Instantiation Encyclopedia Article

Instantiation

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Instantiation

Instantiation is the **value** or more specific **variable** (concrete **code**) that is generated using a **template**. Let's use a basic example of an addition **expression** a+b, wheras this expression is part of program. "a" and "b" are variables. An instantiation could be either of the following examples.

- Example 1: If a=1, and b= 2, then 1+2
- Example 2: If a=sumCol(A) in table 1 and b=sumCol(B) in table 2 sumCol(A) + sumCol(B)

In example 1, "a" and "b" are are simply integers, they are specific values. In example 2, "a" and "b" represent the result of summation of column (A) and the summation of column (B). "sumCol(A)" and "sumCol(B)" are still variables, but they are more specific.

In **object-oriented programming**, instantiation is a more precisely defined version of some **object** which was already partially defined. An example of an object would be animals. To partially define animals, we name a specific **class**, dogs. A instance of dogs is Dalmatians. An instantiation would be Mary's Dalmatian, Rover. Rover is a specific Dalmatian that belongs to Mary.