

Lecture 9, September 14

Functions

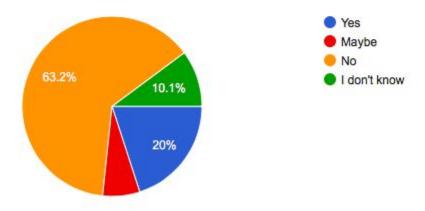
Announcements

- No late work. If you joined the class late, please do current work.
 We'll prorate based on when you joined.
- Technical problems? Questions about hw/lab credit? Please email your GSI, not me. Addresses are on the Staff Contact page in data8.org.
- Python Playground: NEW! There's a link on Piazza. A place for you to experiment with Python and the class datasets.
- Please fill out the Welcome Survey!

Results so far: Requirement?

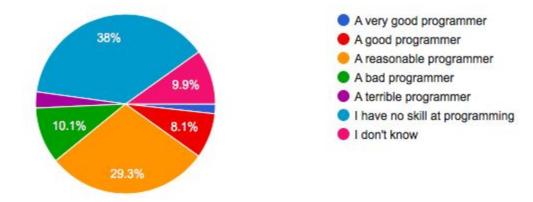
Does this course currently fulfill a requirement for one of your intended degree programs?

(345 responses)



Good Programmer?

How good a programmer do you consider yourself to be? (345 responses)



Defining Functions

You get to write your own functions.

 Useful when you want to do the same computation over and over again, and Python doesn't already have a function for it.

(Demo)

Def Statements

User-defined functions give names to blocks of code

```
Name
                Argument names (parameters)
def spread(values):
                             Return expression
     return max(values) - min(values)
Body
                     (Demo)
```

Discussion Question

What does this function do? What kind of input does it take? What output will it give? What's a reasonable name?

Apply

The apply method creates an array by calling a function on every element in an input column.

- First argument: Function to apply
- Second argument: The input column label