

# Computational Structures in Data Science

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## Lecture 3: Functions and Loops

### Announcements



# Announcements

- Sorry about autograder confusion!
  - Labs are based primarily on **effort**.
    - You only need to earn 2/4 to get full credit.
    - You still need to get *something* correct.
- HW is on correctness.
  - HW1 was released a little early by accident. ☹️ Please re-download. based

# Process NOT Memorization

- This is not a class about memorization.
- This is a class about *problem solving* and *process*.
- You will not know everything, but you will be able to figure it out.
- Focus on building intuition!
  - **Predict** what will happen **first**
  - Then **try and inspect**
  - Now, Figure out **why!**
  - Was your prediction correct or incorrect?

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## Python: Definitions and Control



# Learning Objectives

- Create your own functions.
- Write a loop to run the same code multiple times
- Use conditionals to control when a loop stops

# Let's talk Python

- **Expression** `3.1 * 2.6`
- **Call expression** `max(0, x)`
- Variables `my_name`
- Assignment Statement `my_name = <expression>`
- **Define Statement:** `def function_name(<arguments>):`
- Control Statements: `if ...`  
`for ...`  
`while ...`
- Comments `# Text after the # is ignored.`

# Variables In Python

- Variables "bind" (or assign) a name to a value (or expression)
- Variables can also come from function arguments
- Python has some specific rules about names...
  - Don't memorize them all!
  - Mostly: **No spaces**, use \_
- Important: Use meaningful names!
  - It's a bit embarrassing to come to OH and try to explain the purpose of "butt" 😊 (This actually happened!)
- `my_favorite_class = 'C88C'`

# Functions in Python

- We "define" them with `def`
- We typically name them using underscores ("Snake case")
- The first line ends in a `:`
- The body is indented by 4 spaces
- Arguments (parameters) create 'names' that exist only in our function
- Most functions will return a value, but some do not.

```
def print_greet(name):  
    print("Hello, " + name)  
  
def greet(name):  
    return "Hello, " + name
```



# Aside: String and Text

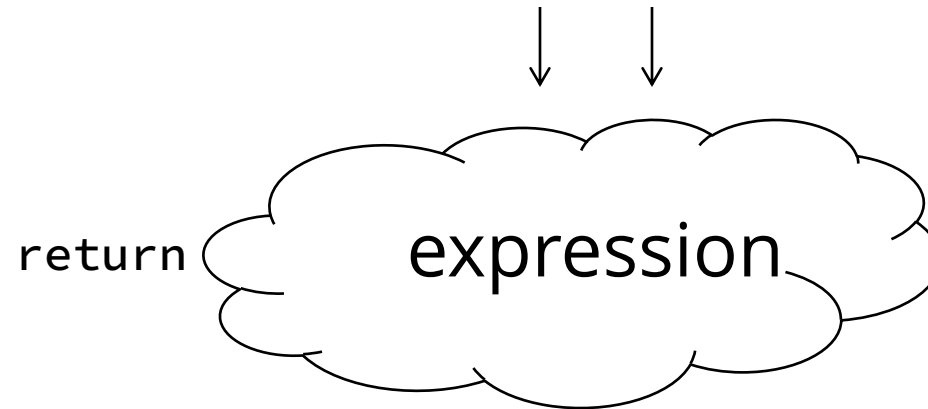
- Strings, or sequences of text are incredibly common!
- In Python we use ' or "
- We combine strings with +, or by using *string interpolation*:
- f-strings allow us to embed an expression inside some text!

```
def print_greet(name):  
    # print("Hello, " + name)  
    print(f"Hello, {name}")
```

# Defining Functions

- Abstracts an expression or set of statements to apply to lots of instances of the problem
- A function should do one thing well
- arguments become accessible inside the function body.

```
def <function name> (<argument list>) :
```



# Functions: Example

```
•>>> y = 5
•>>> x = 3
•>>> z = max(3, 5) * 10
•>>> z
•50
```

```
def max(x, y):
    if x > y:
        return ( x )
    else:
        return ( y )
```

# Returns and Values

- All functions always return SOME value.
- If you don't specify return, the value is None.
- Using print does not change how the function works, but does affect the output.

# Functions: Calling and Returning Results

## Python Tutor

```
# This style is shorthand.  
def max(x, y):  
    return x if x > y else y  
  
x = 3  
y = 4 + max(17, x + 6) * 0.1  
z = x / y
```

# Doctests

- Write the docstring to explain what it does
  - What does the function return? What are corner cases for parameters?

```
def max(x, y):  
    """Returns the larger value of arguments x and y  
    >>> max(6, 0)  
    6  
    """  
    return x if x > y else y
```

- Write doctest to show what it should do
  - Before you write the implementation.
  - `python3 -m doctest [-v] file.py`

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## Python: Control Flow



# Conditional Statement

- Do some statements, conditional on a predicate expression

```
if <predicate>:  
    <>true statements>  
else:  
    <>false statements>
```

- Example:

```
if temperature > 98.6:  
    print("fever!")  
else:  
    print("no fever")
```



# Live Coding Demo

```
course = 'C88C'  
time = '2:00'  
if time == '2:00':  
    print(f"Go to {course}")  
else:  
    print("Go get some ☹️")
```

Go to C88C

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## Iteration with `while` Loops



# Learning Objectives

- Use a while loop to repeat some task.
- Write an expression to control when a while loop stops executing

# while Statement – Iteration Control

- Repeat a block of statements until a predicate expression is satisfied

```
<initialization statements>
```

```
while <predicate expression> :
```

```
    <body statements>
```

```
<rest of the program>
```

# Sum The Numbers

- This is a task we'll see many times!

```
total = 0
n = 1
while n <= 10:
    total += n
    n += 1
print(total)
```

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## Iteration With `for` Loops



# Learning Objectives

- Compare a for loop and a while loop.
- Learn to use range()
- Use a string as a sequence of letters

# for Statement – Iteration Control

- Repeat a block of statements for a structured sequence of variable bindings

<initialization statements>

```
for <variables> in <sequence expression> :  
    <body statements>
```

<rest of the program>



# <sequence expression> — What's that?

- Sequences are a type of data that can be broken down into smaller parts.
- Common sequences:
  - `range()` – give me all the numbers
  - Strings, e.g, "Hello, C88C!"
    - What is it a sequence of? Characters!
  - lists (next!)
- We'll start with two basic facts:
  - `range(10)` is the numbers 0 to 9, or `range(0, 10)`
  - `[]` means "indexing" an item in a sequence.
  - `"Hello"[0] == "H"`

# Data-Driven Iteration

- describe an expression to perform on each item in a sequence
- let the data dictate the control

```
[ <expr with loop var> for <loop var> in <sequence expr > ]
```