

Graphics Module Reference

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1 Overview

The package `graphics.py` is a simple object oriented graphics library designed to make it very easy for novice programmers to experiment with computer graphics in an object oriented fashion. It was written by John Zelle for use with the book “Python Programming: An Introduction to Computer Science” (Franklin, Beedle & Associates). The most recent version of the library can be obtained at <http://mcsp.wartburg.edu/zelle/python>. This document is a reference to the functionality provided in the library. See the comments in the file for installation instructions.

There are two kinds of objects in the library. The `GraphWin` class implements a window where drawing can be done, and various `GraphicsObjects` are provided that can be drawn into a `GraphWin`. As a simple example, here is a complete program to draw a circle of radius 10 centered in a 100x100 window:

```
from graphics import *

def main():
    win = GraphWin("My Circle", 100, 100)
    c = Circle(Point(50,50), 10)
    c.draw(win)
    win.getMouse() # pause for click in window
    win.close()

main()
```

`GraphWin` objects support coordinate transformation through the `setCoords` method and pointer-based input through `getMouse`. The library provides the following graphical objects: `Point`, `Line`, `Circle`, `Oval`, `Rectangle`, `Polygon`, `Text`, `Entry` (for text-based input), and `Image`. Various attributes of graphical objects can be set such as outline-color, fill-color and line-width. Graphical objects also support moving and hiding for animation effects.

2 GraphWin Objects

A `GraphWin` object represents a window on the screen where graphical images may be drawn. A program may define any number of `GraphWins`. A `GraphWin` understands the following methods:

`GraphWin(title, width, height, autoflush)` Constructs a new graphics window for drawing on the screen. The parameters are optional, the default title is “Graphics Window,” and the default size is 200 x 200. The `autoflush` parameter, if `True` causes the window to be immediately updated after every drawing operation. The default value is `False`, allowing operations to “batch up” for better efficiency.

`plot(x, y, color)` Draws the pixel at (x, y) in the window. Color is optional, black is the default. Note: pixel-level operations are very inefficient and this method should be avoided.

`plotPixel(x, y, Color)` Draws the pixel at the “raw” position (x, y) ignoring any coordinate transformations set up by `setCoords`. Note: pixel-level operations are very inefficient and this method should be avoided.

setBackground(color) Sets the window background to the given color. The initial background is gray. See Section 5.8.5 for information on specifying colors.

close() Closes the on-screen window. Once a window is closed, further operations on the window will raise a `GraphicsError` exception.

isClosed() Returns a Boolean indicating if the window has been closed either by an explicit call to `close` or a click on its close box.

getMouse() Pauses for the user to click in the window and returns where the mouse was clicked as a `Point` object. Raises `GraphicsError` if the window is closed while `getMouse` is in progress.

setCoords(xll, yll, xur, yur) Sets the coordinate system of the window. The lower left corner is (xll, yll) and the upper right corner is (xur, yur) . All subsequent drawing will be done with respect to the altered coordinate system (except for `plotPixel`).

update() Causes any pending window operations to be performed. Normally, this will happen automatically during idle periods. Explicit `update()` calls may be useful for animations.

3 Graphics Objects

The module provides the following classes of drawable objects: `Point`, `Line`, `Circle`, `Oval`, `Rectangle`, `Polygon`, and `Text`. All objects are initially created unfilled with a black outline. All graphics objects support the following generic set of methods:

setFill(color) Sets the interior of the object to the given color.

setOutline(color) Sets the outline of the object to the given color.

setWidth(pixels) Sets the width of the outline of the object to this many pixels. (Does not work for `Point`.)

draw(aGraphWin) Draws the object into the given `GraphWin`. An object may only be drawn in one window at a time.

undraw() Undraws the object from a graphics window. Returns silently if object is not drawn.

move(dx,dy) Moves the object `dx` units in the x direction and `dy` units in the y direction. If the object is currently drawn, its image is adjusted to the new position.

clone() Returns a duplicate of the object. Clones are always created in an undrawn state. Other than that, they are identical to the cloned object.

3.1 Point Methods

Point(x,y) Constructs a point having the given coordinates.

getX() Returns the x coordinate of a point.

getY() Returns the y coordinate of a point.

3.2 Line Methods

Line(point1, point2) Constructs a line segment from `point1` to `point2`.

setArrow(string) Sets the arrowhead status of a line. Arrows may be drawn at either the first point, the last point, or both. Possible values of `string` are `'first'`, `'last'`, `'both'`, and `'none'`. The default setting is `'none'`.

getCenter() Returns a clone of the midpoint of the line segment.

getP1(), getP2() Returns a clone of the corresponding endpoint of the segment.

3.3 Circle Methods

`Circle(centerPoint, radius)` Constructs a circle with given center point and radius.

`getCenter()` Returns a clone of the center point of the circle.

`getRadius()` Returns the radius of the circle.

`getP1()`, `getP2()` Returns a clone of the corresponding corner of the circle's bounding box. These are opposite corner points of a square that circumscribes the circle.

3.4 Rectangle Methods

`Rectangle(point1, point2)` Constructs a rectangle having opposite corners at `point1` and `point2`.

`getCenter()` Returns a clone of the center point of the rectangle.

`getP1()`, `getP2()` Returns a clone of corner points originally used to construct the rectangle.

3.5 Oval Methods

`Oval(point1, point2)` Constructs an oval in the bounding box determined by `point1` and `point2`.

`getCenter()` Returns a clone of the point at the center of the oval.

`getP1()`, `getP2()` Returns a clone of the corresponding point used to construct the oval.

3.6 Polygon Methods

`Polygon(point1, point2, point3, ...)` Constructs a polygon having the given points as vertices. Also accepts a single parameter that is a list of the vertices.

`getPoints()` Returns a list containing clones of the points used to construct the polygon.

3.7 Text Methods

`Text(anchorPoint, string)` Constructs a text object that displays the given `string` centered at `anchorPoint`. The text is displayed horizontally.

`setText(string)` Sets the text of the object to `string`.

`getText()` Returns the current string.

`getAnchor()` Returns a clone of the anchor point.

`setFace(family)` Changes the font face to the given `family`. Possible values are: `'helvetica'`, `'courier'`, `'times roman'`, and `'arial'`.

`setSize(point)` Changes the font size to the given `point` size. Sizes from 5 to 36 points are legal.

`setStyle(style)` Changes font to the given `style`. Possible values are `'normal'`, `'bold'`, `'italic'`, and `'bold italic'`.

`setTextColor(color)` Sets the color of the text to `color`. Note: `setFill` has the same effect.

4 Entry Objects

Objects of type `Entry` are displayed as text entry boxes that can be edited by the user of the program. `Entry` objects support the generic graphics methods `move()`, `draw(graphwin)`, `undraw()`, `setFill(color)`, and `clone()`. The `Entry` specific methods are given below.

`Entry(centerPoint, width)` Constructs an `Entry` having the given center point and `width`. The `width` is specified in number of characters of text that can be displayed.

`getAnchor()` Returns a clone of the point where the entry box is centered.

`getText()` Returns the string of text that is currently in the entry box.

`setText(string)` Sets the text in the entry box to the given string. Changes the font face to the given family. Possible values are: `'helvetica'`, `'courier'`, `'times roman'`, and `'arial'`.

`setSize(point)` Changes the font size to the given point size. Sizes from 5 to 36 points are legal.

`setStyle(style)` Changes font to the given `style`. Possible values are: `'normal'`, `'bold'`, `'italic'`, and `'bold italic'`.

`setTextColor(color)` Sets the color of the text to `color`.

5 Displaying Images

The graphics module also provides minimal support for displaying certain image formats into a `GraphWin`. Most platforms will support bitmap, PPM, and GIF images. Display is done with an `Image` object. Images support the generic methods `move(dx,dy)`, `draw(graphwin)`, `undraw()`, and `clone()`. Image specific methods are given below.

`Image(centerPoint, filename)` Constructs an image from contents of the given file, centered at the given center point.

`getAnchor()` Returns a clone of the point where the image is centered.

6 Generating Colors

Colors are indicated by strings. Most normal colors such as `'red'`, `'purple'`, `'green'`, `'cyan'`, etc. should be available. Many colors come in various shades, such as `'red1'`, `'red2'`, `'red3'`, `'red4'`, which are increasingly darker shades of red.

The graphics module also provides a function for mixing your own colors numerically. The function `color_rgb(red, green, blue)` will return a string representing a color that is a mixture of the intensities of red, green and blue specified. These should be ints in the range 0–255. Thus `color_rgb(255, 0, 0)` is a bright red, while `color_rgb(130, 0, 130)` is a medium magenta.

7 Using an IDE

The graphics library is written as a thin wrapper on top of Tkinter, the standard Python graphics module based on the Tk widget set. Sometimes the use of graphics packages inside of an IDE can lead to issues with “dueling event-loops.” As of Version 3.0, `graphics.py` runs its Tk event loop in a separate thread. This allows it to play well with IDLE (Python’s default IDE) as long as IDLE is being run in its normal mode (with subprocesses). One particularly nice feature is the ability experiment with graphics interactively in the IDLE Python shell. The package will also work with IDLE running in the no-subprocess (-n) mode, but IDLE will be unresponsive during `getMouse` operations.

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