
Object-Oriented Software Development (in Python)

L. Pitonakova

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I will talk about...

- Basic principles of OO Software development
- Examples
- Class diagrams (UMLs)
- Design patterns we use in our software
- Enumeration

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What is OO

- Software development paradigm based on “objects”
 - Attributes (data)
 - Methods (code)
- Objects belong to classes (type of object)
 - Define what attributes and methods an object will have
- Objects are instances of classes
 - I.e. they exist in memory

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Example

- Dog class
- Attributes
 - Eye colour (passed when creating a new dog)
 - Number of bones collected (set to 0 when a new dog is created)
- Methods
 - ‘Constructor’ – in python, this is replaced by the `__init__` function
 - A method to collect a new bone

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Example

```
class Dog():  
    def __init__(self, eye_color):  
        self.__eye_color = eye_color  
        self.__bones_collected = 0  
  
    def collect_bone(self):  
        # do something to find it  
        self.__bones_collected += 1
```

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Example

```
# instantiate a dog
my_dog = Dog('green')

# tell dog to do something
my_dog.collect_bone()
```

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Encapsulation

- Objects can have private or public attributes and methods
 - Private: only the object is able to access it. Use of the 'self' keyword.
 - Public: any other object can access it
- Objects should generally be responsible for maintaining their internal variables and provide methods for other objects to access / change them.
 - Good code maintainability
 - Less errors when using someone's else's class

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Encapsulation

- In python, the concept is not strictly implemented, but we can use tricks..
 - Private attributes and methods have the ‘__’ prefix. Some editors will hide such attributes / methods from intellisense
 - Use of property decorators to turn private attributes into something that looks like a public variable. Effectively, create ‘getter’ and ‘setter’ methods.

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Example

```
class Dog():  
    def __init__(self, eye_color):  
        self.__eye_color = eye_color  
        self.__bones_collected = 0  
  
    def collect_bone(self):  
        # do something to find it  
        self.__bones_collected += 1
```

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Example

```
@property
```

```
def bones_collected(self):  
    return self.__bones_collected;
```

```
@bones_collected.setter
```

```
def bones_collected (self, value):  
    self.__bones_collected = value
```

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Example

```
# instantiate a dog and make it collect a bone  
my_dog = Dog('green')  
my_dog.collect_bone()
```

```
#use the proper getter for __bones_collected  
print(my_dog.bones_collected)  
[Out:] 1
```

```
#use the proper setter for __bones_collected  
my_dog.bones_collected = 5
```

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Inheritance

- Classes can be organised in a hierarchy. ‘Child’ classes inherit everything from their ‘parent’ classes.
- Very useful for letting multiple classes share similar functionality but diverge on other
 - Common functionality in parent
 - Children implement their own additional attributes and methods
 - Improves code readability and maintainability

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Inheritance

- Parent class provides a common init method that all children should call in their own init functions
- Parent class can also implement other methods – directly usable by children using the self keyword
- Children can override a method of the parent to replace / add to the method's functionality
 - When a method is overridden, the child's functionality is executed
 - Call `super().method_name()` to also get parent's functionality

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Example

```
class Animal():  
    def __init__(self, eye_color):  
        self.__eye_color = eye_color  
        self.__hunger_level = 50  
        print("Animal with " + eye_color + " eyes")  
  
    def eat(self, amount):  
        self.__hunger_level -= amount
```

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Example

```
@property  
def hunger_level(self):  
    return self.__hunger_level
```

```
# no setter for hunger level – animal has  
# to eat to decrease it
```

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Example

```
class Dog(Animal):  
    def __init__(self, eye_color):  
        super().__init__(eye_color)  
        self.__bones_collected = 0  
        self.__hunger_level = 100  
        print("A new dog")  
  
    def collect_bone(self):  
        # do something to find it  
        self.__bones_collected += 1
```

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Example

```
class Cat(Animal):  
    def __init__(self):  
        super().__init__('black')  
        print("A new cat")  
  
    def climb_tree(self):  
        # climb a tree  
        print("I'm climbing a tree")
```

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Example

```
# instantiate a dog  
my_dog = Dog('green')  
[Out:] Animal with green eyes  
[Out:] A new dog
```

```
# instantiate a cat  
my_cat = Cat()  
[Out:] Animal with black eyes  
[Out:] A new cat
```

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Example

```
# tell the dog to eat  
my_dog.eat(10)
```

```
# find out hunger level  
print(my_dog.hunger_level)  
[Out:] 90
```

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Example

```
# create another dog and tell it to eat
my_dog_2 = Dog("blue")
[Out:] Animal with blue eyes
[Out:] A new dog
my_dog_2.eat(50)
print(my_dog_2.hunger_level)
[Out:] 50
print(my_dog.hunger_level)
[Out:] 90
```

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Member types

- Attributes and methods are commonly referred to as ‘members’ of a class
- In Python, members can be of three types:
 - Instance – each object creates their own copy
 - Class - only one copy shared between all objects of the class. Usually used for alternative constructors
 - Static – no references to class or instance passed. Used usually for high-level functions (it doesn’t have access to any non-static members)

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Member types

- Define instance attributes inside of the `__init__` method
- Define class / static attributes on class level, by convention before the `__init__` method definition. Use capitals.
- Always pass self as the 1st parameter to instance methods
- Always pass class as the 1st parameter to class methods. Use the `@classmethod` decorator
- Static methods do not have any obligatory parameters. Use the `@staticmethod` decorator

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Example

```
class Animal():
```

```
    HOME_PLANET = "Earth"
```

```
    def __init__(self, eye_color):
```

```
        ...
```

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Example

```
@classmethod
def from_hunger_level(cls, hunger_level,
                      eye_color):
    # do some work ...
    # instantiate
    new_animal = cls(eye_color)
    # do extra things to the instance
    new_animal.__hunger_level = hunger_level
    return new_animal
```

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Example

```
@staticmethod
def get_hex_from_color(color):
    if (color == "green"):
        return "00FF00"
    if (color == "blue"):
        return "0000FF"
    if (color == "black"):
        return "000000"
    return ""
```

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Example

```
class Dog(Animal):
```

```
    NUMBER_OF_LEGS = 4
```

```
    def __init__(self, eye_color):
```

```
        ...
```

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Example

```
# standard constructor  
my_dog = Dog("green")  
print(my_dog.hunger_level)  
[Out:] 100
```

```
# alternative constructor  
my_dog_2 = Dog.from_hunger_level(40, "blue")  
print(my_dog_2.hunger_level)  
[Out:] 40
```

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Example

```
# use of static attribute  
print(Animal.HOME_PLANET)  
[Out:] Earth
```

```
print(my_dog.HOME_PLANET)  
[Out:] Earth
```

```
print(my_dog.NUMBER_OF_LEGS)  
[Out:] 4
```

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Example

```
my_cat = Cat( )
```

```
print(my_cat.HOME_PLANET)
```

```
[Out:] Earth
```

```
print(my_cat.NUMBER_OF_LEGS)
```

```
[Out:] <Error>
```

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Example

```
# use of static method
```

```
print(Animal.get_hex_from_color('black'))
```

```
[Out:] 000000
```

```
print(Animal.get_hex_from_color(my_dog.eye_color  
) )
```

```
[Out:] 00FF00
```

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Method overriding

- When a method overridden, the child's implementation will always be called
 - Great for replacing or extending parent's functionality

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Example

```
class Animal():  
    def __init__(self, eye_color):  
        self.__eye_color = eye_color  
        self.__hunger_level = 50  
        print("Animal with " + eye_color + " eyes")  
  
    def eat(self, amount):  
        self.__hunger_level -= amount
```

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Example

```
class Dog(Animal):  
    ...  
    def eat(self, amount):  
        if (self.__bones_collected > 0):  
            super().eat(amount)  
            self.__bones_collected -= 1  
        else:  
            print("Not enough bones")
```

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Method overriding

- Also useful for creating ‘virtual’ methods on the parent class level, ‘forcing’ child classes to implement their own functionality

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Example

```
class Animal():  
    ...  
    def stalk_preyl(self):  
        raise Exception("Class " +  
            str(self.__class__) + " doesn't  
            implement stalk_preyl ()")
```

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Example

```
class Dog(Animal):  
    ...  
    def stalk_prey(self):  
        print("Dog is stalking the prey now...")  
        # no call to super!
```

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Example

```
my_dog.stalk_prej()
```

```
[Out:] Dog is stalking the prey now...
```

```
my_cat.stalk_prej()
```

```
[Out:] <Error> Class Cat doesn't implement  
stalk_prej()
```

Contacts:

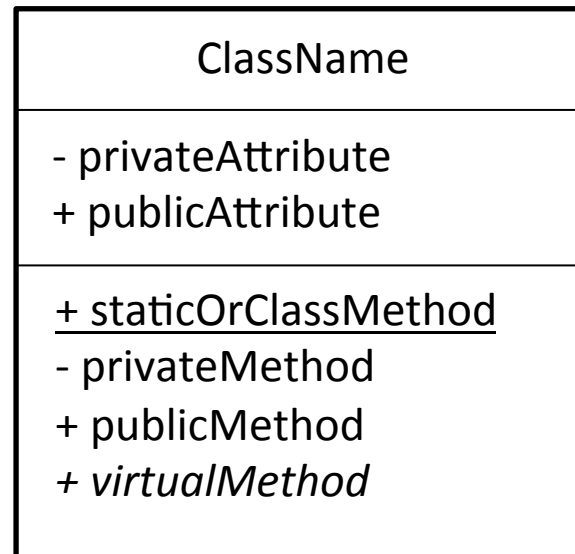
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The Class Diagram (UML)

- A visualisation for class hierarchies and responsibilities

- Class



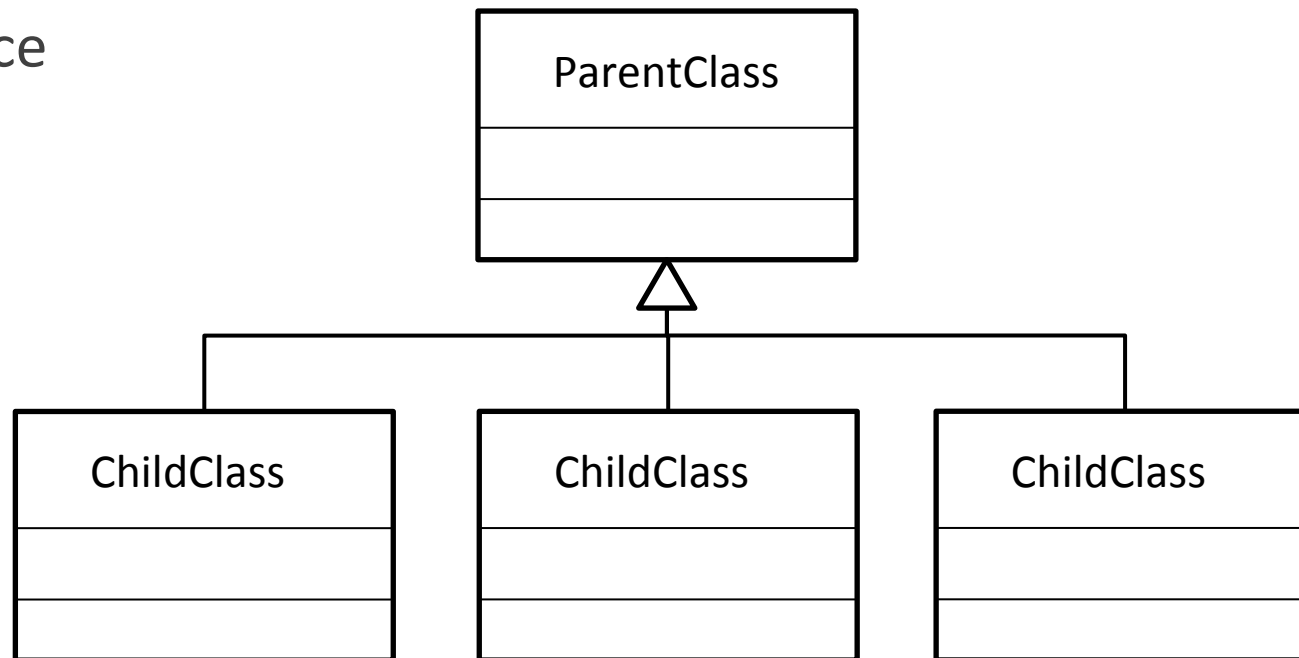
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The Class Diagram (UML)

- Inheritance



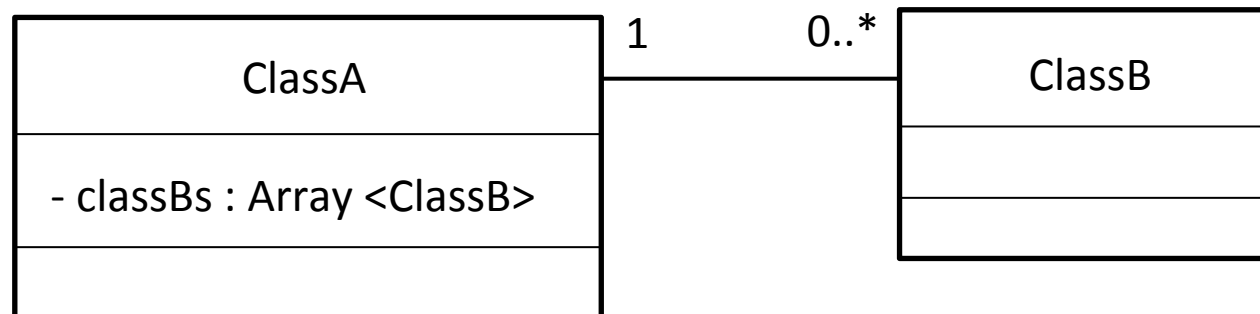
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The Class Diagram (UML)

- Association

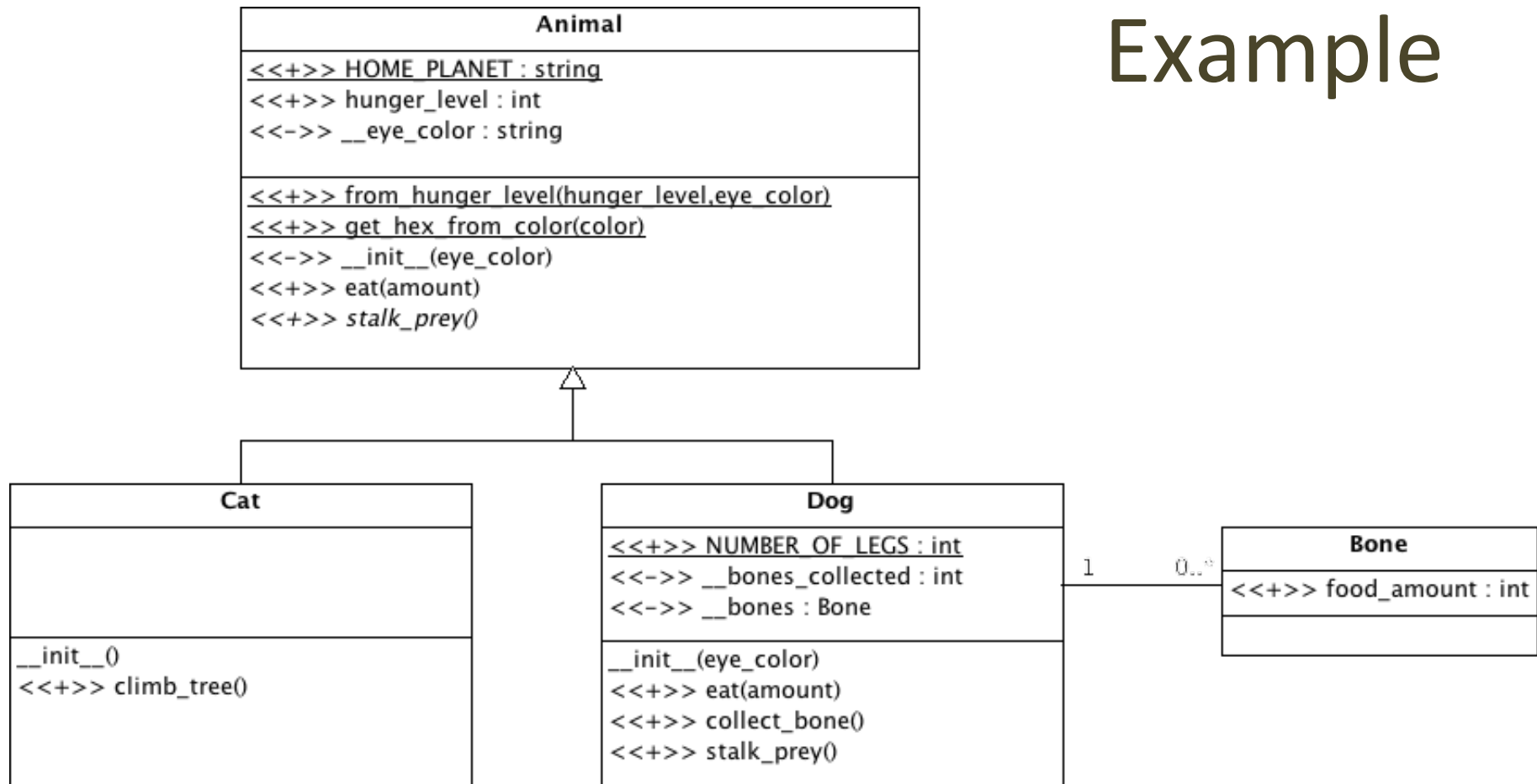


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Example

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Design patterns

- Well-tested solutions to common problems in software development
- Guide to programmers:
 - What responsibilities should classes have?
 - What class hierarchy should there be?
 - How should classes be instantiated?
 - Where should data be stored / used ?
 - Etc.

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Factory method pattern

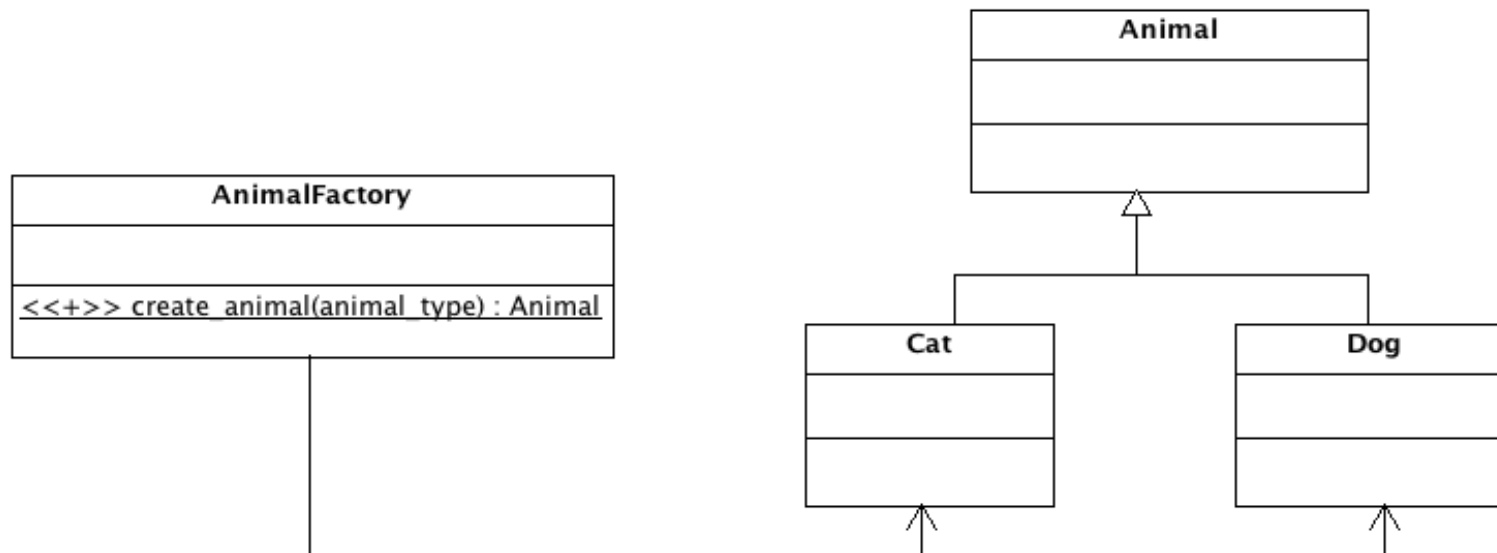
- Create a ‘factory’ method responsible for instantiating other classes based on some parameters
 - Used when new class of a desired object is only known at run-time
 - Processes logic for what type a new instance should be and returns that instance

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Factory method pattern



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Factory method pattern

```
class AnimalFactory():  
    @staticmethod  
    def create_animal(animal_type):  
        if (animal_type == "dog"):  
            return Dog("blue")  
        if (animal_type == "cat"):  
            return Cat()  
        raise ValueError("Unknown animal type: "  
            + animal_type)
```

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Factory method pattern

```
# ask user what they want
print("What animal would you like?")
choice = input().lower()

[In:] dog

# use the factory
my_animal = AnimalFactory.create_animal(choice)

[Out:] Animal with blue eyes
[Out:] A new dog
```

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Singleton pattern

- Only allow one instance per class, that is not owned by any other instance
 - Only 1 object exists in memory
 - Allows that object (and its instance attributes) to be shared across all objects
 - Useful e.g. to hold common settings in an application or to hold 1 database connection

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Singleton pattern

<<singleton>> DataBaseProvider
<u><<->> instance : DataBaseProvider</u>
<u><<->> db_connection : Integer</u>
<u><<+>> _new (class)</u> <<+>> connect() <<+>> query(query_str)

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Singleton pattern

```
class DatabaseProvider():
    _instance = None

    def __new__(class, *args, **kwargs):
        if not isinstance(class._instance, class):
            # only executed once in a program
            print("Database provider created")
            class._instance = object.__new__(class, *args, **kwargs)
            # set instance attributes here
            class._instance.db_connection = None

        return class._instance
```

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Singleton pattern

```
def connect():
    if (db_connection is None):
        print("Connecting")
        # connect to the database...
        db_connection = ...

def query(query_str):
    # check for connection
    if (db_connection is None):
        self.connect()
    # do the query...
    print("Querying")
```

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Singleton pattern

```
# create the provider the first time
my_db = DatabaseProvider()
my_db.query("MY QUERY")
[Out:] Database provider created
[Out:] Connecting
[Out:] Querying

...

# later in the code, try to create it the second time
my_db_2 = DatabaseProvider()
my_db_2.query("MY QUERY")
[Out:] Querying
```

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The Enumeration (Enum)

- Provide a set of acceptable values
 - Useful when a method needs to accept a parameter ONLY with certain values – e.g. colours, animal types, etc.
 - Hint for programmer who uses the method
 - Opens the ability to type check the argument
 - If values are integers, can be used if for loops
- In more ‘classic’ OO languages, Enum is a custom data type
- In Python, Enum is technically a class
- Usually defined before definition of a class that most uses it

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The Enumeration (Enum)

```
from enum import Enum, unique
```

```
@unique
```

```
class EYE_COLOR(Enum):
```

```
    GREEN = "green"
```

```
    BLUE = "blue"
```

```
    BLACK = "black"
```

```
class Animal():
```

```
    def __init__(self, eye_color:EYE_COLOR):
```

```
        if not (isinstance(eye_color, EYE_COLOR)):
```

```
            raise TypeError("Invalid eye color")
```

```
        print("Animal with " + eye_color.value + " eyes")
```

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The Enumeration (Enum)

```
@staticmethod
def get_hex_from_color(color:EYE_COLOR):
    if not (isinstance(eye_color, EYE_COLOR)):
        raise TypeError("Invalid eye color")

    if (color == EYE_COLOR.GREEN):
        return "00FF00"

    if (color == EYE_COLOR.BLUE):
        return "0000FF"

    if (color == EYE_COLOR.BLACK):
        return "000000"

    return "! Warning eye color not handled"
```

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Summary

- We learned what OO means
 - Classes vs. instances
 - Attributes vs. methods
 - Encapsulation, member types
 - Inheritance
 - Method overriding
- Class diagrams (UMLs)
 - Useful for visualisation of class hierarchies and responsibilities

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Summary

- Design patterns
 - Factory method: provide a single method to instantiate objects, when class of an object is only known at run-time
 - Singleton: provide a single instance per class, when that instance's attributes need to be readily shared between various pieces of code
- Enumeration
 - Provide a new 'data type' to precisely specify acceptable values

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