- \* `range(i,j)` generates sequence `i,i+1,...,j-1`

- \* More details about `range()` later



# Example

- \* Find all factors of a number  $n$
- \* Factors must lie between  $1$  and  $n$

```
def factors(n):  
    flist = []  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        if n%i == 0:  
            flist = flist + [i]  
    return(flist)
```



# Loop based on a condition

- \* Often we don't know number of repetitions in advance

```
while condition:
```

```
    . . .
```

- \* Execute body if `condition` evaluates to `True`
- \* After each iteration, check `condition` again
- \* Body must ensure progress towards termination!



# Example

- \* Euclid's gcd algorithm using remainder
- \* Update  $m$ ,  $n$  till we find  $n$  to be a divisor of  $m$

```
def gcd(m,n):  
    if m < n:  
        (m,n) = (n,m)  
    while m%n != 0:  
        (m,n) = (n,m%n)  
    return(n)
```



# Summary

- \* Normally, statements are executed top to bottom, in sequence
- \* Can alter the **control flow**
  - \* `if ... elif ... else` — conditional execution
  - \* `for i in ...` — repeat a fixed number of times
  - \* `while ...` — repeat based on a condition