

INHERITANCE AND LINKED LISTS 8

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1 Inheritance

1.1 Introduction

Python classes can implement a useful abstraction technique known as **inheritance**. To illustrate this concept, consider the following `Dog` and `Cat` classes.

```
class Dog():
    def __init__(self, name, owner):
        self.is_alive = True
        self.name = name
        self.owner = owner
    def eat(self, thing):
        print(self.name + " ate a " + str(thing) + "!")
    def talk(self):
        print(self.name + " says woof!")

class Cat():
    def __init__(self, name, owner, lives=9):
        self.is_alive = True
        self.name = name
        self.owner = owner
        self.lives = lives
    def eat(self, thing):
        print(self.name + " ate a " + str(thing) + "!")
    def talk(self):
        print(self.name + " says meow!")
```

Notice that because dogs and cats share a lot of similar qualities, there is a lot of repeated code! To avoid redefining attributes and methods for similar classes, we can write a single **superclass** from which the similar classes **inherit**. For example, we can write a class called `Pet` and redefine `Dog` as a **subclass** of `Pet`:

```
class Pet():
    def __init__(self, name, owner):
        self.is_alive = True    # It's alive!!!
        self.name = name
        self.owner = owner
    def eat(self, thing):
        print(self.name + " ate a " + str(thing) + "!")
    def talk(self):
        print(self.name)

class Dog(Pet):
    def talk(self):
        print(self.name + ' says woof!')
```

Inheritance represents a hierarchical relationship between two or more classes where one class *is a* more specific version of the other, e.g. a dog *is a* pet. Because `Dog` inherits from `Pet`, we didn't have to redefine `__init__` or `eat`. However, since we want `Dog` to talk in a way that is unique to dogs, we did **override** the `talk` method.

1.2 Questions

1. Assume these commands are entered in order. What would Python output?

```
class Foo:
    def __init__(self, a):
        self.a = a
    def garply(self):
        return self.baz(self.a)

class Bar(Foo):
    a = 1
    def baz(self, val):
        return val

>>> f = Foo(4)
>>> b = Bar(3)
>>> f.a

>>> b.a

>>> f.garply()

>>> b.garply()

>>> b.a = 9
>>> b.garply()

>>> f.baz = lambda val: val * val
>>> f.garply()
```

2. Below is a skeleton for the `Cat` class, which inherits from the `Pet` class. To complete the implementation, override the `__init__` and `talk` methods and add a new `lose_life` method.

Hint: You can call the `__init__` method of `Pet` to set a cat's name and owner.

```
class Cat(Pet):
    def __init__(self, name, owner, lives=9):

    def talk(self):
        """ Print out a cat's greeting.
        >>> Cat('Thomas', 'Tammy').talk()
        Thomas says meow!
        """

    def lose_life(self):
        """Decrements a cat's life by 1. When lives reaches
        zero, 'is_alive' becomes False.
        """
```

3. More cats! Fill in this implementation of a class called `NoisyCat`, which is just like a normal `Cat`. However, `NoisyCat` talks a lot – twice as much as a regular `Cat`!

```
class _____: # Fill me in!
    """A Cat that repeats things twice."""
    def __init__(self, name, owner, lives=9):
        # Is this method necessary? Why or why not?

    def talk(self):
        """Talks twice as much as a regular cat.
        >>> NoisyCat('Magic', 'James').talk()
        Magic says meow!
        Magic says meow!
        """
```

2 Linked Lists

2.1 Introduction

The following is the `Link` class used to represent linked lists.

```
class Link:
    empty = ()
    def __init__(self, first, rest=empty):
        assert rest is Link.empty or isinstance(rest, Link)
        self.first = first
        self.rest = rest
    def __getitem__(self, i):
        if i == 0:
            return self.first
        return self.rest[i-1]
    def __len__(self):
        return 1 + len(self.rest)
```

We can write `lnk.first` and `lnk.rest` to access the first element of the linked list and the rest of the linked list, respectively. In addition to the constructor `__init__`, we have the special Python methods `__getitem__` and `__len__`. Note that any method that begins and ends with two underscores is a special Python method. Special Python methods may be invoked using built-in functions and special notation. The built-in Python element selection operator, as in `lst[i]`, invokes `lst.__getitem__(i)`. Likewise, the built-in Python function `len`, as in `len(lst)`, invokes `lst.__len__()`.

However, we won't use the above special methods in the rest of this worksheet, nor in most of our linked list problems in this class. Instead, we will only use the `Link` constructor and the `self.first` and `self.rest` instance attributes. This will be an exercise in using the recursive structure of linked lists rather than treating them like regular Python lists.

For the rest of this worksheet, assume that you are only given this portion of the `Link` class implementation:

```
class Link:
    empty = ()
    def __init__(self, first, rest=empty):
        assert rest is Link.empty or isinstance(rest, Link)
        self.first = first
        self.rest = rest
```

2.2 Questions

1. Write a function that takes in a linked list and returns the sum of all its elements. You may assume all elements in `lnk` are integers.

```
def sum_nums(lnk):  
    """  
    >>> a = Link(1, Link(6, Link(7)))  
    >>> sum_nums(a)  
    14  
    """
```

2. Write an iterative function `is_palindrome` that takes a `LinkedList`, `lnk`, and returns `True` if `lnk` is a palindrome and `False` otherwise. You can assume you have access to a `reverse` function that takes a linked list as input and returns a reversed version of the original linked list.

```
def is_palindrome(lnk):  
    """  
    >>> one_link = Link(1)  
    >>> is_palindrome(one_link)  
    True  
    >>> lnk = Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(2, Link(1))))  
    >>> is_palindrome(lnk)  
    True  
    >>> is_palindrome(Link(1, Link(2, Link(3, Link(1))))  
    False  
    """
```

3. Write a function that takes a sorted linked list of integers and mutates it so that all duplicates are removed.

```
def remove_duplicates(lnk):  
    """  
    >>> lnk = Link(1, Link(1, Link(1, Link(1, Link(5))))))  
    >>> remove_duplicates(lnk)  
    >>> lnk  
    Link(1, Link(5))  
    """
```