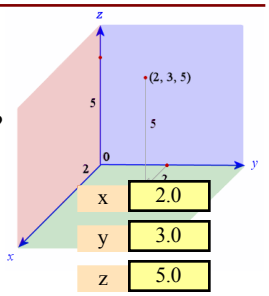
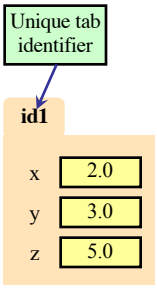
Type: Set of values and the operations on them

- Want a point in 3D space
  - We need three variables
  - x, y, z coordinates
- What if have a lot of points?
  - Vars x0, y0, z0 for first point
  - Vars x1, y1, z1 for next point
  - …
  - This can get really messy
- How about a single variable that represents a point?



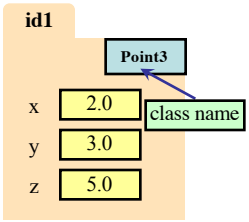
Objects: Organizing Data in Folders

- An object is like a **manila folder**
- It contains other variables
  - Variables are called **attributes**
  - These values can change
- It has an **ID** that identifies it
  - Unique number assigned by Python (just like a NetID for a Cornellian)
  - Cannot ever change
  - Has no meaning; only identifies



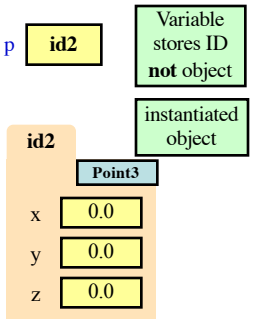
Classes: Types for Objects

- Values must have a type
  - An object is a **value**
  - Object type is a **class**
- **Modules** provide classes
  - Will show how later
- **Example**: `geom`
  - Part of CornellExtensions
  - Just need to import it
  - Classes: `Point2`, `Point3`



Constructor: Function to make Objects

- How do we create objects?
  - Other types have **literals**
  - **Example**: 1, `'abc'`, **true**
  - No such thing for objects
- **Constructor Function**:
  - Same name as the class
  - **Example**: `Point3(0,0,0)`
  - Makes an object (manila folder)
  - Returns folder ID as value
- **Example**: `p = Point3(0, 0, 0)`
  - Creates a Point object
  - Stores object's ID in p



Constructors and Modules

```
>>> import geom
```

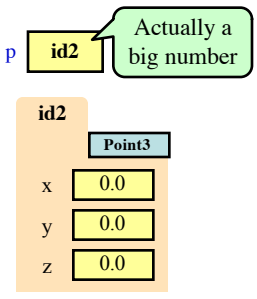
Need to import module that has Point class.

```
>>> p = geom.Point3(0,0,0)
```

Constructor is function. Prefix w/ module name.

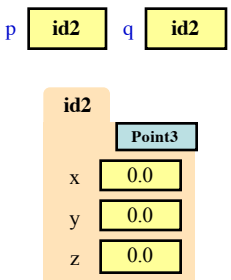
```
>>> id(p)
```

Shows the ID of p.



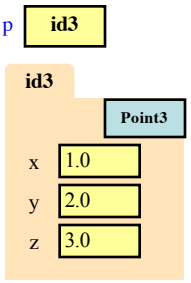
Object Variables

- Variable stores object name
  - **Reference** to the object
  - Reason for folder analogy
- Assignment uses object name
  - **Example**: q = p
  - Takes name from p
  - Puts the name in q
  - Does not make new folder!
- This is the cause of many mistakes in this course



Objects and Attributes

- Attributes are variables that live inside of objects
  - Can **use** in expressions
  - Can **assign** values to them
- **Access**: <variable>.<attr>
  - **Example**: p.x
  - Look like module variables
- Putting it all together
  - p = geom.Point3(1,2,3)
  - p.x = p.y + p.z

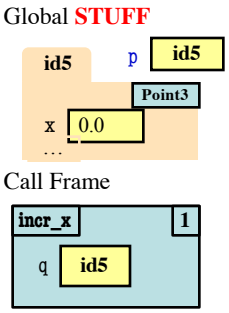


Call Frames and Objects

- Mutable objects can be altered in a function call
  - Object vars hold names!
  - Folder accessed by both global var & parameter
- **Example**:

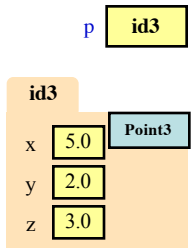
```
def incr_x(q):
    q.x = q.x + 1
```

```
>>> p = geom.Point3()
>>> incr_x(p)
```



Methods: Functions Tied to Objects

- **Method**: function tied to object
  - Method call looks like a function call preceded by a variable name:
    ⟨*variable*⟩.⟨*method*⟩(⟨*arguments*⟩)
  - **Example**: p.distanceTo(q)
  - **Example**: p.abs() # makes x,y,z ≥ 0
- Just like we saw for strings
  - s = 'abracadabra'
  - s.index('a')
- Are strings objects?

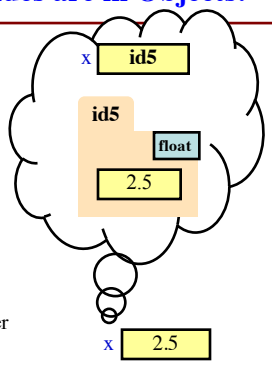


Surprise: All Values are in Objects!

- Including basic values
  - int, float, bool, str
- **Example**:

```
>>> x = 2.5
>>> id(x)
```

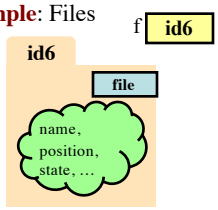
- But they are *immutable*
  - Contents cannot change
  - Distinction between *value* and *identity* is immaterial
  - So we can ignore the folder



Class Objects

- Use name **class object** to distinguish from other values
  - Not int, float, bool, str
- Class objects are **mutable**
  - You can change them
  - Methods can have effects besides their return value
- **Example**:
  - p = Point(3,-3,0)
  - p.clamp(-1,1)

Example: Files




```
f = open('jabber.txt')
s = f.read()
f.close()
```

Opens a file on your disk; returns a **file object** you can read

Base Types vs. Classes

Base Types	Classes
• Built-into Python	• Provided by modules
• Refer to instances as *values*	• Refer to instances as *objects*
• Instantiate with *literals*	• Instantiate w/ *constructors*
• Are all immutable	• Can alter attributes
• Can ignore the folders	• Must represent with folders