



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

# Lesson 6

*ILAI (M1) @ LAAI I.C. @ LM AI*

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*These slides draw very heavily from Simone Martini's slides.*

# One-slide recap of lesson 5

recursive function: call itself in her body. Need a base case and a recursive simpler (moving towards base case) case

recursion is a form of repetition

`dict` is a mutable mapping between immutable objects (keys) and objects (values)

not sequences, we consider them to be unordered. Quick access to values through keys.

For details on hash, cryptography, python dictionaries, sets:

<https://tenthousandmeters.com/blog/python-behind-the-scenes-10-how-python-dictionaries-work/>

Python searches for names in the LEGB order:

- Local (function body: parameters and names used left of assignment)
- Enclosing: functions enclosing (non-local non-global), from innermost to outermost
- Global: names introduced at the main level of the file
- Builtin: names initialised when we start the machine (e.g. `len`, `print`...)

We (in theory) can use `global` and `nonlocal` keywords to modify the scope

We can create lists and dictionaries using a compact notation:

```
[<expression> for <name> in <sequence> <series of for/if>]  
{<key:value> for <name> in <sequence> <series of for/if>}
```

# Who to contact

*For questions on exercises, on Python,  
tutoring/mentoring*

1. contact [federico.ruggeri6@unibo.it](mailto:federico.ruggeri6@unibo.it)

*or*

[mohammadrez.hossein3@unibo.it](mailto:mohammadrez.hossein3@unibo.it)

2. *if you still have questions (eg. Theoretical),  
contact me: [michael.lodi@unibo.it](mailto:michael.lodi@unibo.it)*



## Next lectures for ILAI

Monday, 14 October 2024 15:00 - 18:00 (Regular, room 0.5)

Thursday 17 Oct: NO LECTURE (prof. Lodi at a conference)

ALL UPDATES ALREADY  
ON THE COURSE WEBSITE

Use this time for trying exercises on Virtuale ;-)



## Early exam - 8th November, 15:00 - Lab 4 + ...

- a @studio.unibo.it account - mandatory
- an account on the Ingegneria cluster: <https://remo.ing.unibo.it/app/student/infoy> (you need the step 1 account to generate the ing account)
- **At the latest 1 week before** access (with the step 1 account) the website <https://eol.unibo.it/>

Register for the exam on the Unibo app or Almaesami - **PREFERRED**

- <https://almaesami.unibo.it/almaesami/welcome.htm>

Only if you are not able to register on app/Almaesami

<https://forms.office.com/e/RaYAWQMBP2> (using your @studio account only)

**If you have already filled the form but become able to register on AlmaEsami, do so.**

**Between 7 October and 4 November (included). Late requests will not be accepted.**

Essential that you don't skip other lectures of other courses to study for this



# classes and objects

## We already know that...

### Object:

value encapsulated into an *identity*

*methods* on the capsule

available methods depend on the *type*

### Type (~ Class)

collection of objects which share

structure

(operations)

methods



## From the point of view of the class:

A class (~ a type ):

- define the structure of its objects
- the available operations and methods

The objects of the class

- are the "values" of the class – the *instances*
- they share the structure
- and the methods defined in the class

So (1,2,3) is an instance (a value) of `tuple`

[1,2,3] is an instance of `list`





# Python is a democratic language...

Classes and instances may be defined by the user

User-defined classes and their instances  
are first-class citizens

same rights of any other value!

We may bind them to names, insert them in other objects, pass them to functions, functions may return them



# An example: a class for cartesian points

A point

two informations: x and y

any point is created at the origin 0,0

Two operations/methods

whoareyou() returns the pair x,y

move(delta) modifies the point:

from x,y

to x+delta,y+delta



# An example: a class for cartesian points

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    def whoareyou(self):
        return self.x, self.y
    def move(self, delta):
        self.x+=delta
        self.y+=delta
```

# An example: a class for cartesian points

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    def whoareyou (self):
        return self.x, self.y
    def move(self, delta):
        self.x+=delta
        self.y+=delta
```

Things to be discussed:

- instances?
- who is this "self" parameter?
- the funny double underscore of method `__init__` ?



# Creating instances

```
class Point:  
    def __init__(self):  
        self.x=0  
        self.y=0  
        . . .
```

To create instances:

use the name of the class as a function

it returns an instance

its structure defined in method `__init__`

```
p=Point()
```



# Instances are mutable

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    . . .
```

We may access the *attributes of* (the data stored in) an instance: **use the dot notation**

```
p=Point()
print(p.x)      #prints 0
```

## Attributes are mutable

```
p.x+=1
print(p.x)      #prints 1
```



# Methods may be called on instances

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    def whoareyou (self):
        return self.x, self.y
    def move(self, delta):
        self.x+=delta
        self.y+=delta

p=Point()
print(p.whoareyou())      # prints (0,0)
p.move(2)
print(p.whoareyou())      # prints (2,2)
```



# self

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    def whoareyou (self):
        return self.x, self.y
    . . .
```

The *dot notation* ensures that

- the first parameter of a method, when called
- is a reference to the object receiving the method

```
p.whoareyou()
```





## self

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    def whoareyou (self):
        return self.x, self.y
    . . .
```

The *dot notation* ensures that the first parameter of a method is bound to the receiver

- **by convention**, for the first parameter we use `self`
- `self` must be used to access the attributes of the instance



# The `__init__` method

*The `__init__` method is called behind the scenes* when an instance is created (through the name of the class)

We use it to initialize the instances of the class

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
        . . .
```



## note: creation of attributes

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self):
        self.x=0
        self.y=0
    . . .
```

Observe that in

```
self.x = 0
```

that `self.x` on the left of `=` creates an instance attribute

`self.x` is a kind of generalised name, hence when at the left of `=`, creates new bindings

Pythontutor



# The `__init__` method

The `__init__` method may have additional parameters, besides `self`

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, xx, yy):
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
        . . .
```

When an instance is created we must provide values for those parameters:

```
p=Point(0,1)
```

```
p=Point() #exception
```



# The `__init__` method

The `__init__` method may have additional parameters, besides `self`

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, xx=0, yy=0):
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
        . . .
```

When an instance is created we must provide values for those parameters:

```
p=Point(0,1)
```

```
p=Point()
```



**dunder**

"double underscore" is pronounced *dunder*

# Methods of the form

name

are "magic methods", *by convention* reserved for special purposes by the Python machine

We should not fiddle with them, besides their intended purpose

We will see many of them



# The command `class`

Introduces a class definition:

```
class name:  
    commands  
    method definitions
```

Both *commands* and *methods* are optional

The simplest class definition:

```
class A:  
    pass
```

with no structure whatsoever



# The command `class`

```
class name:  
    commands  
    method definitions
```

The *class name* may be called as a function:

it create an instance of the class

*calling implicitly the method `__init__`, if there is one*  
*- as many arguments as the ones of `__init__` (but self)*





# Method definitions

They are like function definitions

(well: syntactically *they are* function definitions)

A method acts on the object receiving it

A method has always at least one parameter

the first parameter of a method (which we call `self` by convention)

is bound by the dot notation to the receiving object



# Initialization

The *class name* may be called as a function:

it create an instance of the class

*calling implicitly the method `__init__`, is there is one  
as many arguments as the ones of `__init__`*

If there is no `__init__`, no initialization is performed

No common structure is given to all the instances

However, we may add **attributes** to single instances



# Homework

(1) Define a class

Student

with attributes:

registration number, name, year (1,2,3,4,5)

and methods

pass(): move the student to their next year; set year to None if year was already 5

show() : prints all the attributes of the instance

(2) Create 10 instances and put them into a list

(3) Sort that list by increasing registration number



## Let's start again from

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, xx, yy):
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
    def whoareyou (self):
        return self.x, self.y
    def move(self, delta):
        self.x+=delta
        self.y+=delta
```

Let's define a new method for adding  
(in a trivial way) two points



## A new method

Given two `Point` instances `p` and `q`  
define a method `Psum` such that

`p.Psum(q)`

returns a new `Point` instance with values

`p.x+q.x` for `x`

`p.y+q.y` for `y`

## A new method

Given two `Point` instances `p` and `q`  
define a method `Psum` such that

```
p.Psum(q)
```

returns a new `Point` instance with

```
p.x+q.x
```

```
p.y+q.y
```

```
def Psum(self, other):  
    return Point(self.x+other.x,  
                  self.y+other.y)
```



## A new method

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, xx, yy) :
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
    def whoareyou (self) :
        return self.x, self.y
    def move(self, delta) :
        self.x+=delta
        self.y+=delta
    def Psum(self, other) :
        return Point(self.x+other.x,
                      self.y+other.y)
```



## A new method

```
p=Point (1, 2)
```

```
q=Point (3, 4)
```

```
s=p.Psum(q)
```

```
print(s.whoareyou())
```

```
# prints (4, 6)
```



## A new method

```
p=Point (1, 2)
```

```
q=Point (3, 4)
```

```
s=p.Psum (q)
```

```
print (s.whoareyou ( ) )
```

```
# prints (4, 6)
```

Would'd be nice if we could **overload +** and write

```
s=p+q
```

instead of `s=p.Psum (q)` ?



## A new special method: `__add__`

Instead of

```
def Psum(self, other):  
    return Point(self.x+other.x,  
                  self.y+other.y)
```

define

```
def __add__(self, other):  
    return Point(self.x+other.x,  
                  self.y+other.y)
```

+ calls the special method `__add__`, if any



## Printing an instance

```
p=Point(0,1)
print(p)
```

is not of much help

We could add a method

```
def Pprint(self):
    print(str(p.whoareyou()))
```

We may do *much* better. Define the magic method

```
def __str__(self):
    return
    'Point'+str(self.whoareyou())
```



## Special method `__str__`

The magic method

```
__str__(self, optional args)
```

- must return a string
- is automatically called when the instance is argument of `print()`



## \_\_str\_\_ vs. \_\_repr\_\_

```
>>> A = tree(0, tree(1, tree(2), tree(3)), tree())
```

```
>>> print(A)
```

```
0
```

```
.1
```

```
..2
```

```
..3
```

```
>>> A
```

```
tree(0, tree(1, tree(2), tree(3)), tree())
```

invece che

```
>>> A
```

```
<__main__.tree object at 0x101d98860>
```



# Equality between objects

On instances of user defined classes

`==` coincides with `is`

It cannot be otherwise!

How could the Python machine divine what the user intended to be equality?



# Equality between objects

On instances of user defined classes

`==` coincides with `is`

The magic method

`__eq__`

overload the `==` operation!

# Equality between objects

The magic method

`__eq__`

overload the `==` operation!

On Point:

```
def __eq__(self, other):  
    return self.x==other.x  
        and self.y==other.y
```





## Some magic methods for comparison

`__ne__(self, other)` defines `!=`

`__lt__(self, other)` defines `<`

`__gt__(self, other)` defines `>`

`__le__(self, other)` defines `<=`

`__ge__(self, other)` defines `>=`

## Some numerical magic methods

```
__add__(self, other) defines +  
__sub__(self, other) defines -  
__mul__(self, other) defines *  
__floordiv__(self, other) defines //  
__truediv__(self, other) defines /  
__pow__ defines **
```

Boolean operations (and,or,not) *cannot* be redefined through special dunder methods

```
__xxx__
```



## More numerical magic methods

`__pos__(self)` defines the unary +

`__neg__(self)` defines the unary -

`__abs__(self)` defines function `abs()`

`__round__(self, n)` defines function `round()`

`__floor__(self)` defines function `math.floor()`

`__ceil__(self)` defines function `math.ceil()`

`__trunc__(self)` defines function `math.trunc()`



## Methods for accessing sequences

```
__len__(self)           defines len
__getitem__(self, key)  defines self[key]
__setitem__(self, key, value)
                           defines
self[key]=value
```

An example in SetItemExample.py

etc. etc. etc.



# Methods for augmented assignment

`__iadd__(self, other)`

Define the RHS of +=

`__isub__(self, other)`

Define the RHS of -=

etc

They should be used if you want += *to modify in place* the object at LHS, like += on lists...).

If you want, instead, that += return a new instance, just define `__add__` and += will use that for +.

An example in file Augmented.py



## Copying (cloning) objects

```
import copy
```

```
copy.copy(o1)
```

returns the shallow copy of o1

```
copy.deepcopy(o1)
```

returns the deep copy of o1



# Copying (cloning) objects

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, xx=0, yy=0):
        self.x=xx
        self.y=yy
```

```
class TwoPoints:
    def __init__(self, p1, p2):
        self.p1 = p1
        self.p2 = p2
```

```
a = Point(1,2)
b = Point(3,4)
t = TwoPoints(a,b)
```

```
from copy import copy, deepcopy
```

```
c = copy(t)
d = deepcopy(t)
```



# "Private" attributes





## "Private" attributes

```
from random import randint

class Coin:
    def __init__(self):
        self.__c=randint(0,1)    #private

    def get(self):
        return self.__c

    def toss(self):
        self.__c=randint(0,1)

    def setc(self,value):
        if value == 0 or value ==1:
            self.__c=value
```

## "Private" attributes

An attribute which

- starts with dunder
- *does not end* with dunder

is *mangled* by the Python machine, so that it appears "private" to the definition class



## "Private" attributes

An attribute

`__name`

is usable (is seen) "**as is**" *only in the class in which it is defined (in all its methods)*

*It is not visible outside the class*

*(not even in subclasses:*

*even if we don't know yet what they are ;-)*



## "Private" attributes

An attribute

`__name`

- is *mangled* by the Python machine
- is usable (is seen) *as is only in the class ...*

A `__name` attribute inside the class `CLASSNAME` is mangled into

`__CLASSNAME__name`



# The command `class`

Introduces a class definition:

```
class name:
```

```
    commands
```

```
    method definitions
```



# Class attributes vs instance attributes

All instances of a class share an attribute  
modifications to the attribute are immediately shared by all  
instances

“class attribute” (or static attribute, kind of Java terminology)

Class attributes are accessed by dot notation **using the class name**

```
class Cat:
    legs = 4 #class attribute

    def __init__(self, name, color):
        self.name = name
        self.color = color

    def f(self):
        print("All cats have", Cat.legs, "legs")
```



# Class attributes vs instance attributes

```
class Cat:
    legs = 4 # class attribute

    def __init__(self, name, color):
        self.name = name
        self.color = color

    def f(self):
        print("All cats have", Cat.legs, "legs")

print(Cat.legs) #...even without any instance
lulu = Cat("Lulù", "gray") #instance of cat
lulu.f()
```



# Class attributes vs instance attributes

```
class Cat:
    legs = 4 #class attribute

    def __init__(self, name, color):
        self.name = name
        self.color = color

    def f(self):
        print("All cats have", Cat.legs, "legs")

lulu = Cat("Lulù", "gray")
mimi = Cat("Mimì", "red")
lulu.f()
mimi.f()
Cat.legs = 3
lulu.f()
mimi.f()
```





# Class attributes vs instance attributes

```
class Cat:
    legs = 4 # class attribute

    def __init__(self, name, color):
        self.name = name
        self.color = color

    def f(self):
        print("All cats have", Cat.legs, "legs")

lulu = Cat("Lulù", "gray")
print(lulu.legs) #non-standard way of accessing class
                                     attribute

lulu.legs = 42 #new instance attribute
print(lulu.legs) #instance shadows class attribute
print(Cat.legs) #accessing class attribute
```



# Class attributes vs instance attributes

Class attributes are accessed by dot notation **using the class name**

**You cannot use the non-qualified name, even in the class definition**

```
class Cat:
    legs = 4 # class attribute

    def __init__(self, name, color):
        self.name = name
        self.color = color

    def f(self):
        print("All cats", legs, "legs") #wrong! use Cat.legs
```

**There is no scope nesting for class definitions**



## Method definitions: fine points

They are like function definitions

(well: syntactically *they are* function definitions)

they are attributes like any other attribute

To **call a method as a function**: fully qualify its name with the class name: *they are class attributes*

You must provide the instance as first argument

```
p=Point(0,0)
```

```
p.move(3)
```

*equivalent to* `Point.move(p, 3)`



# Keyword and default parameters

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/default-arguments-in-python/>

