

LARSON—MATH 255—CLASSROOM WORKSHEET 38
Python Classes!

1. (a) Start the Chrome browser.
- (b) Go to `http://cocalc.com`
- (c) Login using **your VCU email address** .
- (d) Click on our class Project.
- (e) Click “New”, then “Worksheets”, then call it **c38**.
- (f) For each problem number, label it in the Sage cell where the work is. So for Problem 2, the first line of the cell should be `#Problem 2`.

Every integer in Python is an *instance* of the Python `int` class. Included in that class are built-in functions (called *methods*) that work only on `ints`. Every Integer in Sage is an *instance* of the Sage `Integer` class. Included in that class are built-in functions (called *methods*) that work only on `Integers`; one example is the `.is_prime()` method. Another example is the Sage *Graph* class: every graph is an instance of that class. The methods here include `.size()` and `.order()`.

Our Own Class. In order to have a slightly deeper understanding of Python and Sage classes (and object-oriented programming) we will define our own Sage class. We'll design a general class of Dungeons and Dragons character, sample concrete character objects, methods that can be accessed by any character objects, and functions that can be used on the characters.

```
class Character():
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name
        self.intelligence=randint(1,10)
        self.health=randint(1,10)
        self.strength=randint(1,10)
        self.fortitude=randint(1,10)
        self.points = randint(1,10)
    def hello(self):
        print "Hello world! I am {}".format(self.name)
    def status(self):
        print("My intelligence is {}".format(self.intelligence))
        print("My health is {}".format(self.health))
        print("My strength is {}".format(self.strength))
        print("My fortitude is {}".format(self.fortitude))
        print("My points are {}".format(self.points))
    def change_intelligence(self,amount):
        new = self.intelligence + amount
        if new < 1:
            self.intelligence = 1
        elif new > 10:
            self.intelligence = 10
        else:
            self.intelligence = new
    def change_points(self, amount):
        self.points = self.points + amount
```

2. Evaluate. We must create new characters in order to use the newly defined abilities. Try `sam=Character("Samwise")`. Then try `sam.hello()`
3. This creates an *object* of the `Character` type. The name from the program environment's point of view is "sam". The `.name` built-in to the class is "Samwise"—but that's not useable for our programs—this is data that's stored as part of the created object.
4. Now define the following function.

```
def drink_potion(character):  
    if random() < 0.5:  
        character.change_intelligence(3)  
        print("I feel smarter!")  
    else:  
        character.change_intelligence(-3)  
        print("Uh oh!")
```

Try `sam.status()`, then `drink_potion(sam)`, then `sam.status()` again.

5. Then try `sam.status()`.
6. Now make your own character with your own name—and check all of these things that we did for "sam".

You see these *classes*, *objects* and *methods* can get very interesting!

The Birthday Problem.

7. (Guess) **How many students do we need in a classroom so that there is a better than 50% chance that at least one pair of them have the same birthday (Month & Day)?**
8. What could you code to investigate this problem?

Getting your classwork recorded

When you are done, before you leave class...

- (a) Click the "Make pdf" (Adobe symbol) icon and make a pdf of this worksheet. (If CoCalc hangs, click the printer icon, then "Open", then print or make a pdf using your browser).
- (b) Send me an email with an informative header like "Math 255 - c38 worksheet attached" (so that it will be properly recorded).
- (c) Remember to attach today's classroom worksheet!