

Function Scope

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Readings:
Parts of Chapter 3 of Think Python

Learning Objectives Today

Explain rules of scope of **local variables** in a function

- When are they created?
- When are they destroyed?
- What parts of a program have access to them? (frames)

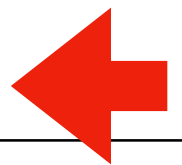
Understand **global variables**

- How can they be used and modified within a function? (global keyword)
- Where are they stored? (global frame)
- What parts of a program have access to them?
- How can they be mis-represented as local variables?

Read: Downey Ch 3 ("Parameters and Arguments" to end)

[Link to Slides](#)

[Interactive Exercises](#)



Explain **argument passing**

- “pass by value”

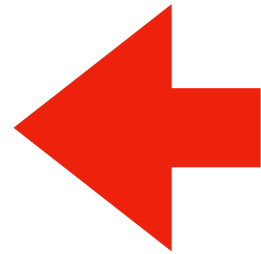
don't memorize the examples,
learn the rules of Python

sample question: *why did Python
do this thing I didn't expect
at this specific line (ask us!)*

Today's Outline

Context

- Examples



Frames

Demos: Local Variables

Demos: Global Variables

Demos: Argument Passing

Context

Often (in life and programming), the same name can mean different things in different contexts

- Examples?
- Human name: **Ashwin** (who is in the room?)
- Street address: **1210 West Dayton Street** (what city are we in?)
- Files: **public_tests.py** (which directory are we in?)

Context

Often (in life and programming), the same name can mean different things in different contexts

- Examples?
- Human name: **Ashwin** (who is in the room?)
- Street address: **1210 West Dayton Street** (what city are we in?)
- Files: **public_tests.py** (which directory are we in?)

Our code often have different variables with the same name

- How do we keep variable names organized?
- How do we know what a variable name is referring to?

Context

Often (in life and programming), the same name can mean different things in different contexts

- Examples?
- Human name: **Ashwin** (who is in the room?)
- Street address: **1210 West Dayton Street** (what city are we in?)
- Files: **public_tests.py** (which directory are we in?)

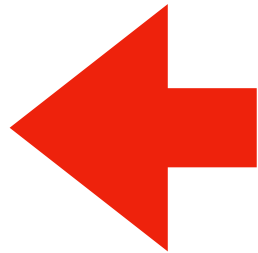
Our code often have different variables with the same name

- How do we keep variable names organized? **with groups called “frames”**
- How do we know what a variable name is referring to? **we'll learn some rules for this**

Today's Outline

Context

Frames



Demos: Local Variables

Demos: Global Variables

Demos: Argument Passing

Frames

Every time a function is invoked (i.e., called), the invocation gets a new “**frame**” for holding variables

- The parameters also exist in a frame

Global frame

- There is always one global frame that all functions can access

When a variable name is used, Python looks two places:

- 1 the function invocation's frame
- 2 the global frame

Understanding scope: example

```
→ 1 def print_twice(text):  
2     print(text)  
3     print(text)  
4  
5 def concatenate_str(text1, text2):  
6     combined_text = text1 + text2 # concatenation  
7     print_twice(combined_text)  
8  
9 cs220 = "Hello CS220"  
10 cs319 = " / CS319"  
11 concatenate_str(cs220, cs319)
```

Understanding scope: example

```
→ 1 def print_twice(text):  
2     print(text)  
3     print(text)  
4  
5 def concatenate_str(text1, text2):  
6     combined_text = text1 + text2 # concatenation  
7     print_twice(combined_text)  
8  
9 cs220 = "Hello CS220"  cs220 and cs319 will be in the global frame  
10 cs319 = " / CS319"  
11 concatenate_str(cs220, cs319)
```

Understanding scope: example

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two frames will exist during the time we're executing in print_twice

cs220 and cs319 will be in the global frame

Understanding scope: example

```
→ 1 def print_twice(text):  
2     print(text)  
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```

two frames will exist during the time we're executing in print_twice

cs220 and cs319 will be in the global frame

you don't generally see or interact with frames when programming, but it's an important mental model

Understanding scope: example

```
→ 1 def print_twice(text):  
2     print(text)           can access: cs220, cs319, text  
3     print(text)  
4  
5 def concatenate_str(text1, text2): can access: cs220, cs319,  
6     combined_text = text1 + text2 # concatenation  
7     print_twice(combined_text)  
8  
9 cs220 = "Hello CS220"  
10 cs319 = " / CS319"  
11 concatenate_str(cs220, cs319) this code can access: line1, line2
```

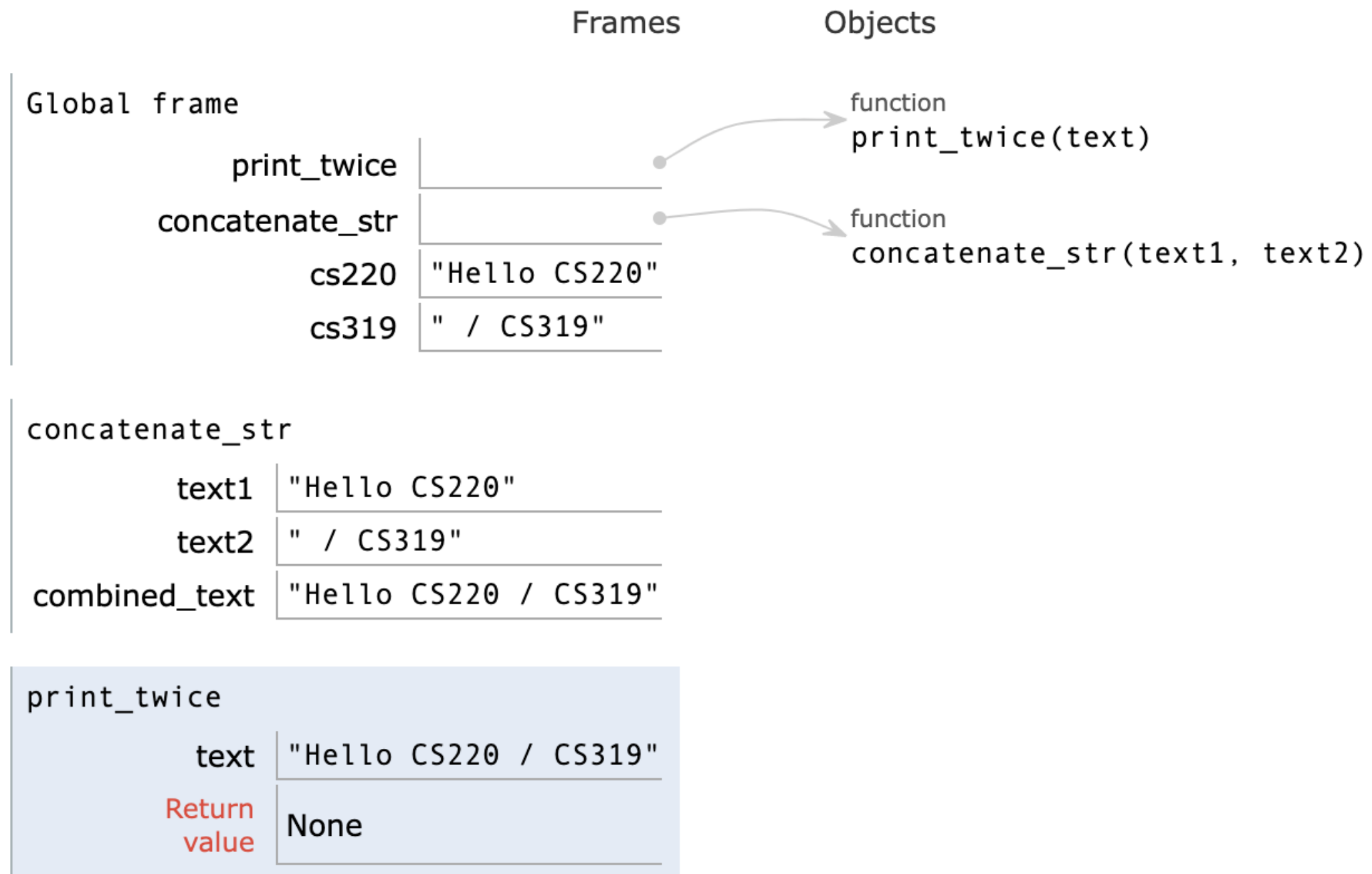
we call the variables that can currently be
accessed “in scope” and variables that
cannot be “out of scope”

Understanding scope: example

```
→ 1 def print_twice(text):  
2     print(text)  
3     print(text)  
4  
5 def concatenate_str(text1, text2):  
6     combined_text = text1 + text2 # concatenation  
7     print_twice(combined_text)  
8  
9 cs220 = "Hello CS220"  
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11 concatenate_str(cs220, cs319)
```

Arguments are copied to parameters:
this is called "pass by value"

Understanding scope: example (PythonTutor)



Understanding scope: example

```
def print_twice(text):  
    print(text)  
    print(text)
```

```
def concatenate_str(text1, text2):  
    combined_text = text1 + text2 #  
concatenation  
    print_twice(combined_text)
```

```
cs220 = "Hello CS220"  
cs319 = " / CS319"  
concatenate_str(cs220, cs319)
```

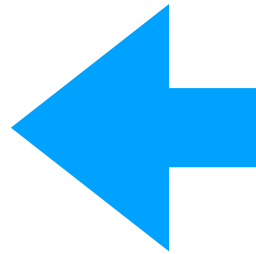
Try this example yourself using PythonTutor

Today's Outline

Context

Frames

Demos: Local Variables



Demos: Global Variables

Demos: Argument Passing

Let's do some examples in PythonTutor

Lessons about Local Variables

```
def set_x():  
    x = 100
```

```
print(x)
```

Lesson 1: functions don't execute unless they're called

Lessons about Local Variables

```
def set_x():  
    x = 100
```

```
set_x()  
print(x)
```

Lesson 2: variables created in a function die after function returns

Lessons about Local Variables

```
def count():  
    x = 1  
    x += 1  
    print(x)
```

```
count()  
count()  
count()
```

Lesson 3: variables start fresh every time a function is called again

Lessons about Local Variables

```
def display_x() :  
    print(x)
```

```
def main() :  
    x = 100  
    display_x()
```

```
main()
```

Lesson 4: you can't see the variables of other function invocations, even those that call you

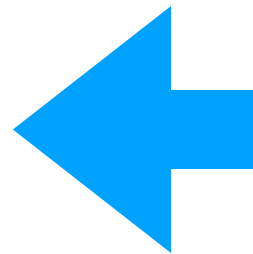
Today's Outline

Context

Frames

Demos: Local Variables

Demos: Global Variables



Demos: Argument Passing

Lessons about Global Variables

```
msg = 'hello' # global, outside any func

def greeting():
    print(msg)

print('before: ' + msg)
greeting()
print('after: ' + msg)
```

Lesson 5: you can generally just **use** global variables inside a function

Lessons about Global Variables

```
msg = 'hello'
```

```
def greeting():  
    msg = 'welcome!'  
    print('greeting: ' + msg)
```

```
print('before: ' + msg)  
greeting()  
print('after: ' + msg)
```

Lesson 6: if you do an assignment to a variable in a function, Python assumes you want it local

Lessons about Global Variables

```
msg = 'hello'

def greeting():
    print('greeting: ' + msg)
    msg = 'welcome!'

print('before: ' + msg)
greeting()
print('after: ' + msg)
```

Lesson 7: assignment to a variable should be before its use in a function, even if there's

a global variable with the same name

Lessons about Global Variables

```
msg = 'hello'

def greeting():
    global msg
    print('greeting: ' + msg)
    msg = 'welcome!'

print('before: ' + msg)
greeting()
print('after: ' + msg)
```

Lesson 8: use a global declaration to prevent Python from creating a local variable when you want a global variable

Today's Outline

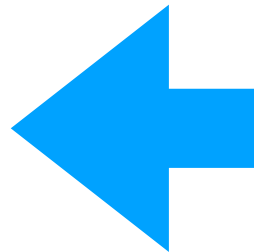
Context

Frames

Demos: Local Variables

Demos: Global Variables

Demos: Argument Passing



Lessons about Argument Passing

```
def f(x):  
    x = 'B'  
    print('inside: ' + x)
```

```
val = 'A'  
print('before: ' + val)  
f(val)  
print('after: ' + val)
```

Lesson 9: in Python, arguments are "passed by value", meaning reassignments to a parameter don't change the argument outside

Lessons about Argument Passing

```
x = 'A'
```

```
def f(x):  
    x = 'B'  
    print('inside: ' + x)
```

```
print('before: ' + x)  
f(x)  
print('after: ' + x)
```

Lesson 10: it's irrelevant whether the argument (outside) and parameter (inside) have the same variable name

Lesson Summary

Local

Lesson 1: functions don't execute unless they're called

Lesson 2: variables created in a function die after function returns

Lesson 3: variables start fresh every time a function is called again

Lesson 4: you can't see the variables of other function invocations, even those that call you

Global

Lesson 5: you can generally just **use** global variables inside a function

Lesson 6: if you do an assignment to a variable in a function, Python assumes you want it local

Lesson 7: assignment to a variable should be before its use in a function, even if there's a global variable with the same name

Lesson 8: use a global declaration to prevent Python from creating a local variable when you want a global variable

Parameters

Lesson 9: in Python, arguments are "passed by value", meaning reassignments to a parameter don't change the argument outside

Lesson 10: it's irrelevant whether the argument (outside) and parameter (inside) have the same variable name