

General Introduction to Important Python Features

FTAG algo tutorial on good code practices, 14.04.2022

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with Material from GRK python workshop (in cooperation with Frank Sauerburger) and
RODEM good practices mini-workshop

Overview

- General good practices
- New Features in Python 3
- Generators
- Type hinting / Type declaration
- Logging
- argparse
- What not to do
- Debugger
- Code formatting & Linting

Auxiliary Material (for which we don't have enough time)

- Object-Oriented Programming)

reusing some material from <https://indico.cern.ch/event/846501>

General good practices

- Comment your Code
- Add doc strings

New Features in Python 3

New Features in Python 3

- Python 2 is deprecated since beginning of 2020
- Python 3 already has 10 minor releases (3.xx)
- For all changes have a look at [What's New in Python](#)
- [Cheat Sheet: Writing Python 2-3 compatible code](#)

are your libraries ready for python 3.10? [have a look](#)

f-Strings

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String formatting before Python 3.6

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In [ ]: import math  
        ftag = 2_022  
        where = "online"
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In [ ]: print(message_f)
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True Division

Python 2

3/4 returned 0

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Python 3

```
In [ ]: 3/4
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In python 3 the operator `/` does not lose fractions

True Division

Python 2

3/4 returned 0

Python 3

```
In [ ]: 3/4
```

In python 3 the operator `/` does not lose fractions

Integer division has its own operator

```
In [ ]: 3//4
```

Readability of Numbers

To make large number better readable, you can use a `_`

```
In [ ]: 6728339
```

```
In [ ]: 6_728_339
```

Dictionary operators

New Merge (`|`) and update (`|=`) operators for dictionaries

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```
In [ ]: dict1 = {"key1": "CERN", "key2": "DESY"}  
dict2 = {"key2": "CH", "key3": "DE"}
```

```
In [ ]: dict1 | dict2
```

```
In [ ]: dict2 | dict1
```

```
In [ ]: dict2 |= dict1
```

```
In [ ]: dict2
```

- available since python 3.9

Parenthesised context managers

```
In [ ]: with (  
        CtxManager1() as example1,  
        CtxManager2() as example2,  
        CtxManager3() as example3,  
        ):  
        ...
```

```
In [ ]:
```

Structural Pattern Matching

```
In [ ]: def http_error(status):  
        match status:  
            case 400:  
                return "Bad request"  
            case 404:  
                return "Not found"  
            case 418:  
                return "I'm a teapot"  
            case _:  
                return "Something's wrong with the internet"
```

```
In [ ]: http_error(418)
```

Pairwise function itertools

```
In [ ]: from itertools import pairwise
words = ["good", "morning", "routine"]
for w1, w2 in pairwise(words):
    print(w1, w2)
```

- available since python 3.10
- useful e.g. when looping over indices for batches

Pydash

```
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flatten_deep([1, 2, 3, [4, 5, 6, [7, 8, 9]], [2]])
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```
In [ ]: # filter specific values from a list of dictionaries  
map_([{"letter": "alpha", "position": 1}, {"letter": "delta", "position
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```
In [ ]: # filter specific values from a list of dictionaries  
map_([{"letter": "alpha", "position": 1}, {"letter": "delta", "position": 2}])
```

```
In [ ]: # remove key from dictionary  
omit({"letter": "eta", "position": 7}, "position")
```

Useful package for list, dictionary handling

Generators

```
In [ ]: def squares(end):  
        """  
        Returns the squares of 0 up to (not including) the given end.  
        >>> squares(3)  
        [0, 1, 4]  
        """  
        out = []  
        for i in range(end):  
            out.append(i * i)  
        return out
```

```
In [ ]: squares(3)
```

This is a typical pattern:

1. Create empty list
2. Append items in loop
3. Return final list

Problematic when dealing with huge lists

```
In [ ]: small_list = squares(10)  # Returns list of 10 items  
        sum(small_list)
```

```
In [ ]: large_list = squares(1000_000)  # Returns a list with 1 million items  
                                             # Calling it with 1 billion exhausts my  
        sum(large_list)
```

In this example

- Don't need random access to items: `large_list[100]`
- Need only to iterate over list once

Solution: Generators

```
In [ ]: def squares(end):  
        """  
        Returns the squares of 0 up to (not including) the given end.  
        >>> squares(3)  
        [0, 1, 4]  
        """  
  
        # Old implemenation:  
        # out = []  
        # for i in range(end):  
        #     out.append(i * i)  
        # return out  
        for i in range(end):  
            yield i * i # yield one item at a time
```

```
In [ ]: squares(3)
```

```
In [ ]: list(squares(3))
```

```
In [ ]: sum(squares(1000_000)) # Computes one item at a time  
        # Works even with 1 billion, takes ~2min
```

Type hinting / Type declaration

```
In [ ]: def multiply_values(val1, val2):  
        """Multiplies two floats and returns result."""  
        return f"Result: {val1 * val2}"
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In [ ]: multiply_values(True, False)
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In [ ]: multiply_values(True, False)
```

Common case!

- Function intended to be used with floats
- Python doesn't forbid other types

How to avoid that

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Type hinting helps to remind yourself and other developers about your intentions

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- Hinted return type

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```
In [ ]: def multiply_values(val1: float, val2: float) -> str:  
        """Multiplies two floats and returns result."""  
        return f"Result: {val1 * val2}"
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- Hinted types of arguments
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In [ ]: def multiply_values(val1: float, val2: float) -> str:
        """Multiplies two floats and returns result."""
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Can ask for the type hints at run time:

```
In [ ]: from typing import get_type_hints
```

```
In [ ]: get_type_hints(multiply_values)
```

A few reminders

Type hints are just *hints*, they do not declare types. Can still do this:

```
In [ ]: multiply_values(True, False)
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In [ ]: get_type_hints(multiply_values)
```

Python will remain a dynamically typed language, and the authors have no desire to ever make type hints mandatory, even by convention.

Logging

Logging

... defines functions and classes which implement a flexible event logging system for applications and libraries.

- Track the status of software at runtime
- Can be output, stored to a file, etc.
- Can have different severity/importance levels
- Can have custom output format

Logging levels

- **DEBUG** – detailed information, only for problem diagnosis
- **INFO** – conformational, "working as expected"
- **WARNING** – something unexpected happened, maybe a problem in the near future, but: still working as expected
- **ERROR** – more serious problem, some operation not executed
- **CRITICAL** – serious error, program itself might be compromised

Loggers, Handlers, Formatters

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- Handlers: to send the logs to the appropriate destination
- Formatters: to specify the log layout in the final output

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```
In [ ]: import logging
```

```
In [ ]: logger = logging.getLogger()  
logger.setLevel("INFO")
```

```
In [ ]: handler = logging.StreamHandler()
```

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In [ ]: logger = logging.getLogger()  
logger.setLevel("INFO")
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```
In [ ]: handler = logging.StreamHandler()
```

```
In [ ]: formatter = logging.Formatter(  
    "%(funcName)s() %(levelname)7s %(message)s",  
    '%H:%M:%S'  
)  
handler.setFormatter(formatter)
```

```
In [ ]: logger.addHandler(handler)
```

Simple example

```
In [ ]: def floor(var: float) -> int:
        """Floors a float."""
        logger.info(f"called with argument var={var}.")
        if type(var) not in [float, int]:
            logger.error(
                f"called with var={var} which is neither float nor int."
                " Returned 'None' as I don't know what to do here."
            )
            return None
        elif type(var) is not float:
            logger.warning(f"called with var={var} which is not a float.")

        return int(var)
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        elif type(var) is not float:
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        return int(var)
```

```
In [ ]: floor(3.7)
```

```
In [ ]: floor(3)
```

```
In [ ]: floor("3")
```

More things to be done with loggers – some ideas

More things to be done with loggers – some ideas

- Multiple handlers, e.g. to:
 - send warning/error/fatal to std output
 - send info/warning/error/fatal to a log file
 - ...
- Same or different formats for multiple handlers
- Make use of a command-line argument `--debug` to:
 - print everything down to debug level to std output
 - use a different formatter that prints more info (e.g. module name + line number)

Command-line options - `argparse`

Command-line parsing module in the Python standard library

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All sorts of configurations possible:

- Positional / Keyword
- Default values
- Keywords can be mandatory or optional
- Help messages

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In [ ]: from argparse import ArgumentParser
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In [ ]: from argparse import ArgumentParser
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```
In [ ]: parser = ArgumentParser()
```

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```
In [ ]: parser.add_argument(  
    '-e',          # short-hand  
    '--exponent',  # full name  
    default=2,     # default value  
    type=int,      # int type  
)
```


How to add arguments

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    type=int,      # int type  
)
```

```
In [ ]: parser.add_argument(  
    "-v",          # short-hand  
    "--verbose",   # full name  
    help="increase output verbosity", # help message  
    action="store_true", # true/false  
)
```

What NOT to do

Thinks you should avoid with python

Misusing default arguments in functions

you can define default values in a function

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        ftag_list.append("algo") # this line can cause problems!  
        return ftag_list
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In [ ]: ftag_append()
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Possible way out of it

```
In [ ]: def ftag_append(ftag_list=None): # setting default value to None
        if ftag_list is None:
            ftag_list = []
        ftag_list.append("algo")
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- Unnecessary import of unneeded functionalities

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In []: `from numpy import *`

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with python 3 e.g. ROOT does not allow wildcard import anymore

```
from ROOT import *
```

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from email.message import EmailMessage
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%%writefile email.py  
def GetMail():  
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from email.message import EmailMessage
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def GetMail():  
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```

```
import email  
email.GetMail()
```

Opening files

Often used to open files

```
file = open("test.txt", "w")  
.  
.  
.  
file.close()
```

This syntax can cause issues e.g. if there is an exception raised before `file.close()`

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Safer way to open files

```
with open("test.txt", "w") as file:  
.  
.  
.
```


Mutable assignment errors - Dictionaries

We have a dictionary a

```
In [ ]: a = {'1': "one", '2': 'two'}
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```
In [ ]: b['3'] = "three"
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Mutable assignment errors - Dictionaries

What happened?

Here b is a pointer -> reference to a.

The same thing is happening for lists.

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The same thing is happening for lists.

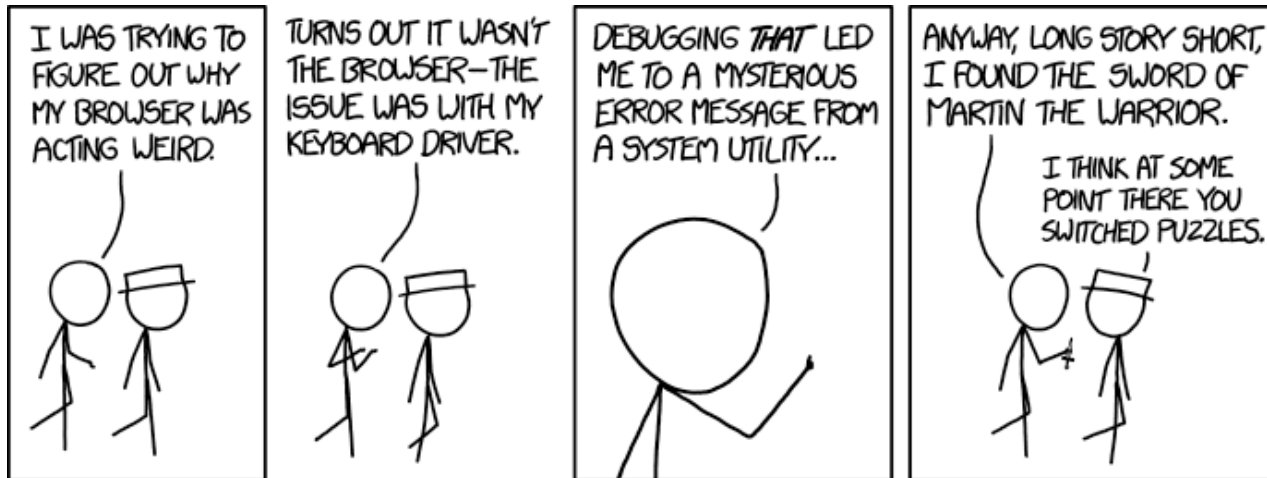
Possible way out:

```
In [ ]: # for dicts  
b = a.copy()  
# for lists  
l = list(a.keys())  
cp = l[:]
```


Debugger PDB

Your program crashes or doesn't do what it should?

Debugging can be challenging



Example

```
In [ ]: from myproject import read_config, compute_all_results

config = read_config()
# ...
results = compute_all_results(config)  # lengthy computation
# ...
for result in results:
    if result == "tt":
        print("We have the answer!")
        break
else:
    print("This should not happen.")
```

Debugging with `print()`

Add single print, rerun **whole** program

```
In [ ]: config = read_config()
# ...
results = compute_all_results(config) # lengthy computation
# ...
print(results) # Inspect the list of results
for result in results:
    if result == "tt":
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        print("We have the answer!")
        break
else:
    print("This should not happen.")
```

- `tt` in results
- Why not detected in loop?

Debugging with `print()`

Add another print, rerun **whole** program **again**

```
In [ ]: config = read_config()
# ...
results = compute_all_results(config)  # lengthy computation
# ...
print(results)  # Inspect the list of results
for result in results:
    print(result)
    if result == "tt":
        print("We have the answer!")
        break
else:
    print("This should not happen.")
```

Better: Using debugger

Insert `breakpoint()` (or `import pdb; pdb.set_trace()` before Python 3.7) and rerun whole program

```
In [ ]: config = read_config()
# ...
results = compute_all_results(config)  # lengthy computation
# ...
import pdb; pdb.set_trace()  # This works also before 3.7
for result in results:
    if result == "tt":
        print("We have the answer!")
        break
else:
    print("This should not happen.")
```

Better: Using debugger

- Trigger debugger
 - Add `breakpoint()` or `import pdb; pdb.set_trace()`
 - Run `python -m pdb your_program.py`
- Command summary
 - `b [FILE:]LINE` adds a new breakpoint
 - `c` continue to next breakpoint
 - `n` run next statement
 - `s` step into method call
 - `u` move one level up (reverts `s`)
 - `cl [N]` clear breakpoints or breakpoint `N`
 - `q` quit
 - `h` help

Exercise:

Investigate the example below:

```
In [ ]: cities = set(["London", "Paris", "Bern"]) # Unordered collection

def get_new_cities():
    new_cities = []
    new_cities.append("Oslo")
    new_cities.append("Praque")
    return set(new_cities)

cities.union(get_new_cities())

print(cities) # Does not include Oslo, Praque!
```


Code formatting & Linting

Code formatter = runs over your code and applies styling changes

Linters = scans the code to flag:

- Programming errors / invalid syntax
- Suspicious constructs ("code that smells")
- Stylistic errors (enforces common style within a team)

The combination of the two is extremely powerful!

Linters example

The slightly modified example of the cities.

```
# debug_exercise.py
cities = ["London", "Paris", "Bern"]

def get_nordic_cities():
    cities = []
    cities.append("Oslo")
    cities.append("Stockholm")
    return cities

nordic_cities = get_nordic_cities()

print(cities) # Still contains London, Paris, Bern
```

Lint example

```
$ python -m pylint debug_exercise.py
example.py:1:0: C0114: Missing module docstring (missing-module-
docstring)
example.py:6:4: W0621: Redefining name 'cities' from outer scope
(line 3) (redefined-outer-name)
example.py:5:0: C0116: Missing function or method docstring (missing-
function-docstring)
```

Your code has been rated at 6.25/10 (previous run: 6.25/10, +0.00)

- `cities` redefined within the function
- In this example the redefinition might be obvious and not a problem
- But what if the code is much more complex? Shadowing is dangerous!
- Linter would have given a hint of the problem already

What to take away

- Code formatter, e.g. `black`, to have uniform code style
- `pylint`, `flake8`, ... + other style checkers to cross-check syntax, constructs etc

The best is the combination of both! Ideal for pre-commit hooks & CI/CD:

- Pre-commit hooks – no "broken" commits:
 - code formatter
 - style checker / linter
 - other safety nets, e.g. yaml syntax checker
- Continuous integration: linter + all actual code tests

Auxiliary Material

several concepts of python we couldn't cover in the tutorial

Print Function

Print Function

```
In [ ]: print("Hello world!")
```

Print Function

```
In [ ]: print("Hello world!")
```

```
In [ ]: print("Hello", "world", sep="-")
```


Print Function

```
In [ ]: print("Hello world!")
```

```
In [ ]: print("Hello", "world", sep="-")
```

```
In [ ]: print('home', 'user', 'documents', sep='/')
```

Print Function

```
In [ ]: print('Mercury', 'Venus', 'Earth', sep=', ', end=" ")
        print('Mars', 'Jupiter', 'Saturn', sep=', ', end=' ')
        print('Uranus', 'Neptune', 'Pluto', sep=', ')
```

Print Function

```
In [ ]: print('Mercury', 'Venus', 'Earth', sep=', ', end=" ")
        print('Mars', 'Jupiter', 'Saturn', sep=', ', end=' ')
        print('Uranus', 'Neptune', 'Pluto', sep=', ')
```

Writing to file

```
In [ ]: !cat file.txt
```

```
In [ ]: with open('file.txt', mode='w') as file_object:
        print('hello world', file=file_object)
```

Dataclass

in Python 3 dataclasses were introduced, for more details have a look [here](#)

The dataclass will handle the `__init__` etc

```
In [ ]: from dataclasses import dataclass

@dataclass
class InventoryItem:
    """Class for keeping track of an item in inventory."""
    name: str
    unit_price: float
    quantity_on_hand: int = 0

    def total_cost(self) -> float:
        return self.unit_price * self.quantity_on_hand
```

What is Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)

- You've used it already:

```
"Hello World".lower()
```

The string `"Hello World"` is an object of `str` class.

- Class is a *blueprint* to create instances, called *objects*
- Combines data and functions
- Example: Particles in an experiment

Particle

Properties

- mass
- charge

Actions/Methods

- anti()
returns the anti-
particle of itself

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```
In [ ]: class Particle:
        def __init__(self, mass, charge):
            self.mass = mass
            self.charge = charge
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- Class is a *blueprint* to create instances, called *objects*
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- Example: Particles in an experiment

```
In [ ]: class Particle:
        def __init__(self, mass, charge):
            self.mass = mass
            self.charge = charge
```

```
In [ ]: bert = Particle(125, 0)
        bert.mass
```

```
In [ ]: class Particle:
        def __init__(self, mass, charge):
            # __init__() is called when new object is created.
            # First argument (self) is the new object
            self.mass = mass
            self.charge = charge

        def anti(self):
            # First argument is the object on which anti() is called

            # Create new particle with same mass and
            # opposite charge
            return Particle(self.mass, -self.charge)
```

```
In [ ]: bert = Particle(1.777, -1)
        ernie = bert.anti()
        ernie.charge
```

```
In [ ]: ernie.mass
```

```
In [ ]: bert.charge  # Original particle not changed
```



```
In [ ]: class Particle:
    def __init__(self, mass, charge):
        # __init__() is called when new object is created.
        # First argument (self) is the new object
        self.mass = mass
        self.charge = charge

    def anti(self):
        # First argument is the object on which anti() is called

        # Create new particle with same mass and
        # opposite charge
        return Particle(self.mass, -self.charge)

    def flip_charge(self):
        # Change the charge of the particle itself (instead of creating

        self.charge *= -1
```

```
In [ ]: bert = Particle(1.777, -1)
bert.charge
```

```
In [ ]: bert.flip_charge() # Changes the original particle
bert.charge
```

Inheritance

Inheritance

- Sub-classes extend parent classes
- Share functionality implemented in parent classes
- Terminology: parent class = "base class"; sub-class = "derived class"
- Inheritance models = "is a"-type relationships
 - A `Fermion` **is a** `Particle`
 - A `Particle` is not necessarily a `Fermion`
- Example: Include sub-classes `Fermion` and `Boson`

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- Example: Include sub-classes `Fermion` and `Boson`

```
In [ ]: class Boson(Particle):
        def interact_with_higgs(self, factor=1.5):
            # Bosons can increase their mass by interacting with the Higgs
            self.mass *= factor

        class Fermion(Particle):
            def __init__(self, mass, charge, generation):
                super().__init__(mass, charge) # Create a regular particle
                self.generation = generation
```

```
In [ ]: tau = Fermion(1.777, -1, 3)
        tau.generation
```

```
In [ ]: Z = Boson(60.78, 0)
        Z.mass
```

```
In [ ]: Z.interact_with_higgs()
        Z.mass
```

```
In [ ]: Z.generation  # Z is a Boson which do not come in generations
```

```
In [ ]: tau.interact_with_higgs()
```

Other interesting things about OOP

- Methods `__str__` and `__repr__` can be overridden
 - Reminder: `__repr__` = unambiguous representation of an object
 - Reminder: `__str__` = "pretty" printable representation (defaults to `__repr__`)
- Operators can be overridden: `ernie + bert`
- Polymorphism: methods with different implementations sub-classes, e.g.
 - `Fermion.susy()` returns a Boson
 - `Boson.susy()` returns a Fermion