

# Python

## Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)

Thanks to all contributors:

Alison Pamment, Sam Pepler, Ag Stephens, Stephen Pascoe, Kevin Marsh, Anabelle Guillory, Graham Parton, Esther Conway, Eduardo Damasio Da Costa, Wendy Garland, Alan Iwi, Matt Pritchard and Tommy Godfrey.

# Computer science is the study of algorithms



**Centre for Environmental  
Data Analysis**  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



**National Centre for  
Atmospheric Science**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



**National Centre for  
Earth Observation**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Computer science is the study of algorithms

Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



Centre for Environmental  
Data Analysis  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



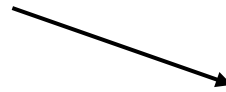
National Centre for  
Atmospheric Science  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



National Centre for  
Earth Observation  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Computer science is the study of algorithms

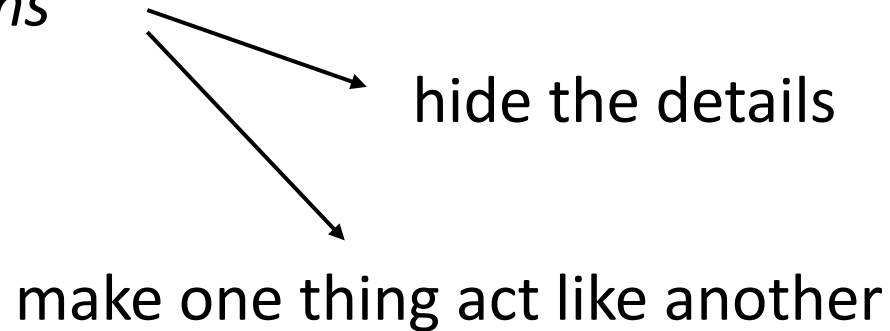
Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



hide the details

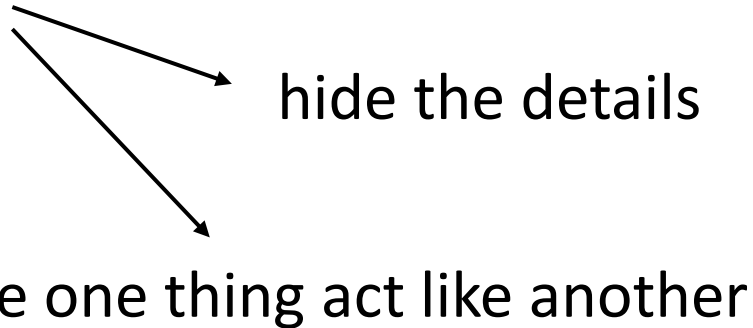
Computer science is the study of algorithms

Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



Computer science is the study of algorithms

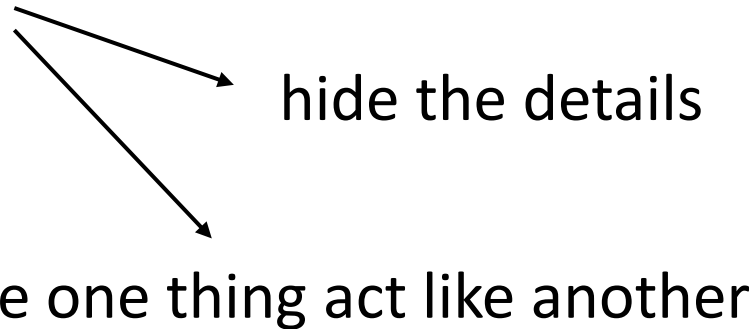
Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



Functions turn many steps into one (logical) step

Computer science is the study of algorithms

Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*

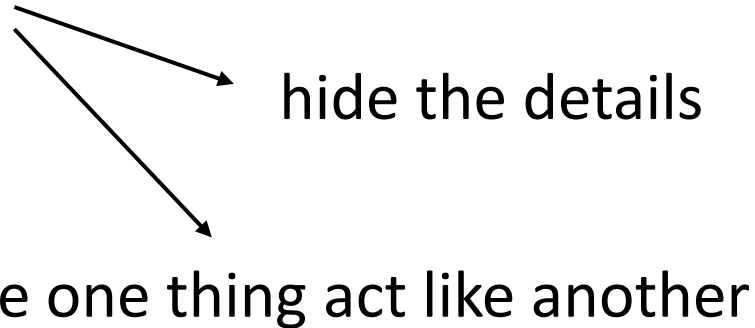


Functions turn many steps into one (logical) step

Libraries group functions to make them manageable

Computer science is the study of algorithms

Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



Functions turn many steps into one (logical) step

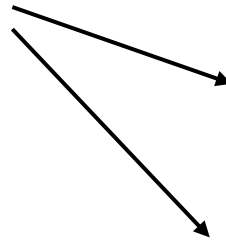
Libraries group functions to make them manageable

Classes and objects combine functions and data



Computer science is the study of algorithms

Computer *programming* is about creating and  
composing *abstractions*



hide the details

make one thing act like another

Functions turn many steps into one (logical) step

Libraries group functions to make them manageable

Classes and objects combine functions and data

And, if used properly, do much more as well

Let's see how OOP is useful in everyday Python:

```
>>> s = "some silly string"
>>> s.upper()
'SOME SILLY STRING'
>>> s.find("t")
12
>>> s.replace("silly", "sensible").title()
'Some Sensible String'
```

And you can actually interrogate this **object** s to find out their **methods**:

```
>>> dir(s)
['__add__', '__class__', '__contains__', '__delattr__', '__dir__',
 '__doc__', '__eq__', '__format__', '__ge__', '__getattribute__',
 '__getitem__', '__getnewargs__', '__gt__', '__hash__', '__init__',
 '__init_subclass__', '__iter__', '__le__', '__len__', '__lt__',
 '__mod__', '__mul__', '__ne__', '__new__', '__reduce__',
 '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__rmod__', '__rmul__', '__setattr__',
 '__sizeof__', '__str__', '__subclasshook__', 'capitalize', 'casefold',
 'center', 'count', 'encode', 'endswith', 'expandtabs', 'find',
 'format', 'format_map', 'index', 'isalnum', 'isalpha', 'isascii',
 'isdecimal', 'isdigit', 'isidentifier', 'islower', 'isnumeric',
 'isprintable', 'isspace', 'istitle', 'isupper', 'join', 'ljust',
 'lower', 'lstrip', 'maketrans', 'partition', 'replace', 'rfind',
 'rindex', 'rjust', 'rpartition', 'rsplit', 'rstrip', 'split',
 'splitlines', 'startswith', 'strip', 'swapcase', 'title', 'translate',
 'upper', 'zfill']
```

And you can find out which **class** `s` is an **instance** of:

```
>>> type(s)  
<class 'str'>
```

# OOP Terminology (1)

## **class**

Tell Python the definition of a new object.

## **object**

Two meanings: the most basic type of thing, and any instance of a class.

## **instance**

What you get when you tell Python to create a variable of given class.

## **def**

How you define a method of a class.

## **self**

Inside the methods in a class, self is a variable for the instance/object being accessed.

You can build your own **class** for your own domain:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"  
  
    def __init__(self, path):  
        items = open(path).read().split()  
        self.data = []  
        for item in items:  
            self.data.append(float(item))  
  
    def max(self):  
        return max(self.data)  
  
    def mean(self):  
        return sum(self.data) / len(self.data)
```

Then create an **instance** of your **class** and use it:

```
$ cat some_data.txt Inside the data file...
```

```
1000 750 500 250 0
```



some\_data.txt

```
$ python
```

```
>>> from myclass import FileAnalyser
```

```
>>> da = FileAnalyser("some_data.txt")
```

```
>>> da.max()
```

```
1000.0
```

```
>>> da.mean()
```

```
500.0
```

You can make use of `help()` on your own class:

```
>>> help(FileAnalyser)
```

```
Help on class FileAnalyser in module myclass:
```

```
class FileAnalyser(builtins.object)
| FileAnalyser(path)
|
| A class above the rest
|
| Methods defined here:
|
| __init__(self, path)
|     Initialize self.  See help(type(self)) for accurate
signature.
|
| max(self)
|
| mean(self)
|
| -----
| Data descriptors defined here:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
```



Let's look in detail at our class...:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"
```

Class Definition:  
Defines the class name.  
  
Optionally include a doc  
string below.

Let's look in detail at our class...:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"  
  
    def __init__(self, path):  
        items = open(path).read().split()  
        self.data = []  
        for item in items:  
            self.data.append(float(item))
```

`__init__` is the  
"constructor" method:

- Not necessary
- Very useful
- Always called when class is first created.

Let's look in detail at our class...:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"  
  
    def __init__(self, path):  
        items = open(path).read().split()  
        self.data = []  
        for item in items:  
            self.data.append(float(item))
```

"self" means "belonging to  
this instance/object:

- Needed for all attributes  
that you want to be visible  
to every part of the object  
(shared).

Let's look in detail at our class...:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"  
  
    def __init__(self, path):  
        items = open(path).read().split()  
        self.data = []  
        for item in items:  
            self.data.append(float(item))  
  
    def max(self):  
        return max(self.data)
```

Now we add more methods:

- "self" is always required as first argument.

Let's look in detail at our class...:

```
class FileAnalyser():  
    "A class above the rest"  
  
    def __init__(self, path):  
        items = open(path).read().split()  
        self.data = []  
        for item in items:  
            self.data.append(float(item))  
  
    def max(self):  
        return max(self.data)  
  
    def mean(self):  
        return sum(self.data) / len(self.data)
```

# Examples of OOP

Most python packages use OOP extensively.

We'll come across many examples in the next sessions.

E.g.:

```
from netCDF4 import Dataset
# Create HDF5 *format*, classic *model*
dataset = Dataset('data/test.nc', 'w', format='NETCDF4_CLASSIC')
print(dataset.file_format)
```

# A worked example

```
times = []
measurements = []

for i in range(1,32):
    date = f'2021-05-{i}'
    times, measurements = add_measurement(date, i, times, measurements)

# Print the data
print_measurements(times, measurements)
```

# A worked example

```
times = []  
measurements = []
```

Set up shared  
data containers



# A worked example

```
times = []  
measurements = []  
  
for i in range(1,32):  
    date = f'2021-05-{i}'  
    times, measurements = add_measurement(date, i, times, measurements)
```

Re-assign shared state to  
take into account  
changes

But also shared  
state

Pass in data to  
add

# A worked example

```
times = []  
measurements = []  
  
for i in range(0,31):  
    date = f'2021-05-{i}'  
    times, measurements = add_measurement(date, i, times, measurements)  
  
# Print the data  
print_measurements(times, measurements)
```

Pass in shared  
data

# A worked example: Using classes

```
temp_store = DataStore()

for i in range(1,32):
    date = f'2021-05-{i}'
    temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)

# Print the temps
temp_store.print_measurements()
```

# A worked example: Using classes

```
temp_store = DataStore()
```

Create instance of DataStore  
Shared data contained in class  
definition

```
for i in range(1,32):
```

```
    date = f'2021-05-{i}'
```

```
    temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)
```

```
# Print the temps
```

```
temp_store.print_measurements()
```

# A worked example: Using classes

```
temp_store = DataStore()
```

Create instance of DataStore  
Shared data contained in class  
definition

```
for i in range(10):  
    date = '2005-01-01-{:02d}'.format(i)
```

No variable  
re-assignment

```
    temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)
```

```
# Print the temps
```

```
temp_store.print_measurements()
```

# A worked example: Using classes

```
temp_store = DataStore()
```

Create instance of DataStore  
Shared data contained in class  
definition

```
for i in range(10):  
    temp_store.add_measurement('2005-05-01', i)
```

No variable  
re-assignment

```
temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)
```

Only need to pass in things  
to add

```
# Print the temps
```

```
temp_store.print_measurements()
```

# A worked example: Using classes

```
temp_store = DataStore()
```

Create instance of DataStore  
Shared data contained in class  
definition

```
for i in range(10):  
    temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)
```

No variable  
re-assignment

```
temp_store.add_measurement(date, i)
```

Only need to pass in things  
to add

```
# Print the temps
```

```
temp_store.print_measurements()
```

Don't need shared  
state

Number of things you need to remember are reduced

# OOP Terminology (2)

## **inheritance**

The concept that one class can inherit traits from another class, much like you and your parents.

## **attribute**

A property that classes have that are from composition and are usually variables.

## **is-a**

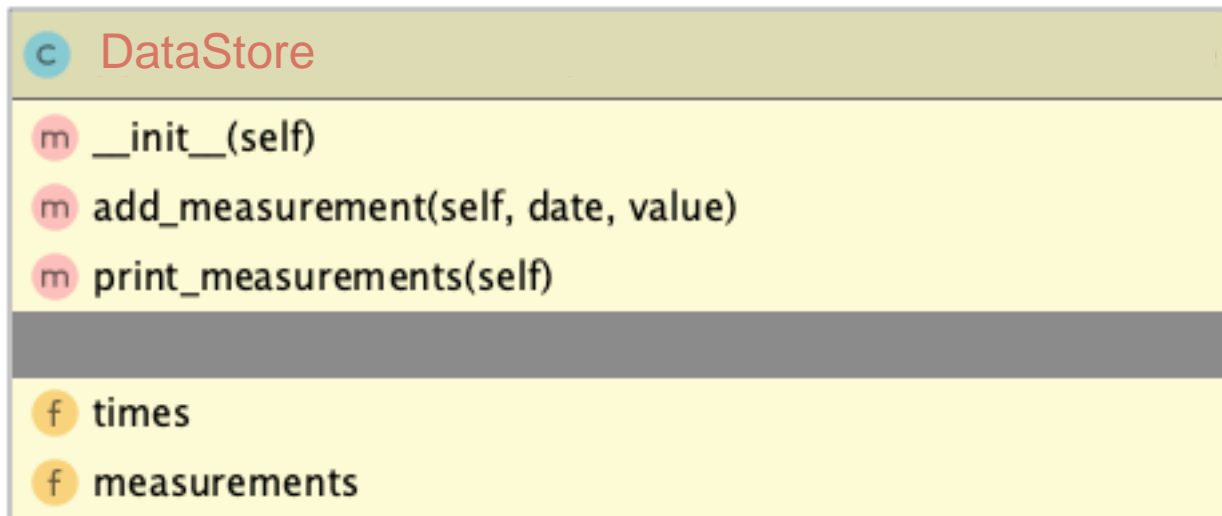
A phrase to say that something inherits from another, as in a "salmon" is-a "fish."



# Inheritance

Classes can inherit from one another

This allows you to share attributes and methods, add, extend, modify.  
(very flexible)



# Inheritance

Let's make a class which converts Celsius measurements to Kelvin as we add them

```
class TemperatureStore(DataStore):
```

```
    def add_measurement(self, date, value):
```

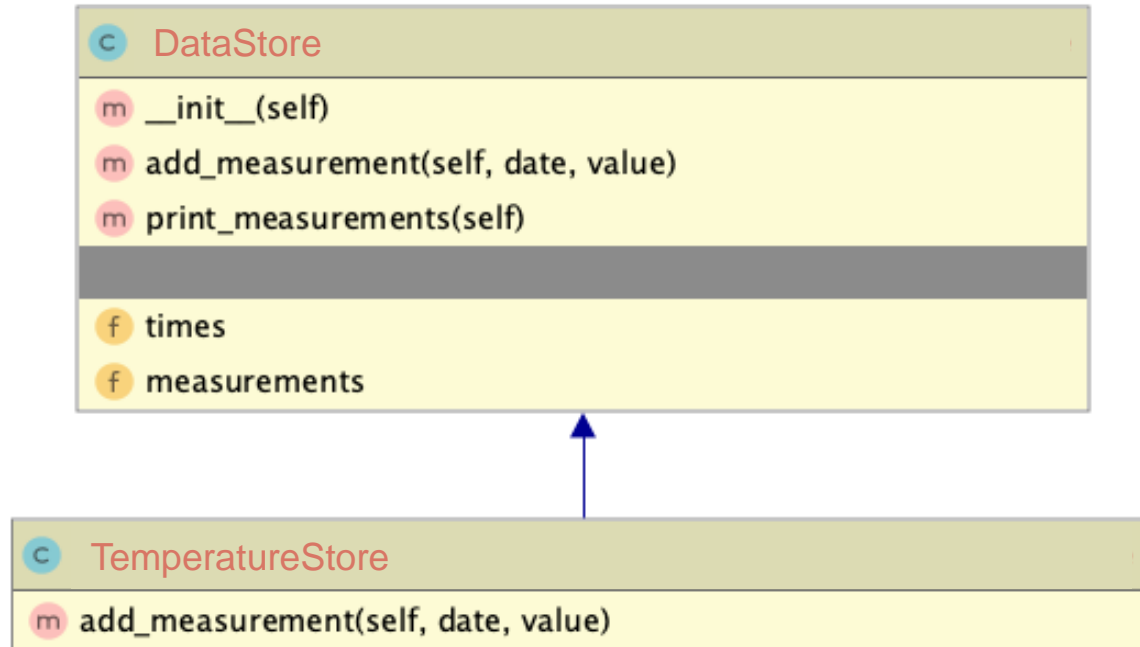
Same method  
signature

```
        # Convert to kelvin  
        value += 272.15
```

```
        self.measurements.append(value)  
        self.times.append(date)
```

Still have access to  
the class attributes  
of DataStore

# Inheritance



TemperatureStore **inherits** from DataStore

TemperatureStore **is-a** DataStore

# Inheritance

```
>>> from data_store import DataStore
>>> ds = DataStore()
>>> ds.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
>>> ds.print_measurements()
2021-05-01 5
```

```
>>> ts = TemperatureStore()
>>> ts.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
```

Common interface for both  
classes

# Inheritance

```
>>> from data_store import DataStore
>>> ds = DataStore()
>>> ds.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
>>> ds.print_measurements()
2021-05-01 5
```

```
>>> ts = TemperatureStore()
>>> ts.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
>>> ts.print_measurements()
2021-05-01 277.15
```

Can still use  
*print\_measurements* from  
DataStore

# Inheritance

```
>>> from data_store import DataStore
>>> ds = DataStore()
>>> ds.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
>>> ds.print_measurements()
2021-05-01 5
```

```
>>> ts = TemperatureStore()
>>> ts.add_measurement('2021-05-01', 5)
>>> ts.print_measurements()
2021-05-01 277.15
```

*add\_measurement* from the *TemperatureStore* class overrides behaviour of *DataStore.add\_measurement*

# Inheritance

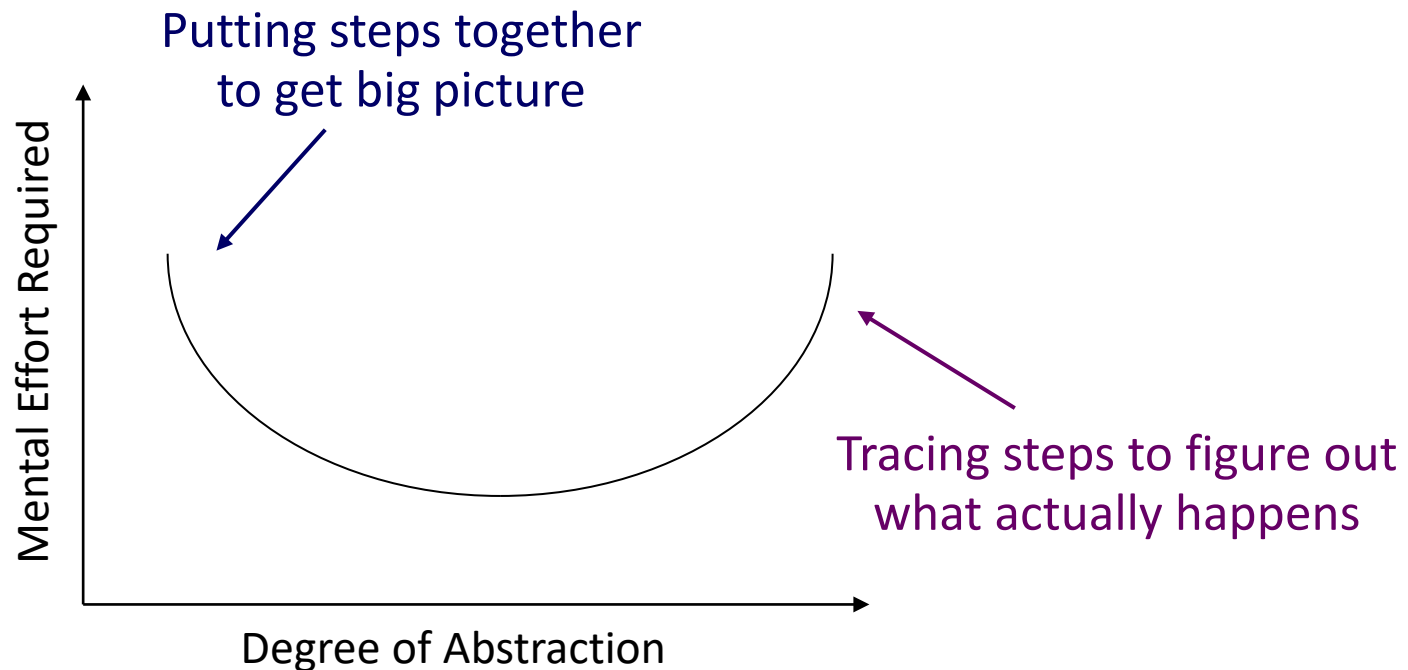
Inheritance is powerful and allows you to write re-useable components

Reducing duplication reduces chance of bugs:

- Code that is repeated in 2 or more places will eventually be wrong in at least one

# Inheritance

- Nothing is free
- Simple programs become slightly more complex
- Too much abstraction creates as big a mental burden as too little







Some content created by

Greg Wilson

January 2011



Copyright © Software Carpentry 2010

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License

See <http://software-carpentry.org/license.html> for more information.