

Lecture 6

# **Specifications & Testing**

# Announcements For This Lecture

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## Last Call

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- Acad. Integrity Quiz
- Take it by tomorrow
- Also remember survey



## Assignment 1

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- Posted on web page
  - Due Wed, Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Today's lab will help
  - Revise until correct
- Can work in pairs
  - We will pair if needed
  - Submit request TONIGHT
  - One submission per pair

# One-on-One Sessions

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- Started Sunday: 1/2-hour one-on-one sessions
  - To help prepare you for the assignment
  - **Primarily for students with little experience**
- There are still some spots available
  - Sign up for a slot in CMS
- Will keep running after **September 25th**
  - Will open additional slots after the due date
  - Will help students revise Assignment 1

# Recall: The Python API

The image shows a screenshot of the Python documentation for the `math.ceil(x)` function. Several callouts highlight key parts of the documentation:

- Function name:** `math.ceil(x)`
- Possible arguments:** `x`
- Module:** `math`
- What the function evaluates to:** Return the ceiling of `x`, the smallest integer greater than or equal to `x`.

The documentation also includes a list of other functions in the `math` module, such as `math.copysign(x, y)`, `math.fabs(x)`, `math.factorial(x)`, `math.floor(x)`, and `math.fmod(x, y)`.

- This is a **specification**
  - Enough info to **call** function
  - But not how to **implement**
- Write them as **docstrings**

# Anatomy of a Specification

```
def greet(n):
```

```
    """Prints a greeting to the name n
```

```
    Greeting has format 'Hello <n>!'
```

```
    Followed by conversation starter.
```

```
    Parameter n: person to greet
```

```
    Precondition: n is a string"""
```

```
    print('Hello '+n+'!')
```

```
    print('How are you?')
```

One line description,  
followed by blank line

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More detail about the  
function. It may be  
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Parameter description

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More detail about the  
function. It may be  
many paragraphs.

Parameter description

Precondition specifies  
assumptions we make  
about the arguments



# Anatomy of a Specification

```
def to_centigrade(x):
```

```
    """Returns: x converted to centigrade
```

```
    Value returned has type float.
```

```
    Parameter x: temp in fahrenheit
```

```
    Precondition: x is a float"""
```

```
    return 5*(x-32)/9.0
```

One line description,  
followed by blank line

More detail about the  
function. It may be  
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# Anatomy of a Specification

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```

“Returns” indicates a fruitful function

More detail about the function. It may be many paragraphs.

Parameter description

Precondition specifies assumptions we make about the arguments

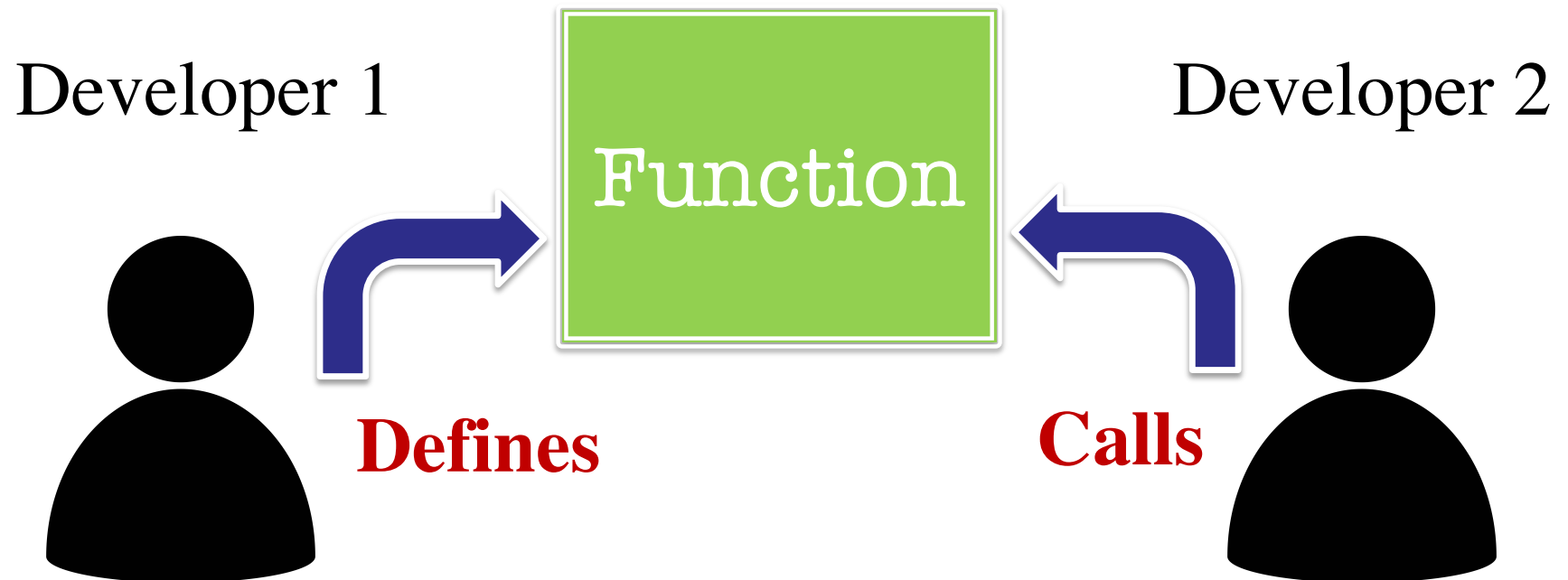
# What Makes a Specification “Good”?

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- Software development is a **business**
  - Not just about coding – **business processes**
  - Processes enable better code development
- Complex projects need **multi-person** teams
  - Lone programmers do simple contract work
  - Teams must have people working separately
- Processes are about how to **break-up** the work
  - What pieces to give each team member?
  - How can we fit these pieces back together?

# Functions as a Way to Separate Work

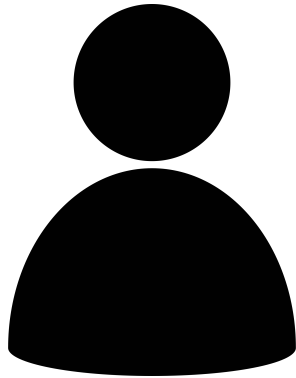
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# Working on Complicated Software

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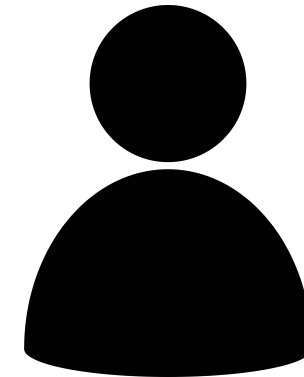
Developer 1



**Calls**



Developer 2



Func 1

Func 2

Func 3

Func 4

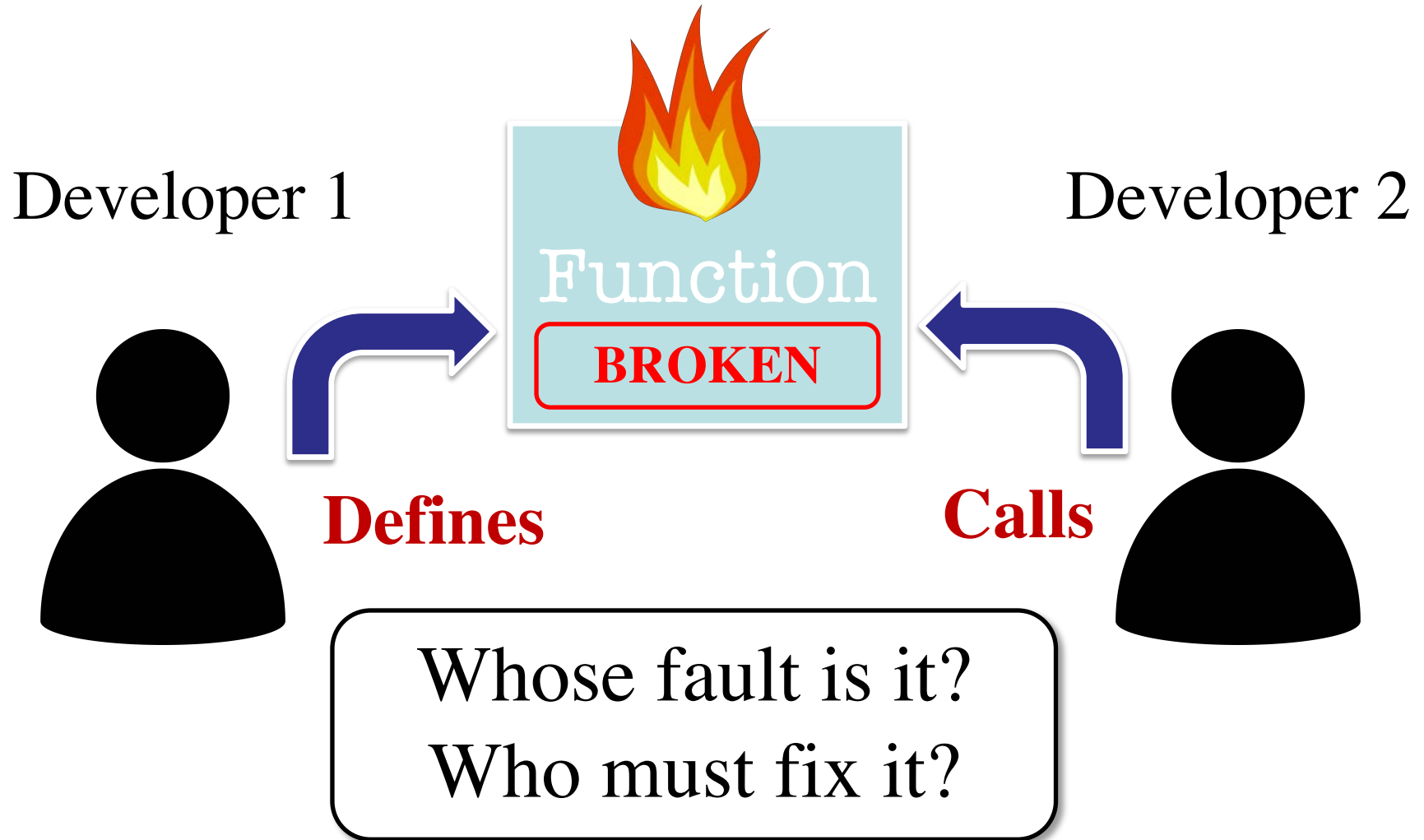
Func 3

*Architect* plans  
the separation

Func 5

# What Happens When Code Breaks?

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# Purpose of a Specification

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- To clearly layout **responsibility**
  - What does the function promise to do?
  - What is the allowable use of the function?
- From this responsibility we determine
  - If definer implemented function properly
  - If caller uses the function in a way allowed
- A specification is a **business contract**
  - Requires a formal documentation style
  - Rules for modifying contract *beyond course scope*

# Preconditions are a Promise

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- If precondition true
  - Function must work
- If precondition false
  - Function might work
  - Function might not
- Assigns responsibility
  - How to tell fault?

```
>>> to_centigrade(32.0)
```

```
0.0
```

```
>>> to_centigrade('32')
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
```

```
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
```

```
File "temperature.py", line 19 ...
```

```
TypeError: unsupported operand type(s)  
for -: 'str' and 'int'
```

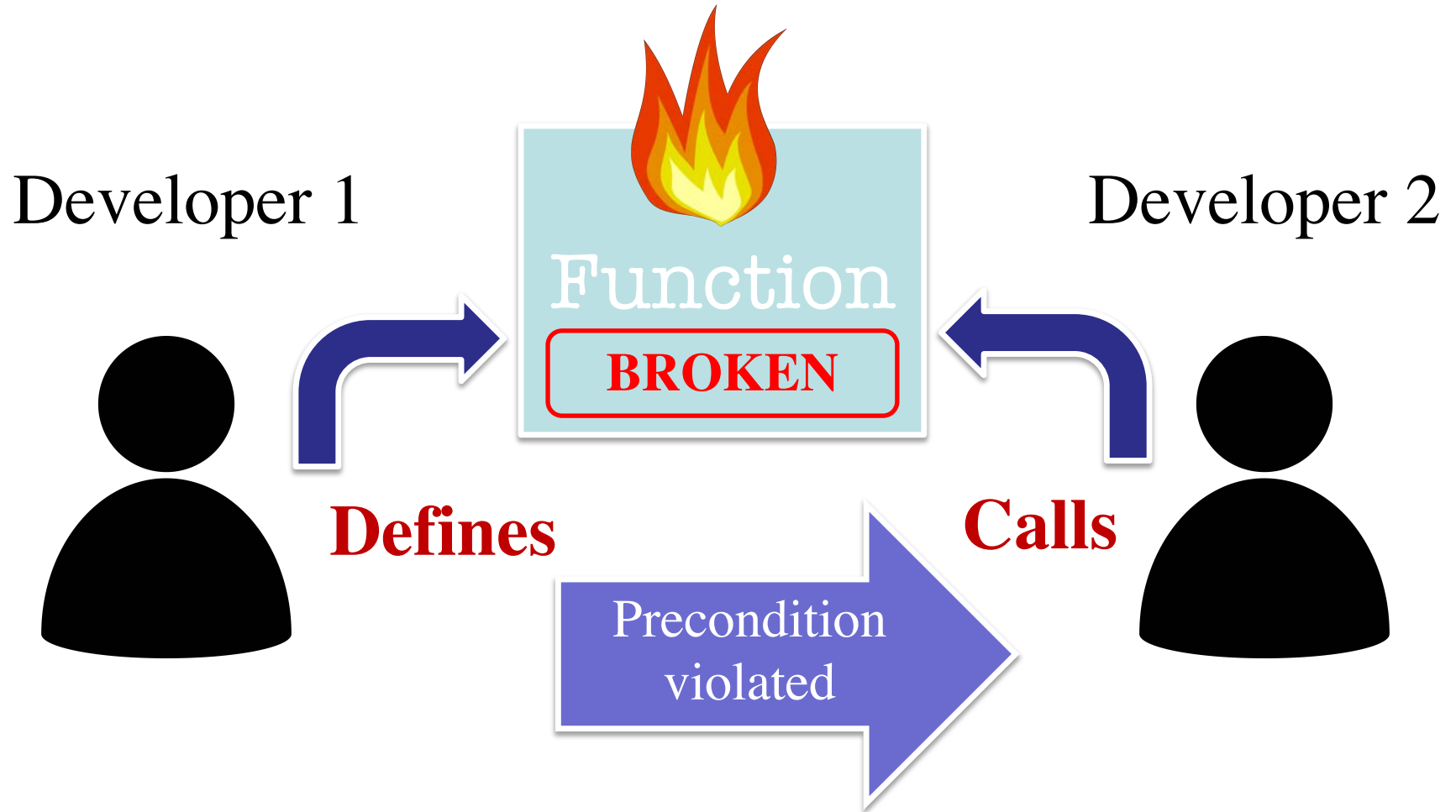


Precondition violated



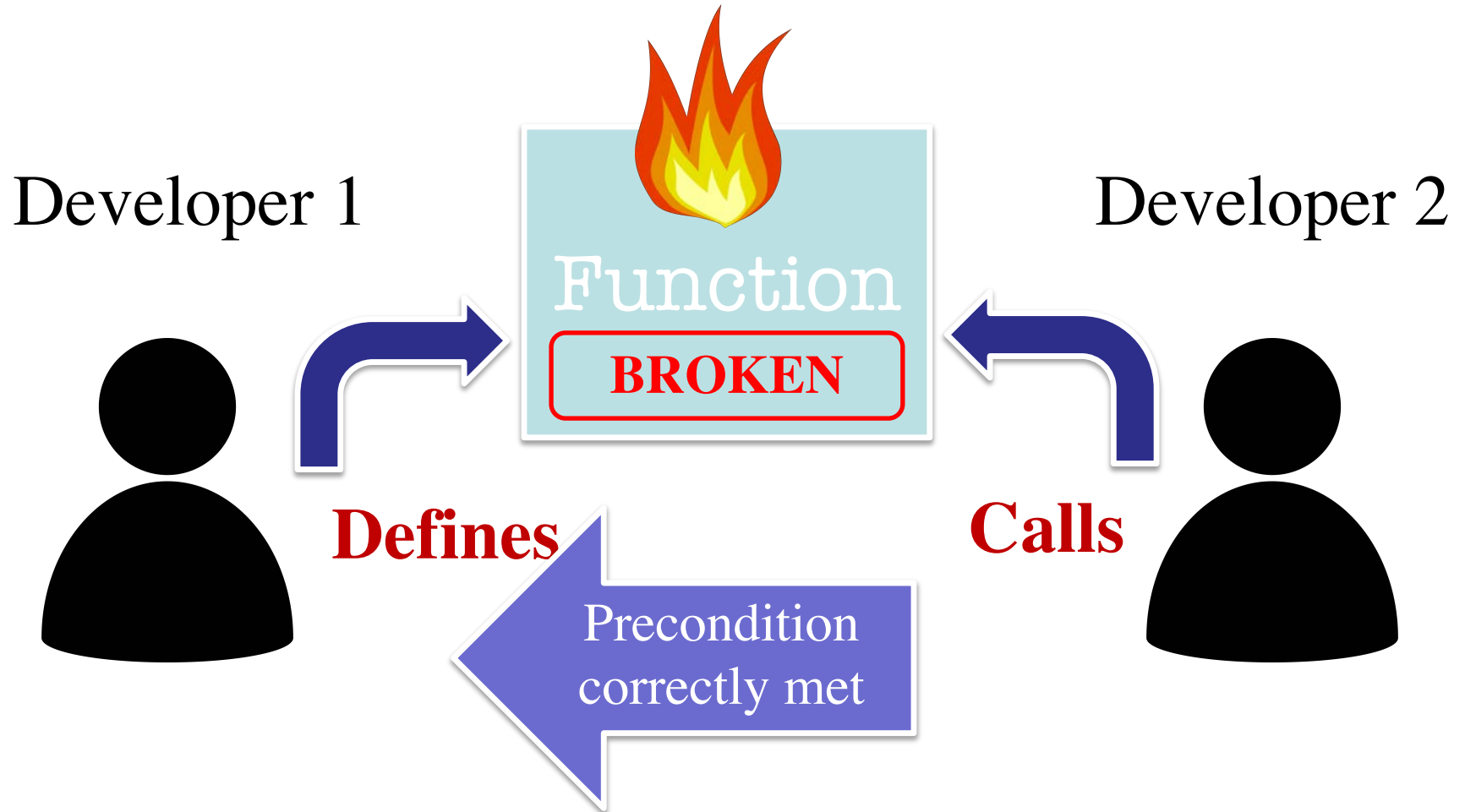
# Assigning Responsibility

---



# Assigning Responsibility

---



# What if it Just Works?

- Violation != crash
  - Sometimes works anyway
  - *Undocumented* behavior
- But is **bad practice**
  - Definer may change the definition at any time
  - Can do anything so long as specification met
  - Caller code breaks
- Hits Microsoft devs a lot

```
>>> to_centrigrade(32.0)
```

```
0.0
```

```
>>> to_centrigrade(212)
```

```
100.0
```

Precondition violated

Precondition  
violations are  
unspecified!

# Testing Software

---

- You are **responsible** for your function definition
  - You must ensure it meets the specification
  - May even need to prove it to your boss
- **Testing**: Analyzing & running a program
  - Part of, but not the same as, **debugging**
  - Finds **bugs** (errors), but does not remove them
- To test your function, you create a **test plan**
  - A test plan is made up of several **test cases**
  - Each is an **input** (argument), and its expected **output**

# Test Plan: A Case Study

---

```
def number_vowels(w):
```

```
    """
```

```
    Returns: number of vowels in string w.
```

```
    Parameter w: The text to check for vowels
```

```
    Precondition: w string w/ at least one letter and only letters
```

```
    """
```

```
    ...
```

**Brainstorm  
some test cases**

# Test Plan: A Case Study

---

```
def number_vowels(w):
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    Returns: number of vowels in string w.
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```
    Precondition: w string w/ at least one letter and only letters
```

```
    """
```

```
    ...
```

rhythm?  
crwth?

Surprise!  
Bad Specification

# Test Plan: A Case Study

---

```
def number_vowels(w):
```

```
    """
```

```
    Returns: number of vowels in string w.
```

```
    Vowels are defined to be 'a','e','i','o', and 'u'. 'y' is a vowel if it is  
    not at the start of the word.
```

```
    Repeated vowels are counted separately. Both upper case and  
    lower case vowels are counted.
```

```
    Examples: ....
```

```
    Parameter w: The text to check for vowels
```

```
    Precondition: w string w/ at least one letter and only letters
```

```
    """
```

# Test Plan: A Case Study

```
def number_vowels(w):
```

```
    """
```

```
    Returns: number of vowels
```

```
    Vowels are defined to be 'a',  
    not at the start of the word
```

```
    Repeated vowels are counted separately. Both upper case and  
    lower case vowels are counted.
```

```
    Examples: ....
```

```
    Parameter w: The text to check for vowels
```

```
    Precondition: w string w/ at least one letter and only letters
```

```
    """
```

## Some Test Cases

INPUT	OUTPUT
'hat'	1
'aeiou'	5
'grrr'	0



# Representative Tests

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- We cannot test all possible inputs
  - “Infinite” possibilities (strings arbitrary length)
  - Even if finite, way too many to test
- Limit to tests that are **representative**
  - Each test is a significantly different input
  - Every possible input is similar to one chosen
- This is an **art**, not a **science**
  - If easy, no one would ever have bugs
  - Learn with much practice (and why teach early)

# Representative Tests

---

## Representative Tests for number\_vowels(w)

---

Simplest  
case first!

A little  
complex

“Weird”  
cases

- Word with just one vowel
  - For each possible vowel!
- Word with multiple vowels
  - Of the same vowel
  - Of different vowels
- Word with only vowels
- Word with no vowels

# How Many “Different” Tests Are Here?

---

number\_vowels(w)

INPUT	OUTPUT
'hat'	1
'charm'	1
'bet'	1
'beet'	2
'beetle'	3

A: 2

B: 3

C: 4

D: 5

E: I do not know

# How Many “Different” Tests Are Here?

number\_vowels(w)

INPUT	OUTPUT
'hat'	1
'charm'	1
'bet'	1
'beet'	2
'beetle'	3

A: 2  
B: 3 **CORRECT(ISH)**  
C: 4  
D: 5  
E: I do not know

- If in doubt, just add more tests
- You are never penalized for too many tests

# The Rule of Numbers

---

- When testing the numbers are 1, 2, and 0
- **Number 1**: The simplest test possible
  - If a complex test fails, what was the problem?
  - **Example**: Word with just one vowels
- **Number 2**: Add more than was expected
  - **Example**: Multiple vowels (all ways)
- **Number 0**: Make something missing
  - **Example**: Words with no vowels

# Running Example

- The following function has a bug:

```
def last_name_first(n):  
    """Returns a copy of n in the form 'last-name, first-name'  
  
    Precondition: n is in the form 'first-name last-name'  
    with one or more spaces between the two names"""  
    end_first = n.find(' ')  
    first = n[:end_first]  
    last = n[end_first+1:]  
    return last+', '+first
```

Precondition  
**forbids** a 0<sup>th</sup> test

- Representative Tests:
  - `last_name_first('Walker White')` returns 'White, Walker'
  - `last_name_first('Walker White')` returns 'White, Walker'

# Test Scripts: Automating Testing

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- To test a function we have to do the following
  - **Start** the Python interactive shell
  - **Import** the module with the function
  - **Call** the function several times to see if it is okay
- But this is incredibly time consuming!
  - Have to **quit** Python if we change module
  - Have to retype everything each time
- What if we made a **second** Python file?
  - This file is a **script** to test the **module**

# Unit Test: An Automated Test Script

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- A **unit test** is a script to test a **single function**
  - Imports the function module (so it can access it)
  - Imports the **intros** module (for testing)
  - Implements one or more test cases
    - A representative input
    - The expected output
- The test cases use the **intros** function

```
def assert_equals(expected,received):  
    """Quit program if expected and received differ"""
```



# Testing last\_name\_first(n)

---

```
import name                # The module we want to test
import intros              # Includes the test procedures

# Test one space between names
result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)

# Test multiple spaces between names
result = name.last_name_first('Walker      White')
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)

print('Module name passed all tests.')
```

# Testing last\_name\_first(n)

```
import name # The module we want to test
```

```
import intros # Include
```

Comment  
describing test

```
# Test one space between names
```

```
result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')
```

```
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

Actual Output

```
# Test multiple spaces between names
```

```
result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')
```

Input

```
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

Expected Output

```
print('Module name passed all tests.')
```

# Testing last\_name\_first(n)

---

```
import name          # The module we want to test
import intros       # Includes the test procedures
```

```
# Test one space between names
```

```
result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')
```

```
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

Quits Python  
if not equal

```
# Test multiple spaces between names
```

```
result = name.last_name_first('Walker   White')
```

```
intros.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

```
print('Module name passed all tests.')
```

Message will print  
out only if no errors.

# Testing Multiple Functions

---

- Unit test is for a **single function**
  - But you are often testing many functions
  - Do not want to write a test script for each
- **Idea:** Put test cases inside another procedure
  - Each function tested gets its own procedure
  - Procedure has test cases for that function
  - Also some print statements (to verify tests work)
- Turn tests on/off by calling the test procedure

# Test Procedure

---

```
def test_last_name_first():  
    """Test procedure for last_name_first(n)"""  
    print('Testing function last_name_first')  
    result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')  
    introcs.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)  
    result = name.last_name_first('Walker      White')  
    introcs.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

# Execution of the testing code

```
test_last_name_first()  
print('Module name passed all tests.')
```

# Test Procedure

---

```
def test_last_name_first():  
    """Test procedure for last_name_first(n)"""  
    print('Testing function last_name_first')  
    result = name.last_name_first('Walker White')  
    introcs.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)  
    result = name.last_name_first('Walker      White')  
    introcs.assert_equals('White, Walker', result)
```

# Execution of the testing code

```
test_last_name_first()
```

```
print('Module name passed all tests.')
```



No tests happen  
if you forget this