CS 61A Lecture Notes First Half of Week 4

Topic: Object-oriented programming

Reading: OOP Above-the-line notes in course reader

OOP is an abstraction. Above the line we have the metaphor of multiple independent intelligent agents; instead of one computer carrying out one program we have hordes of *objects* each of which can carry out computations. To make this work there are three key ideas within this metaphor:

- Message passing: An object can ask other objects to do things for it.
- Local state: An object can remember stuff about its own past history.
- Inheritance: One object type can be just like another except for a few

We have invented an OOP language as an extension to Scheme. Basically you are still writing Scheme programs, but with the vocabulary extended to use some of the usual OOP buzzwords. For example, a *class* is a type of object; an *instance* is a particular object. "Complex number" is a class; $3 + 4i$ is an instance. Here's how the message-passing complex numbers from last week would look in OOP notation:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo.scm
(define-class (complex real-part imag-part)
  (method (magnitude)
    (sqrt (+ (* real-part real-part)
             (* imag-part imag-part))))
  (method (angle)
    (atan (/ imag-part real-part))) )

> (define c (instantiate complex 3 4))
> (ask c 'magnitude)
5
> (ask c 'real-part)
3
```

This shows how we define the *class* `complex`; then we create the *instance* `c` whose value is $3 + 4i$; then we send `c` a message (we `ask` it to do something) in order to find out that its magnitude is 5. We can also ask `c` about its *instantiation variables*, which are the arguments used when the class is instantiated.

When we send a message to an object, it responds by carrying out a *method*, i.e., a procedure that the object associates with the message.

So far, although the notation is new, we haven't done anything different from what we did last week in chapter 2. Now we take the big step of letting an object remember its past history, so that we are no longer doing functional programming. The result of sending a message to an object depends not only on the arguments used right now, but also on what messages we've sent the object before:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo.scm
(define-class (counter)
  (instance-vars (count 0))
  (method (next)
    (set! count (+ count 1))
    count) )

> (define c1 (instantiate counter))
> (ask c1 'next)
1
> (ask c1 'next)
2
```

```
> (define c2 (instantiate counter))
> (ask c2 'next)
1
> (ask c1 'next)
3
```

Each counter has its own *instance variable* to remember how many times it's been sent the `next` message.

Don't get confused about the terms *instance* variable versus *instantiation* variable. They are similar in that each instance has its own version; the difference is that instantiation variables are given values when an instance is created, using extra arguments to `instantiate`, whereas the initial values of instance variables are specified in the class definition and are generally the same for every instance (although the values may change as the computation goes on.)

Methods can have arguments. You supply the argument when you `ask` the corresponding message:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo.scm
(define-class (doubler)
  (method (say stuff) (se stuff stuff)))

> (define dd (instantiate doubler))
> (ask dd 'say 'hello)
(hello hello)
> (ask dd 'say '(she said))
(she said she said)
```

Besides having a variable for each instance, it's also possible to have variables that are shared by every instance of the same class:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (counter)
  (instance-vars (count 0))
  (class-vars (total 0))
  (method (next)
    (set! total (+ total 1))
    (set! count (+ count 1))
    (list count total)))

> (define c1 (instantiate counter))
> (ask c1 'next)
(1 1)
> (ask c1 'next)
(2 2)
> (define c2 (instantiate counter))
> (ask c2 'next)
(1 3)
> (ask c1 'next)
(3 4)
```

Now each `next` message tells us both the count for this particular counter and the overall count for all counters combined.

To understand the idea of inheritance, we'll first define a `person` class that knows about talking in various ways, and then define a `pigger` class that's just like a `person` except for talking in Pig Latin:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (person name)
  (method (say stuff) stuff)
  (method (ask stuff) (ask self 'say (se '(would you please) stuff)))
  (method (greet) (ask self 'say (se '(hello my name is) name))) )

> (define marc (instantiate person 'marc))
> (ask marc 'say '(good morning))
(good morning)
> (ask marc 'ask '(open the door))
(would you please open the door)
> (ask marc 'greet)
(hello my name is marc)
```

Notice that an object can refer to itself by the name `self`; this is an automatically-created instance variable in every object whose value is the object itself. (We'll see when we look below the line that there are some complications about making this work.)

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (pigger name)
  (parent (person name))
  (method (pigl wd)
    (if (member? (first wd) '(a e i o u))
        (word wd 'ay)
        (ask self 'pigl (word (bf wd) (first wd))) ))
  (method (say stuff)
    (if (atom? stuff)
        (ask self 'pigl stuff)
        (map (lambda (w) (ask self 'pigl w)) stuff))) )

> (define porky (instantiate pigger 'porky))
> (ask porky 'say '(good morning))
(oodgay orningmay)
> (ask porky 'ask '(open the door))
(ouldway ouyay easeplay openay ethay oorday)
```

The crucial point here is that the `pigger` class doesn't have an `ask` method in its definition. When we ask `porky` to `ask` something, it uses the `ask` method in its parent (`person`) class.

Also, when the parent's `ask` method says `(ask self 'say ...)` it uses the `say` method from the `pigger` class, not the one from the `person` class. So Porky speaks Pig Latin even when asking something.

What happens when you send an object a message for which there is no method defined in its class? If the class has no parent, this is an error. If the class does have a parent, and the parent class understands the message, it works as we've seen here. But you might want to create a class that follows some rule of your own devising for unknown messages:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (squarer)
  (default-method (* message message))
  (method (7) 'buzz) )

> (define s (instantiate squarer))
> (ask s 6)                 > (ask s 7)                 > (ask s 8)
36                          buzz                        64
```

Within the default method, the name `message` refers to whatever message was sent. (The name `args` refers to a list containing any additional arguments that were used.)

Let's say we want to maintain a list of all the instances that have been created in a certain class. It's easy enough to establish the list as a class variable, but we also have to make sure that each new instance automatically adds itself to the list. We do this with an `initialize` clause:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (counter)
  (instance-vars (count 0))
  (class-vars (total 0) (counters '()))
  (initialize (set! counters (cons self counters)))
  (method (next)
    (set! total (+ total 1))
    (set! count (+ count 1))
    (list count total)))

> (define c1 (instantiate counter))
> (define c2 (instantiate counter))
> (ask counter 'counters)
(#<procedure> #<procedure>)
```

There was a bug in our `pigger` class definition; Scheme gets into an infinite loop if we ask Porky to `greet`, because it tries to translate the word `my` into Pig Latin but there are no vowels `aeiou` in that word. To get around this problem, we can redefine the `pigger` class so that its `say` method says every word in Pig Latin except for the word `my`, which it'll say using the usual method that `person`s who aren't `pigger`s use:

```
;;;;;                          In file cs61a/lectures/3.0/demo2.scm
(define-class (pigger name)
  (parent (person name))
  (method (pigl wd)
    (if (member? (first wd) '(a e i o u))
        (word wd 'ay)
        (ask self 'pigl (word (bf wd) (first wd))) ))
  (method (say stuff)
    (if (atom? stuff)
        (if (equal? stuff 'my) (usual 'say stuff) (ask self 'pigl stuff))
        (map (lambda (w) (ask self 'say w)) stuff))) )

> (define porky (instantiate pigger 'porky))
> (ask porky 'greet)
(ellohay my amenay isay orkypay)
```

(Notice that we had to create a new instance of the new class. Just doing a new define-class doesn't change any instances that have already been created in the old class. Watch out for this while you're debugging the OOP programming project.)

We invoke `usual` in the `say` method to mean "say this stuff in the usual way, the way that my parent class would use."

The OOP above-the-line section in the course reader talks about even more capabilities of the system, e.g., *multiple inheritance* with more than one parent class for a single child class.