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Python Operator Overloading

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You have already seen you can use `+` operator for adding numbers and at the same time to concatenate strings. It is possible because `+` operator is overloaded by both `int` class and `str` class. The operators are actually methods defined in respective classes. Defining methods for operators is known as operator overloading. For e.g: To use `+` operator with custom objects you need to define a method called `__add__`.

Let's take an example to understand better

```

1  import math
2
3  class Circle:
4
5      def __init__(self, radius):
6          self.__radius = radius
7
8      def setRadius(self, radius):
9          self.__radius = radius
10
11     def getRadius(self):
12         return self.__radius
13
14     def area(self):
15         return math.pi * self.__radius ** 2
16
17     def __add__(self, another_circle):
18         return Circle( self.__radius + another_circle.__radius )

```

```
18         return circle( self.__radius + another_circle.__radius )
19
20 c1 = Circle(4)
21 print(c1.getRadius())
22
23 c2 = Circle(5)
24 print(c2.getRadius())
25
26 c3 = c1 + c2 # This became possible because we have overloaded + operator by adding
27 print(c3.getRadius())
```

Expected Output:

```
1 4
2 5
3 9
```

```
1 import math
2
3 class Circle:
4
5     def __init__(self, radius):
6         self.__radius = radius
7
8     def setRadius(self, radius):
9         self.__radius = radius
10
11     def getRadius(self):
12         return self.__radius
13
14
```

Submit

Output

Input

In the above example we have added `__add__()` method which allows use to use the `+` operator to add two circle objects. Inside the `__add__()` method we are creating a new object and returning it to the caller.

Python has many other special methods like `__add__()` , see the list below.

Operator	Function	Method Description
+	<code>__add__(self, other)</code>	Addition
*	<code>__mul__(self, other)</code>	Multiplication
-	<code>__sub__(self, other)</code>	Subtraction
%	<code>__mod__(self, other)</code>	Remainder
/	<code>__truediv__(self, other)</code>	Division
<	<code>__lt__(self, other)</code>	Less than
<=	<code>__le__(self, other)</code> , Less than or equal to	
==	<code>__eq__(self, other)</code> , Equal to	
!=	<code>__ne__(self, other)</code> , Not equal to	
>	<code>__gt__(self, other)</code> , Greater than	

`>=` , `__ge__(self, other)` , Greater than or equal to `[index]` , `__getitem__(self, index)`
 , Index operator `in` , `__contains__(self, value)` , Check membership `len` , `__len__(self)`
 , The number of elements `str` , `__str__(self)` , The string representation

Program below is using some of the above mentioned functions to overload operators.

```
1  import math
2
3  class Circle:
4
5      def __init__(self, radius):
6          self.__radius = radius
7
8      def setRadius(self, radius):
9          self.__radius = radius
10
11     def getRadius(self):
12         return self.__radius
13
14     def area(self):
15         return math.pi * self.__radius ** 2
16
17     def __add__(self, another_circle):
18         return Circle( self.__radius + another_circle.__radius )
19
20     def __gt__(self, another_circle):
21         return self.__radius > another_circle.__radius
22
23     def __lt__(self, another_circle):
24         return self.__radius < another_circle.__radius
25
26     def __str__(self):
27         return "Circle with radius " + str(self.__radius)
28
29 c1 = Circle(4)
30 print(c1.getRadius())
31
32 c2 = Circle(5)
33 print(c2.getRadius())
34
35 c3 = c1 + c2
36 print(c3.getRadius())
37
38 print( c3 > c2) # Became possible because we have added __gt__ method
39
40 print( c1 < c2) # Became possible because we have added __lt__ method
41
42 print(c3) # Became possible because we have added __str__ method
```

Expected Output:

```
1 4
2 5
3 9
4 True
5 True
6 Circle with radius 9
```

```
1 import math
2
3 class Circle:
4
5     def __init__(self, radius):
6         self.__radius = radius
7
8     def setRadius(self, radius):
9         self.__radius = radius
10
11    def getRadius(self):
12        return self.__radius
13
14    def area(self):
```

Submit

Output

Input

Next lesson is inheritance and polymorphism (/python-inheritance-and-polymorphism/).

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