

LECTURE 3

Python Basics Part 2

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

Last time, we covered function concepts in depth. We also mentioned that Python allows for the use of a special kind of function, a *lambda* function.

Lambda functions are small, anonymous functions based on the lambda abstractions that appear in many functional languages.

As stated before, Python can support many different programming paradigms including functional programming.

Right now, we'll take a look at some of the handy functional tools provided by Python.

LAMBDA FUNCTIONS

Lambda functions within Python.

- Use the keyword *lambda* instead of *def*.
- Can be used wherever function objects are used.
- Restricted to one expression.
- Typically used with functional programming tools.

```
>>> def f(x):  
...     return x**2  
...  
>>> print f(8)  
64  
>>> g = lambda x: x**2  
>>> print g(8)  
64
```

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

Filter

- `filter(function, sequence)` filters items from sequence for which `function(item)` is true.
- Returns a string or tuple if sequence is one of those types, otherwise result is a list.

```
def even(x):  
    if x % 2 == 0:  
        return True  
    else:  
        return False  
  
print(filter(even, range(0,30)))
```

[0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28]

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

Map

- `map(function, sequence)` applies function to each item in sequence and returns the results as a list.
- Multiple arguments can be provided if the function supports it.

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

```
print(map(square, range(0,11)))
```

```
[0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100]
```

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

Map

- `map(function, sequence)` applies function to each item in sequence and returns the results as a list.
- Multiple arguments can be provided if the function supports it.

```
def expo(x, y):  
    return x**y  
  
print(map(expo, range(0,5), range(0,5)))
```

```
[1, 1, 4, 27, 256]
```

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

Reduce

- `reduce(function, sequence)` returns a single value computed as the result of performing *function* on the first two items, then on the result with the next item, etc.
- There's an optional third argument which is the starting value.

```
def fact(x, y):  
    return x*y  
  
print(reduce(fact, range(1,5)))
```

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLS

We can combine lambda abstractions with functional programming tools. This is especially useful when our function is small – we can avoid the overhead of creating a function definition for it by essentially defining it in-line.

```
>>> print(map(lambda x: x**2, range(0,11)))  
[0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100]
```


MORE DATA STRUCTURES

- Lists
 - Slicing
 - Stacks and Queues
- Tuples
- Sets and Frozensets
- Dictionaries
- How to choose a data structure.
- Collections
 - Deques and OrderedDicts

WHEN TO USE LISTS

- When you need a non-homogeneous collection of elements.
- When you need the ability to order your elements.
- When you need the ability to modify or add to the collection.
- When you don't require elements to be indexed by a custom value.
- When you need a stack or a queue.
- When your elements are not necessarily unique.

CREATING LISTS

To create a list in Python, we can use bracket notation to either create an empty list or an initialized list.

```
mylist1 = [] # Creates an empty list
mylist2 = [expression1, expression2, ...]
mylist3 = [expression for variable in sequence]
```

The first two are referred to as *list displays*, where the last example is a *list comprehension*.

CREATING LISTS

We can also use the built-in list constructor to create a new list.

```
mylist1 = list()  
mylist2 = list(sequence)  
mylist3 = list(expression for variable in sequence)
```

The `sequence` argument in the second example can be any kind of sequence object or iterable. If another list is passed in, this will create a copy of the argument list.

CREATING LISTS

Note that you cannot create a new list through assignment.

```
# mylist1 and mylist2 point to the same list  
mylist1 = mylist2 = []
```

```
# mylist3 and mylist4 point to the same list  
mylist3 = []  
mylist4 = mylist3
```

```
mylist5 = []; mylist6 = [] # different lists
```

ACCESSING LIST ELEMENTS

If the index of the desired element is known, you can simply use bracket notation to index into the list.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 67, 45, 29]
>>> mylist[2]
45
```

If the index is not known, use the `index()` method to find the first index of an item. An exception will be raised if the item cannot be found.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 67, 45, 29]
>>> mylist.index(67)
1
```

SLICING AND SLIDING

- The length of the list is accessible through `len(mylist)`.
- Slicing is an extended version of the indexing operator and can be used to grab sublists.

```
mylist[start:end] # items start to end-1
mylist[start:]    # items start to end of the array
mylist[:end]      # items from beginning to end-1
mylist[:]         # a copy of the whole array
```

- You may also provide a step argument with any of the slicing constructions above.

```
mylist[start:end:step] # start to end-1, by step
```

SLICING AND SLIDING

- The start or end arguments may be negative numbers, indicating a count from the end of the array rather than the beginning. This applies to the indexing operator.

```
mylist[-1]      # last item in the array
mylist[-2:]     # last two items in the array
mylist[:-2]     # everything except the last two items
```

- Some examples:

```
mylist = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
mylist[-2]      # yields 19
mylist[-4::2]    # yields [29, 19]
```


INSERTING/REMOVING ELEMENTS

- To add an element to an existing list, use the `append()` method.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
>>> mylist.append(47)
>>> mylist
[34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62, 47]
```

- Use the `extend()` method to add all of the items from another list.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
>>> mylist.extend([47, 81])
>>> mylist
[34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62, 47, 81]
```

INSERTING/REMOVING ELEMENTS

- Use the `insert(pos, item)` method to insert an item at the given position. You may also use negative indexing to indicate the position.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
>>> mylist.insert(2, 47)
>>> mylist
[34, 56, 47, 29, 73, 19, 62]
```

- Use the `remove()` method to remove the first occurrence of a given item. An exception will be raised if there is no matching item in the list.

```
>>> mylist = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
>>> mylist.remove(29)
>>> mylist
[34, 56, 73, 19, 62]
```

LISTS AS STACKS

- You can use lists as a quick stack data structure.
- The `append()` and `pop()` methods implement a LIFO structure.
- The `pop(index)` method will remove and return the item at the specified index. If no index is specified, the last item is popped from the list.

```
>>> stack = [34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
>>> stack.append(47)
>>> stack
[34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62, 47]
>>> stack.pop()
47
>>> stack
[34, 56, 29, 73, 19, 62]
```

LISTS AS QUEUES

- Lists can be used as queues natively since `insert()` and `pop()` both support indexing. However, while appending and popping from a list are fast, inserting and popping from the beginning of the list are slow (especially with large lists. Why is this?).
- Use the special *deque* object from the *collections* module.

```
>>> from collections import deque
>>> queue = deque([35, 19, 67])
>>> queue.append(42)
>>> queue.append(23)
>>> queue.popleft()
35
>>> queue.popleft()
19
>>> queue
deque([67, 42, 23])
```

OTHER OPERATIONS

- The `count(x)` method will give you the number of occurrences of item `x` within the list.

```
>>> mylist = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'a', 'f', 'c']
>>> mylist.count('a')
2
```

- The `sort()` and `reverse()` methods sort and reverse the list in place. The `sorted(mylist)` and `reversed(mylist)` built-in functions will return a sorted and reversed copy of the list, respectively.

```
>>> mylist = [5, 2, 3, 4, 1]
>>> mylist.sort()
>>> mylist
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
>>> mylist.reverse()
>>> mylist
[5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
```

CUSTOM SORTING

- Both the `sorted()` built-in function and the `sort()` method of lists accept some optional arguments.

```
sorted(iterable[, cmp[, key[, reverse]]])
```

- The `cmp` argument specifies a custom comparison function of two arguments which should return a negative, zero or positive number depending on whether the first argument is considered smaller than, equal to, or larger than the second argument. The default value is `None`.
- The `key` argument specifies a function of one argument that is used to extract a comparison key from each list element. The default value is `None`.
- The `reverse` argument is a Boolean value. If set to `True`, then the list elements are sorted as if each comparison were reversed.

CUSTOM SORTING

```
>>> mylist = ['b', 'A', 'D', 'c']
>>> mylist.sort(cmp = lambda x,y: cmp(x.lower(), y.lower()))
>>> mylist
['A', 'b', 'c', 'D']
```

Alternatively,

```
>>> mylist = ['b', 'A', 'D', 'c']
>>> mylist.sort(key = str.lower)
>>> mylist
['A', 'b', 'c', 'D']
```

`str.lower()` is a built-in string method.

WHEN TO USE SETS

- When the elements must be unique.
- When you need to be able to modify or add to the collection.
- When you need support for mathematical set operations.
- When you don't need to store nested lists, sets, or dictionaries as elements.

CREATING SETS

- Create an empty set with the set constructor.

```
myset = set()  
myset2 = set([]) # both are empty sets
```

- Create an initialized set with the set constructor or the { } notation. Do not use empty curly braces to create an empty set – you'll get an empty dictionary instead.

```
myset = set(sequence)  
myset2 = {expression for variable in sequence}
```

HASHABLE ITEMS

The way a set detects non-unique elements is by indexing the data in memory, creating a hash for each element. This means that all elements in a set must be *hashable*.

All of Python's immutable built-in objects are hashable, while no mutable containers (such as lists or dictionaries) are. Objects which are instances of user-defined classes are also hashable by default.

MUTABLE OPERATIONS

The following operations are not available for frozensets.

- The `add(x)` method will add element `x` to the set if it's not already there. The `remove(x)` and `discard(x)` methods will remove `x` from the set.
- The `pop()` method will remove and return an arbitrary element from the set. Raises an error if the set is empty.
- The `clear()` method removes all elements from the set.

```
>>> myset = {x for x in 'abracadabra'}
>>> myset
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd'])
>>> myset.add('y')
>>> myset
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd', 'y'])
>>> myset.remove('a')
>>> myset
set(['b', 'r', 'c', 'd', 'y'])
>>> myset.pop()
'b'
>>> myset
set(['r', 'c', 'd', 'y'])
```

MUTABLE OPERATIONS CONTINUED

set |= other | ...

Update the set, adding elements from all others.

set &= other & ...

Update the set, keeping only elements found in it and all others.

set -= other | ...

Update the set, removing elements found in others.

set ^= other

Update the set, keeping only elements found in either set, but not in both.

MUTABLE OPERATIONS CONTINUED

```
>>> s1 = set('abracadabra')
>>> s2 = set('alacazam')
>>> s1
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd'])
>>> s2
set(['a', 'l', 'c', 'z', 'm'])
>>> s1 |= s2
>>> s1
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd', 'l', 'z', 'm'])
>>> s1 = set('abracadabra')
>>> s1 &= s2
>>> s1
set(['a', 'c'])
```

SET OPERATIONS

- The following operations are available for both set and frozenset types.
- Comparison operators \geq , \leq test whether a set is a superset or subset, respectively, of some other set. The $>$ and $<$ operators check for proper supersets/subsets.

```
>>> s1 = set('abracadabra')
>>> s2 = set('bard')
>>> s1 >= s2
True
>>> s1 > s2
True
>>> s1 <= s2
False
```

SET OPERATIONS

- Union: `set | other | ...`
 - Return a new set with elements from the set and all others.
- Intersection: `set & other & ...`
 - Return a new set with elements common to the set and all others.
- Difference: `set - other - ...`
 - Return a new set with elements in the set that are not in the others.
- Symmetric Difference: `set ^ other`
 - Return a new set with elements in either the set or other but not both.

SET OPERATIONS

```
>>> s1 = set('abracadabra')
>>> s1
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd'])
>>> s2 = set('alacazam')
>>> s2
set(['a', 'l', 'c', 'z', 'm'])
>>> s1 | s2
set(['a', 'b', 'r', 'c', 'd', 'l', 'z', 'm'])
>>> s1 & s2
set(['a', 'c'])
>>> s1 - s2
set(['b', 'r', 'd'])
>>> s1 ^ s2
set(['b', 'r', 'd', 'l', 'z', 'm'])
```


OTHER OPERATIONS

- `s.copy()` returns a shallow copy of the set `s`.
- `s.isdisjoint(other)` returns `True` if set `s` has no elements in common with set *other*.
- `s.issubset(other)` returns `True` if set `s` is a subset of set *other*.
- `len`, `in`, and `not in` are also supported.

WHEN TO USE TUPLES

- When storing elements that will not need to be changed.
- When performance is a concern.
- When you want to store your data in logical immutable pairs, triples, etc.

CONSTRUCTING TUPLES

- An empty tuple can be created with an empty set of parentheses.
- Pass a sequence type object into the tuple() constructor.
- Tuples can be initialized by listing comma-separated values. These do not need to be in parentheses but they can be.
- One quirk: to initialize a tuple with a single value, use a trailing comma.

```
>>> t1 = (1, 2, 3, 4)
>>> t2 = "a", "b", "c", "d"
>>> t3 = ()
>>> t4 = ("red", )
```

TUPLE OPERATIONS

Tuples are very similar to lists and support a lot of the same operations.

- Accessing elements: use bracket notation (e.g. `t1[2]`) and slicing.
- Use `len(t1)` to obtain the length of a tuple.
- The universal immutable sequence type operations are all supported by tuples.
 - `+`, `*`
 - `in`, `not in`
 - `min(t)`, `max(t)`, `t.index(x)`, `t.count(x)`

PACKING/UNPACKING

Tuple packing is used to “pack” a collection of items into a tuple. We can unpack a tuple using Python’s multiple assignment feature.

```
>>> s = "Susan", 19, "CS" # tuple packing
>>> name, age, major = s # tuple unpacking
>>> name
'Susan'
>>> age
19
>>> major
'CS'
```

WHEN TO USE DICTIONARIES

- When you need to create associations in the form of key:value pairs.
- When you need fast lookup for your data, based on a custom key.
- When you need to modify or add to your key:value pairs.

CONSTRUCTING A DICTIONARY

- Create an empty dictionary with empty curly braces or the dict() constructor.
- You can initialize a dictionary by specifying each key:value pair within the curly braces.
- Note that keys must be *hashable* objects.

```
>>> d1 = {}
>>> d2 = dict() # both empty
>>> d3 = {"Name": "Susan", "Age": 19, "Major": "CS"}
>>> d4 = dict(Name="Susan", Age=19, Major="CS")
>>> d5 = dict(zip(['Name', 'Age', 'Major'], ["Susan", 19, "CS"]))
>>> d6 = dict([('Age', 19), ('Name', "Susan"), ('Major', "CS")])
```

Note: zip takes two equal-length collections and merges their corresponding elements into tuples.

ACCESSING THE DICTIONARY

To access a dictionary, simply index the dictionary by the key to obtain the value. An exception will be raised if the key is not in the dictionary.

```
>>> d1 = {'Age':19, 'Name':"Susan", 'Major':"CS"}
>>> d1['Age']
19
>>> d1['Name']
'Susan'
```


UPDATING A DICTIONARY

Simply assign a key:value pair to modify it or add a new pair. The `del` keyword can be used to delete a single key:value pair or the whole dictionary. The `clear()` method will clear the contents of the dictionary.

```
>>> d1 = {'Age':19, 'Name':"Susan", 'Major':"CS"}
>>> d1['Age'] = 21
>>> d1['Year'] = "Junior"
>>> d1
{'Age': 21, 'Name': 'Susan', 'Major': 'CS', 'Year': 'Junior'}
>>> del d1['Major']
>>> d1
{'Age': 21, 'Name': 'Susan', 'Year': 'Junior'}
>>> d1.clear()
>>> d1
{}
```

BUILT-IN DICTIONARY METHODS

```
>>> d1 = {'Age':19, 'Name':"Susan", 'Major':"CS"}
>>> d1.has_key('Age') # True if key exists
True
>>> d1.has_key('Year') # False otherwise
False
>>> d1.keys() # Return a list of keys
['Age', 'Name', 'Major']
>>> d1.items() # Return a list of key:value pairs
[('Age', 19), ('Name', 'Susan'), ('Major', 'CS')]
>>> d1.values() # Returns a list of values
[19, 'Susan', 'CS']
```

Note: `in`, `not in`, `pop(key)`, and `popitem()` are also supported.

ORDERED DICTIONARY

Dictionaries do not remember the order in which keys were inserted. An ordered dictionary implementation is available in the collections module. The methods of a regular dictionary are all supported by the OrderedDict class.

An additional method supported by OrderedDict is the following:

```
OrderedDict.popitem(last=True)    # pops items in LIFO order
```

ORDERED DICTIONARY

```
>>> # regular unsorted dictionary
```

```
>>> d = {'banana': 3, 'apple': 4, 'pear': 1, 'orange': 2}
```

```
>>> # dictionary sorted by key
```

```
>>> OrderedDict(sorted(d.items(), key=lambda t: t[0]))
```

```
OrderedDict([('apple', 4), ('banana', 3), ('orange', 2), ('pear', 1)])
```

```
>>> # dictionary sorted by value
```

```
>>> OrderedDict(sorted(d.items(), key=lambda t: t[1]))
```

```
OrderedDict([('pear', 1), ('orange', 2), ('banana', 3), ('apple', 4)])
```

```
>>> # dictionary sorted by length of the key string
```

```
>>> OrderedDict(sorted(d.items(), key=lambda t: len(t[0])))
```

```
OrderedDict([('pear', 1), ('apple', 4), ('orange', 2), ('banana', 3)])
```