

Announcements

Unable to enroll because of section conflicts? Check Student Center regularly to see if space opens up.

Install Python, Komodo Edit, and the "Run Python Module" button. The first assignment is coming next week.

No reading for next time: Our treatment of *objects* differs significantly from the book's.

iClickers that need to be registered: See Texts on webpage for instructions.

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<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs1110/2013sp>

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video of 11:15 lecture

Authors of these pages: D. Gries, L. Lee, S. Marschner, & W. White, over

page for downloading in-class handouts and getting caught back up if you get behind. This page is updated dynamically all semester long, with new material added as we get there.

If you want to see what future lectures in this class will be, you should look at the [syllabus page](#). You may also find the [lecture handouts from last semester](#) useful.

Week 2

31 January (Thursday): Writing

[\[Handout\]](#)

Today we show how to define our own functions, stressing the importance of good specifications and testing. We introduce the unit-test method of organizing test cases.

Reading: Sections 3.1-3.6

Lab 2: Using Functions and Modules

[\[Instructions\]](#)

The purpose of this lab is to get you comfortable with a lot of built-in modules, which collectively do a lot of processing.

29 January (Tuesday): More on Strings; Modules; Functions

[\[Handout\]](#)

[\[Presentation\]](#)

We first practice doing extraction of data from strings. As we perform longer sequences of operations, we move away from working at the Python command prompt to using Komodo Edit to write and run Python programs; in doing so, we introduce one

handouts posted ~1 day before class

labs posted ~Monday

actual lecture slides & code posted after class

Demos

[string-puzzle-df-soln.py](#)

Users Want Functions

Given: info contains a comma-separated string with last name, difficulty, execution, and penalty.

- *Example:* info = 'RAISMAN, 6.7, 9.1, 0'

Goal: store the difficulty as a string, with no extra spaces or punctuation, in variable df

Users (including other programmers) want to write things like:

```
raisman_df = gym.dscore('RAISMAN, 6.7, 9.1, 0')  
print gym.dscore('PONOR, 6.2, 9.0, 0')
```

The function `dscore` is in module (file) `gym`.

When called, it returns a value that the user can utilize as they wish.

Anatomy of a Function Definition (I)

In file `gym`, we define `dscore` as follows.

header

```
def dscore(info):
```

declaration of *parameter* (variable) named "info"

body
(indented)

```
    """Returns: difficulty score, as a float, represented in info.
```

specification,
as a docstring

```
    Precondition: info is a string with commas separating its  
    component values: last name, difficulty score, execution  
    score, penalty.    """
```

```
    startcomma = info.index(',')
```

```
    tail = info[startcomma+1:] # part of
```

```
    endcomma = tail.index(',')
```

```
    return float(tail[:endcomma].strip())
```

Return statement

(optional).

Contains expression
whose value results
from the function
call.

Parameters: Variables Holding Input Values

```
def dscore(info):
```

```
    """Returns: difficult  
    Precondition: info i  
    component values:  
    score, penalty."""
```

```
    startcomma = info.index(',')
```

```
    tail = info[startcomma+1:] # part of info after 1st ,
```

```
    endcomma = tail.index(',')
```

```
    return float(tail[:endcomma].strip())
```

When you call a function, you supply *arguments*: input values.

ex: gym.dscore('Raisman, 6.7, 9, 0')

These values are stored in the function's corresponding *parameters*: variables used within the function.

Anatomy of a Specification: User Documentation

Single summary line, followed by blank line.
(More detail can be added in separate paragraphs)

```
def dscore(info):
```

```
    """Returns: difficulty score, as string, represented in info.
```

```
    Precondition: info is a string with commas separating its  
    component values: last name, difficulty score, execution  
    score, penalty."""
```

Precondition: assumptions about the argument values

```
    startcomma = info.index(',')
```

```
    tail = info[startcomma+1:] # part of info after 1st ,
```

```
    [...]
```

A Specification is a Contract

Preconditions are a **promise** that:

- if the arguments satisfy the preconditions, the function works as described in the specification;
- but, if the user's arguments violate the precondition, all bets are off.

```
>>> gym.dscore('Raisman; 6.7, 9, 0')
```

```
"I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that"
```

So write these contracts carefully!

Common sources of **software errors**:

- Preconditions not documented properly
- Functions used in ways that violate preconditions

Testing Program "Correctness"

- **Bug:** Error in a program. (Always expect them!)
- **Debugging:** Process of finding bugs and removing them.
- **Testing:** Process of analyzing, running program, looking for bugs.
- **Test case:** A set of input values, together with the expected output.

Get in the habit of writing test cases for a function from the function's specification —even *before* writing the function's body.

```
def number_vowels(w):  
    """Returns: number of vowels in word w.  
  
    Precondition: w a string with at least one letter and only letters"""  
    pass # nothing here yet!
```

You need to be clear about what you're trying to solve before you try to solve it! (Unless you're doing research.)

Organizing Test Cases: Unit Tests

- A unit test is a module that tests another module
 - It imports the other module (so it can access it)
 - It imports the unittest module (provided by us)
 - It defines one or more test procedures
 - Evaluate the function(s) on the test cases
 - Compare the result to the expected value
 - It has special code that calls the test procedures
- Our test procedures use the unittest functions. **Ex:**

```
def assert_equals(expected,received):  
    """Quit program if expected and received differ"""
```

Example unit test: last_name_first(n)

```
# test procedure
```

```
def test_last_name_first():
```

```
    """Test procedure for last_name_first(n)"""
```

```
    unittest.assertEqual('White, Walker',  
                          last_name_first('Walker White'))
```

```
    unittest.assertEqual('White, Walker',  
                          last_name_first('Walker White'))
```

Expected is the
literal value.

Received is the
expression.

Quits Python
if not equal

```
# Application code
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
```

```
    test_last_name_first()
```

```
    print 'Module name is working correctly'
```

Message will print
out only if no errors.

Aside: Application Code

Python programs often have “application code”

- Starts with

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
```

and then code underneath, indented appropriately.

- Code only if run via the Komodo "Run Python Module" button* (so, not executed if imported)

*or in other application modes

Debugging with Print Statements

Print statements expose the values of variables, so you can check if they have the value you expect.

```
print 'in this solution, df is :' + df + ':'
```

Don't leave these in your finished code! They reduce readability.