Objectives

- Defining your own functions
  - Control flow
  - Scope, variable lifetime

Looking behind the curtain…

DEFINING OUR OWN FUNCTIONS

Functions

- We've used functions
  - Built-in functions: `len`, `input`, `eval`
  - Functions from modules, e.g., `math` and `random`
- Benefits
  - Reuse, reduce code
  - Easier to read, write (because of ***abstraction***)

Today, we'll learn how to **define our own functions**!

Review: Functions

- Function is a **black box**
  - Implementation doesn't matter
  - Only care that function generates appropriate output, given appropriate input
- Example:
  - Didn't care how `input` function was implemented
  - Use: `user_input = input(prompt)`

Creating Functions

- A function can have
  - 0 or more inputs
  - 0 or 1 outputs
- When we define a function, we know its inputs and if it has output

Why Write Functions?

- Allows you to break up a hard problem into *smaller*, more *manageable* parts
- Makes your code easier to *understand*
- Hides implementation details (*abstraction*)
  - Provides interface (input, output)
- Makes part of the code *reusable* so that you:
  - Only have to write function code once
  - Can debug it all at once
    - Isolates errors
  - Can make changes in one function (*maintainability*)

Similar to benefits of OO Programming

Writing a Function

- I want a function that averages two numbers

- What is the input to this function?
- What is the output to this function?

Writing a Function

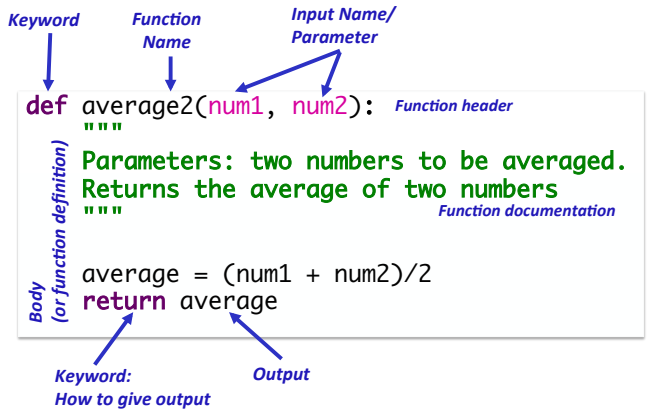
- I want a function that averages two numbers
- What is the input to this function?
  - The two numbers
- What is the output to this function?
  - The average of those two numbers, as a float

These are key questions to ask yourself when designing your own functions.
- Inputs: What are the parameters?
- Output: What is getting returned?

Averaging Two Numbers

- Input: the two numbers
- Output: the average of two numbers

Syntax of Function Definition



Calling your own functions

Same as calling someone else's functions …

```
average = average2(100, 50)
```

Output is assigned to average

Function Name

Input

average2.py

Functions: Similarity to Math

- In math, a function definition looks like:

$$f(x) = x^2 + 2$$

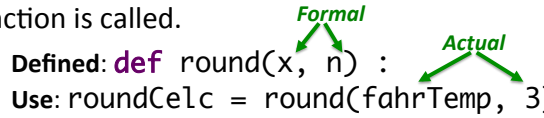
- Plug values in for x
- Example:
  - $f(3) = 3^2 + 2 = 11$
  - 3 is your ***input***, assigned to x
  - 11 is output

Parameters

- The inputs to a function are called ***parameters*** or ***arguments***, depending on the context
- When ***calling***/using functions, arguments must appear in same order as in the function header
  - Example: `round(x, n)`
    - **x** is the `float` to round
    - **n** is `int` of decimal places to round **x** to

Parameters

- **Formal Parameters** are the variables named in the function definition
- **Actual Parameters** or **Arguments** are the variables or literals that really get used when the function is called.



Formal & actual parameters must match in ***order***, ***number***, and ***type***!

Passing Parameters

- Only **copies** of the actual parameters are given to the function for **immutable** data types
  - Immutable types: most of what we've talked about so far
    - Strings, integers, floats
  - The actual parameters in the *calling* code **do *not*** change
- (Lists are mutable and have different rules)

Function Output

- When the code reaches a statement like

```
return x
```

  - The function stops executing
  - x is the **output *returned*** to the place where the function was called
- For functions that don't have explicit output, `return` does not have a value with it, e.g.,

```
return
```

- Optional: don't *need* to have `return`
  - Function *automatically* returns at the end

CONTROL FLOW WITH FUNCTIONS

Flow of Control

- When program calls a function, the program jumps to the function and executes it
- After executing the function, the program returns to the same place in the *calling code* where it left off

Value of `dist1` (100) is assigned to `meters`

Calling code:

```
# Make conversions
dist1 = 100
miles1 = metersToMiles(dist1)
```

```
def metersToMiles(meters) :
    M2MI=.0006215
    miles = meters * M2MI
    return miles
```


Flow of Control

```
def max(num1, num2):
    result = 0
    if num1 >= num2:
        result = num1
    else:
        result = num2
    return result

x = 12
y = eval(input("Enter a number: "))
z = max(x, y)
print("The max is", z)
```


Flow of Control

```
def max(num1, num2):
    result = 0
    if num1 >= num2:
        result = num1
    else:
        result = num2
    return result

x = 12
y = float(input("Enter a number: "))
z = max(x, y)
print("The max is", z)
```

What does this function do?

Function definitions:
- Save functions for later use, nothing executed
- Similar to adding a contact into your phone book → not actually calling

Program starts "doing stuff"

Flow of Control

```
def max(num1, num2):
    result = 0
    if num1 >= num2:
        result = num1
    else:
        result = num2
    return result

x = 12
y = float(input("Enter a number: "))
z = max(x, y)
print("The max is", z)
```

To **input** and then **float** function

x=12

y = float(input("..."))

z=max(x, y)

Program starts "doing stuff"

Flow of Control

num1 is set to value of x
num2 is set to value of y

To **input** and then **float** function

x=12

y = float(input(""))

"calls" max function

z=max(x, y)

Gets assigned max's output

print("The max is", z)

```
def max(num1, num2):
    result = 0
    if num1 >= num2:
        result = num1
    else:
        result = num2
    return result
```

```
def max(num1, num2):
result=0
num1 >= num2
True
False
result=num1
result=num2
return result
```

return to caller

Flow of Control: Using `return`

Is this implementation of the function correct?

```
def max(num1, num2):
    if num1 >= num2:
        return num1
    else:
        return num2
```


Flow of Control: Using `return`

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def max(num1, num2):
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def max(num1, num2):
num1 >= num2
True
False
return num1
return num2
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return to caller

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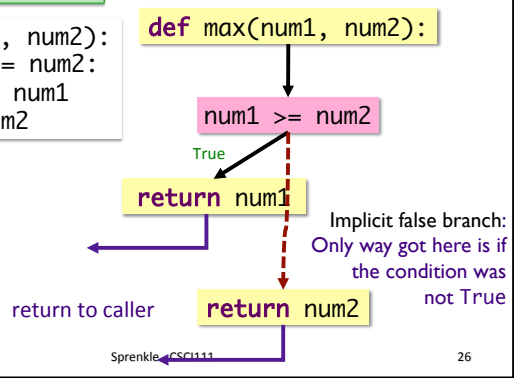

Function Input and Output

```
BEGIN_END = "Old McDonald had a farm"
EIEIO = ", E-I-E-I-O"
```

- What does this function do?
- Identify function's input and output

```
def printVerse(animal, sound):
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print("And on that farm he had a " + animal + EIEIO)
    print("With a " + sound + ", " + sound + " here")
    print("And a " + sound + ", " + sound + " there")
    print("Here a", sound)
    print("There a", sound)
    print("Everywhere a " + sound + ", " + sound)
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print()
```


Function Input and Output

- 2 inputs: **`animal`** and **`sound`**
- 0 outputs
  - ***Displays*** something but does not **`return`** anything (None)

```
def printVerse(animal, sound):
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print("And on that farm he had a " + animal + EIEIO)
    print("With a " + sound + ", " + sound + " here")
    print("And a " + sound + ", " + sound + " there")
    print("Here a", sound)
    print("There a", sound)
    print("Everywhere a " + sound + ", " + sound)
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print()
```

Function exits here

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Where are Functions Defined?

- Functions can go inside program script
  - If no `main`() function, defined ***before*** use/called
    - `average2.py`
  - If `main()` function, defined anywhere in script
- Functions can go inside a separate ***module***

Program Organization: `main` function

- In many languages, you put the "driver" for your program in a `main` function
  - You can (and should) do this in Python as well
- Typically `main` functions are defined at the top of your program
  - Readers can quickly see an overview of what program does
- `main` usually takes no arguments
  - Example:

```
def main():
```


Using a `main` Function

- Call `main()` at the bottom of your program
- Side effects:
  - Do not need to define functions before `main` function
  - `main` can "see" all other functions
- Note: `main` is a function that calls other functions
  - *Any* function can call other functions

Example program with a main()

```
def main():
    printVerse("dog", "ruff")
    printVerse("duck", "quack")

    animal_type = "cow"
    animal_sound = "moo"
    printVerse(animal_type, animal_sound)

def printVerse(animal, sound):
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print("And on that farm he had a " + animal + EIEIO)
    print("With a " + sound + ", " + sound + " here")
    print("And a " + sound + ", " + sound + " there")
    print("Here a", sound)
    print("There a", sound)
    print("Everywhere a " + sound + ", " + sound)
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print()

main()
```

Constants, comments are in example program

In what order does this program execute? What is output from this program?

oldmac.py

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    print("Here a", sound)
    print("There a", sound)
    print("Everywhere a " + sound + ", " + sound)
    print(BEGIN_END + EIEIO)
    print()

main()
```

4, 1, 2, 5, 3

1. Set definition of main
2. Set definition of printVerse
3. Call main function
4. Execute main function
5. Call, execute printVerse

…

oldmac.py

Summary: Program Organization

- Larger programs require **functions** to maintain readability
  - Use **`main()`** and other functions to break up program into *smaller*, more *manageable* chunks
  - "**Abstract** away" the details
- As before, can still write smaller scripts without any functions
  - Can try out functions using smaller scripts
- Need the **`main()`** function when using other functions to keep "driver" at top
  - Otherwise, functions need to be defined **before** use

VARIABLE LIFETIMES AND SCOPE

What does this program output?

```
def main():
  x = 10
  sum = sumEvens( x )
  print("The sum of even #s up to", x, "is", sum)

def sumEvens(limit):
  total = 0
  for x in range(0, limit, 2):
      total += x
  return total

main()
```


Function Variables

```
def main():
  x = 10
  sum = sumEvens( x )
  print("The sum of even #s up to", x, "is", sum)

def sumEvens(limit):
  total = 0
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  return total

main()
```

Why can we name two different variables x?

Tracing through Execution

Defines functions

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def main():
  x = 10
  sum = sumEvens( x )
  print("The sum of even #s up to", x, "is", sum)

def sumEvens(limit):
  total = 0
  for x in range(0, limit, 2):
      total += x
  return total

main()
```

When you call `main()`, that means you want to execute this function

Function Variables

```
def main() :
  x=10
  sum = sumEvens( x )
  print("The sum of even #s up to", x, "is", sum)

def sumEvens(limit) :
  total = 0
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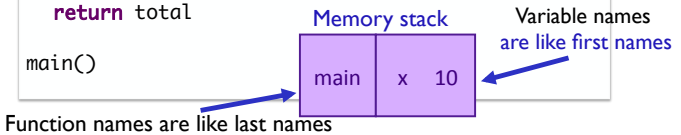
  return total

main()
```



Function names are like last names

Define the ***SCOPE*** of the variable

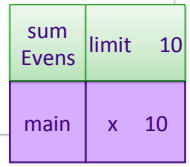
Function Variables

```
def main() :
  x=10
  sum = sumEvens( x )
  print("The sum of even #s up to", x, "is", sum)

def sumEvens(limit) :
  total = 0
  for x in range(0, limit, 2):
      total += x
  return total

main()
```

Called the function sumEvens
Add its parameters to the stack



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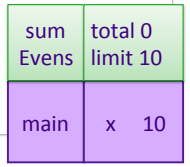

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  return total

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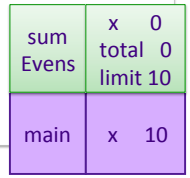

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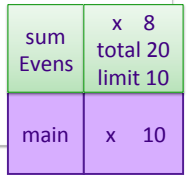

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def sumEvens(limit) :
  total = 0
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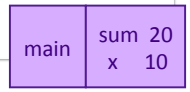
      total += x
  return total

main()
```

Function sumEvens returned
- no longer have to keep track of its variables on stack
- lifetime of those variables is over



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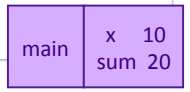

Variable Scope

- Functions can have the same parameter and variable names as other functions
  - Need to look at the variable's ***scope*** to determine which one you're looking at
  - Use the ***stack*** to figure out which variable you're using
- Scope levels
  - **Local** scope (also called **function scope**)
    - Can only be seen within the function
  - **Global** scope (also called **file scope**)
    - Whole program can access
    - More on these later

Function Scope

- What variables can we "see" (i.e., use)?

```
def main():
    binary_string = input("Enter a binary #: ")
    if not isBinary(binary_string):
        print("That is not a binary string")
        sys.exit()
    decVal = binaryToDecimal(binary_string)
    print("The decimal value is", decVal)
```

```
def isBinary(string):
    for bit in string:
        if bit != "0" and bit != "1":
            return False
    return True
```

Summary: Why Write Functions?

- Allows you to break up a hard problem into *smaller*, more *manageable* parts
- Makes your code easier to *understand*
- Hides implementation details (*abstraction*)
  - Provides interface (input, output)
- Makes part of the code *reusable* so that you:
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Similar to benefits of OO Programming

Looking Ahead

- Lab 6
- Broader Issue: Smart Houses