

TOPIC 1 - PACKAGES

1. WHAT ARE PACKAGES?

In the Python Basics, we saw about modules. We create a script called -
'my_module.py' and we imported it in some other python script. On REPL,

```
import my_module
type(my_module)          # Output: <class 'module'>
```

So on a very high level, we can say - if modules are files, then packages
are directories/folders. So a package can contain various modules and thus
importing a package is equivalent of importing all the modules in it.

For example, 'urllib' is a ready-made package available in python. And
'request.py' is a module in the directory named - urllib.

```
import urllib             # Importing a package
import urllib.request     # Importing a module
```

However if you will check their types, both of them are objects of class
'module'. This is because - anything which you import in python, is an
object of 'module' class. So packages and modules are no different when
it comes to importing them and using them in your script.

```
type(urllib)              # Output: <class 'module'>
type(urllib.request)     # Output: <class 'module'>
```

The difference between a package and a module comes based on the
'__path__' attribute. Eg.

```
urllib.__path__           # Returns the path where this directory is located
# ['C:\\Users\\sagar\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Python\\Python37\\lib\\urllib']
```

```
urllib.request.__path__  # Modules do not have a path attribute
# AttributeError: module 'urllib.request' has no attribute '__path__'
```

Also note that - a folder can contain subfolders as well, which in turn
will contain several python scripts. So a main package can contain several
subpackages, along with modules. It is possible, but not at all promoted,
to have more folders inside the subfolders. Too much of nesting of folders,
spoils the package structure.

How to make and implement a package? To answer this question, we first
need to understand - How does python locate and import modules?

2. IMPORTING MODULES

- Understanding SYS.PATH:

'sys.path' is the list of directories in which python searches for modules.
All these paths are stored in the 'path' attribute of the standard 'sys'
module. (Since packages and modules are both the objects of class 'module',
we won't treat them as different. We will highlight the packages and modules
differently, only when we will have to show the difference between them.)

```
import sys
sys.path          # This will output a long list of directories.
```

So whenever we ask python for particular module, python checks into the
1st directory at sys.path and checks for the appropriate file. If no match
is found in 1st directory, python checks the next directory. This goes on
until the match is found or python runs out of directories in sys.path -
in which case, an ImportError is raised.

Let's create a simple directory with the name - 'test' and inside that
create a script named 'path_test.py'. So the folder structure should look
like:

```
    # test
    # --> path_test.py
```

Add the following contents in your path_test.py:

```
def found():
    print('Python found me!')
```

Now come on REPL:

```
import path_test
# ImportError: No module named 'path_test'
```

This is because the path of folder 'test' is not available in sys.path.
To make path_test importable, we need to add the path of 'test' in
sys.path. Since sys.path returns a list of directories, all operations
valid on list are valid here as well.

```
import sys
sys.path.append('test')
import path_test
path_test.found()          # Output: Python found me!
```

- Understanding PYTHONPATH:

If we close and run the REPL again, the sys.path list will revert back to normal and path of 'test' folder will be removed automatically.
So whenever we want to import our 'path_test' module, we have to manually append the path of 'test' to sys.path. However if we wish that path of 'test' should remain in sys.path, we need to add the path to 'PYTHONPATH'.

PYTHONPATH - is an environment variable listing paths added to sys.path when python starts. To add the path in PYTHONPATH, use following commands in CMD/Terminal (not on REPL):

```
set PYTHONPATH = test      # For Windows
export PYTHONPATH = test    # For MAC/Ubuntu/Bash shell
```

Now if you start the REPL, you can find that 'test' indeed is in sys.path.

```
import sys
[p for p in sys.path if 'test' in p]    # Outputs the path of 'test'
```

Now we can directly import path_test without manually editing sys.path.

3. IMPLEMENTING A PACKAGE:

To create a module, you create a python file and make sure that it's folder's location is available in sys.path. The process of creating a package is not much different. To create a package, we create a root directory, whose path must be in sys.path. And inside this root directory, we have a directory for our package. In this package directory, there is a special file '__init__.py' which makes packages importable as modules.

```
# root_folder/
# --> my_package/
#      --> __init__.py
```

In the following discussion, we assume that you are working inside the root_folder and the path of the root_folder is available in sys.path.

Create a package folder - 'reader' and inside that create a file '__init__.py'. The code inside this file gets executed when the package is imported. Congrats! You have just made a package! (Though it does nothing.) On REPL,

```
import reader
type(reader)          # Output: <class 'module'>
```

We will create a simple 'reader' script, which can read text from a file.

```
# reader/  
# --> __init__.py  
# --> reader.py
```

```
# Contents of reader.py:
```

```
class Reader:  
    def __init__(self, filename):  
        self.filename = filename  
        self.f = open(self.filename, mode='rt', encoding='utf-8')  
  
    def close(self):  
        self.f.close()  
  
    def read(self):  
        return self.f.read()
```

```
# On REPL, let's import our reader.py module:
```

```
import reader.reader                # Imports reader.py module  
r = reader.reader.Reader('reader/reader.py') # Let's read the reader.py file  
r.read()                            # Outputs the file contents  
r.close()
```

```
# What we don't like in above implementation is - we have to type  
# 'reader.reader' to access the class of our module. Instead we wish our  
# 'Reader' class to be at the top level of reader package. To do so,  
# in __init__.py file, add the following line:
```

```
from reader.reader import Reader
```

```
# Restart the REPL, and check that the Reader class is at the top level  
# reader namespace.
```

```
import reader  
r = reader.Reader('reader/__init__.py')  
r.read()  
r.close()
```

```
# -----
```

4. ABSOLUTE and RELATIVE IMPORTS

```
# In the __init__.py file of our reader package, we wrote an import  
# statement:
```

```
from reader.reader import Reader          # Absoulte Import
```

```
# This is an 'absolute import'. Such import statements use a full path to  
# a module.
```

```
# There is nothing wrong with this type of import statement and is
# recommended to use absolute imports, but sometimes writing such long
# import statements become tedious. So, we can use - 'relative imports'
# instead. Such imports use a relative path to modules in the same package.
# For eg. we could have written following import statement in our __init__.py
# file as well:
```

```
from .reader import Reader          # Relative Import
```

```
# Consider a hypothetical package shown below:
```

```
# my_package/
# --> __init__.py
# --> a.py
# --> nested/
#     --> __init__.py
#     --> b.py
#     --> c.py
```

```
# Now let's say we have following statements in the __init__.py file of
# 'nested' folder:
```

```
from ..a import A          # A can be class/function inside a.py
from .b import B           # B can be class/function inside b.py
```

```
# 2 dots preceding a module means the search is to be performed in parent
# directory; and 1 dot preceding a module means the search in same directory.
```

```
# -----
```

5. EXECUTABLE DIRECTORIES

```
# When you import a package on REPL or any python script, the code inside
# __init__.py gets executed. But on command line, when we use -
```

```
python3 <package_name>
```

```
# a special file inside that directory - __main__.py gets executed.
# For example, consider the following folder structure:
```

```
# reader/                                (notice that this is root folder)
# --> __main__.py
# --> reader/                             (and this is package folder)
#     --> __init__.py
#     --> reader.py
```

```
# Contents of __main__.py:
```

```
print('Executing __main__.py with name {}'.format(__name__))
```

Now on CMD/Terminal:

python3 reader

Output: Executing __main__.py with name __main__

We now say that - 'reader' has become an 'executable directory'.

But what is the use of having 'executable directories'?

When you make directories executable, we no more look the directories as
'packages'. We now look at them as 'projects'. Usually we intend to have a
'__main__.py' file which can act as starting point of execution of our
project. Inside this project folder, we can have many other files. Here
is the 'recommended project structure':

```
# project_name/                                (root folder)
# --> __main__.py
# --> project_name/
#     --> __init__.py
#     --> more_source_files.py
#     --> subpackage/
#         --> __init__.py
#         --> test
#         --> __init__.py
#         --> testing_code.py
# --> setup.py
```

We will be more familiar with such a project structure when we will be
creating some python projects. This is recommended structure, as it keeps
every file in its appropriate location.

TOPIC 2 - STATIC AND CLASS METHODS

1. CLASS ATTRIBUTES

Create a file - 'shipping.py' and add the following contents:

```
class ShippingContainer:
    def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
        self.owner_code = owner_code
        self.contents = contents
```

This class is simple enough to run from REPL.

```
from shipping import *
c1 = ShippingContainer("YML", "books")
c1.owner_code          # Output: YML
c1.contents             # Output: books
```

If we create another shipping container, it will have its own owner_code and contents as you would expect.

```
c2 = ShippingContainer("MAE", "clothes")
c2.owner_code          # Output: MAE
c2.contents            # Output: clothes
```

Sometimes, we would wish to have an attribute which is associated with the class and not with the instance of each of the class. In other words, we would like to have an attribute whose value is shared between all instances of the class. For example, let's say we want to assign each new shipping container a serial number. Let this serial number start from an arbitrary value 1337. We modify our class as follows:

```
class ShippingContainer:
    next_serial = 1337
    def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
        self.owner_code = owner_code
        self.contents = contents
        self.serial = ShippingContainer.next_serial
        ShippingContainer.next_serial += 1
```

2. STATIC METHOD

Let's make a small change in our code. Let's put the logic of getting next serial number into a class method, instead of putting it in initializer.

```
class ShippingContainer:
    next_serial = 1337

    def _get_next_serial(self):
        result = ShippingContainer.next_serial
        ShippingContainer.next_serial += 1
        return result

    def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
        self.owner_code = owner_code
        self.contents = contents
        self.serial = self._get_next_serial()
```

You can see that - inside _get_next_serial(), we are not using 'self'
at all. And moreover, in __init__() function, self._get_next_serial()
creates a misconception that _get_next_serial() is bound to a instance
instead of a class. So we modify the code a little bit, as:

```
class ShippingContainer:
    next_serial = 1337

    @staticmethod
    def _get_next_serial():
        result = ShippingContainer.next_serial
        ShippingContainer.next_serial += 1
        return result

    def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
        self.owner_code = owner_code
        self.contents = contents
        self.serial = ShippingContainer._get_next_serial()
```

When you define a method as static, it gets associated with the class,
and could be called using class name, instead of calling it on instance.
We can omit - 'self' in static methods.

3. CLASS METHOD

As an alternative to static method, we can use - 'class method'.
Class methods require first argument as - 'cls', which stands for 'class'.
'class' is already a keyword used to define classes, we are provided with
the word - 'cls'.

The 'cls' argument performs the analogous role in the class methods, what
'self' performs in instance methods.


```

class ShippingContainer:
    next_serial = 1337

    @classmethod
    def _get_next_serial(cls):
        result = cls.next_serial
        cls.next_serial += 1
        return result

    def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
        self.owner_code = owner_code
        self.contents = contents
        self.serial = ShippingContainer._get_next_serial()

```

So the question is - when to use which function?

a) If you want to call a method on each instance, you use normal
function with 'self' as first argument.

b) If you want to call a method on class, you have two options -
use @staticmethod or @classmethod. @staticmethod receives no arguments.
It is like a normal function, like the ones you define outside classes,

```

def some_function_name():
    # few statements

```

But this function is now restricted in the scope of the class. Apart
from the scope, it is similar to normal functions. @classmethod receives
the class object. Most of the times - @classmethod and @staticmethods
can be used interchangeably, but it is often recommended to use
@classmethod if you are using the class attributes or methods inside it.

A common use of @classmethod is to define different type of initializers.
For example, in the following code - create_empty() creates an empty
container and create_with_items() creates a container with items.

```

class ShippingContainer:
    next_serial = 1337

    @classmethod
    def _get_next_serial(cls):
        result = cls.next_serial
        cls.next_serial += 1
        return result

    @classmethod
    def create_empty(cls, owner_code):
        return cls(owner_code, contents=None)

```

```
@classmethod
def create_with_items(cls, owner_code, items):
    return cls(owner_code, contents=list(items))

def __init__(self, owner_code, contents):
    self.owner_code = owner_code
    self.contents = contents
    self.serial = ShippingContainer._get_next_serial()
```

```
# On REPL,
```

```
from shipping import *
```

```
c3 = ShippingContainer.create_empty("YML")
```

```
c3.serial                # Output: 1337
```

```
c3.owner_code           # Output: YML
```

```
c3.contents             # No Output, meaning None.
```

```
c4 = ShippingContainer.create_with_items("MAE", ['food', 'oil', 'minerals'])
```

```
c4.serial                # Output: 1338
```

```
c4.owner_code           # Output: MAE
```

```
c4.contents             # Output: ['food', 'oil', 'minerals']
```

```
# -----
```

TOPIC 3 - INHERITANCE

1. SINGLE INHERITANCE:

The following discussion assumes that you know a little bit about
Inheritance, from your experience in C++ or Java.

The syntax of single inheritance is:

```
class SubClass (BaseClass):  
    # methods and attributes of the class
```

The SubClass will have all the methods and attributes of the BaseClass
and can override them if re-defined in the BaseClass. A simple example
of single inheritance is given below:

Create a file - 'base.py' and add the following content:

```
class Base:  
    def __init__(self):  
        print('Base class initializer')  
  
    def f(self):  
        print('Base.f()')
```

```
class Sub(Base):  
    pass
```

On REPL,

```
from base import *  
b = Base()           # Output: Base class initializer  
b.f()                # Output: Base.f()  
s = Sub()             # Output: Base class initializer  
s.f()                # Output: Base.f()
```

Now let's override the __init__() and f() function in sub class.

```
class Sub(Base):  
    def __init__(self):  
        print('Sub class initializer')  
  
    def f(self):  
        print('Sub.f()')
```

On REPL,

```
from base import *  
s = Sub()             # Output: Sub class initializer  
s.f()                 # Output: Sub.f()
```

```
# One important thing to notice is that, when creating the object of the
# derived subclass, the initializer of base class is not executed. Other
# programming languages like C++ or Java, also call initializer of base
# class automatically when creating the object of sub class. So base class
# __init__() is not called if overridden. If you want to call base class
# __init__(), use super() to do so.
```

```
class Sub(Base):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()
        print('Sub class initializer')

    def f(self):
        print('Sub.f()')
```

```
# On REPL,
```

```
from base import *
s = Sub()
# Output: Base class initializer
#         Sub class initializer
```

```
# -----
```

2. EXAMPLE - WORKING WITH LISTS

```
# Create a file - 'sorted_list.py' and add the following contents:
```

```
class SimpleList:
    def __init__(self, items):
        self._items = list(items)

    def add(self, item):
        self._items.append(item)

    def __getitem__(self, index):
        return self._items[index]

    def sort(self):
        self._items.sort()

    def __len__(self):
        return len(self._items)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "SimpleList({!r})".format(self._items)
```

```
# We now create another list - SortedList, which keeps the items of list
# sorted.
```

```

class SortedList(SimpleList):
    def __init__(self, items=()):
        super().__init__(items)
        self.sort()

    def add(self, items):
        super().add(item)
        self.sort()

    def __repr__(self):
        return "SortedList({!r})".format(list(self))

```

On REPL, test SortedList.

```

from sorted_list import SortedList
sl = SortedList([4, 3, 78, 11])
sl                                # SortedList([3, 4, 11, 78])
len(sl)                          # 4
sl.add(-42)                      # SortedList([-42, 3, 4, 11, 78])

```

3. isinstance() and issubclass() methods:

Along with the SortedList class we defined earlier, we want to define
 # another class IntList, which only allows integer contents. This list
 # subclass will prevent the insertion of non-integer elements. To do this,
 # we need to check type of the items that are inserted. And the tool which
 # we will use for this is - isinstance() method.

isinstance() determines if an object is of a specified type. Use this
 # function for runtime type checking. It takes first argument as object,
 # and its type as second. It returns either true or false. isinstance() also
 # returns true if an object belongs to subclass and is checked for type of
 # the base class. For example, on REPL,

```

isinstance(3, int)                # True
isinstance("sagar", str)         # True
isinstance(4.567, bytes)         # False
isinstance(sl, SortedList)       # True
isinstance(sl, SimpleList)       # True

```

You can also pass a tuple of types and isinstance() returns true if the
 # type of an object matches with any of the type mentioned in the tuple.

```

x = [3, 4]
isinstance(x, (float, list, dict)) # True

```

Now add the implementation of IntList in your sorted_list.py

```

class IntList(SimpleList):
    def __init__(self, items=()):
        for x in items: self._validate(x)
        super().__init__(items)

    @staticmethod
    def _validate(x):
        if not isinstance(x, int):
            raise TypeError('IntList only supports integer values.')

    def add(self, item):
        self._validate(item)
        super.add(item)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "IntList({!r})".format(list(self))

```

Let's test this on REPL.

```

from sorted_list import IntList
il = IntList([1, 2, 9, 4])
il.add(19)
il                                     # Output: IntList([1, 2, 9, 4, 19])
il.add('5')
# TypeError: IntList only supports integer values.

```

Another function which does type-checking is - `issubclass()`. This function determines if one type is a subclass of another. It takes two arguments, and both of them need to be type arguments. It returns true if a type is direct or indirect subclass of another. For example,

```

from sorted_list import *
issubclass(IntList, SimpleList)           # True
issubclass(SortedList, SimpleList)        # True
issubclass(IntList, SortedList)           # False

```

4. MULTIPLE INHERITANCE:

Multiple inheritance means defining a class with more than one base class. This feature is not universal in OOP Languages. For example, C++ supports multiple inheritance while Java does not. Multiple Inheritance can lead to certain complex situations. For eg. deciding what to do when more than one base class defines a particular method. But Python has a simple and understandable system for handling such cases in multiple inheritance.

```

# The syntax for defining multiple inheritance is:

class SubClass(Base1, Base2, ...):
    # methods and attributes of subclass

# Subclasses inherit methods of all bases. If there are no name conflicts,
# names resolve in obvious way. But if there are any name conflicts, MRO
# (Multiple Resolution Order) is used to lookup for names. We will look into
# MRO shortly.

# Let's define SortedIntList class.

class SortedIntList(IntList, SortedList):
    def __repr__(self):
        return 'SortedIntList({!r})'.format(list(self))

# Here we have just overridden __repr__ method, and on REPL, we can check
# that the class works as expected.

from sorted_list import SortedIntList
sil = SortedIntList([42, 23, 2])
sil
# Output: SortedIntList([2, 23, 42])
SortedIntList([3, 2, '1'])
# TypeError: IntList only supports integer values.
sil.add(-123)
sil
# Output: SortedIntList([-123, 2, 23, 42])
sil.add("Smallest Number")
# TypeError: IntList only supports integer values.

# It may not be apparent as of now, how all of this works together.
# We yet don't know - How does Python know which 'add' to call?
# Or more importantly, How does Python maintain both constraints?

# Before answering these questions, there are few more details related to
# multiple inheritance which we need to cover.

# Point 1: __bases__ attribute
# This attribute returns a tuple of types of base classes.

SortedIntList.__bases__
# Output: (<class 'sorted_list.IntList'>, <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>)
IntList.__bases__
# Output: (<class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>, )

# Point 2: Initializer of Base Class
# If a class has multiple base classes and defines no initializer of its
# own, then only the initializer of the first base class is automatically
# called. For example:

```

```
class Base1:
    def __init__(self):
        print('Base1.__init__')
```

```
class Base2:
    def __init__(self):
        print('Base2.__init__')
```

```
class Sub(Base1, Base2):
    pass
```

```
s = Sub()                # Output: Base1.__init__
```

```
# -----
```

5. METHOD RESOLUTION ORDER (MRO)

```
# MRO is the order that determines the method name lookup.
```

```
# First lets look where MRO of a class is stored. To get MRO of a class,
# we use an attribute __mro__.
```

```
from sorted_list import SortedIntList
SortedIntList.__mro__
```

```
# Output: (<class 'sorted_list.SortedIntList'>, <class 'sorted_list.IntList'>,
# <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>, <class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
# <class 'object'>)
```

```
# We can also call mro as a function to get the output in a list, than a tuple.
SortedIntList.mro()
```

```
# Output: [<class 'sorted_list.SortedIntList'>, <class 'sorted_list.IntList'>,
# <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>, <class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
# <class 'object'>]
```

```
# When an object calls a function, python looks at the MRO of that class
# and then starting from the first entry, python starts searching for that
# function. If any class has the requested method, it uses that method and
# the search stops.
```

```
# The question is - If you look at the MRO of the SortedIntList, IntList
# comes before SortedList and thus when we call for add() function with
# proper integer value, add() of SortedList was called and not of IntList.
# In this way, SortedIntList maintained both the constraints. So how is
# IntList.add() deferring to SortedList.add() ?
```

```
# The answer to this mystery contains in the way, how super() actually works.
```

```
# -----
```


6. super() [Advanced Topic*]

So far we have been using super() to actually invoke the functions in the
base class. Recall, in SortedList class, we called super().add() in add()
function, to call the SimpleList's add() method.

```
def add(self, item):  
    super().add(item)  
    self.sort()
```

From this example, you might conclude, super() somehow returns base-class
of the method's class and you can then invoke the method in the base-class.
But this is only partly true. It's hard to sum up what super() does in a
single sentence, but here is an attempt:

"Given a method resolution order and a class C, super() gives you an
object which resolves methods using only the part of the MRO which comes
after C."

Don't worry, if this statement doesn't make any sense to you right now.
We will understand this statement bit by bit. And the moment we understood
this statement - we are done understanding the mysteries of Multiple
Inheritance in Python.

super can be called in two ways:
a) super(base-class, derived-class)
b) super(class, instance-of-class)

By now, you must have concluded that super returns some temporary object
of the base class, on which we can call methods of the base class. We call
this temporary return object as 'proxy'.

These proxies can be bound to - classes or instances. If a proxy is bound to
a class, it can only call 'staticmethods' and 'classmethods' i.e. methods
which are bound to classes. If a proxy is bound to an instance, it can
call the methods associated with the instance i.e. all methods containing
'self'.

So when we call super() in first way i.e. super(base-class, derived-class),
we get a proxy which is bound to class (class-bound proxies). Now we must
find - in case of multiple inheritance, proxy belongs to which of the base
class. For that, following steps are followed:

- # - Python finds MRO of the derived class
- # - It then finds base-class in that MRO
- # - It takes everything after base-class in that MRO, and finds the first
class in that sequence with a matching method name

Let's see in action, whatever we discussed above:

```

from sorted_list import *
SortedIntList.mro()
# [<class 'sorted_list.SortedIntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.IntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
#  <class 'object'>]

super(SortedList, SortedIntList)
# <super: <class 'SortedList'>, <SortedIntList object>>

# Let's use the 3 steps mentioned above to validate the output we got by
# executing above python statement.

super(SortedList, SortedIntList)
# 1. Find the MRO of the derived class. We have already found that above.
# 2. Find 'SortedList' in that MRO. It's the third entry in the list.
# 3. It takes everything after 'SortedList'
#    i.e. [<class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
#          <class 'object'>]
#    and returns this MRO containing only 2 entries.

# So if we call add over this super(), add must belong to SimpleList.
# Let's see if we are right.

super(SortedList, SortedIntList).add
# Output: <function SimpleList.add at 0x10436a050>

# However we can't call this add() method because add() is bound to object
# and not to class.
super(SortedList, SortedIntList).add(4)
# TypeError: add() missing 1 required positional argument: 'item'

# We can only call 'staticmethod' and 'classmethod'. We can see this as:
super(SortedIntList, SortedIntList)._validate(5)
# No output. Statement executed successfully.
super(SortedIntList, SortedIntList)._validate("hello")
# TypeError: IntList only supports integer values.

# Now lets call super() in second way. To find the instance to which proxy
# is bound to (instance-bound proxies), we must follow the following steps:

# - Find the MRO for the type of the second argument
# - Find the location of the first argument in the MRO
# - Uses everything after the first argument's location for resolving
#   methods.

# Let's see in action, whatever we discussed above:

```

```

from sorted_list import *
SortedIntList.mro()
# [<class 'sorted_list.SortedIntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.IntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
#  <class 'object'>]

sil = SortedIntList([5, 15, 10])
sil          # Output: SortedIntList([5, 10, 15])

super(SortedList, sil)
# Output: <super: <class 'SortedList'>, <SortedIntList object>>

# Like discussed in case 1, the above super() method now works on the
# remaining MRO with 2 entries only:
#  [<class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
#   <class 'object'>]

# So the above super proxy will directly use the SimpleList's methods,
# by-passing our constraint checks.

super(SortedList, sil).add(6)
sil          # Output: SortedIntList([5, 10, 15, 6])
super(SortedList, sil).add("I m not a Int")
sil          # Output: SortedIntList([5, 10, 15, 6, "I m not a Int"])

# So our SortedIntList isn't even sorted and also contains elements apart
# from ints. This means - we need to use super() with care. It does give you
# some super-powers XD.

# Examples we used above, had arguments in super(), while the examples we
# used in our sorted_list.py did not have any arguments. If no arguments are
# passed in super(), python will sort out the arguments for us.

# For class-bound proxies, super() is equivalent to:
#  super(class-of-method, class)

# For instance-bound proxies, super() is equivalent to:
#  super(class-of-method, class)

# Now that you have absorbed so much of information, you know that how
# super() uses everything after a specific class in an MRO to resolve
# method calls.

# Coming back to our mystery - How does SortedIntList work?

```

The key is - Both classes (SortedList and IntList) use super() instead of
direct base classes references. But as we now know, super() doesn't just
let us access the base classes, but rather let's access the complete
MRO of the class. Let's look at the entire code again:

```
class SimpleList:
    def __init__(self, items):
        self._items = list(items)

    def add(self, item):
        self._items.append(item)

    def __getitem__(self, index):
        return self._items[index]

    def sort(self):
        self._items.sort()

    def __len__(self):
        return len(self._items)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "SimpleList({!r})".format(self._items)

class SortedList(SimpleList):
    def __init__(self, items=()):
        super().__init__(items)
        self.sort()

    def add(self, items):
        super().add(item)
        self.sort()

    def __repr__(self):
        return "SortedList({!r})".format(list(self))

class IntList(SimpleList):
    def __init__(self, items=()):
        for x in items: self._validate(x)
        super().__init__(items)

    @staticmethod
    def _validate(x):
        if not isinstance(x, int):
            raise TypeError('IntList only supports integer values.')

    def add(self, item):
        self._validate(item)
        super().add(item)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "IntList({!r})".format(list(self))
```

```
class SortedIntList(IntList, SortedList):
    def __repr__(self):
        return 'SortedIntList({!r})'.format(list(self))
```

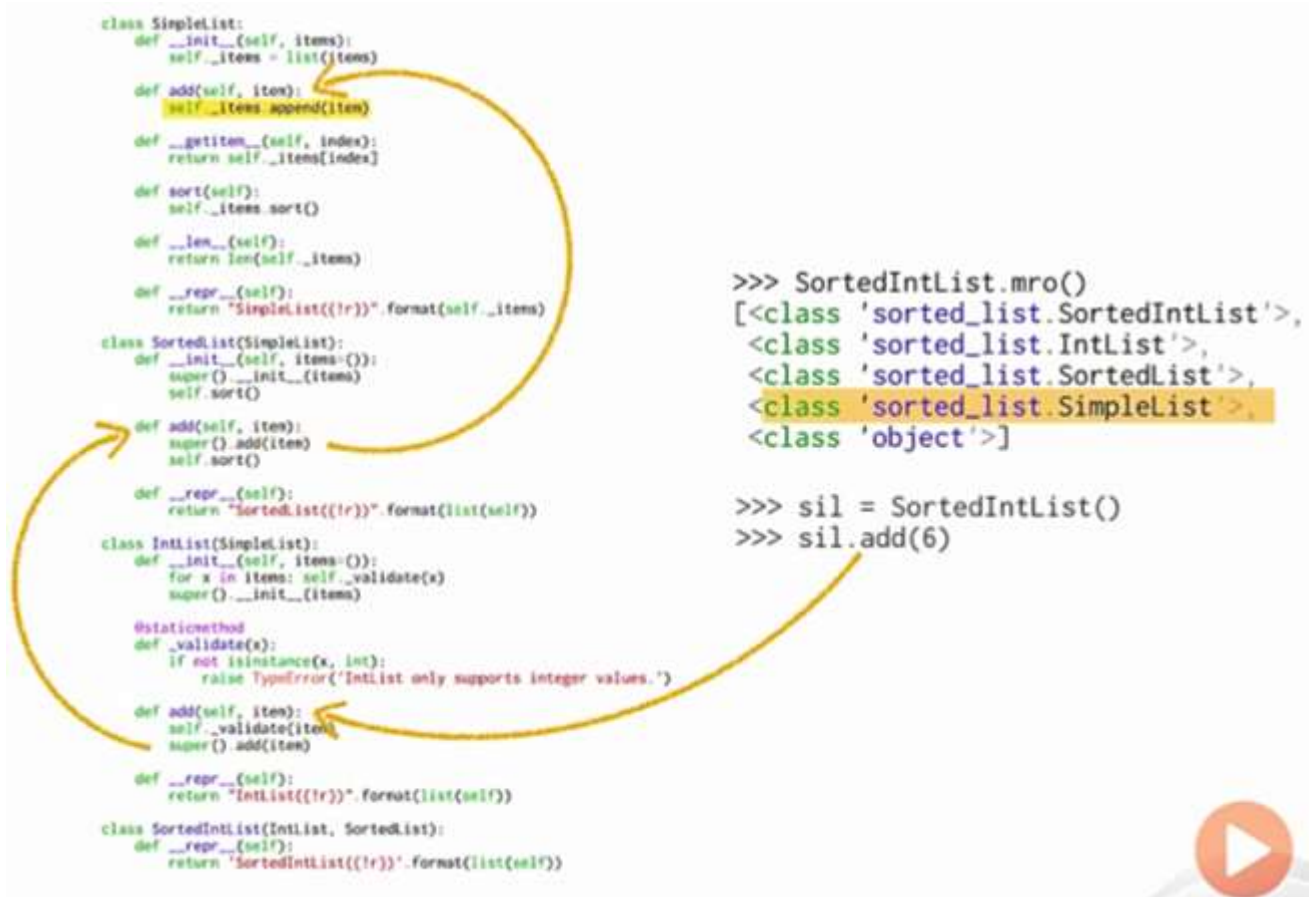
Look again at the MRO of the SortedIntList:

```
# [<class 'sorted_list.SortedIntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.IntList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SortedList'>,
#  <class 'sorted_list.SimpleList'>,
#  <class 'object'>]
```

```
sil = SortedIntList()
sil.add(6)
```

A call to add() on SortedIntList, resolves to the add() of the IntList.
 # The add() of the IntList calls super().add(). This super() uses the MRO
 # after IntList class, to resolve for add() and thus refers to the add()
 # of the SortedList, instead of SimpleList (what we thought earlier).
 # This is how add() on SortedIntList maintains two constraints, without
 # manually combining them. The super().add() in SortedList resolves to add()
 # of the SimpleList.

This is a fairly deep result and if you understand how SortedIntList works,
 # then you have a good grasp on super().



TOPIC 4 - FUNCTION DECORATORS

1. INTRO TO DECORATORS:

Decorators can be used with functions, as well as with classes. However,
in this topic, we will restrict our discussion to functions only.
Ensure that you have read about 'Scopes' from 'Python Basics' pdf.
This topic is little tricky. So, bear with the information given to you
till the end - to get few 'Aha...' moments!

Look at the following functions given below.

```
def decorator(func):  
    def new_func():  
        original_result = func()  
        modified_result = original_result.upper()  
        return modified_result  
    return new_func
```

```
@decorator  
def my_function():  
    greeting = "Hello World!"  
    return greeting
```

On REPL, when we call this function, we get the output with all letters
turned into uppercase.

```
my_function()          # Output: 'HELLO WORLD!'
```

Let's understand the flow of what's happening here.

STEP 1 - Python sees the function decorator() and stores it like any other
normal function.

STEP 2 - Python sees a new syntax - @<name of the decorator function>.
This is the syntax for assigning a decorator to a function, my_function()
in this case. Whenever python sees a decorator like this, it first compiles
the base function i.e. my_function() and creates an object of that function.

STEP 3 - Python passes this base function's object to the decorator
function, which accepts this object in its argument 'func'. Now remember,
a function decorator should always accept a function object as argument
and must also return a function object, usually a modified one. Inside
this decorator function, we define another function - which modifies the
result of the original function (which is now stored in 'func') and returns
an object of its own.

STEP 4 - So when we call my_function() with a decorator, it is not executed
immediately. What is actually executed is - decorator(my_function). So,
an object of my_function() is created which is passed to the decorator,
a new function is defined, inside which our original function is called.

```
# So 'original_result' now stores 'Hello World!' and then the result is
# modified. This modified result will be returned when new_func() will be
# called.
```

```
# STEP 5 - Now decorator(my_function) internally calls new_func() and the
# value returned by new_func() is returned by decorator(), i.e. the modified
# one.
```

```
# I know the flow is little bit complicated, but you must understand this
# complicity, if you want to simplify alot of your tasks. For example,
# imagine you have 10 functions in a program and you want to calculate
# time taken by each function to complete its task.
```

```
# One way to do this is - In every function, start the timer clock at the
# first line, then stop the timer and print the time before the
# return statement. Or else, you can write one simple decorator as follows:
```

```
import time
```

```
def time_calc(func):
```

```
    def wrapper_func(*arg, **kwargs):
```

```
        t = time.time()
```

```
        result = func(*arg, **kwargs)
```

```
        print("Time taken by {} is {} seconds".format(func.__name__,
```

```
time.time()-t))
```

```
        return result
```

```
    return wrapper_func
```

```
@time_calc
```

```
def my_function(n):
```

```
    # do something here
```

```
# All you now need to do is, just put @time_calc before the function
# definition, whose execution time you want to calculate.
```

```
# Decorators have many use cases. Suppose 10 functions are communicating with
# each other i.e. the return value of one function, goes as the argument of
# the other and so on. And you want to print the values of arguments recieved
# and the values returned for every function in order. Either you will add
# bunch of print statements in every function and comment them out, or you
# will make a simple decorator from the next time!
```

```
# -----
```

2. MULTIPLE DECORATORS

It is possible to have multiple decorators for a function. Eg.

```
@decorator1
@decorator2
@decorator3
def my_function():
    # Some steps here
```

In this case, the object of my_function() is passed to decorator3(),
the return function of decorator3() is passed to decorator2() and so on.
This means, the decorators are evaluated in the order: 3 -> 2 -> 1.

So calling my_function() would be equivalent of calling:

```
decorator1(decorator2(decorator3(my_function)))
```

Now again you must ask - What is the use of multiple decorators?

What if you want to print values of arguments for some functions,
print time taken by function to execute for some other functions and
print both for some functions. Managing print() statements in each of the
functions is quite tedious. You can make two separate decorators and use
them.

If this use of multiple decorators doesn't convince you, then here is my
favourite use of multiple decorators:

In python, type-checking is not done. If you define a function,

```
def my_func(a, b):
    # some statements
```

'a' and 'b' can be anything! They can be lists, integers, floats, etc.
What if we want 'a' and 'b' to be integers only, or strings only. If this
function was defined only for strings, even if you pass lists, there is a
possibility that the function will execute and return you some value,
without giving you an error. So at this moment, I want to do Type-checking.

Here is my 'types' decorator:

```
def types(arg_name, *allowed_types):
    def make_wrapper(f):
        if hasattr(f, "wrapped_args"):
            wrapped_args = getattr(f, "wrapped_args")
        else:
            code = f.__code__
            wrapped_args = list(code.co_varnames[:code.co_argcount])
```



```

try:
    arg_index = wrapped_args.index(arg_name)
except ValueError:
    raise NameError(arg_name)

def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
    if len(args) > arg_index:
        arg = args[arg_index]
        if not isinstance(arg, allowed_types):
            type_list = " or ".join(str(allowed_type) for allowed_type
                                    in allowed_types)
            raise TypeError("Expected '%s' to be %s; was %s."
                           % (arg_name, type_list, type(arg)))
    else:
        if arg_name in kwargs:
            arg = kwargs[arg_name]
            if not isinstance(arg, allowed_types):
                type_list = " or ".join(str(allowed_type) for
                                          allowed_type in allowed_types)
                raise TypeError("Expected '%s' to be %s; was %s."
                               % (arg_name, type_list, type(arg)))

    return f(*args, **kwargs)

wrapper.wrapped_args = wrapped_args
return wrapper

return make_wrapper

@types("x", int, float)
@types("y", float)
def foo(x, y):
    return x+y

foo(1, 2.5)          # Output: 3.5
foo(2.0, 2.5)        # Output: 4.5
foo('asdf', 2.5)     # Raises TypeError exception
foo(1, 2)            # Raises TypeError exception

# Although it is not expected to check types in Python and we should try
# to avoid such upfront type checks as much as possible. The sole purpose
# of above code was to show you that - Type Checking is possible in Python
# as well, using decorators!

```

TOPIC 5 - OBJECT INTERNALS

1. ATTRIBUTES and `__dict__`

Let's start with a basic class to represent a basic 2D vector.

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

    def __repr__(self):
        return "{}({}, {})".format(self.__class__.__name__, self.x, self.y)
```

We now test few things on the REPL.

```
v = Vector(5, 3)
v                                # Output: Vector(5, 3)
dir(v)
# ['__class__', '__delattr__', '__dict__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__',
#  '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattr__', '__gt__', '__hash__',
#  '__init__', '__init_subclass__', '__le__', '__lt__', '__module__',
#  '__ne__', '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__',
#  '__setattr__', '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', '__weakref__',
#  'x', 'y']
```

This is the list of all the attributes which could be called over v.
For our further discussion, we are interested in one attribute - `'__dict__'`.

```
v.__dict__                      # Output: {'x': 5, 'y': 3}
v.__dict__['x']                  # Output: 5
v.__dict__['x'] = 17
v.x                              # Output: 17
del v.__dict__['x']
v.x
# AttributeError: 'Vector' object has no attribute 'x'
'x' in v.__dict__                # Output: False
'y' in v.__dict__                # Output: True
v.__dict__['z'] = 3
v.z                              # Output: 3
```

Even though such manipulations with attributes of an object are possible
using dictionary, you should use methods:

```
getattr(v, 'y')                 # Output: 3
hasattr(v, 'x')                  # Output: False
delattr(v, 'z')
setattr(v, 'x', 9)
v.x                              # Output: 9
```

```
# So there are two issues in above code:
# a) The Notation: Here we use 'x' and 'y' as labels of the coordinates in
#    2D plane. What if the user wants to have 'u' and 'v' as the coordinate
#    labels. This means, we want to give user the freedom to make attributes
#    of the instance as per their desire.
# b) Scope: If you see the output of dir(v), two new attributes have come in
#    the list: 'x' and 'y'. Thus, we can say - the attributes are public
#    and could be changed. We don't want these attributes to be visible to
#    the user and object should be immutable.
```

```
# Let's solve the first issue:
```

```
class Vector:
    def __init__(self, **coords):
        self.__dict__.update(coords)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "{}({})".format(
            self.__class__.__name__,
            ', '.join("{}={v}".format(
                k = k,
                v = self.__dict__[k]
            for k in sorted(self.__dict__.keys()))))
```

```
# On REPL,
```

```
v = Vector(p = 3, q = 7)
v                                     # Output: Vector(p=3, q=7)
dir(v)
# ['__class__', '__delattr__', '__dict__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__',
#  '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattr__', '__gt__', '__hash__',
#  '__init__', '__init_subclass__', '__le__', '__lt__', '__module__', '__ne__',
#
#  '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__setattr__',
#  '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', '__weakref__', 'p', 'q']
```

```
# Let's make a simple change, so that user should not be allowed to access
# attribute names directly.
```

```
class Vector:
    def __init__(self, **coords):
        private_coords = {'_' + k:v for k, v in coords.items()}
        self.__dict__.update(private_coords)

    def __repr__(self):
        return "{}({})".format(
            self.__class__.__name__,
            ', '.join("{}={v}".format(
                k = k[1:],
                v = self.__dict__[k]
            for k in sorted(self.__dict__.keys()))))
```

```

v = Vector(p = 9, q = 7)
v                                     # Output: Vector(p=9, q=7)
dir(v)
# ['__class__', '__delattr__', '__dict__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__',
#  '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattribute__', '__gt__', '__hash__',
#  '__init__', '__init_subclass__', '__le__', '__lt__', '__module__', '__ne__',
#  '__new__', '__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__setattr__',
#  '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', '__weakref__', '_p', '_q']

```

```

v.p
# AttributeError: 'Vector' object has no attribute 'p'

```

What we want to do here is - We should allow the read access to the attributes, and the error should be raised only when attempt to modify it is made. The read access could be made by overriding `__getattr__`, and avoid the write access by overriding `__setattr__`.

```

class Vector:
    def __init__(self, **coords):
        private_coords = {'_' + k: v for k, v in coords.items()}
        self.__dict__.update(private_coords)

    def __getattr__(self, name):
        private_name = '_' + name
        try:
            return self.__dict__[private_name]
        except KeyError:
            raise AttributeError('{!r} object has no attribute {!r}'.format(
                self.__class__, name))

    def __setattr__(self, name, value):
        raise AttributeError("Can't set attribute {!r}".format(name))

    def __delattr__(self, name):
        raise AttributeError("Can't delete attribute {!r}".format(name))

    def __repr__(self):
        return "{}({})".format(
            self.__class__.__name__,
            ', '.join("{k}={v}".format(
                k = k[1:],
                v = self.__dict__[k]
            ) for k in sorted(self.__dict__.keys()))

```

```

# -----

```

2. INSTANCE CREATION

```
# __new__ is one of the most easily abused features in Python.
# It's obscure, riddled with pitfalls, and almost every use case I've
# found for it has been better served by another of Python's many tools.
# However, when you do need __new__, it's incredibly powerful and invaluable
# to understand.
```

```
# The predominant use case for __new__ is in metaclasses. Metaclasses are
# complex enough to merit their own article, so I don't touch on them here.
# If you already understand metaclasses, great. If not, don't worry;
# understanding how Python creates objects is valuable regardless.
```

```
# - Constructors
```

```
# With the proliferation of class-based languages, constructors are likely
# the most popular method for instantiating objects.
```

```
# a) JAVA
```

```
class StandardClass {
    private int x;
    public StandardClass() {
        this.x = 5;
    }

    public int getX() {
        return this.x;
    }
}
```

```
# b) PYTHON
```

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

```
# c) JAVASCRIPT
```

```
function StandardClass(x) {
    this.x = x;
}
var standard = new StandardClass(5);
```

```
# In Python, as well as many other languages, there are two steps to object
# instantiation:
```

```
# STEP 1 - The New Step
```

```
# Before you can access an object, it must first be created. This is not
# the constructor. In the above examples, we use this or self to reference
# an object in the constructor; the object had already been created by then.
# The New Step creates the object before it is passed to the constructor.
# This generally involves allocating space in memory and/or whatever
# language specific actions newing-up an object requires.
```

```

# STEP 2 - The Constructor Step
# Here, the newed-up object is passed to the constructor. In Python, this is
# when __init__ is called.

# This is the normal way to instantiate a StandardClass object:
standard = StandardClass(5)

# StandardClass(5) is the normal instance creation syntax for Python. It
# performs the New Step followed by the Constructor Step for us. Python also
# allows us to deconstruct this process:

# The New Step
newed_up_standard = object.__new__(StandardClass)
type(newed_up_standard) is StandardClass
hasattr(newed_up_standard, 'x') is False

# The Constructor Step
StandardClass.__init__(newed_up_standard, 5)
newed_up_standard.x == 5

# object.__new__ is the default New Step for object instantiation. It's what
# creates an instance from a class. This happens implicitly as the first
# part of StandardClass(5).

# Notice, x is not set until after newed_up_standard is run through __init__.
# This is because object.__new__ doesn't call __init__. They are disparate
# functions. If we wanted to perform checks on newed_up_standard or
# manipulate it before the constructor is run, we could. However, explicitly
# calling the New Step followed by Constructor Step is neither clean nor
# scalable. Fortunately, there is an easy way.

# Python allows us to override the New Step of any object via the __new__
# magic method.

class NewedBaseCheck(object):
    def __new__(cls):
        obj = super(NewedBaseCheck, cls).__new__(cls)
        obj._from_base_class = type(obj) == NewedBaseCheck
        return obj
    def __init__(self):
        self.x = 5

newed = NewedBaseCheck()
newed.x == 5
newed._from_base_class is True

# __new__ takes a class instead of an instance as the first argument. Since
# it creates an instance, that makes sense.
# super(NewedClass, cls).__new__(cls) is very important. We don't want to
# call object.__new__ directly; again, you'll see why later.

```

```
# Why is from_base_class defined in __new__ instead of __init__?  
# It's metadata about object creation, which makes more semantic sense in  
# __new__. However, if you really wanted to, you could place define  
# _from_base_class:
```

```
class StandardBaseCheck(object):  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.x = 5  
        self._from_base_class == type(self) == StandardBaseCheck
```

```
standard_base_check = StandardBaseCheck()  
standard_base_check.x == 5  
standard_base_check._from_base_class is True
```

```
# There is a major behavioral difference between NewBaseCheck and  
# StandardBaseCheck in how they handle inheritance:
```

```
class SubNewedBaseCheck(NewedBaseCheck):  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.x = 9
```

```
subnewed = SubNewedBaseCheck()  
subnewed.x == 9  
subnewed._from_base_class is False
```

```
class SubStandardBaseCheck(StandardBaseCheck):  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.x = 9
```

```
substandard_base_check = SubStandardBaseCheck()  
substandard_base_check.x == 9  
hasattr(substandard_base_check, "_from_base_class") is False
```

```
# Because we failed to call super(...).__init__ in the constructors,  
# _from_base_class is never set.
```

```
# Up until now, classes defining both __init__ and __new__ had no-argument  
# constructors. Adding arguments has a few pitfalls to watch out for.  
# We'll modify NewBaseCheck:
```

```
class NewedBaseCheck(object):  
    def __new__(cls):  
        obj = super(NewedBaseCheck, cls).__new__(cls)  
        obj._from_base_class = type(obj) == NewedBaseCheck  
        return obj  
  
    def __init__(self, x):  
        self.x = x
```

```

try:
    NewedBaseCheck(5)
except TypeError:
    print True

```

Instantiating a new NewedBaseCheck throws a TypeError. NewedBaseCheck(5) # first calls NewBaseCheck.__new__(NewBaseCheck, 5). Since __new__ takes # only one argument, Python complains. Let's fix this:

```

class NewedBaseCheck(object):
    def __new__(cls, x):
        obj = super(NewedBaseCheck, cls).__new__(cls)
        obj._from_base_class = type(obj) == NewedBaseCheck
        return obj

    def __init__(self, x):
        self.x = x

```

```

newed = NewedBaseCheck(5)
newed.x == 5

```

There are still problems with subclassing:

```

class SubNewedBaseCheck(NewedBaseCheck):
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y

```

```

try:
    SubNewedBaseCheck(5,6)
except TypeError:
    print True

```

We get the same TypeError as above; __new__ takes cls and x, and we're # trying to pass in cls, x, and y. The generic fix is fairly simple:

```

class NewedBaseCheck(object):
    def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
        obj = super(NewedBaseCheck, cls).__new__(cls)
        obj._from_base_class = type(obj) == NewedBaseCheck
        return obj

    def __init__(self, x):
        self.x = x

```

```

newed = NewedBaseCheck(5)
newed.x == 5

```

```

subnewed = SubNewedBaseCheck(5,6)
subnewed.x == 5
subnewed.y == 6

```



```
# Unless you have a good reason otherwise, always define __new__ with
# *args and **kwargs.
```

```
# __new__ is incredibly powerful (and dangerous) because you manually
# return an object. There are no limitations to the type of object you
# return.
```

```
class GimmeFive(object):
    def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
        return 5
```

```
GimmeFive() == 5
```

```
# If __new__ doesn't return an instance of the class it's bound to
# (e.g. GimmeFive), it skips the Constructor Step entirely:
```

```
class GimmeFive(object):
    def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
        return 5

    def __init__(self, x):
        self.x = x
```

```
five = GimmeFive()
five == 5
isinstance(five, int) is True
hasattr(five, "x") is False
```

```
# That makes sense: __init__ will throw an error if passed anything but an
# instance of GimmeFive, or a subclass, for self. Knowing all this, we can
# easily define Python's object creation process:
```

```
def instantiate(cls, *args, **kwargs):
    obj = cls.__new__(cls, *args, **kwargs)
    if isinstance(obj, cls):
        cls.__init__(obj, *args, **kwargs)
    return obj
```

```
instantiate(GimmeFive) == 5
newed = instantiate(NewedBaseCheck, 5)
type(newed) == NewedBaseCheck
newed.x == 5
```

```
# Note: DON'T DO THIS EVER:
```

```
# While experimenting for this post I created a monster that, like
# Dr. Frankenstein, I will share with the world. It is a great example of
# how horrifically __new__ can be abused. (Seriously, don't ever do this.)
```

```
class A(object):
    def __new__(cls):
        return super(A,cls).__new__(B)
    def __init__(self):
        self.name = "A"
```

```
class B(object):
    def __new__(cls):
        return super(B,cls).__new__(A)
    def __init__(self):
        self.name = "B"
```

```
a = A()
b = B()
type(a) == B
type(b) == A
hasattr(a,"name") == False
hasattr(b,"name") == False
```

```
# The point of the above code snippet: please use __new__ responsibly;
# everyone you code with will thank you.
```

```
# __new__ and the new step, in the right hands and for the right task, are
# powerful tools. Conceptually, they neatly tie together object creation.
# Practically, they are a blessing when you need them. They also have a
# dark side. Use them wisely.
```

```
# -----
```

TOPIC 6 - PROPERTIES

1. PROPERTIES

Let us assume that you decide to make a class that could store the
temperature in degree Celsius. It would also implement a method to convert
the temperature into degree Fahrenheit. One way of doing this is:

```
class Celsius:
    def __init__(self, temperature = 0):
        self.temperature = temperature

    def to_fahrenheit(self):
        return (self.temperature * 1.8) + 32
```

We could make objects out of this class and manipulate the attribute
temperature as we wished. Try these on REPL.

```
man = Celsius()
man.temperature = 37
man.temperature          # Output: 37
man.to_fahrenheit()      # Output: 98.60000000000001
```

Whenever we assign or retrieve any object attribute like temperature,
Python searches it in the object's `__dict__` dictionary.

```
man.__dict__             # Output: {'temperature': 37}
```

Therefore, `man.temperature` internally becomes `man.__dict__['temperature']`.

Now, let's further assume that our class got popular among clients and
they started using it in their programs. They did all kinds of assignments
to the object. One fateful day, a trusted client came to us and suggested
that temperatures cannot go below -273 degree Celsius (students of
thermodynamics might argue that it's actually -273.15), also called the
absolute zero. He further asked us to implement this value constraint.

An obvious solution to the above constraint will be to hide the attribute
temperature (make it private) and define new getter and setter interfaces
to manipulate it. This can be done as follows.

```
class Celsius:
    def __init__(self, temperature = 0):
        self.set_temperature(temperature)

    def to_fahrenheit(self):
        return (self.get_temperature() * 1.8) + 32

    # new update
    def get_temperature(self):
        return self._temperature
```

```

def set_temperature(self, value):
    if value < -273:
        raise ValueError("Temperature below -273 is not possible")
    self._temperature = value

# We can see above that new methods get_temperature() and set_temperature()
# were defined and furthermore, temperature was replaced with _temperature.
# An underscore (_) at the beginning is used to denote private variables in
# Python.

c = Celsius(-277)
# ValueError: Temperature below -273 is not possible

# This update successfully implemented the new restriction. We are no longer
# allowed to set temperature below -273.

# Now please note that private variables don't exist in Python. There are
# simply norms to be followed. Language itself doesn't apply any restrictions.

c._temperature = -300
c.get_temperature()          # Output: -300

# But this is not of great concern. The big problem with the above update is
# that, all the clients who implemented our previous class in their program
# have to modify their code from obj.temperature to obj.get_temperature()
# and all assignments like obj.temperature = val to obj.set_temperature(val).
# This refactoring can cause headaches to the clients with hundreds of
# thousands of lines of codes. All in all, our new update was not backward
# compatible. This is where property comes to rescue.

# The pythonic way to deal with the above problem is to use property.
# Here is how we could have achieved it.

class Celsius:
    def __init__(self, temperature = 0):
        self.temperature = temperature

    def to_fahrenheit(self):
        return (self.temperature * 1.8) + 32

    def get_temperature(self):
        print("Getting value")
        return self._temperature

    def set_temperature(self, value):
        if value < -273:
            raise ValueError("Temperature below -273 is not possible")
        print("Setting value")
        self._temperature = value

    temperature = property(get_temperature, set_temperature)

```

```
# We added a print() function inside get_temperature() and set_temperature()
# to clearly observe that they are being executed.
```

```
# The last line of the code, makes a property object temperature. Simply put,
# property attaches some code (get_temperature and set_temperature) to the
# member attribute accesses (temperature).
```

```
# Any code that retrieves the value of temperature will automatically call
# get_temperature() instead of a dictionary (__dict__) look-up. Similarly,
# any code that assigns a value to temperature will automatically call
# set_temperature(). This is one cool feature in Python.
```

```
# We can see above that set_temperature() was called even when we created
# an object. Can you guess why?
```

```
# The reason is that when an object is created, __init__() method gets
# called. This method has the line self.temperature = temperature.
# This assignment automatically called set_temperature().
```

```
c = Celsius()
c.temperature
# Output: Getting value
#          0
```

```
# Similarly, any access like c.temperature automatically calls
# get_temperature(). This is what property does. Here are a few more
# examples.
```

```
c.temperature = 37          # Output: Setting value
c.to_fahrenheit()
# Output: Getting value
#          98.60000000000001
```

```
# By using property, we can see that, we modified our class and implemented
# the value constraint without any change required to the client code.
# Thus our implementation was backward compatible and everybody is happy.
```

```
# Finally note that, the actual temperature value is stored in the private
# variable _temperature. The attribute temperature is a property object
# which provides interface to this private variable.
```

```
# In Python, property() is a built-in function that creates and returns a
# property object. The signature of this function is
```

```
property(fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, doc=None)
```

```
# where, fget is function to get value of the attribute, fset is function
# to set value of the attribute, fdel is function to delete the attribute
# and doc is a string (like a comment). As seen from the implementation,
# these function arguments are optional.
```

So, a property object can simply be created as follows.

```
property()      # Output: <property object at 0x0000000003239B38>
```

A property object has three methods, `getter()`, `setter()`, and `deleter()` to specify `fget`, `fset` and `fdel` at a later point. This means, the line

```
temperature = property(get_temperature, set_temperature)
```

could have been broken down as

make empty property

```
temperature = property()
```

assign `fget`

```
temperature = temperature.getter(get_temperature)
```

assign `fset`

```
temperature = temperature.setter(set_temperature)
```

These two pieces of codes are equivalent.

Programmers familiar with decorators in Python can recognize that the above construct can be implemented as decorators. We can further go on and not define names `get_temperature` and `set_temperature` as they are unnecessary and pollute the class namespace. For this, we reuse the name `temperature` while defining our getter and setter functions. This is how it can be done.

```
class Celsius:
```

```
    def __init__(self, temperature = 0):
        self._temperature = temperature
```

```
    def to_fahrenheit(self):
        return (self.temperature * 1.8) + 32
```

```
    @property
```

```
    def temperature(self):
        print("Getting value")
        return self._temperature
```

```
    @temperature.setter
```

```
    def temperature(self, value):
        if value < -273:
            raise ValueError("Temperature below -273 is not possible")
        print("Setting value")
        self._temperature = value
```

```
# -----
```

TOPIC 7 - CLASS DECORATORS

There are two different ways to use decorators on classes. The first is
by decorating the methods of a class or decorating the whole class.

1. BUILT-IN CLASS DECORATORS

Some commonly used decorators that are built into Python are @classmethod,
@staticmethod, and @property. The @classmethod and @staticmethod
decorators are used to define methods inside a class namespace that's not
connected to a particular instance of that class. The @property decorator
is used to customize getters and setters for class attributes.

```
class Circle:
    def __init__(self, radius):
        self._radius = radius

    @property
    def radius(self):
        """Get value of radius"""
        return self._radius

    @radius.setter
    def radius(self, value):
        """Set radius, raise error if negative"""
        if value >= 0:
            self._radius = value
        else:
            raise ValueError("Radius must be positive")

    @property
    def area(self):
        """Calculate area inside circle"""
        return self.pi() * self.radius**2

    def cylinder_volume(self, height):
        """Calculate volume of cylinder with circle as base"""
        return self.area * height

    @classmethod
    def unit_circle(cls):
        """Factory method creating a circle with radius 1"""
        return cls(1)

    @staticmethod
    def pi():
        """Value of  $\pi$ , could use math.pi instead though"""
        return 3.1415926535
```

```

# In this class:

# - .cylinder_volume() is a regular method.

# - .radius is a mutable property: it can be set to a different value.
#   However, by defining a setter method, we can do some error testing to
#   make sure it's not set to a nonsensical negative number. Properties
#   are accessed as attributes without parentheses.

# - .area is an immutable property: properties without .setter() methods
#   can't be changed. Even though it is defined as a method, it can be
#   retrieved as an attribute without parentheses.

# - .unit_circle() is a class method. It's not bound to a particular
#   instance of Circle. Class methods are often used as factory methods
#   that can create specific instances of the class.

# - .pi() is a static method. It's not really dependent on the Circle class,
#   except that it's part of its namespace. Static methods can be called on
#   either an instance or the class.

c = Circle(5)
c.radius                # Output: 5
c.area                  # Output: 78.5398163375
c.area = 100
# AttributeError: can't set attribute
c.cylinder_volume(height=4) # Output: 50.265482456
c.radius = -1
# ValueError: Radius must be positive
c = Circle.unit_circle()
c.pi()                  # Output: 3.1415926535
Circle.pi()              # Output: 3.1415926535

```

2. DECORATING A CLASS METHOD

```

# Recall our decorator function which can be used to calculate the time
# taken by a function to execute. Here is another function, which does the
# similar task.

```

```

def timer(func):
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        start_time = time.perf_counter()
        value = func(*args, **kwargs)
        end_time = time.perf_counter()
        run_time = end_time - start_time
        print("Finished {} in {} secs".format(repr(func.__name__),
                                              round(run_time, 3)))
        return value
    return wrapper

```



```

class Calculator:
    def __init__(self, num):
        self.num = num

    @timer
    def doubled_and_add(self):
        res = sum([i * 2 for i in range(self.num)])
        print("Result : {}".format(res))

# Let's test this on REPL.
c = Calculator(10000)
c.doubled_and_add()
# Output: Result : 99990000
#         Finished 'doubled_and_add' in 0.001 secs

```

3. DECORATE ENTIRE CLASS

Decorating a class does not decorate its methods. Here, @timer only
measures the time it takes to instantiate the class.

```

@timer
class Calculator:
    def __init__(self, num):
        self.num = num
        import time
        time.sleep(2)

    def doubled_and_add(self):
        res = sum([i * 2 for i in range(self.num)])
        print("Result : {}".format(res))

c = Calculator(10000)
# Output: Finished 'Calculator' in 2.001 secs

```

4. CLASSES AS DECORATORS

The best way to maintain state is by using classes. If we want to use
class as a decorator it needs to take func as an argument in its
.__init__() method. Furthermore, the class needs to be callable so that
it can stand in for the decorated function. For a class to be callable,
you implement the special .__call__() method.

```

class CountCalls:
    def __init__(self, func):
        functools.update_wrapper(self, func)
        self.func = func
        self.num_calls = 0

```

```
def __call__(self, *args, **kwargs):
    self.num_calls += 1
    print(f"Call {self.num_calls} of {self.func.__name__!r}")
    return self.func(*args, **kwargs)

@CountCalls
def say():
    print("Hello!")

say()
say()
say()
say()
print(say.num_calls)
```

```
# Output:
# Call 1 of 'say'
# Hello!
# Call 2 of 'say'
# Hello!
# Call 3 of 'say'
# Hello!
# Call 4 of 'say'
# Hello!
# 4
```

```
# -----
```