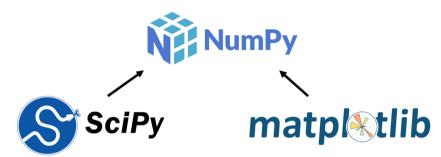
Programming for Essential Digital Skills, Part 2

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2025

Chapter 9 - Mathematics and plotting

Data science with Python



Mathematical tasks:

- Root finding
- Optimization
- Integration
- Linear algebra

Visualization and plotting:

- Function plotting
- Data visualization
- 3D-plotting

SciPy: Scientific Computing with Python

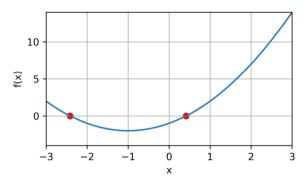
Subpackages

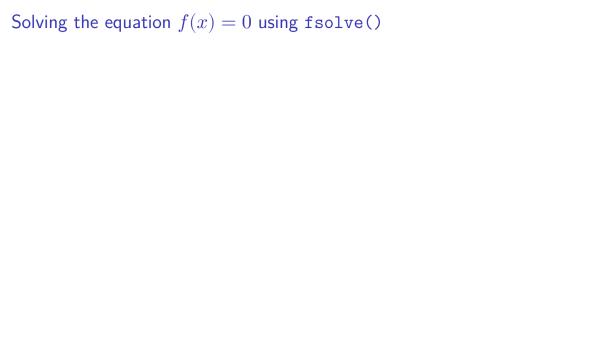
SciPy is organized into subpackages covering different scientific computing domains. These are summarized in the following table:

Subpackage	Description
cluster	Clustering algorithms
constants	Physical and mathematical constants
fft	Discrete Fourier transforms
<u>fftpack</u>	Fast Fourier Transform routines (legacy)
integrate	Integration and ordinary differential equation solvers
$\underline{\mathtt{interpolate}}$	Interpolation and smoothing splines
<u>io</u>	Input and Output
$\underline{\texttt{linal}} g$	Linear algebra
ndimage	N-dimensional image processing
odr	Orthogonal distance regression
<u>optimize</u>	Optimization and root-finding routines

Root finding

Consider $f(x) = x^2 + 2x - 1$. A root x of the function f is a point that satisfies f(x) = 0.





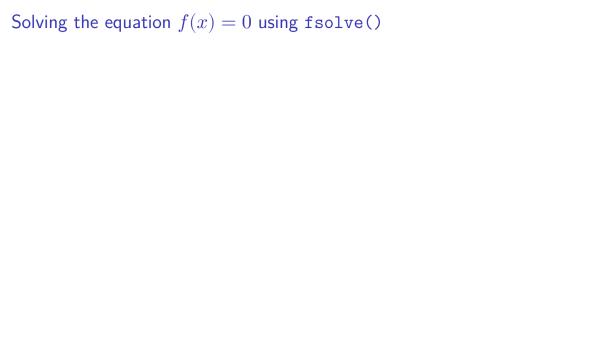
Solving the equation f(x) = 0 using fsolve()

```
# Import optimize package from SciPy

# Define f as Python function

# Use fsolve() to solve f(x) = 0 with initial guess

# Print the found root
```



Solving the equation f(x) = 0 using fsolve()

```
import scipy.optimize as optimize

def f(x):
    return x**2 + 2*x - 1

guess = 3
f_zero = optimize.fsolve(f,guess)[0]

print("A root of the function f is given by", f_zero)
```

A root of the function f is given by 0.41421356237309503

Solving the equation f(x) = 3

Suppose we want to solve f(x) = 3. Question: How to do this with root finding?

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Suppose we want to solve f(x) = 3. Question: How to do this with root finding?

• If we define g(x) = f(x) - 3, then g(x) = 0 if and only if f(x) = 3.

```
def g(x):
    return f(x) - 3

guess = 4
f_zero = optimize.fsolve(g,guess)[0]

print("A number x satisfying f(x) = 3, is given by", f_zero)
```

A number x satisfying f(x) = 3, is given by 1.2360679774998171

Solving the equation f(x) = c

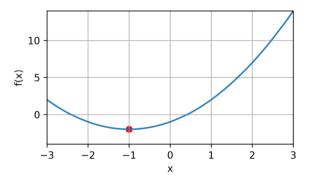
```
def solve_eq(f,c,guess):
    # This function returns the solution to f(x) = c using
    # fsolve() on the function g(x) = f(x) - c

def g(x):
    return f(x) - c

x = optimize.fsolve(g,guess)[0]
return x
```

Minimizing a function f

Consider $f(x) = x^2 + 2x - 1$. Minimum of f is a point x for which f(x) is smallest.



Computing a minimum of f using fmin()

```
import scipy.optimize as optimize
def f(x):
   return x**2 + 2*x - 1
guess = 1
minimum = optimize.fmin(f,guess)
print('The minimum of the function f is attained at x = ', minimum)
```

Optimization terminated successfully.

Current function value: -2.000000

Iterations: 19

Function evaluations: 38

The minimum of the function f is attained at x = [-1.]

Computing a minimum of f using fmin()

```
import scipy.optimize as optimize

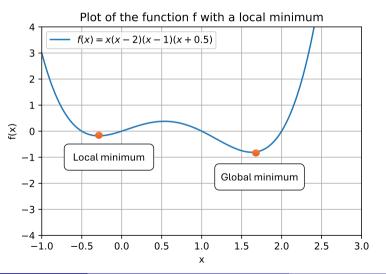
def f(x):
    return x**2 + 2*x - 1

guess = 1
minimum = optimize.fmin(f,guess,disp=False)[0]

print('The minimum of the function f is attained at x = ', minimum)
```

Local vs. global minima

fmin() might return a "local" minimum, which is not the true minimum of the function.



Matplotlib: Data visualization

Matplotlib is a package that can be used for data visualization

- For this we use the matplotlib.pyplot (sub)package ...
- ... which we usually import under the name plt

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

How are functions plotted in Python?

• Create a vector of x-values, e.g.,

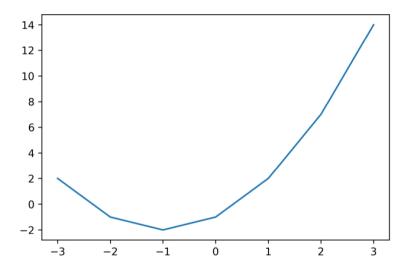
$$x = [-3, -, 2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3].$$

2 Compute the function values

$$[f(-3),f(-2),f(-1),f(0),f(1),f(2),f(3)] = [2,-1,-2,-1,2,7,14].$$

3 Draw the points $(x_i, f(x_i))$ and connect them with line segments.

Resulting Python plot



Plotting a "smooth" line

Increase the number of points in x to get a smoother line using np.linspace().

- Command np.linspace(a,b,k) gives array with k evenly spaced points in interval [a,b]; first point is a and last point b.
- Question: Which points does np.linspace(0,1,11) create?

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```
import numpy as np

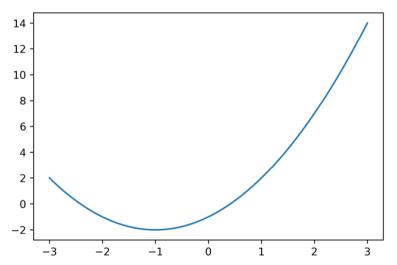
a = 0
b = 1
k = 11

x = np.linspace(a,b,k)
print(x)
```

[0. 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.]

Resulting "smoothed" Python plot

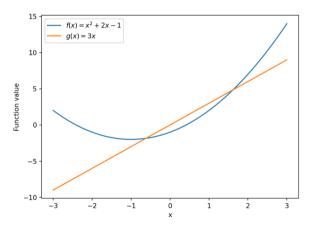
Using x = np.linspace(-3,3,600)



Adding legend to plot

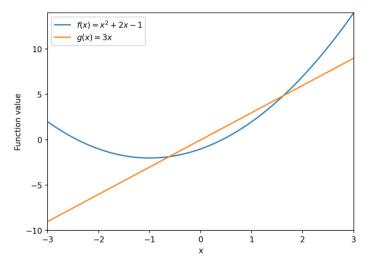
Use label-argument in plt.plot() in combination with plt.legend() at the end ...

• ... and plt.xlabel('x') and plt.ylabel('Function value') for axis labels.



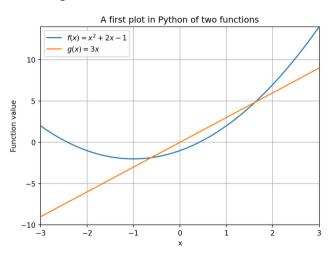
Fixing axes ranges

Use plt.xlim(-3,3) and plt.ylim(-10,14) to fix range of horizontal/vertical axis, resp.



Adding title and grid

- Use plt.title('A first plot of two functions') to add title
- Use plt.grid() to add grid.



Classroom Exercise 1

Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{9}{10}x^4 - 3x^3 - \frac{7}{2}x^2 + 12x + 3$.

- Plot this function with horizontal axis range [-6, 6], and vertical axis range [-15, 15].
- Find four roots of this function with fsolve() by trying out different initial guesses.
- Find a minimum of this function with fmin() by using initial guesses -1 and 2. Are both solutions actual minima of the function?

Chapter 10 - Object oriented programming

Object oriented programming

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- Personal information
- Course registrations
- Study progress

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In programming terms, every student is considered an object in the administration.

• Creating an object is done with a Class in Python.

Attributes and methods

When a students joins the university, an object is initialized for them containing their personal information, for example,

- Name
- Age
- Student number (or student ID)

Attributes and methods

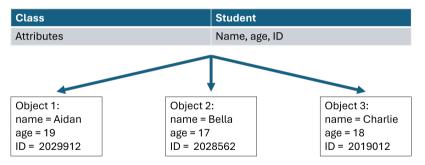
When a students joins the university, an object is initialized for them containing their personal information, for example,

- Name
- Age
- Student number (or student ID)

These pieces of information are called the attributes of the object.

Student example

We will create a class Student whose objects are students with attributes: name, age, (student) ID.



Student example: methods

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Checking if a student is an adult (for legal reasons)

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Further (self-defined) methods could be:

- Checking if a student is an adult (for legal reasons)
- Checking exam registration

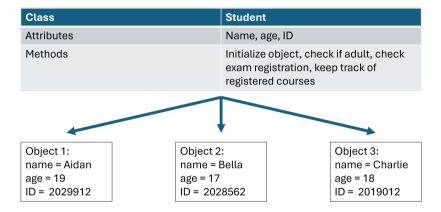
To request information of a student, and to document their study progress, we can define Python functions in our class, which are called methods.

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Further (self-defined) methods could be:

- Checking if a student is an adult (for legal reasons)
- Checking exam registration
- Keeping track of list of registered courses

Student example: overview



A class in Python creates objects with attributes, and can use methods to investigate and modify these objects.

Initializing objects

Initialization is always done with $__{\tt init}_{\tt _()}$ function.

```
class Student:
    # This function initializes an object of the class Student
    # by setting the attributes (name, age and ID) of an object.
    def __init__(self,name,age,student_number):
        self.name = name
        self.age = age
        self.ID = student_number
```

The argument self should be thought of as the object that we want to create.

• The use of self as a variable name for this is standard in Python

Methods

Methods are Python functions in a class. __init__() is also a method of the class.

```
class Student:
    def __init__(self,name,age,student_number):
        self.name = name
        self.age = age
        self.ID = student number
    # Check if student is adult
    def adult(self):
        if self.age >= 18:
            return print(self.name," is an adult")
        else:
            return print(self.name, "is not an adult")
```

- Every method has first input argument self.
- Attribute attribute name can be accessed in method using self.attribute name.

Additional inputs and changing attributes

Methods can require additional input arguments beside self.

• See reg_check() example in course document.

Methods can be used to manipulate attributes.

• See addCourse()/delCourse example in course document.

Adding course to course list

We add a new attribute courses that is an (initially empty) list.

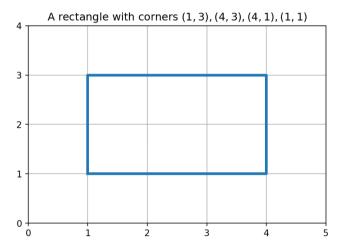
```
class Student:
    def __init__(self,name,age,student_number):
        self.name = name
        self.age = age
        self.ID = student_number
        self.courses = []
```

Write method addCourse() that can add (append) course names to this list.

```
def addCourse(self, course_name):
    return self.courses.append(course_name)
```

Mathematical example: Rectangles

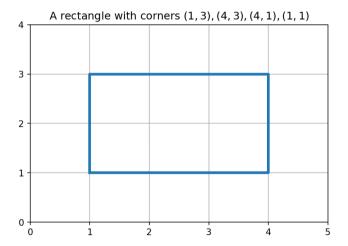
We create a class Rectangle whose objects are rectangles in a two-dimensional plane.



How to model a rectangle? What should the attributes be?

Mathematical example: Rectangles

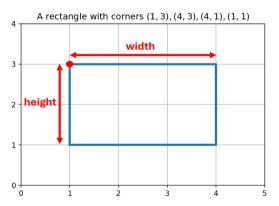
We create a class Rectangle whose objects are rectangles in a two-dimensional plane.



How to model a rectangle? What should the attributes be? Depends on desired methods...

Rectangle attributes

To uniquely determine a rectangle, it suffices to know: Upper-left corner point, width and height.



Rectangle __init__() method

```
class Rectangle:
    # Here corner is the upper-left corner point which
    # should be a list containing the x- and y-coordinate.
    def init (self, corner, height, width):
        self.corner= corner
        self.height = height
        self.width = width
rectangle1 = Rectangle([1,3],2,3)
# Print upper left corner of the rectangle
print(rectangle1.corner)
```

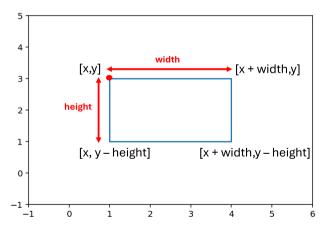
[1, 3]

Rectangle methods: Area and circumference

```
class Rectangle:
   # Initialize rectangle by providing upper-left corner, width and height
   def init (self,corner,width,height):
        self.corner = corner
        self.height = height
        self.width = width
   # Compute area = width*height of rectangle
   def area(self):
        return self.height*self.width
   # Compute circumference = 2*width + 2*height of rectangle
   def circumference(self):
       return 2*self.width + 2*self.height
```

Rectangle methods: Compute all corner points

Given upper left corner [x,y], width and height, we can compute the coordinates of the remaining corner points.



Rectangle methods: Compute all corner points (cont'd)

```
class Rectangle:
   # Initialize rectangle by providing upper-left corner, width and height
   def init (self, corner, height, width):
        self.corner= corner
        self.height = height
        self.width = width
   # Compute corner points: the output has the points in the
   # order [upper-left, upper-right, lower-right, lower-left]
   def corners(self):
       up_right = [self.corner[0] + self.width, self.corner[1]]
       low_right=[self.corner[0]+self.width,self.corner[1]-self.height]
       low left = [self.corner[0], self.corner[1] - self.height]
       return [self.corner, up_right, low_right, low_left]
```

Rectangle methods: Plotting

You can find the plotting() method in the course document. The idea is as follows:

- Determine all corner points using the corners() method.
- Plot the points in order: upper-left, upper-right, lower-right, lower-left, upper-left.

Rectangle methods: Plotting

You can find the plotting() method in the course document. The idea is as follows:

- Determine all corner points using the corners() method.
- Plot the points in order: upper-left, upper-right, lower-right, lower-left, upper-left.

The plot() function plots these five points and connects them with a line segment (resulting in a rectangle shape).

 \bullet Plot list with all x-coordinates against list with all y-coordinates of the five points.