Lambda Expressions Python

Dr. Liat Cohen

Introduction to Lambda Expressions

- What are lambda expressions?
 - Anonymous functions defined using the lambda keyword
 - Useful for short, throwaway functions.
- Syntax and Structure:

lambda arguments: expression

Explanation of components:

- arguments
- single expression

Examples

```
double = lambda x: x* 2
print(double(4))
 #Regular function
def add (x, y):
    return x + y
 #Lambda expression
add = lambda x, y: x + y
```

Key Characteristics and Use Cases

Single-line expressions.

Automatically return the value of the expression.

No need for a name, making them concise and functional

Common Use Case: map, filter, reduce, sort map(function, iterable) filter(function, iterable) reduce(function, iterable) sorted(iterable, key=function) sorted(iterable, key=function, reverse=False)

Explanation of Binding Behavior

In nested lambdas, the outer function captures variables and passes them to the inner function.

Closures:

The inner lambda "remembers" variables from the enclosing scope.

•Illustration of Late Binding:

•Late binding means that variables in a lambda expression are looked up when the lambda is executed, not when it is defined.

Limitations and Best Practices

• Limitations:

- Single expression: Cannot contain statements.
- Limited readability for complex operations.
- No docstrings or annotations.

Best Practices:

- Use for simple, short functions.
- Avoid overly complex lambdas.
- When readability is key, prefer named functions.

Real-World Applications:

- Data processing pipelines.
- Quick prototyping in scripts.
- •Simplifying logic in larger programs.

You are given a list of Students, where each Student is represented with their name, age, and a dictionary of grades in various subjects. The task is to implement several operations using Lambda expressions:

- •Sort the students by their average grade in descending order.
- •Filter out students who have an average grade below a certain threshold.