Inheritance and Lookup

5: Lookup in metaclasses

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W4S05







- 1. in Pharo, everything is an object
- 2. objects can receive messages
- 3. classes are objects too

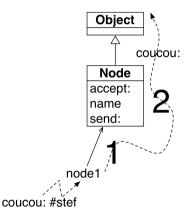
Classes can receive messages. The mechanism is **exactly** the same



Only One Lookup Rule

The lookup starts in the **class** of the **receiver** then:

- if the method is defined in the class, it is returned
- otherwise the search continues in the superclass





A Class is an Instance of Another Class

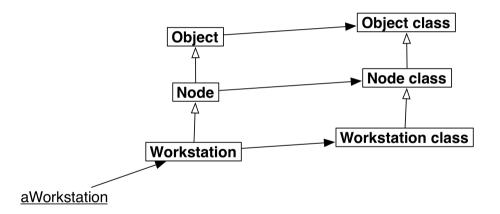
Class ${\sf X}$ is always the unique instance of the class ${\sf X}$ class:

- Node is a class and an object
- each object is an instance of a class
- the class of Node is Node class
- the class Node class is automatically created



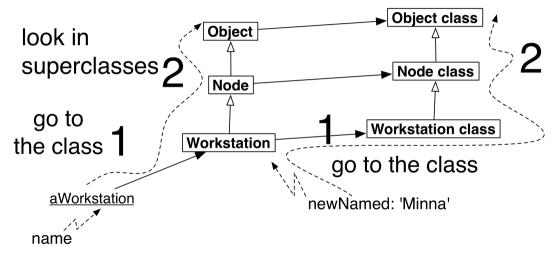


Superclass Chain





Lookup of Class Methods is No Different





What You Should Know

- A class is an object
- A class can receive messages
- Method lookup is exactly the same as for all objects:
 - go to the class of the receiver
 - follow inheritance chain
- More during the lecture Understanding Metaclasses



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