

---

# **clize Documentation**

*Release 4.0.2*

**Yann Kaiser**

**Nov 19, 2017**



<b>I</b>	<b>About Clize</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Why Clize was made</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1	“Why not use an existing parser instead of making your own?”	6
1.2	“Why not create a thin wrapper around argparse?”	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Alternatives to Clize</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	argparse	9
2.2	Click	10
2.3	Docopt	11
2.4	Other parsers similar to Clize	12
2.5	Other parsers	13
<b>3</b>	<b>An illustrated history</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Before Clize	15
3.2	1.0: A first release	16
3.3	2.0: Function annotations	16
3.4	3.0: The rewrite	17
<b>4</b>	<b>Frequently asked questions</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	What versions of Python are supported?	19
4.2	What libraries are required for Clize to run?	19
4.3	I just installed Clize using pip and I still get ImportError	20
4.4	What is sigtools and why is it a separate library?	20
4.5	What other libraries can be used for argument parsing?	21
4.6	How can I write mutually exclusive flags?	21
4.7	Some of my commands share features, can I reuse code somehow?	21
4.8	Where can I find more help?	21
4.9	Contacting the author	21
<b>II</b>	<b>Getting started</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Basics tutorial</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1	Installation	25
5.2	A minimal application	25
5.3	Requiring arguments	26
5.4	Enhancing the --help message	26

5.5	Accepting options . . . . .	27
5.6	Collecting all positional arguments . . . . .	28
5.7	Accepting flags . . . . .	28
5.8	Converting arguments . . . . .	29
5.9	Aliasing options . . . . .	29
5.10	Arbitrary requirements . . . . .	30
<b>6</b>	<b>Dispatching to multiple functions</b>	<b>33</b>
6.1	Alternate actions . . . . .	33
6.2	Multiple commands . . . . .	34
<b>7</b>	<b>Function compositing</b>	<b>37</b>
7.1	Using a decorator to add new parameters and modify the return value . . . . .	37
7.2	Providing an argument using a decorator . . . . .	39
7.3	Using a composed function to process arguments to a parameter . . . . .	40
<b>III</b>	<b>Guides</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Extending the parser</b>	<b>45</b>
8.1	Execution overview . . . . .	45
8.2	Parameter conversion . . . . .	46
8.3	The argument parser . . . . .	47
8.4	Walkthrough: The parsing process . . . . .	47
8.5	Example: Implementing <code>one_of</code> . . . . .	49
<b>9</b>	<b>Upgrading from older releases</b>	<b>53</b>
9.1	Upgrading from <code>clize</code> 1 and 2 . . . . .	53
<b>10</b>	<b>Interoperability with arbitrary callables</b>	<b>57</b>
10.1	Avoiding automatic CLI inference . . . . .	57
10.2	Providing a description in the parent command's help . . . . .	58
10.3	Advertising command usage . . . . .	58
<b>IV</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>User reference</b>	<b>65</b>
11.1	Using annotations . . . . .	65
11.2	Annotations for parameters that handle a value . . . . .	66
11.3	Positional parameters . . . . .	68
11.4	Parameter that collects remaining positional arguments . . . . .	68
11.5	Named parameters . . . . .	69
11.6	Named parameters that take an argument . . . . .	70
11.7	Named parameters that take an integer argument . . . . .	71
11.8	Flag parameters . . . . .	71
11.9	Mapped parameters . . . . .	72
11.10	Repeatable parameters . . . . .	73
11.11	Decorated arguments . . . . .	73
11.12	Annotations that work on any parameter . . . . .	74
<b>12</b>	<b>Customizing the help using the docstring</b>	<b>79</b>
12.1	Documenting parameters . . . . .	79
12.2	Description and footnotes . . . . .	81
12.3	Creating sections . . . . .	82

12.4	Unformatted paragraphs . . . . .	82
12.5	Documentation for composed functions . . . . .	83
12.6	Overriding the documentation for decorators . . . . .	85
12.7	Order of parameters in composed functions . . . . .	86
<b>13</b>	<b>API Reference</b>	<b>89</b>
13.1	Running functions . . . . .	89
13.2	Parser . . . . .	91
13.3	Exceptions . . . . .	99
13.4	Help generation . . . . .	101
13.5	Compatibility with older clize releases . . . . .	105
<b>V</b>	<b>Project documentation</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Release notes</b>	<b>111</b>
14.1	4.0 (2017-04-19) . . . . .	111
14.2	3.1 (2016-10-03) . . . . .	112
14.3	3.0 (2015-05-13) . . . . .	112
14.4	2.0 (2012-10-07) . . . . .	112
14.5	1.0 (2011-04-04) . . . . .	113
<b>15</b>	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>115</b>
15.1	Reporting issues . . . . .	115
15.2	Submitting patches . . . . .	115
15.3	Implementing new features . . . . .	116
15.4	Running the test suite . . . . .	116
15.5	Documentation . . . . .	116
	<b>Python Module Index</b>	<b>117</b>



Clize is an argument parser for [Python](#). You can use Clize as an alternative to `argparse` if you want an even easier way to create command-line interfaces.

### With Clize, you can:

- Create command-line interfaces by creating functions and passing them to `clize.run`.
- Enjoy a CLI automatically created from your functions' parameters.
- Bring your users familiar `--help` messages generated from your docstrings.
- Reuse functionality across multiple commands using decorators.
- Extend Clize with new parameter behavior.

Here's an example:

```
from clize import run

def hello_world(name=None, *, no_capitalize=False):
    """Greet the world or the given name.

    :param name: If specified, only greet this person.
    :param no_capitalize: Don't capitalize the given name.
    """
    if name:
        if not no_capitalize:
            name = name.title()
        return 'Hello {0}!'.format(name)
    return 'Hello world!'

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(hello_world)
```

`run` takes the function and automatically produces a command-line interface for it:

```
$ python3 -m pip install --user clize
$ python3 examples/hello.py --help
Usage: examples/hello.py [OPTIONS] [name]

Greet the world or the given name.

Positional arguments:
  name                If specified, only greet this person.

Options:
  --no-capitalize     Don't capitalize the give name.

Other actions:
  -h, --help         Show the help
$ python hello.py
Hello world!
$ python hello.py john
Hello John!
$ python hello.py dave --no-capitalize
Hello dave!
```

While we use Python 3 syntax in this example, Clize is fully compatible with [Python 2.7](#).

## Interested?

- Follow the *tutorial*
- Browse the *examples*
- Ask for help on Gitter
- Check out *why Clize was made*
- Star, watch or fork *Clize* on GitHub



**Part I**

**About Clize**



---

## Why Clize was made

---

Clize started from the idea that other argument parsers were too complicated to use. Even for a small script, one would have to use a fairly odd interface to first generate a « parser » object with the correct behavior then use it.

```
import argparse

parser = argparse.ArgumentParser()
parser.add_argument("name", nargs='?',
                    help="The person to greet")
parser.add_argument("repeat", nargs='?', type=int, default=1,
                    help="How many times should the person be greeted")
parser.add_argument("--no-capitalize", action='store_const', const=True)

args = parser.parse_args()

if args.name is None:
    greeting = 'Hello world!'
else:
    name = args.name if args.no_capitalize else args.name.title()
    greeting = 'Hello {0}!'.format(name)

for _ in range(args.repeat):
    print(greeting)
```

This doesn't really feel like what Python should be about. It's too much for such a simple CLI.

A much simpler alternative could be to use argument unpacking:

```
import sys.argv

def main(script, name=None, repeat='1'):
    if name is None:
        greeting = 'Hello world!'
    else:
        greeting = 'Hello {0}!'.format(name.title())
```

```

    for _ in range(int(repeat)):
        print(greeting)

main(*sys.argv)

```

This makes better use of Python concepts: a function bundles a series of statements with a list of parameters, and that bundle is now accessible from the command-line.

However, we lose several features in this process: Our simpler version can't process named arguments like `--no-capitalize`, there is no `--help` function of any sort, and all errors just come up as tracebacks, which would be confusing for the uninitiated.

Those shortcomings are not inherent to bundling behavior and parameters into functions. Functions can have keyword-only parameters (and this can be backported to Python 2.x), and those parameter lists can be examined at run time. Specific errors can be reformatted, and so forth.

Clize was made to address these shortcomings while expanding on this idea that command-line parameters are analogous to those of a function call in Python.

The following table summarizes a few direct translations Clize makes:

Python construct	Command-line equivalent
Function	Command
List of functions	Multiple commands
Docstring	Source for the <code>--help</code> output
Decorator	Transformation of a command
Positional parameter	Positional parameter
Keyword-only parameter	Named parameter (like <code>--one</code> )
Parameter with a default value	Optional parameter
Parameter with <code>False</code> as default	Flag ( <code>True</code> if present, <code>False</code> otherwise)

Some concepts fall outside these straightforward relationships, but in all cases your part of the command-line interface remains a normal function. You can call that function normally, have another command from your CLI use it, or test it like any other function.

For when Python constructs aren't enough, Clize uses parameter annotations, a yet mostly unexplored feature of Python 3. For instance, you can specify value converters for the received arguments, or replace how a parameter is implemented completely.

Even though its basic purpose could be called *magicky*, Clize attempts to limit magic in the sense that anything Clize's own parameters do can also be done in custom parameters. For instance, `--help` in a command-line will trigger the displaying of the help screen, even if there were errors beforehand. You might never need to do this, but the option is there if and when you ever need this. `argparse` for instance does not let you do this.

With Clize, you start simple but you remain flexible throughout, with options for refactoring and extending your command-line interface.

## 1.1 “Why not use an existing parser instead of making your own?”

Argument parsing is a rather common need for Python programs. As such, there are many argument parsers in existence, including no less than three in the standard library alone!

The general answer is that they are different. The fact that there are so many different parsers available shows that argument parsing APIs are far from being a “solved problem”. Clize offers a very different approach from those of `argparse`, `Click` or `docopt`. Each of these always have you write a specification for your CLI.

Clize comes with less batteries included than the above. It focuses on providing just the behavior that corresponds with Python parameters, along with just a few extras. Clize can afford to do this because unlike these, Clize can be extended to accommodate custom needs. Every parameter kind can be implemented by external code and made usable the same way as `clize.parameters.multi` or `clize.parameters.argument_decorator`.

## 1.2 “Why not create a thin wrapper around argparse?”

Back during Clize’s first release, `argparse`’s parser would have been sufficient for what Clize proposed, though I wasn’t really interested in dealing with it at the time. With Clize 3’s extensible parser, replacing it with `argparse` would be a loss in flexibility, in parameter capabilities and help message formatting.



---

## Alternatives to Clize

---

Many argument parsers exist in Python. This document shortly presents the major argument parsers in the Python ecosystem and relates them to Clize. It also lists other parsers including some similar to Clize.

**Note:** The code examples below are excerpts from the other parsers' respective documentation. Please see the respective links for the relevant copyright information.

---

### 2.1 argparse

`argparse` is Python's standard library module for building argument parsers. It was built to replace `getopt` and `optparse`, offering more flexibility and handling of positional arguments.

Here's an example from the standard library:

```
import argparse

parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(description='Process some integers.')
parser.add_argument('integers', metavar='N', type=int, nargs='+',
                    help='an integer for the accumulator')
parser.add_argument('--sum', dest='accumulate', action='store_const',
                    const=sum, default=max,
                    help='sum the integers (default: find the max)')

args = parser.parse_args()
print(args.accumulate(args.integers))
```

It demonstrates the use of accumulator arguments (building a list), supplying values using flags.

A developer wishing to use `argparse` for their argument parsing would:

1. Instantiate a parser as above
2. Tell it what to expect using the `add_argument` method

3. Tell it to parse the arguments
4. Execute your program logic

The above example can be performed using Clize as follows:

```
import clize

def accumulator(*integers, sum_=False):
    """Process some integers.

    :param integers: integers for the accumulator
    :param sum_: sum the integers (default: find the max)
    """
    f = sum if sum_ else max
    return f(integers)

clize.run(main)
```

`argparse` idioms and their Clize counterpart:

<code>argparse</code>	Clize
API user creates a parser object and configures parameters.	API user creates a function. Clize creates a CLI from it.
Document the CLI using the <code>description</code> and <code>help</code> arguments of the parser object.	Document the CLI by writing a docstring for your function(s).
<code>argparse</code> reads arguments and produces an object with the state these arguments represent.	Clize reads arguments and calls the associated function with the arguments translated into Python equivalents.
Use subparsers to create subcommands and share parameters across functionalities.	Pass <i>multiple functions</i> to run in order to create subcommands. Use <i>decorators</i> to share parameters between functions.
Extend the parser using <code>Action</code> .	Extend the parser using <i>custom parameter classes</i> and <i>converters</i> .
Specify converter functions for arguments using the <code>type</code> argument of <code>add_argument</code> .	Specify a <i>value converter</i> .
Specify the value label in documentation using the <code>metavar</code> argument.	
Ask the parser to only parse known arguments using <code>parse_known_args</code> .	Forward extra arguments to another function using <code>*args</code> , <code>**kwargs</code> . Specify a parameter as <code>LAST_OPTION</code> and collect the rest in <code>*args</code> .
Specify allowed values with the <code>choices</code> argument.	Use <i>one_of</i> .
Specify quantifiers using <code>nargs</code> .	Use default arguments and/or use <code>clize.parameters.multi</code> .

## 2.2 Click

`click` is a third-party command-line argument parsing library based on `optparse`. It aims to cater to large scale projects and was created to support `Flask` and its ecosystem. It also contains various utilities for working with terminal environments.

```
import click
```



```

@click.command()
@click.option('--count', default=1, help='Number of greetings.')
@click.option('--name', prompt='Your name',
              help='The person to greet.')
def hello(count, name):
    """Simple program that greets NAME for a total of COUNT times."""
    for x in range(count):
        click.echo('Hello %s!' % name)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    hello()

```

A `click` user writes a function containing some behavior. Each parameter is matched with an `option` or `argument` decorator, and this is decorated with `command`. This function becomes a callable that will parse the arguments given to the program.

It also supports nestable subcommands:

```

@click.group()
@click.option('--debug/--no-debug', default=False)
def cli(debug):
    click.echo('Debug mode is %s' % ('on' if debug else 'off'))

@cli.command()
def sync():
    click.echo('Syncing')

```

`click` idioms and their Clize counterpart:

click	Clize
API user creates a function and configures parameters using decorators.	API user creates a function. Clize creates a CLI from it. API user can specify options using parameter annotations.
Subcommands are created by using the <code>group</code> decorator then the <code>command</code> method.	Subcommands are created by passing a dict or iterable to <code>clize.run</code> . It is possible to extend Clize to do it like <code>click</code> .
Command group functions can parse arguments.	<i>Decorators</i> can be used to share parameters between functions.
Use <code>pass_context</code> to share global state between functions.	Use <code>value_inserter</code> and the <code>meta</code> dict to share global state between functions without using parameters.
Add conversion types by extending <code>ParamType</code> .	Add conversion types with the <code>value_converter</code> decorator.

## 2.3 Docopt

`docopt` is a command-line interface description language with parsers implemented in several languages.

```

"""Naval Fate.

Usage:
  naval_fate.py ship new <name>...
  naval_fate.py ship <name> move <x> <y> [--speed=<kn>]
  naval_fate.py ship shoot <x> <y>
  naval_fate.py mine (set|remove) <x> <y> [--moored | --drifting]
  naval_fate.py (-h | --help)
  naval_fate.py --version

```

```
Options:
-h --help      Show this screen.
--version     Show version.
--speed=<kn>  Speed in knots [default: 10].
--moored      Moored (anchored) mine.
--drifting    Drifting mine.

"""
from docopt import docopt

if __name__ == '__main__':
    arguments = docopt(__doc__, version='Naval Fate 2.0')
    print(arguments)
```

A `docopt` user will write a string containing the help page for the command (as would be displayed when using `--help`) and hand it to `docopt`. It will parse arguments from the command-line and produce a `dict`-like object with the values provided. The user then has to dispatch to the relevant code depending on this object.

<code>docopt</code>	Clize
API user writes a formatted help string which <code>docopt</code> parses and draws a CLI from.	API user writes Python functions and Clize draws a CLI from them.
<code>docopt</code> parses arguments and returns a <code>dict</code> -like object mapping parameters to strings.	Clize parses arguments and calls your function, with the arguments converted to Python types.
The string passed to <code>docopt</code> is used for help output directly. This help output does not reflow depending on terminal size.	Clize creates the help output from the function signature and fetches parameter descriptions from the docstring. The user can reorder option descriptions, label them and add paragraphs. The output is adapted to the output terminal width.
The usage line is printed on parsing errors.	A relevant message and/or suggestion is displayed on error.
Specify exclusivity constraints in the usage signature.	Use Python code inside your function (or decorator) or custom parameters to specify exclusivity constraints.
The entire CLI must be defined in one string.	You can compose your CLI using subcommands, function decorators, function composition, parameter decorators, ...

## 2.4 Other parsers similar to Clize

### 2.4.1 Parsers based on `argparse`

`defopt` is similar to Clize: it uses annotations to supplement the default configurations for parameters. A notable difference is that it supports Sphinx-compatible docstrings, but does not support composition. With `argh` you can amend these parameter definitions (or add new parameters) using a decorator that takes the same arguments as `argparse.ArgumentParser.add_argument`. `fire` also converts callables to CLIs. It observes slightly different conventions than common CLIs and doesn't support keyword-only parameters. Instead, all parameters can be passed by position or by name. It does not help you generate help, though `./program -- --help` will print the docstring, usage information, and other technical information. It allows chaining commands with each taking the output of the previous command. And then some more:

- `plac`

- `aaargh` – Deprecated in favor of `click`

## 2.4.2 Other similar parsers

- `CLIArgs`
- `baker` – Discontinued

## 2.5 Other parsers

- `Clint` – Multiple CLI tools, including a schemaless argument parser
- `twisted.usage` – subclass-based approach



---

## An illustrated history

---

This document recounts the story of each clize version. Here's the short version first:

Version	Release date	Major changes
1.0b	April 4th 2011	First release
2.0	October 7th 2012	Subcommands, Python 3 syntax support
2.2	August 31st 2013	Minor additions
2.4	October 2nd 2013	Bugfixes
3.0	May 13th 2015	Extensibility, decorators, focus on py3
3.1	October 3rd 2016	Better decorators, py3-first docs

You can also browse the [release notes](#).

And here's the story:

### 3.1 Before Clize

After having used `optparse` and `twisted's usage.Options` in various medium-sized projects, and viewing `argparse` as being more of the same, I wondered if I needed all this when writing a trivial program. I realized that if I only wanted to read some positional arguments, I could just use tuple unpacking on `sys.argv`:

```
from __future__ import print_function

import sys

script, first, last = sys.argv
print('Hello', first, last)
```

If you used argument packing in a function call instead, you gain the ability to make use of default values:

```
from __future__ import print_function

import sys

def greet(script, first, last, greeting="Hello"):
    print(greeting, first, last)

greet(*sys.argv)
```

It works nicely save for the fact that you can't request a help page from it or have named options. So I set out to add those capabilities while doing my best to keep it as simple as possible, like the above example.

## 3.2 1.0: A first release

```
from __future__ import print_function

from clize import clize, run

@clize
def greet(first, last, greeting="Hello"):
    print(greeting, first, last)

run(greet)
```

Thanks to the ability in Python to look at a function's signature, you gained a `--help` page, and `greeting` was available as `--greeting` on the command line, while adding just one line of code. This was very different from what `argparse` had to offer. It allowed you to almost completely ignore argument parsing and just write your program's logic as a function, with your parameters' documented in the docstring.

In a way, Clize had opinions about what a CLI should and shouldn't be like. For instance, it was impossible for named parameters to be required. It was generally very rigid, which was fine given its purpose of serving smaller programs.

It hadn't visibly garnered much interest. I was still a user myself, and no other argument parser had really interested me, so I kept using it and watched out for possible improvements. Aside from the subcommand dispatcher, there was little user feedback so the inspiration ended up coming from somewhere else.

## 3.3 2.0: Function annotations

Clize 2.0 came out with two major features. *Subcommands* and a new way of specifying additional information on the parameters. I'll skip over subcommands because they are already a well established concept in argument parsing. See *Multiple commands* for their documentation.

Through now forgotten circumstances, I came across [PEP 3107](#) implemented since Python 3.0, which proposed a syntax for adding information about parameters.

Up until then, if you wanted to add an alias to a named parameter, it looked a bit like this:

```
from __future__ import print_function

from clize import clize, run
```

```
@clize(require_excess=True, aliases={'reverse': ['r']})
def echo(reverse=False, *args):
    text = ' '.join(args)
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    print(text)

run(echo)
```

Many things involved passing parameters in the decorator. It was generally quite ugly, especially when more than one parameter needed adjusting, at which point the decorator call grew to the point of needing to be split over multiple lines.

The parameter annotation syntax from [PEP 3107](#) was fit to replace this. You could tag the parameter directly with the alias or conversion function or whatever. It involved looking at the type of each annotation, but it was a lot more practical than spelling *alias*, *converter* and the parameter's name all over the place.

It also allowed for keyword-only parameters from [PEP 3102](#) to map directly to named parameters while others would always be positional parameters.

```
from __future__ import print_function

from clize import clize, run

@clize(require_excess=True)
def echo(*args, reverse:'r'=False):
    text = ' '.join(args)
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    print(text)

run(echo)
```

Python 3 wasn't quite there yet, so these were just features on the side at the time. I liked it a lot however and used it whenever I could, but had to use the older interface whenever I had to use Python 2.

### 3.4 3.0: The rewrite

Python 3.3 introduced `inspect.signature`, an alternative to the rough `inspect.getfullargspec`. This provided an opportunity to start again from scratch to build something on a solid yet flexible base.

For versions of Python below 3.3, a backport of `inspect.signature` existed on PyPI. This inspired a Python 3-first approach: The old interface was deprecated in favor of the one described just above.

```
from clize import run, parameter

def echo(*args: parameter.required, reverse:'r'=False):
    text = ' '.join(args)
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    print(text)
```

```
run(echo)
```

Since the `@clize` decorator is gone, `echo` is now just a regular function that could theoretically be used in non-cli code or tests.

Users looking to keep Python 2 compatibility would have to use a compability layer for keyword-only parameters and annotations: `sigtools.modifiers`.

```
from __future__ import print_function

from sigtools import modifiers
from clize import run, parameter

@modifiers.autokwargs
@modifiers.annotate(args=parameter.REQUIRED, reverse='r')
def echo(reverse=False, *args):
    text = ' '.join(args)
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    print(text)

run(echo)
```

`sigtools` was created specifically because of Clize, but it aims to be a generic library for manipulating function signatures. Because of Clize's reliance on accurate introspection data on functions and callables in general, `sigtools` also provided tools to fill the gap when `inspect.signature` stumbles.

For instance, when a decorator replaces a function and complements its parameters, `inspect.signature` would only produce something like `(spam, *args, ham, **kwargs)` when Clize would need more information about what `*args` and `**kwargs` mean.

`sigtools` thus provided decorators such as `forwards` and the higher-level `wrapper_decorator` for specifying what these parameters meant. This allowed for *creating decorators for CLI functions* in a way analogous to regular decorators, which was up until then something other introspection-based tools had never done. It greatly improved Clize's usefulness with multiple commands.

With the parser being completely rewritten, a large part of the argument parsing was moved away from the monolithic "iterate over `sys.argv`" loop to one that deferred much of the behaviour to parameter objects determined from the function signature. This allows for library and application authors to almost completely *customize how their parameters work*, including things like replicating `--help`'s behavior of working even if there are errors beforehand, or other completely bizarre stuff.

This is a departure from Clize's opiniated beginnings, but the defaults remain sane and it usually takes someone to create new `Parameter` subclasses for bizarre stuff to be made. In return Clize gained a flexibility few other argument parsers offer.



---

## Frequently asked questions

---

Drats! These docs are all new and the FAQ is almost empty! Help me improve this dire situation by *contacting me* with your questions!

### Table of contents

- *What versions of Python are supported?*
- *What libraries are required for Clize to run?*
- *I just installed Clize using `pip` and I still get `ImportErrors`*
- *What is `sigtools` and why is it a separate library?*
- *What other libraries can be used for argument parsing?*
- *How can I write mutually exclusive flags?*
- *Some of my commands share features, can I reuse code somehow?*
- *Where can I find more help?*
- *Contacting the author*

### 4.1 What versions of Python are supported?

Clize is tested to run successfully on Python 2.7 and Python 3.3 through 3.6.

Clize 3.1 was the last version to support Python 2.6.

### 4.2 What libraries are required for Clize to run?

Using `pip` to install Clize from PyPI as in *Installation* will automatically install the right dependencies for you.

If you still need the list, Clize always requires:

- `six`: For helping run Clize on both Python 2 and 3.
- `sigtools`: Utilities to help manipulate function signatures.

If you wish to use `clize.converters.datetime`, you need:

- `python-dateutil`: For parsing dates.

`pip` will install `dateutil` if you specify to install Clize with the `datetime` option, i.e. `pip install "clize[datetime]"`.

On Python 2.7, `sigtools` requires:

- `functools`: A backport of `inspect.signature` to Python 2.

### 4.3 I just installed Clize using `pip` and I still get `ImportErrors`

Old versions of `pip` do not read Python-version dependent requirements and therefore do not install `functools` or `ordereddict`. To remedy this, you can:

- Upgrade `pip` and *install Clize* again. (Use the `-U` flag of `pip install` to force a reinstall.)
- Install the *dependencies* manually.

### 4.4 What is `sigtools` and why is it a separate library?

`sigtools` is used in many of the examples throughout this documentation, and it is maintained by the same person as Clize, thus the above question.

Clize's purpose is twofold:

- Convert the idioms of a function signature into those of a CLI,
- Parse the input that CLI arguments are.

It turns out that just asking for the function signature from `inspect.signature` is not good enough:

- Python 2 users cannot write keyword-only parameters.
- `inspect.signature` cannot process decorators that return a function with slightly altered parameters.

For the first point, Clize could have accepted an argument that said “do as if that parameter was keyword-only and make it a named parameter on the CLI” (and in fact it used to), but that would have Clize behave according to a signature *and a bunch of things around it*, which is a concept it tries to steer away from.

For the second, some tooling would be necessary to specify how exactly a decorator affected a wrapped function's parameters.

Modifying and making signatures more useful was both complex and independent from command-line argument parsing, so it was made a separate library as `sigtools`.

So there you have it, `sigtools` helps you add keyword-only parameters on Python 2, and helps decorators specify how they alter parameters on decorated functions. All Clize sees is the finished accurate signature from which it infers a CLI.

## 4.5 What other libraries can be used for argument parsing?

See *Alternatives to Clize*.

## 4.6 How can I write mutually exclusive flags?

Mutually exclusive flags refer to when a user can use one flag A (`--flag-a`) or the other (`--flag-b`), but not both at the same time.

It is a feature that is difficult to express in a function signature as well as on the `--help` screen for the user (other than in the full usage form). It is therefore recommended to use a positional parameter or option that accepts one of specific values. *one\_of* can help you do that.

If you still think mutually exclusive parameters are your best option, you can check for the condition in your function and raise `clize.ArgumentError`, as in the *Arbitrary requirements* part of the tutorial.

## 4.7 Some of my commands share features, can I reuse code somehow?

Yes! You can use decorators much like in regular Python code, see *Function compositing*.

## 4.8 Where can I find more help?

You can get help by *contacting me directly*, writing in the dedicated Gitter chatroom, using the `#clize` `#python` hashtags on Twitter, or by posting in the Clize Google+ community.

## 4.9 Contacting the author

You can contact me via `@YannKsr` on Twitter or via email. Feel free to ask about Clize!



## **Part II**

# **Getting started**



## 5.1 Installation

You can install `clize` using `pip`. If in an activated `virtualenv`, type:

```
pip install clize
```

If you wish to do a user-wide install:

```
pip install --user clize
```

## 5.2 A minimal application

A minimal command-line application written with `clize` consists of writing a function and passing it to `run()`:

```
from clize import run

def hello_world():
    return "Hello world!"

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(hello_world)
```

If you save this as `helloworld.py` and run it, the function will be run:

```
$ python3 helloworld.py
Hello world!
```

In this example, `run()` simply takes our function, runs it and prints the result.

## 5.3 Requiring arguments

You can require arguments the same way as you would in any Python function definition. To illustrate, lets write an echo command.

```
from clize import run

def echo(word):
    return word

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(echo)
```

Save it as *echo.py* and run it. You will notice the script requires exactly one argument now:

```
$ python3 ./echo.py
./echo.py: Missing required arguments: word
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] word
```

```
$ python3 ./echo.py ham
ham
```

```
$ python3 ./echo.py ham spam
./echo.py: Received extra arguments: spam
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] word
```

## 5.4 Enhancing the `--help` message

If you try to specify `--help` when running either of the previous examples, you will notice that Clize has in fact also generated a `--help` feature for you already:

```
$ python3 ./echo.py --help
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] word

Positional arguments:
  word

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

It is fairly unhelpful right now, so we should improve that by giving our function a docstring:

```
def echo(word):
    """Echoes word back

    :param word: One word or quoted string to echo back
    """
    return word
```

As you would expect, it translates to this:

```
$ python3 ./echo.py --help
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] word
```



```
Echoes word back

Positional arguments:
  word    One word or quoted string to echo back

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

**See also:**

*Customizing the help using the docstring*

## 5.5 Accepting options

Clize will treat any regular parameter of your function as a positional parameter of the resulting command. To specify an option to be passed by name, you will need to use keyword-only parameters.

Let's add a pair of options to specify a prefix and suffix around each line of `word`:

```
def echo(word, *, prefix='', suffix=''):
    """Echoes text back

    :param word: One word or quoted string to echo back
    :param prefix: Prepend this to each line in word
    :param suffix: Append this to each line in word
    """
    if prefix or suffix:
        return '\n'.join(prefix + line + suffix
                          for line in word.split('\n'))
    return word
```

In Python, any parameters after `*args` or `*` become keyword-only: When calling a function with such parameters, you can only provide a value for them by name, i.e.:

```
echo(word, prefix='b', suffix='a') # good
echo(word, 'b', 'a') # invalid
```

Clize then treats keyword-only parameters as options rather than as positional parameters.

---

**Note:** Python 2 does not support this syntax. See *Python 2 support for named parameters*

---

The change reflects on the command and its help when run:

```
$ python3 ./echo.py --prefix x: --suffix :y 'spam'
$ ham'
x:spam:y
x:ham:y
```

```
$ python3 ./echo.py --help
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] word

Echoes text back

Positional arguments:
```

```
word    One word or quoted string to echo back

Options:
  --prefix=STR  Prepend this to each line in word(default: )
  --suffix=STR  Append this to each line in word(default: )

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
```

**See also:**

*Name conversion*

## 5.6 Collecting all positional arguments

Just like when defining a regular Python function, you can prefix a parameter with one asterisk and it will collect all remaining positional arguments:

```
def echo(*text, prefix='', suffix=''):
    ...
```

However, just like in Python, this makes the parameter optional. To require that it should receive at least one argument, you will have to tell Clize that `text` is required using an annotation:

```
from clize import Parameter, run

def echo(*text:Parameter.REQUIRED, prefix='', suffix=''):
    """Echoes text back

    :param text: The text to echo back
    :param prefix: Prepend this to each line in word
    :param suffix: Append this to each line in word
    """
    text = ' '.join(text)
    if prefix or suffix:
        return '\n'.join(prefix + line + suffix
                          for line in text.split('\n'))
    return text

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(echo)
```

---

**Note:** Python 2 does not support this syntax. See [here](#).

---

## 5.7 Accepting flags

Parameters which default to `False` are treated as flags. Let's add a flag to reverse the input:

```
def echo(*text:Parameter.REQUIRED, prefix='', suffix='', reverse=False):
    """Echoes text back
```

```

:param text: The text to echo back
:param reverse: Reverse text before processing
:param prefix: Prepend this to each line in word
:param suffix: Append this to each line in word

"""
text = ' '.join(text)
if reverse:
    text = text[::-1]
if prefix or suffix:
    return '\n'.join(prefix + line + suffix
                      for line in text.split('\n'))
return text

```

```

$ python3 ./echo.py --reverse hello world
dlrow olleh

```

## 5.8 Converting arguments

Clize automatically tries to convert arguments to the type of the receiving parameter's default value. So if you specify an integer as default value, Clize will always give you an integer:

```

def echo(*text:Parameter.REQUIRED,
        prefix='', suffix='', reverse=False, repeat=1):
    """Echoes text back

    :param text: The text to echo back
    :param reverse: Reverse text before processing
    :param repeat: Amount of times to repeat text
    :param prefix: Prepend this to each line in word
    :param suffix: Append this to each line in word

    """
    text = ' '.join(text)
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    text = text * repeat
    if prefix or suffix:
        return '\n'.join(prefix + line + suffix
                          for line in text.split('\n'))
    return text

```

```

$ python3 ./echo.py --repeat 3 spam
spamspamspam

```

## 5.9 Aliasing options

Now what we have a bunch of options, it would be helpful to have shorter names for them. You can specify aliases for them by annotating the corresponding parameter:

```
def echo(*text:Parameter.REQUIRED,
        prefix:'p='', suffix:'s='', reverse:'r'=False, repeat:'n'=1):
    ...
```

```
$ python3 ./echo.py --help
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] text...
```

Echoes text back

Positional arguments:  
text The text to echo back

Options:  
-r, --reverse Reverse text before processing  
-n, --repeat=INT Amount of times to repeat text(default: 1)  
-p, --prefix=STR Prepend this to each line in word(default: )  
-s, --suffix=STR Append this to each line in word(default: )

Other actions:  
-h, --help Show the help

## 5.10 Arbitrary requirements

Let's say we want to give an error if the word *spam* is in the text. To do so, one option is to raise an *ArgumentError* from within your function:

```
from clize import ArgumentError, Parameter, run

def echo(*text:Parameter.REQUIRED,
        prefix:'p='', suffix:'s='', reverse:'r'=False, repeat:'n'=1):
    """Echoes text back

    :param text: The text to echo back
    :param reverse: Reverse text before processing
    :param repeat: Amount of times to repeat text
    :param prefix: Prepend this to each line in word
    :param suffix: Append this to each line in word
    """
    text = ' '.join(text)
    if 'spam' in text:
        raise ArgumentError("I don't want any spam!")
    if reverse:
        text = text[::-1]
    text = text * repeat
    if prefix or suffix:
        return '\n'.join(prefix + line + suffix
                        for line in text.split('\n'))
    return text

def version():
    """Show the version"""
    return 'echo version 0.2'

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(echo, alt=version)
```

```
$ ./echo.py spam bacon and eggs
./echo.py: I don't want any spam!
Usage: ./echo.py [OPTIONS] text...
```

If you would like the usage line not to be printed, raise *UserError* instead.

Next up, we will look at how you can have Clize *dispatch to multiple functions* for you.



---

## Dispatching to multiple functions

---

So far the previous part of the tutorial showed you how to use `clize` to *run a single function*. Sometimes your program will need to perform different related actions that involve different parameters. For instance, `git` offers all kinds of commands related to managing a versioned code repository under the `git` command. Alternatively, your program could have one main function and a few auxiliary ones, for instance for verifying the format of a config file, or simply for displaying the program's version.

### 6.1 Alternate actions

These allow you to provide auxiliary functions to your program while one remains the main function. Let's write a program with an alternate command triggered by `--version` that prints the version.

Here are the two functions we could have: `do_nothing` will be the main function while `version` will be provided as an alternate command.

```
VERSION = "0.2"

def do_nothing():
    """Does nothing"""
    return "I did nothing, I swear!"

def version():
    """Show the version"""
    return 'Do Nothing version {0}'.format(VERSION)
```

You use `run` as usual for the main function, but specify the alternate command in the `alt=` parameter:

```
from clize import run

run(do_nothing, alt=version)
```

The version function will be available as `--version`:

```
$ python3 examples/altcommands.py --help
Usage: examples/altcommands.py

Does nothing

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
  --version     Show the version
```

You can specify more alternate commands in a list. For instance,

```
def build_date(*, show_time=False):
    """Show the build date for this version"""
    print("Build date: 17 August 1979", end='')
    if show_time:
        print(" afternoon, about tea time")
    print()

run(do_nothing, alt=[version, build_date])
```

You can instead use a `dict` to specify their names if those automatically drawn from the function names don't suit you:

```
run(do_nothing, alt={
    'totally-not-the-version': version,
    'birthdate': build_date
})
```

```
$ python3 examples/altcommands.py --help
Usage: examples/altcommands.py

Does nothing

Other actions:
  --birthdate    Show the build date for this version
  -h, --help     Show the help
  --totally-not-the-version
                  Show the version
```

Using a `collections.OrderedDict` instance rather than `dict` will guarantee the order they appear in the help is the same as in the source.

## 6.2 Multiple commands

This allows you to keep multiple commands under a single program without singling one out as the main one. They become available by naming the subcommand directly after the program's name on the command line.

Let's see how we can use it in a mock todo list application:

```
def add(*text):
    """Adds an entry to the to-do list.

    :param text: The text associated with the entry.
```



```

"""
    return "OK I will remember that."

def list_():
    """Lists the existing entries."""
    return "Sorry I forgot it all :(

```

You can specify multiple commands to run by passing each function as an argument to `run`:

```

from clize import run

run(add, list_)

```

```

$ python3 examples/multicommands.py add A very important note.
OK I will remember that.
$ python3 examples/multicommands.py list
Sorry I forgot it all :(

```

Alternatively, as with *alternate commands*, you can pass in an *iterable* of functions, a `dict` or an `OrderedDict`. If you pass an iterable of functions, *name conversion* will apply.

Because it isn't passed a regular function with a docstring, Clize can't determine an appropriate description from a docstring. You can explicitly give it a description with the `description=` parameter. Likewise, you can add footnotes with the `footnotes=` parameter. The format is the same as with other docstrings, just without documentation for parameters.

```

run(add, list_, description="""
    A reliable to-do list utility.

    Store entries at your own risk.
    """)

```

```

$ python3 examples/multicommands.py --help
Usage: examples/multicommands.py command [args...]

A reliable to-do list utility.

Store entries at your own risk.

Commands:
  add    Adds an entry to the to-do list.
  list   Lists the existing entries.

```

Often, you will need to share a few characteristics, for instance a set of parameters, between multiple functions. See how Clize helps you do that in *Function compositing*.



---

## Function compositing

---

One of Python's strengths is how easy it is to manipulate functions and combine them. However, this often breaks tools which rely on introspection to function.

This isn't the case with Clize, which uses `sigtools` to understand how your functions expect to be called.

Let's write some decorators and see how they integrate with Clize!

Creating decorators is useful if you want to share behaviour across multiple functions passed to `run`, such as extra parameters or input/output formatting.

### 7.1 Using a decorator to add new parameters and modify the return value

Let's create a decorator that transforms the output of the wrapped function when passed a specific flag.

```
from sigtools.wrappers import decorator

@decorator
def with_uppercase(wrapped, *args, uppercase=False, **kwargs):
    """
    Formatting options:

    :param uppercase: Print output in capitals
    """
    ret = wrapped(*args, **kwargs)
    if uppercase:
        return str(ret).upper()
    else:
        return ret
```

`decorator` lets our `with_uppercase` function decorate other functions:

```

from clize import run

@with_uppercase
def hello_world(name=None):
    """Says hello world

    :param name: Who to say hello to
    """
    if name is not None:
        return 'Hello ' + name
    else:
        return 'Hello world!'

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(hello_world)

```

Every time `hello_world` is called, `with_uppercase` will be called with the decorated function as first argument (wrapped).

**Note:** `sigtools.wrappers.decorator` is used here to create decorators. It offers a simple and convenient way of creating decorators in a reliable way.

However, you don't need to use it to make use of decorators with Clize and you may use other means of creating decorators if you wish.

Clize will treat `hello_world` as if it had the same signature as:

```

def hello_world(name=None, *, uppercase=False):
    pass

```

This is the signature you would get by “putting” the parameters of the decorated function in place of the wrapper's `*args`, `**kwargs`.

When you run this function, the CLI parameters will automatically match the combined signature:

```

$ python3 examples/decorators.py --uppercase
HELLO WORLD!
$ python3 examples/decorators.py john
Hello john
$ python3 examples/decorators.py john --uppercase
HELLO JOHN

```

The help system will also adapt and will read parameter descriptions from the decorator's docstring:

```

$ python decorators.py --help
Usage: decorators.py [OPTIONS] [name]

Says hello world

Positional arguments:
  name          Who to say hello to

Formatting options:
  --uppercase  Print output in capitals

```

```
Other actions:
-h, --help    Show the help
```

## 7.2 Providing an argument using a decorator

You can also provide the decorated function with additional arguments much in the same way.

```
from sigtools.wrappers import decorator

def get_branch_object(repository, branch_name):
    return repository, branch_name

@decorator
def with_branch(wrapped, *args, repository='.', branch='master', **kwargs):
    """Decorate with this so your function receives a branch object

    :param repository: A directory belonging to the repository to operate on
    :param branch: The name of the branch to operate on
    """
    return wrapped(*args, branch=get_branch_object(repository, branch), **kwargs)
```

Simply provide an additional argument to the wrapped function. It will automatically be skipped during argument parsing and will be omitted from the help.

You can apply the decorator like before, with each decorated function receiving the branch argument as supplied by the decorator.

```
from clize import run

@with_branch
def diff(*, branch=None):
    """Show the differences between the committed code and the working tree."""
    return "I'm different."

@with_branch
def commit(*text, branch=None):
    """Commit the changes.

    :param text: A message to store alongside the commit
    """
    return "All saved.: " + ' '.join(text)

@with_branch
def revert(*, branch=None):
    """Revert the changes made in the working tree."""
    return "All changes reverted!"

run(diff, commit, revert,
    description="A mockup version control system(like git, hg or bzip)")
```

## 7.3 Using a composed function to process arguments to a parameter

You can use `clize.parameters.argument_decorator` to have a separate function process an argument while adding parameters of its own. It's like having a mini argument parser just for one argument:

```
from clize import run
from clize.parameters import argument_decorator

@argument_decorator
def read_server(arg, *, port=80, _6=False):
    """
    Options for {param}:

    :parser port: Which port to connect on
    :parser _6: Use IPv6?
    """
    return (arg, port, _6)

def get_page(server:read_server, path):
    """
    :parser server: The server to contact
    :parser path: The path of the resource to fetch
    """
    print("Connecting to", server, "to get", path)

run(get_page)
```

`read_server`'s parameters will be available on the CLI. When a value is read that would feed the `server` parameter, `read_server` is called with it and its collected arguments. Its return value is then used as the `server` parameter of `get_page`:

```
$ python argdeco.py --help
Usage: argdeco.py [OPTIONS] [--port=INT] [-6] server path

Arguments:
  server      The server to contact
  path       The path of the resource to fetch

Options for server:
  --port=INT  Which port to connect on (default: 80)
  -6         Use IPv6?

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

A few notes:

- Besides `arg` which receives the original value, you can only use keyword-only parameters
- The decorator's docstring is used to document its parameters. It can be preferable to use a *section* in order to distinguish them from other parameters.
- Appearances of `{param}` in the docstring are replaced with the parameter's name.
- Parameter names must not conflict with other parameters.

You can also use this on named parameters, but this gets especially interesting on `*args` parameters, as each argument meant for it can have its own options:

```

from clize import run
from clize.parameters import argument_decorator

@argument_decorator
def read_server(arg, *, port=80, _6=False):
    """
    Options for {param}:

    :param port: Which port to connect on
    :param _6: Use IPv6?
    """
    return (arg, port, _6)

def get_page(path, *servers:read_server):
    """
    :param server: The server to contact
    :param path: The path of the resource to fetch
    """
    print("Connecting to", servers, "to get", path)

run(get_page)

```

```

$ python argdeco.py --help
Usage: argdeco.py [OPTIONS] path [--port=INT] [-6] servers...

Arguments:
  path          The path of the resource to fetch
  servers...

Options for servers:
  --port=INT    Which port to connect on (default: 80)
  -6            Use IPv6?

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
$ python argdeco.py -6 abc
argdeco.py: Missing required arguments: servers
Usage: argdeco.py [OPTIONS] path [--port=INT] [-6] servers...
$ python argdeco.py /eggs -6 abc
Connecting to (('abc', 80, True),) to get /eggs
$ python argdeco.py /eggs -6 abc def
Connecting to (('abc', 80, True), ('def', 80, False)) to get /eggs
$ python argdeco.py /eggs -6 abc def --port 8080 cheese
Connecting to (('abc', 80, True), ('def', 80, False), ('cheese', 8080, False)) to get ↵
↵ /eggs

```

Congratulations, you've reached the end of the tutorials! You can check out the *parameter reference* or see how you can *extend the parser*.

If you're stuck, need help or simply wish to give feedback you can chat using your GitHub or Twitter handle on [Gitter](#).





## **Part III**

# **Guides**



---

## Extending the parser

---

Clize allows the parser to be extended through, most notably, new parameters. They allow you to introduce new argument parsing behaviour within the parser's constraints:

- The finality of argument parsing in Clize is to determine `func`, `args` and `kwargs` in order to do `func(*args, **kwargs)`.
- Arguments that start with `-` are looked up in the named parameters table by their first letter when there is only one dash, or until the end of the argument or `=` when there are two dashes.
- Other arguments are processed by the positional parameters in the order they are stored.

You are free to have your custom parameters edit the `CliBoundArguments` object, including changing the available parameters mid-parsing through `ba.posparam` or `ba.namedparam <CliBoundArguments.namedparam>`.

This document explains each step of the CLI inference and argument parsing process. There is a walkthrough of the argument process and an example that shows how you can add a custom parameter.

### 8.1 Execution overview

1. `clize.run` is called with either a function, or a sequence or mapping of functions.
2. It forwards that to `Clize.get_cli` in order to get a *cli object* to run.
3. If there is more than one function, `Clize.get_cli` uses `SubcommandDispatcher` to wrap it, otherwise it creates a new `Clize` instance with it and returns it.
4. `run` calls that cli object with `sys.argv` unpacked (ie. `obj(*sys.argv)`).
5. Assuming that cli object is a `Clize` instance, it will look at the function that was passed and determine a `CliSignature` object from it.
6. `Clize` calls the cli signature's `read_arguments` method with the command-line arguments, which returns a `CliBoundArguments` instance.

7. That *CliBoundArguments* instance carries information such as the arguments that the function will be called with or the instruction to replace that function with another entirely. *Clize* then runs the chosen function and *clize.run* prints its return value.

## 8.2 Parameter conversion

In step 5 above, *CliSignature.from\_signature* converts each parameter. Here is the process followed for each parameter:

1. The annotation for each parameter is read as a sequence. If it isn't one then it is wrapped in one.
2. The annotations are searched for *clize.parser.Parameter.IGNORE*. If found, the parameter is dropped with no further processing.
3. The annotations are searched for a *parameter converter* function. If none is found, *default\_converter* is used.
4. The parameter converter is called with the *inspect.Parameter* object representing the parameter and the sequence of annotations without the parameter converter. Its return value, expected to be a *clize.parser.Parameter* instance, is added to the list of parameters for the resulting *CliSignature* instance.

### 8.2.1 The default parameter converter

The default parameter converter works as follows:

- It looks at the parameter's type and checks whether it is a named or positional parameter. This is used to check if it is legal to assign aliases to it and to determine what cli parameter class will be used to represent it.
- It looks at the parameter's default value and extracts its type, expecting that it is a valid *value converter*. If there isn't one the parameter is marked as required.
- The annotations sequence is iterated on:
  - If the annotation is a *Parameter* instance, it is returned immediately with no processing.
  - If the annotation is a *value converter* it is used instead of the default value's type. Specifying a value converter is required when the default value's type isn't a valid one itself.
  - If it is a string, it is used as an alias unless the parameter is positional.
- Finally, depending on the above, a parameter class is picked, instantiated and returned:
  - *PositionalParameter* if the parameter was positional,
  - *ExtraPosArgsParameter* for a *\*args* parameter,
  - *OptionParameter* for a named parameter that takes an argument,
  - *IntOptionParameter* if that argument is of type *int*
  - *FlagParameter* for a named parameter with *False* as default and *bool* as type,
  - An error is raised for *\*\*kwargs* parameters, as their expected equivalent in a CLI is largely subjective. If you want to forward arguments to another function, consider using *function compositing* instead of having a CLI parameter handle it.

## 8.3 The argument parser

The argument parsing is orchestrated by *CliBoundArguments* during its initialization. For each argument of its input, it selects the appropriate *Parameter* instance to handle it. If the argument on the input starts with `-` it looks in the *CliSignature.named* dictionary. If not, it picks the next positional parameter from *CliSignature.positional*. The parameter's *read\_argument* and *apply\_generic\_flags* methods are called.

`Parameter.read_argument` (*ba*, *i*)

Reads one or more arguments from `ba.in_args` from position *i*.

### Parameters

- **ba** (`clize.parser.CliBoundArguments`) – The bound arguments object this call is expected to mutate.
- **i** (`int`) – The current position in `ba.args`.

This method is expected to mutate *ba*, an instance of *CliBoundArguments*. In particular, it should add any relevant arguments to *ba*'s *args* and *kwargs* attributes which are used when calling the wrapped callable as in `func(*args, **kwargs)`. It can also set the *func* attribute which overrides the *Clize* object's wrapped callable.

Part of the parameter's behavior is split from *read\_argument* into *apply\_generic\_flags* in order to facilitate subclassing:

`Parameter.apply_generic_flags` (*ba*)

Called after *read\_argument* in order to set attributes on *ba* independently of the arguments.

**Parameters** **ba** (`clize.parser.CliBoundArguments`) – The bound arguments object this call is expected to mutate.

The base implementation of this method applies the *last\_option* setting if applicable and discards itself from *CliBoundArguments.unsatisfied*

The both of these methods are expected to discard the parameter from *unsatisfied*, the list of still-unsatisfied required parameters, when applicable. The *sticky*, *posarg\_only* and *skip* can also be modified to change the ongoing argument reading process.

## 8.4 Walkthrough: The parsing process

Let's examine the steps Clize takes when executing this function:

```
from clize import run, parameters, converters

def main(pos1, pos2:converters.file(), *, opt, mul: (parameters.multi(), 'm')):
    ...

run(main)
```

As an example, we'll use this command. It should fail because `--opt` is given twice. However, `--help` will still display the help.

```
$ python3 ./example.py one two --opt o1 -mm1 --mul m2 --opt o2 --help -mm3
```

First of all Clize will convert the function parameters to a CLI object it can use. For this it looks at every parameter:

- `pos1` has no annotations. The *default parameter converter* transforms it into a *PositionalParameter* instance to match its behavior as a Python positional parameter.

- `pos2` has an annotation. It's a *value converter*. Again, the default parameter converter uses *PositionalParameter* to represent it.
- `opt` is a keyword-only parameter. The default converter uses an *OptionParameter* instance to represent it.
- `mul` has a tuple with two items as annotation. The first one, *clize.parameters.multi* is a parameter converter. Clize uses it instead of the default converter. This parameter converter returns a custom parameter for this parameter.
- *Clize* adds a parameter to trigger the help, an instance of *FallbackCommandParameter*.

These parameters are used to create an instance of *CliSignature*.

*CliSignature.read\_arguments()* is called by *Clize.read\_commandline* with the arguments `sys.argv[1:]` and the program name `sys.argv[0]`. This creates an instance of *CliBoundArguments* with this data and starts the parsing process with its *process\_arguments* method.

This method enumerates every input argument (`ba.in_args`, `sys.argv[1:]`):

1. `one` doesn't start with a `-`, so it tries to get the next positional parameter from `ba.posparam`.

This is the *PositionalParameter* instance that was created for `pos1`.

*CliBoundArguments* calls *read\_argument(ba, i)* on this instance. `ba` is the *CliBoundArguments* instance and `i` is the position in `ba.in_args`

No converter or default was specified so it just takes `ba.in_args[i]` and stores it in `ba.args`.

2. `two` also doesn't start with a `-`, so it is matched with the next positional parameter, the *PositionalParameter* for `pos2`.

This one has a value converter, which gets called with the text value. The converter returns an object which the parameter just stores in `ba.args`.

3. `--opt` starts with `-`, so *CliBoundArguments* looks it up in `ba.namedparam`.

*OptionParameter.read\_argument* reads `ba.in_args[i+1]` and saves it as `ba.kwargs[opt]`. It sets `ba.skip` to 1 so that the parser skips over `o1` instead of processing it as a positional argument.

4. `-mm1` starts with `-` so it is recognized as an option.

Because there is only one `-`, Clize looks up the parameter with just the first letter. It finds that `-m` maps to the parameter created by *clize.parameters.multi*.

That parameter instance sees that it's being invoked as a short-form parameter and that a value is attached to the parameter name. It extracts this value and adds it to a list assigned to `ba.kwargs['mul']`.

5. `--mul` is also matched to the same parameter instance. It adds it to `ba.kwargs['mul']` and sets `ba.skip = 1`

6. `--opt` is seen again. *OptionParameter.read\_argument* sees that `ba.kwargs['opt']` already exists and raises an exception.

7. Before the exception propagates past *CliBoundArguments* it scans the remaining arguments for any argument matching one in `ba.sig.alternate`. It finds `--help` and calls its *read\_argument* method.

That method clears the existing values in `ba.args` and `ba.kwargs` and sets `ba.func`.

Execution leaves the parser loop at this point before it has a chance to process `-mm3`. The *CliBoundArguments* object is complete. At this stage it has:

- `ba.func` set to a function that will display the help. (It is a CLI itself.)
- `ba.args` is set to a list with the program name suffixed with `--help`. This is so that the `--help` CLI can receive an accurate program name as first argument.

Going back up the call chain, `Clize.read_commandline` calls `ba.func(^ba.args)` and thus launching the help.

## 8.5 Example: Implementing `one_of`

`clize.parameters.one_of` creates a parameter annotation that modifies the parameter to only allow values from a given list:

```
from clize import run, parameters

def func(breakfast:parameters.one_of('ham', 'spam')):
    """Serves breakfast

    :parser breakfast: what food to serve
    """
    print("{0} is served!".format(breakfast))

run(func)
```

The `breakfast` parameter now only allows ham and spam:

```
$ python breakfast.py ham
ham is served!
$ python breakfast.py spam
spam is served!
$ python breakfast.py eggs
breakfast.py: Bad value for breakfast: eggs
Usage: breakfast.py breakfast
```

A list is produced when `list` is supplied:

```
$ python breakfast.py list
breakfast.py: Possible values for breakfast:

    ham
    spam
```

Also, it hints at the `list` keyword on the help page:

```
$ python breakfast.py --help
Usage: breakfast.py breakfast

Serves breakfast

Arguments:
  breakfast    what food to serve (use "list" for options)

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

`one_of` is implemented in Clize as a wrapper around `mapped` which offers several more features. In this example we will only reimplement the features described above.

### 8.5.1 Creating a parameter class for us to edit

```
from clize import run, parser

class OneOfParameter(object):
    def __init__(self, values, **kwargs):
        super().__init__(**kwargs)
        self.values = values

def one_of(*values):
    return parser.use_mixin(OneOfParameter, kwargs={'values': values})

def func(breakfast:one_of('ham', 'spam')):
    """Serves breakfast

    :parser breakfast: what food to serve
    """
    print("{0} is served!".format(breakfast))

run(func)
```

Here we used `parser.use_mixin` to implement the parameter annotation. It will create a parameter instance that inherits from both `OneOfParameter` and the appropriate class for the parameter being annotated: `PositionalParameter`, `OptionParameter` or `ExtraPosArgsParameter`. This means our class will be able to override some of those classes' methods.

For now, it works just like a regular parameter:

```
$ python breakfast.py abcdef
abcdef is served!
```

### 8.5.2 Changing `coerce_value` to validate the value

`PositionalParameter`, `OptionParameter` and `ExtraPosArgsParameter` all use `ParameterWithValue.coerce_value`. We override it to only accept the values we recorded:

```
from clize import errors

class OneOfParameter(parser.ParameterWithValue):
    def __init__(self, values, **kwargs):
        super().__init__(**kwargs)
        self.values = set(values)

    def coerce_value(self, arg, ba):
        if arg in self.values:
            return arg
        else:
            raise errors.BadArgumentFormat(arg)
```

It now only accepts the provided values:



```
$ python breakfast.py ham
ham is served!
$ python breakfast.py spam
spam is served!
$ python breakfast.py eggs
breakfast.py: Bad value for breakfast: eggs
Usage: breakfast.py breakfast
```

### 8.5.3 Displaying the list of choices

We can check if the passed value is list within `coerce_value`. When that is the case, we change `func` and swallow the following arguments. However, to ensure that the `read_argument` method doesn't alter this, we need to skip its execution. In order to do this we will raise an exception from `coerce_value` and catch it in `read_argument`:

```
class _ShowList(Exception):
    pass

class OneOfParameter(parser.ParameterWithValue):
    def __init__(self, values, **kwargs):
        super().__init__(**kwargs)
        self.values = values

    def coerce_value(self, arg, ba):
        if arg == 'list':
            raise _ShowList
        elif arg in self.values:
            return arg
        else:
            raise errors.BadArgumentFormat(arg)

    def read_argument(self, ba, i):
        try:
            super(OneOfParameter, self).read_argument(ba, i)
        except _ShowList:
            ba.func = self.show_list
            ba.args[:] = []
            ba.kwargs.clear()
            ba.sticky = parser.IgnoreAllArguments()
            ba.posarg_only = True

    def show_list(self):
        for val in self.values:
            print(val)
```

On `ba`, setting `func` overrides the function to be run (normally the function passed to `run`). `args` and `kwargs` are the positional and keyword argument that will be passed to that function. Setting `sticky` to an `IgnoreAllArguments` instance will swallow all positional arguments instead of adding them to `args`, and `posarg_only` makes keyword arguments be processed as if they were positional arguments so they get ignored too.

```
$ python breakfast.py list
ham
spam
$ python breakfast.py list --ERROR
```

```
ham
spam
```

The list is printed, even if erroneous arguments follow.

## 8.5.4 Adding a hint to the help page

Clize uses `Parameter.show_help` to produce the text used to describe parameters. It uses `Parameter.help_parens` to provide the content inside the parenthesis after the parameter description.

```
class OneOfParameter(parser.ParameterWithValue):
    ...

    def help_parens(self):
        for s in super(OneOfParameter, self).help_parens():
            yield s
        yield 'use "list" for options'
```

The help page now shows the hint:

```
$ python breakfast.py --help
Usage: breakfast.py breakfast

Serves breakfast

Arguments:
  breakfast  what food to serve (use "list" for options)

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

The full example is available in `examples/bfparam.py`.

---

## Upgrading from older releases

---

This document will instruct you in porting applications using older clize versions to the newest version.

### 9.1 Upgrading from clize 1 and 2

Clize 3 now only treats keyword-only parameters on the function as named parameters and does not convert any parameter from keyword to positional or vice-versa, much like when the `use_kwoargs` parameter is used in Clize 2. Aliases, and other parameter-related information are now expressed exclusively through parameter annotations. Decorators from `sigtools.modifiers` are the recommended way to set these up on Python 2.

However, `clize.clize` is provided: it imitates the old behaviour but adds a deprecation warning when used.

#### 9.1.1 Porting code using the `@clize` decorator with no arguments

Consider this code made to work with Clize 1 or 2:

```
from clize import clize, run

@clize
def func(positional, option=3):
    pass # ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)
```

Here, you can drop the `@clize` line completely, but you have to convert `option` to a keyword-only parameter:

```
from clize import run

def func(positional, *, option=3):
    pass # ...
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)
```

**Note:** On Python 2. You can use `sigtools.modifiers.autokwargs` to do so.

---

### 9.1.2 `force_positional`

`force_positional` used to let you specify parameters with defaults that you don't want as named options:

```
from clize import clize, run

@clize(force_positional=['positional_with_default'])
def func(positional, positional_with_default=3, option=6):
    pass # ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)
```

This issue isn't relevant anymore as keyword-only arguments are explicitly specified.

If you're using `autokwargs`, the `exceptions` parameter can prevent parameters from being converted:

```
from sigtools.modifiers import autokwargs
from clize import run

@autokwargs(exceptions=['positional_with_default'])
def func(positional, positional_with_default=3, option=6):
    pass # ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)
```

### 9.1.3 Porting code that used `alias` or `coerce`

The `alias` and `coerce` were used in order to specify alternate names for options and functions to convert the value of arguments, respectively:

```
from clize import clize, run

@clize(
    alias={'two': ['second'], 'three': ['third']},
    coerce={'one': int, 'three': int})
def func(one, two=2, three=None):
    ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)
```

You now pass these as annotations on the corresponding parameter:

```
from clize import run

def func(one:int, *, two='second', three:int='third'):
```

```

...
if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)

```

---

**Note:** To keep compatibility with Python 2, you can use `sigtools.modifiers.annotate`

---

### 9.1.4 require\_excess

Indicating that an `*args`-like parameter is required is now done by annotating the parameter with `Parameter.REQUIRED` or `Parameter.R` for short:

```

from clize import run, Parameter

def func(*args:Parameter.R):
    pass # ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run(func)

```

### 9.1.5 extra and make\_flag

Alternate actions as shown in Clize 2's tutorial are now done by passing the function directly to `run` as shown in the *tutorial*. Unlike previously, the alternate command function is passed to the clizer just like the main one.

For other use cases, you should find the appropriate parameter class from `clize.parser` or subclass one, instantiate it and pass it in a sequence as the `extra` parameter of `Clize` or `run`. If the parameter matches one actually present on the source function, annotate that parameter with your `Parameter` instance instead of passing it to `extra`.



---

## Interoperability with arbitrary callables

---

Clize operates as a callable that takes each item from `sys.argv` or something supposed to replace it. It is therefore easy to substitute it with another callable that has such parameters.

### 10.1 Avoiding automatic CLI inference

When an object is passed to `run`, either as sole command, one in many subcommands or as an alternative action, it attempts to make a *CLI object* out of it if it isn't one already. It simply checks if there is a `cli` attribute and uses it, or it wraps it with *Clize*.

To insert an arbitrary callable, you must therefore place it as the `cli` attribute of whatever object you pass to `run`.

`clize.Clize.as_is` does exactly that. You can use it as a decorator or when passing it to `run`:

```
import argparse

from clize import Clize, parameters, run

@Clize.as_is
def echo_argv(*args):
    print(*args, sep=' | ')

def using_argparse(name: parameters.pass_name, *args):
    parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(prog=name)
    parser.add_argument('--ham')
    ns = parser.parse_args(args=args)
    print(ns.ham)

run(echo_argv, Clize.as_is(using_argparse))
```

```
$ python interop.py echo-argv ab cd ef
interop.py echo-argv | ab | cd | ef
$ python interop.py using-argparse --help
usage: interop.py using-argparse [-h] [--ham HAM]

optional arguments:
  -h, --help  show this help message and exit
  --ham HAM

$ python interop.py using-argparse spam
usage: interop.py using-argparse [-h] [--ham HAM]
interop.py using-argparse: error: unrecognized arguments: spam
$ python interop.py using-argparse --ham spam
spam
```

## 10.2 Providing a description in the parent command's help

If you try to access the above program's help screen, Clize will just leave the description for each external command empty:

```
: .tox/docs/bin/python interop.py --help
Usage: interop.py command [args...]

Commands:
  echo-argv
  using-argparse
```

Clize expects to find a description as `cli.helper.description`. You can either create an object there or let `Clize.as_is` do it for you:

```
@Clize.as_is(description="Prints argv separated by pipes")
def echo_argv(*args):
    print(*args, sep=' | ')

...

run(echo_argv,
    Clize.as_is(using_argparse,
                description="Prints the value of the --ham option"))
```

```
$ python interop.py --help
Usage: interop.py command [args...]

Commands:
  echo-argv          Prints argv separated by pipes
  using-argparse     Prints the value of the --ham option
```

## 10.3 Advertising command usage

To produce the `--help --usage` output, Clize uses `cli.helper.usages()` to produce an iterable of (command, usage) pairs. When it can't determine it, it shows a generic usage signature instead.

You can use `Clize.as_is`'s `usages=` parameter to provide it:



```
run(echo_argv,  
    Clize.as_is(using_argparse,  
                description="Prints the value of the --ham option"),  
    usages=['--help', '--ham HAM'])
```

```
$ python interop.py --help --usage  
interop.py --help [--usage]  
interop.py echo_argv [args...]  
interop.py using_argparse --help  
interop.py using_argparse [--ham HAM]
```

The example is available as `examples/interop.py`.



**Part IV**

**Reference**



The user reference lists all capabilities of each kind of parameter. The API reference comes in handy if you're extending clize.



Clize deduces what kind of parameter to pick for the CLI depending on what kind of parameter is found on the Python function as well as its annotations.

---

**Note:** For how parameters are converted between Python and CLI:

- *Positional parameters*
  - *Parameter that collects remaining positional arguments*
  - *Named parameters*
- 

## 11.1 Using annotations

You can use annotations defined throughout this document to refine parameter conversion (or change it completely). Here's a primer on how to use these annotations.

---

**Note:** Python 2 compatibility

In this document we will be showing examples that use Python 3 syntax such as annotations and keyword-only parameters for conciseness. To translate those into Python 2, you can use `sigtools.modifiers.kwoargs` and `sigtools.modifiers.annotate`.

For instance, given this Python 3 function:

```
def func(ab:int, *, cd:'c'=2):  
    pass
```

You would write in Python 2:

```
from sigtools import modifiers  
  
@modifiers.kwoargs('cd')
```

```
@modifiers.annotate(ab=int, cd='c')
def func(ab, cd=2):
    pass
```

You can pass annotations as a sequence:

```
def func(*, param=('p', int)): pass
def func(*, param=['p', int]): pass
```

When only one annotation is needed, you can omit the sequence:

```
def func(*, param='p'): pass
def func(*, param=('p',)): pass
def func(*, param=['p']): pass
```

## 11.2 Annotations for parameters that handle a value

The positional and options parameters detailed later both handle the following features:

### 11.2.1 Specifying a value converter

A function or callable decorated with `parser.value_converter` passed as annotation will be used during parsing to convert the value from the string found in `sys.argv` into a value suitable for the annotated function.

```
from clize import run, parser

@parser.value_converter
def wrap_xy(arg):
    return 'x' + arg + 'y'

def func(a, b:wrap_xy):
    print(repr(a), repr(b))

run(func)
```

```
$ python valconv.py abc def
'abc' 'xdefy'
```

`def` was transformed into `xdefy` because of the value converter.

Besides callables decorated with `parser.value_converter`, the built-in functions `int`, `float` and `bool` are also recognized as value converters.

### 11.2.2 Included value converters

`clize.converters.datetime` (*arg*)  
Parses a date into a *datetime* value  
Requires `dateutil` to be installed.



`clize.converters.file` (*arg=<unset>*, \*, *stdio='-'*, *keep\_stdio\_open=False*, *\*\*kwargs*)

Takes a file argument and provides a Python object that opens a file

```
def main(in_: file(), out: file(mode='w')):
    with in_ as infile, out as outfile:
        outfile.write(infile.read())
```

### Parameters

- **stdio** – If this value is passed as argument, it will be interpreted as *stdin* or *stdout* depending on the mode parameter supplied.
- **keep\_stdio\_open** – If true, does not close the file if it is *stdin* or *stdout*.

Other arguments will be relayed to `io.open`.

This converter also opens the file or stream designated by the default value:

```
def main(inf: file()='-'):
    with inf as f:
        print(f)
```

```
$ python3 ./main.py
<_io.TextIOWrapper name='<stdin>' mode='r' encoding='UTF-8'>
```

## 11.2.3 Specifying a default value

The parameter's default value is used without conversion. If no *value converter* is specified, its type is used instead. When a default value is specified, the parameter becomes optional.

```
>>> def func(par=3):
...     print(repr(par))
...
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', '46'])
46
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func'])
3
```

Therefore, be careful not to use values of types for which the constructor does not handle strings, unless you specify a converter:

```
>>> from datetime import datetime
>>> now = datetime.utcnow()
>>> def fail(par=now):
...     print(repr(par))
...
>>> run(fail, exit=False, args=['func', '...'])
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
TypeError: an integer is required (got type str)
>>> from dateutil.parser import parse
>>> from datetime import datetime
>>> now = datetime.utcnow()
>>> def func(par:parse=now):
...     print(par)
...
...
>>>
```

```
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', '1/1/2016'])
2016-01-01 00:00:00
```

### 11.2.4 Ignoring the source parameter's default value

Parameter.**REQUIRED**

Annotate a parameter with this to force it to be required, even if there is a default value in the source.

```
>>> from clize import run, Parameter
>>> def func(par:Parameter.REQUIRED=3):
...     pass
...
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func'])
func: Missing required arguments: par
Usage: func par
```

## 11.3 Positional parameters

Normal parameters in Python are turned into positional parameters on the CLI. Plain arguments on the command line (those that don't start with a -) are processed by those and assigned in the order they appear:

```
from clize import run

def func(posparam1, posparam2, posparam3):
    print('posparam1', posparam1)
    print('posparam2', posparam2)
    print('posparam3', posparam3)

run(func)
```

```
$ python posparams.py one two three
posparam1 one
posparam2 two
posparam3 three
```

It also shares the features detailed in *Annotations for parameters that handle a value*.

## 11.4 Parameter that collects remaining positional arguments

An `*args`-like parameter in Python becomes a repeatable positional parameter on the CLI:

```
from clize import run

def func(param, *args):
    print('param', param)
    print('args', args)

run(func)
```

```
$ python argslike.py one two three
param one
args ('two', 'three')
```

#### Parameter **.REQUIRED**

When used on an `*args` parameter, requires at least one value to be provided.

You can use `clize.parameters.multi` for more options.

## 11.5 Named parameters

Clize treats keyword-only parameters as named parameters, which, instead of their position, get designated by their name preceded by `--`, or by `-` if the name is only one character long.

There are a couple kinds of named parameters detailed along with examples in the sections below.

They all understand annotations to specify alternate names for them: Simply pass them as strings in the parameter's annotation:

```
from clize import run

def func(*, par:('p', 'param')):
    print('par', par)

run(func)
```

```
$ python named.py --par value
par value
$ python named.py -p value
par value
$ python named.py --param value
par value
```

### 11.5.1 Python 2 support for named parameters

Python 2 has no keyword-only parameters. To fill that gap, you can use the decorators from `sigtools.modifiers` to emulate them.

```
from sigtools.modifiers import DECORATOR

@DECORATOR
def func(ab, cd, de=None, fg=None, hi=None):
    ...
```

@DECORATOR	Parameters that become keyword-only
@kwoargs('cd', 'fg')	cd and fg
@kwoargs(start='fg')	fg and all following parameters
@autokwoargs	All parameters with default values
@autokwoargs(exceptions=['fg'])	Same, except for fg

## 11.5.2 Name conversion

So you can best follow Python's naming conventions, Clize alters parameter names to CLI conventions so that they always match `--kebab-case`. While Python recommends `snake_case` for identifiers such as parameter names, Clize also handles words denoted by capitalization:

Python parameter name	CLI parameter name
<code>param</code>	<code>--param</code>
<code>p</code>	<code>-p</code>
<code>snake_case</code>	<code>--snake-case</code>
<code>list_</code>	<code>--list</code>
<code>capitalizedOnce</code>	<code>--capitalized-once</code>
<code>CapitalizedTwice</code>	<code>--capitalized-twice</code>

Clize replaces underscores (`_`) with dashes (`-`), and uppercase characters with a dash followed by the equivalent lowercase character. Dashes are deduplicated and removed from the extremities.

Short option names (those that are only one letter) are prepended with one dash (`-`). Long option names are prepended with two dashes (`--`). No dash is prepended for subcommand names.

---

**Note:** You do not need to consider this when *documenting parameters*. Simply match the way the parameter is written in your Python sources.

---

## 11.6 Named parameters that take an argument

Keyword-only parameters in Python become named parameters on the CLI: They get designated by their name rather than by their position:

```
from clize import run

def func(arg, *, o, par):
    print('arg', arg)
    print('o', o)
    print('par', par)

run(func)
```

```
$ python opt.py -o abc def --par ghi
arg def
o abc
par ghi
$ python opt.py -oabc --par=def ghi
arg ghi
o abc
par def
```

The parameter is designated by prefixing its name with two dashes (eg. `--par`) or just one dash if the name is only one character long (eg. `-o`). The value is given either as a second argument (first example) or glued to the parameter name for the short form, glued using an equals sign (`=`) for the long form.

It shares the features of *Annotations for parameters that handle a value* and *Named parameters*.

## 11.7 Named parameters that take an integer argument

A variant of *Named parameters that take an argument* used when the value type from *Annotations for parameters that handle a value* is `int`. The only difference is that when designating the parameter using the short glued form, you can chain other short named parameters afterwards:

```
from clize import run

def func(*, i: int, o):
    print('i', i)
    print('o', o)

run(func)
```

```
$ python intopt.py -i42o abcdef
i 42
o abcdef
```

## 11.8 Flag parameters

Flag parameters are named parameters that unlike *options* do not take an argument. Instead, they set their corresponding parameter in Python to `True` if mentioned.

You can create them by having a keyword-only parameter take `False` as default value:

```
from clize import run

def func(*, flag=False):
    print('flag', flag)

run(func)
```

```
$ python flag.py
flag False
$ python flag.py --flag
flag True
$ python flag.py --flag=0
flag False
```

Additionally, you can chain their short form on the command line with other short parameters:

```
from clize import run

def func(*, flag:'f'=False, other_flag:'g'=False, opt:'o'):
    print('flag', flag)
    print('other_flag', other_flag)
    print('opt', opt)

run(func)
```

```
$ python glueflag.py -fgo arg
flag True
other_flag True
opt arg
```

```
$ python glueflag.py -fo arg
flag True
other_flag False
opt arg
```

## 11.9 Mapped parameters

`clize.parameters.mapped` (*values*, \*, *list\_name*='list', *case\_sensitive*=None)

Creates an annotation for parameters that maps input values to Python objects.

### Parameters

- **values** (*sequence*) – A sequence of `pyobj`, `names`, `description` tuples. For each item, the user can specify a name from `names` and the parameter will receive the corresponding `pyobj` value. `description` is used when listing the possible values.
- **list\_name** (*str*) – The value the user can use to show a list of possible values and their description.
- **case\_sensitive** (*bool*) – Force case-sensitiveness for the input values. The default is to guess based on the contents of values.

```
greeting = parameters.mapped([
    ('Hello', ['hello', 'hi'], 'A welcoming message'),
    ('Goodbye', ['goodbye', 'bye'], 'A parting message'),
])

def main(name='world', *, kind:('k', greeting)='Hello'):
    """
    :param name: Who is the message for?
    :param kind: What kind of message should be given to name?
    """
    return '{0} {1}!'.format(kind, name)
```

```
$ python -m examples.mapped -k list
python -m examples.mapped: Possible values for --kind:

hello, hi      A welcoming message
goodbye, bye  A parting message
$ python -m examples.mapped -k hello
Hello world!
$ python -m examples.mapped -k hi
Hello world!
$ python -m examples.mapped -k bye
Goodbye world!
$ python -m examples.mapped
Hello world!
```

`clize.parameters.one_of` (\**values*, *case\_sensitive*=None, *list\_name*='list')

Creates an annotation for a parameter that only accepts the given values.

### Parameters

- **values** – `value`, `description` tuples, or just the accepted values

- **list\_name** (*str*) – The value the user can use to show a list of possible values and their description.
- **case\_sensitive** (*bool*) – Force case-sensitiveness for the input values. The default is to guess based on the contents of values.

## 11.10 Repeatable parameters

`clize.parameters.multi` (*min=0, max=None*)

For option parameters, allows the parameter to be repeated on the command-line with an optional minimum or maximum. For *\*args*-like parameters, just adds the optional bounds.

```
def main(*, listen:('l', parameters.multi(min=1, max=3))):
    """Listens on the given addresses

    :param listen: An address to listen on.
    """
    for address in listen:
        print('Listening on {0}'.format(address))
```

```
$ python -m examples.multi -l bacon
Listening on bacon
$ python -m examples.multi -l bacon -l ham -l eggs
Listening on bacon
Listening on ham
Listening on eggs
$ python -m examples.multi -l bacon -l ham -l eggs -l spam
python -m examples.multi: Received too many values for --listen
Usage: python -m examples.multi [OPTIONS]
$ python -m examples.multi
python -m examples.multi: Missing required arguments: --listen
Usage: python -m examples.multi [OPTIONS]
```

## 11.11 Decorated arguments

`clize.parameters.argument_decorator` (*f*)

Decorates a function to create an annotation for adding parameters to qualify another.

```
@argument_decorator
def capitalize(arg, *, capitalize:('c', 'upper')=False, reverse:'r'=False):
    """
    Options to qualify {param}:

    :param capitalize: Make {param} uppercased
    :param reverse: Reverse {param}
    """
    if capitalize:
        arg = arg.upper()
    if reverse:
        arg = arg[::-1]
    return arg
```

```
def main(*args:capitalize):
    """
    :param args: Words to print
    """
    return ' '.join(args)
```

```
$ python -m examples.argdeco --help
Usage: python -m examples.argdeco [OPTIONS] [[-c] [-r] args...]

Arguments:
  args...          stuff

Options to qualify args:
  -c, --capitalize, --upper
                   Make args uppercased
  -r, --reverse    Reverse args

Other actions:
  -h, --help      Show the help
$ python -m examples.argdeco abc -c def ghi
abc DEF ghi
```

## 11.12 Annotations that work on any parameter

The following objects can be used as annotation on any parameter:

### 11.12.1 Parameter converters

Callables decorated with `clize.parser.parameter_converter` are used instead of the *default converter* to construct a CLI parameter for the annotated Python parameter.

The callable can return a *Parameter* instance or *Parameter.IGNORE* to instruct clize to drop the parameter.

```
>>> from clize import run, parser
>>> @parser.parameter_converter
... def print_and_ignore(param, annotations):
...     print(repr(param), annotations)
...     return parser.Parameter.IGNORE
...
>>> def func(par:(print_and_ignore,int)):
...     pass
...
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', '--help'])
<Parameter at 0x7fc6b0c3dae8 'par'> (<class 'int'>,)
Usage: func

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
```

Unless you are creating new kinds of parameters this should not be useful to you directly. Note that custom parameter converters are likely to use different conventions than those described in this reference.

**See also:**

*Extending the parser*



### 11.12.2 Parameter instances

A *Parameter* instance seen in an annotation will be used to represent that parameter on the CLI, without any further processing. Using a *parameter converter* is recommended over this.

### 11.12.3 Skipping parameters

`Parameter.IGNORE = clize.Parameter.IGNORE`

Annotate a parameter with this and it will be dropped from the resulting CLI signature.

Note that it is dangerous to use this on anything except:

- On `*args` and `**kwargs`-like parameters,
- On keyword parameters with defaults.

For instance, clize's default converter does not handle `**kwargs`:

```
>>> from clize import run, Parameter
>>> def fail(**kwargs):
...     pass
...
>>> run(fail, exit=False)
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
ValueError: This converter cannot convert parameter 'kwargs'.
```

However, if we decorate that parameter with `Parameter.IGNORE`, clize ignores it:

```
>>> def func(**kwargs:Parameter.IGNORE):
...     pass
...
>>> run(func, exit=False)
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', '--help'])
Usage: func

Other actions:
-h, --help  Show the help
```

### 11.12.4 Hiding parameters from the help

`Parameter.UNDOCUMENTED = clize.Parameter.UNDOCUMENTED`

Parameters annotated with this will be omitted from the documentation (`--help`).

```
>>> from clize import run, Parameter
>>> def func(*, o1, o2:Parameter.UNDOCUMENTED):
...     pass
...
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', '--help'])
Usage: func [OPTIONS]

Options:
--o1=STR

Other actions:
-h, --help  Show the help
```

### 11.12.5 Forcing arguments to be treated as positional

`Parameter.LAST_OPTION = clize.Parameter.LAST_OPTION`

Annotate a parameter with this and all following arguments will be processed as positional.

```
>>> from clize import run, Parameter
>>> def func(a, b, c, *, d:Parameter.LAST_OPTION, e=''):
...     print("a:", a)
...     print("b:", b)
...     print("c:", c)
...     print("d:", d)
...     print("e:", e)
...
Usage: [OPTIONS] a b c
>>> run(func, exit=False, args=['func', 'one', '-d', 'alpha', '-e', 'beta'])
a: one
b: -e
c: beta
d: alpha
e:
```

Here, `-e beta` was received by the `b` and `c` parameters rather than `e`, because it was processed after `-d alpha`, which triggered the parameter `d` which had the annotation.

### 11.12.6 Retrieving the executable name

`clize.parameters.pass_name (param, annotations)`

Parameters decorated with this will receive the executable name as argument.

This can be either the path to a Python file, or `python -m some.module`. It is also appended with sub-command names.

```
from clize import run, parameters

def main(name:parameters.pass_name, arg):
    print('name:', name)
    print('arg:', arg)

def alt(arg, *, name:parameters.pass_name):
    print('arg:', arg)
    print('name:', name)

run(main, alt=alt)
```

```
$ python pn.py ham
name: pn.py
arg: ham
$ python -m pn ham
name: python -m pn
arg: ham
$ python pn.py --alt spam
arg: spam
name: pn.py --alt
$ python -m pn --alt spam
arg: spam
name: python -m pn --alt
```

### 11.12.7 Inserting arbitrary values

`clize.parameters.value_inserter` (*value\_factory*)

Create an annotation that hides a parameter from the command-line and always gives it the result of a function.

**Parameters** `value_factory` (*function*) – Called to determine the value to provide for the parameter. The current `parser.CliBoundArguments` instance is passed as argument, ie. `value_factory(ba)`.

```
from clize import run, parameters

@parameters.value_inserter
def insert_ultimate_answer(ba):
    return 42

def main(arg, ans:insert_ultimate_answer):
    print('arg:', arg)
    print('ans:', ans)

run(main)
```

```
$ python ins.py eggs
arg: eggs
ans: 42
```



---

## Customizing the help using the docstring

---

Clize draws the text of the `--help` output from your function's docstring. In addition, it will draw documentation for parameters added by decorators from the function that defined it.

The recommended way of formatting parameters is just like you would when using Sphinx's `autodoc`. The format is explained with examples below. For those who are already familiar with it, there are a few notable differences:

- Formatting (bold, italics, etc), tables and bullet points are ignored. Instead, the text will appear plainly.
- Clize will follow the order of parameters you provide in the docstring, except for positional parameters which will always be in the function's order.
- Free text between parameters becomes attached to the parameter just before it.
- You can group parameters together using a paragraph ending in `:.` . These groups are merged together when multiple functions (e.g. decorators) have parameters in the CLI.

There is also a legacy format used by Clize up until version 3.1. Please check [Clize 3.1's documentation](#) documentation for specifics.

Regardless of which format you use to format docstrings, Clize will format the docstring to look consistent with typical CLIs.

### 12.1 Documenting parameters

Parameters are documented using the `field list` syntax:

```
from clize import run

def func(one, and_two):
    """
    :param one: This documents the parameter called one.
    :param and_two: Documentation for the 'and_two' parameter.
                   It may continue on a second line.
    """
```

```
run(func)
```

Begin a line with `:param NAME:` and continue with a description for the parameter. You can continue over more lines by indenting the additional lines.

```
$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py one and-two

Arguments:
  one           This documents the parameter called one.
  and-two       Documentation for the 'and_two' parameter.  It may
                continue on a second line.

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
```

Clize will show parameter help in the same order as your docstring. However, positional parameters always remain in their original order:

```
from clize import run

def func(one, two, *, red, green, blue):
    """
    :param two: Two always appears after one
    :param one: One always appears before two
    :param blue: However, you may order keyword parameters any way you like
    :param red: Red is also a keyword parameter
    :param green: And so is green
    """

run(func)
```

```
$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py [OPTIONS] one two

Arguments:
  one           One always appears before two
  two           Two always appears after one

Options:
  --blue=STR    However, you may order keyword parameters any way you like
  --red=STR     Red is also a keyword parameter
  --green=STR   And so is green

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
```

You may add new paragraphs in the parameter descriptions. They will appear as plain paragraphs after the parameter in the output:

```
from clize import run

def func(one, and_two):
    """
    :param one: Documentation for the first parameter.
    """
```

```

        More information about the first parameter.

        :param and_two: Documentation for the second parameter.

        More information about the second parameter.
        """
run(func)

```

```

$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py one and-two

This is a description of the program.

Arguments:
  one          Documentation for the first parameter.

More information about the first parameter.

  and-two     Documentation for the second parameter.

More information about the second parameter.

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help

These are footnotes about the program.

```

## 12.2 Description and footnotes

In your CLI's main function, you can also add paragraphs before and after all the parameter descriptions. They will be used as a description and footnotes for your command:

```

from clize import run

def func(one, and_two):
    """
        This is a description of the program.

        :param one: Documentation for the first parameter.
        :param and_two: Documentation for the second parameter.

        These are footnotes about the program.
    """
run(func)

```

It is used to briefly describe what the command does.

Note that you must separate parameter descriptions (`:param ...:`) away from regular paragraphs. Simply leave a blank line around them.

```

$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py one and-two

```

```
This is a description of the program.
```

```
Arguments:
```

```
  one           Documentation for the first parameter.
  and-two       Documentation for the second parameter.
```

```
Other actions:
```

```
  -h, --help   Show the help
```

```
These are footnotes about the program.
```

## 12.3 Creating sections

Named parameters can be grouped into sections. You can create a section by having a paragraph end with a colon (:) before a parameter definition:

```
from clize import run

def func(*, one, and_two, three):
    """
    Great parameters:

    :param and_two: Documentation for the second parameter.
    :param one: Documentation for the first parameter.

    Greater parameters:

    :param three: Documentation for the third parameter.
    """

run(func)
```

```
$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py [OPTIONS]

Great parameters:
  --and-two=STR  Documentation for the second parameter.
  --one=STR      Documentation for the first parameter.

Greater parameters:
  --three=STR    Documentation for the third parameter.

Other actions:
  -h, --help    Show the help
```

## 12.4 Unformatted paragraphs

You can insert unformatted text (for instance, code examples) by finishing a paragraph with two colons (: :) and indenting the unformatted text:

```
from clize import run
```



```
def func():
    """

    This      text
    is      automatically formatted.
    However, you may present code blocks like this:

        Unformatted      text

    More      unformatted
    text.

    """
```

```
$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py

This text is automatically formatted.  However, you may present code blocks
like this::

    Unformatted      text

    More      unformatted
    text.

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help

run(func)
```

A paragraph with just the double-colon will be omitted from the output, but still trigger unformatted text.

## 12.5 Documentation for composed functions

Clize lets you *compose functions* with ease through seamless handling of decorators and other Python idioms. As such, parameters in a single CLI (i.e. not in separate commands), may originate from different functions. Clize will search for a parameter's description in whichever function the parameter comes from.

In short, document every parameter for your CLI exactly where it appears in the source:

```
from sigtools.wrappers import decorator
from clize import run

def my_decorator(factor):
    """Adds a ``super_number`` parameter to the decorated function.
    The value will be multiplied and passed as ``number`` to the wrapped
    function.

    :param factor: The factor by which to multiply ``super_number``

    Clize will not look at this docstring at all.
    """
    @decorator
    def _decorator(function, *args, super_number, **kwargs):
        """
        :param super_number: A super number.
```

```

        Clize will look at the parameter descriptions but ignore the
        description and footnotes.
        """
        return function(*args, number=super_number*factor, **kwargs)
    return _decorator

@my_decorator(3)
def func(number, *, name):
    """Greets someone and gives them a number

    :param name: A name.
    :param number: The number to print.
    """
    return number

run(func)

```

```

$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py [OPTIONS]

Greets someone and gives them a number

Options:
  --name=STR           A name.
  --super-number=STR  A super number.

Other actions:
  -h, --help          Show the help

```

This example showcases the use of `sigtools.wrappers.decorator`. It lets you create decorators without having to worry about the decoration logic. In the example above, `_decorator` receives `func` as its function parameter.

**Warning:** If you're using your own means to create decorators, be careful to preserve the docstring of the function where the new parameters come from. `functools.wraps` is especially dangerous in that regard.

You can maintain the advantages of `functools.wraps` (namely exposing the name and docstring of the inner function on the outer object) by using `functools.partial` to replicate the same structure as in the previous example:

```

import functools
from clize import run

def my_decorator(factor):
    """Adds a ``super_number`` parameter to the decorated function.
    The value will be multiplied and passed as ``number`` to the wrapped
    function.

    :param factor: The factor by which to multiply ``super_number``

    Clize will not look at this docstring at all.
    """
    def _decorate(function):
        def _wrapper(function, *args, super_number, **kwargs):
            """
            :param super_number: A super number.

            Clize will look at the parameter descriptions but ignore the
            description and footnotes.
            """
            return function(*args, number=super_number*factor, **kwargs)
        ret = functools.partial(_wrapper, function)
        # update_wrapper does the same thing as wraps
        functools.update_wrapper(ret, function)
        return ret
    return _decorate

@my_decorator(3)
def func(number, *, name):
    """Greets someone and gives them a number

    :param name: A name.
    :param number: The number to print.
    """
    return number

run(func)

```

## 12.6 Overriding the documentation for decorators

The main function can override the description for parameters in any of its decorators:

```

from sigtools.wrappers import decorator
from clize import run

@decorator
def my_decorator(function, *args, option, other_opt, **kwargs):
    """
    :param other_opt: option is documented in my_decorator
    :param option: option is also documented in my_decorator
    """

```

```
    :param arg: my_decorator cannot override parameters from func
    """
    return function(*args, **kwargs)

@my_decorator
def func(arg):
    """
    :param arg: arg is documented in the main function
    :param option: option is overridden in the main function
    """
    return arg

run(func)
```

```
Usage: docstring.py [OPTIONS] arg

Arguments:
  arg          arg is documented in the main function

Options:
  --option=STR  option is overridden in the main function
  --other-opt=STR  option is documented in my_decorator

Other actions:
  -h, --help  Show the help
```

## 12.7 Order of parameters in composed functions

Clize displays parameter descriptions in the following order:

1. Parameters documented (or overridden) in the main function, i.e. the deepest function that has the name of the outermost object.
2. Parameters from the other functions, from outermost decorator to innermost decorator.
3. Parameters from functions called by the main function, from outermost to innermost.

*Parameter sections* are ordered according to their first parameter, with the default section first.

```
from sigtools.wrappers import decorator
from clize import run

@decorator
def decorator_1(function, *args, opt_1, opt_override, **kwargs):
    """
    :param opt_1: option 1
    :param opt_override: will be overridden in func
    """
    return function(*args, **kwargs)

@decorator
def decorator_2(function, *args, opt_2, **kwargs):
```

```

    """
    :param opt_2: option 2
    """
    return function(*args, **kwargs)

@decorator
def decorator_3(function, *args, opt_3, **kwargs):
    """
    :param opt_3: option 3
    """
    return function(*args, **kwargs)

def called_by_main(*, delegate_opt):
    """
    :param delegate_opt: option in function called by main function
    """
    pass

@decorator_1
@decorator_2
@decorator_3
def func(*args, main, **kwargs):
    """
    main function

    :param main: parameter in main function
    :param opt_override: parameter overridden in main function
    """
    return called_by_main(*args, **kwargs)

run(func)

```

```

$ python docstring.py --help
Usage: docstring.py [OPTIONS]

main function

Options:
  --main=STR           parameter in main function
  --opt-override=STR   parameter overridden in main function
  --opt-1=STR          option 1
  --opt-2=STR          option 2
  --opt-3=STR          option 3
  --delegate-opt=STR   option in function called by main function

Other actions:
  -h, --help           Show the help

```



## 13.1 Running functions

`clize.run` (\*fn, args=None, catch=(), exit=True, out=None, err=None, \*\*kwargs)

Runs a function or *CLI object* with `args`, prints the return value if not None, or catches the given exception types as well as `clize.UserError` and prints their string representation, then exit with the appropriate status code.

### Parameters

- **args** (*sequence*) – The arguments to pass the CLI, for instance ('./a\_script.py', 'spam', 'ham'). If unspecified, uses `sys.argv`.
- **catch** (*sequence of exception classes*) – Catch these exceptions and print their string representation rather than letting Python print an uncaught exception traceback.
- **exit** (*bool*) – If true, exit with the appropriate status code once the function is done.
- **out** (*file*) – The file in which to print the return value of the command. If unspecified, uses `sys.stdout`.
- **err** (*file*) – The file in which to print any exception text. If unspecified, uses `sys.stderr`.

**class** `clize.Clize` (fn=None, \*\*kwargs)

Wraps a function into a CLI object that accepts command-line arguments and translates them to match the wrapped function's parameters.

### Parameters

- **alt** (*sequence*) – Alternate actions the CLI will handle.
- **help\_names** (*sequence of strings*) – Names to use to trigger the help.
- **helper\_class** (a type like `ClizeHelp`) – A callable to produce a helper object to be used when the help is triggered. If unset, uses `ClizeHelp`.
- **hide\_help** (*bool*) – Mark the parameters used to trigger the help as undocumented.

**parameters** ()

Returns the parameters used to instantiate this class, minus the wrapped callable.

**classmethod keep** (*fn=None, \*\*kwargs*)

Instead of wrapping the decorated callable, sets its `cli` attribute to a *Clize* instance. Useful if you need to use the decorator but must still be able to call the function regularly.

**classmethod as\_is** (*obj=None, \*, description=None, usages=None*)

Returns a CLI object which uses the given callable with no translation.

The following parameters improve the decorated object's compatibility with Clize's help output:

**Parameters**

- **description** – A description for the command.
- **usages** – A list of usages for the command.

**See also:**

*Interoperability with arbitrary callables*

**classmethod get\_cli** (*obj, \*\*kwargs*)

Makes an attempt to discover a command-line interface for the given object. The process used is as follows:

1. If the object has a `cli` attribute, it is used with no further transformation.
2. If the object is callable, *Clize* or whichever object this class method is used from is used to build a CLI. `**kwargs` are forwarded to its initializer.
3. If the object is iterable, *SubcommandDispatcher* is used on the object, and its `cli` method is used.

Most notably, `clize.run` uses this class method in order to interpret the given object(s).

**cli**

Returns the object itself, in order to be selected by `get_cli`

**helper**

A cli object(usually inherited from `help.Help`) when the user requests a help message. See the constructor for ways to affect this attribute.

**signature**

The `parser.CliSignature` object used to parse arguments.

**func\_signature****read\_commandline** (*args*)

Reads the command-line arguments from `args` and returns a tuple with the callable to run, the name of the program, the positional and named arguments to pass to the callable.

**Raises** *ArgumentError*

```
class clize.SubcommandDispatcher (commands=(), description=None, footnotes=None,
                                  **kwargs)
```

**clizer**

alias of *Clize*

**cli**



## 13.2 Parser

**class** `clize.parser.CliSignature` (*parameters*)

A collection of parameters that can be used to translate CLI arguments to function arguments.

**Parameters** `parameters` (*iterable*) – The parameters to use.

**converter** = `clize.parser.default_converter`

The converter used by default in case none is present in the annotations.

**parameters**

An ordered dict of all parameters of this cli signature.

**positional**

List of positional parameters.

**alternate**

List of parameters that initiate an alternate action.

**named**

List of named parameters that aren't in *alternate*.

**aliases** = {}

Maps parameter names to *NamedParameter* instances.

**required** = `set()`

A set of all required parameters.

**classmethod** `from_signature` (*sig*, *extra=()*, *\*\*kwargs*)

Takes a signature object and returns an instance of this class deduced from it.

**Parameters**

- **sig** (*inspect.Signature*) – The signature object to use.
- **extra** (*iterable*) – Extra parameter instances to include.

**classmethod** `convert_parameter` (*param*)

Convert a Python parameter to a CLI parameter.

**read\_arguments** (*args*, *name*)

Returns a *CliBoundArguments* instance for this CLI signature bound to the given arguments.

**Parameters**

- **args** (*sequence*) – The CLI arguments, minus the script name.
- **name** (*str*) – The script name.

`clize.parser.parameter_converter` (*obj=None*, *\**, *name=None*)

Decorates a callable to be interpreted as a parameter converter when passed as an annotation.

It will be called with an *inspect.Parameter* object and a sequence of objects passed as annotations, without the parameter converter itself. It is expected to return a *clize.parser.Parameter* instance or *Parameter.IGNORE*.

`clize.parser.default_converter` (*param*, *annotations*)

The default parameter converter. It is described in detail in *The default parameter converter*.

```
clize.parser.use_class (*, name=None, pos=<function unimplemented_parameter at
0x7fc819eae1e0>, varargs=<function unimplemented_parameter at
0x7fc819eae1e0>, named=<function unimplemented_parameter at
0x7fc819eae1e0>, varkwargs=<function unimplemented_parameter at
0x7fc819eae1e0>, kwargs={})
```

Creates a parameter converter similar to the default converter that picks one of 4 factory functions depending on the type of parameter.

#### Parameters

- **str** (*name*) – A name to set on the parameter converter.
- **pos** (callable that returns a *Parameter* instance) – The parameter factory for positional parameters.
- **varargs** (callable that returns a *Parameter* instance) – The parameter factory for *\*args*-like parameters.
- **named** (callable that returns a *Parameter* instance) – The parameter factory for keyword parameters.
- **varkwargs** (callable that returns a *Parameter* instance) – The parameter factory for *\*\*kwargs*-like parameters.
- **kwargs** (*collections.abc.Mapping*) – additional arguments to pass to the chosen factory.

`clize.parser.use_mixin(cls, *, kwargs={}, name=None)`

Like `use_class`, but creates classes inheriting from `cls` and one of `PositionalParameter`, `ExtraPosArgsParameter`, and `OptionParameter`

#### Parameters

- **cls** – The class to use as mixin.
- **kwargs** (*collections.abc.Mapping*) – additional arguments to pass to the chosen factory.
- **name** – The name to use for the converter. Uses `cls`'s name if unset.

`class clize.parser.CliBoundArguments(sig, in_args, name, func=None, post_name=NOTHING, args=NOTHING, kwargs=NOTHING, meta=NOTHING)`

Command line arguments bound to a *CliSignature* instance.

#### Parameters

- **sig** (*CliSignature*) – The signature to bind against.
- **args** (*sequence*) – The CLI arguments, minus the script name.
- **name** (*str*) – The script name.

**sig**

The signature being bound to.

**in\_args**

The CLI arguments, minus the script name.

**name**

The script name.

**args = []**

List of arguments to pass to the target function.

**kwargs = {}**

Mapping of named arguments to pass to the target function.

**meta = {}**

A dict for parameters to store data for the duration of the argument processing.

**func = None**

If not `None`, replaces the target function.

**post\_name = []**

List of words to append to the script name when passed to the target function.

The following attributes only exist while arguments are being processed:

**posparam = iter(sig.positional)**

The iterator over the positional parameters used to process positional arguments.

**namedparam = dict(sig.aliases)**

The `dict` used to look up named parameters from their names.

It is copied here so that the argument parsing process may add or remove parameters without affecting the original signature.

**unsatisfied = set(sig.required)**

Required parameters that haven't yet been satisfied.

**not\_provided = set(sig.optional)**

Optional parameters that haven't yet received a value.

**sticky = None**

If not `None`, a parameter that will keep receiving positional arguments.

**posarg\_only = False**

Arguments will always be processed as positional when this is set to `True`.

**skip = 0**

Amount of arguments to skip.

**threshold = 0.75**

Similarity threshold below which argument suggestions are dropped. Used when the user enters an incorrect argument and we try to suggest a valid argument instead.

**process\_arguments ()**

Process the arguments in `in_args`, setting the `func`, `post_name`, `args` and `kwargs` attributes as a result.

This methods reads `str`'s from `in_args`. For each one, it finds the relevant `Parameter` instance in `posparam` or `namedparam` and delegates processing to it

**class** `clize.parser.Parameter` (*display\_name*, *undocumented=False*, *last\_option=None*)

Bases: `object`

Represents a CLI parameter.

#### Parameters

- **display\_name** (*str*) – The 'default' representation of the parameter.
- **undocumented** (*bool*) – If true, hides the parameter from the command help.
- **last\_option** – If `True`, the parameter will set the `posarg_only` flag on the bound arguments.

Also available as `clize.Parameter`.

**LAST\_OPTION = clize.Parameter.LAST\_OPTION**

Annotate a parameter with this and all following arguments will be processed as positional.

**IGNORE = clize.Parameter.IGNORE**

Annotate a parameter with this and it will be dropped from the resulting CLI signature.

**UNDOCUMENTED = clize.Parameter.UNDOCUMENTED**

Parameters annotated with this will be omitted from the documentation (`--help`).

**REQUIRED = clize.Parameter.REQUIRED**

Annotate a parameter with this to force it to be required.

Mostly only useful for `*args` parameters. In other cases, simply don't provide a default value.

**required = False**

Is this parameter required?

**is\_alternate\_action = False**

Should this parameter appear as an alternate action or as a regular parameter?

**extras = ()**

Iterable of extra parameters this parameter incurs

**display\_name = None**

The name used in printing this parameter.

**undocumented = None**

If true, this parameter is hidden from the documentation.

**last\_option = None**

If true, arguments after this parameter is triggered will all be processed as positional.

**read\_argument (ba, i)**

Reads one or more arguments from `ba.in_args` from position `i`.

**Parameters**

- `ba` (`clize.parser.CliBoundArguments`) – The bound arguments object this call is expected to mutate.
- `i` (`int`) – The current position in `ba.args`.

**apply\_generic\_flags (ba)**

Called after `read_argument` in order to set attributes on `ba` independently of the arguments.

**Parameters** `ba` (`clize.parser.CliBoundArguments`) – The bound arguments object this call is expected to mutate.

The base implementation of this method applies the `last_option` setting if applicable and discards itself from `CliBoundArguments.unsatisfied`

**unsatisfied (ba)**

Called after processing arguments if this parameter required and not discarded from `CliBoundArguments.unsatisfied`.

**post\_parse (ba)**

Called after all arguments are processed successfully.

**get\_all\_names ()**

Return a string with all of this parameter's names.

**get\_full\_name ()**

Return a string that designates this parameter.

**show\_help (desc, after, f, cols)**

Called by `ClizeHelp` to produce the parameter's description in the help output.

**show\_help\_parens ()**

Return a string to complement a parameter's description in the `--help` output.

**help\_parens** ()

Return an iterable of strings to complement a parameter’s description in the `--help` output. Used by `show_help_parens`

**prepare\_help** (*helper*)

Called by `ClizeHelp` to allow parameters to complement the help.

**Param** `clize.help.ClizeHelp helper`: The object charged with displaying the help.

**class** `clize.parser.ParameterWithSourceEquivalent` (*argument\_name*, **\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.Parameter`

Parameter that relates to a function parameter in the source.

**Parameters** `argument_name` (*str*) – The name of the parameter.

**class** `clize.parser.HelperParameter` (**\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.Parameter`

Parameter that doesn’t appear in CLI signatures but is used for instance as the `.sticky` attribute of the bound arguments.

**class** `clize.parser.ParameterWithValue` (*conv*=<function identity at 0x7fc819ea6510>, *default*=<unset>, **\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.Parameter`

A parameter that takes a value from the arguments, with possible default and/or conversion.

**Parameters**

- **conv** (*callable*) – A callable to convert the value or raise `ValueError`. Defaults to `identity`.
- **default** – A default value for the parameter or `util.UNSET`.

**conv = None**

The function used for coercing the value into the desired format or type.

**default = None**

The default value used for the parameter, or `util.UNSET` if there is no default value. Usually only used for displaying the help.

**required**

Tells if the parameter has no default value.

**read\_argument** (*ba*, *i*)

Uses `get_value`, `coerce_value` and `set_value` to process an argument

**set\_value** (*ba*, *value*)

Save the value for this parameter

Usually accomplished by adding to `ba.args` or `ba.kwargs`.

**coerce\_value** (*arg*, *ba*)

Coerces `arg` using the `conv` function. Raises `errors.BadArgumentFormat` if the coercion function raises `ValueError`.

**get\_value** (*ba*, *i*)

Retrieves the “value” part of the argument in `ba` at position `i`.

**help\_parens** ()

Shows the default value in the parameter description.

**post\_parse** (*ba*)

`clize.parser.value_converter` (*func=None, \*, name=None, convert\_default=False*)

Callables decorated with this can be used as a value converter.

#### Parameters

- **name** (*str*) – Use this name to designate the parameter value type.  
This should be in uppercase, with as few words as possible and no word delimiters.  
The default is the name of the decorated function or type, modified to follow this rule.
- **convert\_default** (*bool*) – If true, the value converter will be called with the default parameter value if none was supplied. Otherwise, the default parameter is used as-is.  
Make sure to handle `None` appropriately if you override this.

See *Specifying a value converter*.

**class** `clize.parser.NamedParameter` (*aliases, \*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.Parameter`

Equivalent of a keyword-only parameter in Python.

**Parameters** **aliases** (*sequence of strings*) – The arguments that trigger this parameter.  
The first alias is used to refer to the parameter. The first one is picked as *display\_name* if unspecified.

**aliases = None**

The parameter’s aliases, eg. “-option” and “-o”.

**classmethod** **alias\_key** (*name*)

Sort key function to order aliases in source order, but with short forms(one dash) first.

**get\_all\_names** ()

Retrieves all aliases.

**short\_name**

Retrieves the shortest alias for displaying the parameter signature.

**get\_full\_name** ()

Uses the shortest name instead of the display name.

**redispatch\_short\_arg** (*rest, ba, i*)

Processes the rest of an argument as if it was a new one prefixed with one dash.

For instance when `-a` is a flag in `-abcd`, the object implementing it will call this to proceed as if `-a -bcd` was passed.

**get\_value** (*ba, i*)

Fetches the value after the `= (--opt=val)` or in the next argument (`--opt val`).

**class** `clize.parser.FlagParameter` (*value, \*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.OptionParameter`

A named parameter that takes no argument.

#### Parameters

- **value** – The value when the argument is present.
- **false\_value** – The value when the argument is given one of the false value triggers using `--param=xyz`.

**required = False**

**false\_triggers** = ('0', 'n', 'no', 'f', 'false')

Values for which `--flag=X` will consider the argument false and will pass `false_value` to the function. In all other cases `value` is passed.

**value** = None

The value passed to the function if the flag is triggered without a specified value.

**read\_argument** (*ba*, *i*)

Overrides `NamedParameter`'s value-getting behavior to allow no argument to be passed after the flag is named.

**format\_argument** (*long\_alias*)

Formats the argument value type for usage messages.

This is usually empty unless the flag uses a non-boolean flag.

**class** `clize.parser.OptionParameter` (*aliases*, **\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.NamedParameter`, `clize.parser.ParameterWithValue`, `clize.parser.ParameterWithSourceEquivalent`

A named parameter that takes an argument.

**read\_argument** (*ba*, *i*)

Stores the argument in `CliBoundArguments.kwargs` if it isn't already present.

**set\_value** (*ba*, *value*)

Set the value in `ba.kwargs`

**format\_type** ()

Returns a string designation of the value type.

**format\_argument** (*long\_alias*)

Format the value type for the parameter

**get\_all\_names** ()

Appends the value type to all aliases.

**get\_full\_name** ()

Appends the value type to the shortest alias.

**class** `clize.parser.IntOptionParameter` (*aliases*, **\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.OptionParameter`

A named parameter that takes an integer as argument. The short form of it can be chained with the short form of other named parameters.

**read\_argument** (*ba*, *i*)

Handles redispaching after a numerical value.

**class** `clize.parser.PositionalParameter` (*conv*=<function identity at 0x7fc819ea6510>, *default*=<unset>, **\*\*kwargs**)

Bases: `clize.parser.ParameterWithValue`, `clize.parser.ParameterWithSourceEquivalent`

Equivalent of a positional-only parameter in Python.

**set\_value** (*ba*, *val*)

Stores the argument at the appropriate position in `ba.args`.

If `ba.args` is not filled up to this parameter's position yet, it will be filled with default values.

**Raises `ValueError`** – when setting a parameter after unsatisfied parameters with no default value.

**help\_parens** ()

Puts the value type in parenthesis since it isn't shown in the parameter's signature.

**class** `clize.parser.MultiParameter` (*min*, *max*, *\*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.ParameterWithValue`

Parameter that can collect multiple values.

**min** = None

The minimum amount of values this parameter accepts.

**max** = None

The maximum amount of values this parameter accepts.

**required**

Returns if there is a minimum amount of values required.

**get\_collection** (*ba*)

Return an object that new values will be appended to.

**read\_argument** (*ba*, *i*)

Reset `read_argument` to avoid hitting `OptionParameter.read_argument` which checks for duplicate parameters

**set\_value** (*ba*, *val*)

Adds passed argument to the collection returned by `get_collection`.

**apply\_generic\_flags** (*ba*)

Doesn't automatically mark the parameter as satisfied.

**unsatisfied** (*ba*)

Lets `errors.MissingRequiredArguments` be raised or raises `errors.NotEnoughValues` if arguments were passed but not enough to meet *min*.

**get\_full\_name** ()

Adds an elipsis to the parameter name.

**class** `clize.parser.ExtraPosArgsParameter` (*required=False*, *min=None*, *max=None*, *\*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.MultiParameter`, `clize.parser.PositionalParameter`

Parameter that forwards all remaining positional arguments to the callee.

Used to convert `*args`-like parameters.

**get\_collection** (*ba*)

Uses `CliBoundArguments.args` to collect the remaining arguments.

**apply\_generic\_flags** (*ba*)

Sets itself as sticky parameter so that `errors.TooManyArguments` is not raised when processing further parameters.

**class** `clize.parser.AppendArguments` (*\*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.HelperParameter`, `clize.parser.MultiParameter`

Helper parameter that collects multiple values to be passed as positional arguments to the callee.

Similar to `ExtraPosArgsParameter` but does not correspond to a parameter in the source.

**get\_collection** (*ba*)

Uses `CliBoundArguments.args` to collect the remaining arguments.

**class** `clize.parser.IgnoreAllArguments` (*\*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.HelperParameter`, `clize.parser.Parameter`



Helper parameter for *FallbackCommandParameter* that ignores the remaining arguments.

**read\_argument** (*ba, i*)

Does nothing, ignoring all arguments processed.

**class** `clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter` (*func, \*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.NamedParameter`

Parameter that sets an alternative function when triggered. When used as an argument other than the first all arguments are discarded.

**is\_alternate\_action** = **True**

**func** = **None**

The function that will be called if this parameter is mentioned.

**description**

Use *func*'s docstring to provide the parameter description.

**read\_argument** (*ba, i*)

Clears all processed arguments, sets up *func* to be called later, and lets all remaining arguments be collected as positional if this was the first argument.

**class** `clize.parser.AlternateCommandParameter` (*func, \*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter`

Parameter that sets an alternative function when triggered. Cannot be used as any argument but the first.

**read\_argument** (*ba, i*)

Raises an error when this parameter is used after other arguments have been given.

## 13.3 Exceptions

**class** `clize.UserError` (*message*)

**class** `clize.errors.UserError` (*message*)

An error to be displayed to the user.

If `clize.run` catches this error, the error will be printed without the associated traceback.

```
def main():
    raise clize.UserError("an error message")

clize.run(main)
```

```
$ python usererror_example.py
usererror_example.py: an error message
```

You can also specify other exception classes to be caught using `clize.run`'s `catch` argument. However exceptions not based on `UserError` will not have the command name displayed.

**class** `clize.ArgumentError` (*message*)

**class** `clize.errors.ArgumentError` (*message*)

An error related to argument parsing. If `clize.run` catches this error, the command's usage line will be printed.

```
def main(i:int):
    if i < 0:
        raise clize.ArgumentError("i must be positive")
```

```
clize.run(main)
```

```
$ python argumenterror_example.py -- -5
argumenterror_example.py: i must be positive
Usage: argumenterror_example.py i
```

**exception** `clize.errors.MissingRequiredArguments` (*missing*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when required parameters have not been provided an argument

**exception** `clize.errors.TooManyArguments` (*extra*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when too many positional arguments have been passed for the parameters to consume.

**exception** `clize.errors.DuplicateNamedArgument` (*message=None*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when a named option or flag has been passed twice.

**exception** `clize.errors.UnknownOption` (*name*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when a named argument has no matching parameter.

**exception** `clize.errors.MissingValue` (*message=None*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when an option received no value.

**exception** `clize.errors.NotEnoughValues` (*message=None*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when MultiOptionParameter is given less values than its min parameter.

**exception** `clize.errors.TooManyValues` (*message=None*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when MultiOptionParameter is given more values than its max parameter.

**exception** `clize.errors.CliValueError`

Bases: `ValueError`

Specialization of `ValueError` for showing a message to the user along with the error rather than just the incorrect value.

**exception** `clize.errors.BadArgumentFormat` (*text*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when an argument cannot be converted to the correct format.

**exception** `clize.errors.ArgsBeforeAlternateCommand` (*param*)

Bases: `clize.errors.ArgumentError`

Raised when there are arguments before a non-fallback alternate command.

**class** `clize.errors.SetErrorContext` (*exc\_type, \*\*attributes*)

Bases: `object`

Context manager that sets attributes on exceptions that are raised past it

### Parameters

- **exc\_type** – The exception type to operate on.
- **attributes** – The attributes to set on the matching exceptions. They will only be set if yet unset on the exception.

## 13.4 Help generation

`clize.help` manages the generation of help messages obtained using `--help`.

`HelpCli` is the command-line interface for it. It is injected as an extra alternate option by `Clize`. It can be replaced using `Clize`'s `helper_class` parameter.

`HelpForClizeDocstring` constructs the help for `clize`'s docstring format. It is invoked by `HelpCli.get_help` method. It can be swapped with the `builder` parameter of `HelpCli`.

It uses `sigtools.specifiers.signature` to obtain which functions document the parameters, `elements_from_clize_docstring` and `helpstream_from_elements` process the docstring so it can be fed to `HelpForClizeDocstring.add_docstring`.

```
clize.help.LABEL_POS = 'Arguments'
```

The label for positional parameters

```
clize.help.LABEL_OPT = 'Options'
```

The default label for named parameters

```
clize.help.LABEL_ALT = 'Other actions'
```

The label for alternate actions like `--help`

```
class clize.help.HelpForParameters (header, footer, sections, after)
```

Bases: `object`

Stores and displays help for a CLI with positional parameters, named parameters and/or alternate actions designated by a named parameter

Example output in relation to attribute names:

```
header

section:
    param1    Param1 description

After param2

    param2    Param2 description

footer
```

```
header = []
```

A list of strings representing paragraphs in the help header/description.

```
footer = []
```

A list of strings representing paragraphs in the help footer after everything else.

```
sections = OrderedDict("section_name" => OrderedDict("param_name" => (param, "descript
```

Maps section names to parameters and their help.

```
after = {"param_name": ["paragraph"]}
```

Maps parameter names to additional paragraphs.

**classmethod blank\_from\_signature** (*signature*)

Creates a blank instance with placeholders for the parameters in *signature*.

The parameters are sorted into three sections:

<i>LABEL_POS</i>	Positional parameters
<i>LABEL_OPT</i>	Named parameters
<i>LABEL_ALT</i>	Alternate options (e.g. --help)

**show\_usage** (*name*)

Returns a summary overview of the command's parameters.

Option parameters are collapsed as [OPTIONS] in the output.

**usages** ()

Returns an iterable of all possible complete usage patterns

**show\_full\_usage** (*name*)

Returns an iterable of all possible complete usage patterns including the command name

**show\_help** (*name*)

Produce the full help.

`clize.help.elements_from_clize_docstring` (*source*)

Converts a string to an iterable of element tuples such as (`EL_FREE_TEXT`, "text", `False`).

The result is suitable for `helpstream_from_elements`.

See below for which tuples are produced/understood.

`clize.help.EL_LABEL = EL_LABEL`

(`EL_LABEL`, "label")

Indicates that the subsequent `EL_PARAM_DESC` elements are under a section label.

`clize.help.EL_FREE_TEXT = EL_FREE_TEXT`

(`EL_FREE_TEXT`, "paragraph", `is_preformatted`)

Designates some free text. May be converted into header text, footer text, or additional paragraphs after a parameter depending on context.

The last free text elements at the end of a docstring are always considered to be the footer rather than additional paragraphs after a parameter.

`is_preformatted` is a boolean that indicates that the paragraph should not be reformatted.

`clize.help.EL_PARAM_DESC = EL_PARAM_DESC`

(`EL_PARAM_DESC`, "param", "paragraph")

Designates the description for a parameter.

`clize.help.EL_AFTER = EL_AFTER`

(`EL_AFTER`, "param", "paragraph", `is_preformatted`)

Explicitly designates an additional paragraph after a parameter. Unlike `EL_FREE_TEXT`, this cannot be confused for a footer paragraph.

`clize.help.helpstream_from_elements` (*tokens*)

Transforms an iterable of non-explicit `EL_*` elements to an iterable of explicit `HELP_*` elements.

The result is suitable for `HelpForClizeDocstring.add_helpstream`.

```
clize.help.HELP_HEADER = HELP_HEADER
    (HELP_HEADER, "paragraph", is_preformatted)
```

Designates a paragraph that appears before the parameter descriptions.

```
clize.help.HELP_FOOTER = HELP_FOOTER
    (HELP_FOOTER, "paragraph", is_preformatted)
```

Designates a paragraph that appears after the parameter descriptions.

```
clize.help.HELP_PARAM_DESC = HELP_PARAM_DESC
    (HELP_PARAM_DESC, "param", "label", "paragraph")
```

Designates a parameter description. If no label was specified `None` should take its place.

```
clize.help.HELP_PARAM_AFTER = HELP_PARAM_AFTER
    (HELP_PARAM_AFTER, "param", "paragraph", is_preformatted)
```

Designates a paragraph after a parameter description.

```
class clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring (*args, **kwargs)
    Bases: clize.help.HelpForParameters
```

Builds generic parameter help from the docstrings of Clize instances

Uses a custom docstring format. See `clize docstring`.

```
classmethod from_subject (subject, owner)
```

Constructs a `HelpForClizeDocstring` instance and populates it with data from a `Clize` instance.

It uses the parameters' `parser.Parameter.prepare_help` and reads the docstrings of functions from which the parameters originate.

#### Parameters

- **subject** (*Clize*) – The `Clize` instance to document.
- **owner** (*object*) – The object of which `subject` is a member of, or `None`.

This typically has a value if a CLI is defined as a class:

```
class MyCli (object) :
    @clize.Clize
    def cli (self, param) :
        ...
```

`owner` would refer to an instance of `MyCli`.

```
add_from_parameters (parameters)
```

Uses `parser.Parameter.prepare_help` on an iterable of parameters

```
add_from_parameter_sources (subject)
```

Processes the docstrings of the functions that have parameters in `subject` and adds their information to this instance.

**Parameters** `subject` (*Clize*) – the Clize runner to document

```
add_docstring (docstring, name, pnames, primary)
```

Parses and integrates info from a docstring to this instance.

#### Parameters

- **docstring** (*str*) – The docstring to be read. Must be de-indented using something like `inspect.cleandoc`.
- **pnames** (*set*) – If not `None`, only add info about these parameter names.

- **primary** (*bool*) – Add headers and footers from this docstring.

**parse\_docstring** (*docstring*)

Alias of *add\_docstring* for backwards compatibility.

**add\_helpstream** (*stream, pnames, primary*)

Add an iterable of tuples starting with `HELP_` to this instance.

#### Parameters

- **stream** (*iterable*) – An iterable of (`HELP_*`, ...) tuples, as produced by *helpstream\_from\_elements*
- **pnames** (*set*) – If not `None`, only add info about these parameter names.
- **primary** (*bool*) – Add headers and footers from this docstring.

`clize.help.document_from_sphinx_docstring` (*source, name*)

Reads a Sphinx.autodoc-compatible docstring into something *helpstream\_from\_elements* can process.

**class** `clize.help.HelpForSphinxDocstring` (*\*args, \*\*kwargs*)

Bases: `clize.help.HelpForClizeDocstring`

Builds generic parameter help from the docstrings of Clize instances

Understands docstrings written for Sphinx's `autodoc`.

**class** `clize.help.HelpForSubcommands` (*usages, subcommands, header, footer*)

Bases: `object`

Stores help for subcommand dispatchers.

#### subcommands

An ordered mapping of the subcommand names to their description.

#### header

Iterable of paragraphs for the help header.

#### footer

Iterable of paragraphs for the help footnotes.

**classmethod** `from_subject` (*subject, owner*)

Constructs a *HelpForSubcommands* instance and populates it with data from a *Clize* instance.

It uses the parameters' *parser.Parameter.prepare\_help* and reads the docstrings of functions from which the parameters originate.

#### Parameters

- **subject** (*Clize*) – The *Clize* instance to document.
- **owner** (*SubcommandDispatcher*) – The subcommand dispatcher being documented.

**show\_help** (*name*)

Produce the full help.

**show\_usage** (*name*)

Returns a summary overview of the dispatcher's command format.

**show\_full\_usage** (*name*)

Returns an iterable of all possible complete usage patterns for subcommands including the command name

**usages** ()

Returns an iterable of all possible complete usage patterns for all subcommands

```
class clize.help.HelpCli (subject, owner, builder=<bound method
                          ForAutodetectedDocstringFromSubject
                          of 'clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring'>>)
                          Help-
                          <class
```

Bases: `object`

A command-line interface for constructing and accessing the help and other meta-information about a CLI

**cli**

Show the help

usage: Only show the full usage

**get\_help()**

Get the object

**description**

A short description of this command

**show(name)**

Legacy alias of `get_help().show_help(...)`

**show\_full\_usage(name)**

Legacy alias of `get_help().show_full_usage(...)`

**show\_usage(name)**

Legacy alias of `get_help().show_usage(...)`

**usages()**

Legacy alias of `get_help().usages(...)`

`clize.help.ClizeHelp`

alias of `HelpCli`

## 13.5 Compability with older clize releases

```
clize.clize (fn=None, *, alias={}, force_positional=(), coerce={}, require_excess=False, extra=(),
            use_kwoargs=None)
```

Compatibility with `clize`<3.0 releases. Decorates a function in order to be passed to `clize.run`. See [Upgrading from clize 1 and 2](#).

```
clize.make_flag (source, names, default=False, type=None, help="", takes_argument=0)
```

Compatibility with `clize`<3.0 releases. Creates a parameter instance. See [Upgrading from clize 1 and 2](#).





## **Part V**

# **Project documentation**



Information on how Clize is organized as a project.



## 14.1 4.0 (2017-04-19)

- Clize now parses Sphinx-style docstrings. It becomes the recommended way of documenting functions, as it is interoperable and not specific to Clize.
- Value converters can now convert the default value for their parameter. Specify `convert_default=True` when decorating with `value_converter`.
- `clize.converters.file`:
  - you can use it without parenthesis now: `def func(infile:converters.file):`
  - it now converts the default parameter: `infile:converters.file='-'` gives a file opener for stdin if no value was provided by the user
- `parameters.mapped`: Raises an error when two identical values are given.
- Improved error messages for incorrect annotations.
- Parameter converters must have a name. You can now specify one using the `name=` keyword argument to `parameter_converter`.
- Clize now shows a hint if a subcommand is misspelled.
- Dropped Python 2.6 support. Use Clize 3.1 if you need to support it.
- Fix wrong docstring being used for header/footer text when the intended function had no (visible) parameters.
- Extension API changes:
  - `parser.CliBoundArguments` now uses the `attrs` package. Instead of parsing arguments on instantiation, it has a `process_arguments` method for this. This is a breaking change if you were instantiating it directly rather than use `parser.CliSignature.read_arguments`
  - Separate the value setting logic in `ParameterWithValue` to a `set_value` method. Most parameter types don't need to override `read_argument` anymore.

- Separated the help CLI from documentation generation and display. Also comes with more `attrs`. This API is now documented.

## 14.2 3.1 (2016-10-03)

- Support for sigtools’ automatic signature discovery. This is reflected in the function composition tutorial: In most cases you no longer have to specify how your decorators use `*args` and `**kwargs` exactly
- Suggestions are provided when named parameters are misspelled. (Contributed by Karan Parikh.)
- You can supply ‘alternative actions’ (i.e. `-version`) even when using multiple commands.
- Improve hackability of argument parsing: named parameters are now sourced from the bound arguments instance, so a parameter could modify it during parsing without changing the original signature.
- Various documentation improvements.

## 14.3 3.0 (2015-05-13)

Version 3.0 packs a full rewrite. While it retains backwards-compatibility, the old interface is deprecated. See *Upgrading from clize 1 and 2*.

- The argument parsing logic has been split between a loop over the parameters and parameter classes. New parameter classes can be made to implement custom kinds of parameters.
- The CLI inference is now based on `sigtools.specifiers.signature` rather than `inspect.getfullargspec`. This enables a common interface for the function signature to be manipulated prior to being passed to Clize. Namely, the `__signature__` attribute can be overridden or sigtools’s `lazy_forger_function` method can be employed.
- The `@clize` decorator is deprecated in favor of directly passing functions to `run`, thus leaving the original function intact.
- Named parameters are now obtained exclusively through keyword-only parameters. Other information about each parameter is communicated through parameter annotations. `sigtools.modifiers` provides backwards-compatibility for Python 2.
- As a result of implementing the function signature-based abstraction, there are *ways to set up decorators that work with Clize*.
- The help system now accepts *subsection headers for named parameters*.
- *Coercion functions* have been renamed to *value converters*. Except for a few notable exceptions, they must be *tagged with a decorator*. This also applies to the type of supplied default values.
- *Alternate actions* (for instance `--version`) can be supplied directly to `run`.
- Several *Parameter converter* annotations have been added, including parameters with a limited choice of values, repeatable parameters, parameters that always supply the same value, and more.

## 14.4 2.0 (2012-10-07)

This release and earlier were documented post-release.

Version 2.0 adds subcommands and support for function annotations and keyword-only parameters.

## 14.5 1.0 (2011-04-04)

Initial release.





Thanks for considering helping out. We don't bite. :-)

## 15.1 Reporting issues

Bugs and other tasks are tracked on GitHub.

- Check whether the issue exists already. (Be sure to also check closed ones.)
- Report which version of Clize the issue appears on. You can obtain it using:

```
pip show clize
```

For documentation-related bugs, you can either look at the version in the page URL, click the “Read the docs” insignia in the bottom-left corner or the hamburger menu on mobile.

- When applicable, show how to trigger the bug and what was expected instead. Writing a testcase for it is welcome, but not required.

## 15.2 Submitting patches

Patches are submitted for review through GitHub pull requests.

- Follow **PEP 8**.
- When fixing a bug, include a test case in your patch. Make sure correctly tests against the bug: It must fail without your fix, and succeed with it. See *Running the test suite*.
- Submitting a pull request on GitHub implies your consent for merging, therefore authorizing the maintainer(s) to distribute your modifications under the project's license.

## 15.3 Implementing new features

Before implementing a new feature, please open an issue on GitHub to discuss it. This ensures you do not work on a feature that would be refused inclusion.

Add tests for your feature to the test suite and make sure it *completes on all supported versions of Python*. Make sure it is fully tested using the `cover` target.

Feel free to submit a pull request as soon as you have changes you need feedback on. In addition, TravisCI will run the test suite on all supported platforms and will perform coverage checking for you on the pull request page.

## 15.4 Running the test suite

The test suite can be run across all supported versions using, `tox`:

```
pip install --user tox
tox
```

If you do not have all required Python versions installed or wish to save time when testing you can specify one version of Python to test against:

```
tox -e pyXY
```

Where `X` and `Y` designate a Python version as in `X.Y`. For instance, the following command runs the test suite against Python 3.4 only:

```
tox -e py34
```

Branches linked in a pull request will be run through the test suite on TravisCI and the results are linked back in the pull request. Feel free to do this if installing all supported Python versions is impractical for you.

`coverage.py` is used to measure code coverage. New code is expected to have full code coverage. You can run the test suite through it using:

```
tox -e cover
```

It will print the measured code coverage and generate webpages with line-by-line coverage information in `htmlcov`. Note that the `cover` target requires Python 3.4 or greater.

## 15.5 Documentation

The documentation is written using `sphinx` and lives in `docs/` from the project root. It can be built using:

```
tox -e docs
```

This will produce documentation in `build/sphinx/html/`. Note that Python 3.4 must be installed to build the documentation.

**C**

`clize.errors`, 100  
`clize.help`, 101  
`clize.legacy`, 105  
`clize.parser`, 45  
`clize.runner`, 89



**A**

**add\_docstring()** (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring method), 103  
**add\_from\_parameter\_sources()** (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring method), 103  
**add\_from\_parameters()** (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring method), 103  
**add\_helpstream()** (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring method), 104  
**after** (clize.help.HelpForParameters attribute), 101  
**alias\_key()** (clize.parser.NamedParameter class method), 96  
**aliases** (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91  
**aliases** (clize.parser.NamedParameter attribute), 96  
**alternate** (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91  
**AlternateCommandParameter** (class in clize.parser), 99  
**AppendArguments** (class in clize.parser), 98  
**apply\_generic\_flags()** (clize.parser.ExtraPosArgsParameter method), 98  
**apply\_generic\_flags()** (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98  
**apply\_generic\_flags()** (clize.parser.Parameter method), 47, 94  
**args** (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92  
**ArgsBeforeAlternateCommand**, 100  
**argument\_decorator()** (in module clize.parameters), 73  
**as\_is()** (clize.Clize class method), 90

**B**

**BadArgumentFormat**, 100  
**blank\_from\_signature()** (clize.help.HelpForParameters class method), 101

**C**

**cli** (clize.Clize attribute), 90  
**cli** (clize.help.HelpCli attribute), 105  
**cli** (clize.SubcommandDispatcher attribute), 90  
**CliBoundArguments** (class in clize.parser), 92

**CliSignature** (class in clize.parser), 91  
**CliValueError**, 100  
**Clize** (class in clize), 89  
**clize()** (in module clize), 105  
**clize.ArgumentError** (built-in class), 99  
**clize.errors** (module), 100  
**clize.errors.ArgumentError** (built-in class), 99  
**clize.errors.UserError** (built-in class), 99  
**clize.help** (module), 101  
**clize.legacy** (module), 105  
**clize.parser** (module), 45, 91  
**clize.runner** (module), 89  
**clize.UserError** (built-in class), 99  
**ClizeHelp** (in module clize.help), 105  
**clizer** (clize.SubcommandDispatcher attribute), 90  
**code examples**, 82  
**coerce\_value()** (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95  
**conv** (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue attribute), 95  
**convert\_parameter()** (clize.parser.CliSignature class method), 91  
**converter** (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91

**D**

**datetime()** (in module clize.converters), 66  
**default** (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue attribute), 95  
**default value**, 67  
**default\_converter()** (in module clize.parser), 91  
**description** (clize.help.HelpCli attribute), 105  
**description** (clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter attribute), 99  
**display\_name** (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94  
**document\_from\_sphinx\_docstring()** (in module clize.help), 104  
**DRY**, 21  
**DuplicateNamedArgument**, 100

**E**

**EL\_AFTER** (in module clize.help), 102

EL\_FREE\_TEXT (in module clize.help), 102  
 EL\_LABEL (in module clize.help), 102  
 EL\_PARAM\_DESC (in module clize.help), 102  
 elements\_from\_clize\_docstring() (in module clize.help), 102  
 ExtraPosArgsParameter (class in clize.parser), 98  
 extras (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94

## F

FallbackCommandParameter (class in clize.parser), 99  
 false\_triggers (clize.parser.FlagParameter attribute), 96  
 file() (in module clize.converters), 66  
 FlagParameter (class in clize.parser), 96  
 footer (clize.help.HelpForParameters attribute), 101  
 footer (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands attribute), 104  
 format\_argument() (clize.parser.FlagParameter method), 97  
 format\_argument() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97  
 format\_type() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97  
 from\_signature() (clize.parser.CliSignature class method), 91  
 from\_subject() (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring class method), 103  
 from\_subject() (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands class method), 104  
 func (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92  
 func (clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter attribute), 99  
 func\_signature (clize.Clize attribute), 90

## G

get\_all\_names() (clize.parser.NamedParameter method), 96  
 get\_all\_names() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97  
 get\_all\_names() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94  
 get\_cli() (clize.Clize class method), 90  
 get\_collection() (clize.parser.AppendArguments method), 98  
 get\_collection() (clize.parser.ExtraPosArgsParameter method), 98  
 get\_collection() (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98  
 get\_full\_name() (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98  
 get\_full\_name() (clize.parser.NamedParameter method), 96  
 get\_full\_name() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97  
 get\_full\_name() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94  
 get\_help() (clize.help.HelpCli method), 105  
 get\_value() (clize.parser.NamedParameter method), 96  
 get\_value() (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95

## H

header (clize.help.HelpForParameters attribute), 101  
 header (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands attribute), 104  
 HELP\_FOOTER (in module clize.help), 103  
 HELP\_HEADER (in module clize.help), 102  
 HELP\_PARAM\_AFTER (in module clize.help), 103  
 HELP\_PARAM\_DESC (in module clize.help), 103  
 help\_parens() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94  
 help\_parens() (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95  
 help\_parens() (clize.parser.PositionalParameter method), 97  
 HelpCli (class in clize.help), 104  
 helper (clize.Clize attribute), 90  
 HelperParameter (class in clize.parser), 95  
 HelpForAutodetectedDocstring (class in clize.help), 103  
 HelpForParameters (class in clize.help), 101  
 HelpForSphinxDocstring (class in clize.help), 104  
 HelpForSubcommands (class in clize.help), 104  
 helpstream\_from\_elements() (in module clize.help), 102

## I

IGNORE (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 75, 93  
 IgnoreAllArguments (class in clize.parser), 98  
 in\_args (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92  
 IntOptionParameter (class in clize.parser), 97  
 is\_alternate\_action (clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter attribute), 99  
 is\_alternate\_action (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94

## K

keep() (clize.Clize class method), 90  
 kwargs (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92

## L

LABEL\_ALT (in module clize.help), 101  
 LABEL\_OPT (in module clize.help), 101  
 LABEL\_POS (in module clize.help), 101  
 LAST\_OPTION (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 76, 93  
 last\_option (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94

## M

make\_flag() (in module clize), 105  
 mapped() (in module clize.parameters), 72  
 max (clize.parser.MultiParameter attribute), 98  
 meta (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92  
 min (clize.parser.MultiParameter attribute), 98  
 MissingRequiredArguments, 100  
 MissingValue, 100  
 multi() (in module clize.parameters), 73  
 MultiParameter (class in clize.parser), 98

## N

name (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92

- named (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91
- namedparam (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- NamedParameter (class in clize.parser), 96
- not\_provided (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- NotEnoughValues, 100
- ## O
- one\_of() (in module clize.parameters), 72
- OptionParameter (class in clize.parser), 97
- ## P
- Parameter (class in clize.parser), 93
- parameter converter, 74
- parameter\_converter() (in module clize.parser), 91
- parameters (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91
- parameters() (clize.Clize method), 89
- ParameterWithSourceEquivalent (class in clize.parser), 95
- ParameterWithValue (class in clize.parser), 95
- parse\_docstring() (clize.help.HelpForAutodetectedDocstring method), 104
- pass\_name() (in module clize.parameters), 76
- posarg\_only (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- positional (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91
- PositionalParameter (class in clize.parser), 97
- posparam (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- post\_name (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- post\_parse() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94
- post\_parse() (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95
- prepare\_help() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 95
- process\_arguments() (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments method), 93
- Python Enhancement Proposals
- PEP 3102, 17
  - PEP 3107, 16, 17
  - PEP 8, 115
- ## R
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.AlternateCommandParameter method), 99
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.FallbackCommandParameter method), 99
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.FlagParameter method), 97
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.IgnoreAllArguments method), 99
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.IntOptionParameter method), 97
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 47, 94
- read\_argument() (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95
- read\_arguments() (clize.parser.CliSignature method), 91
- read\_commandline() (clize.Clize method), 90
- redispatch\_short\_arg() (clize.parser.NamedParameter method), 96
- required (clize.parser.CliSignature attribute), 91
- required (clize.parser.FlagParameter attribute), 96
- required (clize.parser.MultiParameter attribute), 98
- REQUIRED (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 68, 69, 94
- required (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94
- required (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue attribute), 95
- run() (in module clize), 89
- ## S
- sections (clize.help.HelpForParameters attribute), 101
- set\_value() (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98
- set\_value() (clize.parser.OptionParameter method), 97
- set\_value() (clize.parser.ParameterWithValue method), 95
- set\_value() (clize.parser.PositionalParameter method), 97
- SetErrorContext (class in clize.errors), 100
- short\_name (clize.parser.NamedParameter attribute), 96
- show() (clize.help.HelpCli method), 105
- show\_full\_usage() (clize.help.HelpCli method), 105
- show\_full\_usage() (clize.help.HelpForParameters method), 102
- show\_full\_usage() (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands method), 104
- show\_help() (clize.help.HelpForParameters method), 102
- show\_help() (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands method), 104
- show\_help() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94
- show\_help\_parens() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94
- show\_usage() (clize.help.HelpCli method), 105
- show\_usage() (clize.help.HelpForParameters method), 102
- show\_usage() (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands method), 104
- sig (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 92
- signature (clize.Clize attribute), 90
- skip (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- sticky (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- SubcommandDispatcher (class in clize), 90
- subcommands (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands attribute), 104
- ## T
- threshold (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute), 93
- TooManyArguments, 100
- TooManyValues, 100

## U

UNDOCUMENTED (clize.parser.Parameter attribute),  
75, 93  
undocumented (clize.parser.Parameter attribute), 94  
UnknownOption, 100  
unsatisfied (clize.parser.CliBoundArguments attribute),  
93  
unsatisfied() (clize.parser.MultiParameter method), 98  
unsatisfied() (clize.parser.Parameter method), 94  
usages() (clize.help.HelpCli method), 105  
usages() (clize.help.HelpForParameters method), 102  
usages() (clize.help.HelpForSubcommands method), 104  
use\_class() (in module clize.parser), 91  
use\_mixin() (in module clize.parser), 92

## V

value (clize.parser.FlagParameter attribute), 97  
value conversion, 66  
value converter, 66  
value\_converter() (in module clize.parser), 95  
value\_inserter() (in module clize.parameters), 77