Programming Techniques in Computational Linguistics II – FS24

Lecture 5: Functional Programming





Topics

- Advanced Programming with Functions
- Functional Programming
- Iterables, Iterators and Generators



Learning Objectives

- You know how to use higher order functions, anonymous functions and decorators.
- You can avoid side effects by using built in functions and list comprehensions.
- You can use the ___iter__ special method to make custom classes iterable.
- You know generator functions and their use cases.





Advanced Programming with Functions





Functions as Objects





Functions in Python are **objects**.





Functions in Python are **objects**.

In programming language theory, (first-class) objects are:

- Created at runtime
- Assigned to a variable or element in a datastructure
- Passed as an argument to a function
- Returned as the result of a function





```
In [1]: def count_characters(s: str) -> int:
          '''Returns count of characters in s without whitespace'''
          return len(s) - s.count(' ')
```





```
In [1]: def count_characters(s: str) -> int:
          '''Returns count of characters in s without whitespace'''
          return len(s) - s.count(' ')
In [2]: count_characters("Hello World")
Out[2]: 10
```













Higher-order Functions

A higher-order function is a function that takes a function as an argument or that returns a function.





Higher-order Functions

A higher-order function is a function that takes a function as an argument or that returns a function.





Custom Sort Keys

A sort key can be any function that takes one argument.

```
In [9]: fruit = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry', 'banana']
    def reverse(word):
        return word[::-1]

In [10]: reverse("strawberry")

Out[10]: 'yrrebwarts'

In [11]: sorted(fruit, key=reverse)

Out[11]: ['banana', 'apple', 'strawberry', 'cherry']
```





Anynymous Functions

To use a higher-order function, sometimes it is convenient to create a small, one-off function.

The lambda keyword creates an anonymous function within a Python expression.





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To use a higher-order function, sometimes it is convenient to create a small, one-off function.

The lambda keyword creates an anonymous function within a Python expression.





```
In [13]: sorted(fruit, key=lambda word: -word.count('r'))
Out[13]: ['strawberry', 'cherry', 'apple', 'banana']
```





Example: Nested dictionaries





Example: Nested dictionaries









```
In [16]: callable(print)

Out[16]: True
```





```
In [16]: callable(print)
Out[16]: True
In [17]: callable(lambda x: x.a)
Out[17]: True
```





```
In [16]: callable(print)
Out[16]: True
In [17]: callable(lambda x: x.a)
Out[17]: True
In [18]: callable(12)
Out[18]: False
```





Types of callables

- User-defined functions. Created with def statements or lambda expressions.
- Built-in functions. A function implemented in C like len or time.sleep.
- Methods. Functions defined in the body of a class.
- Built-in methods. Methods implemented in C, like dict.get.





- Classes. When invoked, a class runs its __new__ method to create an instance, then __init__ to initialize it, and finally the instance is returned to the caller.
- Class instances. If a class defines a __call_ method, then its instances may be invoked as functions.





```
In [19]: class Word:
           def __init__(self, text: str):
               self.text = text
           def __call__(self):
               print(self.text)
       callable(Word)
Out[19]: True
```





```
In [19]: class Word:
           def __init__(self, text: str):
               self.text = text
           def __call__(self):
               print(self.text)
       callable(Word)
Out[19]: True
In [20]: word = Word("Hello")
       word()
       Hello
```





Decorators

A decorator takes a callable as argument and adds behavior without explicitly modifying the callable.





Decorators from previous lectures:





Applying a decorator:

```
@mydecorator
def myfunction():
    print('Running myfunction')
```

is equivalent to:

```
def myfunction():
    print('Running myfunction')

myfunction = mydecorator(myfunction)
```





```
In [21]: def mydecorator(func: callable) -> callable:
           def inner():
               print("Before function call")
               func()
               print("After function call")
           return inner
```





```
In [22]: def myfunction():
           print("Running myfunction")
In [23]: decorated_function = mydecorator(myfunction)
       decorated_function()
       Before function call
       Running myfunction
       After function call
```





```
In [24]: @mydecorator
    def myfunction():
        print("Running myfunction")

In [25]: myfunction()

Before function call
    Running myfunction
    After function call
```





```
In [1]: import time
      def timer(func: callable) -> callable:
          def inner(*args, **kwargs):
              start time = time.perf counter()
              f = func(*args, **kwargs)
              run_time = time.perf_counter() - start_time
              print(f"Finished {func.__name___}() in {run_time:.4f} secs")
              return f
          return inner
In [2]: @timer
      def myfunction2(n: int) -> int:
          for i in range(n):
              p = i*i-i
          print("Finished for-loop")
          return p
```





```
In [1]: import time
      def timer(func: callable) -> callable:
          def inner(*args, **kwargs):
              start time = time.perf counter()
              f = func(*args, **kwargs)
              run_time = time.perf_counter() - start_time
              print(f"Finished {func.__name___}() in {run_time:.4f} secs")
              return f
          return inner
In [2]: @timer
      def myfunction2(n: int) -> int:
          for i in range(n):
              p = i*i-i
          print("Finished for-loop")
          return p
In [4]: myfunction2(10000000)
      Finished for-loop
      Finished myfunction2() in 3.5708 secs
Out[4]: 999999700000002
```





Klicker Quiz

https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische







Functional Programming





What is Functional Programming?

Theoretically:

- avoiding side effects
- avoiding mutable data
- preferring expressions over statements
- using pure functions





Practically in Python: a frequent use of:

- the lambda operator
- zip() and enumerate()
- map() and filter()
- list comprehensions





Pure Functions

A function is considered pure if

- it has no side effects
 - it does not modify or interact with any data outside of its scope
 - it does not print anything
- always provides the same output for the same inputs





Example: Side Effects

```
In [5]: from typing import Iterable

tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercasel(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    for i in range(len(tokens)):
        tokens[i] = tokens[i].lower()
    return tokens
```





Example: Side Effects

```
In [5]: from typing import Iterable
tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercasel(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    for i in range(len(tokens)):
        tokens[i] = tokens[i].lower()
    return tokens

In [6]: lowercasel(tokens)

Out[6]: ['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
```





Example: Side Effects

```
In [5]: from typing import Iterable
      tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']
      def lowercase1(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
          for i in range(len(tokens)):
              tokens[i] = tokens[i].lower()
          return tokens
In [6]: lowercase1(tokens)
Out[6]: ['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
In [7]: print(tokens)
       ['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
```





Without side effects:

```
In [8]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercase2(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    new_tokens = []
    for token in tokens:
        new_tokens.append(token.lower())
    return new_tokens
```





Without side effects:

```
In [8]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']

def lowercase2(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
    new_tokens = []
    for token in tokens:
        new_tokens.append(token.lower())
    return new_tokens

In [9]: print(lowercase2(tokens))

['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
```





Without side effects:

```
In [8]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']
       def lowercase2(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
           new_tokens = []
           for token in tokens:
               new_tokens.append(token.lower())
           return new_tokens
In [9]: print(lowercase2(tokens))
        ['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
In [10]: print(tokens)
       ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']
```





More elegant solution:

```
In [11]: tokens = ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']
       def lowercase3(tokens: Iterable[str]) -> Iterable[str]:
           return [token.lower() for token in tokens]
       print(lowercase3(tokens))
       print(tokens)
       ['this', 'is', 'a', 'test', '.']
       ['This', 'is', 'a', 'Test', '.']
```





Klicker-Quiz: "Is this a pure function?"

https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische







Built-in Function: enumerate()

enumerate() generates index-element pairs from an iterable





This function is useful when processing a file line by line:

```
with open('lyrics.txt', 'r') as f:
    for i, line in enumerate(f):
        print(i, line)
```





Built-in Function: zip()

zip(iterA, iterB, ...) takes one element from each iterable and returns them in a tuple:

```
In [19]: | 11 = ['Italy', 'France', 'Switzerland']
        12 = ['Rome', 'Bern']
        for e1, e2 in zip(11, 12, strict=True):
             print(e1, e2)
        Italy Rome
        France Bern
        ValueError
                                              Traceback (most recent call last)
        Cell In[19], line 4
             1 l1 = ['Italy', 'France', 'Switzerland']
             2 12 = ['Rome', 'Bern']
        ----> 4 for e1, e2 in zip(l1, l2, strict=True):
              5 print(e1, e2)
        ValueError: zip() argument 2 is shorter than argument 1
```





dict from zip()

The dict() constructor can accept any iterator that returns a finite stream of (key, value) tuples:





Built-in Function: filter()

filter(predicate, iter) returns an iterator over all the sequence elements that meet a certain condition. Its predicate is a function that returns the truth value of some condition.

```
In [20]: # isupper() returns True if all the characters
    # are in upper case, otherwise False.
    l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!']
    list(filter(str.isupper, l))
Out[20]: ['WORLD']
```





You can also use an anonymous function as predicate:

```
In [21]: l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!']

for x in (filter(lambda s: s != '!!!', l)):
    print(x)

Hello
WORLD
```





Built-in Function: map()

The function passed into map(func, iter) is applied to each item in the iterable.

```
In [22]: list(map(lambda x: x.upper(), ['foo', 'bar']))
Out[22]: ['FOO', 'BAR']
```





```
In [23]: list(map(str, ['hello', 123, {'France': 'Paris'}]))
Out[23]: ['hello', '123', "{'France': 'Paris'}"]
```





List Comprehensions

Both filter() and map() can be replaced with list comprehensions:





List Comprehensions

Both filter() and map() can be replaced with list comprehensions:

```
In [24]: l = ['Hello', 'WORLD', '!!!']
list(filter(str.isupper, 1))

Out[24]: ['WORLD']

In [25]: [word for word in 1 if word.isupper()]

Out[25]: ['WORLD']
```





```
In [26]: list(map(lambda x: x.upper(), ['foo', 'bar']))
Out[26]: ['FOO', 'BAR']
```





```
In [26]: list(map(lambda x: x.upper(), ['foo', 'bar']))
Out[26]: ['FOO', 'BAR']
In [27]: [word.upper() for word in ['foo', 'bar']]
Out[27]: ['FOO', 'BAR']
```





Dictionary Comprehensions





```
In [28]: DIAL_CODES = [
       (86, 'China'),
       (91, 'India'),
       (1, 'United States'),
       (41, 'Switzerland'),
       (880, 'Bangladesh'),
```









```
In [30]: d
Out[30]: {'China': 86,
        'India': 91,
        'United States': 1,
        'Switzerland': 41,
        'Bangladesh': 880}
In [31]: {country.upper(): code
            for country, code in d.items()
            if code < 42}
Out[31]: {'UNITED STATES': 1, 'SWITZERLAND': 41}
```





Exercise

Answer three questions given the sentence:

```
In [32]:
s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
tokens = s.split()
```

- 1. Use map() to reverse each token individually. Then convert the expression to a list comprehension.
- 2. Use filter() to filter out commas and periods. Then convert the expression to a **list** comprehension.
- 3. Which syntax do you prefer?

```
In [41]: map(lambda x: x[::-1], tokens)
Out[41]: <map at 0x10aa1ac80>
In [42]: (word[::-1] for word in tokens)
Out[42]: <generator object <genexpr> at 0x10b059f50>
```



Built-in Functions: min(), max()

```
In [43]: min(['a', 'b', 'c'])
Out[43]: 'a'

In [44]: max(['a', 'b', 'c'])
Out[44]: 'c'
```





Built-in Functions: min(), max()

```
In [43]: min(['a', 'b', 'c'])
Out[43]: 'a'
In [44]: max(['a', 'b', 'c'])
Out[44]: 'c'
```

Functions like min() or max() are called reducing, folding or accumulating functions.





sum() and str.join()

```
s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
tokens = s.split()
```





sum() and str.join()

```
In [45]: s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
tokens = s.split()

In [46]: sum([len(token) for token in tokens])
Out[46]: 43
```





sum() and str.join()

```
In [45]: s = 'Time flies like an arrow , fruit flies like a banana .'
    tokens = s.split()

In [46]: sum([len(token) for token in tokens])

Out[46]: 43

In [47]: '\n'.join(tokens)

Out[47]: 'Time\nflies\nlike\nan\narrow\n,\nfruit\nflies\nlike\na\nbanana\n.'
```





Built-in Functions: any() and all()

any() returns True if any element in the iterable is a true value.

all() returns True if all of the elements are true values.





```
In [48]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
           return any([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
```





```
In [48]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
    return any([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
In [49]: may_be_german("aou")
Out[49]: False
```





```
In [48]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
    return any([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])

In [49]: may_be_german("aou")

Out[49]: False

In [50]: may_be_german("äou")

Out[50]: True
```





```
In [48]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
           return any([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
In [49]: may_be_german("aou")
Out[49]: False
In [50]: may_be_german("äou")
Out[50]: True
In [51]: may_be_german("äöü")
Out[51]: True
```





```
In [52]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
           return all([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
```





```
In [52]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
           return all([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
In [53]: may_be_german("aou")
Out[53]: False
```





```
In [52]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
    return all([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])

In [53]: may_be_german("aou")

Out[53]: False

In [55]: may_be_german("äou")

Out[55]: False
```





```
In [52]: def may_be_german(text: str) -> bool:
           return all([char.lower() in 'äöü' for char in text])
In [53]: may_be_german("aou")
Out[53]: False
In [55]: may_be_german("äou")
Out[55]: False
In [56]: may_be_german("äöü")
Out[56]: True
```





Iterables, Iterators and Generators





Iterators

```
In [57]: fruits = ['strawberry', 'apple', 'cherry']
       fruits_it = iter(fruits)
       fruits_it
Out[57]: st_iterator at 0x10aa1b790>
In [58]: fruits_it.__next__()
Out[58]: 'strawberry'
In [61]: next(fruits_it)
        StopIteration
                                            Traceback (most recent call last)
        Cell In[61], line 1
        ---> 1 next(fruits_it)
        StopIteration:
```





Calling iter() on objects of different types:

```
In [62]: iter({'n': .58, 'v': .37, 'a': .05})
Out[62]: <dict_keyiterator at 0x10a0dc4a0>
```





Calling iter() on objects of different types:

```
In [62]: iter({'n': .58, 'v': .37, 'a': .05})
Out[62]: <dict_keyiterator at 0x10a0dc4a0>
In [63]: iter('TACTTAATAAAAATAAAGCATATTACATTATTCTCACATGGACTAT')
Out[63]: <str_iterator at 0x10aalafb0>
```









The iter() Function

Whenever the interpreter needs to **iterate** over an object x, it automatically calls iter(x).









1. Checks whether the object implements ___iter___(), and calls that to obtain an iterator.





- 1. Checks whether the object implements ___iter___(), and calls that to obtain an iterator.
- 2. If __iter__() is not implemented but __getitem__() is implemented, Python creates an iterator that attempts to fetch items in order, starting from index 0.





- 1. Checks whether the object implements ___iter___(), and calls that to obtain an iterator.
- 2. If __iter__() is not implemented but __getitem__() is implemented, Python creates an iterator that attempts to fetch items in order, starting from index 0.
- 3. If that fails, Python raises TypeError, usually saying "object is not iterable".





Iterable Objects





```
In [67]: s = Sentence('Hello , World !')
In [68]: for token in s:
           print(token)
       Hello
       World
```





Generators





```
In [ ]:
     class Sentence:
         def __init__(self, text: str):
               self.text = text
               self.tokens = text.split()

         def __iter__(self):
               for token in self.tokens:
                    yield token
```





```
In [ ]: class Sentence:
           def __init__(self, text: str):
               self.text = text
               self.tokens = text.split()
           def __iter__(self):
               for token in self.tokens:
                    yield token
In [69]: s = Sentence('Hello , World !')
       for token in s:
           print(token)
       Hello
       World
```





Generators are itertators.

yield is a keyword used to create a generator function.

It is similar to return, but where return will terminate the function, yield will only pause it.

yield is highly memory efficient, as the function is only executed when caller iterates over the object. But it must be handled properly.





Lazy Iteration through Generators





```
In [70]: class Sentence:

def __init__(self, text: str):
    self.text = text

def __iter__(self):
    while ' ' in self.text:
        token, self.text = self.text.split(maxsplit=1)
        yield token
    yield self.text
```





```
In [70]: class Sentence:
           def __init__(self, text: str):
               self.text = text
           def __iter__(self):
               while ' ' in self.text:
                   token, self.text = self.text.split(maxsplit=1)
                   yield token
               yield self.text
In [71]: s = Sentence('Hello', World !')
       for token in s:
           print(token)
       Hello
       World
```





Generator Expressions

Generator expressions are an alternative to list comprehensions in two cases:

- When the iterator returns an infinite stream (e.g. prime numbers)
- When the iterator handles a large amount of data.





Generator Expressions

Generator expressions are an alternative to list comprehensions in two cases:

- When the iterator returns an infinite stream (e.g. prime numbers)
- When the iterator handles a large amount of data.

Generator expressions are surrounded by parentheses (()) while list comprehensions are surrounded by square brackets ([]).





```
infile = open("very_large_file.txt")
generator = (line.strip().upper() for line in infile if line != "\n")
```

Read and uppercase lines one by one:

```
In [88]: next(generator)
Out[88]: 'THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK OF ULYSSES, BY JAMES JOYCE'
```





```
In [89]: from typing import Iterable

def fibonacci() -> Iterable[int]:
    x, y = 0, 1
    while True:
        yield y
        x, y = y, x + y

In [90]: generator = fibonacci()

In [105]: next(generator)

Out[105]: 610
```



Klicker Quiz

https://pwa.klicker.uzh.ch/join/lfische







Take-home messages

- Higher-order functions have a function as an argument or return value.
- Decorators are higher-order functions used to modify the behaviour of a function.
- The lambda keyword creates anonymous functions.
- Functional programming in python means using pure functions, list comprehensions and built in functions like map, filter, any, zip, etc.
- Iterables are objects that can be iterated over, Iterators are objects created to handle the iteration.
- The yield keyword creates a generator function, a memory efficient way to iterate over a large dataset.



