



UC Berkeley EECS  
Lecturer  
Michael Ball

# Computational Structures in Data Science

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## Lecture 3: Functions and Lops



# Announcements

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- In person next week!
- Please check the CS88 Google Calendar for locations



# Let's Talk About Python

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- Expression `3.1 * 2.6`
- Call expression `max(0, x)`
- Variables
- Assignment Statement `x = <expression>`
- Define Function: `def <function name> (<parameter list>):`
- Control Statements: `if ...`  
`while ...`



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## Python: Definitions and Control



# Learning Objectives

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



# Conditional Statement

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- Do some statements, conditional on a *predicate* expression

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

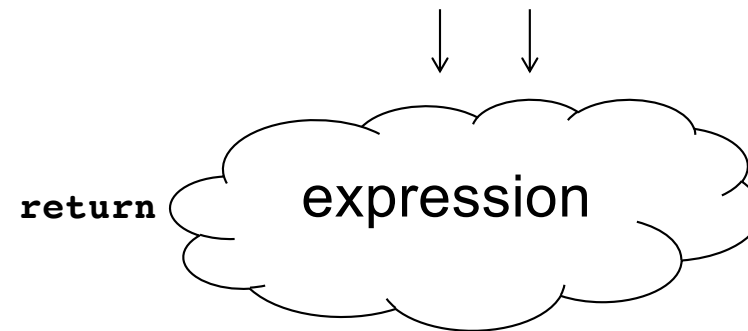
- Example:

```
if (temperature>37.2):  
    print("fever!")  
else:  
    print("no fever")
```



# Defining Functions

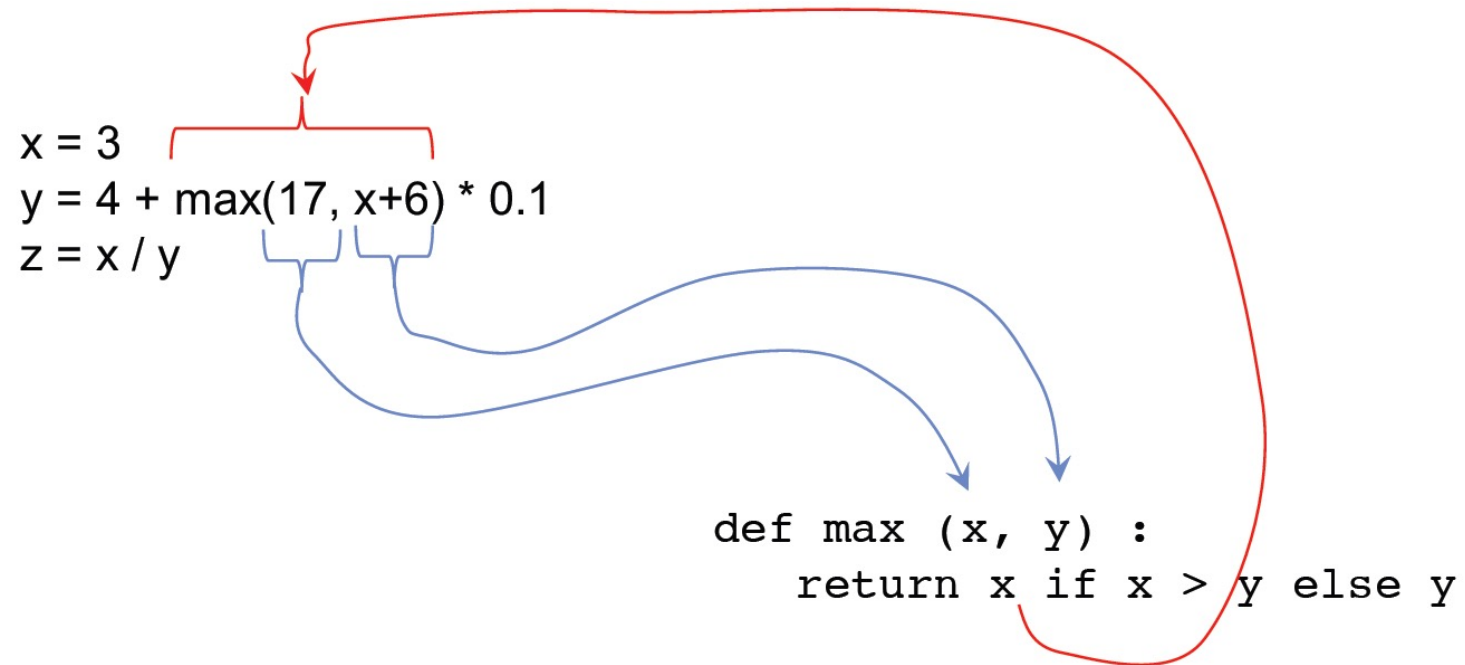
```
def <function name> (<argument list>) :
```



- Abstracts an expression or set of statements to apply to lots of instances of the problem
- A function should *do one thing well*



# Functions: Example







# How to Write a Good Function

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- Give a descriptive name
  - Function names should be lowercase. If necessary, separate words by underscores to improve readability. Names are extremely suggestive!
- Chose meaningful parameter names
  - Again, names are extremely suggestive.
- Write the docstring to explain *what* it does
  - What does the function return? What are corner cases for parameters?  
Python Style Guide: <https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008>
- Write doctest to show what it should do
  - Before you write the implementation.



# Functions: Calling and Returning Results

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## Python Tutor

```
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

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- Write the docstring to explain *what* it does
  - What does the function return? What are corner cases for parameters?
- Write doctest to show what it should do
  - Before you write the implementation.
  - `python3 -m doctest [-v] file.py`



## Returns and Values

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- All functions always return SOME value.
- If you don't specify `return`, the value is `None`.



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## Iteration with `while` Loops



## Learning Objectives

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



# while Statement – Iteration Control

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- 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

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- 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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## Environments & Higher Order Functions



# Learning Objectives

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- Use environment diagrams to model Python



# Environment Diagrams

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- Organizational tools that help you understand code
- **Terminology:**
  - **Frame:** keeps track of variable-to-value bindings, each function call has a frame
  - **Global Frame:** global for short, the starting frame of all python programs, doesn't correspond to a specific function
  - **Parent Frame:** The frame of where a function is defined (default parent frame is global)
  - **Frame number:** What we use to keep track of frames, f1, f2, f3, etc
  - **Variable vs Value:**  $x = 1$ .  $x$  is the **variable (name)**,  $1$  is the **value**



## Environment Diagrams Steps

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1. Draw the global frame
2. When evaluating assignments (lines with single equal), always evaluate right side first
3. When you **call** a function MAKE A NEW FRAME!
4. When assigning a primitive expression (number, boolean, string) write the value in the box
5. When assigning anything else, draw an arrow to the value
6. When calling a function, name the frame with the intrinsic name – the name of the function that variable points to
7. The parent frame of a function is the frame in which it was defined in (default parent frame is global)
8. If the variable isn't in the current frame, search in the parent frame



## Environment Diagram Tips / Links

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- NEVER EVER draw an arrow from one variable to another.
- Useful Resources:
  - [http://markmiyashita.com/cs61a/environment\\_diagrams/rules\\_of\\_environment\\_diagrams/](http://markmiyashita.com/cs61a/environment_diagrams/rules_of_environment_diagrams/)
  - <http://albertwu.org/cs61a/notes/environments.html>



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## Iteration With **for** Loops



## Learning Objectives

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



# for Statement – Iteration Control

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- 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?

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- Sequences are a *type* of data that can be broken down into smaller parts.
- Common sequences:
  - range() – gimme all the numbers
  - strings
  - lists (next week!)
- 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

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- 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 > ]
```