User-defined Functions

Function is a group of related statements that perform a specific task.

Why use function?

- Functions help break program into smaller and modular chunks.
- · It supports code reusability and reduces repeative code.
- It make large program more organized and manageable.

1. Basic Syntax

```
def function_name(parameters):
    """docstring"""
    statement(s)
```

- · Keyword def marks the start of a function.
- Every function has a name as uniquely identification.
- It may take in optional values, known as parameters, before running the code block.
- It may return vale as a result using return statement.
 - If no return statement, the function will return None at the end of the function.
- Optional documentation string (docstring) describes what the function does. It may be multiple
 lines of string.
- · All statements must be equally identied, which is usually 4 spaces.

Note: Do not indent your program with mix of spaces and tabs.

What functions have used so far?

We have used a few functions when we learnt about Pyhton basic data types. Can you name any?

- · How do you check data type of an object?
- How do you convert a value from one data type to another?
- How to you print out value(s) in console?

2. Basic Functions

Let's get familiar with how to define a function

- Function with no input parameter nor return statement.
- · Function with input parameter.
- · Function with both input parameter and return statement.

Simplest Function that does nothing

Let's define a simplest function which does nothing.

· Keyword pass is used to indicate nothing to be done in the function body.

```
In [2]: def do_nothing():
    pass

In [3]: type(do_nothing)

Out[3]: function
```

Hello World

Let's define a basic hello world function without input parameter and return statement.

• It simply prints "Hell World".

```
In [4]: def hello_world():
        print("Hello World")

print("Have a good day")
hello_world()

Have a good day
Hello World
```

Hello Who

Let's use input parameter to make the hello function more flexible.

• It take in an input value who, and prints "Hello {who}".

```
In [5]: def hello_who(who):
    print("Hello {}".format(who))
hello_who("Singapore")
```

Hello Singapore

How to call a function?

hellohellohello

Function can be called/used in another function. Before a function can be used, it needs to be defined first. It can also be defined in another module and imported beofre use.

*Question: What is wrong with following code?

```
In [8]: def hello_twice():
    hello_who("World")
    hello_who("Singapore")

print(type(hello_twice))
hello_twice()

<class 'function'>
Hello World
Hello Singapore
```

Function with both Inputs and Return Statement

Let's define a function my max which return the greater value of 2 input values.

```
In [9]: | def my_max(x, y):
              if x > y:
                  return x
              else:
                  return y
         print(my max(10, 20))
         def my_max2(x, y):
              return x if x > y else y
         my_max2(10, 20)
         20
 Out[9]: 20
In [10]:
         x = 10
         result = 'even' if x % 2 == 0 else 'odd'
         print(result)
         even
```

3. Using Functions and Modules (using IDLE)

It is common to put one or more functions in a file, which is called a Python module.

All python files have extension of .py.

We will use IDLE in this session to get familiar with modules.

IDLE Working Directory

When IDLE starts, it presents a REPL (Read-Evaluate-Print-Loop), which is similar to how you run Python on command line. All command line have a current working directory.

Question: What is current working directory of IDLE?

To get and set current working directory of IDLE, we need the help of os module.

- os.getcwd() returns current working directory
- · os.chdir() change current working directory

Start IDLE and try following:

- Verify that IDLE's current working directory is "C:\WINDOWS\system32"
- Change working directory to "C:\"

Create New Module

Create a new Python file from IDEL using menu File > New File .

· Add following two functions to the file

```
def hello_once(name):
    print('Hello {}'.format(name))

def hello_many(items):
    for item in items:
        hello once(item)
```

- Save file as myhello.py
- Press F5 to run the module

Question: What is the current working directory of IDLE now?

IDLE automatically change working directory to the folder containing the script which is run.

Import Module in IDLE

To import myhello.py module, use import statement without .py extension.

- After importing, we can use the functions from the module
- To call the function in the module, prefix the function by the module name. (Although it is ok to run without module prefix in IDLE)

```
In [12]: # >>> import myhello
# >>> myhello.hello_once("World")
# >>> myhello.hello_many(["World", "Python"])
```

Re-import Module after Modification

 Modify the hello_once function in myhello.py file with following content. (Remember to save file)

```
def hello_once(name):
    print('Hello again {}'.format(name))
```

- Import the module again
- Run hello once() function again

Question: Does the output reflect the code changes?

```
In [13]: # >>> import myhello
# >>> myhello.hello_once('World')
```

Reload Imported Module

For each Python REPL session, module importing is only done once. To re-import a module, we need the help of importlib module.

· Upon import, the code in module is executed

```
In [14]: # >>> import importlib
# >>> importlib.reload(myhello)
# >>> myhello.hello_once('World')
```

4. Module Import vs. Module Execution

We will try this session on Command Prompt or PowerShell.

Module Execution

Pyton file can be executed directly using Python executable on command line.

- Start a Windows Command Prompt or PowerShell. Go to folder containing myhello.py
- · Run following command to execute the module

```
$ python myhello.py
```

Append following line to the end of myhello.py file. (Without any leading space on the line)

```
hello_many(["World", "Python"])
```

• Execute the module again. Following are the printouts.

```
Hello again World
Hello again Python
```

Module Import

Let's try to import myhello module again.

- On Command Prompt or PowerShell, start a Python REPL session by executing python.
- Import myhello module.
 - Since this is a new Python REPL session, we dont need the help of importlib.
- Question: Is the module executed during import too?

Modules will be executed once during import. We would not like above printout when a module is imported in another module.

Question: How can we make a module suitable for both execution and import?

The __name__ Variable

Special attributes/variables in Python are enclosed by **double underscores**, e.g. __name__ .

The __name__ variable will have different value depending on how an enclosing module is used.

- It will be evaluated to " main " if the module is executed.
- · It will be evaluated to module name if the module is imported.
- Append following line in myhello.py file.

```
print(__name__)
```

- Press CTRL+z (on Windows) to exit from Python REPL.
- Run following command to execute the module. What is the value of __name__?

```
$ python myhello.py
```

- · Start Python REPL by typing python .
- Import myhello module. What is the value of __name__?

Use __name__ Variable in Module

We can make use of name variable to support both module import and module execution.

In your myhello.py file, following are the 2 last lines of code.

```
hello_many(["World", "Python"])
print(__name__)
```

Modify it to following code.

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
     hello_many(["World", "Python"])
```

Try to execute and import myhello module again.

- Press CTRL+z to exit Python REPL
- Run python myhello.py
- · Start Python REPL by running pyhton
- · Import myhello module

Question: how does name make a difference?

 It's a common practice to include a if __name__ == '__main__': session in python script so that it can be used for both module execution and module import.

More on Import Modules

Ther are several options to import a module.

Import module and access functions through module

```
import myhello
```

· Import specific functions from module

```
from myhello import hello_once, hello_many
```

Imoprt everything from a module

```
from myhello import *
```

Last option NOT recommended because you do not have a control on what is imported. It may potentially cause **namespace collashes**, if the imported module contains functions of same name as your own functions.

Command Line Arguments

When executing a python file, we may want to pass it some arguments, which is called **Command Line Arguments**.

To get the list of arguments passed to the script, we use sys.argv in sys module.

- sys.argv is the list of command-line arguments.
- len(sys.argv) is the number of command-line arguments.
- sys.argv[0] is the script name.

Question: How to get list of all arguments excluding script name?

Let's use them in our myhello module.

Modify the main code block in myhello.py file as following

· On Command Prompt or PowerShell, run following commands

```
$ python myhello.py
$ python myhello.py World
$ python myhello.py World Python
```

(Optional) What about Named Command Line Arguments?

If multple arguments to be passed to a script, it is less confusing if user can specify the name of each argument. Example, python myhello.py --whom World.

It's common to use named command arguments while executing scripts. To implement it, check out argparse module.

Reference: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/40001892/reading-named-command-arguments)

5. Docstring

The first string after the function header is called **documentation string**, which is commonly called **docstring**.

Docstring serves as documentation for your function so that anyone who reads the function's docstring understands what the function does, without having to trace through all the code in the function definition.

- It is used to explain briefly what a function does.
- · It is optional but highly recommended.
- It can be single-line or multiple-lines. It is common to use **triple quotes** which is capable of defining multi-line string.

Add Docstring to Module and Function

Modify the myhello.py file by adding Docstring for both module and functions.

- · Module docstring must start at 1st line of the file.
- · Function docstring must start immediately afte def statement

```
In [15]:
         My first module in Python.
         It contains a few classic hello-world functions.
         def hello_once(name):
              '''Say hello once
                 A string containing the name
             print('Hello again {}'.format(name))
         def hello many(items):
              '''Say hello multiple times
             Args:
                 A list of names
             for item in items:
                  hello once(item)
         import sys
         if __name__ == '__main__':
               print("Script name: {}".format(sys.argv[0]))
               if len(sys.argv) == 2:
                        hello once(sys.argv[1])
               if len(sys.argv) > 2:
                        hello many(sys.argv[1:])
```

Script name: C:\Users\User\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\ipykernel_launcher.py Hello again -f Hello again C:\Users\User\AppData\Roaming\jupyter\runtime\kernel-3b1e6e2b-c17d-4d6b-8541-f6e437801503.json

How to access Docstring?

Docstring of a function or class can be accessed using **help()** function or __doc__ attribute of the function or class.

- · Start a Python REPL
- Import myhello module
 - \$ import myhello
- · Print docstring of module and function

```
$ print(myhello.__doc__)
$ help(myhello)
$ print(myhello.hello_many.__doc__)
$ help(myhello.hello_many)
```

6. Function Arguments and Returned Value

Input Parameters vs Arguments

A function may have 0 or more input parameters.

The input values passed into a function is commonly called **Arguments**.

There are different types of arguments:

- · Default arguments
- Required arguments
- Keyword arguments
- · Variable number of arguments

Let's define a funtion simple add which takes in a few values and return sum of them.

```
def simple_add(a, b, c):
    s = a + b + c
    return s
```

```
In [16]: def simple_add(a, b, c):
    s = a + b + c
    return s
```

Required Arguments

All arguments, a and b and c are **required arguments**. You need to pass in all required values before you can call simple add function.

```
In [17]: simple_add(1, 2, 3)
Out[17]: 6
```

Default Arguments

Default arguments have arguments with default values. When there is no value is passed, that argument will use its default value.

Modify the simple add function to provide make b and c a default arguments.

```
def simple_add(a, b = 10, c = 20):
    s = a + b + c
    return s
```

Question: What if you only assign default value for b, i.e. only b is a default arguments?

Note: All required arguments must be before default arguments.

```
In [30]: def simple_add(a, b = 10, c = 20):
    s = a + b + c
    return s

simple_add(20)
    simple_add(20, c=15)
Out[30]: 45
```

Keyword Arguments

Instead of pass arguments in order, you can passs arguments identified by their name, i.e. keyword arguments.

- With keyword argument, order of arguments is not required.
- · It can make your code easier to read.

```
In [19]: simple_add(c = 30, a = 10, b = 20)
help(simple_add)
Help on function simple_add in module __main__:
    simple_add(a, b=10, c=20)
```

Question: Can I omit some default arguments while using keyword arguments?

```
In [20]: simple_add(a = 10, c = 5)
Out[20]: 25
```

Keyword Arguments using Dictionary

We can pack all keywoard arguments in one dictionary before pass it to a function.

```
In [21]: def simple_add(a, b=20, c=30):
    s = a + b + c
    return s

myval = {'a':10, 'b':20, 'c':30}
print(simple_add(**myval))
myval = {'a':10, 'c':30}
print(simple_add(**myval))
60
60
60
```

Variable Number of Arguments

Sometimes you are not sure the exact number of arguments to be passed to a function. You can capture any number of argument with *args .

The asterisk (*) prefixing an variable name, e.g. *args , indicates that variable will be **unpacked** into multiple values.

• The variable holds values of all nonkeyword variable arguments.

Define another function add_all() which add all argument values and return result.

```
def add_all(*args):
    s = 0
    for i in args:
        s = s + i
    return s
```

Question: Can I replace *args with another name, e.g. *inputs?

```
In [22]: def add_all(*args):
    print(args)
    s = 0
    for i in args:
        s = s + i
    return s

add_all(1,2,3,4)

(1, 2, 3, 4)

Out[22]: 10
```

Variable Number of Keyword Arguments

KWargs or "keyword arguments" allows you to pass the keyworded, dictionary as arguments. Because dictionaries are almost always super useful.

```
def print_values(**kwargs):
    for key, value in kwargs.items():
        print("{} is {}".format(key, value))

print_values(my_name="ah boy", your_name="ah girl")
```

```
In [23]: def print_values(**kwargs):
    for key, value in kwargs.items():
        print("{} is {}".format(key, value))

print_values(my_name="ah boy", your_name="ah girl")

my_name is ah boy
your name is ah girl
```

Return Statement

A funciton may return one or more values implicitly or explicitly. To return value(s) out of a function, use return statement.

```
In [24]: def simple_add(a, b):
    return a + b

result = simple_add(1,2)
print(result)
```

Return Multiple Values

A function may return **multiple** values. When multiple values are returned, they are packed into a tuple.

```
In [25]: def simple_math(a, b):
    return a + b, a - b, a * b, a / b

result = simple_math(20,10)
    print(result)
    print(type(result))

(30, 10, 200, 2.0)
    <class 'tuple'>
```

Use * to Grab Excess Items

The * can be used to grab multple values, e.g. indicate a function parameter can take in multiple arguments. It can also be used to grab multiple items in returned values.

```
In [26]: result, *others = simple_math(20,10)
print(result)
print(others)
30
[10, 200, 2.0]
```

Implicit Return

If a function has no return statement in a function, or its return statement doesn't followed by any object, the function returns a None.

before return no return None None

7. Variable Scope - Global vs Local

The scope of a variable determines the portion of the program where you can access a particular variable. There are two basic variable scopes in Python

- Global variables: variables defined outside a function body
- · Local variables: variables defined inside a function body

Global and Local variables are in different scopes

- Local variables can be accessed only inside the function in which they are declared
- Global variables can be accessed throughout the program body

```
In [28]: def myfunc():
             x = 10
             if x > 0:
                 y = True
             else:
                 y = False
             print(y)
             for item in range(5):
                  z = item
             print(z)
         myfunc()
         print(x, y, z)
         True
         4
                                                     Traceback (most recent call last)
         <ipython-input-28-c6f0e743e7b6> in <module>
               12
               13 myfunc()
          ---> 14 print(x, y, z)
         NameError: name 'y' is not defined
```

Accessing Global Variable

In this example, global variable val can be read both inside and outside the function.

```
val = 3;

def show():
    print("In function: val = {}".format(val));

show()
print("Outside function: val = {}".format(val));
```

```
In [ ]: val = 3;

def show():
    print("In function: val = {}".format(val));

show()
print("Outside function: val = {}".format(val));
```

Accessing Local Variable

The val variable is a local variable. It does not exist outside the function.

We use globals() to remove any val variable from previous example

```
# Clean up any `val` variable from previous example
            if 'val' in globals():
                del val
            def show():
                val = 3;
                print("In function: val = {}".format(val));
            show()
            print("Outside function: val = {}".format(val));
In [ ]: # Clean up any `val` variable from previous example
        if 'val' in globals():
            del val
        def show():
            val = 3;
            print("In function: val = {}".format(val));
        show()
        print("Outside function: val = {}".format(val));
In [ ]: def fun1():
            x = 10
            print(locals())
        def fun2():
            y = 20
            print(locals())
        fun1()
        fun2()
        if 'x' in locals():
            print('x')
        if 'y' in locals():
            print('y')
        if 'x' in globals():
            print('xg')
        if 'y' in globals():
            print('yg')
```

Variable Created in Different Scope

Whenever a variable is assigned, it will be automatically created if it does not exist in current scope.

Question: Why there is an error in following code?

```
x = "global"

def foo():
    x = x * 2
    print(x)
foo()
```

Both global and local scopes have a x variable. In the function, x is used before initialized.

```
In [31]: x = "global"

def foo():
    x = x * 2
    print(x)

foo()
```

UnboundLocalError: local variable 'x' referenced before assignment

```
In []: z = 2
    print(id(z))
    def foo():
        z = 3
        print(id(z))
        print(z)

foo()
    print(z)
```

In following example, global variables list1 and list2 are pointing to same object. Inside the function, a local variable list1 is created during assignment operation.

Global list1 and local list1 are different variables!

```
list1 = [1, 2]
             list2 = list1
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
             def myfun():
                 print("Inside function")
                 list1 = [3, 4]
                 print(list1 is list2)
                 print(list1 == list2)
             myfun()
             print("Outside function")
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
In [32]: list1 = [1, 2]
         list2 = list1
         print(list1 is list2)
         print(list1 == list2)
         def myfun():
             print("Inside function")
             list1 = [3, 4]
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
         myfun()
         print("Outside function")
         print(list1 is list2)
         print(list1 == list2)
         True
         True
         Inside function
         False
         False
         Outside function
         True
         True
```

Keyword global

But what if I would like to modify a global variable in the function?

To access global a variable in a function, you can use the global keyword.

```
list1 = [1, 2]
             list2 = list1
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
             def myfun():
                 global list1
                 print("Inside function")
                 list1.append(3)
                 print(list1 is list2)
                 print(list1 == list2)
             myfun()
             print("Outside function")
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
In [33]: list1 = [1, 2]
         list2 = list1
         print(list1 is list2)
         print(list1 == list2)
         def myfun():
             global list1
             print("Inside function")
             list1.append(3)
             print(list1 is list2)
             print(list1 == list2)
         myfun()
         print("Outside function")
         print(list1 is list2)
         print(list1 == list2)
         True
         True
         Inside function
         True
         True
         Outside function
         True
         True
```

8. Pass by Value or Reference

All parameters (arguments) in the Python are passed by reference, i.e. only reference value of argument is copied to function parameter.

It means if you change what a parameter refers to within a function, the change also reflects back in the calling function.

Question: In following code, does modifying of list0 inside the function affects value of list1 which is defined outside the function?

```
def extend_list(list0):
    list0.extend(list0)
    print("Inside function: {}".format(list0))

list1 = [1,2,3]
extend_list(list1)
print("Outside function: {}".format(list1))
```

```
In [34]: def extend_list(list0):
    list0.extend(list0)
    print("Inside function: {}".format(list0))

list1 = [1,2,3]
    extend_list(list1)
    print("Outside function: {}".format(list1))
```

```
Inside function: [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
Outside function: [1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3]
```

Actually, list0 and list1 are two variables. They point to same object in memory, i.e. the list object. Since they are different variables, either of them can be assigned to another object. In this case, the original object is not modified.

Question: Does pointing list0 to another object affects list1 value?

```
def extend_list(list0):
    list0 = [7,8,9]
    print("Inside function: {}".format(list0))

list1 = [1,2,3]
extend_list(list1)
print("Outside function: {}".format(list1))
```

```
In [35]: def extend_list(list0):
    list0 = [7,8,9]
    print("Inside function: {}".format(list0))

list1 = [1,2,3]
    extend_list(list1)
    print("Outside function: {}".format(list1))
```

```
Inside function: [7, 8, 9]
Outside function: [1, 2, 3]
```

```
In [ ]: a = 1
    print(id(a))

def dup(b):
    print(id(b))
    b = 2
    b = 1
    print(id(b))

dup(a)
```

9. Lambda Function (Anonymous Functions)

A lambda function is a small anonymous function, i.e. a simple function with no name.

 Instead of declaring them with the standard def keyword, it is declared using lambda keyword.

Basic Syntax

```
lambda arguments : expression
```

- Value(s) between lambda and : are input arguments
- Expression after: is evaluated and returned

```
In [36]: #Normal function
    def times2x(a):
        return a *2

    print(type(times2x))
    print(times2x(5))

# Lambda function
    times2 = lambda a : a *2
    print(type(times2))
    print(times2(5))

    <class 'function'>
    10
        <class 'function'>
    10
```

Multiple Arguments

Lambda Function can take any number of arguments, but can only have one expression.

```
In [ ]: add_all = lambda a, b, c : a + b + c
print(add_all(5, 6, 2))
```

When to use Lambda?

Lambda functions can be used when a nameless function is needed for a short period of time.

- · Sorting of collection
- · Mapping of collection
- · Filtering of collection
- · Reducing of collection

Example: How to **sort** a collection of integer (positive and negative) by their absolute values?

• The key argument accepts a function which is used to determine the sort order, e.g. len()

```
list1 = [15, 5, -10, 20, -30]
```

```
In [ ]: list1 = "Hello World from Singapore".split(' ')
    print(list1)
    sorted(list1, key=len, reverse=True)

In [ ]: list1 = [15, 5, -10, 20, -30]
    sorted(list1, key=lambda x: abs(x), reverse=True)
```

Filter Function

The filter() method filters the given iterable with the help of a function that tests each element in the iterable to be true or not.

- · An element will be returned if it is evaluated to be True
- · Basic syntax

```
filter(function, iterable)
```

Example: Following code filter for items which contains '2'.

```
In [38]: list1 = ['a1', 'a2', 'a3', 'b1', 'b2', 'b3', 'c1', 'c2', 'c3']

def contain2(item):
    if '2' in item:
        return True
    else:
        return False

result = filter(contain2, list1)
print(result2)

['a2', 'b2', 'c2']
```

Challenge: Can you convert above code using lambda?

```
In [39]: list1 = ['a1', 'a2', 'a3', 'b1', 'b2', 'b3', 'c1', 'c2', 'c3']
    result = filter(lambda x: '2' in x, list1)
    print(list(result))

['a2', 'b2', 'c2']
```

Question: Without running following code, what items will be printed out?

```
In [ ]: rlist1 = [1, -1, 'a', 0, False, True, '0', '', []]
    filtered = filter(None, rlist1)
    print(list(filtered))
```

Map Function

The map() function applies a function to each item in th list, and return result as item in new list.

Basic syntax
 map(function_to_apply, list_of_inputs)

Example: Follwing example applies a maths equation a + b*x on list items.

```
In [40]: list1 = [2, 3, 4, 5]

def trans(x):
    return 3 + 4*x

result = map(trans, list1)
print(list(result))

[11, 15, 19, 23]
```

Challenge: Convert above example using lambda function.

```
In [41]: list1 = [2, 3, 4, 5]
  result = map(lambda x: 3 + 4*x, list1)
  print(list(result))

[11, 15, 19, 23]
```

Reduce Function

The reduce() function is a useful function for performing some computation on a list and returning result.

- It applies a rolling computation to sequential pairs of values in a list.
- It needs to be imported rom functools module.

Basic syntax

```
reduce(func, sequence[, initial])
```

- When the initial value is missing, the function is called with first 2 items in the sequence.
- When the initial value is provided, the function is called with the initial value and the first item from the sequence.
- The func is a funtion which always takes in 2 values.

Example: Following example multiply all items together.

Use reduce() function instead of for loop.

```
In [44]: import functools
list1 = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

def multiply(x, y):
    return x * y

result = functools.reduce(multiply, list1)
print(result)
```

Challenge: Convert above example using lambda function.

```
In [45]: from functools import reduce
list1 = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
result = reduce((lambda x, y: x * y), list1, 1)
print(result)
```

Power of Lambda Functions

120

120

The power of lambda is better shown when you use them as an anonymous function inside another function.

Imaging you need to create 2 functions, which apply power of 2 and power of 3 on input argument respectively.

- You can create 2 separate functions.
- But what if you need functions from power 2 to power 10?

```
def mypower(n):
    return lambda a : a ** n

power2 = mypower(2)
power3 = mypower(3)
print(power2(10))
print(power3(10))
```

```
In [46]: def mypower(n):
    return lambda a : a ** n

power2 = mypower(2)
    power3 = mypower(3)
    print(power2(10))
    print(power3(10))
```

100 1000