

An Introduction to Python Programming

Chapter 6: Defining Functions



Objectives

- To understand why programmers divide programs up into sets of cooperating functions.
- To be able to **define new functions** in Python.
- To understand the **details of function calls** and **parameter passing** in Python.
- To write programs that use functions to **reduce** code duplication and **increase** program modularity.

The Function of Functions

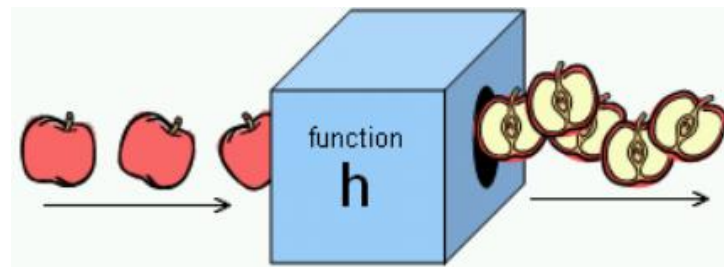
- So far, we've seen **four different** types of functions:
 - ❑ Our programs comprise a single function called `main()`.
 - ❑ Built-in Python functions (`abs`)
 - ❑ Functions from the standard libraries (`math.sqrt`)
 - ❑ Functions from the graphics module (`p.getX()`)

The Function of Functions

- In the futval.py, the code for drawing the bars occurs in **two different places**.
 - ❑ Issue one: writing the same code twice or more.
 - ❑ Issue two: This same code must be maintained in two separate places.
- Functions can be used to **reduce code duplication** and make programs more easily understood and maintained.

Functions, Informally

- A function is like a ***subprogram***, a small program inside of a program.
- The basic idea – we write **a sequence of statements** and then give that sequence **a name**. We can then execute this sequence at any time by referring to the name.



Functions, Informally

- The part of the program that creates a function is called ***a function definition***.
- When the function is used in a program, we say the definition is ***called or invoked***.

Functions, Informally

- Happy Birthday lyrics...

```
>>> def main():  
    print("Happy birthday to you!")  
    print("Happy birthday to you!")  
    print("Happy birthday, dear Fred.")  
    print("Happy birthday to you!")
```

- Gives us this...

```
>>> main()  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday, dear Fred.  
Happy birthday to you!
```

Functions, Informally

- The **duplicate code** :

```
print("Happy birthday to you!")
```

- We can **define a function** to print out this line:

```
>>> def happy():  
    print("Happy birthday to you!")
```

- With this function, we can rewrite our program.

Functions, Informally

- The new program

```
>>> def singFred():  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy birthday, dear Fred.")  
    happy()
```

- Gives us this output

```
>>> singFred()  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday, dear Fred.  
Happy birthday to you!
```

Functions, Informally

- What if it's Lucy's birthday? We could write a new singLucy function!

```
>>> def singLucy():  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy birthday, dear Lucy.")  
    happy()
```

Functions, Informally

- We could write a **main program** to sing to both Lucy and Fred

```
>>> def main():  
    singFred()  
    print()  
    singLucy()
```

- this new output :

```
>>> main()  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday, dear Fred.  
Happy birthday to you!
```

```
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday, dear Lucy.  
Happy birthday to you!
```

Functions, Informally

- But... there's **still a lot of code duplication**.
- The only difference between *singFred* and *singLucy* is the name. These two routines could be collapsed together by using a ***parameter***.

```
>>> def sing(person):  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy Birthday, dear", person + ".")  
    happy()
```

Functions, Informally

- The generic function *sing*
- This function uses a **parameter named person**.
- A *parameter* is a **variable** that is **initialized** when the function is called.
- We can put together a new main program!

```
>>> def main():  
    sing("Fred")  
    print()  
    sing("Lucy")  
    print()  
    sing("Elmer")
```

Future Value with a Function

- In the future value graphing program, we see similar code:

```
# Draw bar for initial principal
bar = Rectangle(Point(0, 0), Point(1, principal))
bar.setFill("green")
bar.setWidth(2)
bar.draw(win)

bar = Rectangle(Point(year, 0), Point(year+1, principal))
bar.setFill("green")
bar.setWidth(2)
bar.draw(win)
```

Future Value with a Function

- To properly draw the bars, we need **three pieces of information**.
 - ❑ The **year** the bar is for
 - ❑ How **tall** the bar should be
 - ❑ The **window** the bar will be drawn in
- These three values can be supplied as **parameters** to the function.

Future Value with a Function

- The resulting function looks like this:

```
def drawBar(window, year, height):  
    # Draw a bar in window for given year with given height  
    bar = Rectangle(Point(year, 0), Point(year+1, height))  
    bar.setFill("green")  
    bar.setWidth(2)  
    bar.draw(window)
```

- If win is a Graphwin, we can draw a bar for year 0 and principal of \$2000 using this call:

```
drawBar(win, 0, 2000)
```


Future Value with a Function

```
# futval_graph3.py
from graphics import *

def drawBar(window, year, height):
    # Draw a bar in window starting at year with given height
    bar = Rectangle(Point(year, 0), Point(year+1, height))
    bar.setFill("green")
    bar.setWidth(2)
    bar.draw(window)

def main():
    # Introduction
    print("This program plots the growth of a 10-year investment.")

    # Get principal and interest rate
    principal = float(input("Enter the initial principal: "))
    apr = float(input("Enter the annualized interest rate: "))

    # Create a graphics window with labels on left edge
    win = GraphWin("Investment Growth Chart", 320, 240)
    win.setBackground("white")
```

Future Value with a Function

```
win.setCoords(-1.75,-200, 11.5, 10400)
Text(Point(-1, 0), ' 0.0K').draw(win)
Text(Point(-1, 2500), ' 2.5K').draw(win)
Text(Point(-1, 5000), ' 5.0K').draw(win)
Text(Point(-1, 7500), ' 7.5k').draw(win)
Text(Point(-1, 10000), '10.0K').draw(win)

drawBar(win, 0, principal)
for year in range(1, 11):
    principal = principal * (1 + apr)
    drawBar(win, year, principal)

input("Press <Enter> to quit.")
win.close()
main()
```

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- But why is **window** also a parameter to this function?
- The **scope** of a variable refers to the places in a program a given variable can be referenced.
- Each function is its own little subprogram. The **variables** used inside of one function are **local** to that function.
- The only way for a function to see a variable from another function is for that variable to be **passed as a parameter**.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- Since the `GraphWin` in the variable `win` is created inside of `main`, it is not directly accessible in `drawBar`.
- The `window` parameter in `drawBar` gets assigned the value of `win` from `main` when `drawBar` is called.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- A **function definition** looks like this:

```
def <name>(<formal-parameters>):  
    <body>
```

- ❑ The name of the function must be an **identifier**
- ❑ Formal parameters, like all variables used in the function, are **only accessible** in the body of the function.
- ❑ A function is called by using its name followed by a list of *actual parameters* or *arguments*. **<name>(<actual-parameters>)**

Functions and Parameters: The Details

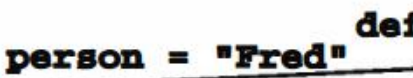
- When Python comes to a function call, it initiates a four-step process.
 - ❑ The calling program **suspends** execution at the point of the call.
 - ❑ The formal parameters of the function **get assigned** the values supplied by the actual parameters in the call.
 - ❑ The body of the function is **executed**.
 - ❑ Control **returns** to the point just after where the function was called.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- For example:

```
    sing("Fred")  
    print()  
    sing("Lucy")
```

```
def main():  
    sing("Fred")  
    print()  
    sing("Lucy")  
  
def sing(person):  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy birthday, dear", person + ".")  
    happy()
```



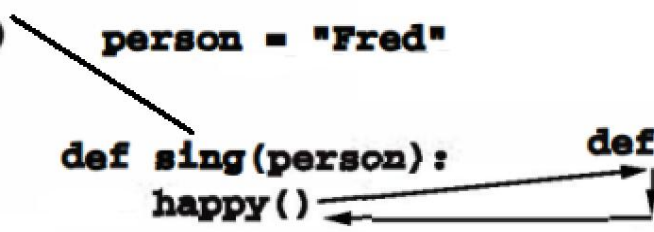
person: "Fred"

The variable **person** has just been initialized.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- Python begins executing the body of `sing`:

```
def main():  
    sing("Fred")  
    print()  
    sing("Lucy")  
    person = "Fred"
```



```
def sing(person):  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy birthday, dear", person + ".")  
    happy()  
def happy():  
    print("Happy Birthday to you!")
```


`person: "Fred"`

- When Python gets to the **end** of `sing`, control returns to `main` and continues immediately after the function call.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

- The completed call to sing

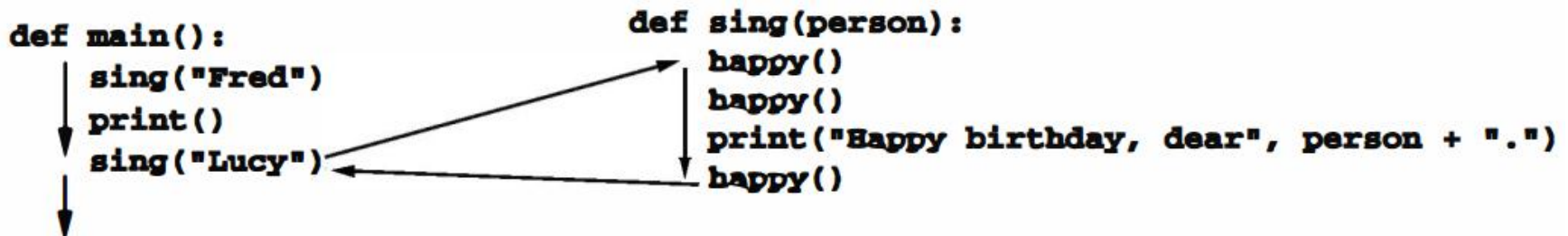
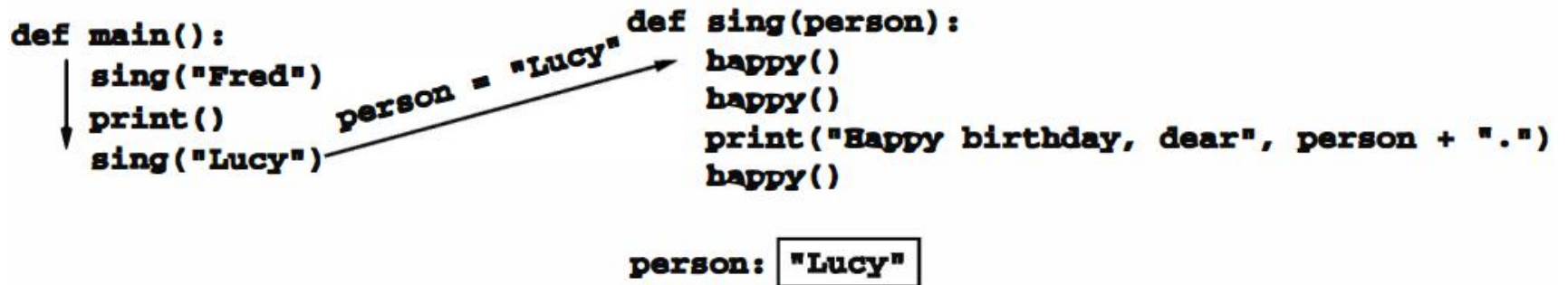
```
def main():  
    sing("Fred")  
    print()  
    sing("Lucy")  
  
def sing(person):  
    happy()  
    happy()  
    print("Happy birthday, dear", person + ".")  
    happy()
```



- ❑ Notice that the **person** variable in **sing** has disappeared!
- ❑ The memory occupied by local function variables is **reclaimed** when the function exits.
- ❑ **Local variables** do **not** retain any values from one function execution to the next.

Functions and Parameters: The Details

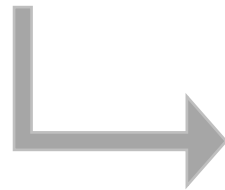
- After `print()`, python encounters **another call** to `sing`, and control transfers to the `sing` function.



Functions and Parameters: The Details

- As to multiple parameters, the formal and actual parameters are matched up based on ***position***. The first actual parameter is assigned to the first formal parameter, the second is assigned to the second formal parameter, etc.
- For example:

```
drawBar(win, 0, principal)  
def drawBar(window, year, height):
```



```
    window = win  
    year = 0  
    height = principal
```

Functions That Return Values

- We've already seen numerous functions that **return values to the caller**.

```
discRt = math.sqrt(b*b - 4*a*c)
```

- The value $b*b - 4*a*c$ is the **actual parameter**.
- We say `sqrt` *returns* the square root of its argument.

Functions That Return Values

- This function returns the square of a number:

```
def square(x):  
    return x ** 2
```

- ❑ When Python encounters **return**, it exits the function and **returns** control to the point where the function was called.
- ❑ The value(s) provided in the **return** statement are sent back to the caller as an expression result.

Functions That Return Values

```
>>>  
>>> def square(x):  
...     return x*x  
...  
>>> square(3)  
9  
>>> x=5  
>>> y=square(x)  
>>> print(y)  
25  
>>> print (square(x)+square(3))  
34  
>>>
```

Functions That Return Values

- We can use the square function to **write another function** to calculate the distance between (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) .

```
def distance(p1, p2):  
    dist = math.sqrt(square(p2.getX() - p1.getX())  
                      + square(p2.getY() - p1.getY()))  
    return dist
```

- Let's find the example on P189 of the book.

Functions That Return Values

- Let's go back to the Happy Birthday program.

```
# happy2.py
```

```
def happy():  
    return "Happy Birthday to you!\n"  
  
def verseFor(person):  
    lyrics = happy()*2 + "Happy birthday, dear " + person + ".\n" + happy()  
    return lyrics  
  
def main():  
    for person in ["Fred", "Lucy", "Elmer"]:  
        print(verseFor(person))  
  
main()
```

*being more elegant and, also
more flexible*

Functions That Return Values

- We can easily modify the program to **write the results into a file** instead of to the screen.

```
def main():  
    outf = open("Happy_Birthday.txt", "w")  
    for person in ["Fred", "Lucy", "Elmer"]:  
        print(verseFor(person), file=outf)  
    outf.close()
```

- **Having functions return values** rather than printing information to the screen gives the caller more choices.

Functions That Return Values

- Sometimes a function needs to return **more than one value**.
- To do this, simply list more than one expression in the **return** statement.

```
def sumDiff(x,y):  
    sum = x + y  
    diff = x - y  
    return sum, diff
```

Functions That Return Values

- When calling this function, use **simultaneous assignment**.
- The values are assigned **based on position**, so *s* gets the first value returned (the sum), and *d* gets the second (the difference).

```
num1, num2 = input("Please enter two numbers (num1, num2) ").split(",")  
s, d = sumDiff(float(num1), float(num2))  
print("The sum is", s, "and the difference is", d)
```

Functions That Return Values

- One “**gotcha**”:
 - All Python functions **return a value**, whether they contain a **return** statement or not. Functions **without** a **return** hand back a special object, denoted **None**.
 - **A common problem** is writing a value-returning function and omitting the **return**!

```
# happy2.py
def happy():
    return "Happy Birthday to you!\n"
def verseFor(person):
    lyrics = happy()*2 + "Happy birthday, dear " + person + ".\n" + happy()
    #return lyrics
def main():
    for person in ["Fred", "Lucy", "Elmer"]:
        print(verseFor(person))
main()
```

D:\Anaconda3\python.exe C:/Users/J...
None
None
None
Process finished with exit code 0

Functions that Modify Parameters

- Sometimes, we can **communicate back to the caller** by making changes to the function parameters.

□ Here is a first attempt at such a function:

```
# addinterest1.py
def addInterest(balance, rate):
    newBalance = balance * (1+rate)
    balance = newBalance
```

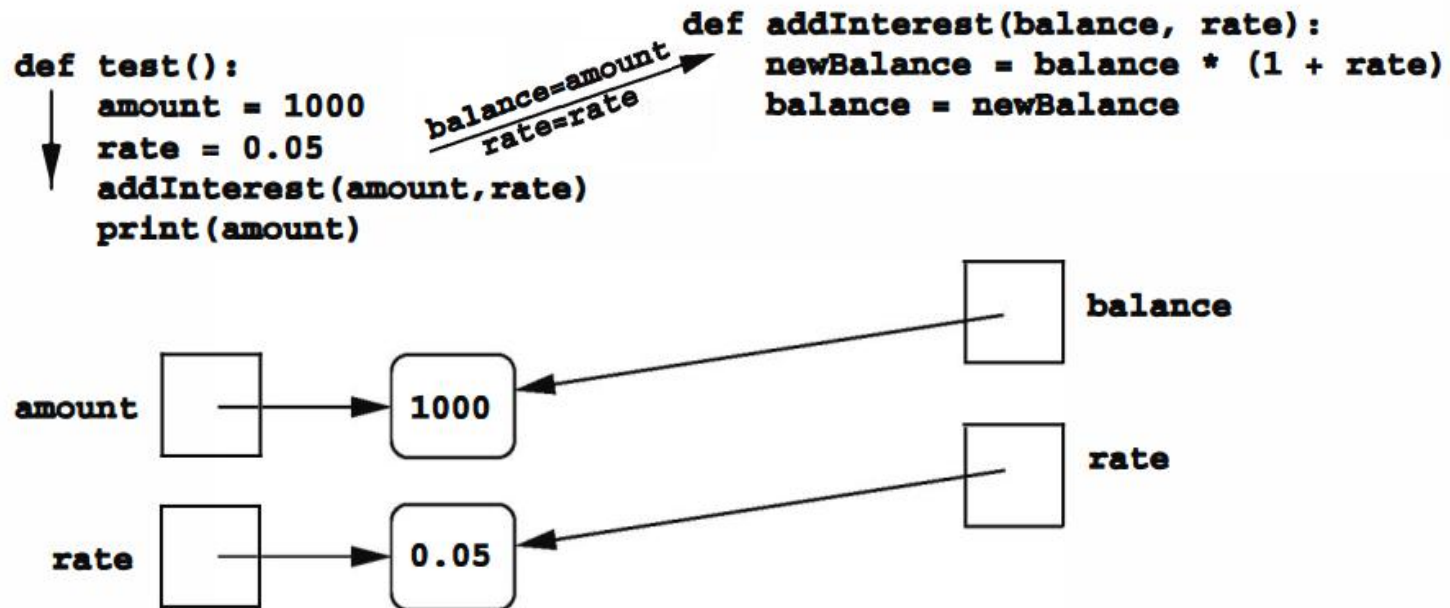
□ Let's try out our function (but, *the output is 1000*):

```
def test():
    amount = 1000
    rate = 0.05
    addInterest(amount, rate)
    print(amount)
```

Functions that Modify Parameters

- What went wrong? Nothing!

❑ Transfer of control to addinterest



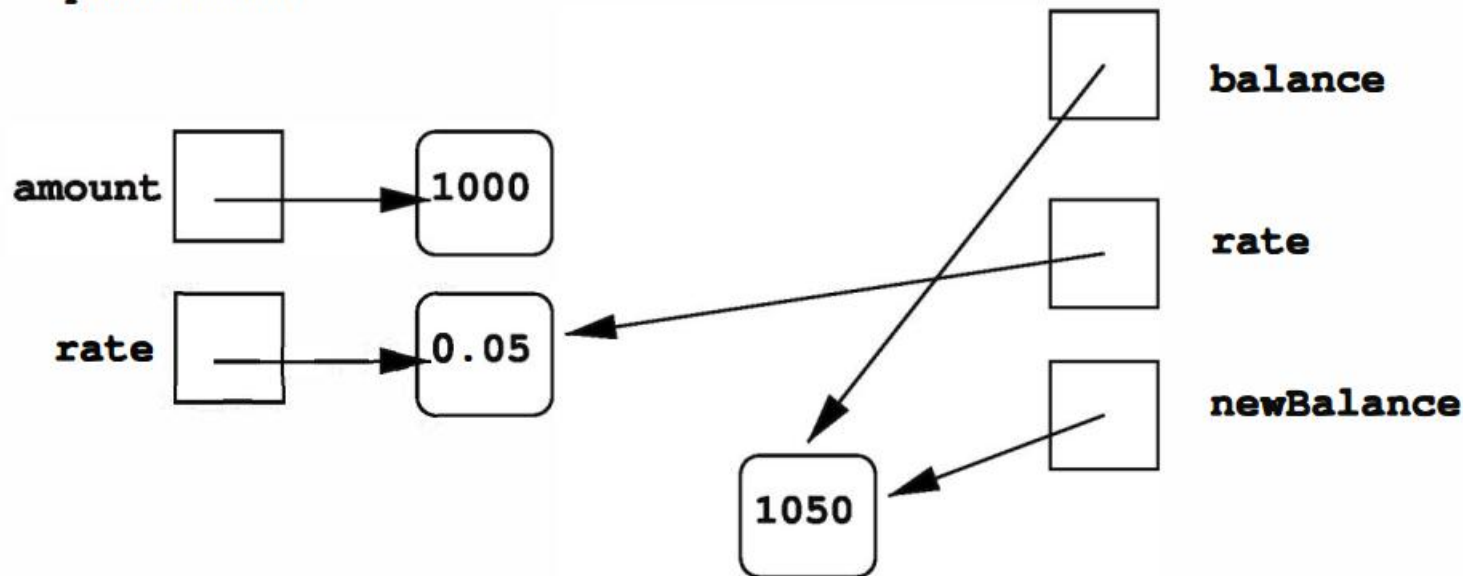
Functions that Modify Parameters

❑ Assignment of balance

```
def test():  
    amount = 1000  
    rate = 0.05  
    addInterest(amount, rate)  
    print amount
```

↙ *balance=amount* ↘
↙ *rate=rate* ↘

```
def addInterest(balance, rate):  
    newBalance = balance*(1+rate)  
    balance = newBalance
```



Functions that Modify Parameters

- One alternative would be to change the `addInterest` function so that it **returns** the `newBalance`.

```
def addInterest(balance, rate):  
    newBalance = balance * (1+rate)  
    return newBalance  
  
def test():  
    amount = 1000  
    rate = 0.05  
    amount = addInterest(amount, rate)  
    print(amount)
```


Functions that Modify Parameters

- Say we are writing a program for a bank that deals with **many accounts**.
- We could store the account balances in a **list**, then add the accrued interest to each of the balances in the list.
- We could **update** the first balance in the list with code like:

```
balances[0] = balances[0] * (1 + rate)
```

Functions that Modify Parameters

- A more general way to do this would be with a **loop** that goes through positions **0, 1, ..., length – 1**.

```
for i in range(len(balances)):
    balances[i] = balances[i] * (1+rate)
```

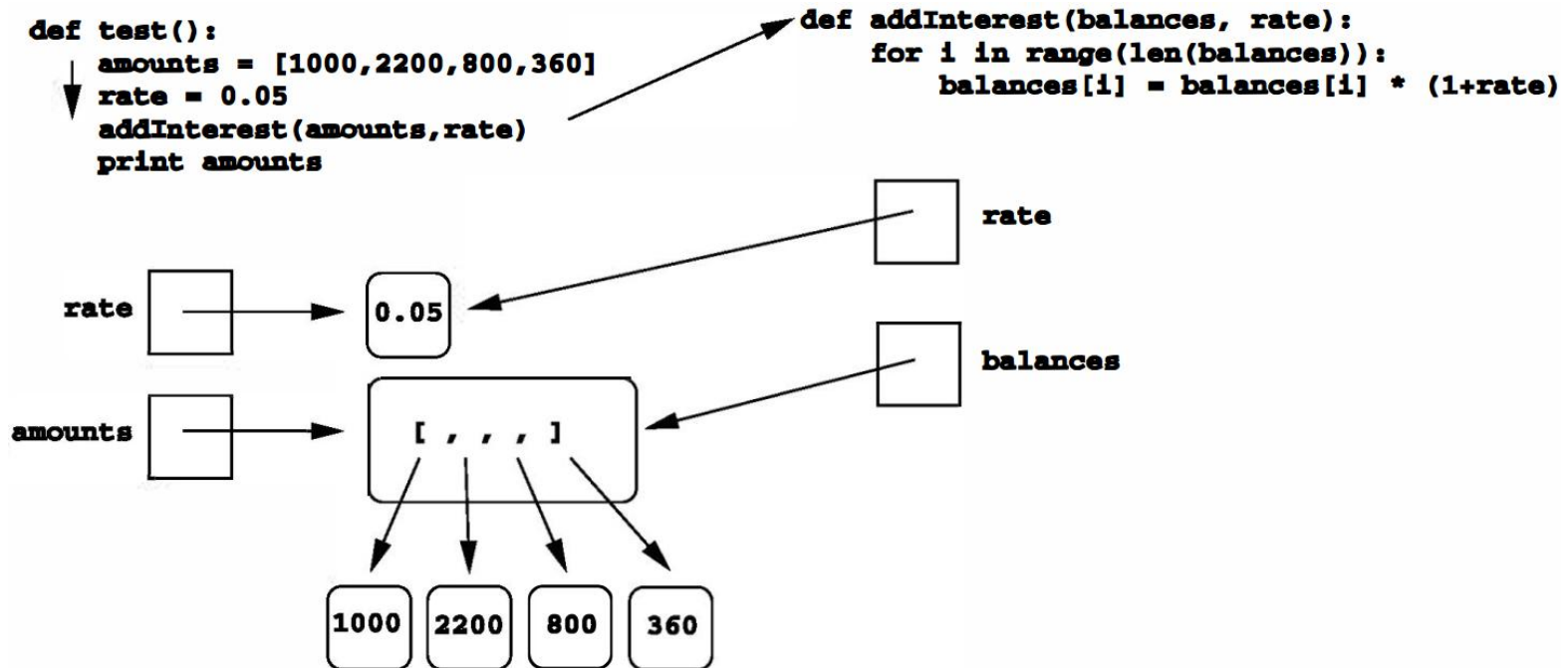
```
def test():
    amounts = [1000, 2200, 800, 360]
    rate = 0.05
    addInterest(amounts, rate)
    print(amounts)
```

```
>>> test()
[1050.0, 2310.0, 840.0, 378.0]
```

Amounts has been changed!

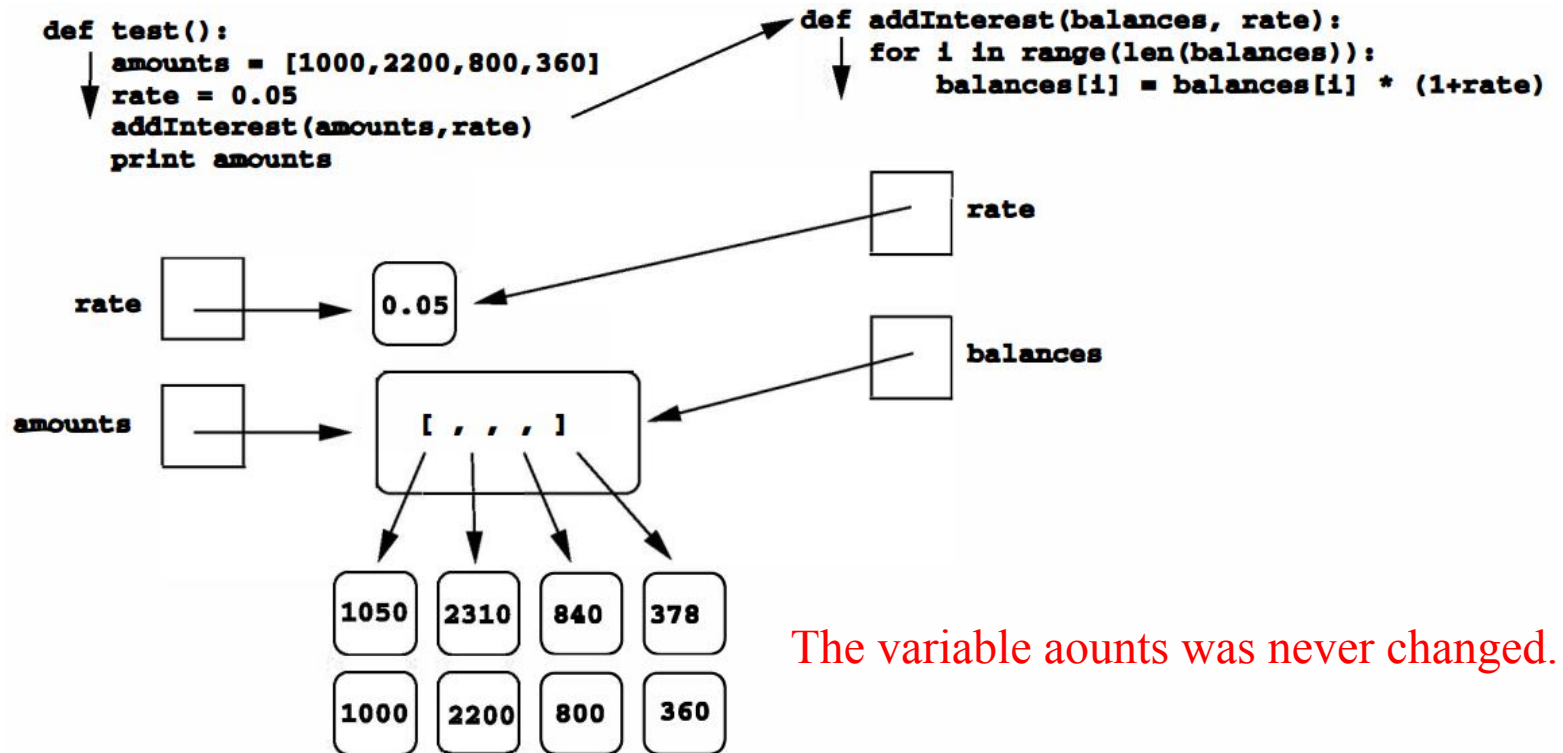
Functions that Modify Parameters

❑ Transfer of list parameter to addinterest:



Functions that Modify Parameters

❑ List modified in addinterest:



Functions that Modify Parameters

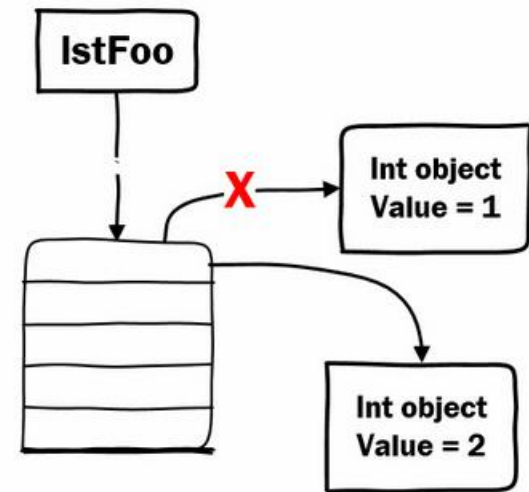
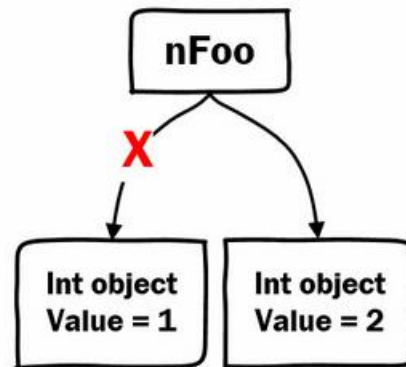
- To summarize: the formal parameters of a function only **receive the *values* of the actual parameters**. The function **does not have access to the variable** that holds the actual parameter.
- Python passes all parameters **by value**. But to a **mutable** or **immutable** parameter, its value will be modified in different ways.

Functions that Modify Parameters

- Mutable & immutable objects:
 - **A mutable object** can be changed after it is created, such as list, dic、 set , etc.
 - **An immutable** object can't be changed, for example int、 float、 str、 tuple, etc.

Functions that Modify Parameters

```
>>> nfoo=1
>>> print(id(nfoo))
492400096
>>> nfoo=2
>>> print(id(nfoo))
492400128
>>>
>>> lstFoo=[1]
>>> print(lstFoo)
[1]
>>> print(id(lstFoo))
37089224
>>> lstFoo[0]=2
>>> print(lstFoo)
[2]
>>> print(lstFoo)
[2]
>>> print(id(lstFoo))
37089224
>>>
```



Functions that Modify Parameters

- Something important!

❑ Example 1:

```
1  #处理多个银行账户的余额信息
2  def addInterest(balances, rate):
3      for i in range(len(balances)):
4          balances[i] = balances[i] * (1+rate)
5  def test():
6      amounts = [1000, 105, 3500, 739]
7      rate = 0.05
8      addInterest(amounts, rate)
9      print(amounts)
10
11 test()
```

To mutable parameters, the value will be changed directly.

❑ Outputs: 1 | [1050.0, 110.25, 3675.0, 775.95]

Functions that Modify Parameters

□ Analysis this:

```
1 # 处理多个银行账户的余额信息
2 def addInterest(balances, rates):
3     print()
4     print("第二处", id(balances))
5     for i in range(len(balances)):
6         balances[i]= balances[i]*(1+rates)
7         print()
8         print("第三处",id(balances))
9     def test():
10         amounts = [1000,105,3500,739]
11         print()
12         print("第一处",id(amounts))
13         rate = 0.05
14         addInterest(amounts, rate)
15         print()
16         print(amounts)
17         print()
18         print("第四处",id(amounts))
19     test()
```

```
1 第一处 41203656
2
3 第二处 41203656
4
5 第三处 41203656
6
7 第三处 41203656
8
9 第三处 41203656
10
11 第三处 41203656
12
13 [1050.0, 110.25, 3675.0, 775.95]
14
15 第四处 41203656
```

Functions that Modify Parameters

□ Example 2:

```
1  # 计算单个银行账户余额
2  def addinterest(balance, rate):
3      print("第二处", id(balance))
4      newBalance = balance * (1 + rate)
5      print()
6      print("第三处", id(balance))
7      print()
8      print("第四处", id(newBalance))
9      return newBalance
10
11
12 def main():
13     amount = 1000
14     print("第一处", id(amount))
15     print()
16     rate = 0.05
17     amount = addinterest(amount, rate)
18     print()
19     print("第五处", id(amount))
20     print()
21     print(amount)
22     print("第六处", id(amount))
```

Functions that Modify Parameters

□ Outputs:

1	第一处	33533648
2		
3	第二处	33533648
4		
5	第三处	33533648
6		
7	第四处	33563344
8		
9	第五处	33563344
10		
11	1050.0	
12	第六处	33563344

To **immutable** parameters, a new object will be build and returned.

Functions that Modify Parameters

□ Example 3:

```
1 def change(val):  
2     newval = [10]  
3     val= val + newval # val=val+[10] is not serious  
4  
5     nums = [0, 1]  
6     change(nums)  
7     print(nums)
```

□ The output:

```
1 | [0, 1]
```

With “=”, the **mutable** parameter “val”,
point to a new memory address.

Functions that Modify Parameters

❑ Change the program like this, then it will work!

```
1 def change(val):  
2     val.append(10)  
3 nums = [0, 1]  
4 change(nums)  
5 print(nums)
```

Functions and Program Structure

- As the **algorithms** you design get **increasingly complex**, it gets more and more difficult to make sense out of the programs.
- One way is to break an algorithm down into **smaller subprograms**, each of which makes sense on its own.
- Let's go to the **futval.py** again.

Functions and Program Structure

```
def main():
    # Introduction
    print("This program plots the growth of a 10-year investment.")

    # Get principal and interest rate
    principal = float(input("Enter the initial principal: "))
    apr = float(input("Enter the annualized interest rate: "))

    # Create a graphics window with labels on left edge
    win = GraphWin("Investment Growth Chart", 320, 240)
    win.setBackground("white")
    win.setCoords(-1.75,-200, 11.5, 10400)
    Text(Point(-1, 0), ' 0.0K').draw(win)
    Text(Point(-1, 2500), ' 2.5K').draw(win)
    Text(Point(-1, 5000), ' 5.0K').draw(win)
    Text(Point(-1, 7500), ' 7.5k').draw(win)
```

Functions and Program Structure

```
Text(Point(-1, 10000), '10.0K').draw(win)

# Draw bar for initial principal
drawBar(win, 0, principal)

# Draw a bar for each subsequent year
for year in range(1, 11):
    principal = principal * (1 + apr)
    drawBar(win, year, principal)

input("Press <Enter> to quit.")
win.close()

main()
```


Functions and Program Structure

- We can make this program **more readable** by using a **value returning function**.

```
def createLabeledWindow():  
    # Returns a GraphWin with title and labels drawn  
    window = GraphWin("Investment Growth Chart", 320, 240)  
    window.setBackground("white")  
    window.setCoords(-1.75,-200, 11.5, 10400)  
    Text(Point(-1, 0), ' 0.0K').draw(window)  
    Text(Point(-1, 2500), ' 2.5K').draw(window)  
    Text(Point(-1, 5000), ' 5.0K').draw(window)  
    Text(Point(-1, 7500), ' 7.5k').draw(window)  
    Text(Point(-1, 10000), '10.0K').draw(window)  
    return window
```

Functions and Program Structure

```
def main():  
    print("This program plots the growth of a 10-year investment.")  
  
    principal = input("Enter the initial principal: ")  
    apr = input("Enter the annualized interest rate: ")  
  
    win = createLabeledWindow()  
    drawBar(win, 0, principal)  
    for year in range(1, 11):  
        principal = principal * (1 + apr)  
        drawBar(win, year, principal)  
  
    input("Press <Enter> to quit.")  
    win.close()
```

It becomes nearly self-documenting