Functions as First-Class Citizens

- Functions as first-class citizens means that we can pass functions around in a program as **values**, not much different than an integer or real value!
- When functional languages first appeared in the late 1970’s and the 1980’s this was a radical concept
- Today almost all modern languages support this, e.g.
  - Asteroid, Python, JavaScript, Rust, Go

Functions as First-Class Citizens

```
-- first-class functions

function inc with i do
    return i+1.
end

let foo = inc.  -- foo now holds a function value
let x = foo(1). -- execute the function value with argument 1.
assert (x == 2).
```

Python

- Python supports functions as first-class citizens

```
[lutz$ python3
Python 3.8.2 (default, Jun  8 2021, 11:59:35)
[Clang 12.0.5 (clang-1205.0.22.11)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
[>>> def inc(i):
[...     return i+1
[...
[>>> foo = inc
[>>> foo(1)
2
>>>
```

Higher-Order Programming

- Higher-order programming refers to the fact that we take advantage of functions as values in our algorithms.
- Note: Higher-Order programming does not refer to applying functional programming to more difficult problems.

Generic Functions

- One interesting consequence of functions as values is that we can write generic functions whose behavior we can influence by passing in functions.
- In the following ‘c’ is a generic function whose behavior we can influence by passing in specific functions

Generic Functions

```
-- first-class functions

function inc with i do
    return i+1.
end

function dec with i do
    return i-1.
end

-- c expects a function f and a value v and
-- returns the value of applying f to v.
function c with (f,v) do
    return f(v).
end

-- we can now modify the behavior of c by
-- passing in different functions
let x = c(inc,1).
assert(x==2).

let y = c(dec,1).
assert(y==0).
```

Python

```python
# first-class functions

# define our increment function
def inc(i):
    return i+1

# define our decrement function
def dec(i):
    return i-1

# c expects a function and a value
def c(f,v):
    return f(v)

# we can modify c's behavior depending what kind of
# function we pass it.

x = c (inc,1)
assert(x == 2)

y = c (dec,1)
assert(y == 0)
```

Function Dispatch Table

- Another powerful idea from higher-order programming is the idea of function dispatch tables
- Here we store functions in a table indexed by some sort of key
- Given a key we retrieve the associated function and execute it

Function Dispatch Tables

```
-- program to demonstrate function dispatch tables
load system hash.

-- functions to be put into the dispatch table
function good_morning with name do
    return ("Good morning, "+name+"!").
end

function good_afternoon with name do
    return ("Good afternoon, "+name+"!").
end

function good_evening with name do
    return ("Good evening, "+name+"!").
end

-- create our dispatch table
let myhash = hash @hash().
myhash @insert ("morning",good_morning).
myhash @insert ("afternoon",good_afternoon).
myhash @insert ("evening",good_evening).

-- test out dispatch table
let greeting_function = myhash @get ("morning").
assert(greeting_function ("Joe") == "Good morning, Joe!").
```

Function Dispatch Tables

We can do the same thing in Python!

```python
# program to demonstrate function dispatch tables

# functions to be put into the dispatch table
def good_morning(name):
    return ("Good morning, "+name+"!")

def good_afternoon(name):
    return ("Good afternoon, "+name+"!")

def good_evening(name):
    return ("Good evening, "+name+"!")

# create our dispatch table
myhash = dict()
myhash.update({"morning":good_morning})
myhash.update({"afternoon":good_afternoon})
myhash.update({"evening":good_evening})

# test out dispatch table
greeting_function = myhash["morning"]
assert(greeting_function("Joe") == "Good morning, Joe!")
```

The Lambda Function

- The most well-known feature of higher-order programming is the *lambda* function.
- A lambda function is a function definition without a name.
- In functional-style programming this is often used for functions that are so trivial that they don't warrant a full function definition

```
Asteroid Version 1.1.3
(c) University of Rhode Island
Type "asteroid -h" for help
Press CTRL-D to exit
ast> let y = (lambda with x do x+1) 1.
ast> y
2
ast>
```

```
Python 3.9.6 (default, Sep 13 2022, 22:03:16)
[Clang 14.0.0 (clang-1400.0.29.102)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> y = (lambda x : x+1) (1)
>>> y
2
>>>
```

The Lambda Function

- Lambda functions are values!

Asteroid:

```
ast> let p = (lambda with x do x+1).
ast> let y = p(1).
ast> y
2
ast>
```

Python:

```
>>> p = (lambda x : x+1)
>>> y = p(1)
>>> y
2
>>>
```

- The true power of lambda functions only becomes apparent when combined with other higher-order programming features

The Map Function

- The map function allows you to replace iteration over a list with <u>mapping</u> a function onto the list.
- The map function is a higher-order function since it expects a function as a parameter.

The Map Function

- Asteroid

iteration

```
-- compute a list whose elements are incremented
-- by one compared to the input list

let a = [1,2,3].
let b = [].

-- iterate over the list
for e in a do
  b @append(e+1).
end

assert(b == [2,3,4]).
```

mapping

```
-- compute a list whose elements are incremented
-- by one compared to the input list

let a = [1,2,3].
let b = [].

-- using map
let b = a @map(lambda with i do i+1).

assert(b == [2,3,4]).
```

The Map Function

- Python

```python
# compute a list whose elements are incremented
# by one compared to the input list

a = [1,2,3]
b = []

# iterate over the list
for e in a:
  b.append(e+1)

assert(b == [2,3,4])
```

```python
# compute a list whose elements are incremented
# by one compared to the input list

a = [1,2,3]
b = []

# using map
b = list(map((lambda x : x+1), a))

assert(b == [2,3,4])
```

The Map Function

- One way to think about map is that it applies the given function to each element of the list.

```
[1,2,3] @map(lambda with i do i+1)
```

```
[
  (lambda with i do i+1) 1,
  (lambda with i do i+1) 2,
  (lambda with i do i+1) 3
]
```

```
[2,3,4]
```

The Map Function

- The lists themselves can consist of structured objects – the supplied function must be able to handle the elements of the list as arguments.
- The return value of the function being mapped can be different from its input values.

```
-- applying map to a list of tuples
let l = [(1,2),(3,4),(5,6)] @map(lambda with (x,y) do x+y).
assert(l == [3,7,11]).
```

The Map Function

- Map is not restricted to lambda functions
- You can map any appropriate function onto a list.
- Advantage of this approach
  - No iteration
  - A quick way to transform a list

The Map Function

```
-- show that map will map any function onto a list
-- here we map a greeting onto a list of names
-- the result is a list of greetings

let names = ["Joe","Bridget","Peter"].

function greeting with name do
    return "Hello "+name+"!".
end

let greetings = names @map greeting.
assert(greetings == ["Hello Joe!","Hello Bridget!","Hello Peter!"]).
```

Class Exercise

- Given the Asteroid program on the right do the following:
  - Rewrite inc_list as a recursive function using multi-dispatch.
  - Rewrite inc_list as a function that utilizes the list '@map' function to accomplish the computation.

```
function inc_list with input_list do
  let output_list = [].
  for e in input_list do
    output_list @append(e+1).
  end
  return output_list.
end

let l = [1,2,3].
let new_list = inc_list(l).
assert(new_list == [2,3,4]).
```

https://replit.com/@LutzHamel1/asteroid-csc301-classexercise-inclist#examples/inclist.ast

Assignment

- Assignment #4 – See BrightSpace