

CS61A Lecture 5

Amir Kamil
UC Berkeley
February 1, 2013

Announcements



- Quiz today!

- Only worth two points, so don't worry!

- Hog project

- Get started early!

- If you still don't have a partner (and want one), find one on Piazza

- Use existing post; don't make a new one

The Art of the Function



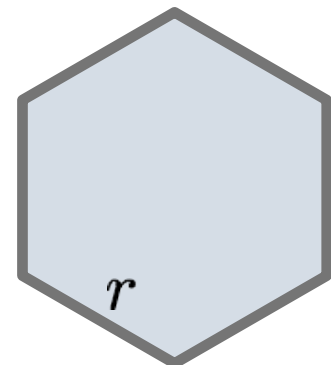
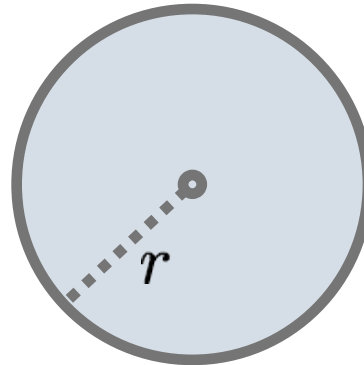
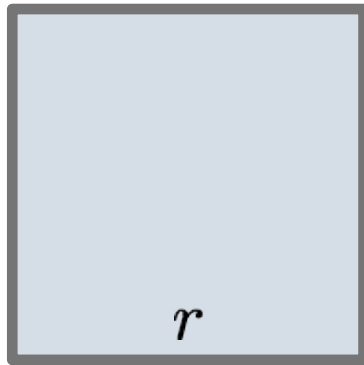
- Give each function exactly one job
- Don't repeat yourself (DRY).
- Don't repeat yourself (DRY).
- Define functions generally

Generalizing Patterns with Parameters



Regular geometric shapes relate length and area.

Shape:



Area:

$$1 \cdot r^2$$

$$\pi \cdot r^2$$

$$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot r^2$$

Finding common structure allows for shared implementation

Generalizing Over Computational Processes



The common structure among functions may itself be a computational process, rather than a number.

$$\sum_{k=1}^5 k = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 15$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^5 k^3 = 1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 = 225$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^5 \frac{8}{(4k-3) \cdot (4k-1)} = \frac{8}{3} + \frac{8}{35} + \frac{8}{99} + \frac{8}{195} + \frac{8}{323} = 3.04$$

Functions as Arguments



Function values can be passed as arguments

```
def cube(k):  
    return pow(k, 3)
```

Function of a single argument (not called term)

```
def summation(n, term):  
    """Sum the first n terms of a sequence.
```

A formal parameter that will be bound to a function

```
>>> summation(5, cube)
```

```
225
```

```
"""
```

```
total, k = 0, 1
```

```
while k <= n:
```

```
    total, k = total + term(k), k + 1
```

```
return total
```

The cube function is passed as an argument value

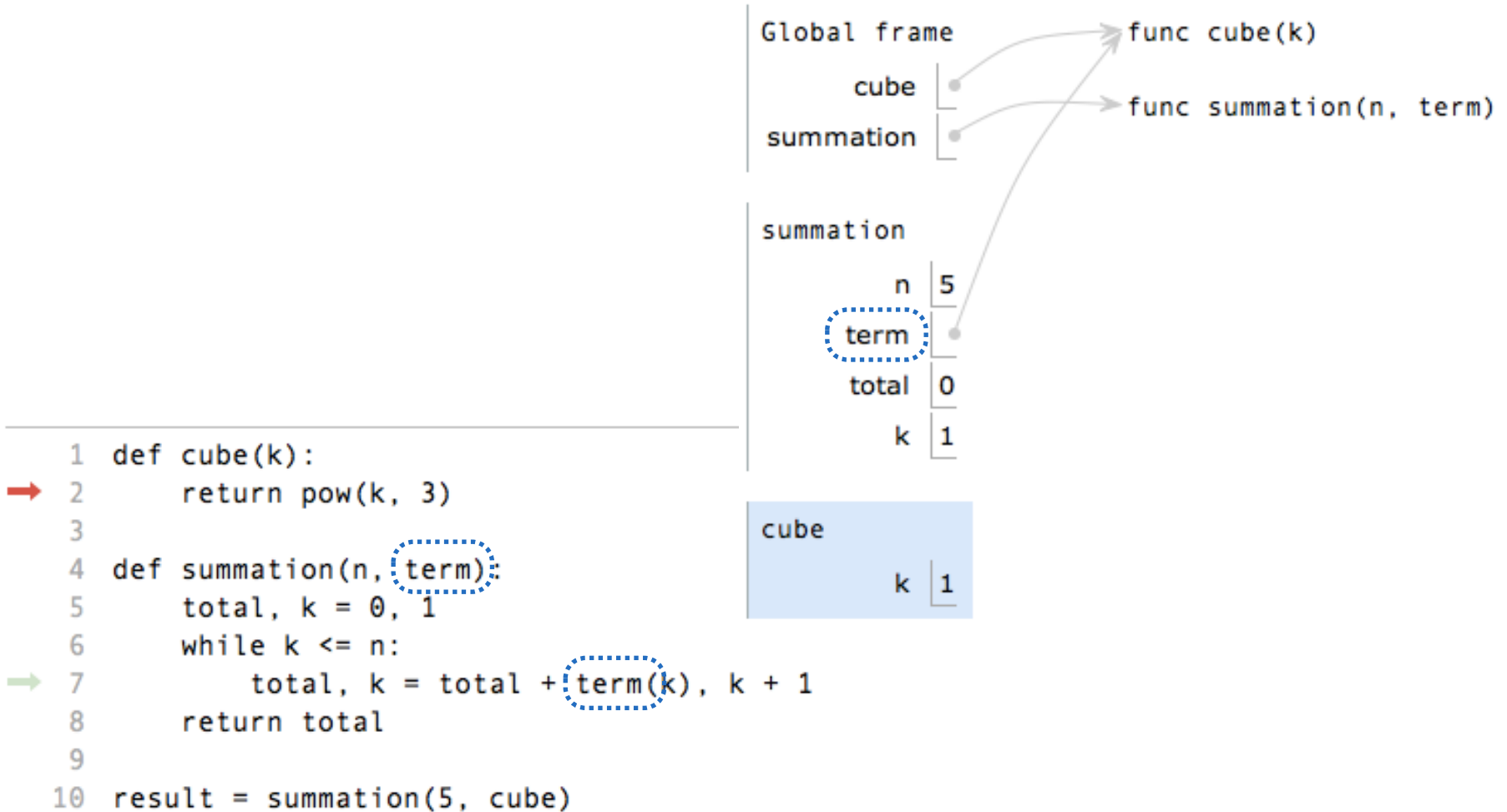
The function bound to term gets called here

$$0 + 1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^5$$

Function Values as Parameters



Parameters can be bound to function values



Example: <http://goo.gl/e4YBH>

Functions as Return Values



Locally defined functions can be returned

They have access to the frame in which they are defined

A function that returns a function

```
def make_adder(n):  
    """Return a function that adds n to its argument.
```

```
>>> add_three = make_adder(3)
```

```
>>> add_three(4)
```

```
7
```

```
"""
```

```
def adder(k):  
    return add(n, k)
```

```
return adder
```

The name `add_three` is bound to a function

A local def statement

Can refer to names in the enclosing function

Call Expressions as Operators



`make_adder(1)(2)`

`make_adder(1)` (`2`)

← Operator ← Operand 0

An expression that evaluates to a function value

An expression that evaluates to any value

```
def make_adder(n):  
    def adder(k):  
        return add(n, k)  
    return adder
```

Functions are first-class: they can be manipulated as values in Python

Higher-order function: a function that takes a function as an argument value or returns a function as a return value

Higher order functions:

- Express general methods of computation
- Remove repetition from programs
- Separate concerns among functions