



# 61A LECTURE 12 – OOP 2, INHERITANCE

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# Announcements

- Midterm grades are up
  - Average: 34
  - First quartile: 26.5
  - Median: 36.0
  - Third quartile: 43.0
- Hog contest strategy due today!

# Review time

- You've seen all this before, so we're going to try to go a little faster...
- ...but it was the day of the midterm, so we understand if the stuff is a little hazy
- Ask questions/slow me down if necessary!

# Recall: Objects

- Everything in Python is an object
- Every object has a “type”
- An object’s type (essentially, its “class”) determines the set of behaviors and attributes that each object has

```
>>> x = 4
>>> y = 5
>>> x.real
4
>>> y.real
5
>>> s = [9, 5, 12, 7]
>>> s.sort
<built-in method sort ...>
>>> s.sort()
>>> s
[5, 7, 9, 12]
```

- x and y are both int type: both have a real component, but different local values

# Object-Oriented Programming

A method for organizing modular programs

- Abstraction barriers
- Message passing
- Bundling together information and related behavior

A metaphor for computation using distributed state

- Each *object* has its own local state.
- Each object also knows how to manage its own local state, based on the messages it receives.
- Several objects may all be instances of a common type.
- Different types may relate to each other as well.

Specialized syntax & vocabulary to support this metaphor

# Classes

*A class serves as a template for its instances.*

**Idea:** All bank accounts have a balance and an account holder; the Account class should add those attributes to each newly created instance.

```
>>> a = Account('Jim')
>>> a.holder
'Jim'
>>> a.balance
0
```

**Idea:** All bank accounts should have "withdraw" and "deposit" behaviors that all work in the same way.

```
>>> a.deposit(15)
15
>>> a.withdraw(10)
5
>>> a.balance
5
>>> a.withdraw(10)
'Insufficient funds'
```

**Better idea:** All bank accounts share a "withdraw" method.

# The Class Statement

```
class <name> (<base class>):  
    <suite>
```

Discussed later

A class statement **creates** a new class and **binds** that class to **<name>** in the first frame of the current environment.

Statements in the **<suite>** create attributes of the class.

As soon as an instance is created, it is passed to **\_\_init\_\_**, which is an attribute of the class.

```
class Account(object):  
    def __init__(self, account_holder):  
        self.balance = 0  
        self.holder = account_holder
```

# Initialization

**Idea:** All bank accounts have a balance and an account holder; the Account class should add those attributes.

```
>>> a = Account('Jim')
>>> a.holder
'Jim'
>>> a.balance
0
```

When a class is called:

1. A new instance of that class is created:
2. The constructor `__init__` of the class is called with the new object as its first argument (called `self`), along with additional arguments provided in the call expression.

```
class Account(object):
    def __init__(self, account_holder):
        self.balance = 0
        self.holder = account_holder
```



# Object Identity

Every object that is an instance of a user-defined class has a unique identity:

```
>>> a = Account('Jim')
>>> b = Account('Jim')
```

Identity testing is performed by "is" and "is not" operators:

```
>>> a is b
False
>>> a is not b
True
```

Binding an object to a new name using assignment **does not** create a new object:

```
>>> c = a
>>> c is a
True
```

# Methods

Methods are defined in the suite of a class statement

```
class Account(object):
    def __init__(self, account_holder):
        self.balance = 0
        self.holder = account_holder

    def deposit(self, amount):
        self.balance = self.balance + amount
        return self.balance

    def withdraw(self, amount):
        if amount > self.balance:
            return 'Insufficient funds'
        self.balance = self.balance - amount
        return self.balance
```

These def statements create function objects as always, but their names are bound as attributes of the class.

# Invoking Methods

All invoked methods have access to the object via the **self** parameter, and so they can all access and manipulate the object's state.

```
class Account(object):  
    ...  
    def deposit(self, amount):  
        self.balance = self.balance + amount  
        return self.balance
```

Called with two arguments

Dot notation automatically supplies the first argument to a method.

```
>>> tom_account = Account('Tom')  
>>> tom_account.deposit(100)  
100
```

Invoked with one argument

# Dot Expressions

Objects receive messages via dot notation

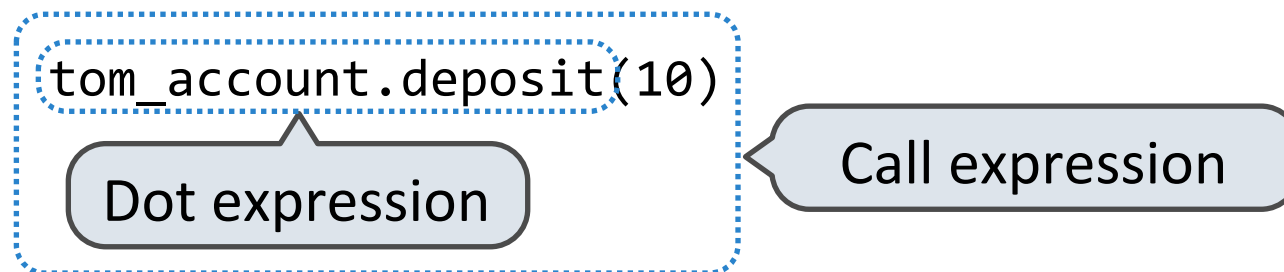
Dot notation accesses attributes of the instance or its class

`<expression> . <name>`

The `<expression>` can be any valid Python expression

The `<name>` must be a simple name

Evaluates to the value of the attribute **looked up** by `<name>` in the object that is the value of the `<expression>`



# Accessing Attributes

Using `getattr`, we can look up an attribute using a string, just as we did with a dispatch function/dictionary

```
>>> getattr(tom_account, 'balance')
10
```

```
>>> hasattr(tom_account, 'deposit')
True
```

`getattr` and dot expressions look up a name in the same way

Looking up an attribute name in an object may return:

- One of its instance attributes, **or**
- One of the attributes of its class

# Methods and Functions

Python distinguishes between:

- *Functions*, which we have been creating since the beginning of the course, and
- *Bound methods*, which couple together a function and the object on which that method will be invoked.

Object + Function = Bound Method

```
>>> type(Account.deposit)
<class 'function'>
>>> type(tom_account.deposit)
<class 'method'>

>>> Account.deposit(tom_account, 1001)
1011
>>> tom_account.deposit(1000)
2011
```

# Attributes, Functions, and Methods

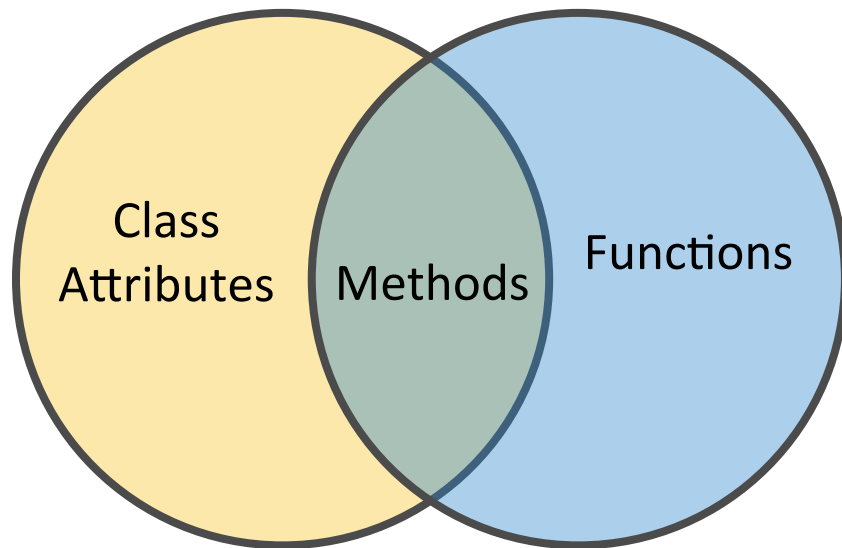
All objects have attributes, which are name-value pairs

Classes are objects too, so they have attributes

Instance attributes: attributes of instance objects

Class attributes: attributes of class objects

Terminology:



Python object system:

Functions are objects.

Bound methods are also objects: a function that has its first parameter "self" already bound to an instance.

Dot expressions on instances evaluate to bound methods for class attributes that are functions.

# Looking Up Attributes by Name

`<expression> . <name>`

To evaluate a dot expression:

1. Evaluate the `<expression>`.
2. `<name>` is matched against the instance attributes.
3. If not found, `<name>` is looked up in the class.
4. That class attribute value is returned unless it is a **function**, in which case a *bound method* is returned.



# Class Attributes

Class attributes are "shared" across all instances of a class because they are attributes of the class, not the instance.

```
class Account(object):  
    interest = 0.02          # Class attribute  
  
    def __init__(self, account_holder):  
        self.balance = 0    # Instance attribute  
        self.holder = account_holder  
  
    # Additional methods would be defined here
```

```
>>> tom_account = Account('Tom')  
>>> jim_account = Account('Jim')  
>>> tom_account.interest  
0.02  
>>> jim_account.interest  
0.02
```

**interest** is not part of the instance that was somehow copied from the class!

# Assignment to Attributes

Assignment statements with a dot expression on their left-hand side affect attributes for the object of that dot expression

- If the object is an instance, then assignment sets an instance attribute
- If the object is a class, then assignment sets a class attribute

Instance  
Attribute  
Assignment :

```
tom_account.interest = 0.08
```

This expression evaluates to  
an object

But the name ("interest") is not  
looked up

Attribute  
assignment  
statement adds  
or modifies the  
"interest"  
attribute of  
tom\_account

Class Attribute  
Assignment :

```
Account.interest = 0.04
```

# Practice

- Make a Dog class
- To create a Dog instance, provide a name that will be kept track of
- Dogs keep track of their hunger, which starts at 0
- You can ask Dogs to `speak()`
  - Doing so increases their hunger by 1 and returns 'woof'
- You can have a Dog `eat()`
  - This decreases hunger by 1

```
>>> beagle = Dog('snoopy')
>>> snoopy.name
'snoopy'
>>> snoopy.speak()
'woof'
>>> snoopy.speak()
'woof'
>>> snoopy.hunger
2
```



Break!

# Inheritance

A technique for relating classes together

Common use: Similar classes differ in amount of specialization

Two classes have overlapping attribute sets, but one represents a special case of the other.

```
class <name> (<base class>):  
    <suite>
```

Conceptually, the new subclass "shares" attributes with its base class.

The subclass may override certain inherited attributes.

Using inheritance, we implement a subclass by specifying its difference from the base class.



## Looking Up Attribute Names on Classes

Base class attributes *aren't copied* into subclasses!

To look up a name in a class.

1. If it names an attribute in the class, return the attribute value.
2. Otherwise, look up the name in the base class, if there is one.

```
>>> ch = CheckingAccount('Tom') # Calls Account.__init__
>>> ch.interest # Found in CheckingAccount
0.01
>>> ch.deposit(20) # Found in Account
20
>>> ch.withdraw(5) # Found in CheckingAccount
14
```

# Designing for Inheritance

Don't repeat yourself; use existing implementations.

Attributes that have been overridden are still accessible via class objects.

Look up attributes on instances whenever possible.

```
class CheckingAccount(Account):  
    """A bank account that charges for withdrawals."""  
    withdraw_fee = 1  
    interest = 0.01  
    def withdraw(self, amount):  
        return Account.withdraw(self,  
                                amount + self.withdraw_fee)
```

Attribute look-up on base class

Preferable alternative to `CheckingAccount.withdraw_fee`



# General Base Classes

Base classes may contain logic that is meant for subclasses.

Example: Same **CheckingAccount** behavior; different approach

```
class Account(object):
    interest = 0.02
    withdraw_fee = 0
    def withdraw(self, amount):
        amount += self.withdraw_fee
        if amount > self.balance:
            return 'Insufficient funds'
        self.balance = self.balance - amount
        return self.balance

class CheckingAccount(Account):
    interest = 0.01
    withdraw_fee = 1
```

May be overridden by subclasses

Nothing else needed in this class

# Inheritance and Composition

Object-oriented programming shines when we adopt the metaphor.

Inheritance is best for representing is-a relationships.

E.g., a checking account is a specific type of account.

So, **CheckingAccount** inherits from **Account**.

Composition is best for representing has-a relationships.

E.g., a bank has a collection of bank accounts it manages.

So, A bank has a list of **Account** instances as an attribute.

No local state at all? Just write a pure function!

## More practice!

- Write a `Collie` class that does pretty much the same thing as the `Dog` class...
- Except when you tell it to `speak()`, it returns `'there is a boy trapped in the well'` instead of `'woof'`
- And when you tell it to `eat()`, it returns `'this food is exquisite'` instead of `None`