

Functions: Usage

CPSC 217: Introduction to Computer Science for Multidisciplinary Studies I
Fall 2020

Jonathan Hudson, Ph.D
Instructor
Department of Computer Science
University of Calgary

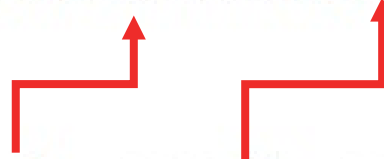
Tuesday, September 8, 2020



Function calling review

Select a descriptive name for your function

```
def function_name(param1,param2,param3,...):  
    body  
  
function_name(arg1, arg2, arg3, ....)|
```



Use brackets when calling functions even if you are not passing any arguments

At least one statement needs to be in a function.

Functions must be defined before they are called!

How to use a function?

- Call function
- Pass valid inputs
- Store the result in a variable

If function returns a value:

```
returnedValue = functionName(values/variables)
```

If no value is returned

```
functionName(values/variables)
```



Functions that do nothing

Functions have to have one line of code in them

- Only way to make python's syntax parsing that is looking for indentation happy
- (Once you put something indented in function the rest of indentation has to match)
 - This is also true for conditionals and loop indentation
- Can use pass keyword to do nothing

```
def foo():  
    pass
```

Functions return None by default

Functions in python always return something

- That something is by default nothing or None
- None is a special keyword
- (We often use None in other places in our code to show nothing has been stored in a variable yet)

```
def foo():  
    pass
```

```
print(foo())
```

```
def foo():  
    return None
```

```
print(foo())
```

Return multiple things

Functions can return multiple things

```
def foo():  
    return 1,2
```

```
x,y = foo()  
print(x)  
print(y)
```

Return values

- Format

```
def <function name> (param1, param2, ...):  
    body  
    return var1, var2, ...
```

- The results can be stored into variables for later use
var1, var2, ... = <function name> (arg1, arg2, ...)

Namespace

Must define functions before use

Functions must be declared before use

```
print(foo())

def foo():
    return None
```

```
Ln: 20 Col: 1
= RESTART: C:/Users/jonat/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python36-32/temp.py =
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:/Users/jonat/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python36-32/temp.py", line
  1, in <module>
    print(foo())
NameError: name 'foo' is not defined
>>>
```

Examples

Some simple functions

```
import math

def CircleArea(radius):
    return(math.pi* radius**2)

print(CircleArea(10))
```

```
def sumTo(n):
    return((n * (n + 1)) / 2)

print(sumTo(10))
```

```
def IsEven(iNumber):
    return (iNumber % 2 == 0)

def IsOdd(iNumber):
    return (iNumber % 2 != 0)

print(IsEven(50))
print(IsOdd(50))
```

Design

There are challenges in defining a function

```
def getGPA(grade):  
    if grade == "A+":  
        return 4.3  
    elif grade == "A":  
        return 4  
    elif grade == "A-":  
        return 3.7  
    else:  
        return None  
  
print(getGPA(input("Please enter the grade: ")))
```

User-Defined Functions - Commenting

- A good function always contains explicit comments that describe the purpose of the function, the parameters, and returned values.

```
# Takes a letter grade of A+, A, A- and returns the GPA values 4.3, 4, 3.7
#     other input results in None returned
#
# Parameters:
#     grade: String letter grade {"A+", "A", "A-"} for non-None result
# Return:
#     Float GPA value of grade parameter
#     "A+" -> 4.3
#     "A"  -> 4.0
#     "A-" -> 3.7
#     otherwise -> None
```

Namespace

Re-defining functions

Dangers of functions (re-use name)

- Python only lets you have one function per name, but you can override previous usage (ignores parameters unlike other languages)

```
def foo():  
    print("one")
```

```
foo()
```

```
def foo():  
    print("two")
```

```
foo()
```

```
def foo(x):  
    print("three")
```

```
foo(1)
```

```
def foo(x,y):  
    print("four")
```

```
foo(1,2)  
foo()
```

```
one
```

```
two
```

```
three
```

```
four
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
```

```
  File "C:/Users/jonat/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python36-32/temp.py", line  
21, in <module>
```

```
    foo()
```

```
TypeError: foo() missing 2 required positional arguments: 'x' and 'y'
```

```
...
```

Parameter order

Calling Functions - Order of Parameters

- Function parameters are position sensitive.
- When calling a function that accepts parameters, make sure your arguments are in the same order of the parameters.
- **WARNING:** Not following the order of the parameters will result in parameters having wrong values, which may lead to semantic and runtime errors.

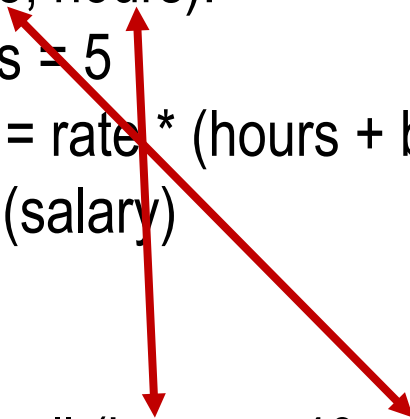
```
def printbar(char, num = 10):  
    bar = ''  
    for i in range(num + 1):  
        bar = bar + char  
    print(bar)
```

```
printbar(20, '=')
```

Keyword parameters

- Keyword parameters allow us to match arguments with parameters by name, instead of positions

```
def payroll (rate, hours):  
    bounus = 5  
    salary = rate * (hours + bounus)  
    return (salary)  
  
payment = payroll (hours = 40, rate = 15)  
print ("${%d} has been paid." % (payment))
```



\$675 has been paid.

We can do this with functions you already use

```
print("This is one long line")
print("This is another line but ends with a space instead of new line.", end=" ")
print("This is on the same line." )
```

```
= RESTART: C:/Users/jonat/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python36-32/temp.py =
This is one long line
This is another line but ends with a space instead of new line. This is on the same line.
>>>
```

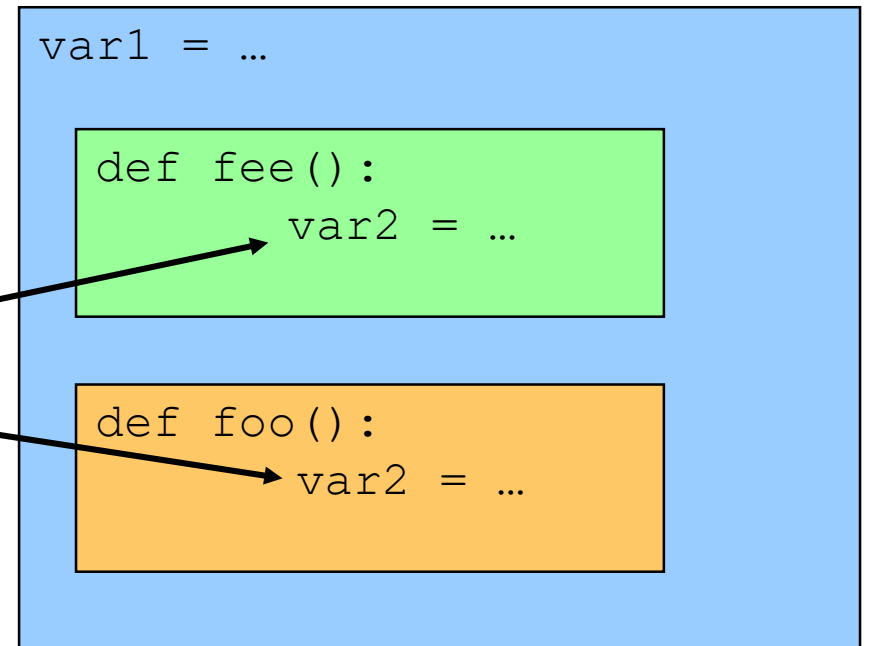
Scope

Scope of Variables

- Variables are memory locations that are used for the temporary storage of data
- The scope of a variable is the section of code in which it is accessible

The global scope:
Accessible by both functions

Local scopes:
Two different memory spaces,
Accessible only within their
functions



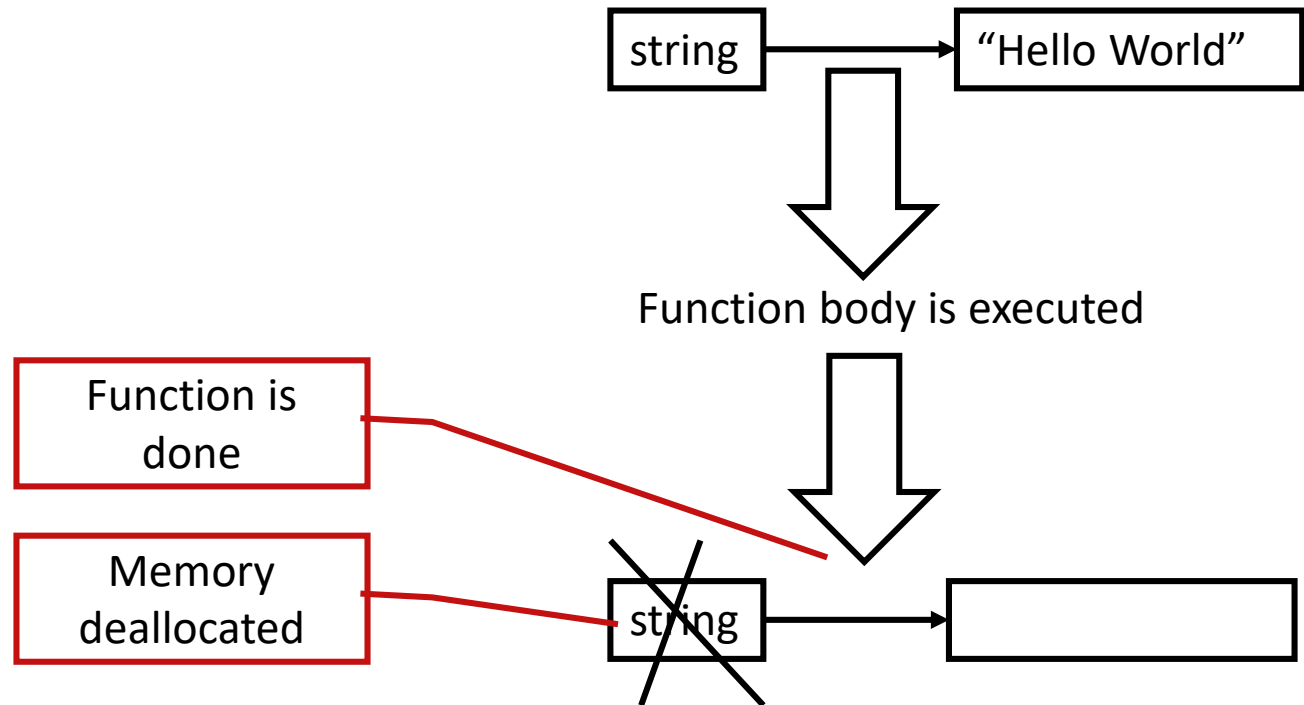
Scope of Variables - Local Variables

- Local variables are only accessible to the function where they are defined.
- The memory for local variables is only allocated (reserve the memory) when the function is running and deallocated (free up the memory) when the function reaches the end.
- Local variables are defined (memory allocated and value stored) each time the function is called.

Scope of Variables - Local Variables

```
def foo():  
    string = "Hello World!"  
    print(string)
```

string is a local variable



Scope of Variables - Global Variables

- Variables that are declared within the body of a function have a **local scope** → Accessible from inside the function only
 - This includes the parameters
- Variables that are declared outside the body of a function have a **global scope** → Accessible from anywhere in the program
- In Python, global variables can only be modified in global scope.
- They cannot be modified in local scope unless the global keyword is used:
 - **global variableName**

Scope of Variables - Global Variables

```
def failedChange():  
    someGlobalVar = "Without Using Global Keyword"  
  
def successfulChange():  
    global someGlobalVar  
    someGlobalVar = "Using Global Keyword"
```

```
someGlobalVar = "I am Global"  
print(someGlobalVar)
```

I am Global

```
failedChange()  
print(someGlobalVar)
```

I am Global

```
successfulChange()  
print(someGlobalVar)
```

Using Global Keyword

Scope of Variables - Variable lifetime

- The lifetime of a variable is the time that a variable is allocated a memory space.
- The memory is allocated at the time of variable declaration
- **Global variables** exist until the program terminates
- **Local variables** exist until the function containing it finishes

Program Structure – Functions

Structure

```
def func1():
```

```
def func2():
```

```
def func3():
```

```
...
```

```
def main():  
    func1()  
    func2()  
    ...
```

The main function

```
main()
```

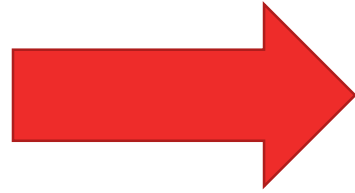
The only code outside functions

Function Tracing

Scope

```
def func1(a,b) :  
    y = x + a  
    return y + b
```

```
x = 1  
y = 2  
z = 3  
z = func1(4,5)  
print(x,y,z)
```



1 2 10

Scope

```
def func1(x,y) :  
    return x + y  
  
def func2(x,y) :  
    return x * y  
  
def func3(x,y) :  
    return func1(x,y) - func2(1,y)  
  
def main() :  
    print(func3(1,2))  
  
main()
```



1

Trace the code

```
def numbers(a,b):  
    counter = 1  
    while(a != b):  
        print(counter)  
        #counter += 1  
        counter = counter + 1  
        if a > b:  
            a = a - b  
        else:  
            b = b - a  
    return a  
print(numbers(12,15))
```



1
2
3
4
3

Onward to ... lists, dictionaries, and strings.

Jonathan Hudson
jwhudson@ucalgary.ca
<https://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~hudsonj/>

