

## Mini-Lecture 8

# Specifications

# Recall: The Python API

The image shows a screenshot of the Python documentation for the `math` module, specifically the `ceil` function. Several callouts highlight key API elements:

- Function name:** `math.ceil(x)`
- Possible arguments:** `x`
- Module:** `math`
- What the function evaluates to:** Return the ceiling of `x`, the smallest integer greater than or equal to `x`.

The screenshot also shows the following text from the documentation:

Return the ceiling of `x`, the smallest integer greater than or equal to `x`.

The functions are provided by this module. Except when explicitly noted otherwise, all return values are floats.

**math.copysign(x, y)**  
Return a float with the magnitude (absolute value) of `x` but the sign of `y`. On platforms that support signed zeros, `copysign(1.0, -0.0)` returns `-1.0`.

**math.fabs(x)**  
Return the absolute value of `x`.

**math.factorial(x)**  
Return `x` factorial. Raises `ValueError` if `x` is not integral or is negative.

**math.floor(x)**  
Return the floor of `x`, the largest integer less than or equal to `x`. If `x` is not a float, delegates to `x.__floor__()`, which should return an `Integral` value.

**math.fmod(x, y)**  
Return `fmod(x, y)`, as defined by the platform C library. Note that the Python expression `x % y` may not return the same result. The intent of the C standard is that `fmod(x, y)` be exactly (mathematically; to infinite precision) equal to `x - n*y` for some integer `n` such that the result has the same sign as `x` and magnitude less than `abs(y)`. Python's `x % y` returns a result with the sign of `y` instead, and may not be exactly computable for float arguments. For example, `fmod(-1e-100, 1e100)` is `-1e-100`, but the result of Python's `-1e-100 % 1e100` is `1e100-1e-100`, which cannot be

# Recall: The Python API

The image shows a screenshot of the Python documentation for the `math.ceil(x)` function. Several callouts highlight key parts of the documentation:

- Function name:** `math.ceil(x)`
- Possible arguments:** `x`
- Module:** `math`
- What the function evaluates to:** Return the ceiling of `x`, the smallest integer greater than or equal to `x`.

The documentation also includes a table of other mathematical functions:

Function	Description
<code>math.copysign(x, y)</code>	Return a float with the magnitude (absolute value) of <code>x</code> but the sign of <code>y</code> . If either argument is a complex number, a complex number with the same magnitude as <code>x</code> but the phase of <code>y</code> is returned. If <code>y</code> is a float, <code>math.copysign(x, y)</code> is equivalent to <code>math.copysign(x, 1 if y &gt; 0 else -1)</code> .
<code>math.fabs(x)</code>	Return the absolute value of <code>x</code> .
<code>math.factorial(x)</code>	Return <code>x</code> factorial. Raises <code>ValueError</code> if <code>x</code> is not integral or <code>x &lt; 0</code> .
<code>math.floor(x)</code>	Return the floor of <code>x</code> , the largest integer less than or equal to <code>x</code> .
<code>math.fmod(x, y)</code>	Return <code>fmod(x, y)</code> , as defined by the platform C library. Note that the C standard is that <code>fmod(x, y)</code> be exactly (mathematically) <code>x - n * y</code> for some integer <code>n</code> such that <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> have the same sign and magnitude less than <code>abs(y)</code> . Python's <code>fmod</code> function does not always follow this rule. For example, <code>fmod(-1e-100, 1e100)</code> is <code>-1e-100</code> , but the result of Python's <code>-1e-100 % 1e100</code> is <code>1e100-1e-100</code> , which cannot be

**Key points from the callouts:**

- This is a **specification**
  - Enough info to use func.
  - But not how to implement
- Write them as **docstrings**

# Anatomy of a Specification

```
def greet(n):
```

```
    """Prints a greeting to the name n
```

```
    Greeting has format 'Hello <n>!'

```

```
    Followed by conversation starter.

```

```
    Parameter n: person to greet

```

```
    Precondition: n is a string"""
```

```
    print('Hello '+n+'!')
```

```
    print('How are you?')
```

One line description,  
followed by blank line

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Parameter description

Precondition specifies  
assumptions we make  
about the arguments

# Anatomy of a Specification

```
def to_centigrade(x):
```

```
    """Returns: x converted to centigrade
```

```
    Value returned has type float.
```

```
    Parameter x: temp in fahrenheit
```

```
    Precondition: x is a float"""
```

```
    return 5*(x-32)/9.0
```

One line description,  
followed by blank line

More detail about the  
function. It may be  
many paragraphs.

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Precondition specifies  
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    Value returned has type float.
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    Parameter x: temp in fahrenheit
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    Precondition: x is a float"""
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```
    return 5*(x-32)/9.0
```

“Returns” indicates a fruitful function

More detail about the function. It may be many paragraphs.

Parameter description

Precondition specifies assumptions we make about the arguments

# Preconditions

---

- Precondition is a **promise**
  - If precondition is true, the function works
  - If precondition is false, no guarantees at all
- Get **software bugs** when
  - Function precondition is not documented properly
  - Function is used in ways that violates precondition

```
>>> to_centiGrade(32.0)
```

```
0.0
```

```
>>> to_centiGrade(212)
```

```
100.0
```

# Preconditions

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  - If precondition is true, the function works
  - If precondition is false, no guarantees at all
- Get **software bugs** when
  - Function precondition is not documented properly
  - Function is used in ways that violates precondition

```
>>> to_centigrade(32.0)
```

```
0.0
```

```
>>> to_centigrade(212)
```

```
100.0
```

```
>>> to_centigrade('32')
```

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

```
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
```

```
File "temperature.py", line 19 ...
```

```
TypeError: unsupported operand type(s)  
for -: 'str' and 'int'
```

Precondition violated

# String Extraction Example

---

```
def firstparens(text):
```

```
    """Returns: substring in ()  
    Uses the first set of parens  
    Param text: a string with ()"""
```

```
    # Find the open parenthesis
```

```
    # Store part AFTER paren
```

```
    # Find the close parenthesis
```

```
    # Return the result
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'
```

```
>>> firstparens(s)
```

```
'Walker'
```

```
>>> t = '(A) B (C) D'
```

```
>>> firstparens(t)
```

```
'A'
```

# String Extraction Example

---

```
def firstparens(text):  
    """Returns: substring in ()  
    Uses the first set of parens  
    Param text: a string with ()"""  
  
    # Find the open parenthesis  
    start = introcs.index_str(s, '(')  
    # Store part AFTER paren  
  
    # Find the close parenthesis  
  
    # Return the result
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'  
  
>>> firstparens(s)  
'Walker'  
  
>>> t = '(A) B (C) D'  
  
>>> firstparens(t)  
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    Uses the first set of parens  
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    # Find the open parenthesis  
    start = introcs.index_str(s, '(')  
    # Store part AFTER paren  
    tail = s[start+1:]  
    # Find the close parenthesis  
  
    # Return the result
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'  
>>> firstparens(s)  
'Walker'  
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    # Find the open parenthesis  
    start = introcs.index_str(s, '(')  
    # Store part AFTER paren  
    tail = s[start+1:]  
    # Find the close parenthesis  
    end = introcs.index_str(tail, ')')  
    # Return the result
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'  
>>> firstparens(s)  
'Walker'  
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    # Store part AFTER paren  
    tail = s[start+1:]  
    # Find the close parenthesis  
    end = introcs.index_str(tail, ')')  
    # Return the result  
    return tail[:end]
```

```
>>> s = 'Prof (Walker) White'  
>>> firstparens(s)  
'Walker'  
>>> t = '(A) B (C) D'  
>>> firstparens(t)  
'A'
```



# String Extraction Example

---

```
def second(thelist):
```

```
    """Returns: second elt in thelist  
    Ex: second('A, B, C') => 'B'  
    Param thelist: a list of words  
    Precond: thelist has words sep.  
    by commas, spaces."""
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
```

```
'dog'
```

```
>>> second('apple, pear, banana')
```

```
'pear'
```

# String Extraction Example

---

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```

```
    # Find start of second elt  
    # Find end of second elt  
    # Slice from start to end  
    # Return result
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
```

```
'dog'
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>>> second('apple, pear, banana')
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'pear'
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```

```
    # Find FIRST comma  
    # Find SECOND COMMA  
    # Slice from comma to comma  
    # Return result
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
```

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'dog'
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```

```
    s = introcs.index_str(thelist, ',')  
    e = introcs.index_str(thelist, ',', s+1)  
    result = thelist[s+1:e]  
    return result
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
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'pear'
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Where is the error?

- A: Line 1
- B: Line 2
- C: Line 3
- D: Line 4
- E: There is no error

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```
    result = thelist[s+1:e]
```

```
    return result
```

```
>>> second('cat, dog, mouse, lion')
```

```
'dog'
```

```
>>> second('apple, pear, banana')
```

```
'pear'
```

```
result = thelist[s+2:end]
```

**OR**

```
result = introcs.strip(result)
```

