



Day 9: Classes

Thursday, 7.22.21



Agenda

- Daily check-in
 - Announcements
 - Review solution to Lab 8
- Recap from yesterday
- New topic: Classes
- Live coding

Daily check-in

Check in

- Questions?
- Announcements
 - Our tech trek today will be from **12:30 - 1:30pm EST**, in Zoom as usual, **guest speaker Connor Gramazio will be joining us from Amazon, Cambridge, MA**
 - Connor is a Senior Software Engineer at Amazon working on the *Alexa AI* system (“ask alexa”). His main area of ‘research’ at Amazon is in NLP, and he uses a lot of C++ and Python for his work at Amazon. Did his undergraduate @Tufts, MS/PhD @Brown.
- Lab 8: Machine Learning with scikit-learn
 - Brawner won’t be here to review solution, but Brooks can answer most of your questions
 - Anything we don’t know from Brawner’s lab you can ask him today during the afternoon lab, or email him:

RECAP

C++ vs. Python

main.cpp

```
1 // Illustrative example of arrays in C++ (aka Lists in Python)
2
3 #include <iostream>
4
5 using namespace std;
6
7 int main()
8 {
9
10     int example_array[3] = {10, 20, 30};
11
12     cout << "First for-loop: \n";
13
14     for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
15         cout << "The element at position " << i << " is: " << example_array[i] << "\n";
16     }
17
18     cout << "\nSecond for-loop: \n";
19
20     for (int example_element : example_array)
21         cout << "The element is: " << example_element << '\n';
22 }
```

C++ version

main.py

```
1 # Illustrative example of lists in Python (aka Arrays in C++)
2
3 example_array = [10, 20, 30]
4
5 print("First for-loop:")
6
7 for i in range(0, 3):
8     print(f"The element at position {i} is: {example_array[i]}")
9
10 print("\nSecond for-loop: ")
11
12 for example_element in example_array:
13     print(f"The element is: {example_element}")
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
--
```

Python version

C++ version with Arrays:

```
main.cpp
1 // Illustrative example of arrays in C++ (aka Lists in Python)
2
3 #include <iostream>
4
5 using namespace std;
6
7 int main()
8 {
9
10     int example_array[3] = {10, 20, 30};
11
12     cout << "First for-loop: \n";
13
14     for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
15         cout << "The element at position " << i << " is: " << example_array[i] << "\n";
16     }
17
18     cout << "\nSecond for-loop: \n";
19
20     for (int example_element : example_array)
21         cout << "The element is: " << example_element << '\n';
22 }
```

```
> clang++-7 -pthread -std=c++17 -o main main.cpp
> ./main
First for-loop:
The element at position 0 is: 10
The element at position 1 is: 20
The element at position 2 is: 30

Second for-loop:
The element is: 10
The element is: 20
The element is: 30
> []
```

Python version with Lists:

```
main.py
1 # Illustrative example of lists in Python (aka Arrays in C++)
2
3 example_array = [10, 20, 30]
4
5 print("First for-loop:")
6
7 for i in range(0, 3):
8     print(f"The element at position {i} is: {example_array[i]}")
9
10 print("\nSecond for-loop: ")
11
12 for example_element in example_array:
13     print(f"The element is: {example_element}")
14
```

```
First for-loop:
The element at position 0 is: 10
The element at position 1 is: 20
The element at position 2 is: 30

Second for-loop:
The element is: 10
The element is: 20
The element is: 30
> []
```

Modules in Python

- When we refer to a *module*, we are referring to a single Python file
- Examples of modules we've used already:
 - **Time**
 - We could put the program to “sleep” using `time.sleep(x)`, where ‘x’ was the number of seconds we wanted the program to wait
 - **Random**
 - We could randomly pull a number between ‘x’ and ‘y’ using `random.randint(x, y)`
 - **Math**
 - We could round a decimal value ‘x’ up or down using `math.ceil(x)` or `math.floor(x)`, respectively

Libraries in Python

Libraries in Python, on the other hand, are a *collection* of modules.

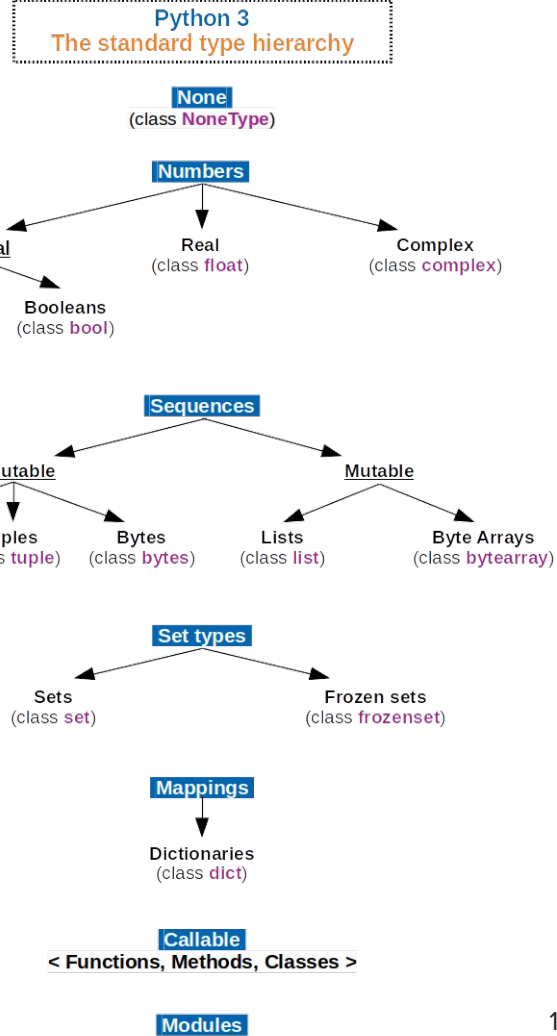
That is to say, libraries are simply a collection of many Python files (i.e., modules), meaning they likely support a lot more functionality than a single module.

Tips for working with libraries / packages

- Libraries are fast, helpful, and are generally well documented.
 - Plus, because they're open-source, there's a large community answering questions, debugging problems, posting guides, etc.
- Whenever you want to use a certain function from a library, read the documentation carefully! It's helpful.
 - Read about the input, or parameters, that the function expects.
 - Read about the expected *output* of the function. How does the output depend on the input?
 - Find examples of people using that function on stackoverflow, reddit, whatever
 - Read the questions they post and try to understand the question BEFORE reading the answer

Making our way around Python...

- Numbers ✓
 - Integer
 - Boolean
 - Float
- Sequences ✓
 - Strings
 - Tuples
 - Lists
 - Mutability vs. Immutability
- Sets ✓
- Dictionaries ✓
- Functions ✓
- Modules ✓
- ...last but not least, *classes*.



New topic: Classes

Classes! But first, Objects.

Before we start talking about *classes*, let's talk about *objects*.

Under the hood of Python, everything we've been working with so far has actually been an *object*. Variables, functions, lists, tuples, dictionaries, sets, etc.

They're all what's known as an object.

What's an object? *An object is the collection of various data and functions that operate on those data.* Does anyone have a better definition?

What do objects have to do with classes?

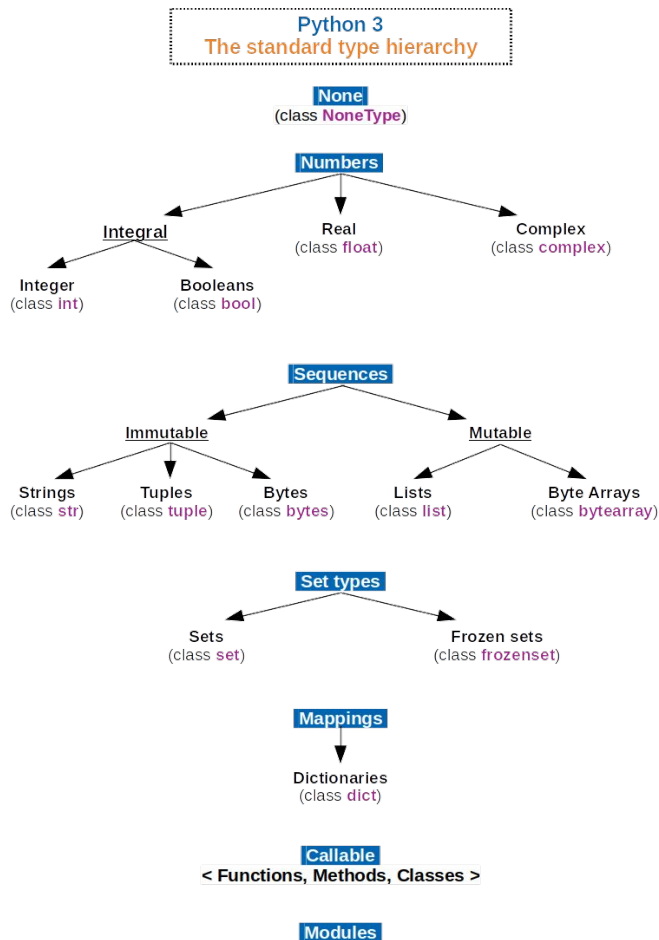
Every object belongs to a *class*.

Think back on all the times we've typed “type(X)” into our Python shell. What was the output?

`<class 'objectClass'>`

```
Console  Shell

>>> type(5)
<class 'int'>
>>>
>>> type(3.14)
<class 'float'>
>>>
>>> type(True)
<class 'bool'>
>>>
>>> type({})
<class 'dict'>
>>>
>>> type(())
<class 'tuple'>
>>>
>>> type([])
<class 'list'>
>>>
>>> type(type)
<class 'type'>
>>>
>>> type(input)
<class 'builtin_function_or_method'>
>>>
>>> type(print)
<class 'builtin_function_or_method'>
```



```
Console  Shell

>>> type(5)
<class 'int'>
>>>
>>> type(3.14)
<class 'float'>
>>>
>>> type(True)
<class 'bool'>
>>>
>>> type({})
<class 'dict'>
>>>
>>> type(())
<class 'tuple'>
>>>
>>> type([])
<class 'list'>
>>>
>>> type(type)
<class 'type'>
>>>
>>> type(input)
<class 'builtin_function_or_method'>
>>>
>>> type(print)
<class 'builtin_function_or_method'>
```

Just like the chart says! We've worked with many built-in classes in Python.

Classes

Classes are sorta similar to functions, such that we can write our own custom version to do whatever we want. However, classes are much more powerful than functions: any class we write can also have its own functions! Think of a class as a *blueprint* for something specific you want to work with.

When we write a class, we can create “instances” of that class by creating / instantiating a new object that *belongs* to that class. Just like when we do:

`x = 5` in Python or `int x = 5;` in C++

We are creating an *instance** of the *integer class* by creating an int object x.

***An *instance* is simply an individual object from a certain class.**

Creating a class

You use the keyword 'class' to tell Python you are about to define a new class. Each class must have a name, and it should be descriptive for what the class's purpose is. Every class has statements, attributes, and perhaps functions that belong to it.

```
class name:  
    statements
```

Examples

main.py

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5
6 d = Dog()
7 print(d)
8
9 print(d.numberOfLegs)
10
11 print(d.name)
```



Console

Shell

```
<__main__.Dog object at 0x7fa0a1a693d0>
4
Fido
❖ |
```

What's happening here? (side note: 'numberOfLegs' and 'name' are considered the *fields* or *attributes* of our class)

Examples

main.py



Console

Shell

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5
6 d = Dog()
7 print(d)
8
9 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.")
10
11 d.numberOfLegs = 3
12 d.name = "Spark"
13
14 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.")
```

```
<__main__.Dog object at 0x7f7ce43ae3d0>
Fido has 4 legs.
Spark has 3 legs.
```



What's happening in lines 11 and 12? Is our Dog object mutable or immutable?

What if I wanted the dog Fido AND the dog Spark?

main.py

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5
6 d = Dog()
7 print(d)
8
9 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.")
10
11 d.numberOfLegs = 3
12 d.name = "Spark"
13
14 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.")
```

Console

Shell

```
<__main__.Dog object at 0x7f7ce43ae3d0>
Fido has 4 legs.
Spark has 3 legs.
```



What could I do in my code?

What if I wanted the dog Fido AND the dog Spark?

```
main.py  Console  Shell

1  class Dog:
2      numberOfLegs = 4
3      name = "Fido"
4
5
6  d = Dog()
7  print(d)
8
9  print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.\n\n")
10
11 d2 = Dog()
12 print(d2)
13
14 d2.numberOfLegs = 3
15 d2.name = "Spark"
16
17 print(f"{d2.name} has {d2.numberOfLegs} legs.")
```

```
<__main__.Dog object at 0x7f8705b903d0>
Fido has 4 legs.

<__main__.Dog object at 0x7f8705c06640>
Spark has 3 legs.
❏
```

I created a new Dog object. Notice how this object has its own place in memory.

Classes

Since my class is a *blueprint*, I might want some of the data belonging to my class to be entered by the user, or by the program.

For example, maybe I want to make my **Dog** class have a user-specified dog's name and dog's #of legs.

Look at how we use “self” here:

(side note: **set_name** and **set_num_legs** are considered *methods* in my class)

main.py x

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5     def set_name(self, n):
6         self.name = n
7
8     def set_num_legs(self, n):
9         self.numberOfLegs = n
```

Classes

Given this code, whenever I create an *instance* of my Dog class (aka a new Dog object), what will the object's name and numberOfLegs be?

main.py x

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5     def set_name(self, n):
6         self.name = n
7
8     def set_num_legs(self, n):
9         self.numberOfLegs = n
```


Creating an instance of the Dog class

main.py ×

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5     def set_name(self, n):
6         self.name = n
7
8     def set_num_legs(self, n):
9         self.numberOfLegs = n
10
11
12 d = Dog()
13 print(d)
14
15 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.\n\n")
```



Console

Shell

```
<__main__.Dog object at 0x7f922419a3d0>
Fido has 4 legs.
```



What's different here?

main.py x

```
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5     def set_name(self, n):
6         self.name = n
7
8     def set_num_legs(self, n):
9         self.numberOfLegs = n
10
11
12 d = Dog()
13 d.set_name("Sparky")
14 d.set_num_legs(5)
15
16 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.\n\n")
```



Console

Shell

Sparky has 5 legs.



What's different here?

```
main.py x
1 class Dog:
2     numberOfLegs = 4
3     name = "Fido"
4
5     def set_name(self, n):
6         self.name = n
7
8     def set_num_legs(self, n):
9         self.numberOfLegs = n
```

Classes

Now, we could also change our Dog class to TAKE IN a dog's name and # of legs when we create a new instance of it:

main.py x

```
1 class Dog:
2     def __init__(self, n, legs):
3         self.name = n
4         self.numberOfLegs = legs
5
```

We can modify our class's constructor (the way our class gets created / instantiated) using the `__init__` built-in method of our class. You always need to pass *self* in the constructor!

Creating an instance of our new Dog class

main.py



Console

Shell

```
1 class Dog:
2     def __init__(self, n, legs):
3         self.name = n
4         self.numberOfLegs = legs
5
6
7 d = Dog("Sparky", 5)
8 print(f"{d.name} has {d.numberOfLegs} legs.\n\n")
```

Sparky has 5 legs.



What's different?

Inheritance

While I think inheritance is out of the scope of the Coding 101 program, I'd still like to mention it to you all so you at least know what it is.

Inheritance allows us to define a class that inherits all the methods and properties from another class. What does that mean?

By using inheritance, we can basically have a “subclass” or “child” of another class (often referred to as the “parent” class), such that our subclass/child gets to access everything the parent class has access to, such as its methods, fields, etc.

Inheritance example

main.py

```
1 class Dog:
2     def __init__(self, n, legs):
3         self.name = n
4         self.numberOfLegs = legs
5
6     def print_dog(self):
7         print(f"{self.name} has {self.numberOfLegs}
8           legs.\n")
9
10    class Chihuahua(Dog):
11        def speak(self):
12            print(f"I'm {self.name} the chihuaha!")
13
14    c = Chihuahua("Chichi", 4)
15    c.print_dog()
16    c.speak()
```

Console

Shell

Chichi has 4 legs.

I'm Chichi the chihuaha!



Live coding
