Lesson 20

Object Oriented Programming (OOP) :

Object . Creating a Class

OBJECTS

- Python supports many different kinds of data

```
1234      3.14159     "Hello"     [1, 5, 7, 11, 13]
{"CA": "California", "MA": "Massachusetts"}
```

- each is an **object**, and every object has:
  - a **type**
  - an internal **data representation** (primitive or composite)
  - a set of procedures for **interaction** with the object
- an object is an **instance** of a type
  - `1234` is an instance of an `int`
  - `"hello"` is an instance of a string

OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (OOP)

- **EVERYTHING IN PYTHON IS AN OBJECT** (and has a type)
- can **create new objects** of some type
- can **manipulate objects**
- can **destroy objects**
  - explicitly using `del` or just “forget” about them
  - python system will reclaim destroyed or inaccessible objects – called “garbage collection”

WHAT ARE OBJECTS?

- objects are **a data abstraction** that captures…

(1) an **internal representation**

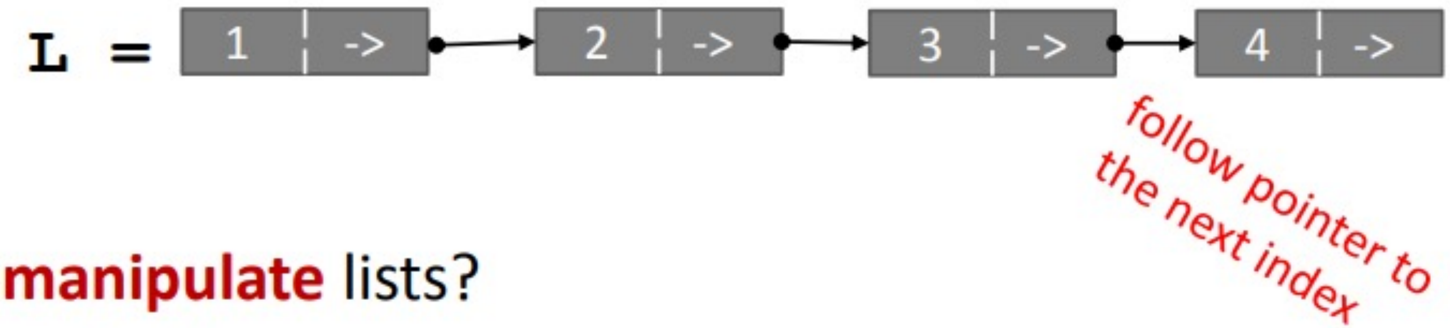
- through data attributes

(2) an **interface** for interacting with object

- through methods (aka procedures/functions)
- defines behaviors but hides implementation

EXAMPLE:
[1,2,3,4] has type list

- how are lists **represented internally**? linked list of cells



- how to **manipulate** lists?
  - `L[i], L[i:j], +`
  - `len(), min(), max(), del(L[i])`
  - `L.append(),L.extend(),L.count(),L.index(),`
    `L.insert(),L.pop(),L.remove(),L.reverse(), L.sort()`
- internal representation should be private
- correct behavior may be compromised if you manipulate internal representation directly

ADVANTAGES OF OOP

- **bundle data into packages** together with procedures that work on them through well-defined interfaces
- **divide-and-conquer** development
  - implement and test behavior of each class separately
  - increased modularity reduces complexity
- classes make it easy to **reuse** code
  - many Python modules define new classes
  - each class has a separate environment (no collision on function names)
  - inheritance allows subclasses to redefine or extend a selected subset of a superclass’ behavior

CREATING AND USING YOUR OWN TYPES WITH CLASSES

- make a distinction between **creating a class** and **using an instance** of the class
- **creating** the class involves
  - defining the class name
  - defining class attributes
  - *for example, someone wrote code to implement a list class*
- **using** the class involves
  - creating new **instances** of objects
  - doing operations on the instances
  - *for example,* `L=[1,2]` *and* `len(L)`

DEFINE YOUR OWN TYPES

- use the `class` keyword to define a new type

name/type

class parent

```
class Coordinate(object):
    #define attributes here
```

class definition

- similar to `def`, indent code to indicate which statements are part of the **class definition**
- the word `object` means that `Coordinate` is a Python object and **inherits** all its attributes (inheritance next lecture)
    - `Coordinate` is a subclass of `object`
    - `object` is a superclass of `Coordinate`

WHAT ARE ATTRIBUTES?

- data and procedures that "**belong**" to the class
- **data attributes**
  - think of data as other objects that make up the class
  - *for example, a coordinate is made up of two numbers*
- **methods** (procedural attributes)
  - think of methods as functions that only work with this class
  - how to interact with the object
  - *for example you can define a distance between two coordinate objects but there is no meaning to a distance between two list objects*

DEFINING HOW TO CREATE AN INSTANCE OF A CLASS

- first have to define **how to create an instance** of object
- use a **special method called `__init__`** to initialize some data attributes

```
class Coordinate(object):
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
```

what data initializes a Coordinate object

special method to create an instance — is double underscore

parameter to refer to an instance of the class

two data attributes for every Coordinate object

ACTUALLY CREATING AN INSTANCE OF A CLASS

```
c = Coordinate(3,4)
origin = Coordinate(0,0)
print(c.x)
print(origin.x)
```

create a new object of type `Coordinate` and pass in 3 and 4 to the `__init__`

use the dot to access an attribute of instance `c`

- data attributes of an instance are called **instance variables**
- don't provide argument for `self`, Python does this automatically

WHAT IS A METHOD?

- procedural attribute, like a **function that works only with this class**
- Python always passes the object as the first argument
  - convention is to use **`self`** as the name of the first argument of all methods
- the "**.**" **operator** is used to access any attribute
  - a data attribute of an object
  - a method of an object

DEFINE A METHOD FOR THE `Coordinate` CLASS

```
class Coordinate(object):
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
    def distance(self, other):
        x_diff_sq = (self.x-other.x)**2
        y_diff_sq = (self.y-other.y)**2
        return (x_diff_sq + y_diff_sq)**0.5
```

use it to refer to any instance

another parameter to method

dot notation to access data

- other than `self` and dot notation, methods behave just like functions (take params, do operations, return)

HOW TO USE A METHOD

```
def distance(self, other):
    # code here
```

method def

Using the class:

- conventional way

```
c = Coordinate(3,4)
zero = Coordinate(0,0)
print(c.distance(zero))
```

- c: object to call method on
- distance: name of method
- zero: parameters not including self (self is implied to be c)

- equivalent to

```
c = Coordinate(3,4)
zero = Coordinate(0,0)
print(Coordinate.distance(c, zero))
```

- Coordinate: name of class
- distance: name of method
- c, zero: parameters, including an object to call the method on, representing self

PRINT REPRESENTATION OF AN OBJECT

```
>>> c = Coordinate(3,4)
>>> print(c)
<__main__.Coordinate object at 0x7fa918510488>
```

- **uninformative** print representation by default
- define a **`__str__` method** for a class
- Python calls the `__str__` method when used with `print` on your class object
- you choose what it does! Say that when we print a `Coordinate` object, want to show

```
>>> print(c)
<3,4>
```

DEFINING YOUR OWN PRINT METHOD

```
class Coordinate(object):
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
    def distance(self, other):
        x_diff_sq = (self.x-other.x)**2
        y_diff_sq = (self.y-other.y)**2
        return (x_diff_sq + y_diff_sq)**0.5
    def __str__(self):
        return "<"+str(self.x)+","+str(self.y)+">"
```

name of special method

must return a string

WRAPPING YOUR HEAD AROUND TYPES AND CLASSES

- can ask for the type of an object instance

```
>>> c = Coordinate(3,4)
>>> print(c)
<3,4>
>>> print(type(c))
<class __main__.Coordinate>
```

return of the __str__ method

the type of object c is a class Coordinate

- this makes sense since

```
>>> print(Coordinate)
<class __main__.Coordinate>
>>> print(type(Coordinate))
<type 'type'>
```

a Coordinate is a class

a Coordinate class is a type of object

- use `isinstance()` to check if an object is a `Coordinate`

```
>>> print(isinstance(c, Coordinate))
True
```

SPECIAL OPERATORS

- +, -, ==, <, >, len(), print, and many others

https://docs.python.org/3/reference/datamodel.html#basic-customization

- like `print`, can override these to work with your class
- define them with double underscores before/after

```
__add__(self, other)    →    self + other
__sub__(self, other)    →    self - other
__eq__(self, other)     →    self == other
__lt__(self, other)     →    self < other
__len__(self)           →    len(self)
__str__(self)           →    print self
```

... and others

EXAMPLE: FRACTIONS

- create a **new type** to represent a number as a fraction
- **internal representation** is two integers
  - numerator
  - denominator
- **interface** a.k.a. **methods** a.k.a **how to interact** with `Fraction` objects
  - add, subtract
  - print representation, convert to a float
  - invert the fraction
- the code for this is in the handout, check it out!

Live Demo

Creating a Class

```python
class Coordinate(object):
    def __init__(self,x,y):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
    def __str__(self):
        return '<'+str(self.x)+','+str(self.y)+'>'
    def distance(self,other):
        diff_x_sq = (self.x - other.x)**2
        diff_y_sq = (self.y - other.y)**2
        return (diff_x_sq + diff_y_sq)**(0.5)
```

```python
class Fraction(object):
    def __init__(self,num,denom):
        self.num = num
        self.denom = denom
    def __str__(self):
        return str(self.num)+'/'+str(self.denom)
    def __add__(self,other):
        top = self.num*other.denom + other.num*self.denom
        bottom = self.denom*other.denom
        return Fraction(top,bottom)
    def __sub__(self,other):
        top = self.num*other.denom - other.num*self.denom
        bottom = self.denom*other.denom
        return Fraction(top,bottom)
    def __float__(self):
        return self.num/self.denom
```

THE POWER OF OOP

- **bundle together objects** that share
  - common attributes and
  - procedures that operate on those attributes
- use **abstraction** to make a distinction between how to implement an object vs how to use the object
- build **layers** of object abstractions that inherit behaviors from other classes of objects
- create our **own classes of objects** on top of Python's basic classes