Python Packages

Basic Programming in Python

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Homework issues

- Code written by others is always hard to read
- Usually complex code can't be read "from top to bottom"

Try things out

Download the files accompanying the lecture slides to follow along today. (Also your homework or our solutions from last week.)

No `matplotlib`. :-(

Even though it was announced off the record last week: We will not use `matplotlib` just yet. Sorry for that.

Agenda for today:

- Two algorithms (Euclidean algorithm and magic square)
- Python packages and modules

Python Packages

No `matplotlib`. :-(

Even though it was announced: We will not use `matplotlib` just yet.

Instead I will for the next two weeks or more focus more on programming – in Python and in general.

This will, or so I hope, make it much easier for you to use any “library” like `matplotlib` in the future and make you better programmers even when you don’t use Python for future projects.

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Agenda for today:

- Two algorithms (Euclidean algorithm and magic square)
- Python packages and modules

Euclidean algorithm

Given two natural numbers, find their greatest common divisor.

Magic algorithm

Organizing code

Or: How to write code that others (and my future me) understand?

- use sufficient documentation and comments `# covered last week`
- use functions `# also covered`
- use modules `# now more of this!`

Documentation and comments

Open spyder, run one of your files, e.g. the `iris_statistics.py`.

Type `help(functionname)` – you can now see the documentation of that function.

Function arguments

The `help` function takes a *function* as an argument. Wait, what? A function?

Try:

```
def fun():
    return 'Hello'
hello = fun
print(hello())
```

Output:

```
Hello
```

Function arguments

The `help` function takes a *function* as an argument. Wait, what? A function?

Try:

```
def fun():
    return 'Hello'
hello = fun
print(hello())
```

Output:

```
Hello
```

- Functions are just *objects* which also have a name, just like variables.
- The difference is that functions are *callable*, that means we can use `function(...)` to execute the code behind it.

Functions as variables

Spyder hides functions (and modules) in its variable explorer, but we can view them by unchecking *Exclude unsupported data types* in the menu.

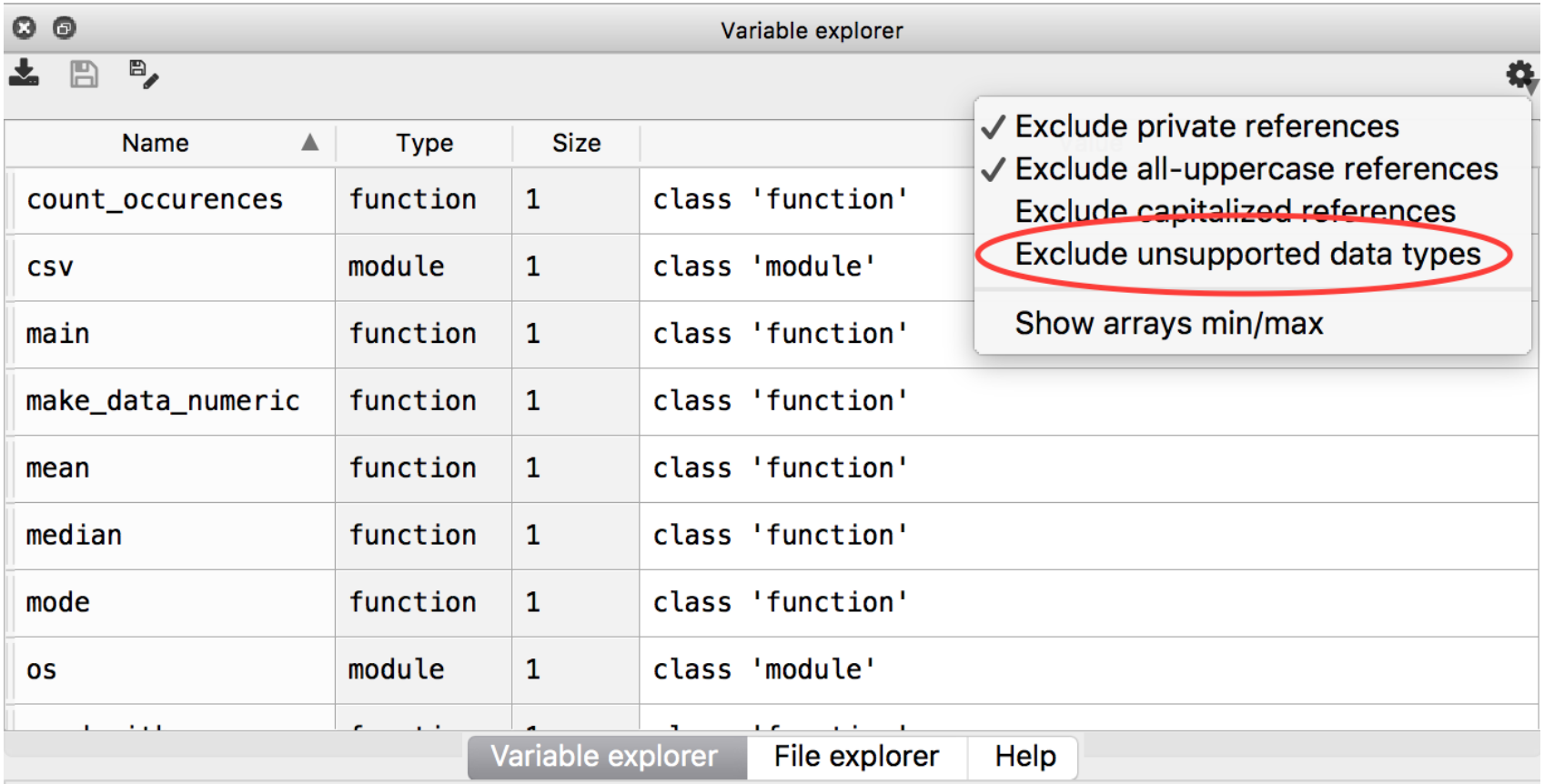

Figure 1: Spyder's variable explorer

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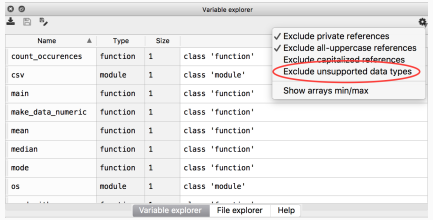

Figure 1: Spyder's variable explorer

You can call `help` with any of these! Even with modules!

Those without spyder can use this code to check for what is imported:

```
store = set(globals().copy()) | set(('store', )) import
...  # whatever we do in the example ;-)
print(set(globals()).difference(store))
```

Import

```
import statistics

help(statistics)
```

Output:

```
Help on module statistics:

NAME
    statistics - Basic statistics module.

MODULE REFERENCE
    https://docs.python.org/3.6/library/statistics

    The following documentation is automatically generated
    source files.  It may be incomplete, incorrect or incl
```

Python Packages

Import

In order to have a function or module available, we need to import it.

Import

```
import statistics

help(statistics)
```

Output:

```
Help on module statistics:

NAME
    statistics - Basic statistics module.

MODULE REFERENCE
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Import

Importing a module means to execute everything “global”:

- Function definitions are common
- Statements which are not inside a function
- etc.

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Importing a module means to execute everything "global":

- Function definitions are common
- Statements which are not inside a function
- etc.

This is one of the reasons we can think of function names as variables, as the import just "passes them along".

Python path

We can check our python path, i.e. where python searches for modules:

```
import sys
print(sys.path)
```

Output:

```
['',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python36.zip',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/lib-dynload',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages/Sphinx-1.5
 '/Users/shoeffner/Projects/pandoc-source-exec',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages/setuptools
```

Python Packages

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 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages/Sphinx-1.5
 '/Users/shoeffner/Projects/pandoc-source-exec',
 '/Users/shoeffner/miniconda3/envs/monty/lib/python3.6/site-packages/setuptools
```

We can import from anywhere inside our python path.

Notice the `''` (empty string) as the first element. That's basically "the current working directory".

Python searches in all of these from the first to the last for modules you try to import. As soon as it finds a match, that module is imported.

Of course, on your computers it will look different than what you see here.

Writing our own modules

File: `reader.py`

```
def read_data(filename):
    """Reads a comma separated file into a list of lists.
    Each sublist contains floats.

    Args:
        filename: the file to read.

    Returns:
        A list of lists containing floats, e.g.:
        [[1., 2., 1.4],
         [2., 1.4, 3.]]
    """
    with open(filename, 'r') as in_file:
        data = in_file.read().splitlines()
    for i, row in enumerate(data):
        data[i] = [float(x) for x in row.split(',')]
    return data
```

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Writing our own modules

Writing our own modules

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    with open(filename, 'r') as in_file:
        data = in_file.read().splitlines()
    for i, row in enumerate(data):
        data[i] = [float(x) for x in row.split(',')]
    return data
```

This is now a module containing one function.

Using a module

File: `printer.py`

```
import reader



data = reader.read_data('example.data')
print(data)
```

Output:

```
[[1.0, 2.0, 1.4], [2.0, 1.4, 3.0], [4.5, 1.3, 5.2]]
```

Python Packages

Using a module

Using the `import` statement it is possible to employ functions from another file.

Notice that we used `import reader` and not `import reader.py`! We are only interested in the name, not in the type.

To call the function, we need to specify the module name and the function name: The module name is just the name of the Python file: `module.function()`, here `reader.read_data(...)`.

Using a module

File: `printer.py`

```
import reader


data = reader.read_data('example.data')
print(data)
```

Output:

```
[[1.0, 2.0, 1.4], [2.0, 1.4, 3.0], [4.5, 1.3, 5.2]]
```

Reusing a function: directory structure

File: `printer.py`

```
import reader



data = reader.read_data('example.data')
print(data)
```

For this to work, our directory needs to have all files next to each other[1]:

```
wd
├── reader.py
├── printer.py
└── example.data
```

[1] **wd** is the working directory, so where we `cd` to before running the code.

A more complex directory structure

Consider the following directory tree:

```
wd
└── lecture
    ├── reader.py
    ├── printer.py
    └── example.data
```

It is possible to `import lecture.reader`. However, `lecture.printer` does not work! It uses `import reader`.

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Consider the following directory tree:

```
wd
└── lecture
    ├── reader.py
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    └── example.data
```

It is possible to `import lecture.reader`. However, `lecture.printer` does not work! It uses `import reader`.

Imports are relative to the current directory or to the directories inside the Python path.

A directory can also be a module if it contains proper Python files, just as `lecture` is here.

Import failure

```
import lecture.reader
import lecture.printer
```

Output:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<string>", line 2, in <module>
  File "/Users/shoeffner/Projects/monty/06_Packages/code/lecture/printer.py", l
    import reader
ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'reader'
```

from ... import ...

Demo!

File: `importexamples.py`

```
# Imports everything but keeps it inside the namespace of the module.
import os
import statistics

# Imports only a specific function or variable
from statistics import mode
from os import uname

# Imports everything. Don't use this unless you are sure what you do.
from statistics import *
from os import *

# Imports a specific submodule (only works with packages (wait for it))
import os.path
# import statistics.mode  # This does not work!
```

Python Packages

from ... import ...

from ... import ...

Demo!

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# Imports everything but keeps it inside the namespace of the module.
import os
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# Imports everything. Don't use this unless you are sure what you do.
from statistics import *
from os import *

# Imports a specific submodule (only works with packages (wait for it))
import os.path
# import statistics.mode  # This does not work!
```

We can already see that modules are bundled into meaningful parts.

The `statistics` modules contains, who would have thought, statistics functions.

The `os` module contains a lot of functions handling information from the operating system (OS). For some parts there is so much (e.g. path handling) that it even has some submodules (`os.path`).

__init__.py

To `import lecture` we can add `__init__.py`:

```
wd
└── lecture
    ├── __init__.py
    ├── reader.py
    └── printer.py
```

```
import lecture.reader
import lecture.printer
```

Python Packages

__init__.py

__init__.py

To import lecture we can add __init__.py:

```
wd
└── lecture
    ├── __init__.py
    ├── reader.py
    └── printer.py
```

```
import lecture.reader
import lecture.printer
```

We are not able to `import lecture` to gain access to `lecture.reader` or `lecture.printer`. But for the `os` package this was possible!

If we want to do it properly, we also have to change the `import` statement in `printer.py`. (But we might have done so anyway two slides ago.)

`if __name__ == '__main__':`

Consider these files `a.py`, `b.py`, and `c.py` next to each other. How often will `python a.py` print "Hello World!", and which ones?

File: `a.py`

```
import b
import c

print('Hello World! a')
```

File: `b.py`

```
import c

print('Hello World! b')
```

File: `c.py`

```
def printer():
    print('Hello World! d')

print('Hello World! c')
```

if __name__ == '__main__':

File: `a.py`

```
import b
import c

print('Hello World! a')
```

Output:

```
Hello World! c
Hello World! b
Hello World! a
```

Python Packages

└─if __name__ == '__main__':

File: a.py

```
import b
import c

print('Hello World! a')
```

Output:

```
Hello World! c
Hello World! b
Hello World! a
```

Explanation:

- a imports b.
- During b's import, b in turn imports c.
- c declares a function and prints "Hello World! c"
- b, finishing c's import, can now print "Hello World! b"
- a can now import c – since b already did that, python does not execute c again.
- a prints "Hello World! a"

`if __name__ == '__main__':`

If `b` and `c` were modules written by other programmers, would we expect them to print something during the import?

Most likely not.

`if __name__ == '__main__':`

Each module gets a magic name. It's accessible via the variable `__name__`.

```
import os
import statistics
import reader  # the file we wrote before
print('os name:', os.__name__)
print('statistics name:', statistics.__name__)
print('reader name:', reader.__name__)
print('this name:', __name__)
```

Output:

```
os name: os
statistics name: statistics
reader name: reader
this name: __main__
```

Python Packages

└─if __name__ == '__main__':

Each module gets a magic name. It's accessible via the variable `__name__`.

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import os
import statistics
import reader  # the file we wrote before
print('os name:', os.__name__)
print('statistics name:', statistics.__name__)
print('reader name:', reader.__name__)
print('this name:', __name__)
```

Output:

```
os name: os
statistics name: statistics
reader name: reader
this name: __main__
```

Notice that the file we execute gets the name `__main__`.

We can use this for a nice trick!

if __name__ == '__main__':

File: `mymath.py`

```
def add(a, b):
    """Adds a and b."""
    return a + b


if __name__ == '__main__':
    assert add(2, 5) == 7, '2 and 5 are not 7'
    assert add(-2, 5) == 3, '-2 and 5 are not 3'
    print('This executes only if I am main!')
```

```
import mymath
print(mymath.add(32, 453))
```

Output:

```
485
```

Python Packages

if __name__ == '__main__':

File: mymath.py

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def add(a, b):
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```

```
import mymath
print(mymath.add(32, 453))
```

Output:

```
485
```

Since the `__name__` variable will be `__main__` for the script we use, we can put everything which should not be executed into an if-block.

if __name__ == '__main__':

File: `mymath.py`

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def add(a, b):
    """Adds a and b."""
    return a + b


if __name__ == '__main__':
    assert add(2, 5) == 7, '2 and 5 are not 7'
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    print('This executes only if I am main!')
```

Output:

```
This executes only if I am main!
```

Packages

A bundle of several modules is usually called a package.

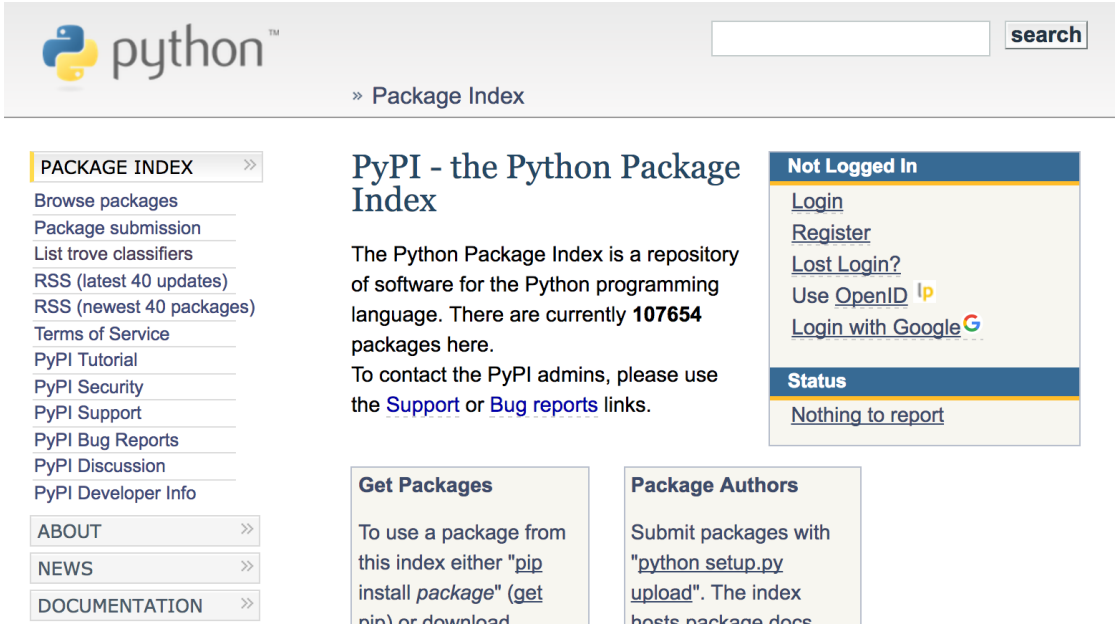

Figure 2: pypi.python.org[2] – the Python package Index

[2] https://pypi.python.org/pypi

Python Packages

Packages

A bundle of several modules is usually called a package.

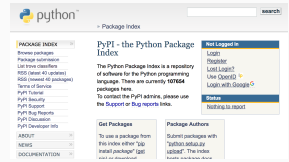

Figure 2: pypi.python.org[2] – the Python package Index

[2] https://pypi.python.org/pypi

While there are lots of packages ($>$ 100,000) online available, many of them are very specific.

We will mostly work with the core library, as it already has many cool things.

Your sixth homework

- Solve a maze by backtracking.

```
hw6
├── mazesolver
│   ├── io.py
│   └── solver.py
└── solve_maze.py
```

The last slide

Figure 3: Sally Forth (Sadasivam 2013)

References

Sadasivam, Krishna M. 2013. “Maze.” *Sally Forth*, October.