

# Class hierarcies

- inheritance
- method overriding
- super
- multiple inheritance

# Calling methods of a class

- If an object *obj* of class *C* has a method `method`, then usually you call `obj.method()`
- It is possible to call the method in the class directly using `C.method`, where the object is the first argument

`C.method(obj)`

**X.py**

```
class X:
    def set_x(self, x):
        self.x = x

    def get_x(self):
        return self.x

obj = X()

obj.set_x(42)

print(f'{obj.get_x()} = {obj.x}')
print(f'{obj.x} = {obj.x}')
print(f'{X.get_x(obj)} = {obj.x}')
```

**Python shell**

```
| obj.get_x() = 42
| obj.x = 42
| X.get_x(obj) = 42
```

# Classes and Objects

**Observation:** **students** and **employees** are **persons** with additional attributes

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

**instance** →

```
Person object
name = 'Mickey Mouse'
address = 'Mouse Street 42, Duckburg'
```

```
class Student
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

**instance** →

```
Student object
name = 'Donald Duck'
address = 'Duck Steet 13, Duckburg'
id = '1094'
grades = {'programming' : 'A' }
```

```
Employee object
name = 'Goofy'
address = 'Clumsy Road 7, Duckburg'
employer = 'Yarvard University'
```

# Classes and Objects

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

```
class Student
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

person attributes

**Goal** – avoid redefining the 4 methods below from person class again in student class

person.py

```
class Person:
    def set_name(self, name):
        self.name = name

    def get_name(self):
        return self.name

    def set_address(self, address):
        self.address = address

    def get_address(self):
        return self.address
```

# Classes inheritance

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

```
class Student
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

person attributes

class Student **inherits** from class Person  
class Person is the **base class** of Student

person.py

```
class Student(Person):
    def set_id(self, student_id):
        self.id = student_id

    def get_id(self):
        return self.id

    def set_grade(self, course, grade):
        self.grades[course] = grade

    def get_grades(self):
        return self.grades
```

# Classes constructors

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

```
class Student
```

```
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

person attributes

```
person.py
```

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self):
        self.name = None
        self.address = None
    ...

class Student(Person):
    def __init__(self):
        self.id = None
        self.grades = {}
        Person.__init__(self)
    ...
```

constructor for  
Person class

constructor for  
Student class

## Notes

- 1) If `Student.__init__` is not defined, then `Person.__init__` will be called
- 2) `Student.__init__` must call `Person.__init__` to initialize the name and address attributes

# super()

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

```
class Student
```

```
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

person attributes

```
person.py
```

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self):
        self.name = None
        self.address = None
    ...

class Student(Person):
    def __init__(self):
        self.id = None
        self.grades = {}
        Person.__init__(self)
        super().__init__()
    ...
```

} alternative constructor

## Notes

- 1) Function `super()` searches for attributes in base class
- 2) `super` is often a keyword in other OO languages, like Java and C++
- 3) Note `super().__init__()` does not need `self` as argument

# Method search order

```
class Person
set_name(name)
get_name()
set_address(address)
get_address()
```

 **parent class**

```
class Student(Person)
set_id(student_id)
get_id()
set_grade(course, grade)
get_grades()
```

**instance of**

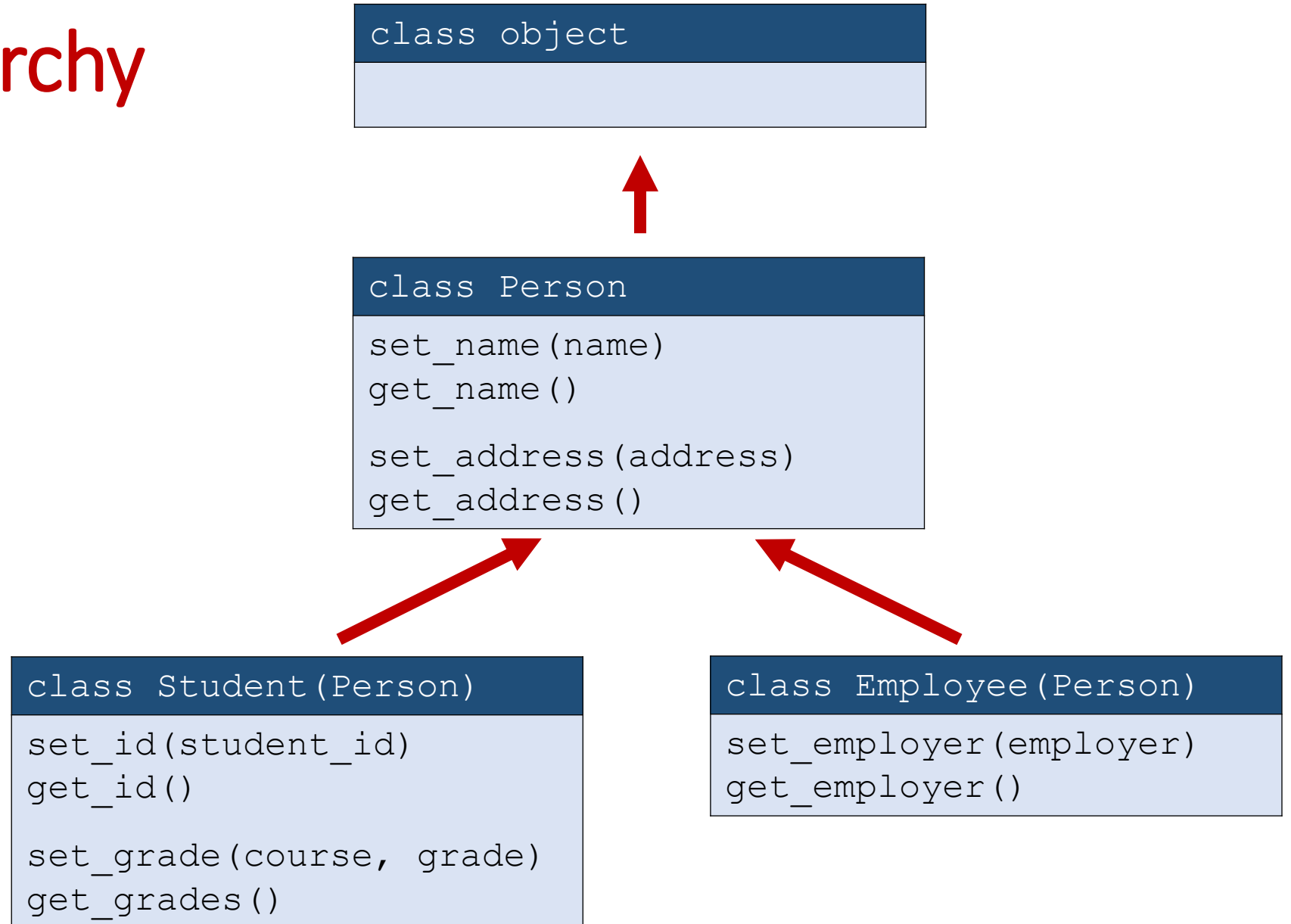


Student object

```
name = 'Donald Duck'
address = 'Duck Steet 13, Duckburg'
id = '1094'
grades = {'programming' : 'A' }
```



# Class hierarchy



# Method overriding

overloading.py

```
class A:
    def say(self):
        print('A says hello')

class B(A): # B is a subclass of A
    def say(self):
        print('B says hello')
        super().say()
```

Python shell

```
> B().say()
| B says hello
| A says hello
```


In Java one can use the keyword "finally" to prevent any subclass to override a method

# Question – What does `b.f()` print ?

```
Python shell
> class A:
    def f(self):
        print("Af")
        self.g()
    def g(self):
        print("Ag")
> class B(A):
    def g(self):
        print("Bg")
> b = B()
> b.f()
| ?
```

a) AttributeError

b) Af Ag

 c) Af Bg

d) Don't know

# Unfind methods in superclass ?

Python shell

```
> class A:
    def f(self):
        print("Af")
        self.g()
    def g(self):
        print("Ag")
> class B(A):
    def g(self):
        print("Bg")
> b = B()
> b.f()
| Af
| Bg
> a = A()
> a.f()
| Af
| Ag
```

Python shell

```
> class A:
    def f(self):
        print("Af")
        self.g()
> class B(A):
    def g(self):
        print("Bg")
> b = B()
> b.f()
| Af
| Bg
> a = A()
> a.f()
| Af
| AttributeError: 'A' object has no attribute 'g'
```

method `g` undefined in class `A`;  
subclasses must implement `g`  
to be able to call `f`

in Java, `A` would have been  
required to be declared an  
*abstract class*

can create instance of `A`

fails since `g` is not  
defined in class `A`

# Name mangling and inheritance



Python shell

```
> class A:
    def f(self):
        print("Af")
        self.__g()
    def __g(self):
        print("Ag")
> class B(A):
    def __g(self):
        print("Bg")
> b = B()
> b.f()
| Af
| Ag
```

- The call to `A.__g` in `A.f` forces a call to `__g` to stay within `A`
- Recall that due to name mangling, `__g` is accessible as `A._A__g`

# Multiple inheritance

- A class can inherit attributes from multiple classes (in example two)
- When calling a method defined in several ancestor classes, Python executes only one of the these (in the example `say_hello`)
- Which one is determined by the so called "C3 Method Resolution Order" (originating from the Dylan language)

Raymond Hettinger, *Super considered super!*  
Conference talk at PyCon 2015

```
multiple_inheritance.py
```

```
class Alice:
    def say_hello(self):
        print("Alice says hello")
    def say_good_night(self):
        print("Alice says good night")

class Bob:
    def say_hello(self):
        print("Bob says hello")
    def say_good_morning(self):
        print("Bob says good morning")

class X(Alice, Bob): # Multiple inheritance
    def say(self):
        self.say_good_morning()
        self.say_hello() # C3 resolution
        Alice.say_hello(self) # from Alice
        Bob.say_hello(self) # from Bob
        self.say_good_night()
```

```
Python shell
```

```
> X().say()
| Bob says good morning
| Alice says hello ← since Alice before Bob
| Alice says hello   in list of super classes
| Bob says hello
| Alice says good night
```

# C3 Method resolution order

- Use `help(class)` to determine the resolution order for the class
- or access the `__mro__` attribute of the class

## Python shell

```
> X.__mro__
| (<class '__main__.X'>, <class '__main__.Alice'>,
| <class '__main__.Bob'>, <class 'object'>)
> help(X)
| Help on class X in module __main__:
| class X(Alice, Bob)
|   Method resolution order:
|   X
|   Alice
|   Bob
|   builtins.object
|   Methods defined here:
|   say(self)
|   -----
|   Methods inherited from Alice:
|   say_good_night(self)
|   say_hello(self)
|   -----
|   ...
|   -----
|   Methods inherited from Bob:
|   say_good_morning(self)
```

# Question – Who says hello ? Bob says good morning

`inheritance.py`

```
class Alice:
    def say_hello(self):
        print("Alice says hello")
class Bob:
    def say_hello(self):
        print("Bob says hello")
    def say_good_morning(self):
        self.say_hello()
        print("Bob says good morning")
class X(Alice, Bob): # Multiple inheritance
    pass

X().say_good_morning()
```



- a) Alice
- b) Bob
- c) Dont' know

...example of code injection using multiple inheritance and where body of new class is empty



# Comparing objects and classes

- `id(obj)` returns a unique identifier for an object (in CPython the memory address)
- `obj1 is obj2` tests if `id(obj1) == id(obj2)`
- `type(obj)` and `obj.__class__` return the class of an object
- `isinstance(object, class)` checks if an object is of a particular class, *or a derived subclass*
- `issubclass(class1, class2)` checks if `class1` is a subclass of `class2`

# `is` is not for integers, strings, ... and `is` is not `==`

## Python shell

```
> 500 + 500 is 1000
| True
> x = 500
> x + x is 1000
| False
> x + x == 1000 # int.__eq__(...)
| True
> for x in range(0, 1000):
    if x - 1 + 1 is not x:
        print(x)
        break
| 257
> for x in range(0, -1000, -1):
    if x + 1 - 1 is not x:
        print(x)
        break
| -6
```



## Python shell

```
> "abc" is "abc"
| True
> "abc" is "xabc"[1:]
| False
> x, y = "abc", "xabc"[1:]
> x, y
| ('abc', 'abc')
> x is y
| False
> x == y # x.__eq__(y)
| True
```



- Only use `is` on objects !
- Even though `isinstance(42, object)` and `isinstance("abc", object)` are true, do not use `is` on integers and strings !

# Comparison of OO in Python, Java and C++

- private, public, .... – in Python everything in an object is public
- class inheritance – core concept in OO programming
  - Python and C++ support multiple inheritance
  - Java only allows single inheritance, but Java "interfaces" allow for something like multiple inheritance
- Python and C++ allow overloading standard operators (+, \*, ...).  
In Java it is not possible
- Overloading methods
  - Python extremely dynamic (hard to say anything about the behaviour of a program in general)
  - Java and C++'s type systems allow several methods with same name in a class, where they are distinguished by the type of the arguments, whereas Python allows only one method that can have \* and \*\* arguments

# Python is really dynamic...

(this is ugly – likely don't do this at home)

Python shell

```
> class Pair:
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self._x = x
        self._y = y

> point = Pair(3, 5)
> print(point) # class Pair has no __str__ method, uses object.__str__
| <__main__.Pair object at 0x0000027571904B50>

> Pair.__str__ = lambda self: f'Pair({self._x}, {self._y})'

> print(point)
| Pair(3, 5)
```



dynamically add a method to an existing class (and all existing instances),  
e.g. technique used by the class decorator `@functools.total_ordering`

# C++ example

- Multiple methods with identical name (`print`)
- The types distinguish the different methods

## printing.py

```
class MyClass:
    def print(self, value):
        if isinstance(value, int):
            print('An integer', value)
        elif isinstance(value, str):
            print('A string', value)

C = MyClass()
C.print(42)
C.print('abc')
```

## printing.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

class MyClass {
public:
    void print(int x) {
        cout << "An integer " << x << endl;
    };
    void print(string s) {
        cout << "A string " << s << endl;
    };
};

main() {
    MyClass C;
    C.print(42);
    C.print("abc");
}
```

## Shell

```
| An integer 42
| A string abc
```