

CSC 148: Introduction to Computer Science

Week 3

Inheritance (continued)

Reminder: should revise the readings **before** lecture!

It really helps to have things fresh in mind
before engaging in problem-solving!



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Worksheet ...



Avoid Duplicate Documentation

- Don't maintain documentation in two places, e.g. superclass and subclass (unless there's no other choice)
- Inherited methods, common public attributes – no need to document again in subclass
- Overridden methods – still document them, even if no differences
 - Sometimes there may be differences that need to be explained
 - Remember though: docstring is part of the public API => it should say how to use a method, not how it is implemented internally



“Is a” vs. “Has a”

- Inheritance is **not** always appropriate to describe the logical relationship between the entities you want to model
 - Same goes for composition...
- When should you use composition and when inheritance?
 - Think about the relationships between objects!
 - Inheritance: **"is a"** relationship
 - Composition: **"has a"** relationship



Be proactive!

- You've now had ~3 weeks of preps, exercises, lectures, and labs.
- Ask yourself:
 1. Am I **confident** with the material covered so far, or am I starting to fall behind?
 2. Do I have **effective strategies** for approaching conceptual and programming problems, or does it feel like I'm often trying random things, or need a lot of help getting started?
 3. If I'm feeling worried, **do I have a plan**, or am I avoiding thinking about it?