

# Object-Oriented Programming

## Lecture 4: Inheritance

Sebastian Junges

“**Inheritance** is the most prominent and most overused part of OO”

# Content Today

- Inheritance
- Method selection: Overriding vs Overloading vs Hiding
- Abstract classes (vs Interfaces)
- Class hierarchies and the Object class
- Interfaces or inheritance: Is-a vs has-a relationships
- OO Fundamentals Recap
- *Exception* handling

# Goal Today

- You can work with inheritance:  
    You can define subclasses, call the constructor of a superclass, ...
- You can discuss use cases and differences between  
    (abstrakt) classes and interfaces, using is-a and has-a relationships
- You recognize which method is called, using the difference between  
    overloading, overriding, and hiding
- You have an elementary understanding of exception handling

# Example: Bike

Idea: create an interface and two classes

- State
  - color,
  - size,
  - wheels,
  - frameMaterial
- Behavior:
  - getColor(),
  - getSize(),
  - getWheels(),
  - getFrameMaterial()
- Now we aim to **extend** the class to bikes that can shift

# Example: The **Bike** interface

**Idea: create an interface and two classes**

```
public interface Bike {  
    // Instead of strings, use dedicated types...  
  
    public String getFrameMaterial();  
    public int getSize();  
    public String getColor() ;  
    public int getSpeed();  
    + Setters  
}
```

**Problem:** Leads to plenty of code duplication

# Extending classes

- A bike with gears **is a** bike with:
  - additional fields for the state
  - additional behavior
  - an updated behavior
- If a function expects a bike, passing a bike with gears is also fine

# The Bike (base) class

```
public class Bike {  
    // Instead of strings, use dedicated types...  
    private String frameMaterial; private int size; private String color; private int speed;  
  
    public Bike(String frameMaterial, int size, String color, int speed) {  
        this.frameMaterial = frameMaterial;  
        + set other fields  
    }  
  
    public String getFrameMaterial() { return frameMaterial; }  
    + Getters/Setters  
  
    public String toString() {  
        return "Bike{" + "frameMaterial='" + frameMaterial + '\\'' +  
            ", size=" + size + ", color='" + color + '\\'' + ", speed=" + speed + '}';  
    }  
}
```



# The BikeWithGears (derived) class

```
public class BikeWithGears extends Bike {  
    private int numberGears;  
  
    public BikeWithGears(String frameMaterial, int size,  
                          String color, int speed, int numberGears) {  
        ?? (comes later)  
    }  
  
    public int getNumberGears() { return numberGears; }  
  
    @Override  
    public String toString() {  
        ?? (comes later)  
    }  
}
```

# Using Bike and BikeWithGears

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Bike b = new Bike("Steel", 59, "Red", 16);  
    System.out.println(b.toString());  
  
    BikeWithGears bg = new BikeWithGears("Carbon", 57, "Blue", 18, 7);  
    System.out.println(bg.toString());  
  
    bg.setColor("Green");  
    System.out.println(bg.toString());  
  
    Bike b2 = bg;  
    System.out.println(b2.toString());  
}
```

Compile & Run Lecture4:

```
Bike{framematerial='Steel', ...}  
BikeWithGears{framematerial='Carbon',..., nrGears=7}  
BikeWithGears{framematerial='Carbon',..., nrGears=7}  
BikeWithGears{framematerial='Carbon',..., nrGears=7}
```

Success

# Inheritance

- A **base class** can be extended by a **derived class**
  - Any class can be a base class
- The derived class has **at least** the same state and behavior...
- .. but can have **additional fields**
- .. and can have **additional behavior**
- .. and **change** the behavior of the base class
- Derived classes define **subtypes**

# Content Today

- Inheritance
  - Derived classes
  - Constructors in derived classes, including `super(...)`
  - Delegating work (e.g., when converting to a string), including `super.`
  - The `protected` access modifier
  - `Final` classes and methods
- Other stuff

# Defining derived classes

```
public class Base {  
    private int x;  
    public Base() { this.x = 3; }  
}
```

```
public class Derived extends Base {  
    private int y;  
    public Derived (int y) { this.y = y; }  
}
```

# Derived classes without default constructor

```
public class Base {  
    private int x;  
    public Base(int x) { this.x = x; }  
}
```

```
public class Base extends Derived {  
    private int y;  
    public Derived (int x, int y) {  
        // what should come here?  
        super(x); this.y = y;  
    }  
}
```

# The `super(...)` constructor invocation

- `super(...)` calls the constructor of the (unique) superclass
- If `super(...)` is not called explicitly, the compiler adds a call to `super()`

# The Bike (base) class

```
public class Bike {  
    // Instead of strings, use dedicated types...  
    private String frameMaterial; private int size; private String color; private int speed;  
  
    public Bike(String frameMaterial, int size, String color, int speed) {  
        this.frameMaterial = frameMaterial;  
        + set other fields  
    }  
  
    public String getFrameMaterial() { return frameMaterial; }  
    + Getters/Setters  
  
    toString method  
}
```



# The BikeWithGears (derived) class

```
public class BikeWithGears extends Bike {  
    private int numberGears;  
  
    public BikeWithGears(String frameMaterial, int size,  
                          String color, int speed, int numberGears) {  
        super(frameMaterial, size, color, speed);  
        this.numberGears = numberGears;  
    }  
  
    public int getNumberGears() { return numberGears; }  
  
    @Override  
    public String toString() {  
        ?? (comes later)  
    }  
}
```

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# BikeWithGears.toString() Attempt 1

- Idea: Call `Bike.toString()` inside `BikeWithGears.toString()`
- How? We need to access `toString` from a base class.
- Solution. The `super` keyword

# The `super` keyword

- Analogous to `this`, but for the superclass
- Helpful for calling overridden methods

```
public class BikeWithGears extends Bike {  
    @Override  
    public String toString() {  
        return "BikeWithGears{" +  
            super.toString() + ", numberGears=" + numberGears + "}";  
    }  
}
```

# BikeWithGears.toString() Attempt 2

- Downside in Attempt 1: we actually want to change the behavior of the base class but still reuse parts of the code.

# Delegating Work to Derived Classes (1)

- Idea: `toString` for bikes prints the type of bike and a list of fields.

```
public class Bike {  
    public String getBikeTypeAsString() { return "Bike"; }  
  
    public String getBikeAttributesAsString() {  
        return "frameMaterial='" + frameMaterial + '\'' + ", size=" + size +  
            ", color='" + color + '\'' + ", speed=" + speed;  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public String toString() {  
        return getBikeTypeAsString() + "{" + getBikeAttributesAsString() + "}";  
    }  
}
```

# Delegating Work to Derived Classes (2)

- Idea: `toString` for bikes prints the type of bike and a list of fields.

```
public class BikeWithGears {  
    @Override  
    public String getBikeTypeAsString() {  
        return "BikeWithGears";  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public String getBikeAttributesAsString() {  
        return super.getBikeAttributesAsString() + " , numberGears=" + numberGears;  
    }  
}
```

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# The `protected` access modifier (revisited)

- We cannot override `private` methods\*
- Recall that between `private` and `public`, the `protected` keyword exists: `protected` allows access from:
  - subclasses
  - classes in the same package \*\*
- Be careful with `protected`. Use `private` whenever possible.

\* This is different in other OO languages like C++ and leads to some differences in design

\*\* This is different in other OO languages like C# and C++ and leads to some differences in design.

# The `final` keyword

- For fields: constants
  - For methods: prevent overriding
  - For classes: prevent deriving
- 
- Prevents errors if you did not design the class for inheritance
  - Important to make a class `immutable` (details are not discussed).

# Example: Final classes

```
public final class FinalBase {  
  
}
```

```
public class DeriveFinal extends FinalBase {  
  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

```
java: cannot inherit from final class FinalBase  
Error
```

# Example: Final methods

```
public class Base {  
    public void aMethod() { System.out.println("Base::aMethod"); }  
  
    public final void bMethod() { System.out.println("Base::bMethod"); }  
}  
  
public class Derived extends Base {  
    @Override  
    public void aMethod() { System.out.println("Derived::aMethod"); }  
  
    @Override  
    public void bMethod() { Sy  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

java: Derived cannot override bMethod() in  
lecture4.Base overridden method is final

Error

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# Recap: Late binding of **this**

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    EnergyConsumer tv = new TV(32);  
    System.out.println(tv.getRequiredVoltage());  
    EnergyConsumer heater = new Heater();  
    System.out.println(heater.getRequiredVoltage());  
}
```

Compile & Run Lecture3:

230

380

Success

# Recap: Early binding of parameters

```
public static void whatAmI(EnergyConsumer ec) {  
    System.out.println("an Energyconsumer");  
}
```

```
public static void whatAmI(Heater h) {  
    System.out.println("a Heater");  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] a) {  
    Heater h1 = new Heater();  
    whatAmI(h1);  
    EnergyConsumer h2 = new Heater();  
    whatAmI(h2);  
}
```

Compile & Run Lecture3:

a Heater  
an EnergyConsumer

Success



# Overloading vs Overriding vs Hiding (1)

- **Method signature:** methodName (<ParameterTypes>)
  - not the return type!
- **Overriding:** Define a method with the same signature in a subclass that is called via late binding
  - Cannot work for static or private methods
  - Matching: Return type can be a subtype
- **Overloading:** Define a method with same name but different parameter types
- **Hiding:** Define a variable (or method) with the same name (or signature)

# Overloading vs Overriding vs Hiding (2)

This is overriding!

```
public class Base {  
    public void bMethod(Bike b) { System.out.println("Base::b"); }  
}
```

```
public class Derived extends Base {  
  
    public void bMethod(Bike b) { System.out.println("Derived::b"); }  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Bike b = new Bike(...);  
    BikeWithGears bg = new BikeWithGears(...);  
    Derived test = new Derived();  
    test.bMethod(b);  
    test.bMethod(bg);  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

Derived::b

Derived::b

Success

# Overloading vs Overriding vs Hiding (3)

This is overloading!  
and early binding

```
public class Base {  
    public void bMethod(BikeWithGears b) { System.out.println("Base::b"); }  
}
```

```
public class Derived extends Base {  
  
    public void bMethod(Bike b) { System.out.println("Derived::b"); }  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Bike b = new Bike(...);  
    BikeWithGears bg = new BikeWithGears(...);  
    Derived test = new Derived();  
    test.bMethod(b);  
    test.bMethod(bg);  
}
```

```
Compile Lecture4:  
Derived::b  
Base::b  
Success
```

# Overloading vs Overriding vs Hiding (4)

```
public class Base {  
    public void bMethod(BikeWithGears b) { System.out.println("Base::b"); }  
}
```

```
public class Derived extends Base {  
    @Override  
    public void bMethod(Bike b) { System.out.println("Derived::b"); }  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Bike b = new Bike(...);  
    BikeWithGears bg = new BikeWithGears(...);  
    Derived test = new Derived();  
    test.bMethod(b);  
    test.bMethod(bg);  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

java: method does not override or implement a method from a supertype

Error

# Overloading vs Overriding vs Hiding (5)

```
public class Base {  
    public void cMethod( ) { System.out.println("Base::cMethod");}  
    public void dMethod() { cMethod(); }  
    public void eMethod() { cMethod(); }  
}  
  
public class Derived extends Base {  
    public void cMethod() { System.out.println("Derived::cMethod"); }  
    public void dMethod() { cMethod(); }  
}
```

This is overriding!  
and late binding

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Base base = new Base(); Derived der = new Derived();  
    base.dMethod();  
    base.eMethod();  
    der.dMethod();  
    der.eMethod();  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

Base::cMethod

Base::cMethod

Derived::cMethod

Derived::cMethod

Success

# Example Overloading vs Overriding (6)

```
public class Base {  
    private void cMethod( ) { System.out.println("Base::cMethod");}  
    public void dMethod() { cMethod(); }  
    public void eMethod() { cMethod(); }  
}
```

```
public class Derived extends Base {  
    private void cMethod() { System.out.println("Derived::cMethod"); }  
    public void dMethod() { cMethod(); }  
}
```

This is not overriding  
(private)!

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Base base = new Base(); Derived der = new Derived();  
    base.dMethod();  
    base.eMethod();  
    der.dMethod();  
    der.eMethod();  
}
```

It is hiding

Compile Lecture4:

Base::cMethod

Base::cMethod

Derived::cMethod

Base::cMethod

Success

# Avoid accidental hiding/overloading

- Use `@Override`
- Do not hide (except local variables in constructors and setters)

“Compiler errors are better than runtime crashes”  
Whenever possible, build code that does not compile if misused

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- **Abstract classes (vs Interfaces)**
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- *Exception* handling



# Abstract classes

- Classes that should not create objects (like interfaces)
  - have fields (unlike interfaces)
  - have constructors (!)
- “Incomplete classes”
  - describe a contract like interfaces
  - implemented methods can use this contract (recall the toString example for bikes)
- Classes that are not abstract are **concrete**

# Example: Abstract Animal Class

```
public abstract class Animal {  
    private double typicalLifeSpan;  
    private double typicalWeight;  
  
    public Animal(double typicalLifeSpan, double typicalWeight) {  
        this.typicalLifeSpan = typicalLifeSpan;  
        this.typicalWeight = typicalWeight;  
    }  
  
    public abstract String makeSound();  
  
    public double getTypicalLifeSpan() {  
        return typicalLifeSpan;  
    }  
  
    public double getTypicalWeight() {  
        return typicalWeight;  
    }  
}
```

# Example: Abstract Animal Class (2)

```
public class Duck extends Animal {  
    // No constructors.  
  
    @Override  
    public String makeSound() {  
        return "Quack";  
    }  
}
```

Compile Lecture4:

in Duck.java:

java: constructor Animal in class lecture4.Animal cannot be applied to given types;

required: double,double

found: no arguments

reason: actual and formal argument lists differ in length

Error Sebastian Junges | OOP #4

## Example: Abstract Animal Class (3)

```
public class Duck extends Animal {  
    Duck(double typicalLifeSpan, double typicalWeight) {  
        super(typicalLifeSpan, typicalWeight);  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public String makeSound() {  
        return "Quack";  
    }  
}
```

# Abstract classes vs Interfaces

- Abstract classes have fields, constructors and can have private methods
- A class can implement multiple interfaces
- One cannot create objects of the abstract class nor of the interface
- “Prefer interfaces over abstract classes”

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# Inheritance & Type Hierarchies

- Introduce a hierarchy of types
- Both on classes and interfaces
- From most abstract to more concrete

# Example: Hierarchy (1)

```
public abstract class Animal {
    private double typicalLifeSpan;
    private double typicalWeight;

    public Animal(double typicalLifeSpan, double typicalWeight) {
        this.typicalLifeSpan = typicalLifeSpan;
        this.typicalWeight = typicalWeight;
    }

    public abstract String getSound();
    public double getTypicalWeight() { return typicalWeight; }
}

public interface CanFly {
    default void fly() { System.out.println("Flapflap"); }
}

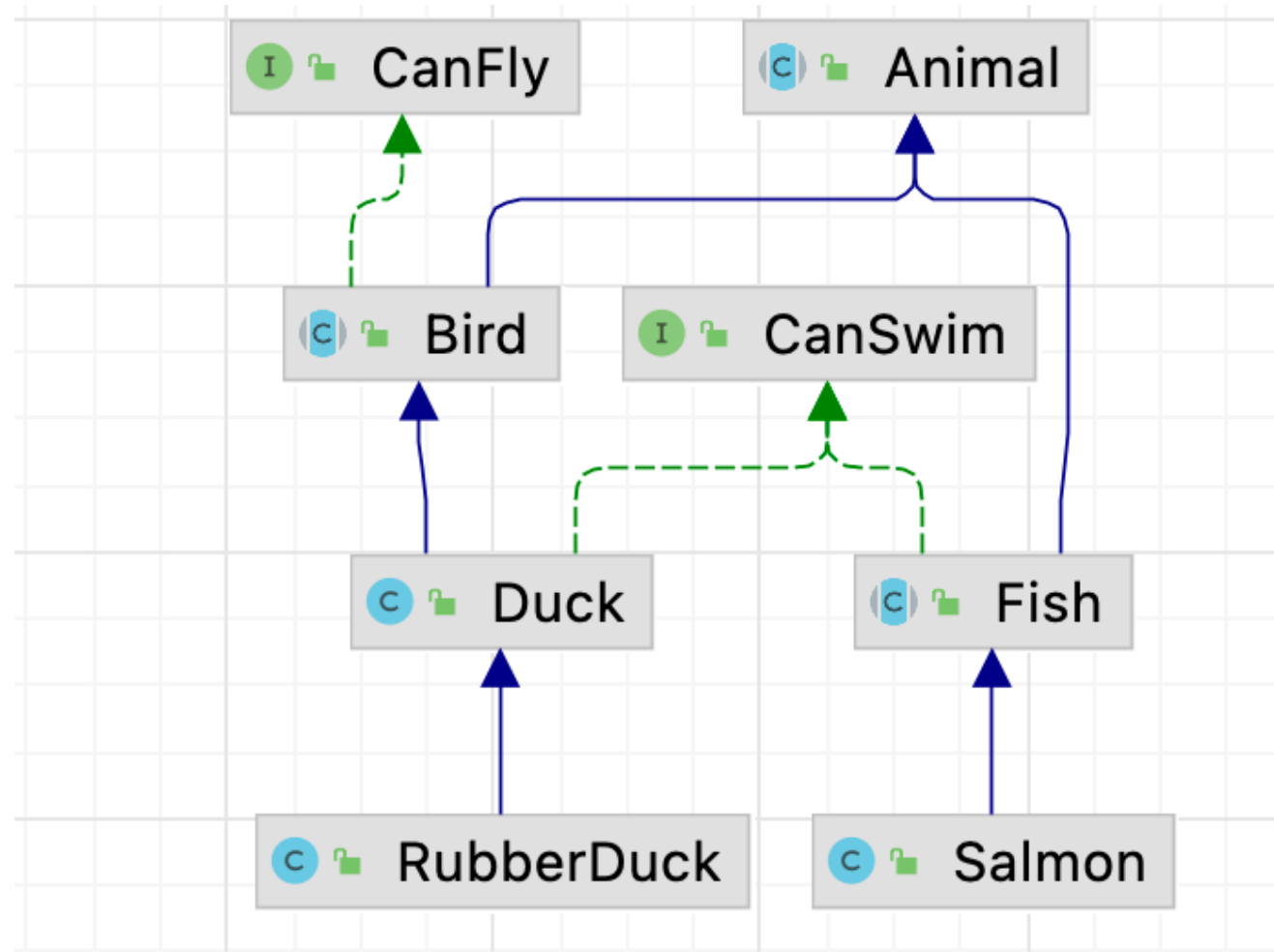
public abstract class Bird extends Animal implements CanFly {
    public Bird(double typicalLifeSpan, double typicalWeight) {
        super(typicalLifeSpan, typicalWeight);
    }
}
```



# Example: Hierarchy (2)

```
public class Duck extends Bird implements CanSwim {  
    Duck(double typicalLifeSpan, double typicalWeight) {  
        super(typicalLifeSpan, typicalWeight);  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public String makeSound() { return "Quack"; }  
}  
  
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Duck mallard = new Duck(6, 2.2);  
    mallard.fly();  
    mallard.swim();  
    System.out.println(mallard.makeSound());  
}
```

# Example: Hierarchy (3)



# Object class

- An implicit base class for every class (direct or indirect)
- Four important methods
  - `String toString()` ... No particular requirements
  - `boolean equals(Object other)` ... Next slide
  - `int hashCode()` ... Important when using Maps, later
  - `Object clone()` ... see Q&A

# Implementing `bool Equals(Object other)`

- Equality should satisfy the following for non-null `x, y, z`
  - *reflexive* `x.Equals(x)` **returns true**
  - *symmetric* `x.Equals(y) == y.Equals(x)`
  - *transitive* `( x.Equals(y) and y.Equals(z) ) implies x.Equals(z)`
  - *consistent* `x.Equals(y)` **returns the same value over multiple invocations**
  - `x.Equals(null)` **returns false**
- Check whether types are consistent
- Make sure to stick to the signature
- Tricky if a superclass is not abstract
- Only override `Equals` if necessary

# Example: boolean Equals(Object o)

@Override

```
public boolean equals(Object other) {  
    // Often done, good for e.g. search or sorting  
    if (this == other) { return true; };  
    if !(other instanceof Bike) {  
        return false;  
    }  
    Bike oBike = (Bike) other;  
    return frameMaterial.equals(oBike.frameMaterial) && size == other.size && ...;  
}
```

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# How to model complex systems?

- Disclaimer: No general rule
  - Depends on the context.
  - Depend on the type of relationship between objects

# Strong Is-a relationships

- A bike with gears **IS A** bike
- A door with a lock **IS A** door
- A student **IS A** person
- Ok to **use inheritance**



# Has-a relationships

- A person has an address
- A door has a lock
- A bike has a color
- Use **composition or interfaces** (see next slide)

# Weak is-a (Is-a-kind-of) relationships

- TVs are a kind of energy consumer
- Credit cards are a kind of payment method
- Typically has-a property, but not has-a state, or when a thing is multiple things...
- Generic rule: **Use Interfaces**

# Multiple Inheritance and Mixins

- Consider a class `Singer` and a class `Songwriter`.  
What about singer-songwriters?
- Java classes can extend one base class only  
(and implement many interfaces)
- “There is no multiple inheritance in Java”
- Mixin: Primary type + secondary types from interfaces:
  - e.g., a `Singer-Songwriter` IS A singer that can songwrite (mostly)

# Skeleton Implementations

- Define an interface `CanSing` and an abstract class `AbstractSinger` that implements `CanSing`
- Define an interface `CanSongwrite` and an abstract class `AbstractSongwriter` that implements `CanSongwrite`
- The class `Singer` can now extend `AbstractSinger` with minimal effort
- The class `Songwriter` can now extend `AbstractSongwriter`...
- The class `SingerSongwriter` extends `AbstractSinger` and implements `CanSongwrite`...
- The Java API has plenty of Skeleton Implementations, e.g. `AbstractList`

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# OO Fundamentals (Overall considerations)

- Any code/functionality exposed to a user will be used
  - Only expose the code that you need to expose
  - It is super hard to figure out whether a bug is your fault or the user's fault
- Code bases need to be maintained
  - Often after years
  - Often by other people

# OO Fundamentals (Design Goals)

- Objects have a state and a behavior
  - Classes describe objects (can be abstract, conceptual or concrete)
- Encapsulation
  - Change the state only via behavior
  - Hide the implementation types
  - Identify what varies and separate that from what stays the same (see composition)
- Separation of Concerns
  - Classes should do one thing and one thing only
  - IO is always a thing. Thus, if a class does IO, it shouldn't do more.
- Loose Coupling
  - Program to an interface, not an implementation
  - Allow to replace and extend your code

# OO Fundamentals (Technical ingredients)

- (Object) Polymorphism & Class Hierarchies
  - Objects have one dynamic type, this type can be a subtype of other types
- Late Binding (also: Method Polymorphism)
  - Method calls depend on the dynamic type of this
  - In contrast, parameter types are statically determined (early binding)
- Composition & Inheritance
  - Do not solve everything with inheritance
  - Inheritance for is-a, composition for has-a. Is-a-kind-of typically via interfaces



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# Exceptions

- When a program runs into a runtime error, the program terminates abruptly.
- How can you handle the runtime error so that the program can continue to run or terminate gracefully?
- Answer: by using (Java) Exceptions and Exception handling.
- If exceptions are not handled (explicitly), the program will terminate abruptly.

# Exceptions (Examples)

```
Object obj = null; obj.toString();
```

```
Exception ... java.lang.NullPointerException
```

```
int i = 4711/0;
```

```
Exception ... java.lang.ArithmeticException: / by zero
```

```
int[] a = { 1, 2, 3 };  
System.out.println( a[3] );
```

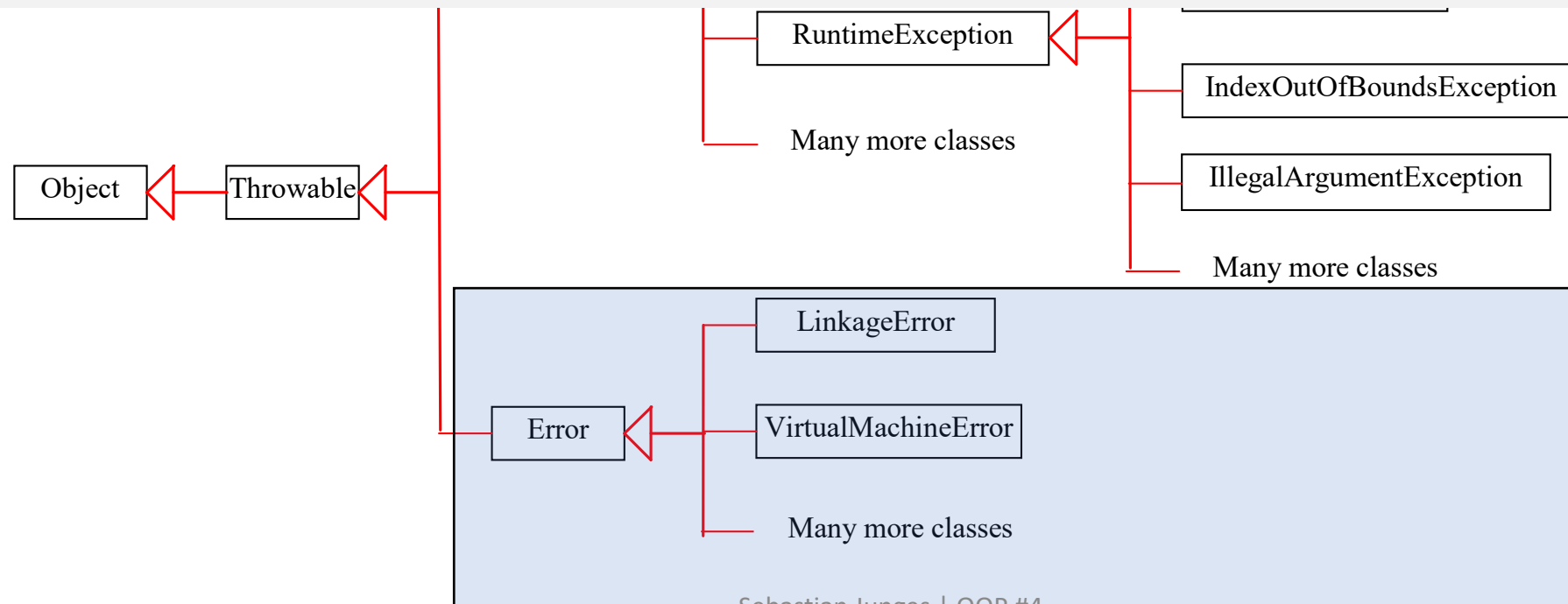
```
Exception ... java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException:  
Index 3 out of bounds for length 3
```

# What is an exception?

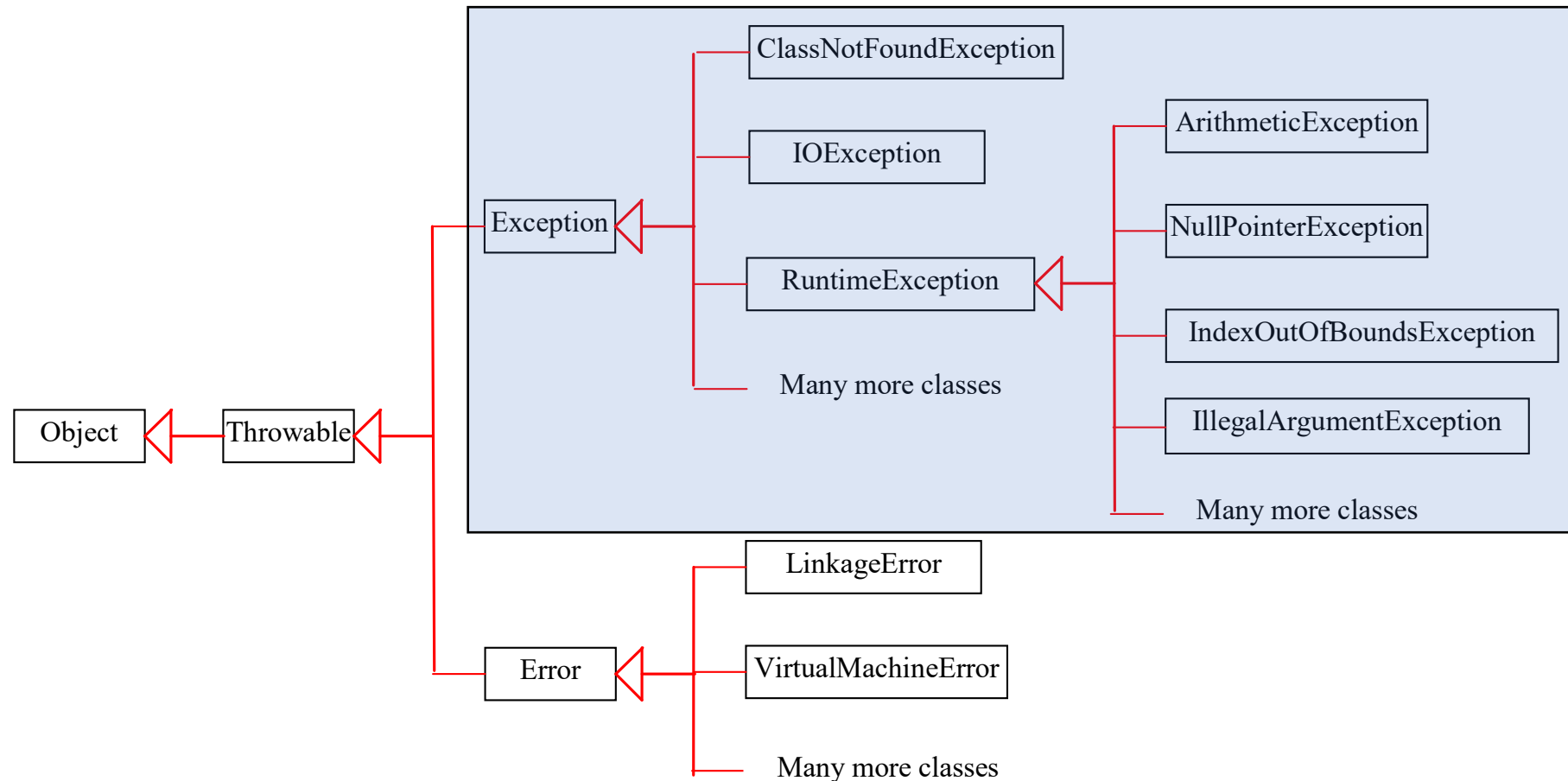
- In Java, runtime errors are **thrown** as exceptions
- An exception is an object that represents the kind of error.
- Java provides standard **exception classes**, such as
  - `Exception`
  - `RuntimeException`
- You can use these to generate exceptions yourself or to introduce new classes for your own error handling

# Errors

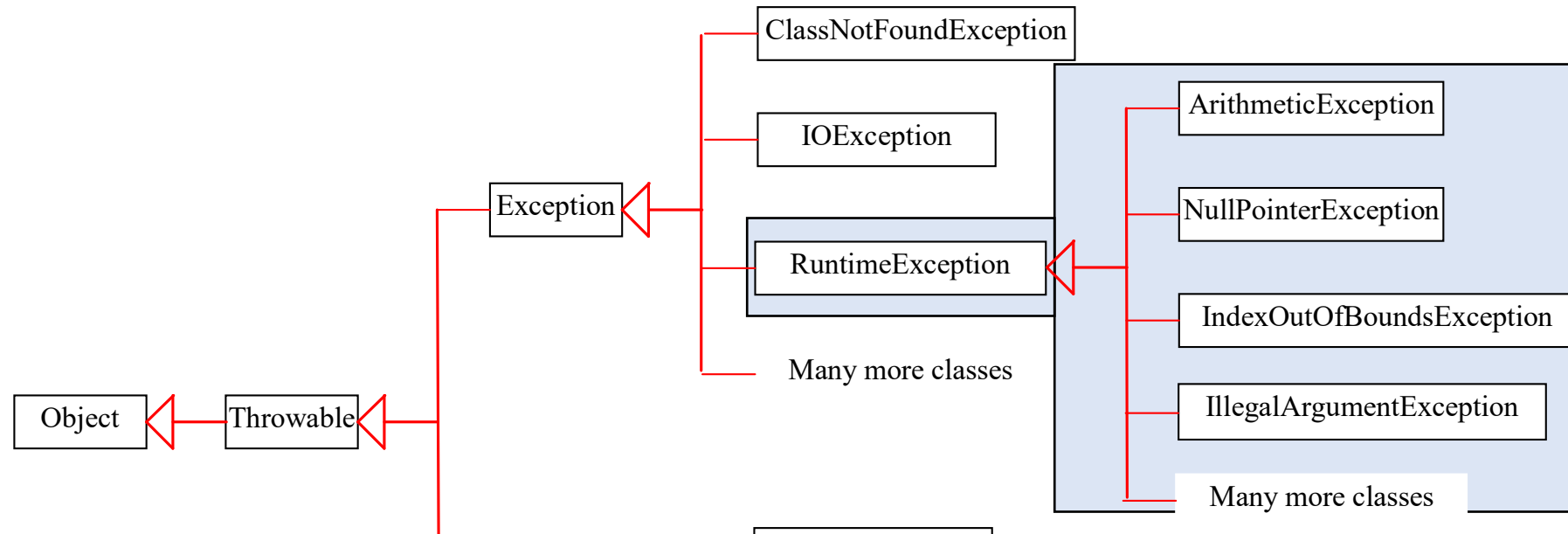
- Errors are due to issues in the JVM including out of memory issues



# Exception Class Hierarchy



# Runtime Exceptions



- `RuntimeException`s are caused by programming errors, such as bad casting, accessing an out-of-bounds array, and numeric errors.

# Throwing Exceptions

- When the program detects an error, the program can create an instance of an appropriate exception type and throw it. This is known as **throwing an exception**.

```
throw new TheException();
```

```
TheException ex = new TheException();  
throw ex;
```



# Declaring Exceptions

Methods must state the types of checked exceptions they may throw. This is known as **declaring exceptions**.

```
public void myMethod() throws IOException { }  
public void myMethod() throws IOException, OtherException { }
```

# Throwing Exceptions Example

```
public void setRadius( double newRadius ) throws IllegalArgumentException {  
    if (newRadius >= 0) {  
        radius = newRadius;  
    } else {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException( "Radius cannot be negative" );  
    }  
}
```

# Catching Exceptions

```
try {  
    statements; // Statements that may throw exceptions  
} catch ( Exception1 exVar1 ) {  
    handler for exception1;  
} catch ( Exception2 exVar2 ) {  
    handler for exception2;  
}  
...  
} catch ( ExceptionN exVar3 ) {  
    handler for exceptionN;  
}
```

# Checked and Unchecked Exceptions

`RuntimeException` and its subclasses are **unchecked exceptions**.

- for programming errors

All other exceptions are **checked exceptions**.

- for user or environment errors

The compiler enforces that one *deals* with checked exceptions (see next)

(Java) **Errors** are unchecked

# Dealing with exceptions

If a method (see **p2**) declares a checked exception, you must invoke it in

- a try-catch block (see a), or
- declare to throw the exception in the calling method (see b).

```
void p2() throws IOException {  
    if ( a file does not exist ) {  
        throw new IOException( "File not found" );  
    }  
}
```

(a)

```
void p1() { try {  
    p2();  
} catch ( IOException ex ) {  
    process exception  
}  
}
```

(b)

```
void p1() throws IOException {  
    p2();  
}
```

# Exceptions: Design considerations

- Write understandable error messages
- Define errors on the correct abstraction level
  - E.g, internally an error may be out of bounds, but to the external user it should be an invalid input
  - Catch and rethrow
- Reuse standard exceptions like `IllegalArgumentException`, `IllegalStateException`, `NullPointerException`,...
- Use exceptions for exceptions only
- Do handle exceptions (no empty catch blocks)

# OOP continues next week

Thanks!

I will see you next quarter for Lectures 12-14: Concurrency and OOP