

Generators



Class outline:

- Generators
- yield
- yield from

Generators

Generators

A **generator function** uses `yield` instead of `return`:

```
def evens():  
    num = 0  
    while num < 10:  
        yield num  
        num += 2
```

A **generator** is a type of iterator that yields results from a generator function.

Just call the generator function to get back a generator:

```
evengen = evens()  
  
next(evengen)  
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```

Generators

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        yield num  
        num += 2
```

A **generator** is a type of iterator that yields results from a generator function.

Just call the generator function to get back a generator:

```
evengen = evens()  
  
next(evengen) # 0  
next(evengen) # 2  
next(evengen) # 4  
next(evengen) # 6  
next(evengen) # 8  
next(evengen) # ✘ StopIteration exception
```

How generators work

```
def evens():
    num = 0
    while num < 2:
        yield num
        num += 2

gen = evens()

next(gen)
next(gen)
```

- When the function is called, Python immediately returns an iterator without entering the function.
- When `next()` is called on the iterator, it executes the body of the generator from the last stopping point up to the next `yield` statement.
- If it finds a `yield` statement, it pauses on the next statement and returns the value of the yielded expression.
- If it doesn't reach a yield statement, it stops at the end of the function and raises a `StopIteration` exception.



[View in PythonTutor](#)

Looping over generators

We can use for loops on generators, since generators are just special types of iterators.

```
def evens(start, end):  
    num = start + (start % 2)  
    while num < end:  
        yield num  
        num += 2  
  
for num in evens(12, 60):  
    print(num)
```



Looping over generators

We can use for loops on generators, since generators are just special types of iterators.

```
def evens(start, end):  
    num = start + (start % 2)  
    while num < end:  
        yield num  
        num += 2  
  
for num in evens(12, 60):  
    print(num)
```

Looks a lot like...

```
evens = [num for num in range(12, 60) if num % 2 == 0]  
# Or = filter(lambda x: x % 2 == 0, range(12, 60))  
for num in evens:  
    print(num)
```


Why use generators?

Generators are lazy: they only generate the next item when needed.

Why generate the whole sequence...

```
def find_matches(filename, match):
    matched = []
    for line in open(filename):
        if line.find(match) > -1:
            matched.append(line)
    return matched

matched_lines = find_matches('frankenstein.txt', "!")
matched_lines[0]
matched_lines[1]
```

...if you only want some elements?


```
def find_matches(filename, match):
    for line in open(filename):
        if line.find(match) > -1:
            yield line

line_iter = find_matches('frankenstein.txt', "!")
next(line_iter)
next(line_iter)
```

A large list can cause your program to run out of memory!

Exercise: Countdown

```
def countdown(n):  
    """  
    Generate a countdown of numbers from N down to 'blast off!'.  
    >>> c = countdown(3)  
    >>> next(c)  
    3  
    >>> next(c)  
    2  
    >>> next(c)  
    1  
    >>> next(c)  
    'blast off!'  
    """
```



Exercise: Countdown (solution)

```
def countdown(n):  
    """  
    Generate a countdown of numbers from N down to 'blast off!'.  
    >>> c = countdown(3)  
    >>> next(c)  
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    >>> next(c)  
    2  
    >>> next(c)  
    1  
    >>> next(c)  
    'blast off!'  
    """  
    while n > 0:  
        yield n  
        n -= 1  
    yield "blast off!"
```

Virahanka-Fibonacci generator

Let's transform this function...

```
def virfib(n):  
    """Compute the nth Virahanka-Fibonacci number, for N >= 1.  
    >>> virfib(6)  
    8  
    """  
    prev = 0 # First Fibonacci number  
    curr = 1 # Second Fibonacci number  
    k = 1  
    while k < n:  
        (prev, curr) = (curr, prev + curr)  
        k += 1  
    return curr
```

..into a generator function!

```
def generate_virfib():  
    """Generate the next Virahanka-Fibonacci number.  
    >>> g = generate_virfib()  
    >>> next(g)  
    0  
    >>> next(g)  
    1  
    >>> next(g)  
    1  
    >>> next(g)  
    2  
    """
```

Virahanka-Fibonacci generator (solution)

```
def generate_virfib():
    """Generate the next Virahanka-Fibonacci number.
    >>> g = generate_virfib()
    >>> next(g)
    0
    >>> next(g)
    1
    >>> next(g)
    1
    >>> next(g)
    2
    >>> next(g)
    3
    """
    prev = 0 # First Fibonacci number
    curr = 1 # Second Fibonacci number
    while True:
        yield prev
        (prev, curr) = (curr, prev + curr)
```

Yield from

Yielding from iterables

A `yield from` statement can be used to yield the values from an iterable one at a time.

Instead of...

```
def a_then_b(a, b):  
    for item in a:  
        yield item  
    for item in b:  
        yield item  
  
list(a_then_b(["Apples", "Aardvarks"], ["Bananas", "BEARS"]))
```

We can write...

```
def a_then_b(a, b):  
    yield from a  
    yield from b  
  
list(a_then_b(["Apples", "Aardvarks"], ["Bananas", "BEARS"]))
```

Yielding from generators

A `yield from` can also yield the results of another generator function (which could be itself).

```
def countdown(k):  
    if k > 0:  
        yield k  
        yield from countdown(k - 1)
```



Visualizing countdown

Calls	Executed code	Bindings	Yields
<pre>>>> c = countdown(3)</pre>	<pre>def countdown(k):</pre>	<pre>k = 3</pre>	

Visualizing countdown

Calls	Executed code	Bindings	Yields
<pre>>>> c = countdown(3) >>> next(c)</pre>	<pre>def countdown(k): if k > 0: yield k</pre>	k = 3	3

Visualizing countdown

Calls	Executed code	Bindings	Yields
<code>>>> c = countdown(3)</code>	<code>def countdown(k):</code>	<code>k = 3</code>	
<code>>>> next(c)</code>	<code> if k > 0:</code> <code> yield k</code>		<code>3</code>
<code>>>> next(c)</code>	<code> yield from countdown(k - 1)</code> <hr/> <code>def countdown(k):</code> <code> if k > 0:</code> <code> yield k</code>	<code>k = 2</code>	<code>2</code>

Visualizing countdown

Calls	Executed code	Bindings	Yields
<code>>>> c = countdown(3)</code>	<code>def countdown(k):</code>	<code>k = 3</code>	
<code>>>> next(c)</code>	<code> if k > 0:</code> <code> yield k</code>		<code>3</code>
<code>>>> next(c)</code>	<code> yield from countdown(k - 1)</code> <hr/> <code>def countdown(k):</code>	<code>k = 2</code>	
	<code> if k > 0:</code> <code> yield k</code>		<code>2</code>
<code>>>> next(c)</code>	<code> yield from countdown(k - 1)</code> <hr/> <code>def countdown(k):</code>	<code>k = 1</code>	
	<code> if k > 0:</code> <code> yield k</code>		<code>1</code>

Visualizing countdown

Calls	Executed code	Bindings	Yields
>>> c = countdown(3)	def countdown(k):	k = 3	
>>> next(c)	if k > 0: yield k		3
>>> next(c)	yield from countdown(k - 1) def countdown(k): if k > 0: yield k	k = 2	
>>> next(c)	yield from countdown(k - 1) def countdown(k): if k > 0: yield k	k = 1	
>>> next(c)	yield from countdown(k - 1) def countdown(k): if k > 0: yield k yield from countdown(k - 1)	k = 0	

StopIteration

Generator functions with returns

Generator function with a return

When a generator function executes a return statement, it exits and cannot yield more values.

```
def f(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(f(2))
```

Generator function with a return

When a generator function executes a return statement, it exits and cannot yield more values.

```
def f(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(f(2)) # [2, 3]
```


Generator functions with return values

Python allows you to specify a value to be returned, but this value is not yielded.

```
def g(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return x + 2  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(g(2))
```

Generator functions with return values

Python allows you to specify a value to be returned, but this value is not yielded.

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def g(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return x + 2  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(g(2)) # [2, 3]
```

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def g(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return x + 2  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(g(2)) # [2, 3]
```

It is possible to access that return value, with this one weird trick. But you won't ever need this in 61A!

```
def h(x):  
    y = yield from g(x)  
    yield y
```

```
list(h(2))
```

Generator functions with return values

Python allows you to specify a value to be returned, but this value is not yielded.

```
def g(x):  
    yield x  
    yield x + 1  
    return x + 2  
    yield x + 3
```

```
list(g(2)) # [2, 3]
```

It is possible to access that return value, with this one weird trick. But you won't ever need this in 61A!

```
def h(x):  
    y = yield from g(x)  
    yield y
```

```
list(h(2)) # [2, 3, 4]
```

Partitions example

(Review) Counting partitions

The number of partitions of a positive integer n , using parts up to size m , is the number of ways in which n can be expressed as the sum of positive integer parts up to m in increasing order.

```
count_partitions(6, 4)
```

$$2 + 4 = 6$$

$$1 + 1 + 4 = 6$$

$$3 + 3 = 6$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 3 = 6$$

$$2 + 2 + 2 = 6$$

$$1 + 1 + 2 + 2 = 6$$

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 6$$

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 6$$

```
def count_partitions(n, m):  
    """  
    >>> count_partitions(6, 4)
```



```
9
"""
if n < 0 or m == 0:
    return 0
else:
    exact_match = 0
    if n == m:
        exact_match = 1
    with_m = count_partitions(n-m, m)
    without_m = count_partitions(n, m-1)
    return exact_match + with_m + without_m
```

Converting to a generator

Each call to the generator should yield a partition.

```
def partitions(n, m):  
    """List partitions.  
  
    >>> for p in partitions(6, 4): print(p)  
    4 + 2  
    4 + 1 + 1  
    3 + 3  
    3 + 2 + 1  
    3 + 1 + 1 + 1  
    2 + 2 + 2  
    2 + 2 + 1 + 1  
    2 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1  
    1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1  
    """
```


Partitions generator (solution)

```
def partitions(n, m):
    """List partitions.

    >>> for p in partitions(6, 4): print(p)
    4 + 2
    4 + 1 + 1
    3 + 3
    3 + 2 + 1
    3 + 1 + 1 + 1
    2 + 2 + 2
    2 + 2 + 1 + 1
    2 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1
    1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1
    """
    if n < 0 or m == 0:
        return
    else:
        if n == m:
            yield str(m)
        for p in partitions(n-m, m):
            yield str(m) + " + " + p
        yield from partitions(n, m - 1)
```