

PHOT 110: Introduction to programming

LECTURE 05

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PROGRAM STRUCTURES SO FAR ...

0. **Calculator**: Only expressions, re-use previous result, no re-running
1. **Scripts: variables & expressions**: re-run same script, track and remove human mistakes
2. **Branching (if, else)**: explicit logical expressions, execute code according to decisions
3. **while and for** Loops: Repeat code, according to condition
4. **Functions**: further re-use, abstraction of code, call whenever required, allows parameters

FUNCTIONS

- are separate reusable pieces of code
- can be invoked or called from the script
- accept 0 or more parameters
- return an object(s) (possible None)

FUNCTION DEFINITION SYNTAX

Keyword

Name

Parameters

```
def area_ellipse(radius1, radius2):
```

```
    """  
    Calculates the area of an ellipse  
  
    Param radius1 (float): Largest radius  
    Param radius2 (float): Smalles radius  
  
    Returns [float] A : area of the ellipse  
    """
```

Docstring: function description

```
    pi = 3.1415  
    A = radius1 * radius2 * pi
```

Function body

```
    return A
```

Return value

```
area = area_ellipse(2, 3)  
print(area)
```

Calling a function

FUNCTION DECLARATION

```
1 def area_ellipse(radius1, radius2):
2     """
3     area_ellipse calculates the area of an ellipse
4
5     Param radius1 (float): Largest radius
6     Param radius2 (float): Smalles radius
7
8     Returns [float] A : area of the ellipse
9     """
10    pi = 3.1415
11    A = radius1 * radius2 * pi
12
13    return A
14
```

The area of the ellipse is 18.849

RETURN VALUES

- Use the **return** keyword
- the value can be an expression
- Without **return**, function returns **None**
- Multiple outputs possible

```
1 def add(a, b):  
2     """ Sum a and b """  
3     return a + b  
4  
5 sum = add(2, 5)  
6 print(sum)
```

7

RETURN VALUES

- Use the **return** keyword

```
1 def add(a, b):  
2     """ Sum a and b """  
3     sum = a + b  
4     return sum  
5  
6 sum = add(2, 5)  
7 print(sum)
```

7

RETURN VALUES

- Use the **return** keyword
- the value can be an expression

```
1  def add(a, b):  
2      """ Sum a and b """  
3      return a + b  
4  
5  sum = add(2, 5)  
6  print(sum)
```

7

RETURN VALUES

- Use the **return** keyword
- the value can be an expression
- Without **return**, function returns **None**

```
1 def add(a, b):  
2     """ Sum a and b """  
3     a + b  
4  
5 sum = add(2, 5)  
6 print(sum)
```

None

RETURN VALUES

- Use the **return** keyword
- the value can be an expression
- Without **return**, function returns **None**
- Multiple outputs possible

```
1 def add(a, b):  
2     """ Sum a and b and give extra outputs """  
3     return a + b, "a second output", a - b  
4  
5 out = add(2, 5)  
6 print(out)
```

```
(7, 'a second output', -3)
```

UNPACKING MULTIPLE OUTPUTS

```
1 import math
2
3 def polar_to_carth(radius, angle):
4     """ polar_to_carth converts polar to cartesian """
5     x = radius*math.cos(angle)
6     y = radius*math.sin(angle)
7
8     return x, y
9
10 x, y = polar_to_carth(3, math.pi/3)
11 print(f"Polar (3, pi/3) = {(x, y)}")
```

```
Polar (3, pi/3) = (1.5000000000000004, 2.598076211353316)
```

MULTIPLE RETURN STATEMENTS POSSIBLE

```
1 def minimum(a, b):  
2     """ Returns the minimum of two numbers """  
3     if a <= b:  
4         return a  
5     else:  
6         return b  
7  
8 print(minimum(3.4, 6.5))
```

3.4

VARIABLE SCOPE

Script variables and function parameters can have the same name

```
1  def increment(a):
2      """ Increment number by 1 """
3      a = a + 1
4      return a
5
6  # Define the variable in the script
7  a = 5
8  print("Variable a (before) = " + str(a))
9  b = increment(a)
10 print("Variable a (after) = " + str(a))
11 print("Variable b = " + str(b))
```

Variable a (before) = 5

Variable a (after) = 5

Variable b = 6

VARIABLE SCOPE

- Functions can use script variables from **outside** the function
- But **cannot** change those variables

```
1 def increment(a):
2     """ Increment number by 1 """
3     a = a + x
4     return a
5
6 # Define the variable in the script
7 a = 5
8 x = 4
9 print(increment(a))
```

9

VARIABLE SCOPE

- Functions can use script variables from **outside** the function
- But **cannot** change those variables

```
1 def increment(a):
2     """ Increment number by 1 """
3     a = a + x
4     x = x + 3
5     return a
6
7 # Define the variable in the script
8 a = 5
9 x = 4
10 print(increment(a))
```

UnboundLocalError: cannot access local variable 'x' where it is not associated with a value

FUNCTIONS CAN CALL FUNCTIONS

```
1  def minimum(a, b):
2      if a <= b:
3          return a
4      else:
5          return b
6
7  def add(a, b, fct):
8      """ Sum a, b and minimum of both """
9      return a + b + fct(a, b)
10
11 a = 10; b = 2
12 print(add(a, b, minimum))
```

14

