Instance and class data

OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON



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Core principles of OOP

Inheritance:

Extending functionality of existing code

Polymorphism:

• Creating a unified interface

Encapsulation:

Bundling of data and methods

Instance-level data

```
class Employee:
    def __init__(self, name, salary):
        self.name = name
        self.salary = salary

emp1 = Employee("Teo Mille", 50000)
emp2 = Employee("Marta Popov", 65000)
```

- name, salary are instance attributes
- self binds to an instance

3. Instance-level data

you need to learn how to distinguish between instance-level data and class level data. Remember the employee class you defined in the previous chapter. It had attributes like name and salary, and we were able to assign specific values to them for each new instance of the class. These were instance attributes. We used self to bind them to a particular instance.

Class-level data

- Data shared among all instances of a class
- Define class attributes in the body of class

class MyClass: # Define a class attribute

CLASS_ATTR_NAME = attr_value

"Global variable" within the class

4. Class-level data

But what if you needed to store some data that is shared among all the instances of a class? For example, if you wanted to introduce a minimal salary across the entire organization. That data should not differ among object instances. Then, you can define an attribute directly in the class body. This will create a class attribute, that will serve as a "global variable" within a class. For example,

Class-level data

- MIN_SALARY is shared among all instances
- Don't use self to define class attribute
- use ClassName.ATTR_NAME to access the class attribute value

5. Class-level data

we can define min_salary, and set it to 30000. We can use this attribute inside the class like we would use any global variable, only prepended by the class name: for example, here we check if the value of salary attribute is greater than MIN_SALARY in the init method. Note that we do not use self to define the attribute, and we use the class name instead of self when referring to the attribute.



Class-level data

```
class Employee:
    # Define a class attribute
MIN_SALARY = 30000

def __init__(self, name, salary):
    self.name = name
    # Use class name to access class attribute
    if salary >= Employee.MIN_SALARY:
        self.salary = salary
    else:
        self.salary = Employee.MIN_SALARY
```

```
emp1 = Employee("TBD", 40000)
print(emp1.MIN_SALARY)
```

30000

```
emp2 = Employee("TBD", 60000)
print(emp2.MIN_SALARY)
```

30000

6. Class-level data

This min_salary variable will be shared among all the instances of the employee class. We can access it like any other attribute from an object instance, and the value will be the same across instances. Here we print the MIN_SALARY class attribute from two employee objects.



Why use class attributes?

Global constants related to the class

- minimal/maximal values for attributes
- commonly used values and constants, e.g. pi for a Circle class
- •

7. Why use class attributes?

So, the main use case for class attributes is global constants that are related to class, for example min/max values for attributes -- like the min_salary example -- or commonly used values: for example, if you were defining a Circle class, you could store pi as a class attribute.

Class methods

- Methods are already "shared": same code for every instance
- Class methods can't use instance-level data

```
class MyClass:
  @classmethod
                                                  # <---use decorator to declare a class method
  def my_awesome_method(cls, args...): # <---cls argument refers to the class</pre>
     # Do stuff here
                                                   8. Class methods
                                                   What about methods? Regular methods are already shared between
     # Can't use any instance attributes
                                                   instances: the same code gets executed for every instance. The only
                                                   difference is the data that is fed into it. It is possible to define methods bound
                                                   to class rather than an instance, but they have a narrow application scope,
MyClass.my_awesome_method(args...)
                                                   because these methods will not be able to use any instance-level data. To
                                                   define a class method, you start with a classmethod decorator, followed by a
                                                   method definition. The only difference is that now the first argument is not
                                                   self, but cls, referring to the class, just like the self argument was a reference
                                                   to a particular instance. Then you write it as any other function, keeping in
                                                   mind that you can't refer to any instance attributes in that method. To call a
                                                    class method, we use class-dot-method syntax, rather than object-dot-method
                                                   syntax.
```

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Alternative constructors

```
class Employee:
 MIN SALARY = 30000
  def __init__(self, name, salary=30000):
      self.name = name
      if salary >= Employee.MIN_SALARY:
        self.salary = salary
      else:
```

```
9. Alternative constructors only have one __init__()
```

So why would we ever need class methods at all? The main use case is alternative constructors. A class can only have one init method, but there might be multiple ways to initialize an object. For example, we might want to create an Employee object from data stored in a file. We can't use a method, because it would require an instance, and there isn't one yet! Here we introduce a class method from_file that accepts a file name, reads the first line from the file that presumably contains the name of the employee, and returns an object instance. In the return statement, we use the cls self.salary = Employee.MIN_SALARY variable -- remember that now cls refers to the class, so this will call the init constructor, just like using Employee with parentheses would when used outside the class definition.

Use class methods to create objects

```
@classmethod
def from_file(cls, filename):
    with open(filename, "r") as f:
        name = f.readline()
    return cls(name)
```

- Use return to return an object
- cls(...) will call __init__(...)

Alternative constructors

```
class Employee:
 MIN SALARY = 30000
  def __init__(self, name, salary=30000):
      self.name = name
      if salary >= Employee.MIN_SALARY:
        self.salary = salary
      else:
        self.salary = Employee.MIN_SALARY
 @classmethod
  def from_file(cls, filename):
      with open(filename, "r") as f:
          name = f.readline()
      return cls(name)
```

```
employee_data.txt 🗵

1 Sandia Romanova
```

```
# Create an employee without calling Employee()
emp = Employee.from_file("employee_data.txt")
type(emp)
```

```
__main__.Employee
```

10. Alternative constructors

Then we can call the method from_file by using class-dotmethod syntax, which will create an employee object without explicitly calling the constructor.



Let's practice!

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Class inheritance

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3. Code reuse

that someone has already written code that solves a part of your problem! Modules like numpy or pandas are a great tool that allows you to use code written by other programmers. But what if that code doesn't match your needs exactly? For example, you might want to modify the to_csv method of a pandas DataFrame to adjust the output format. You could do that by importing pandas and writing a new function, but it will not be integrated into the DataFrame interface. OOP will allow you to keep interface consistent while customizing functionality.

1. Someone has already done it

- Modules are great for fixed functionality
- OOP is great for customizing functionality



4. Code reuse

You will also often find yourself reusing your own code over and over. For example, when building a website with a lot of graphical elements like buttons and check boxes, no matter what the element is, the basic functionality is the same: you need to be able to draw it and click on it. There are a few details that differ based on the type of the element, but a lot of the code will be the repeated. Should you copy-paste the basic code for draw and click for every new element?

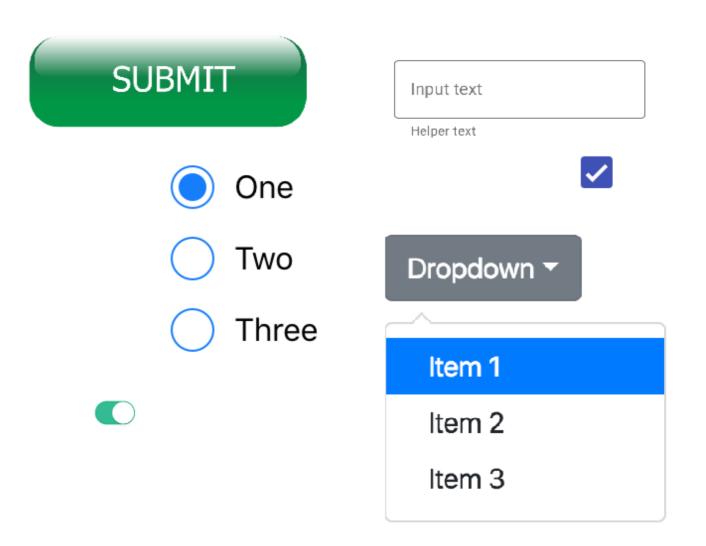
5. Code reuse

Wouldn't it be better to have a general data structure like GUIelement that implements the basic draw and click functionality only once?



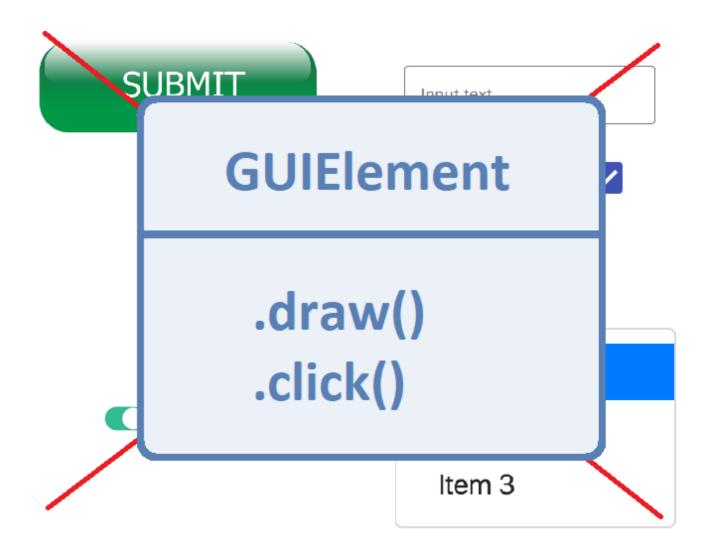
1. Someone has already done it

2. DRY: Don't Repeat Yourself



1. Someone has already done it

2. DRY: Don't Repeat Yourself



Inheritance

New class functionality = Old class functionality + extra

BankAccount



balance

withdraw()

7. Example hierarchy

Let's say you have a basic bank account class that has a balance attribute and a withdraw method. In your company, you work with several types of accounts.



SavingsAccount



BankAccount



balance

withdraw()



interest_rate

withdraw()

compute_interest()

8. Example hierarchy

For example, a SavingsAccount also has an interest rate and a method to compute interest, but it will also still have a balance, and you definitely should be able to withdraw from it. By inheriting methods and attributes of SavingsAccount from BankAccount, you'll be able to reuse the code you already wrote for the BankAccount class.

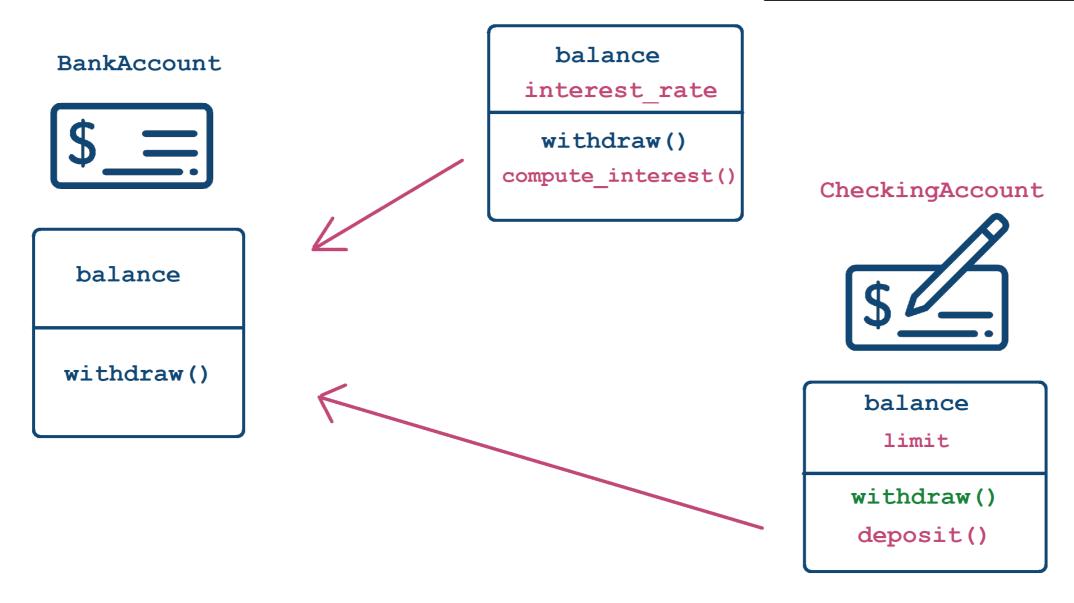


SavingsAccount

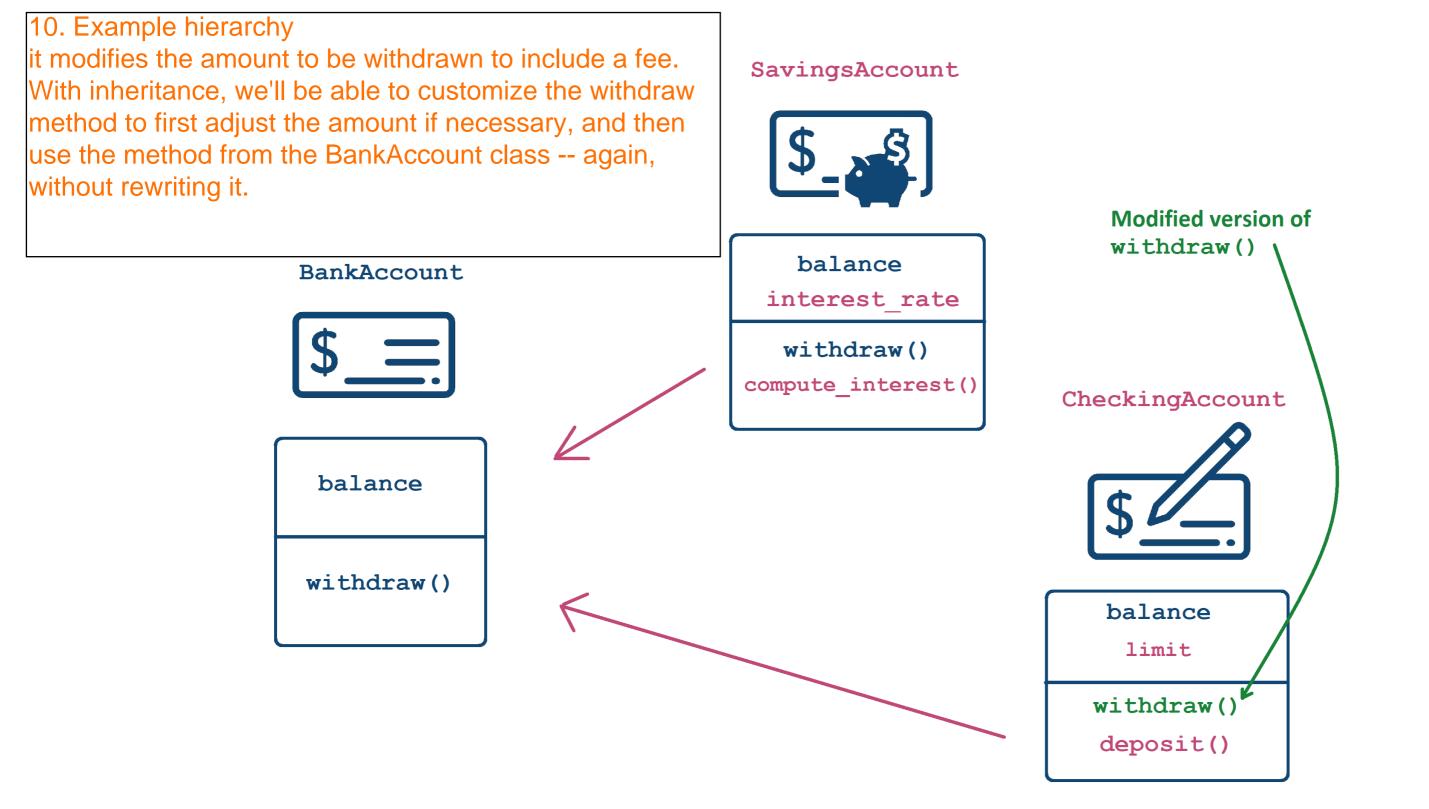


9. Example hierarchy

You could have a CheckingAccount class, that also has a balance, and a withdraw method, but maybe that method is slightly different:







Implementing class inheritance

```
class BankAccount:
    def __init__(self, balance):
       self.balance = balance
    def withdraw(self, amount):
        self.balance -= amount
 Empty class inherited from BankAccount
class SavingsAccount(BankAccount):
    pass
```

```
class MyChild(MyParent):
    # Do stuff here
```

- MyParent : class whose functionality is being extended/inherited
- MyChild: class that will inherit the functionality and add more

11. Implementing class inheritance

How do we implement this? Declaring a class that inherits from another class is very straightforward: you simply add parentheses after the class name, and then specify the class to inherit from. Here, we define a rudimentary BankAccount class and a seemingly empty SavingsAccount class inherited from it.



Child class has all of the the parent data

```
# Constructor inherited from BankAccount
savings_acct = SavingsAccount(1000)
type(savings_acct)
```

12. Child class has all of the the parent data "Seemingly" because SavingsAccount actually has exactly as much in it as the BankAccount class. For example, we can create an object -- even though we did not define a constructor -- and we can access the balance attribute and the withdraw method from the instance of SavingsAccount, even though these features weren't defined in the new class.

__main__.SavingsAccount

Attribute inherited from BankAccount
savings_acct.balance

1000

Method inherited from BankAccount
savings_acct.withdraw(300)



Inheritance: "is-a" relationship That's because inheritance represents "is-a" relationship: a savings account is a bank account, just with some extra

A SavingsAccount is a BankAccount

(possibly with special features)

savings_acct = SavingsAccount(1000)
isinstance(savings_acct, SavingsAccount)

True

isinstance(savings_acct, BankAccount)

True

13. Inheritance: "is-a" relationship

That's because inheritance represents "is-a" relationsh

That's because inheritance represents "is-a" relationship: a savings account is a bank account, just with some extra features. This isn't just theoretical -- that's how Python treats it as well. Calling isinstance function on a savingsaccount object shows that Python treats it like an instance of both savingsaccount and BankAccount classes, which is not the case for a generic BankAccount object. Right now, though, this class doesn't have anything that the original account class did not have.

acct = BankAccount(500)

isinstance(acct, SavingsAccount)

False

isinstance(acct, BankAccount)

True

Let's practice!

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Customizing functionality via inheritance

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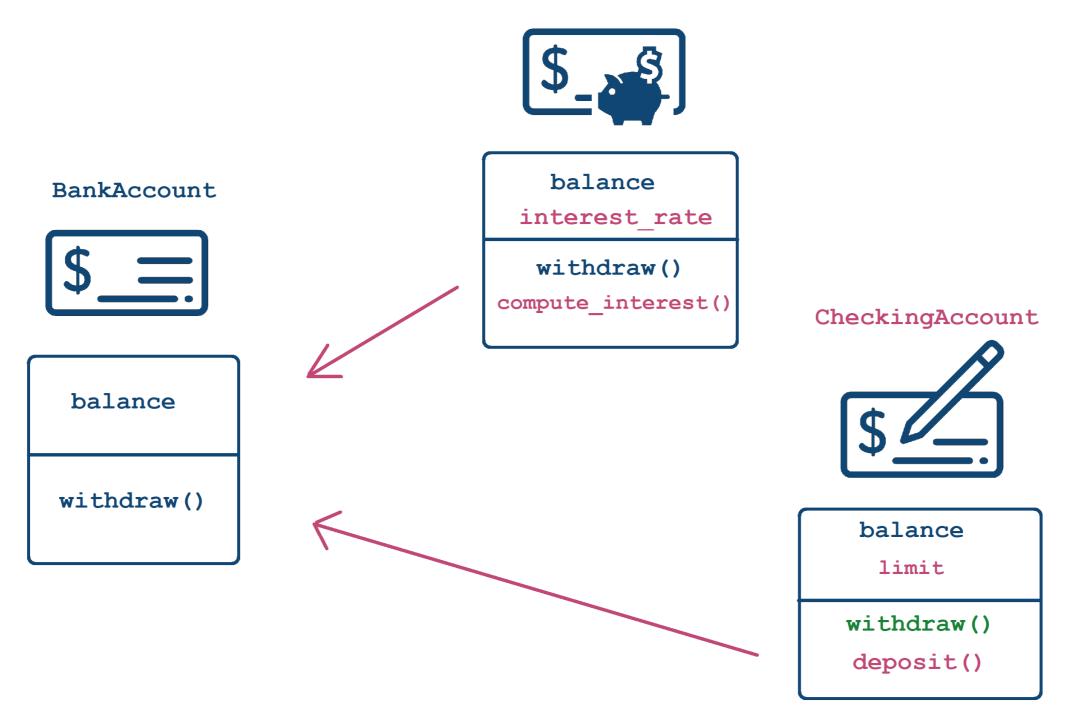


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SavingsAccount



What we have so far

```
class BankAccount:
    def __init__(self, balance):
       self.balance = balance
    def withdraw(self, amount):
       self.balance -=amount
# Empty class inherited from BankAccount
class SavingsAccount(BankAccount):
    pass
```

Customizing constructors

```
class SavingsAccount(BankAccount):

# Constructor speficially for SavingsAccount with an additional parameter

def __init__(self, balance, interest_rate):

# Call the parent constructor using ClassName.__init__()

BankAccount.__init__(self, balance) # <--- self is a SavingsAccount but also a BankAccount

# Add more functionality

self.interest_rate = interest_rate</pre>
```

- Can run constructor of the parent class first by Parent.__init__(self, args...)
- Add more functionality

4. Customith hewentous gll the parent constructors

adding a constructor specifically for SavingsAccount. It will take a balance parameter, just like BankAccount, and an additional interest_rate parameter. In that constructor, we first run the code for creating a generic bankaccount by explicitly calling the init method of the bankAccount class. Notice that we use BankAccount-dot-init to tell Python to call the constructor from the parent class, and we also pass self to that constructor. Self in this case is a SavingsAccount -- that's the class we're in -- but remember that in Python, instances of a subclass are also instances of the parent class, so it is a BankAccount as well, and we can pass it to the init method of BankAccount. Then we can add more functionality, in this case just initializing an attribute. You actually aren't required to call the parent constructor in the subclass, or to call it first -- you can use new code entirely -- but you li likely to almost always use the parent

Create objects with a customized constructor

```
# Construct the object using the new constructor
acct = SavingsAccount(1000, 0.03)
acct.interest_rate
```

0.03



Adding functionality

- Add methods as usual
- Can use the data from both the parent and the child class

```
class SavingsAccount(BankAccount):

def __init__(self, balance, interest_rate):
    BankAccount.__init__(self, balance)
    self.interest_rate = interest_rate

# New functionality

def compute_interest(self, n_periods = 1):
    return self.balance * ( (1 + self.interest_rate) ** n_periods - 1)
of interest in the account.. Don't worry about the exact formula, just notice that we multiply the balance attribute - which was inherited from the BankAccount parent - by an expression involving the interest_rate attribute that exists only in the child SavingsAccount class.
```



6. Adding functionality

In the exercises, you saw you can add methods to

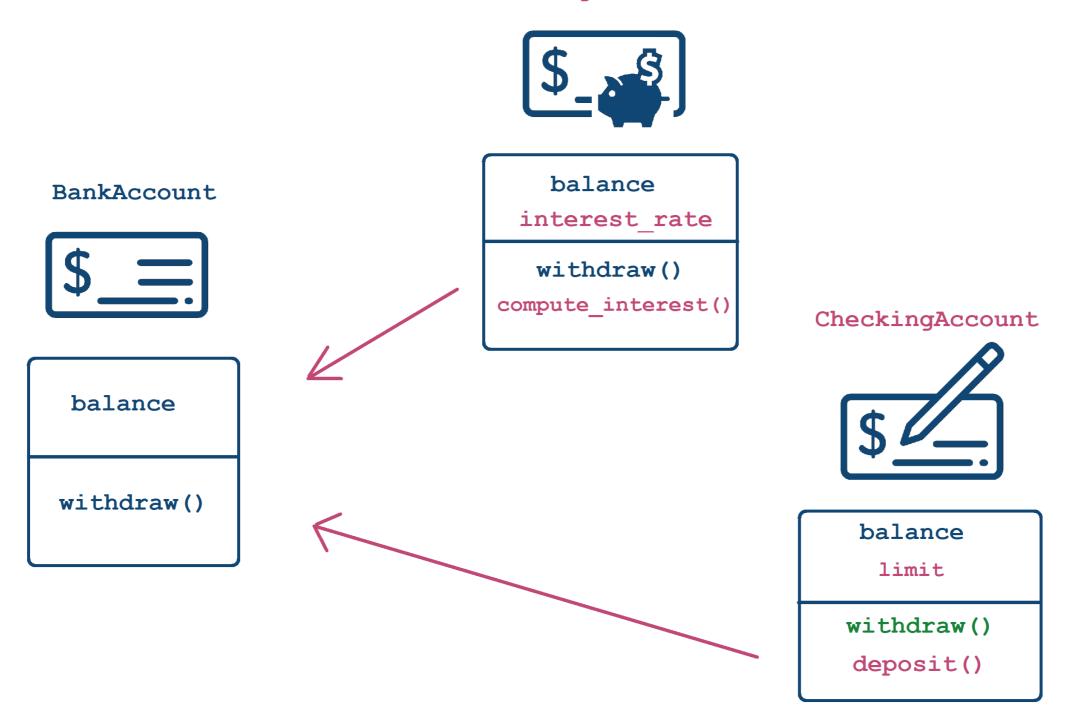
methods you can use data from both the child and

compute_interest method that returns the amount

a subclass just like to any other class. In those

the parent class. For example here, we add a

SavingsAccount



Customizing functionality

- Can change the signature (add parameters)
- Use Parent.method(self, args...) to call a method from the parent class

7. Customizing functionality Now let's talk about customizing functionality. SavingsAccount inherits the withdraw method from the parent BankAccount class. Calling withdraw on a savings instance will execute exactly the same code as calling it on a generic bank account instance. We want to create a CheckingAccount class, which should have a slightly modified version of the withdraw method: it will have a parameter and adjust the withdrawal amount.



```
check_acct = CheckingAccount(1000, 25)

# Will call withdraw from CheckingAccount
check_acct.withdraw(200)
```

```
# Will call withdraw from CheckingAccount
check_acct.withdraw(200, fee=15)
```

```
bank_acct = BankAccount(1000)

# Will call withdraw from BankAccount
bank_acct.withdraw(200)
```

```
# Will produce an error
bank_acct.withdraw(200, fee=15)
```

TypeError: withdraw() got an unexpected
keyword argument 'fee'

8. Customizing functionality

Here's an outline of what that could look like. Start by inheriting from the parent class, add a customized constructor that also executes the parent code, a new deposit method, and a withdraw method, but we add a new argument to withdraw - fee, that specifies the additional withdrawal fee. We compare the fee to some fee limit, and then call the parent withdraw method, passing a new amount to it -- with fees subtracted. So this method runs almost the same code as the BankAccount's withdraw method without re-implementing it - just augmenting. Notice that we can change the signature of the method in the subclass by adding a parameter, and we again, just like in the constructor, call the parent version of the method directly by using parent-class-dot syntax and passing self.



Let's practice!

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