

# CS107 / AC207

**SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT FOR COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE**

## **LECTURE 6**

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# RECAP OF LAST TIME

- Python basics (a review)
- Nested environments
- Closures, Decorators (today)

*Decorator* = *outer function* + *closure* (that *wraps code* around the *captured function f* )

```
1 def timer(f):
2     def inner(*args, **kwargs):
3         t0 = time.time()
4         retval = f(*args, **kwargs) # here we call the captured function
5         elapsed = time.time() - t0
6         print(f"{f.__name__}: elapsed time {elapsed:e} seconds")
7         return retval
8     return inner
```

# RECAP OF LAST TIME

*Last note on name references to objects in memory:*

The implied truth is: *as far as possible, everything is a reference.*

If you want to overrule this implied truth, you have to *create copies of your variables explicitly*:

```
1 import copy as cp
2
3 a = [1, 2, 3]
4 b = cp.copy(a) # shallow copy
5 c = cp.deepcopy(a) # deep copy
6
7 # difference between shallow and deep copy is for compound types
8 d = [1, 2, [3, 4, 5]]
9 e = cp.copy(d)
10 f = cp.deepcopy(d)
```

# RECAP OF LAST TIME

*Last note on name references to objects in memory:*

If you want to overrule this implied truth, you have to **create copies of your variables explicitly** (pythontutor):

The image shows a screenshot of the Python Tutor interface. The main window is titled "Python 3.6" and contains the following code:

```
1 import copy as cp
2
3 a = [1, 2, 3]
4 b = cp.copy(a) # shallow copy
5 c = cp.deepcopy(a) # deep copy
6
7 # difference between shallow and deep co
8 d = [1, 2, [3, 4, 5]]
9 e = cp.copy(d)
10 f = cp.deepcopy(d)
```

Below the code editor is a legend:

- line that just executed
- next line to execute

At the bottom of the interface, there are navigation buttons: "< Prev" and "Next >". Below these buttons, it says "Step 1 of 7". At the very bottom, there is a footer that reads "Rendered by [Python Tutor](#) [Customize visualization](#)".

# OUTLINE

Towards Object Oriented Programming (OOP) in python

- Object Oriented Programming
- Classes
- Inheritance and Polymorphism

# GENERAL python GUIDELINES

Now that you are starting to write python code, you should be aware of some important guidelines and resources:

- Become familiar with the *Python Enhancement Proposals* called [PEP](#) for short
- One of those proposals is a [python coding style guide](#) (PEP8). Some projects are very strict about code formatting. It is good practice to write *consistently* formatted code.
- The [Zen of python](#) (PEP20) and some [vim kōans](#) (the latter is optional)

# CODE FORMATTING

- It might be a good idea to have some background of PEP8.
- By no means you should know it by heart!
- When you code, your mental awareness should be focused on writing *correct* code.
- You can use tools to do the formatting for you *consistently*.

For python code a good tool is called `yapf` (yet another python formatter). When you work with C or C++ `clang-format` is a fantastic tool for code formatting.

# CODE FORMATTING

**Example:** yapf code formatting (see [the demo here](#))

```
python -m pip install [--user] yapf
```

- yapf looks for style files inside a source code directory (e.g. your git project) or a global configuration defined in your \$HOME , see the [formatting style](#) section for all details. If it can't find any customizations it will default to PEP8.
- There are four base presets: (you can guess that they are named as such because they are used in those institutions)
  1. pep8 (default)
  2. google (based off of the [Google python style guide](#))
  3. yapf (for use with Google open source projects)
  4. facebook
- Example .style.yapf file in the root of your git project:

```
1 [style]
2 based_on_style = pep8
3 spaces_before_comment = 4
4 split_before_logical_operator = True
5 use_tabs = False # this question is similar to whether vim or emacs is superior. It is a personal one
```

- You can process many \*.py files using a bash script (e.g. in a project directory that is dedicated to maintenance). You can also integrate yapf in your editor (e.g. vim, possibly emacs ) to *automagically* format your code as you type (**remember:** your focus is on **correct code** not worrying about formatting code).



# **OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING**

# MOTIVATION

*Programs = Algorithms + Data Structures*

*Niklaus Wirth*

- We would like to find a way to represent complex, structured *data* in the context of our programming language
- If you want to model a *particle*, you would want to associate every particle with a position  $x, y, z$  and possibly a velocity  $u, v, w$  for each of the three spatial coordinates.
- In C you could then define a compound *data structure* that describes a particle like this:

```
1 struct Particle {
2     double x, y, z; // particle position
3     double u, v, w; // particle velocity
4 };
```

# MOTIVATION

*Programs = Algorithms + Data Structures*

*Niklaus Wirth*

- In C you could then define a compound *data structure* that describes a particle like this:

```
1 struct Particle {  
2     double x, y, z; // particle position  
3     double u, v, w; // particle velocity  
4 };
```

- In reality you will have many particles to deal with (think atoms for example). In addition to the `Particle` data structure, you would need an *algorithm* that, for example, describes the *interaction* between particles.
- The algorithm and data structure together would allow you to *formulate* a program to simulate this system of particles.

# MOTIVATION

Loosely speaking, we could say that we have defined a conceptual object to describe a physical particle and we have called this "object" `Particle`. Any program we formulate with this abstraction will be *oriented* towards this object because it holds the *data* we need in order to describe something. We speak of *Object Oriented Programming* (OOP).

```
1 struct Particle {  
2     double x, y, z; // particle position  
3     double u, v, w; // particle velocity  
4 };
```

# OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

- The C language *is not* an object oriented language!
- Although we can encapsulate data in compound objects, we can not form an *abstraction* of the data because the data in a `struct` is *always accessible by anyone* and we must *initialize* it explicitly.
- OOP goes *further* than that. We actually want to **protect** the data from being accessible by anyone.
- Instead, OOP offers an **interface** to perform certain operations with the data that is *private* to the object.
- An interface is defined through *methods* or *member functions* (synonyms) which are accessible by anyone (but not the data directly).
- This way, the actual **implementation** of how you perform the *transformation of the data* is hidden from the user of your object.
- If somebody else were to use your code (i.e. the objects you declare), the interface defines the *Application Programming Interface (API)* of your library.
- OOP further consists of concepts such as **inheritance** (inherit data and interfaces from other objects) and **polymorphism** (make objects with the same parent *behave* differently). The Greek word "poly" means "many". ευχαριστώ πολύ (efcharistó polý)

# OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

A programming language may consist of three parts that can be exploited to write programs:

1. ***Expressions and statements***: are the smallest and foundational elements to build a program (building blocks). You find them in any programming language.
2. ***Means of combination***: structures to form complex computations. Functions are an example. Most programming languages offer such structures.
3. ***Means of abstraction***: methods to hide the data and provide an abstraction of it via operations defined through an interface. C and python can only partially fulfill this, C++ can provide it in full.

# CREATING OBJECTS IN python

- The basic type in python that we can use to *compound* data of possibly different types is the **tuple**:

```
1 def four():
2     return 0x4
3
4 t = (1, 2.0, '3', four)
5 for item in t:
6     print(type(item))
```

```
<class 'int'>
<class 'float'>
<class 'str'>
<class 'function'>
```

- Can we do that with a **list** too?
- What is the difference between a **tuple** and a **list**?

# CREATING OBJECTS IN python

Let's use the `tuple` to model a complex number:

```
1 def Complex(r, i):
2     """
3     Construct a complex number
4     Arguments:
5         r: real part
6         i: imaginary part
7     """
8     return (r, i)
9
10 # interface with complex numbers
11 def real(c):
12     """Get the real part of a complex number c"""
13     return c[0]
14
15 def imag(c):
16     """Get the imaginary part of a complex number c"""
17     return c[1]
18
19 def string(c):
20     """Represent a complex number c as a string"""
21     return f"{c[0]:e} + i{c[1]:e}"
```

- We can use our complex object like this:

```
1 >>> z = Complex(1, 2)
2 >>> print(real(z), imag(z), string(z))
3 1 2 1.000000e+00 + i2.000000e+00
```

- But data is not *private* at all:

```
1 >>> z[0]; z[1]
2 1
3 2
```

- It means that we can easily bypass the *interface* and do things on our own! No proper data encapsulation.

- Furthermore, a `tuple` is *immutable*:

```
1 >>> z[0] = 3
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
4 TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item...
```

- Not being able to assign other values to a complex number is not useful at all.



# CREATING OBJECTS IN python

Let's try a *closure* instead: (*recall*: a closure *captures* the names from the enclosing scope)

```
1 def Complex(r, i):
2     """
3     Construct a complex number
4     Arguments:
5         r: real part
6         i: imaginary part
7     """
8     def implementation(method):
9         if method.lower() == 'real':
10            return r
11        elif method.lower() == 'imag':
12            return i
13        elif method.lower() == 'string':
14            return f"{r:e} + i{i:e}"
15
16    return implementation
```

- We can use our complex object like this:

```
1 >>> z = Complex(1, 2)
2 >>> print(z('real'), z('imag'), z('string'))
3 1 2 1.000000e+00 + i2.000000e+00
```

- This is better because the implementation closure defines all the *methods* we can apply to the data of the Complex object.
- The implementation defines the *interface* for this example.
- We need to extend it such that we can set new values. These methods are called *setters*. The ones we already implemented are called *getters*.

# CREATING OBJECTS IN python

Let's try a *closure* instead with setters:

```
1 def Complex(r, i):
2     """
3     Construct a complex number
4     Arguments:
5         r: real part
6         i: imaginary part
7     """
8     def implementation(method, z=None):
9         nonlocal r, i
10        if method.lower() == 'set_z':
11            assert z is not None
12            r, i = z
13        elif method.lower() == 'real':
14            return r
15        elif method.lower() == 'imag':
16            return i
17        elif method.lower() == 'string':
18            return f"{r:e} + i{i:e}"
19
20    return implementation
```

- We can use our complex object like this:

```
1 >>> z = Complex(1, 2)
2 >>> print(z('real'), z('imag'), z('string'))
3 1 2 1.000000e+00 + i2.000000e+00
4 >>> z('set_z', (3, 4))
5 >>> print(z('real'), z('imag'), z('string'))
6 3 4 3.000000e+00 + i4.000000e+00
```

- Now with support for setting new values through the `set_z` method.
- There are still many operations missing. *How would we multiply two complex numbers?*
- The `nonlocal` keyword is used to reset a name (variable) that was bound in a different scope.
- You are studying the `nonlocal` keyword in more detail in a homework problem. (See also [PEP3104](#))

# CLASSES

# CLASSES

- We have created our own object system before.
- We figured that there are still limitations. For example, when working with complex numbers we would like to be able to do the following:

```
1 >>> z0 = Complex(1, 2)
2 >>> z1 = Complex(3, 4)
3 >>> z2 = z0 + z1
4 >>> print(z2('string'))
5 4.000000e+00 + i6.000000e+00
6 >>> z3 = z0 * z1
7 >>> print(z3('string'))
8 -5.000000e+00 + i1.000000e+01
```

- python already implements a type system for *user defined* types which provides support for such operations.
- User defined types are called *classes* in OOP.

# CLASSES

Let us return to the complex number type:

- The bare minimum (data only, no methods/interface):

```
1 class Complex():
2     """Complex number type"""
3     def __init__(self, real, imag):
4         self.real = real # real part
5         self.imag = imag # imaginary part
```

- `__init__`: is a special method automatically run when you execute code like this:

```
1 >>> z = Complex(1, 2) # calls the constructor of the class
```

For our purposes we call it the *constructor* of the class (see [this thread](#) for a lower level discussion).

- `self`: is a reference to the *instance* of the object. Note that unlike to the equivalent `this` pointer in C++, `self` is passed explicitly to any class method in python (as the first argument). It is therefore *not a keyword*. You can name it anything you want, " `self` " is the universally accepted convention. [A good read by the creator of python about the explicit nature of self](#).

# CLASSES

Let us return to the complex number type: [pythontutor](#)

Python 3.6

```
→ 1 class Complex():
  2     """Complex number type"""
  3     def __init__(self, real, imag):
  4         self.real = real # real part
  5         self.imag = imag # imaginary part
  6
  7 z = Complex(1, 2)
```

→ line that just executed  
→ next line to execute

< Prev   Next >

Step 1 of 6

Rendered by [Python Tutor](#)  
[Customize visualization](#)

Frames   Objects

# CLASSES

An instance of a class is an allocated object:

- Printing the *class type*:

```
1 >>> print(Complex)
2 <class '__main__.Complex'>
```

- Printing an *instance of the class*:

```
1 >>> z = Complex(1, 2)
2 >>> print(z)
3 <__main__.Complex object at 0x7f669070c2e0>
```

An instance of a class is an object that *occupies memory*. The **hex number** is its memory address.

- Printing the type of an instance:

```
1 >>> print(type(z))
2 <class '__main__.Complex'>
```

# CLASSES

## Accessing class *attributes*:

- Private variables do not exist in python .
- You can access class attributes by the " ." operator:

```
1 >>> print(z.real); print(z.imag)
2 1
3 2
```

- Because python does not prevent access to data, we can print all attributes of a class instance using the vars built-in:

```
1 >>> vars(z)
2 {'real': 1, 'imag': 2}
```

which returns a python *dictionary* with the attribute name and its current value.

- A list of the python **built-in functions**. Up to here we have seen:
  - **type** : return the type of an object
  - **vars** : return the `__dict__` attribute for any object that implements it (we will discuss what this means in more detail later).



# **INHERITANCE AND POLYMORPHISM**

# STOP AND BREATHE

- We have covered the main conception of object oriented programming and looked at how data encapsulation works in python.
- At this point you should know how to create simple classes in your python code.

- We have not talked about *inheritance* and *polymorphism* yet.

## **Recall:**

- ***Inheritance:*** inherit *data and interfaces* from parent class(es).
- ***Polymorphism:*** make objects with the same parent class(es) *behave differently*.

# STOP AND BREATHE

- We have not talked about *inheritance* and *polymorphism* yet. **Recall:**
  - **Inheritance:** inherit *data and interfaces* from parent class(es).
  - **Polymorphism:** make objects with the same parent class(es) *behave differently*.
- **A less abstract example:** Both, a cat and a dog are *animals*. Because they are both animals, they share some common features that we describe by data (e.g. name, age, fur color, they speak, and so on). The two speak *different* languages, however. Cats *meow* and dogs *bark*.

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Modeling cats and dogs: *Base class (superclass)*

```
1 class Animal():
2     """Base class for animals"""
3     def __init__(self, name, age):
4         self.name = name
5         self.age = age
6
7     def speak(self): # class method, note how `self` is passed as argument
8         """Sounds animals can make"""
9         raise NotImplementedError
```

- Our intention is to use the `Animal` class to *derive* specific animals from it. It is called a *base class* or *superclass*.
- Because the `Animal` class is generic, we do not know what sounds an animal instance of this class will speak. (It raises a `NotImplementedError`.)
- We can create an instance by calling the class with the arguments specified in the `__init__` method:

```
1 >>> animal = Animal("Generic animal", 5)
2 >>> print(vars(animal))
3 {'name': 'Generic animal', 'age': 5}
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Modeling cats and dogs: *Base class (superclass)*

```
1 class Animal():
2     """Base class for animals"""
3     def __init__(self, name, age):
4         self.name = name
5         self.age = age
6
7     def speak(self): # class method, note how `self` is passed as argument
8         """Sounds animals can make"""
9         raise NotImplementedError
```

- We can create an instance by calling the class with the arguments specified in the `__init__` method:

```
1 >>> animal = Animal("Generic animal", 5)
2 >>> print(vars(animal))
3 {'name': 'Generic animal', 'age': 5}
```

- But if we want to let it speak, *the behavior is not defined*:

```
1 >>> animal.speak()
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "/home/fabs/harvard/CS107/lecture06/code/06.py", line 33, in <module>
4     animal.speak()
5   File "/home/fabs/harvard/CS107/lecture06/code/06.py", line 11, in speak
6     raise NotImplementedError
7 NotImplementedError
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Modeling cats and dogs: *Derived class (subclass)*

- We can create *specific* animals by *inheritance* from the base class:

```
1 class Dog(Animal): # Dog is a derived class, it inherits from Animal
2     """Dog is a derived Animal class"""
3     def speak(self):
4         """Special sounds dogs make"""
5         return "Woof"
6
7 class Cat(Animal): # Cat is a derived class, it inherits from Animal
8     """Cat is a derived Animal class"""
9     def __init__(self, name, age):
10        self.name = f"A very special cat: {name}" # cats have a special name string
11
12    def speak(self):
13        """Special sounds cats make"""
14        return "Meow"
```

- We can use a *derived class* in the same way as we did with a base class:

```
1 >>> dog = Dog("Snoopy", 6)
2 >>> cat = Cat("Kitty", 4)
3 >>> print(vars(dog)); print(vars(cat))
4 {'name': 'Snoopy', 'age': 6}
5 {'name': 'A very special cat: Kitty'}
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Modeling cats and dogs: *Derived class (subclass)*

- We can use a *derived class* in the same way as we did with a base class:

```
1 >>> dog = Dog("Snoopy", 6)
2 >>> cat = Cat("Kitty", 4)
3 >>> print(vars(dog)); print(vars(cat))
4 {'name': 'Snoopy', 'age': 6}
5 {'name': 'A very special cat: Kitty'}
```

- *Notice something strange for Kitty?* We have written a special constructor for the Cat class (this is a common scenario), but we *did not inherit the age attribute from the base class!* (no data inheritance)
- The speak methods sure work:

```
1 >>> print(dog.speak()); print(cat.speak())
2 Woof
3 Meow
```

- But the age attribute for cats is broken:

```
1 >>> print(cat.age)
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "/home/fabs/harvard/CS107/lecture06/code/06.py", line 40, in <module>
4     print(cat.age)
5 AttributeError: 'Cat' object has no attribute 'age'
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Modeling cats and dogs: *Derived class (subclass)*

- The speak methods sure work:

```
1 >>> print(dog.speak()); print(cat.speak())
2 Woof
3 Meow
```

- But the age attribute for cats is broken:

```
1 >>> print(cat.age)
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "/home/fabs/harvard/CS107/lecture06/code/06.py", line 40, in <module>
4     print(cat.age)
5 AttributeError: 'Cat' object has no attribute 'age'
```

- It seems that inheritance did not work properly for the derived **Cat** class. We will talk more about this later.



# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Modeling cats and dogs: *Calling member functions (methods)*

- The speak methods sure work:

```
1 >>> print(dog.speak()); print(cat.speak())
2 Woof
3 Meow
```

- Let us focus first on how calling class methods (member functions) works in python.

- **Recall:** we have this for dogs:

```
1 class Dog(Animal):
2     """Dog is a derived Animal class"""
3     def speak(self): # takes one argument `self`
4         """Special sounds dogs make"""
5         return "Woof"
```

```
1 >>> dog = Dog("Snoopy", 6)
2 >>> print(dog.speak())
3 Woof
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Modeling cats and dogs: *Calling member functions (methods)*

```
1 >>> dog = Dog("Snoopy", 6)
2 >>> print(dog.speak())
3 Woof
```

We are calling the member function `speak()` *without* passing any arguments! *Why is python not complaining?*

**Remember:** `self` is a reference to the object in memory. Since `dog` is *an instance of the Dog class*, the instance `dog` and `self` *are the same reference*. If we were to add the following method to `Dog`:

```
1 def my_id(self):
2     print(id(self))
```

then we get:

```
1 >>> print(id(dog)); dog.my_id()
2 140320390688928
3 140320390688928
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Modeling cats and dogs: *Calling member functions (methods)*

- An instance of a class has its methods *bound* to self and python knows about it. The first argument of class methods is therefore not needed when you call them.

```
1 >>> print(dog.speak); print(Dog.speak)
2 <bound method Dog.speak of <__main__.Dog object at 0x7f9d32bdc0a0>> # dog is an instance of Dog
3 <function Dog.speak at 0x7f9d32ad3160> # Dog is a class type
```

- We can use member functions either way: when *bound* to an instance of the class *or* by passing an instance to Dog.speak. In the latter case, python does not have a valid self reference, so we *must* pass the instance as the first argument:

```
1 >>> print(dog.speak()); print(Dog.speak(dog))
2 Woof
3 Woof
```

- You see:

```
1 >>> Dog.speak()
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "/home/fabs/harvard/CS107/lecture06/code/06.py", line 42, in <module>
4     Dog.speak()
5 TypeError: speak() missing 1 required positional argument: 'self'
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Modeling cats and dogs: *Calling member functions (methods)*

Let us summarize:

- `dog` is an *instance* of the `Dog` class. It is a reference to an object in memory.
- `dog.speak` is a *bound* member function. It is bound to the instance `dog`. In this case, the name `self` is a reference to `dog`.
- `Dog` is a class type. Member function definitions within this class always have *at least* one argument. The first argument is a reference to an instance of the class and is conventionally called `self`.
- `Dog.speak` is just a *regular function*. This function has one argument which is an *explicit* reference to an *instance* of the class `Dog`.
- You can use the `isinstance()` built-in to check if a name is an instance of a particular class. See [the documentation here](#).

[Step through code on pythontutor](#)

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Superclass initialization

- We know that when we inherit from a base class we inherit its data and interface.
- If we recall the derived class `Cat` from earlier, we would expect when we create an instance of `Cat` that:
  1. The base class gets initialized.
  2. Additional initialization of the derived class takes place.
- If we do not define another `__init__` method in the derived class, then `__init__` *of the base class* is called automatically.
- If we *do* define another `__init__` method in the *derived class* (because we need to perform other initialization there), then the superclass initialization *is not performed automatically anymore* (what happened to `Cat` earlier).
- In that case we have to use the `super()` **built-in function** to access the superclass explicitly.

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Rule for polymorphism in python

If a method exists in the base class as well as in the derived class (both with the same name), then if an instance of the derived class calls the method, python will execute the implementation of the method in the derived class and vice versa for a base class instance. The `super()` built-in can be used to call methods in the parent class. The actual method call is determined by the *Method Resolution Order* (MRO) specified in the `__mro__` attribute of the class *type*.

See also <https://rhettinger.wordpress.com/2011/05/26/super-considered-super/>.

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Rule for polymorphism in python : *Example*

```
1 class Base():
2     """Base class"""
3     def __init__(self, a):
4         self.a = a # some data required in the base class
5
6     def explain(self):
7         print(f"Executing from base class: data={self.a}")
8
9 class Derived(Base):
10    """Derived class"""
11    def __init__(self, a, b):
12        super().__init__(a) # properly initialize the base class
13        self.b = b # some data specific to the derived class
14
15    def explain(self):
16        # 1. Call the base class method first
17        super().explain()
18        # 2. Then do special work required for the derived class
19        print(f"Executing from derived class: data={self.b}")
```

# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

## Rule for polymorphism in python : *Example*

```
1 class Base():
2     """Base class"""
3     def __init__(self, a):
4         self.a = a # some data required in the base class
5
6     def explain(self):
7         print(f"Executing from base class: data={self.a}")
8
9 class Derived(Base):
10    """derived class"""
11    def __init__(self, a, b):
12        super().__init__(a) # properly initialize the base class
13        self.b = b # some data specific to the derived class
14
15    def explain(self):
16        # 1. Call the base class method first
17        super().explain()
18        # 2. Then do special work required for the derived class
19        print(f"Executing from derived class: data={self.b}")
```

- When you call `super()` it will follow this resolution order to find the matching method in the parent classes:

```
1 >>> print(Base.__mro__)
2 (<class '__main__.Base'>, <class 'object'>)
3 >>> print(Derived.__mro__)
4 (<class '__main__.Derived'>, <class '__main__.Base'>, <class 'object'>)
```

- Lets see how this works for the `explain()` method of an instance from the `Derived` class type:

```
1 >>> a = "base class data" # some data we pass for initializing the base class
2 >>> b = "derived class data" # some data we pass for initializing the derived class
3 >>> derived = Derived(a, b) # here we create an instance of the derived class
4 >>> derived.explain() # and we call the explain() method to 'simulate' some work being done
5 Executing from base class: data=`base class data`
6 Executing from derived class: data=`derived class data`
```



# SUPER- AND SUBCLASSES

Rule for polymorphism in python: *Example*

```
1 class Derived(Base):
2     """Derived class"""
3     def __init__(self, a, b):
4         super().__init__(a) # properly initialize the base class
5         self.b = b # some data specific to the derived class
6
7     def explain(self):
8         # 1. Call the base class method first
9         super().explain()
10        # 2. Then do special work required for the derived class
11        print(f"Executing from derived class: data={self.b}")
```

- In the Cat class from earlier, we **did not** initialize the base class like this!
- If you don't do this, we will not enter the base class `__init__` method and **consequently we will not assign `self.a = a`**. This causes an error whenever we try to access `self.a` later on, e.g. when we call the `explain()` method.
- This agreement to define class methods and attributes **on the fly** as execution flow encounters them, is called **duck typing**.

# FEW COMMENTS ON DUCK TYPING

- When using duck typing, you are specifying an *implicit* interface.
- Duck typing can speed up the short-term development process as sometimes you do not have a clear picture of a current design.
- Explicit software design (interface is defined before implementation work starts) is more stable especially in large projects. It is more difficult because it requires thinking further into the future compared to an implicit duck typing approach
- When you have an implicit interface through duck typing, make sure to write extensive tests.

# RECAP

- ***Object Oriented Programming***: data encapsulation, inheritance, polymorphism
- ***Classes***: base classes and derived classes
- ***Inheritance and Polymorphism***: class methods, interfaces, method resolution order