

# PYTHON CLASSES and INHERITANCE

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(download slides and .py files from Stellar to follow along!)

6.0001 LECTURE 8

# LAST TIME

---

- Abstract data types using classes
- `Coordinate` example
- `Fraction` example

# TODAY

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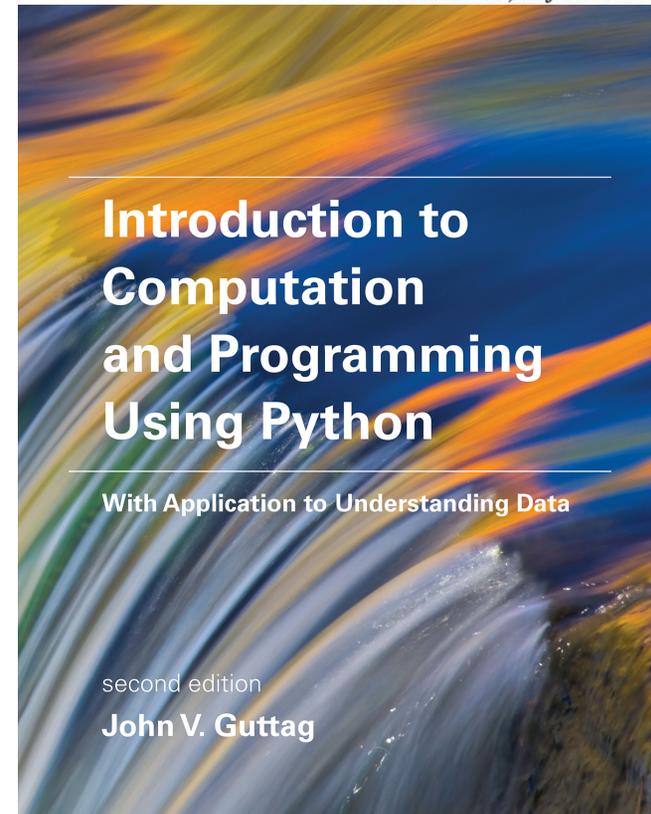
- Review classes
- More details on classes, class variables
- Inheritance and hierarchies of classes
- Introduction to algorithmic complexity

# Assigned Reading



"I don't like to give a lot of homework over the weekend, so just read every other word."

- Today
  - 8.2
  - 9.1 – 9.2
- Next lecture
  - 9.3



[https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/Guttag\\_errata\\_revised\\_083117.pdf](https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/Guttag_errata_revised_083117.pdf)

# THE POWER OF OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

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- **Bundle together objects** that share
  - common attributes and
  - procedures that operate on those attributes
- Use **abstraction** to make a distinction between how to implement an object versus how to use an object
- Build **layers** of object abstractions that inherit behaviors from other classes of objects
- Create our **own classes of objects** on top of Python's basic classes

Another instance of a virtuous cycle – just as defining procedures lets us create new procedures and treat as if built-in, we can create classes and treat as if built in to Python

# IMPLEMENTING THE CLASS

# USING THE CLASS

- Write code from two different perspectives

**Implementing** a new object type with a class

- **Define** the class
- Define **data attributes** (WHAT IS the object)
- Define **methods** (HOW TO use the object)

**Using** the new object type in code

- Create **instances** of the object type
- Do **operations** with them

Class captures common properties and behaviors

Instances have specific values for attributes

# CLASS DEFINITION OF AN OBJECT TYPE vs INSTANCE OF A CLASS

- Class name is the **type**  
`class Coordinate(object)`
  - Class is defined generically
    - Use `self` to refer to some instance while defining class  
`(self.x - self.y)**2`
    - `self` is a parameter to methods in class definition
  - Class defines data and methods **common across all instances**
- Instance is **one specific object**  
`coord = Coordinate(1,2)`
  - Data attribute values vary between instances  
`c1 = Coordinate(1,2)`  
`c2 = Coordinate(3,4)`
    - `c1` and `c2` have different data attribute values `c1.x` and `c2.x` because they are different objects
  - Instance has the **structure of the class**

# WHY USE OOP AND CLASSES OF OBJECTS?

---

- Model or simulate real life – systems of objects



Jelly  
1 year old  
brown



5 years old  
brown



Tiger  
2 years old  
brown



Bean  
0 years old  
black

2 years old  
white



1 year old  
b/w

# WHY USE OOP AND CLASSES OF OBJECTS?

---

- Model or simulate real life – systems of objects
- Group different objects of the same type; capture common patterns of use



# GROUPS OF OBJECTS HAVE ATTRIBUTES (RECAP)

---

- **Data attributes**

- How can you represent your object with data?
- **What it is**
- *for a coordinate: x and y values*
- *for an animal: age, name*

- **Procedural attributes** (behavior/operations/**methods**)

- How can someone interact with the object?
- **What it does**
- *for a coordinate: find distance between two points*
- *for an animal: make a sound*

# CREATING INSTANCES (Recap)

---

- Usually when creating an instance of an object type, we will want to provide some initial values for the internal data. To do this, define an `__init__` method:

```
class Coordinate(object):  
    def __init__(self, x, y):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

Method is another name for a procedural attribute, or a procedure that “belongs” to this class

# CREATING INSTANCES (Recap)

---

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When calling a method of an object, Python always passes the instance as the first argument. By convention, we use `self` as the name of the first argument of methods.

# CREATING INSTANCES (Recap)

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When calling a method of an object, Python always passes the instance as the first argument. By convention, we use `self` as the name of the first argument of methods.

- The “.” operator accesses an attribute of an object, so `__init__` defines two attributes for new object: `x` and `y`.

# CREATING INSTANCES (Recap)

---

- Usually when creating an instance of an object type, we will want to provide some initial values for the internal data. To do this, define an `__init__` method:

```
class Coordinate(object):  
    def __init__(self, x, y):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

When calling a method of an object, Python always passes the instance as the first argument. By convention, we use `self` as the name of the first argument of methods.

- The “.” operator accesses an attribute of an object, so `__init__` defines two attributes for new object: `x` and `y`.

When accessing an attribute of an instance, start by looking within the class definition, then move up to the definition of a superclass, eventually move to the global environment

# CREATING INSTANCES (Recap)

- Usually when creating an instance of an object type, we will want to provide some initial values for the internal data. To do this, define an `__init__` method:

```
class Coordinate(object):  
    def __init__(self, x, y):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

```
c = Coordinate(3, 4)  
origin = Coordinate(0, 0)  
print(c.x, origin.x)
```

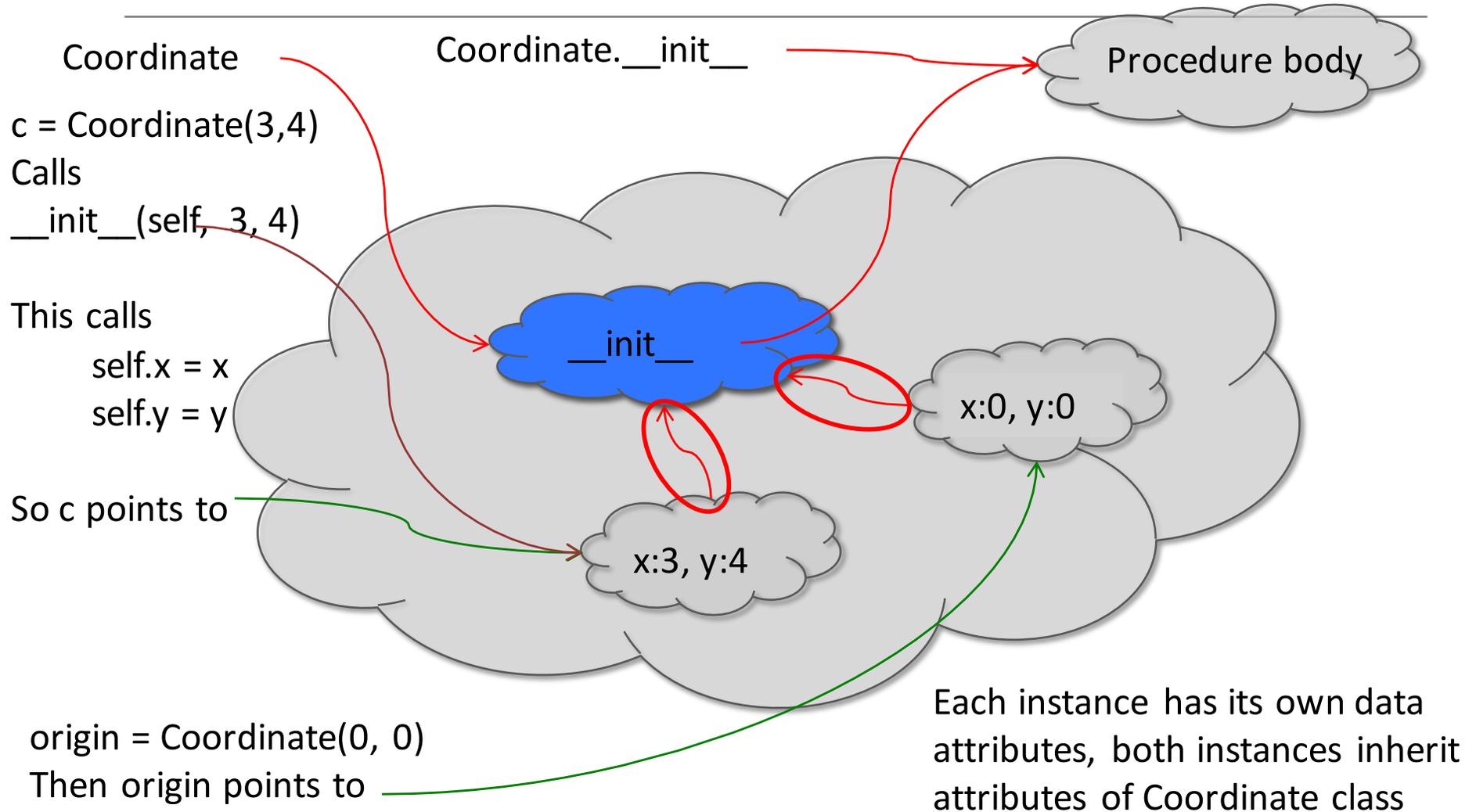
The expression

```
classname(values...)
```

creates a new object of type `classname` and then calls its `__init__` method with the new object and `values...` as the arguments. When the method is finished executing, Python returns the initialized object as the value.

Note that don't provide argument for `self`, Python does this automatically

# VISUALIZING THIS IDEA



# DEFINING ANIMAL CLASS

```
class Animal(object):  
    def __init__(self, age):  
        self.age = age  
        self.name = None  
  
myanimal = Animal(3)
```

*class definition*

*name*

*class parent*

*variable to refer to an instance of the class*

*special method to create an instance*

*what data initializes an Animal type*

*bind local age variable to input value*

*name is a data attribute even though an instance is not initialized with it as a parameter*

*one instance*

*mapped to self.age in class def*

# GETTER AND SETTER METHODS (RECAP)

---

```
class Animal(object):  
    def __init__(self, age):  
        self.age = age  
        self.name = None
```

getters

```
def get_age(self):  
    return self.age  
def get_name(self):  
    return self.name
```

setters

```
def set_age(self, newage):  
    self.age = newage  
def set_name(self, newname=""):  
    self.name = newname
```

print

```
def __str__(self):  
    return "animal:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

- **Getters and setters** should be used outside of class to access data attributes

# AN INSTANCE and DOT NOTATION (RECAP)



- Instantiation creates an **instance of an object**

```
a = Animal(3)
```

- **Dot notation** can be used to access attributes (data and methods) though it is better to use getters and setters to access data attributes

```
a.age
```

```
a.get_age()
```

*- access method  
- best to use getters  
and setters*

*- access data attribute directly  
- allowed, but NOT recommended*

# INFORMATION HIDING



- Author of class definition may **change data attribute** variable names

*replaced age data attribute by years*

```
class Animal(object):  
    def __init__(self, age):  
        self.years = age  
    def get_age(self):  
        return self.years
```

- If you are **accessing data attributes** outside the class and class **definition changes**, may get errors
- Outside of class, use getters and setters instead use `a.get_age()` NOT `a.age`
  - good style
  - easy to maintain code
  - prevents bugs

*Best to only access or change attributes of an instance by using methods – isolates details of instance from use of instance*

# PYTHON NOT GREAT AT INFORMATION HIDING



- Allows you to **access data** from outside class definition in an instance

```
print(a.age)
```

- Allows you to **write to data** from outside class definition to an instance

```
a.age = 'infinite'
```

- Allows you to **create data attributes** for an instance from outside class definition

```
a.size = "tiny"
```

- It's **NOT GOOD STYLE** to do any of these!

# DEFAULT ARGUMENTS



- **Default arguments** for formal parameters are used if no actual argument is given

```
def set_name(self, newname="") :  
    self.name = newname
```

- Default argument used here

```
a = Animal(3)  
a.set_name()  
print(a.get_name())
```

*prints ""*

- Argument passed in is used here

```
a = Animal(3)  
a.set_name("fluffy")  
print(a.get_name())
```

*prints "fluffy"*

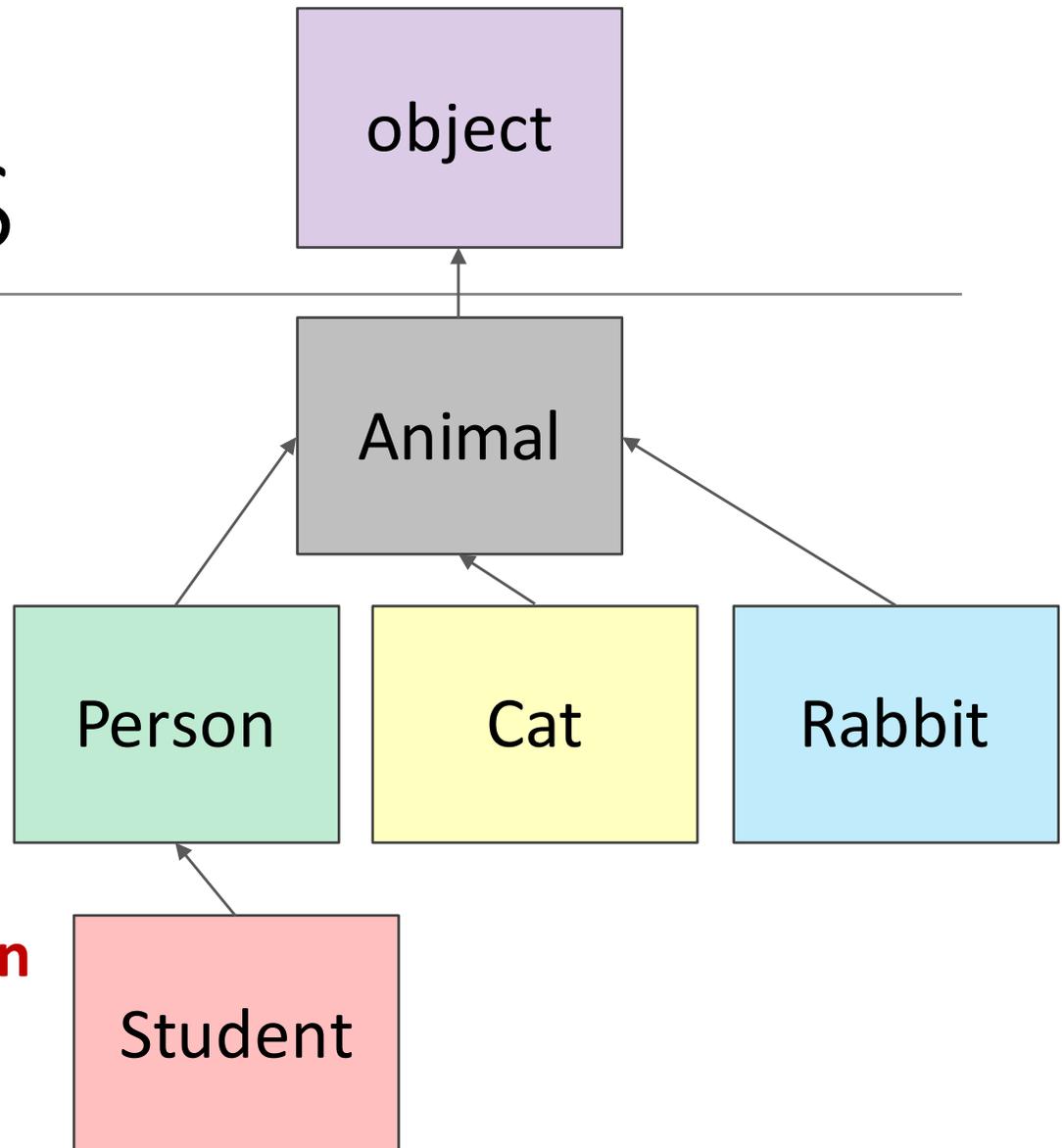
# HIERARCHIES

Animal



# HIERARCHIES

- **Parent class**  
(superclass)
- **Child class**  
(subclass)
  - **Inherits** all data and behaviors of parent class
  - **Add** more **information**
  - **Add** more **behaviors**
  - **Override** behavior



# INHERITANCE: PARENT CLASS

---

```
class Animal(object):
    def __init__(self, age):
        self.age = age
        self.name = None
    def get_age(self):
        return self.age
    def get_name(self):
        return self.name
    def set_age(self, newage):
        self.age = newage
    def set_name(self, newname=""):
        self.name = newname
    def __str__(self):
        return "animal:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

- everything is an object  
- class object  
implements basic  
operations in Python, like  
binding variables, etc.

# INHERITANCE: SUBCLASS

*inherits all attributes of Animal:*

*\_\_init\_\_()  
age, name  
get\_age(), get\_name()  
set\_age(), set\_name()  
\_\_str\_\_()*

```
class Cat(Animal):
```

```
    def speak(self):  
        print("meow")
```

```
    def __str__(self):
```

```
        return "cat:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

*add new  
functionality via  
speak method*

*overrides Animal's  
\_\_str\_\_ method*

- Add new functionality with `speak()`
  - Instance of type `Cat` can be called with new methods
  - Instance of type `Animal` throws error if called with `Cat`'s new method

- `__init__` is not missing, uses the `Animal` version

# USING THE HIERARCHY

```
In [31]: jelly = Cat(1)
In [32]: jelly.set_name('JellyBelly')
In [33]: print(jelly)
cat:JellyBelly:1
```

```
In [34]: print(Animal.__str__(jelly))
animal:JellyBelly:1
```

```
In [35]: blob = Animal(1)
In [36]: print(blob)
animal:None:1
```

```
In [37]: blob.set_name()
In [38]: print(blob)
animal::1
```

*Cat inherits method  
from Animal  
Cat.\_\_str\_\_ method shadows  
method from Animal*

*could explicitly recover  
underlying Animal method*

*can change values of  
attributes of an  
instance*

Animal is a class . gets associated attribute

In this case, \_\_str\_\_ method for Animal

# INHERITANCE



```
class Cat(Animal):
    def speak(self):
        print("meow")
    def __str__(self):
        return "cat:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)

class Rabbit(Animal):
    def speak(self):
        print("meep")
    def __str__(self):
        return "rabbit:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

Different subclasses of Animal can specialize methods and attributes (like speak) while inheriting common methods and attributes (like age and name)

# USING THE HIERARCHY



```
In [31]: jelly = Cat(1)
In [34]: blob = Animal(1)
In [38]: peter = Rabbit(5)
In [39]: jelly.speak()
meow
```

```
In [40]: peter.speak()
meep
```

```
In [41]: blob.speak()
AttributeError: 'Animal' object has no
attribute 'speak'
```

*uses method from  
Cat*

*uses method from  
Rabbit*

*tries to find method  
in Animal*

# WHICH METHOD TO USE?

---

- Subclass can have **methods with same name** as superclass or other subclass
- For an instance of a class, look for a method of that name in **current class definition**
- If not found, look for method of that name **up the hierarchy** (in parent, then grandparent, and so on)
- Use first method in the hierarchy that you found with that method name

```
class Person(Animal):
```

```
    def __init__(self, name, age):
```

```
        Animal.__init__(self, age)
```

```
        self.set_name(name)
```

```
        self.friends = []
```

```
    def get_friends(self):
```

```
        return self.friends.copy()
```

```
    def add_friend(self, fname):
```

```
        if fname not in self.friends:
```

```
            self.friends.append(fname)
```

```
    def speak(self):
```

```
        print("hello")
```

```
    def age_diff(self, other):
```

```
        diff = self.age - other.age
```

```
        print(abs(diff), "year difference")
```

```
    def __str__(self):
```

```
        return "person:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

Calling Animal constructor gets all attributes of superclass; rest of this  
\_\_init\_\_ method just adds attributes specific to subclass or instance

parent class is Animal

call Animal constructor  
call Animal's method  
add a new data attribute

use copy to avoid mutation

new methods

override Animal's  
\_\_str\_\_ method

# USING THE HIERARCHY



```
In [42]: alice = Person('Alice', 29)
```

```
In [43]: tarrant = Person('Tarrant', 56)
```

```
In [44]: alice.speak()
```

```
hello
```

*uses method  
from Person*

*uses method associated  
with instance*

```
In [45]: alice.age_diff(tarrant)
```

```
27 year difference
```

```
In [46]: Person.age_diff(tarrant, alice)
```

```
27 year difference
```

*can use class  
attribute to find  
method*

```
import random
```

```
class Student(Person):
```

```
    def __init__(self, name, age, major=None):
```

```
        Person.__init__(self, name, age)
```

```
        self.major = major
```

```
    def change_major(self, major):
```

```
        self.major = major
```

```
    def speak(self):
```

```
        r = random.random()
```

```
        if r < 0.25:
```

```
            print("i have homework")
```

```
        elif 0.25 <= r < 0.5:
```

```
            print("i need sleep")
```

```
        elif 0.5 <= r < 0.75:
```

```
            print("i should eat")
```

```
        else:
```

```
            print("i am watching tv")
```

```
    def __str__(self):
```

```
        return "student:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age) + ":" + str(self.major)
```

bring in functions  
from random library  
inherits Person and  
Animal attributes  
uses Person \_\_init\_\_  
which uses Animal  
\_\_init\_\_

adds new data

random()  
float in [0, 1)  
method gives back

# USING THE HIERARCHY



```
In [42]: alice = Person('Alice', 45)
In [47]: tarrant = Student('Tarrant', 18, 'Course VI')
In [48]: print(tarrant)
student:Tarrant:18:Course VI
```

```
In [49]: tarrant.speak()
i have homework
In [50]: tarrant.speak()
i have homework
In [51]: tarrant.speak()
i am watching tv
In [52]: tarrant.speak()
i should eat
```

*uses method  
from Student*  
*uses method from  
Student*  
*if called multiple  
times, may get  
different behavior  
because of random*

# INSTANCE VARIABLES

vs

# CLASS VARIABLES

- we have seen **instance variables** so far in code
- specific to an instance
- created for **each instance**, belongs to an instance
- used the generic variable name `self` within the class definition

```
self.variable_name
```

- introduce **class variables** that belong to the class
- defined inside class but outside any class methods, outside `__init__`
- **shared** among all objects/instances of that class

# RECALL Animal CLASS

---



```
class Animal(object):
    def __init__(self, age):
        self.age = age
        self.name = None
    def get_age(self):
        return self.age
    def get_name(self):
        return self.name
    def set_age(self, newage):
        self.age = newage
    def set_name(self, newname=""):
        self.name = newname
    def __str__(self):
        return "animal:" + str(self.name) + ":" + str(self.age)
```

# CLASS VARIABLES AND THE Rabbit SUBCLASS



- **class variables** and their values are shared between all instances of a class

```
class Rabbit(Animal):
```

```
    tag = 1
```

```
    def __init__(self, age, parent1=None, parent2=None):
```

```
        Animal.__init__(self, age)
```

```
        self.parent1 = parent1
```

```
        self.parent2 = parent2
```

```
        self.rid = Rabbit.tag
```

```
        Rabbit.tag += 1
```

- tag used to give **unique id** to each new rabbit instance

*parent class*

*class variable*

*instance variable*

*access class variable*

*incrementing class variable changes it for all instances that may reference it*

# Rabbit GETTER METHODS

```
class Rabbit(Animal):
    tag = 1
    def __init__(self, age, parent1=None, parent2=None):
        Animal.__init__(self, age)
        self.parent1 = parent1
        self.parent2 = parent2
        self.rid = Rabbit.tag
        Rabbit.tag += 1
    def get_rid(self):
        return str(self.rid).zfill(5)
    def get_parent1(self):
        return self.parent1
    def get_parent2(self):
        return self.parent2
    def __str__(self):
        return "rabbit:" + self.get_rid()
        Return actual object, in this case a Rabbit
```

method on a string to pad  
the beginning with zeros  
for example, 00001 not 1

- getter methods specific  
for a Rabbit class  
- there are also getters  
get\_name and get\_age  
inherited from Animal

# EXAMPLE USAGE



```
In 35: r1 = Rabbit(3)
```

```
In 36: r2 = Rabbit(1)
```

```
In 37: r3 = Rabbit(10)
```

```
In 38: print("r1:", r1)
```

```
r1: rabbit:00001
```

```
In 39: print("r2:", r2)
```

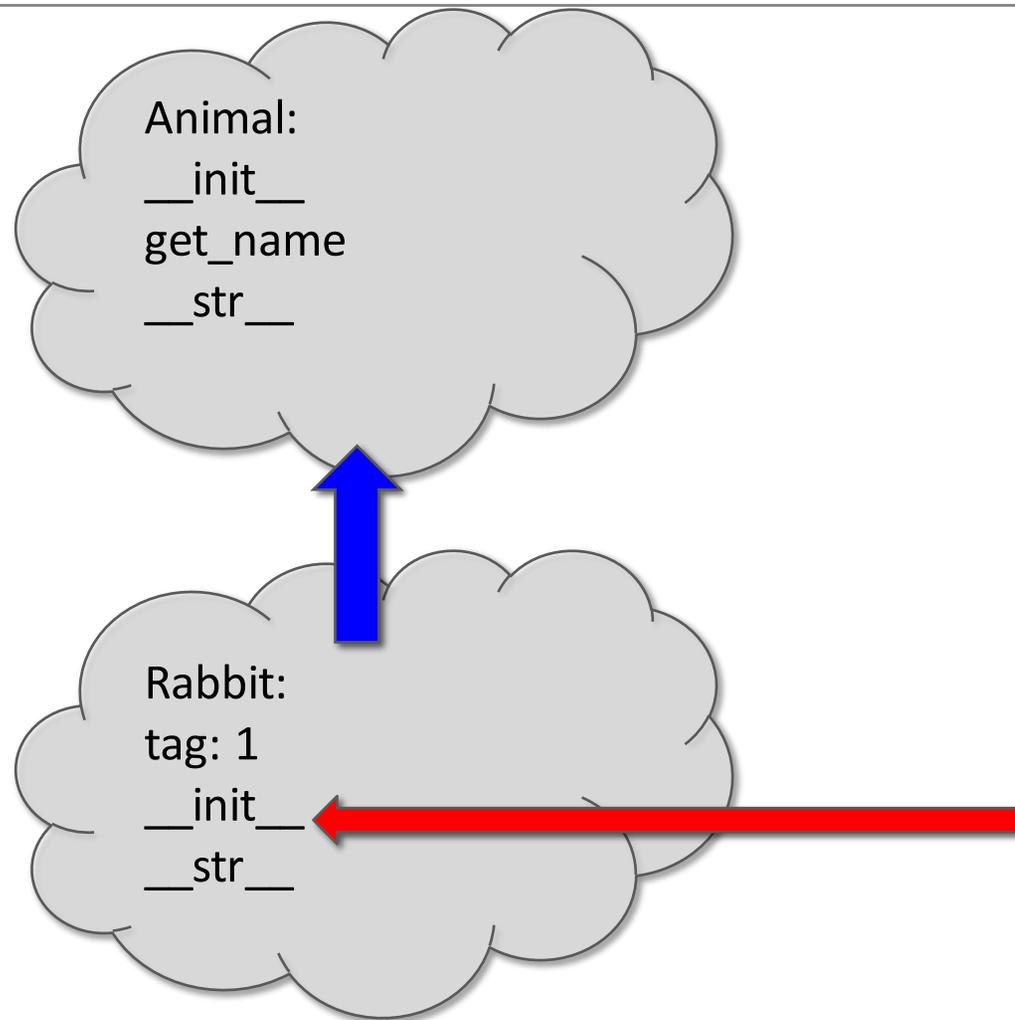
```
r2: rabbit:00002
```

```
In 40: print("r1 parent1:", r1.get_parent1())
```

```
r1 parent1: None
```

# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY

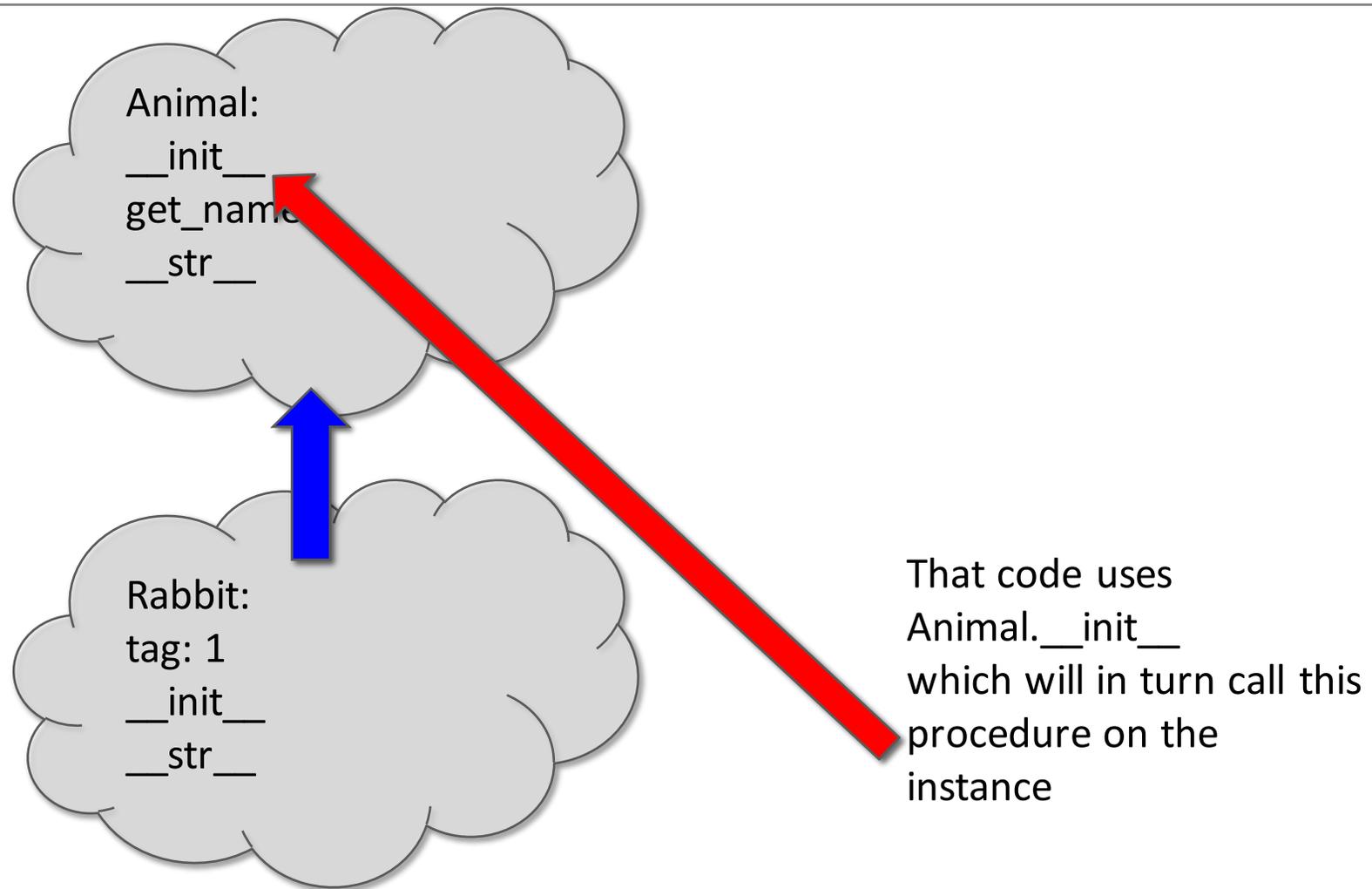
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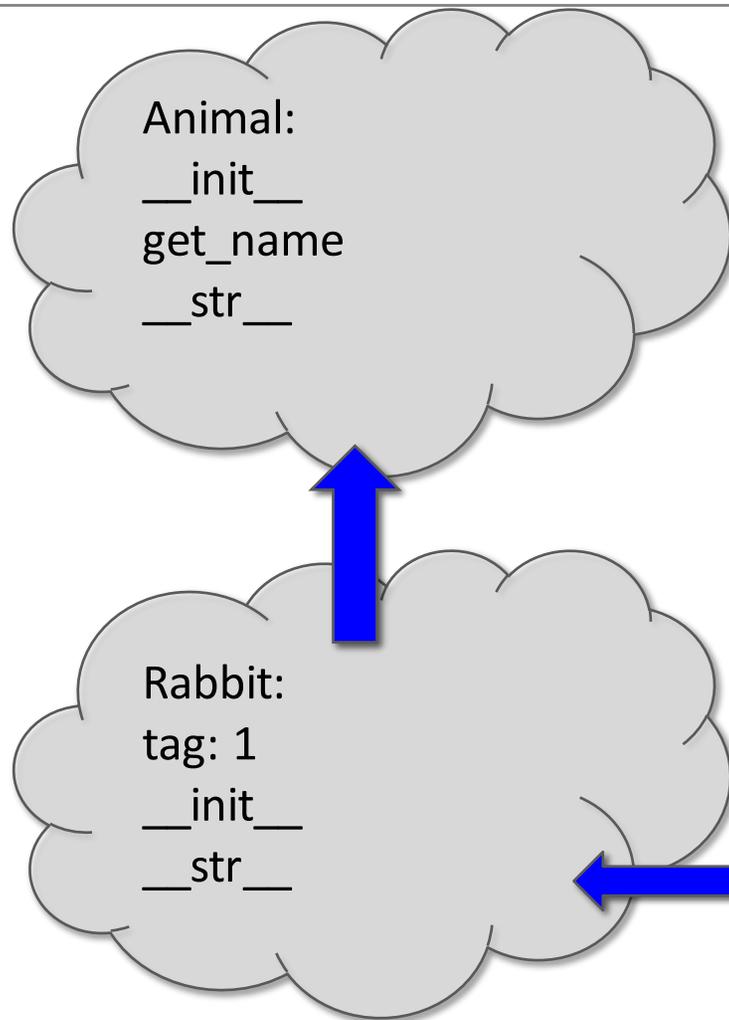
Calling Rabbit will create an instance and use this `__init__` procedure on it (because that is the one visible in Rabbit's environment)

# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY

---



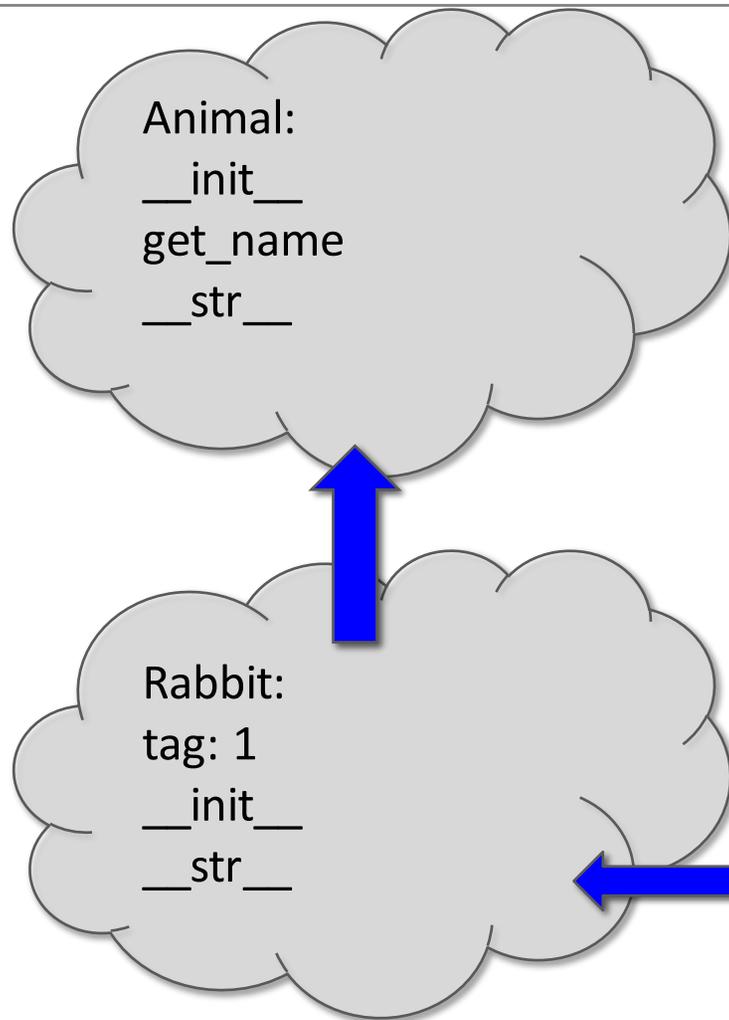
# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY



And thus the instance of Rabbit (because of the first call, which inherits from the class definition) will have bindings set by the inherited `__init__` code

<b>name</b>	
age	3
name	None

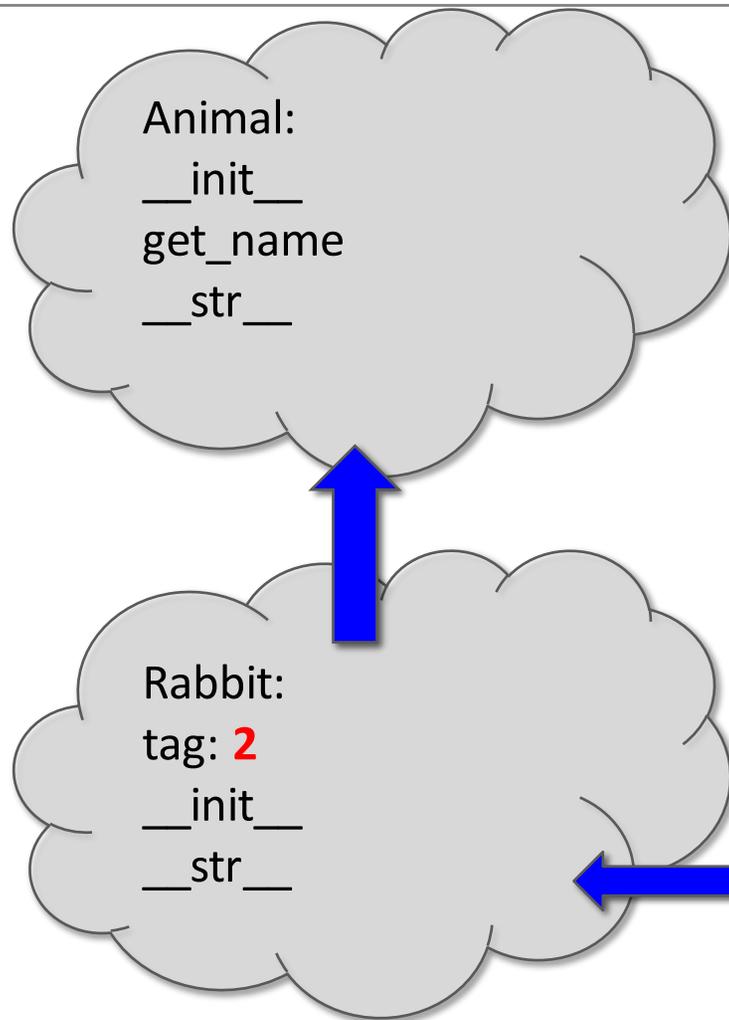
# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY



The rest of the original `__init__` code calls `self.rid = Rabbit.tag` which creates a binding in `self` (i.e. the instance) to current value of `tag` (in class)

name	
age	3
name	None
rid	1

# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY

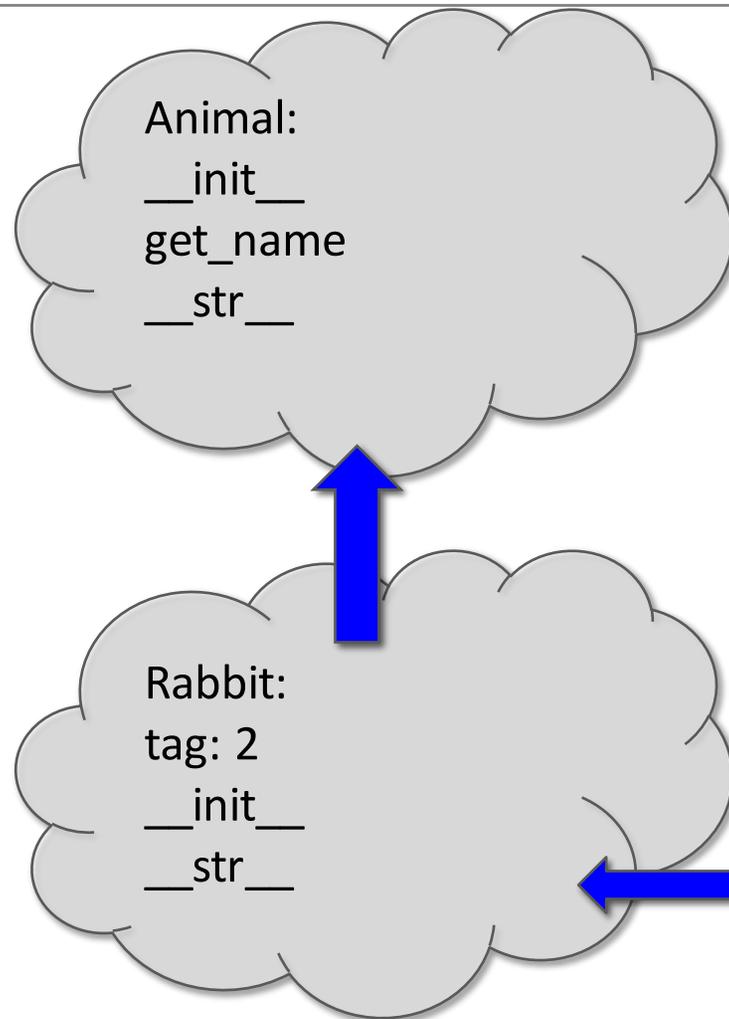


The rest of the original `__init__` code calls `self.rid = Rabbit.tag` which creates a binding in `self` (i.e. the instance) to current value of `tag` (in class)

And then calls `Rabbit.tag += 1`

name	
age	3
name	None
rid	<b>1</b>

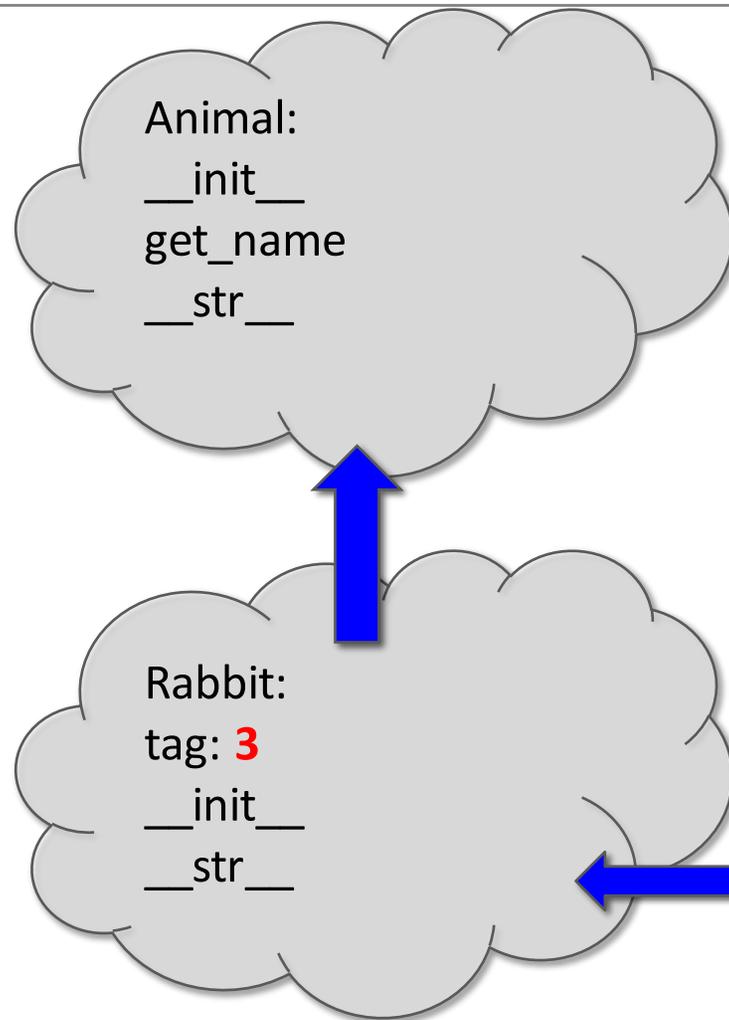
# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY



Thus calling Rabbit a second time to create a second instance will execute the same sequence, but now tag is bound to 2

<b>name</b>	
age	1
name	None

# VISUALIZING THE HIERARCHY



And this will create a new instance with a unique id number

name	
age	1
name	None
rid	2

# WORKING WITH YOUR OWN TYPES

---

```
def __add__(self, other):  
    # returning object of same type as this class  
    return Rabbit(0, self, other)
```

recall Rabbit's `__init__(self, age, parent1=None, parent2=None)`

- Define **+ operator** between two `Rabbit` instances
  - Define what something like this does: `r4 = r1 + r2` where `r1` and `r2` are `Rabbit` instances
  - `r4` is a new `Rabbit` instance with age 0
  - `r4` has `self` as one parent and `other` as the other parent
  - In `__init__`, **parent1 and parent2 are of type Rabbit**

# EXAMPLE USAGE



```
In [53]: peter = Rabbit(2)
In [54]: peter.set_name('Peter')
In [55]: hopsy = Rabbit(3)
In [56]: hopsy.set_name('Hopsy')
In [61]: mopsy = peter + hopsy
In [62]: mopsy.set_name('Mopsy')
In [63]: print(mopsy.get_parent1())
rabbit:00007
```

```
In [64]: mopsy.get_parent1().get_name()
Out[64]: 'Peter'
```

Need these to get actual object

Then access instance's data

# SPECIAL METHOD TO COMPARE TWO Rabbits



- Decide that two rabbits are equal if they have the **same two parents**

```
def __eq__(self, other):  
    parents_same = self.parent1.rid == other.parent1.rid \  
                  and self.parent2.rid == other.parent2.rid  
    parents_opposite = self.parent2.rid == other.parent1.rid \  
                      and self.parent1.rid == other.parent2.rid  
    return parents_same or parents_opposite
```

booleans

- Compare ids of parents since **ids are unique** (due to class var)
- Note you can't compare objects directly
  - For example, can't try `self.parent1 == other.parent1`
  - This calls the `__eq__` method over and over until call it on `None` and gives an `AttributeError` when it tries to do `None.parent1`

# EXAMPLE USAGE



```
In [53]: peter = Rabbit(2)
In [54]: peter.set_name('Peter')
In [55]: hopsy = Rabbit(3)
In [56]: hopsy.set_name('Hopsy')
In [57]: cotton = Rabbit(1, peter, hopsy)
In [58]: cotton.set_name('Cottontail')
In [61]: mopsy = peter + hopsy
In [62]: mopsy.set_name('Mopsy')

In [65]: print(mopsy == cotton)
True
```

# THE POWER OF OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

---

- **Bundle together objects** that share
  - common attributes and
  - procedures that operate on those attributes
- Use **abstraction** to make a distinction between how to implement an object versus how to use an object
- Build **layers** of object abstractions that inherit behaviors from other classes of objects
- Create our **own classes of objects** on top of Python's basic classes

# 5 Minute Break

---

## Debugging your pset

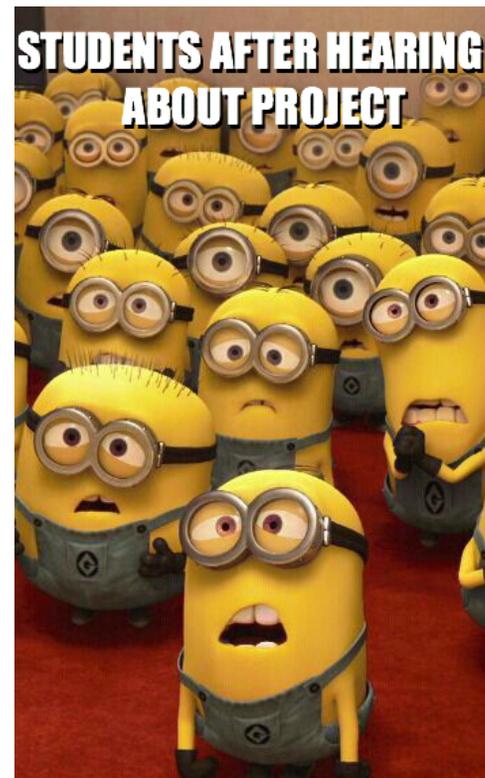


**MY CODE DOESN'T WORK**



**LETS CHANGE NOTHING AND RUN IT AGAIN**

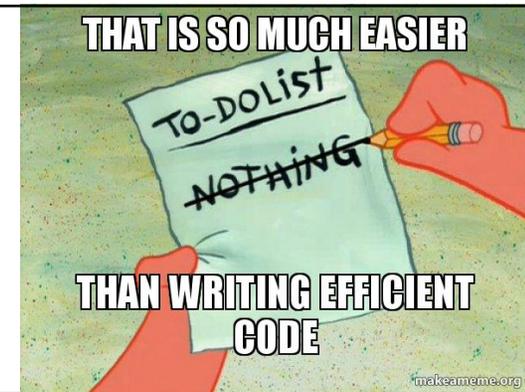
**STUDENTS AFTER HEARING ABOUT PROJECT**



# PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

---

# WRITING EFFICIENT PROGRAMS



- So far, we have emphasized correctness. It is the first thing to worry about!
- But sometimes that is not enough
- Problems can be very complex (as we shall see when we get to optimization in 6.0002)

- But data sets can be very large: in 2014 Google served 30,000,000,000,000 pages covering 100,000,000 GB of data

Twitter users send out **277,000 tweets** **EVERY MINUTE**

Facebook processes **350GB** of data

**100 hours** of new video are uploaded on YouTube

Google processes more than **2 million** search queries

A hand holding a silver stopwatch, positioned to the right of the data statistics.

# EFFICIENCY IS IMPORTANT

---

- Separate **time and space efficiency** of a program
- Tradeoff between them: can use up a bit more memory to store values for quicker lookup later
- Challenges in understanding efficiency
  - A program can be **implemented in many different ways**
  - You can solve a problem using only a handful of different **algorithms**
- Want to separate choice of implementation from choice of more abstract algorithm

# EVALUATING PROGRAMS

---

- Measure with a **timer**
- **Count** the operations
- Abstract notion of **order of growth**

A tester has the heart  
of a developer.....

•  
•  
•  
•

In a jar on the desk...

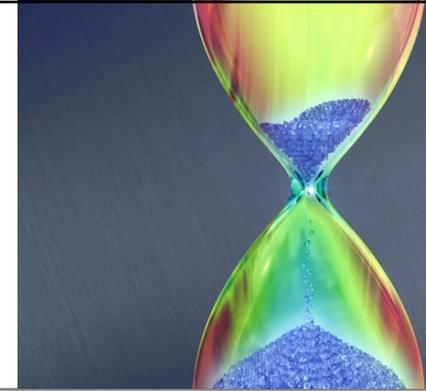


# TIMING A PROGRAM



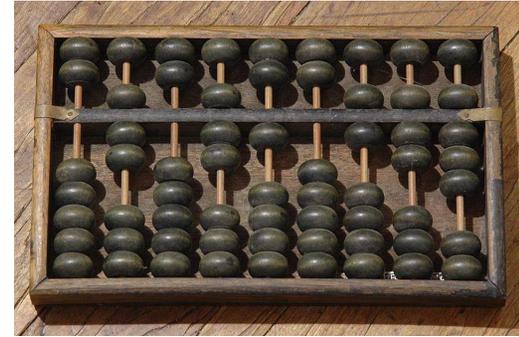
- Use time module `import time`
- Recall that importing means to bring in that class into your own file `def c_to_f(c):  
 return c*9.0/5 + 32`
- **Start** clock `→ t0 = time.clock()`
- **Call** function `→ c_to_f(100000)`
- **Stop** clock `→ t1 = time.clock() - t0  
print("t =", t1, "s,")`

# TIMING PROGRAMS IS INCONSISTENT



- GOAL: to evaluate different algorithms
- Running time **varies between algorithms** ✓
- Running time **varies between implementations** ✗
- Running time **varies between computers** ✗
- Running time is **not predictable** for small inputs ✗
  
- Time varies for different inputs but cannot really express a relationship between inputs and time ✗

# COUNTING OPERATIONS



- Assume these steps take **constant time**:
  - Mathematical operations
  - Comparisons
  - Assignments
  - Accessing objects in memory
- Count number of operations executed as function of size of input

```
def c_to_f(c):  
    return c*9.0/5 + 32
```

```
def mysum(x):  
    total = 0  
    for i in range(x+1):  
        total += i  
    return total
```

1 op  
loop x times  
3 ops  
2 ops  
1 op

$\text{mysum} \rightarrow 1+3(x+1) \text{ ops}$

# COUNTING OPERATIONS IS BETTER, BUT ...

---

- GOAL: to evaluate different algorithms
- Count **depends on algorithm** ✓
- Count **depends on implementations** ✗
- Count **independent of computers** ✓
- No real definition of **which operations** to count ✗
  
- Count varies for different inputs and can come up with a relationship between inputs and the count ✓

# ... STILL NEED A BETTER WAY

---

- Timing and counting **evaluate implementations**
- Timing and counting **evaluate machines**
  
- Want to **evaluate algorithm**
- Want to **evaluate scalability**
- Want to **evaluate in terms of input size**

# A BETTER WAY



- Focus on idea of counting operations in an algorithm, but **not worry about small variations in implementation**
- Focus on how algorithm performs when **size of problem gets arbitrarily large**
- Want to **relate time** needed to complete a computation, measured this way, **against the size of the input** to the problem
- Need to decide what to measure, given that actual number of steps may depend on specifics of trial

# HOW TO CHOOSE WHICH INPUT TO USE TO EVALUATE A FUNCTION

---

- Want to express **efficiency in terms of input**, so need to decide what is your input
- Could be an **integer**  
`-- mysum (x)`
- Could be **length of list**  
`-- list_sum (L)`
- **You decide** when multiple parameters to a function  
`-- search_for_elmt (L, e)`

# DIFFERENT INPUTS CHANGE HOW THE PROGRAM RUNS

---

- A function that searches for an element in a list

```
def search_for_elmt(L, e):  
    for i in L:  
        if i == e:  
            return True  
    return False
```

- When  $e$  is **first element** in the list → BEST CASE
- When  $e$  is **not in list** → WORST CASE
- When **look through about half** of the elements in list → AVERAGE CASE
- Want to measure this behavior in a general way

# BEST, AVERAGE, WORST CASES

---

- Consider that you are given a list  $L$  of some length  $\text{len}(L)$
- **Best case**: minimum running time over all possible inputs of a given size,  $\text{len}(L)$ 
  - Constant for `search_for_elmt`
  - First element in any list
- **Average case**: average running time over all possible inputs of a given size,  $\text{len}(L)$ 
  - Practical measure
- **Worst case**: maximum running time over all possible inputs of a given size,  $\text{len}(L)$ 
  - Linear in length of list for `search_for_elmt`
  - Must search entire list and not find it
  - Focus on **worst case** in this class

# ORDERS OF GROWTH

---

- Want to evaluate programs when **input is very big**
- Want to express the **growth of program's run time**
- Want to put an **upper bound** on growth
- Do not need to be precise: **“order of” not “exact”** growth
- We will look at **largest factors** in run time (which section of the program will take the longest to run?)

# MEASURING ORDER OF GROWTH: BIG O() NOTATION



- Big Oh notation measures an **upper bound on the asymptotic growth**, often called order of growth
- **Big Oh or O()** is used to describe worst case
  - Worst case occurs often and is the bottleneck when a program runs
  - Express rate of growth of program relative to the input
  - Evaluate algorithm not machine or implementation
- A technicality
  - When we say that the complexity of  $f$  is  $O(n)$ , we mean that its asymptotic growth is not worse than linear in  $n$ .
  - It is an **upper bound**, not necessarily a **tight bound**
  - In practice, we are usually looking for something close to a tight bound

# EXACT STEPS vs $O()$



```
def fact_iter(n):  
    """assumes n an int >= 0"""  
    answer = 1  
    while n > 1:  
        answer *= n  
        n -= 1  
    return answer
```

*temp = n-1  
n = temp*

- Computes factorial
- Number of steps:  *$1 + 7n + 1$*
- Worst case asymptotic complexity:  *$O(n)$* 
  - Ignore additive constants
  - Ignore multiplicative constants

# WHAT DOES $O(N)$ MEASURE?

---

- Interested in describing how amount of time needed grows as size of (input to) problem grows
- Given an expression for the number of operations needed to compute an algorithm, want to know **asymptotic behavior as size of problem gets large**
- Will focus on term that grows most rapidly
- Ignore multiplicative constants, since want to know how rapidly time required increases as increase size of input

# SIMPLIFICATION EXAMPLES

---

- Drop constants and multiplicative factors
- Focus on **dominant term**

$$O(n^2) : n^2 + 2n + 2$$

$$O(n^2) : n^2 + 100000n + 3^{1000}$$

$$O(n) : \log(n) + n + 4$$

# ANALYZING PROGRAMS AND THEIR COMPLEXITY

---

- **Combine** complexity classes
  - Analyze statements inside functions
  - Apply some rules, focus on dominant term

## **Law of Addition** for $O()$ :

- Used with **sequential** statements
- $O(f(n)) + O(g(n))$  is  $O(f(n) + g(n))$
- For example,

```
for i in range(n):    o(n)
    print('a')
for j in range(n*n):
    print('b')        o(n2)
```

is  $O(n) + O(n*n) = O(n+n^2) = O(n^2)$  because of dominant term

# ANALYZING PROGRAMS AND THEIR COMPLEXITY

---

- **Combine** complexity classes
  - Analyze statements inside functions
  - Apply some rules, focus on dominant term

## **Law of Multiplication** for $O()$ :

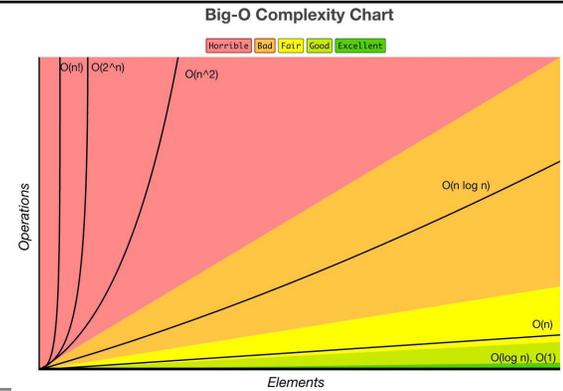
- Used with **nested** statements/loops
- $O(f(n)) * O(g(n))$  is  $O( f(n) * g(n) )$
- For example,

```
for i in range(n):  $O(n)$ 
    for j in range(n):
        print 'a'
```

*$O(n)$  for each outer loop iteration*

is  $O(n)*O(n) = O(n*n) = O(n^2)$  because the outer loop goes  $n$  times and the inner loop goes  $n$  times for every outer loop iter.

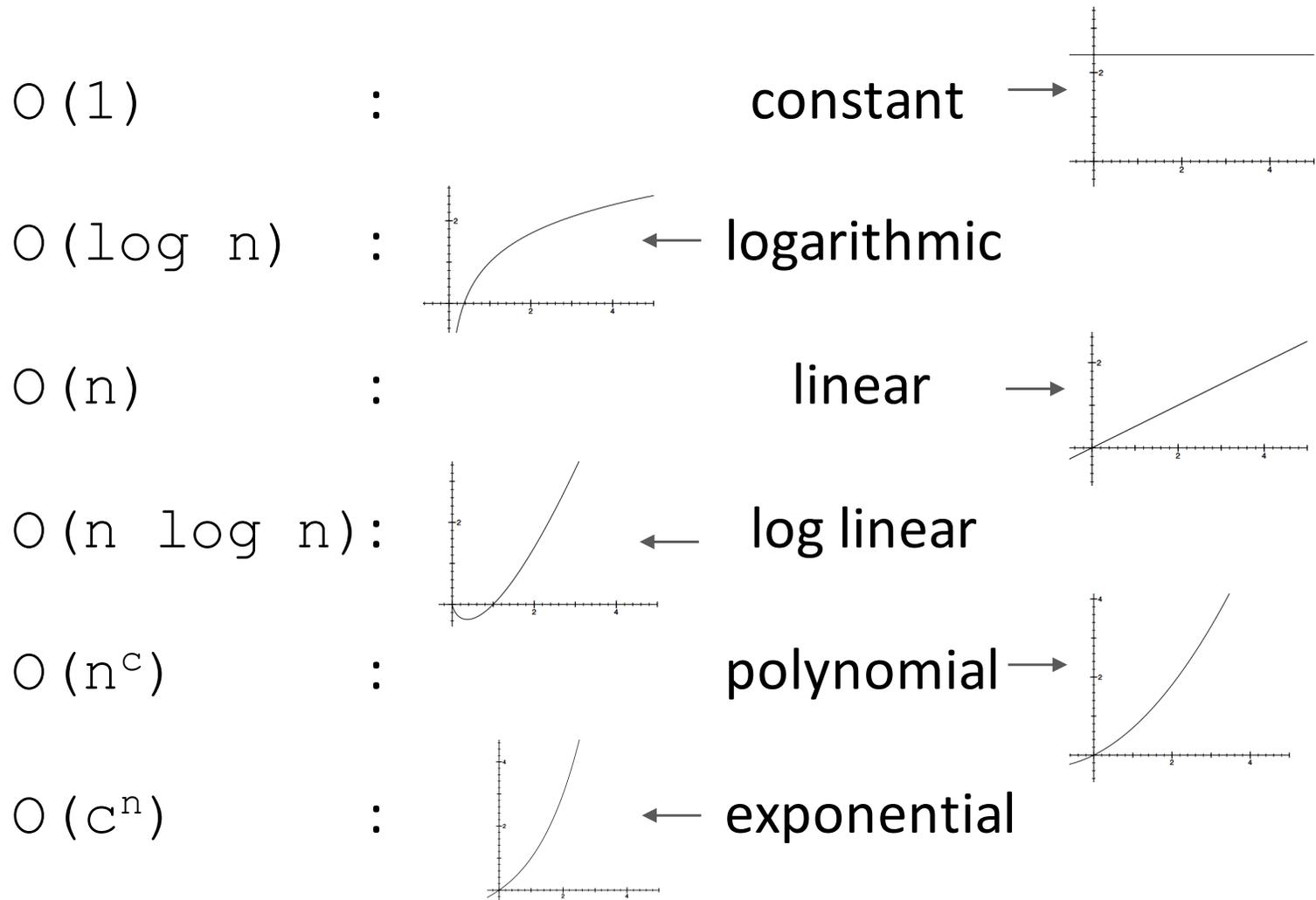
# COMPLEXITY CLASSES



- $O(1)$  denotes **constant** running time
- $O(\log n)$  denotes **logarithmic** running time
- $O(n)$  denotes **linear** running time
- $O(n \log n)$  denotes **log-linear** running time
- $O(n^c)$  denotes **polynomial** running time ( $c$  is a constant)
- $O(c^n)$  denotes **exponential** running time ( $c$  is a constant being raised to a power based on size of input)

# COMPLEXITY CLASSES ORDERED LOW TO HIGH

---



*c is a  
constant*

# COMPLEXITY GROWTH

CLASS	N = 10	N = 100	N = 1000	N = 1000000
$O(1)$	1	1	1	1
$O(\log n)$	1	2	3	6
$O(n)$	10	100	1000	1000000
$O(n \log n)$	10	200	3000	6000000
$O(n^2)$	100	10000	1000000	1000000000000
$O(2^n)$	1024	12676506 00228229 40149670 3205376	1071508607186267320948425 0490600018105614048117055 3360744375038837035105112 4936122493198378815695858 1275946729175531468251871 4528569231404359845775746 9857480393456777482423098 5421074605062371141877954 1821530464749835819412673 9876755916554394607706291 4571196477686542167660429 8316526243868372056680693 76	Good Luck!!

# NEXT TIME

---

- You will see examples of each of these complexity classes
- You will learn how to recognize algorithmic patterns that are characteristic of each class