

# 05\_Functional\_Programming

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Programming Techniques in Computational Linguistics II – FS24

## 1 Lecture 5: Functional Programming

### 1.1 Topics

- Advanced Programming with Functions
- Functional Programming
- Iterables, Iterators and Generators

### 1.2 Learning Objectives

- You know how to use higher order functions, anonymous functions and decorators.
- You can avoid side effects by using built in functions and list comprehensions.
- You can use the `__iter__` special method to make custom classes iterable.
- You know generator functions and their use cases.

## 2 Advanced Programming with Functions

### 2.1 Functions as Objects

Functions in Python are **objects**.

In programming language theory, (first-class) objects are:

- Created at runtime
- Assigned to a variable or element in a datastructure
- Passed as an argument to a function
- Returned as the result of a function

```
[ ]: def count_characters(s: str) -> int:
      '''Returns count of characters in s without whitespace'''
      return len(s) - s.count(' ')
```

```
[ ]: count_characters("Hello World")
```

```
[ ]: print(count_characters)
```

```
[ ]: cc = count_characters
```

```
[ ]: print(cc)
```

```
[ ]: print(count_characters)
```

```
[ ]: cc("Hello World")
```

### 2.1.1 Higher-order Functions

A **higher-order function** is a function that takes a function as an argument or that returns a function.

```
[ ]: fruit = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry', 'banana']  
  
sorted(fruit, key=len)
```

### 2.1.2 Custom Sort Keys

A sort key can be any function that takes one argument.

```
[ ]: fruit = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry', 'banana']  
  
def reverse(word):  
    return word[::-1]
```

```
[ ]: reverse("strawberry")
```

```
[ ]: sorted(fruit, key=reverse)
```

### 2.1.3 Anonymous Functions

To use a higher-order function, sometimes it is convenient to create a small, one-off function.

The `lambda` keyword creates an **anonymous function** within a Python expression.

```
[ ]: fruit = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry', 'banana']  
  
sorted(fruit, key=lambda word: word[::-1])
```

```
[ ]: sorted(fruit, key=lambda word: -word.count('r'))
```

### Example: Nested dictionaries

```
[ ]: from collections import defaultdict  
  
d = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(int))  
  
d["SENT_1"]["NOUNS"] = 3  
d["SENT_1"]["VERBS"] = 2  
d["SENT_2"]["NOUNS"] = 2
```

```
[ ]: d
```

### 2.1.4 Callable Objects

The **call operator** () may be applied to other objects beyond standard functions. To determine whether an object is **callable**, use the `callable()` built-in function.

```
[ ]: callable(print)
```

```
[ ]: callable(lambda x: x.a)
```

```
[ ]: callable(12)
```

### 2.1.5 Types of callables

- **User-defined functions.** Created with `def` statements or `lambda` expressions.
- **Built-in functions.** A function implemented in C like `len` or `time.sleep`.
- **Methods.** Functions defined in the body of a class.
- **Built-in methods.** Methods implemented in C, like `dict.get`.
- **Classes.** When invoked, a class runs its `__new__` method to create an instance, then `__init__` to initialize it, and finally the instance is returned to the caller.
- **Class instances.** If a class defines a `__call__` method, then its instances may be invoked as functions.

```
[ ]: class Word:
    def __init__(self, text: str):
        self.text = text

    def __call__(self):
        print(self.text)

callable(Word)
```

```
[ ]: word = Word("Hello")
word()
```

### 2.1.6 Decorators

A **decorator** takes a callable as argument and adds behavior without explicitly modifying the callable.

Decorators from previous lectures:

```
@classmethod
def introduce(self):
    ...

@abstractmethod
```

```
def do_stuff(self):
    ...
```

Applying a decorator:

```
@mydecorator
def myfunction():
    print('Running myfunction')
```

is equivalent to:

```
def myfunction():
    print('Running myfunction')
```

```
myfunction = mydecorator(myfunction)
```

```
[ ]: def mydecorator(func: callable) -> callable:
      def inner():
          print("Before function call")
          func()
          print("After function call")
      return inner
```

```
[ ]: def myfunction():
      print("Running myfunction")
```

```
[ ]: decorated_function = mydecorator(myfunction)
      decorated_function()
```

```
[ ]: @mydecorator
      def myfunction():
          print("Running myfunction")
```

```
[ ]: myfunction()
```

```
[ ]: import time
      def timer(func: callable) -> callable:
          def inner(*args, **kwargs):
              start_time = time.perf_counter()
              f = func(*args, **kwargs)
              run_time = time.perf_counter() - start_time
              print(f"Finished {func.__name__}() in {run_time:.4f} secs")
              return f
          return inner
```

```
[ ]: @timer
      def myfunction2(n: int) -> int:
          for i in range(n):
              p = i*i-i
          print("Finished for-loop")
```

```
return p
```

```
[ ]: myfunction2(1000)
```

### 2.1.7 Klicker Quiz

<https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische>

## 3 Functional Programming

### 3.1 What is Functional Programming?

Theoretically:

- avoiding side effects
- avoiding mutable data
- preferring expressions over statements
- using pure functions

Practically in Python: a frequent use of:

- the `lambda` operator
- `zip()` and `enumerate()`
- `map()` and `filter()`
- list comprehensions

#### 3.1.1 Pure Functions

A function is considered pure if

- it has no side effects
  - it does not modify or interact with any data outside of its scope
  - it does not print anything
- always provides the same output for the same inputs

#### Example: Side Effects

```
[ ]: from typing import Iterable

tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercase1(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    for i in range(len(tokens)):
        tokens[i] = tokens[i].lower()
    return tokens
```

```
[ ]: lowercase1(tokens)
```

```
[ ]: print(tokens)
```

Without side effects:

```
[ ]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercase2(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    new_tokens = []
    for token in tokens:
        new_tokens.append(token.lower())
    return new_tokens
```

```
[ ]: print(lowercase2(tokens))
```

```
[ ]: print(tokens)
```

More elegant solution:

```
[ ]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercase3(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    return [token.lower() for token in tokens]

print(lowercase3(tokens))
print(tokens)
```

Klicker-Quiz: “Is this a pure function?” <https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische>

### 3.1.2 Iterators

```
[ ]: fruits = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry']
fruits_it = iter(fruits)
fruits_it
```

```
[ ]: fruits_it.__next__()
```

```
[ ]: next(fruits_it)
```

### 3.1.3 Built-in Function: enumerate()

enumerate() generates index–element pairs from an iterable

```
[ ]: l = ['Fred', 'fed', 'Ted', 'bread', 'and', 'Ted', 'fed', 'Fred', 'bread']
>>> list(enumerate(l))
```

This function is useful when processing a file line by line:

```
with open('lyrics.txt', 'r') as f:
    for i, line in enumerate(f):
        print(i, line)
```

### 3.1.4 Built-in Function: zip()

zip(iterA, iterB, ...) takes one element from each iterable and returns them in a tuple:

```
[ ]: l1 = ['Italy', 'France', 'Switzerland']
      l2 = ['Rome', 'Paris', 'Bern']

      for e1, e2 in zip(l1, l2):
          print(e1, e2)
```

### 3.1.5 dict from zip()

The dict() constructor can accept any iterator that returns a finite stream of (key, value) tuples:

```
[ ]: l1 = ['Italy', 'France', 'Switzerland']
      l2 = ['Rome', 'Paris', 'Bern']

      d = dict(zip(l1, l2))
      print(d)
```

### 3.1.6 Built-in Function: filter()

filter(predicate, iter) returns an iterator over all the sequence elements that meet a certain condition. Its predicate is a function that returns the truth value of some condition.

```
[ ]: # isupper() returns True if all the characters
      # are in upper case, otherwise False.
      l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!!']
      list(filter(str.isupper, l))
```

You can also use an anonymous function as predicate:

```
[ ]: l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!!']

      for x in (filter(lambda s: s != '!!!!', l)):
          print(x)
```

### 3.1.7 Built-in Function: map()

The function passed into map(func, iter) is applied to each item in the iterable.

```
[ ]: list(map(lambda x: x.upper(), ['foo', 'bar']))
```

```
[ ]: list(map(str, ['hello', 123, {'France': 'Paris'}]))
```

### 3.1.8 List Comprehensions

Both filter() and map() can be replaced with list comprehensions:

```
[ ]: l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!']
list(filter(str.isupper, l))

[ ]: [word for word in l if word.isupper()]

[ ]: list(map(lambda x: x.upper(), ['foo', 'bar']))

[ ]: [word.upper() for word in ['foo', 'bar']]
```

### 3.1.9 Dictionary Comprehensions

```
[ ]: DIAL_CODES = [
    (86, 'China'),
    (91, 'India'),
    (1, 'United States'),
    (41, 'Switzerland'),
    (880, 'Bangladesh'),
    ]

[ ]: d = {country: code
        for code, country in DIAL_CODES}
print(d)

[ ]: d

[ ]: {country.upper(): code
      for country, code in d.items()
      if code < 42}
```

### 3.1.10 Exercise

Answer three questions given the sentence:

```
[ ]: s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
tokens = s.split()
```

1. Use `map()` to reverse each token individually. Then convert the expression to a **list comprehension**.
2. Use `filter()` to filter out commas and periods. Then convert the expression to a **list comprehension**.
3. Which syntax do you prefer?

```
[ ]: 
[ ]: 
[ ]:
```



```
[ ]:
```

### 3.1.11 Built-in Functions: min(), max()

```
[ ]: min(['a', 'b', 'c'])
```

```
[ ]: max(['a', 'b', 'c'])
```

Functions like min() or max() are called *reducing*, *folding* or *accumulating* functions.

### 3.1.12 sum() and str.join()

```
[ ]: s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
tokens = s.split()
```

```
[ ]: sum(tokens)
```

```
[ ]: sum([len(token) for token in tokens])
```

```
[ ]: '\n'.join(tokens)
```

### 3.1.13 Built-in Functions: any() and all()

any() returns True if any element in the iterable is a true value.

all() returns True if all of the elements are true values.

```
[ ]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
      return any([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("aou")
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("äou")
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("äöü")
```

```
[ ]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
      return all([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("aou")
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("äou")
```

```
[ ]: may_be_german("äöü")
```

## 4 Iterables, Iterators and Generators

Calling iter() on objects of different types:

```
[ ]: iter({'n': .58, 'v': .37, 'a': .05})
```

```
[ ]: iter('TACTTAATAAAAATAAAGCATATTACATTATTCTCACATGGACTAT')
```

```
[ ]: iter(open('very_large_file.txt'))
```

```
[ ]: iter(5)
```

#### 4.0.1 The iter() Function

Whenever the interpreter needs to **iterate** over an object `x`, it automatically calls `iter(x)`.

The `iter()` built-in function:

1. Checks whether the object implements `__iter__()`, and calls that to obtain an iterator.
2. If `__iter__()` is not implemented but `__getitem__()` is implemented, Python creates an iterator that attempts to fetch items in order, starting from index 0.
3. If that fails, Python raises `TypeError`, usually saying “object is not iterable”.

#### 4.1 Iterable Objects

```
[ ]: class Sentence:

    def __init__(self, text: str):
        self.text = text
        self.tokens = text.split()

    def __getitem__(self, index):
        return self.tokens[index]
```

```
[ ]: s = Sentence('Hello , World !')
```

```
[ ]: for token in s:
    print(token)
```

#### 4.2 Generators

```
[ ]: class Sentence:

    def __init__(self, text: str):
        self.text = text
        self.tokens = text.split()

    def __iter__(self):
        for token in self.tokens:
            yield token
```

```
[ ]: s = Sentence('Hello , World !')
      for token in s:
          print(token)
```

Generators are iterators.

yield is a keyword used to create a generator function.

It is similar to `return`, but where `return` will terminate the function, `yield` will only pause it.

`yield` is highly memory efficient, as the function is only executed when caller iterates over the object. But it must be handled properly.

### 4.3 Lazy Iteration through Generators

```
[ ]: class Sentence:

      def __init__(self, text: str):
          self.text = text

      def __iter__(self):
          while ' ' in self.text:
              token, self.text = self.text.split(maxsplit=1)
              yield token
          yield self.text
```

```
[ ]: s = Sentence('Hello , World !')
      for token in s:
          print(token)
```

#### 4.3.1 Generator Expressions

Generator expressions are an alternative to list comprehensions in two cases:

- When the iterator returns an infinite stream (e.g. prime numbers)
- When the iterator handles a large amount of data.

Generator expressions are surrounded by parentheses `()` while list comprehensions are surrounded by square brackets `[]`.

```
[ ]: infile = open("very_large_file.txt")
      generator = (line.strip().upper() for line in infile if line != "\n")
```

Read and uppercase lines one by one:

```
[ ]: next(generator)
```

```
[ ]: from typing import Iterable

      def fibonacci() -> Iterable[int]:
          x, y = 0, 1
```

```
while True:
    yield y
    x, y = y, x + y
```

```
[ ]: generator = fibonacci()
```

```
[ ]: next(generator)
```

### 4.3.2 Klicker Quiz

<https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische>

## 4.4 Take-home messages

- Higher-order functions have a function as an argument or return value.
- Decorators are higher-order functions used to modify the behaviour of a function.
- The `lambda` keyword creates anonymous functions.
- Functional programming in python means using pure functions, list comprehensions and built in functions like `map`, `filter`, `any`, `zip`, etc.
- Iterables are objects that can be iterated over, Iterators are objects created to handle the iteration.
- The `yield` keyword creates a generator function, a memory efficient way to iterate over a large dataset.