# SECTION 6: USER-DEFINED FUNCTIONS

ENGR 103 – Introduction to Engineering Computing

### **User-Defined Functions**

- 2
- By now you're accustomed to using Python functions in your scripts
- □ Consider, for example, np.mean()
  - Commonly-used function to calculate an average value
  - A Python (NumPy) module written using other Python functions
  - Need not write code each time an average is calculated
- Functions allow *reuse of commonly-used blocks of code* Executable from any script or the console
- Can also create *user-defined functions* Just like built-in or library functions
  - Similar syntax, structure, reusability, etc.

#### Anatomy of a Function





Webb

#### **User-Defined Functions**

- Keep your code DRY
  - "Don't Repeat Yourself"
- Do not write the same code more than once
   *Create functions* for frequently-used code blocks
   Improves conciseness and readability of your code
   If code needs to be modified, only need to do it once
- Avoid WET code
  - "Write Everything Twice"
  - "Write Every Time"
  - "We Enjoy Typing"
  - "Waste Everyone's Time"



### Function Inputs and Outputs

- 5
- Just like built-in or library functions, user-defined functions may have *inputs* and *outputs*
  - But, they need not have either

#### Inputs

- Arguments passed into the function
- Specified inside the parentheses in the function definition



#### **Outputs**

- Arguments returned from the function
- Specified with the return statement



### **Function Inputs and Outputs**

7

#### Functions may or may not have inputs or outputs, e.g.:

#### No input or output

45 46 47 48	<pre>def greet1():     print('\nHello!')</pre>
49	greet1()

Hello!

In [224]:

#### Output only

61 62 63 64	<pre>def greet3():     greeting = '\nHello!'     return greeting</pre>
66 67	<pre>grtng = greet3() print(grtng)</pre>

Hello!

In [226]:

#### Input only



Hello, Jane!

In [225]:

#### Input and output

2 73 74	<pre>def greet4(name):     greeting = '\nHello, {}'.format(name)     return greeting</pre>
76	grtng = greet4('Bob')
77	print(grtng)

Hello, Bob

In [227]:

#### Positional and Keyword Input Arguments

def func(arg1, arg2, ..., kwarg1=def1, kwarg2=def2, ...)

Two main types of input arguments:

- **Positional arguments** (arg1, ...)
  - Required inputs passed in the specified order
  - Position determines what is arg1, arg2, and so on
- Keyword arguments (kwarg1=def1, ...)
  - Passed as keyword=value pairs
  - Order does not matter
  - Useful for specifying default values for optional inputs
    - If kwarg1, above, is not passed, it defaults to def1

□ For example:

plt.plot(x, y, linewidth=2)

- x and y are *positional* arguments
- linewidth is a keyword argument

#### Positional and Keyword Input Arguments

- 9
- Consider a function with one positional argument and one keyword argument

81 82 83	<pre>def greet5(name, greet_str='Hello'):     greeting ='\n' + greet_str + ',' + name     return greeting</pre>
84	return greeting

- name: positional argument required
- greet\_str: keyword argument optional default: 'Hello'

```
In [232]: print(greet5('Jack'))
Hello,Jack
In [233]: print(greet5('Sally', greet_str='Hi'))
Hi,Sally
In [234]: print(greet5(greet_str='Hi'))
Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "<ipython-input-234-e7df60de06f1>", line 1, in <module>
    print(greet5(greet_str='Hi'))
TypeError: greet5() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

### Variable Input Arguments - \*args

10

Some functions allow for a variable number of inputs
 Use \*args in the function definition
 Multiple inputs passed to function as a *tuple*

```
def greet6(*names, greet_str='Hello'):
    greeting ='\n' + greet_str
    for name in names:
        greeting = greeting + ', ' + name
    return greeting
grtng = greet6('Charlie', 'Sally', 'Lucy', 'Linus', greet_str='Hi')
print(grtng)
```

<pre>In [247]: runcell('*args', 'C:/Users/webbky/</pre>	
Hi, Charlie, Sally, Lucy, Linus	
In [248]:	

```
def add(*nums):
    sum = 0
    for num in nums:
        sum += num
    return sum
print(add(2, 3))
print(add(2, 3, 4))
print(add(2, 3, 4, 5, 6))
```

```
In [246]: runcell('another example using *ar
func_ex.py')
5
9
20
In [247]:
```

#### **Multiple Outputs**

Functions may return multiple outputs
 Returned as a *tuple* or *list* To return a tuple:

 return Tc, Tk
 or
 return (Tc, Tk)

□ To return a list:

return [Tc, Tk]

#### Function – Example

- 12
- Consider a function that converts a distance in kilometers to a distance in both miles and feet
  - Outputs returned as tuple:

28	<pre>def km2mift(km):</pre>
29	
30	Convert from km to mile and feet.
31	
32	mi = km*0.62137
33	ft = mi*5280
34	
35	return mi, ft
- 26	-

```
In [106]: dist = km2mift(10)
In [107]: print(type(dist),'\n',dist)
<class 'tuple'>
  (6.213699999999999, 32808.335999999996)
In [108]: miles, feet = km2mift(10)
In [109]: print(type(miles),'\n',miles)
<class 'float'>
  6.213699999999999
In [110]: print(type(feet),'\n',feet)
<class 'float'>
  32808.335999999996
```

Outputs returned as list:

28	<pre>def km2mift(km):</pre>
29	100 C 1 C
30	Convert from km to mile and feet.
31	
32	mi = km*0.62137
33	ft = mi*5280
34	
35	return [mi, ft]
26	

```
In [113]: dist = km2mift(10)
In [114]: print(type(dist), '\n', dist)
<class 'list'>
  [6.213699999999999, 32808.335999999996]
In [115]: miles, feet = km2mift(10)
In [116]: print(type(miles), '\n', miles)
<class 'float'>
  6.213699999999999
In [117]: print(type(feet), '\n', feet)
<class 'float'>
  32808.335999999996
```



#### Variable Scope

- Inputs are values passed to a function
   Defined in and passed from the calling script
   Not defined within the function
- A function has its own *namespace* 
  - Separate set of local (to the function) variables and values
  - Variables may have the same names as in the calling script, but they are *separate* variables

```
62
       def inc(x, delta):
63
           x = x + delta
64
           print('\nInside the function, x = {}'.format(x))
65
66
           return x
67
68
       x = 4
       delta = 2
69
70
71
       y = inc(x,delta)
       print('\nOutside the function, x = \{\}'.format(x))
72
73
```

```
In [250]: runcell(4, 'C:/Users/webbky/Box/KWe
Inside the function, x = 6
Outside the function, x = 4
In [251]:
```

#### Variable Scope

- 15
- Local function variables are not available in the enclosing script after returning from the function



#### Variable Scope - LEGB

- Python locates variables used in code according to the LEGB rule
- Namespaces are searched in LEGB order to resolve variable names:
  - *Local*: defined within the function
  - Enclosing: defined in the outer (enclosing) function applies only to nested functions
  - **Global**: defined in the top-level script or module
  - **B***uilt-In*: defined in built-in Python libraries
- The first (in LEGB order) occurrence of a variable is used

#### Variable Scope - LEGB

17



#### Exercise – Define a Function

Write a script to:

Define a function, pwr, to raise an input to a power

- x: positional input argument
- pow: keyword input argument default=2
- Return:  $y = x^{pow}$
- Test your function using different inputs
  - With and without specifying pow



## **Function Docstrings**

- 20
- Any function built-in or user-defined is accessible by the Spyder help system
  - □ Console: help(functionName)
  - Spyder help pane
- Help text that appears is the function *docstring* 
  - Comment block following the function definition
  - Enclosed in triple-quotes
  - Describes function behavior, inputs, and outputs
- Docstrings serve as function documentation
   Particularly important for functions
   Often reused long after they are written
   Often used by other users

### **Function Docstrings**

21

```
def far2cel(Tf):
 2
 З
           Convert a temperature from degrees Farenheit
           to degrees Celsius and to Kelvin
 4
 5
 6
           Parameters
 7
8
           Tf : float
               Temperature in degrees Farenheit
9
10
11
           Returns
12
           _____
13
           Tc, Tk: tuple of temperatures
14
               Tc: float
15
16
                    Temperature in degrees Celsius
17
               Tk: float
18
                   Temperature in Kelvin
           -----
19
           Tc = (Tf - 32)/1.8
20
21
           Tk = Tc + 273
22
23
           return Tc, Tk
24
25
```



Help on function far2cel in module \_\_main\_:

far2cel(Tf)
 Convert a temperature from degrees Farenheit
 to degrees Celsius and to Kelvin

Parameters

In [286]: help(far2cel)

Tf : float Temperature in degrees Farenheit

Returns

Tc, Tk: tuple of temperatures

Tc: float Temperature in degrees Celsius Tk: float Temperature in Kelvin

```
    The Spyder editor can automatically generate a 
function docstring
```

 Click 'Generate docstring' popup that appears after typing the opening triple-quote, ''', in the function definition

# <sup>22</sup> Importing Modules and Functions

### **Importing Modules and Functions**

- When we run Python, built-in functions are loaded and accessible by default
- To access other functions, we must first *import* the corresponding *packages* and *modules* For example:
  - For example:

import numpy as np

from matplotlib import pyplot as plt

We can do the same for our own *user-defined functions* Can use our user-defined functions in other scripts
 Must *import* them first

# The Python Path

- 24
- To import a module, it must be in the *Python path* That is, it must be saved in a directory (folder) that is included in the *Python path*

```
In [140]: import sys
In [141]: sys.path
Out[141]:
['C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\python38.zip',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\locket-0.2.1-py3.8.egg',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\win32',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\win32',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\win32\\lib',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\win32\\lib',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\win32\\lib',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\IPython\\extensions',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\IPython\\extensions',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\Anaconda3\\lib\\site-packages\\IPython\\extensions',
'C:\\Users\\webbky\\.ipython']
```

- Frequently-used user-defined functions:
  - Save under site-packages
  - Will always be able to import

#### Path includes:

- Default locations, as shown
- Present working directory, PWD
- PWD always included
  - Can import anything from the same directory
  - Save related modules in a common directory

Several different ways to import modules and objects from modules

How a function is imported affects how it is called

import <module\_name>

import <module\_name> as <loc\_name>

from <module\_name> import <name>

from <module\_name> import <name> as <loc\_name>

Import my\_mod.py to another script



Import the *entire module* with the *same name* Call imported functions as: my\_mod.<fname()>



- 27
- Import the *entire module* but give it a *local name* Call imported functions as: <loc\_name>.<fname()>



Import a *function from the module* and *keep its name* Call imported functions as: <fname()>

22 23 24	<pre>from my_mod import func1</pre>
25 8 26	func1() func2()
8 27 28	func3()



Import *multiple functions, keeping names* Call imported functions as: <fname()>

31 32 33	<pre>from my_mod import func1, func2</pre>
34	func1()
35	func2()
36	func3()



Import *multiple functions*, assigning *local names* Call imported functions as: <loc\_name()>

40	<pre>from my_mod import func1 as f1, func2 as f2</pre>
42 43	f1()
44 3 45	f2() f3()





### Lambda Functions

- Python offers an alternative to the standard function definition syntax: Lambda functions
  - Single-line functions
  - May or may not be named (may be anonymous)
  - Typically intended for one-time or temporary use
- Standard function definition:

def add3(x, y, z):
 return x + y + z

Lambda function equivalent:

add3 = lambda x, y, z: x + y + z

#### Lambda Functions - Syntax



#### Function name

- Optional
- If not defined, it is an anonymous function

#### A list of input variables

- E.g. x, y
- Zero or more arguments
- Separated by commas
- Not enclosed in parentheses

31

#### Lambda Functions – Examples

32

Simple function that Console 1/A 🔯 returns half of the In [48]: half = lambda x: x/2 In [49]: half(35) input value Out[49]: 17.5 In [49]: May have multiple In [50]: resp = lambda tau, t: 1 - np.exp(-t/tau) In [51]: resp(2, 4) inputs Out[51]: 0.8646647167633873 In [51]: First-order system In [52]: t = np.arange(0, 21, 2) response – inputs: time In [53]: t Out[53]: array([ 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20]) constant, value of time In [54]: resp(2, t) Out[54]: , 0.63212056, 0.86466472, 0.95021293, Inputs may be arrays array([0. 0.98168436. 0.99326205, 0.99752125, 0.99908812, 0.99966454, 0.99987659. Outputs may be arrays 0.9999546 ]) In [55]: as well

### Passing Functions to Functions

- We often want to perform functions on other functions
  - E.g. integration, roots finding, optimization, solution of differential equations
  - Lambda functions commonly passed as inputs to other functions



- Define a lambda function
- Pass the function as an input to another function
- Here, integrate the function, f, from 0 to 10 using SciPy's integrate.quad() function

#### **Passing Functions to Functions**

34

Several ways to pass functions to functions:



## Function Function – Example

- Consider a function that calculates the mean of a mathematical function evaluated at a vector of independent variable values
- Inputs:

35

- Function object
- Vector of x values
- Output:
  - Mean value of y = f(x)

26	<pre>def fmean(func, x):</pre>
27	
28	Calculate the mean of func(x).
29	
30	Parameters
31	
32	func : function
33	Mathematical function to be integrated.
34	x : array
35	X-values at which func is evaluated.
36	
37	Returns
38	
39	favg : float
40	<pre>mean value of func(x)</pre>
41	
42	
43	from numpy import mean
44	y = func(x)
45	<pre>favg = mean(y)</pre>
46	return favg

```
50  x = np.linspace(-5, 5, 1000)
51  f = lambda x: 0.5*x**5 - 12*x**3 + 15*x**2 - 9
52
53  meanf = fmean(f, x)
54
55  print('\n{:0.4f}'.format(meanf))
```

Console 1/A 🛛

# <sup>36</sup> Recursion

#### **Recursive Functions**

- Recursion is a problem solving approach in which a larger problem is solved by solving many smaller, self-similar problems
- A *recursive function* is one that calls itself
   Each time it calls itself, it, again, calls itself
- Two components to a recursive function:

#### A base case

A single case that can be solved without recursion

#### A general case

A recursive relationship, ultimately leading to the base case

#### Recursion Example 1 – Factorial

- We have considered *iterative* algorithms for computing y = n!
  - for loop, while loop
- Factorial can also be computed using recursion
   It can be defined with a base case and a general case:

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 1 \\ n * (n - 1)! & n > 1 \end{cases}$$

The general case leads back to the base case

- n! defined in terms of (n 1)!, which is, in turn, defined in terms of (n 2)!, and so on
- Ultimately, the base case, for n = 1, is reached

#### Recursion Example 1 – Factorial

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & x = 1 \\ x * (x - 1)! & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

- The general case is a recursive relationship, because it defines the factorial function using the factorial function
   The function calls itself
- □ In Python:



In [164]: runfile('C:/Users/webbky/Bo: webbky/Box/KWebb/Classes/ENGR102\_103/I 5! = 120 In [165]:

39

#### Recursion Example 1 – Factorial

40

```
def fact(n):
 5
           if int(n) != n:
 6
               raise Exception('n must be an integer')
 7
 8
           if n == 1:
 9
               y = 1
10
11
           else:
               y = n*fact(n-1)
12
13
14
           return y
```

□ Consider, for example: y = 4!

- fact() recursively called four times
- Fourth function call terminates first, once the base case is reached
- Function calls terminate in reverse order
  - Function call doesn't terminate until all successive calls have terminated



- A common search algorithm is the *binary search* 
  - Similar to searching for a name in a phone book or a word in a dictionary
  - Look at the middle value to determine if the search item is in the upper or lower half
  - Look at the middle value of the half that contains the search item to determine if it is in that half's upper or lower half, ...
- The search function gets called recursively, each time on half of the previous set
  - Search range shrinks by half on each function call
  - Recursion continues until the middle value is the search item – this is the required **base case**

#### **Recursive binary search** – the basic algorithm:

• Find the index, *i*, of *x* in the sorted list, *A*, in the range of  $A(i_{low}: i_{high})$ 

1) Calculate the middle index of  $A(i_{low}: i_{high})$ :

$$i_{mid} = \operatorname{floor}\left(\frac{i_{low} + i_{high}}{2}\right)$$

2) If  $A(i_{mid}) == x$ , then  $i = i_{mid}$ , and we're done

- 3) If  $A(i_{mid}) > x$ , repeat the algorithm for  $A(i_{low}: i_{mid} 1)$
- 4) If  $A(i_{mid}) < x$ , repeat the algorithm for  $A(i_{mid} + 1: i_{high})$

Find the index of the x = 9 in:

$$A = [0, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, 20]$$

A[i<sub>mid</sub>] = A[4] = 6
 A[i<sub>mid</sub>] < x</li>
 Start over for A[5:10]

A = [0, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12] 16, 20]

A[i<sub>mid</sub>] = A[7] = 12
 A[i<sub>mid</sub>] > x
 Start over for A[5:7]

$$A = [0, 1, 3, 5, (7, 9, 12, 16, 20]$$

$$\Box A[i_{mid}] = A[5] = 7$$

$$\bullet \ A[\iota_{mid}] < x$$

• Start over for *A*[6]

$$A = [0, 1, 3, 5, 6, 79, 12, 16, 20]$$

$$A[i_{mid}] = A[6] = 9$$

$$A[i_{mid}] = x$$

$$i = i_{mid} = 6$$

23 24

25

26 27

28

29

30 31

32

33

34

35

36 37

38

39

40

- Recursive binary search algorithm in Python
- Base case for
  A[imid] == x
- Function is called recursively on successively halved ranges until base case is reached

```
def binsearch(A, x, ilow, ihigh):
    ...
    Locate the index of a search item within
    an ordered list. Value must be in the list.
    ...
    from numpy import floor
    imid = int(floor((ilow + ihigh)/2))
    if A[imid] == x:
        ind = imid
    elif A[imid] > x:
        ind = binsearch(A, x, ilow, imid)
    else:
        ind = binsearch(A, x, imid, ihigh)
    return ind
```

45

- □ A=[0,1,3,5,6,7,9,12,16,20]
- □ x=9
- ind = binsearch(A,x,1,10)
  ind = 7

23 24 def binsearch(A, x, ilow, ihigh): 25 Locate the index of a search item within 26 an ordered list. Value must be in the list. 27 28 from numpy import floor 29 30 31 imid = int(floor((ilow + ihigh)/2)) 32 33 if A[imid] == x: ind = imid 34 elif A[imid] > x: 35 ind = binsearch(A, x, ilow, imid) 36 37 else: ind = binsearch(A, x, imid, ihigh) 38 39 return ind 40 4.4

ind = binsearch(A,9,1,10)

