Introduction to Python - Functions

May 27, 2020

```
[45]: from IPython.core.display import display, HTML, Image
    display(HTML("<style>.container { width:99% !important; }</style>"))
    Image('https://www.python.org/images/python-logo.gif')

<IPython.core.display.HTML object>
[45]: <IPython.core.display.Image object>
```

1 Agenda

- What is a function in Python?
 - Syntax of Function
 - Example of a function.
 - How to call a function in python?
- Python Function Arguments (Parameters or Arguments?)
 - Positional Arguments
 - Keyword Arguments
 - Default Arguments
 - Arbitrary arguments
- Python local, global variables and their scope and lifetime
- Understanding variable passing to functions in detail
- Void functions and return statement
- Types of functions
 - Built-in functions
 - User-defined functions
 - Recursive functions
 - Python Anonymous/Lambda Function
 - * Use of Lambda Function in python
- Why we need to have good understanding of functions?

1.1 What is a function?

```
y = F(x_1, x_2)

y = F(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \sqrt{(x_1 * x_2) + (1 + x_1)^2 - 2 * x_3^3}
```

- Functions are building blocks of a Python program.
- Functions contain a group of related statements that perform a specific task.
- Functions allow reusing a group of statements which might be required to run multiple times in Python.
- Functions allow user to modularize a Python code

1.2 How to define a function?

1.2.1 Syntax

```
[52]: def function_name(arguments):
    """
    Docstring :
    This is a sample function.
    Here you can write details about the function for future reference.
    More details coming up.
    """

    print(f'Welcome to functions. This is a {arguments}.')
    ...
    ...
    return True
```

```
[48]: ?function_name
```

```
[50]: ?compute_sum
```

1.2.2 Calling/Invoking a function

```
[53]: function_name('Python function')
     Welcome to functions. This is a Python function.
[53]: True
[54]: 1 = [2, 4, 6, 8, 10]
      compute_sum(1)
     Sum of the list is 30.
[57]: compute_sum()
             TypeError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call_
      →last)
             <ipython-input-57-8be732bac68c> in <module>
         ---> 1 compute_sum()
             TypeError: compute_sum() missing 1 required positional argument: 'l'
     1.2.3 Docstring
[55]: print(function_name.__doc__)
         Docstring:
         This is a sample function.
         Here you can write details about the function for future reference.
         More details coming up.
[56]: print(compute_sum.__doc__)
```

This function takes a list as argument and computes the sum of all elements in the list.

After computing the sum.

[]:

1.3 Function Arguments/Parameters

The functions you define can take multiple arguments.

That can sometimes be useful, and you'll occasionally write such functions.

1.3.1 Positional Arguments

These are specified as a comma-separated list of parameters inside the parentheses.

User need to correctly follow the order of parameters.

```
[73]: def record_user_information(name, occupation, age):
          print(f"Name = {name}")
          print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
          print(f"Age = {age}")
[74]: record_user_information('Nimo', 'Student', 22)
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 22
[75]: record_user_information('Nimo', 23, 'Student')
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = 23
     Age = Student
[61]: record_user_information('Nimo', 'Student')
             TypeError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call
      →last)
             <ipython-input-61-7c69be76cfee> in <module>
         ----> 1 record_user_information('Nimo', 'Student')
             TypeError: record_user_information() missing 1 required positional_
      →argument: 'age'
```

```
[62]: record_user_information('Nimo', 'Student', 23, 'Delhi')
             TypeError
                                                         Traceback (most recent call_
      →last)
             <ipython-input-62-2b5f82db18f1> in <module>
         ----> 1 record_user_information('Nimo', 'Student', 23, 'Delhi')
             TypeError: record_user_information() takes 3 positional arguments but 4_{\sqcup}
      →were given
 []:
     1.3.2 Keyword Arguments
     Second way of passing parameters is in the form keyword = value
     Each keyword must match a parameter in the Python function definition.
[76]: def record_user_information(name, occupation, age):
          print(f"Name = {name}")
          print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
          print(f"Age = {age}")
[77]: record_user_information(name = 'Nimo', occupation = 'Student', age = 22)
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 22
[78]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22, name = 'Nimo')
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 22
[67]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22)
```

```
TypeError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call⊔
      →last)
             <ipython-input-67-0272edf60cd9> in <module>
         ----> 1 record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22)
             TypeError: record_user_information() missing 1 required positional_
      →argument: 'name'
[68]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22, name = 'Nimo', city = ___
       → 'Delhi')
             TypeError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call_
      →last)
             <ipython-input-68-df854a2ec280> in <module>
         ----> 1 record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22, name = __
      →'Nimo', city = 'Delhi')
             TypeError: record_user_information() got an unexpected keyword argument
      →'city'
 []:
```

1.3.3 Default Arguments

- While defining a function you can specify a argument's value by using **name=value**, then **value** becomes a default value for that argument.
- Parameters defined this way are referred to as default or optional arguments.
- All positional arguments must be defined before the default ones.

```
[79]: def record_user_information(name, occupation, age=25):
    print(f"Name = {name}")
    print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
    print(f"Age = {age}")
```

```
[80]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 22, name = 'Nimo')
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 22
[82]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', name = 'Nimo')
     Name = Nimo
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 25
[83]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 24)
             TypeError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call_
      →last)
             <ipython-input-83-497cf995ce9d> in <module>
         ----> 1 record_user_information(occupation = 'Student', age = 24)
             TypeError: record_user_information() missing 1 required positional ⊔
      →argument: 'name'
[84]: def record_user_information(name='Dummy', occupation='Student', age=25):
          print(f"Name = {name}")
          print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
          print(f"Age = {age}")
[85]: record_user_information()
     Name = Dummy
     Occupation = Student
     Age = 25
[86]: record_user_information(occupation = 'Software Engineer', age = 24)
     Name = Dummy
     Occupation = Software Engineer
     Age = 24
```

```
[87]: def record_user_information(name='Dummy', occupation='Student', age):
    print(f"Name = {name}")
    print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
    print(f"Age = {age}")
```

```
File "<ipython-input-87-52ab8dacffc7>", line 1 def record_user_information(name='Dummy', occupation='Student', age):
```

SyntaxError: non-default argument follows default argument

```
[88]: def record_user_information(age, name='Dummy', occupation='Student'):
    print(f"Name = {name}")
    print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")
    print(f"Age = {age}")
```

Positional arguments must agree in order and number with the parameters declared in the function definition.

Keyword arguments must agree with declared parameters in number, but they may be specified in arbitrary order.

Default arguments allow some arguments to be omitted when the function is called.

1.3.4 Arbitrary Arguments

*args - contains all the extra positional arguments

All the positional arguments must appear before keyword arguments.

```
[89]: def record_user_information(name, occupation, *args, **kwargs):
    print(f"Name = {name}")
    print(f"Occupation = {occupation}")

    print("-"*20)

    for arg in args:
        print(arg)

    print("-"*20)

    for k in kwargs:
        print(k, kwargs[k])
```

^{**}kwargs - contains all the extra keyword arguments

```
[92]: record_user_information('Nemo', 'ML engineer', 'Delhi', '12LPA', 'CS', L
      ⇒graduate_year=2014, years_of_experience=6, city_tier='tier-1')
     Name = Nemo
     Occupation = ML engineer
     Delhi
     12LPA
     CS
     graduate_year 2014
     years_of_experience 6
     city_tier tier-1
[95]: record_user_information('Rohan', 'Data Scientist')
     Name = Rohan
     Occupation = Data Scientist
     -----
[72]: record_user_information('Nemo', 'ML engineer', 'Delhi', graduate_year=2014,__
      →years_of_experience=6, '12LPA')
               File "<ipython-input-72-8c7307ddfec0>", line 1
             record_user_information('Nemo', 'ML engineer', 'Delhi', u

→graduate_year=2014, years_of_experience=6, '12LPA')
         SyntaxError: positional argument follows keyword argument
[96]: record_user_information('Nemo', 'ML engineer', 'Delhi', '12LPA', __
      →graduate_year=2014, years_of_experience=6)
     Name = Nemo
     Occupation = ML engineer
     _____
     Delhi
     12LPA
     graduate_year 2014
     years_of_experience 6
 []:
```

[]:

1.4 Python Local, Global variables

Local Variables

A variable declared inside the function's body or in the local scope is known as local variable.

```
[108]: def scope_of_variables():
    z = "machine learning"
    print(z)

scope_of_variables()
print(z)

machine learning
```

Global Variables

In Python, a variable declared outside of the function or in global scope is known as a global variable.

This variable can be accessed inside or outside of the function.

NameError: name 'z' is not defined

```
[109]: y = 21

def scope_of_variables():
    print(y)

scope_of_variables()
```

21

```
[110]: y = 21
       def scope_of_variables():
          z = y*10
          print(z)
       scope_of_variables()
       print(y)
      210
      21
[112]: y = 21
       def scope_of_variables():
          y = y*10
          print(y)
       scope_of_variables()
       print(y)
              UnboundLocalError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call
       ناهخ)
              <ipython-input-112-45013664a230> in <module>
                   print(y)
          ----> 7 scope_of_variables()
                8 print(y)
              <ipython-input-112-45013664a230> in scope_of_variables()
                3 def scope_of_variables():
          ---> 4 y = y*10
                5
                    print(y)
              UnboundLocalError: local variable 'y' referenced before assignment
```

1.4.1 Global Keyword

[113]: help()

Welcome to Python 3.7's help utility!

If this is your first time using Python, you should definitely check out the tutorial on the Internet at https://docs.python.org/3.7/tutorial/.

Enter the name of any module, keyword, or topic to get help on writing Python programs and using Python modules. To quit this help utility and return to the interpreter, just type "quit".

To get a list of available modules, keywords, symbols, or topics, type "modules", "keywords", "symbols", or "topics". Each module also comes with a one-line summary of what it does; to list the modules whose name or summary contain a given string such as "spam", type "modules spam".

help> keywords

Here is a list of the Python keywords. Enter any keyword to get more help.

False	class	from	or
None	continue	global	pass
True	def	if	raise
and	del	import	return
as	elif	in	try
assert	else	is	while
async	except	lambda	with
await	finally	nonlocal	yield
break	for	not	

help>

You are now leaving help and returning to the Python interpreter. If you want to ask for help on a particular object directly from the interpreter, you can type "help(object)". Executing "help('string')" has the same effect as typing a particular string at the help> prompt.

Global keyword allows you to modify the variable outside of the current scope.

It is used to create a global variable and make changes to the variable in a local context.

The basic rules for global keyword in Python are: - a variable created inside a function, it is local by default. - a variable created outside of a function, it is global by default. You don't have to use global keyword. - *Global* keyword is used to read and write a global variable inside a function. - *Global* keyword outside a function has no effect.

```
[103]: y = 21

def scope_of_variables():
    global y
    y = y*10

print(y)
scope_of_variables()
print(y)
```

21 210

1.4.2 Global and local variables

```
[104]: def scope_of_variables(y):
    y = 41

y = 31

print(y)
scope_of_variables(y)
print(y)
```

31 31

```
[105]: def scope_of_variables():
    global y
    y = 41

y = 31

print(y)
scope_of_variables()
print(y)
```

31 41

Names listed in a global statement must not be defined as formal parameters Arguments of a function are considered to be local variables by default

```
[106]: def scope_of_variables(x):
        global x
        x = x**2
x = 11
```

```
scope_of_variables(x)
                 File "<ipython-input-106-291ff511f78e>", line 5
               x = 11
           SyntaxError: name 'x' is parameter and global
  []:
  []:
      1.5 Pass-By-Value vs Pass-By-Reference
      Function: id(object)
         • This identity has to be unique and constant for this object during the lifetime.
         • Similar to C/C++, it is actually the memory address, here in Python it is the unique id.
           This function is generally used internally in Python.
[119]: x = 12
       print(f"x = {x} and id({x}) = {id(x)}")
      x = 12 and id(12) = 4340352480
[120]: Image('images-functions/x12_23.png', width=500)
[120]:
                                                                   id(12)
                                                                     12
                   Х
```

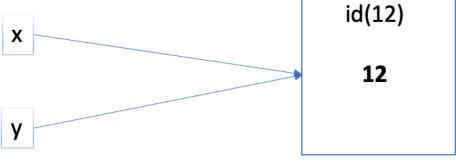
```
[121]: y = 12
print(f"y = {y} and id({y}) = {id(y)}")
```

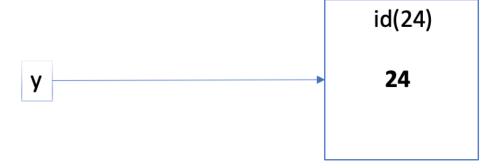
```
y = y+12
print(f"y = {y} and id({y}) = {id(y)}")

y = 12 and id(12) = 4340352480
y = 24 and id(24) = 4340352864

[122]: Image('images-functions/x_y.png', width=500)

[122]:
```





```
[123]: z = 24

print(f"z = {z} and id({z}) = {id(z)}")

z = 24 and id(24) = 4340352864
```

1.5.1 Call by value

```
[124]: def argument_passing(x):
    print(f'Argument : {x} with id = {id(x)}')
    x = 45
    print(f'Argument updated : {x} with id = {id(x)}')
```

BEFORE calling the function : ['ML', 'DS', 'CS', 'SQL', 'SPARK']
AFTER calling the function : ['ML', 'DS', 'CS', 'SQL', 'SPARK']

1.5.2 Call by reference

BEFORE calling the function : ['ML', 'DS', 'CS', 'SQL', 'SPARK'] and id = 4431151008

AFTER calling the function : ['Machine Learning', 'Data Science', 'CS', 'SQL', 'SPARK'] and id = 4431151008

1.5.3 Summary

• Passing an immutable object, like an int, float, str, tuple, or frozenset, to a Python function acts like pass-by-value.

• Passing a mutable object such as a list, dict, or set acts somewhat---but not exactly---like pass-by-reference. The function can't reassign the object completely, but it can change items in place within the object, and these changes will be reflected in the calling environment.

1.6 Void functions & Return statement

We can define two types of functions in Python: - functions which do not return anything to its caller. These functions are called void functions and default None values is returned by these functions. - functions which do return some values to its caller.

```
[55]: def void_function(arguments):
    """
    Docstring :

    This is a sample function.
    Here you can write details about the function for future reference.
    More details coming up.

"""

print(f'Welcome to functions. This is a {arguments}.')
...
...
...
```

```
[58]: def non_void_function(arguments):
    """
    Docstring :
    This is a sample function.
    Here you can write details about the function for future reference.
    More details coming up.

"""
    ...
    return (f'Welcome to functions. This is a {arguments}.')
```

```
[59]: type(void_function("ML"))
```

Welcome to functions. This is a ML.

```
[59]: NoneType
 [60]: type(non_void_function("ML"))
 [60]: str
      Return statement is used in following two ways in Python :
      - It immediately terminates the function and passes execution control back to the caller.
      - It provides a mechanism by which the function can pass data back to the caller.
      1.6.1 Example
[125]: def compute_area_of_rectangle(1, b):
           area = 1*b
           return area
[126]: return_value = compute_area_of_rectangle(2, 3)
[128]: return_value
[128]: 6
[129]: type(return_value)
[129]: int
[130]: def compute_area_of_rectangle(1, b):
           area = 1*b
           return
           print(f'Area is {area}.')
[131]: return_value = compute_area_of_rectangle(2, 3)
[132]: type(return_value)
[132]: NoneType
[133]: | ## Compute sum of all multiples of k in [1, n]. Ask user for both n and k
       n = int(input("Enter n. "))
       k = int(input("Enter k. "))
       def compute_sum(n, k):
```

```
final_sum = 0

for i in range(1, n+1):
    if i%k==0: final_sum += i

    return final_sum

final_sum = compute_sum(n, k)
    final_prod = compute_prod(n, k)
    print(f'Sum of multiples of {k} in 1 to {n} is {final_sum}.')

Enter n. 43
Enter k. 7
Sum of multiples of 7 in 1 to 43 is 147.

[]:

[]:
```

2 Function types

2.1 Built-in vs User-defined functions

The Python has a number of functions that are pre-defined and built in for specific tasks.

We have seen a few built-in functions so far input, print etc

You can find more details of existing built-in functions here.

```
[128]: Image('images-functions/built-in-functions.png', width=1000)
[128]:
```

		Built-in Functions		
abs()	<u>delattr()</u>	hash()	memoryview()	set()
all()	dict()	help()	min()	setattr()
any()	dir()	hex()	next()	slice()
ascii()	divmod()	id()	object()	sorted()
bin()	enumerate()	input()	oct()	staticmethod()
bool()	eval()	int()	open()	str()
breakpoint()	exec()	isinstance()	ord()	sum()
bytearray()	filter()	issubclass()	pow()	super()
bytes()	float()	iter()	print()	tuple()
callable()	format()	len()	property()	type()
chr()	frozenset()	list()	range()	vars()
classmethod()	getattr()	locals()	repr()	zip()
compile()	globals()	map()	reversed()	import()
complex()	hasattr()	max()	round()	

```
[127]: pow(2, 3)

[127]: 8

[42]: max(12, 34, 34, 342), max(12, 234)

[42]: (342, 234)

[44]: ?abs

[45]: ?max

[46]: sorted([21, 32, 1, 2, 43])

[46]: [1, 2, 21, 32, 43]
```

2.2 Recursive functions

A function can call other functions.

It is even possible for the function to call itself. These types of construct are termed as recursive functions.

2.2.1 Function calling another function

```
[85]: import numpy as np
       def mean(1):
           return np.mean(1)
       def std_dev(1):
           return np.std(1)
       def get_stats(1):
           return mean(1), std_dev(1)
 [86]: print(get_stats([1,2,3,4,5]))
      (3.0, 1.4142135623730951)
      2.2.2 Funtction calling itself
 [87]: def recursive_function():
           . . .
           recursive_function()
  []: n! = 1*2*3....(n-1)*n
[140]: def compute_factorial(n):
           if n==1:
               return 1
           return n*compute_factorial(n-1)
[141]: compute_factorial(6)
[141]: 720
```

2.2.3 Pros and cons of recursion

Pros

- 1. Compact code
- 2. Allows user to solve a bigger problem by reducing it to smaller sub problems.

Cons

- 1. Recruisve solution is sometimes complicated.
- 2. User need to carefully define base conditions, if these base conditions are not specified then you code can go in infinite loop.

```
[90]: def compute_factorial(n):
          return n*compute_factorial(n-1)
[91]: compute_factorial(4)
             RecursionError
                                                        Traceback (most recent call
      →last)
             <ipython-input-91-c5aebdefa2df> in <module>
         ----> 1 compute_factorial(4)
             <ipython-input-90-168e54eaafd3> in compute_factorial(n)
               1 def compute_factorial(n):
                   return n*compute_factorial(n-1)
         ---> 3
             ... last 1 frames repeated, from the frame below ...
             <ipython-input-90-168e54eaafd3> in compute_factorial(n)
               1 def compute_factorial(n):
                    return n*compute_factorial(n-1)
         ----> 3
             RecursionError: maximum recursion depth exceeded
```

2.3 Python Anonymous/Lambda Function

```
[93]: help()
```

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help> keywords

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None	continue	global	pass
True	def	if	raise
and	del	import	return
as	elif	in	try
assert	else	is	while
async	except	lambda	with
await	finally	nonlocal	yield
break	for	not	

help> quit

You are now leaving help and returning to the Python interpreter. If you want to ask for help on a particular object directly from the interpreter, you can type "help(object)". Executing "help('string')" has the same effect as typing a particular string at the help> prompt.

2.3.1 Syntax of Lambda function

- These functions are called anonymous because they are not declared in the standard manner by using the def keyword.
- You can use the lambda keyword to create small anonymous functions.
- Lambda forms can take any number of arguments but return just one value in the form of an expression. They cannot contain commands or multiple expressions.
- An anonymous function cannot be a direct call to print because lambda requires an expression
- Lambda functions have their own local namespace and cannot access variables other than those in their parameter list and those in the global namespace.

func_name = lambda arg1, arg2, ..., argn : ... # expression

2.3.2 Example 1

```
[142]: cube = lambda x : x*x*x
[144]: cube(6)
[144]: 216
[146]: add = lambda arg1, arg2 : arg1 + arg2
[147]: add(12, 23)
[147]: 35
      2.3.3 Example 2
      Mean
      Standard deviation
      Skewness
      Kurtosis
[120]: from scipy.stats import kurtosis, skew
       stats = lambda 1 : (np.mean(1), np.std(1), skew(1), kurtosis(1))
[121]: stats([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13])
[121]: (6.2, 3.655133376499413, 0.2821067299980273, -0.9877191724335761)
      2.3.4 Example 3
[122]: standardization = lambda l : (np.array(l) - np.mean(l))/(le-7 + np.std(l))
[123]: standardization([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13])
[123]: array([-1.42265666, -1.14906884, -0.87548102, -0.6018932, -0.32830538,
               0.21887026, 0.49245808, 0.7660459, 1.03963372, 1.86039718])
  []:
  []:
```

2.4 Why we need to have good understanding of functions?

The advantages of using functions are:

• Reducing duplication of code

- Decomposing complex problems into simpler pieces
 Improving clarity of the code
- Reuse of code
- Information hiding
- Maintainability

[]: