§10.0-10.7, Py tut §9.0-9.2: Scope §11.2: Backtracking (Knight's Tour)

- *HW09 due today*

15 Nov 2006
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Review last time (Py tut §9.2)

- Namespaces
  - Purpose: avoid name conflicts
  - Default (built-in) namespace
  - Global namespace for each file/module
  - Local namespace:
    - Function invocation
    - Class definition

Scope

- "A scope is a textual region of a Python program where a namespace is directly accessible."
  - Can access without using module name
    - e.g., pi rather than math.pi
- Scope deals with the order in which namespaces are searched to resolve a name
  - First search local scope
  - Then search enclosing functions/classes
  - Then search global scope for that file/module
  - Then search built-in names

New names add to local scope

- New names are created by:
  - Assignment: x = 5
  - Function definitions: def factorial(n):
  - Class definitions: class Fraction:
  - Imports: from math import *
- New names always add to the local scope

```
def distance(x1, y1, x2, y2):
    from math import sqrt
    return sqrt((x2-x1)**2 + (y2-y1)**2)
sqrt                    # not defined here!
```

The *global* directive

- Names outside the local scope are read-only
  - Attempts to modify them result in creating a new local copy

```
G1 = 'global'
def fun():
    G1 = 'local'      # creates local copy of G1
fun()
G1                    # G1 is unchanged
```

- The global directive says that references to those names refer to the file/module's global scope

Backtracking: recursion appl.

- Knight's tour classic chess problem:
  - Find a sequence of legal knight moves that touches every square of the board once
    - Input: size of board, starting position
    - Output: sequence of board coordinates (x,y)
- Algorithm:
  - Find possible moves from current position
    - Omit squares we've already touched
  - For each move, take the move and recurse
  - If no possible moves, return (backtrack)

TODO

- Lab08 due this week:
  - Robust user input
- HW09 due Wed:
  - Wrapper for open()
- Midterm next week: Wed 22Nov
  - M2 chs9-10
  - Py ch10-14