

Recall: Classes are Types for Objects

- Values must have a type
 - An object is a **value**
 - Object type is a **class**
- Classes are how we add new types to Python

Classes Have Folders Too

Object Folders

- Separate for each *instance*

Class Folders

- Data common to all instances

Name Resolution for Objects

- `<object>.<name>` means
 - Go the folder for *object*
 - Find attribute/method *name*
 - If missing, check **class folder**
 - If not in either, raise error
- What is in the class folder?
 - Data common to **all** objects
 - First must understand the **class definition**

The Class Definition

Goes inside a module, just like a function definition.

```

keyword class
Beginning of a
class definition
class <class-name>(object):
    Specification
    (similar to one
    for a function)
    <<<"Class specification">>>
    <function definitions>
    <assignment statements>
    <any other statements also allowed>
    """The simplest possible class."""
    pass
    
```

Do not forget the colon!

more on this later

...but not often used

Example

Python creates after reading the class definition

Instances and Attributes

- Assignments add object attributes
 - `<object>.<att> = <expression>`
 - Example:** `e.b = 42`
- Assignments can add class attributes
 - `<class>.<att> = <expression>`
 - Example:** `Example.a = 29`
- Objects can access class attributes
 - Example:** `print e.a`
 - But assigning it creates object attribute
 - Example:** `e.a = 10`
- Rule:** check object first, then class

The Class Specification

```

class Worker(object):
    """An instance is a worker in an organization.
    """
    
```

Short summary

More detail

Instance has basic worker info, but no salary information.

Attribute list

ATTRIBUTE:

Inname: Worker's last name. [str]

Invariant

ssn: Social security no. [int in 0.99999999]

boss: Worker's boss. [Worker, or None if no boss]

Description

Method Definitions

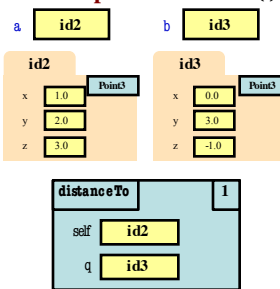
- Looks like a function def
 - But indented *inside* class
 - The first parameter is always called *self*
- In a method call:
 - Parentheses have one less argument than parameters
 - The object in front is passed to parameter *self*
- Example:** `a.distanceTo(b)`



```
class Point3(object):
    """Instances are points in 3d space
    x: x coord [float]
    y: y coord [float]
    z: z coord [float] """
    def distanceTo(self,q):
        """Returns: dist from self to q
        Precondition: q a Point3"""
        assert type(q) == Point3
        sqrdst = ((self.x-q.x)**2 +
                  (self.y-q.y)**2 +
                  (self.z-q.z)**2)
        return math.sqrt(sqrdst)
```

Methods Calls

- Example:** `a.distanceTo(b)`

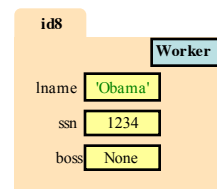


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```

Special Method: `__init__`

```
class Worker(object):
    """Worker: 1924 None"""
    def __init__(self, n, s, b):
        """Initializer: creates a Worker
        Has last name n, SSN s, and boss b
        Precondition: n a string, s an int in
        range 0..999999999, and b either
        a Worker or None.
        self.lname = n
        self.ssn = s
        self.boss = b
        use self to assign attributes"""
```

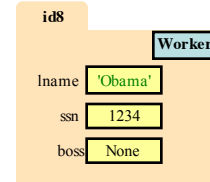
Called by the constructor



Evaluating a Constructor Expression

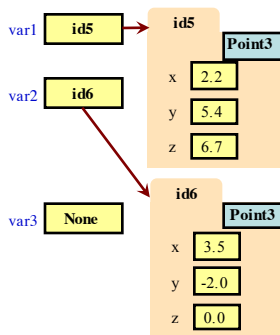
`Worker('Obama', 1234, None)`

- Creates a new object (folder) of the class `Worker`
 - Instance is initially empty
- Puts the folder into heap space
- Executes the method `__init__`
 - Passes folder name to `self`
 - Passes other arguments in order
 - Executes the (assignment) commands in initializer body
- Returns the object (folder) name



Aside: The Value None

- The boss field is a problem.
 - boss refers to a `Worker` object
 - Some workers have no boss
 - Or maybe not assigned yet (the buck stops there)
- Solution:** use value `None`
 - `None`: Lack of (folder) name
 - Will reassign the field later!
- Be careful with `None` values
 - `var3.x` gives error!
 - There is no name in `var3`
 - Which `Point` to use?



Making Arguments Optional

- We can assign default values to `__init__` arguments

```
class Point3(object):
    """Instances are points in 3d space
    x: x coord [float]
    y: y coord [float]
    z: z coord [float] """
    def __init__(self,x=0,y=0,z=0):
        """Initializer: makes a new Point
        Precondition: x,y,z are numbers"""
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
        self.z = z
    ...
```

- Examples:**
 - `p = Point3()` # (0,0,0)
 - `p = Point3(1,2,3)` # (1,2,3)
 - `p = Point3(1,2)` # (1,2,0)
 - `p = Point3(y=3)` # (0,3,0)
 - `p = Point3(1,z=2)` # (1,0,2)