

IT 179

Inheritance & Polymorphism

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Inheritance: Write Code ONCE (where possible)

A Basic Principle of Good Program Design

Consider



- A university directory with Faculty, Student, and Staff classes
- A payroll system for a company with both salaried and hourly employees.
- An investment system managing stocks, bonds, and savings accounts
- A drawing program with different shapes

Inheritance

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- A subclass inherits **public** instance **variables** (ivars) and **methods** from its super class
- To declare a class a subclass of another class use the **extends** keyword

```
class A {  
  
}  
  
class B extends A {  
  
}
```

Inheritance

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- Create **parent** class
- **Child** class (sub class) “**inherits**” attributes and behaviors from parent (super class)
- There is an **is-a** relationship between subclasses and their super class.
- **Examples**
 - ▣ A Dog **is-a** Mammal
 - ▣ A Rectangle **is-a** Shape
 - ▣ A Circle **is-a** Shape

Inheritance - Example

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```
class Bike {  
    float tireSize;  
    void setBrakeType();  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
    //inherits tireSize  
    //inherits setBrakeType();  
    private int gears;  
    public void setGear();  
}
```

Is this valid?

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```
class A {  
  
}  
  
class B extends A {  
  
}  
  
class C extends B {  
  
}
```

Is this valid?

```
class A {  
}  
  
class B extends A {  
  
}  
  
class C extends B {  
  
}
```

Yes

No

What
will this
print out?

```
class A
{
    public void printSomething()
    {
        System.out.println("Hi");
    }
}

class B extends A
{
    public void printSomething()
    {
        System.out.println("Bye");
    }
}

class C extends B
{
}

public class Test2
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        C obj1 = new C();
        obj1.printSomething();
    }
}
```

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what will this print out?

```
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        System.out.println("Bye");
    }
}

class C extends B
{
}

public class Test2
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        C obj1 = new C();
        obj1.printSomething();
    }
}
```

Hi

Bye

Nothing

A runtime error will occur. No
method printSomething() in the
class C.

What
will this
print out?

```
class A
{
    public void printSomething()
    {
        System.out.println("Hi");
    }
}

class B extends A
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public class Test2
{
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    {
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    }
}
```

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What will this print out?

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}

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    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        A obj1 = new C();
        obj1.printSomething();
    }
}
```

Hi

Bye

The code has a
compilation error.

There will be a
run-time error.

Is this good programming?

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```
class Bike {  
    public float tireSize;  
    void setBrakeType();  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
    //inherits tireSize  
    //inherits setBrakeType();  
    private int gears;  
    public void setGear();  
}
```

Declaring ivars as public breaks encapsulation.

Which problem do we now have?

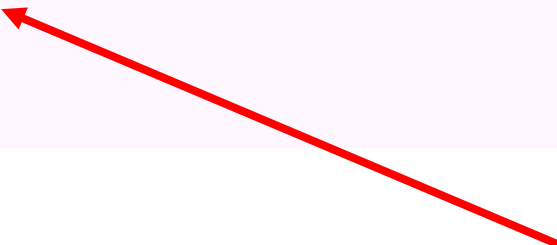
18

```
class Bike {  
    private float tireSize;  
    void setBrakeType();  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
    //inherits tireSize  
    //inherits setBrakeType();  
    private int gears;  
    public void setGear();  
}
```

What will happen?

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```
class Bike {  
    private float tireSize;  
  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
  
    void m() {  
        tireSize = 50;  
    }  
}
```



Field tireSize not
visible

Public ivars or instance fields

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- While you inherit ivars, in practice they are declared **private** and are not directly accessible in subclasses
- Use the parent classes getter/setter methods to access ivars.

Public ivars or instance fields

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```
class Bike {  
    private float tireSize;  
  
    void setTireSize(float ts) {  
        tireSize = ts;  
    }  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
    void m() {  
        setTireSize(50);  
    }  
}
```

Overloading methods

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- Overloading =
create methods with
the same name but
different number or
type of arguments
- **Signature** of method
= name and
parameter types

```
class A
{
    public int m(int j)
    {
        return 1;
    }

    public int m(float j)
    {
        return 1;
    }
}
```

Is this valid?

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- ❑ Overloading =
create methods with
the same name but
different number or
type of arguments
- ❑ **Signature** of method
= name and
parameter types

```
class A
{
    public int m(int j)
    {
        return 1;
    }

    public float m(int j)
    {
        return 1.5;
    }
}
```

Overloading methods

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- ❑ Overloading = create methods with the same name but different number or type of arguments
- ❑ **Signature** of method = name and parameter types
- ❑ The return type **is not part** of the signature.

Overloading methods

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- Subclasses can overload inherited methods

```
class A
{
    int m(int j)
    {
        return 1;
    }
}

class B extends A
{
    int m(double d) {
        return 3;
    }
}
```


Overloading methods

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- ❑ Constructors are commonly overloaded
- ❑ Overloading occurs at compile time

```
Circle c1 = new Circle(); //create a unit circle, centered at (0,0)
Circle c2 = new Circle(3); //create a circle with a radius of 3
                        //and centered at (0,0)
```

```
Circle c3 = new Circle(5, 5, 5); //create a circle with radius 5 and
```

Overriding methods

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- Subclasses can define methods that have the exact same signature as a method in a superclass
- The subclass method is said to **override the method of the superclass**
- Overriding replaces the implementation of the method
This is called **subtype polymorphism**

Overriding methods

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- Can use `@Override` marker to tell the compiler you are overriding a method.
- Compiler will give a warning if the methods don't match.
- Good practice to use `@Override`

Overriding - Example

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```
class Parent {
    void show()
    {
        System.out.println("Parent's show()");
    }
}

class Child extends Parent {
    // This method overrides show() of Parent
    @Override
    void show()
    {
        System.out.println("Child's show()");
    }
}
```

```
class Main {
    public static void main(String[]
args) {
        Parent obj1 = new Parent();
        obj1.show();

        //This is run time polymorphism
        Parent obj2 = new Child();
        obj2.show();
    }
}
```

Back to the Bike Example

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```
class Bike {  
    public float tireSize;  
    public void setBrakeType();  
}  
  
class RoadBike extends Bike {  
    //inherits tireSize  
    //inherits setBrakeType();  
    private int gears;  
    public void setGear();  
}
```

References

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- What is the effect of:

```
RoadBike rb = new RoadBike();
```

- 1) creates an **object** new RoadBike()
- 2) creates a **reference** named **rb** of type RoadBike
- 3) makes the **reference point to the object.**
- reference type AND object type are the same

References and Super Types

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- What is the effect of this:

```
Bike bike = new RoadBike();
```

- reference type and the object type are NOT the same.
- The reference is the super class (Bike); the object created is of type RoadBike

This is polymorphism

References and Super Types

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- Anything that extends the reference type can be assigned to the reference variable.
- There is an **IS-A** relationship between the object and the reference.
- Polymorphism allows the reference type and object type to be different.

Example 1 – Animal Farm

Example 2 – Shapes

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- Class Shape
 - `float area() {}`
- Triangle as a subclass of Shape
- Circle as a subclass of Shape
- Rectangle as a subclass of Shape
- Square as a subclass of Rectangle