

# Introduction to Functional Programming.

Using Python Language

---

Sriram Sankaranarayanan

February 25, 2018

# Imperative Programming

What is *imperative programming*?

- Program is a sequence of commands.
- Manipulates *state* step by step.
- Program is a list of statements.
- Includes: conditional statements, while and for loops.
- Includes: subroutines (also called “functions”).

# A Story

**Congratulations!** You just graduated and joined a top company as a Python developer.

*Week 1:* Your boss wants you to write a function:

- Input an integer  $x$ .
- Double the input.
- Add one to the result of the previous step.
- Then, multiply by itself (square it).
- Next, integer divide the result by 2.
- Next, decrement the result by 1
- Return the value so obtained.

# Python Program

```
1 def boss_crazy_fun_v1(x):
2     x = 2 * x    # Double
3     x = x + 1    # Add one
4     x = x * x    # Square
5     x = x // 2   # Integer divide by 2
6     x = x - 1    # Decrement the result by 1
7     return x     # Return
```

# Story (continued)

Good Job!

1. However, our requirements changed.
2. Modify code to operate on list of integers.

# Python Program

```
1 def boss_crazy_fun_v1(lst0):
2     lst1 = [] # This is the return list
3     for x in lst0:
4         x = 2 * x # Double
5         x = x + 1 # Add one
6         x = x * x # Square
7         x = x // 2 # Integer divide by 2
8         x = x - 1 # Decrement the result by 1
9         lst1.append(x)
10    return lst1 # Return
```

## Story (continued)

You are fast! However, requirements changed (again).

The sequence of operations must now be repeated thrice.

# Python Program

```
1 def boss_crazy_fun_v1(lst0):
2     lst1 = [] # This is the return list
3     for x in lst0:
4         for i in range(0,3):
5             x = 2 * x # Double
6             x = x + 1 # Add one
7             x = x * x # Square
8             x = x // 2 # Integer divide by 2
9             x = x - 1 # Decrement the result by 1
10        lst1.append(x)
11    return lst1 # Return
```



# Imperative Programs

1. Program is a sequence of commands I give to a computer.
2. Think in terms of control flow and control structure.
3. Maintains **state**.
4. Accumulator variables for maintaining intermediate results.

# Let's Think Functionally

What is functional programming?

1. Think in terms of **functions**.
2. Programming **composition of functions**.
3. Will avoid loops (for the most part!).
4. Instead we will think iter, map, reduce, filter.

# Functional Programming Languages

Languages are based on *functional* programming:

1. LISP, Scheme, Racket,...
2. ML, SML, OCaml, F#, ...
3. Haskell
4. Scala

Languages that provide support for functional programming style:

1. **Scripting**: Perl, Python, Ruby, PHP, Javascript
2. **Multipurpose**: C++, Java
3. **Query Languages**: SQL
4. **Special Purpose**: R, Julia, ...

We will study **functional programming in Python**:

1. Functions and Composition.
2. Functions as Values, Lambdas and Higher Order Functions.
3. **Applying Functions**: Map, Reduce, Filter, Iter.
4. List Comprehensions in Python.
5. Types/Type Systems.

# Functional Story

```
1 from functools import reduce
2 def boss_crazy_fun_v1(lst0):
3     # define the functions we would like to
4     double = lambda y: 2* y
5     add_one = lambda p: p + 1
6     square = lambda l: l * l
7     div2 = lambda w: w//2
8     decr = lambda z: z - 1
9     # here is the sequence of functions we wish to apply
10    seq = [double, add_one, square, div2, decr]
11    # Compose the functions in list using reduce
12    f = lambda x: reduce( lambda v, f: f(v), seq, x )
13    # map the function f three times to each value in lst0
14    return_val = map( lambda x: f(f(f(x))), lst0)
15    # return the result as a list
16    return list(return_val)
```