



Lecture 9 (Inheritance 2)

Subtype Polymorphism, Comparators, Comparable

CS61B, Fall 2024 @ UC Berkeley

Slides credit: Josh Hug

Bonus Content: DMS and Type Checking Puzzle

Online Video Only

Lecture 9, CS61B, Fall 2024

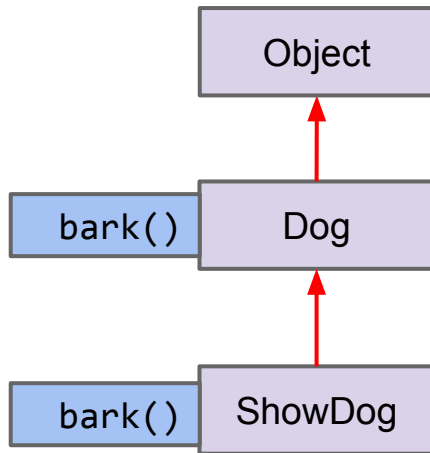
A Typing Puzzle

Suppose we have two classes:

- Dog: Implements bark() method.
- ShowDog: Extends Dog, overrides bark method.

Summarizing is-a relationships, we have:

- Every ShowDog is-a Dog
- Every Dog is-an Object.
 - All types in Java are a subtype of Object.



A Typing Puzzle

For each assignment, decide if it causes a compile error.

For each call to bark, decide whether: 1. Dog.bark() is called, 2. ShowDog.bark() is called, or 3. A syntax error results.

```
Object o2 = new ShowDog("Mortimer", "Corgi", 25, 512.2);
```

```
ShowDog sdx = ((ShowDog) o2);  
sdx.bark();
```

```
Dog dx = ((Dog) o2);  
dx.bark();
```

```
((Dog) o2).bark();
```

```
Object o3 = (Dog) o2;  
o3.bark();
```

The rules:

- Compiler allows memory box to hold any subtype.
- Compiler allows calls based on static type.
- **Overridden non-static methods are selected at run time based on dynamic type.**
 - **Everything else is based on static type**, including [overloaded methods](#). Note: No overloaded methods for problem at left.

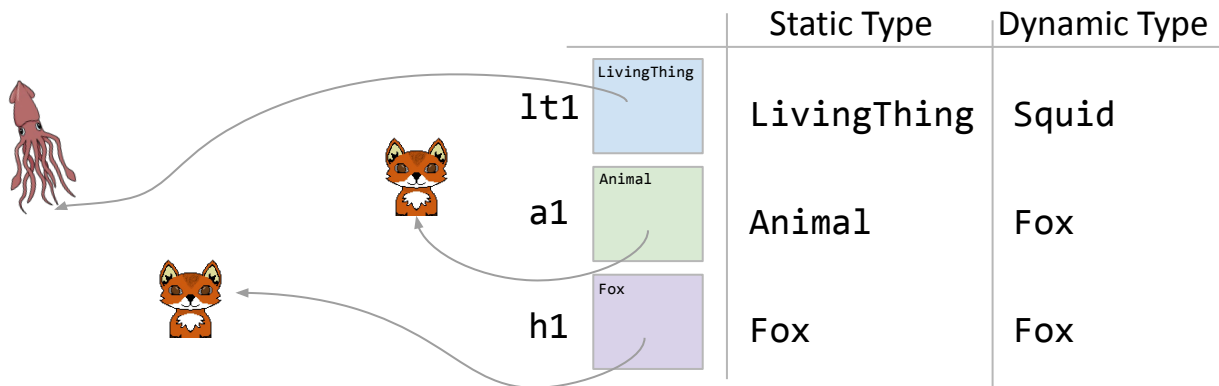
Static Type vs. Dynamic Type

Every variable in Java has a “compile-time type”, a.k.a. “static type”.

- This is the type specified at **declaration**. Never changes!

Variables also have a “run-time type”, a.k.a. “dynamic type”.

- This is the type specified at **instantiation** (e.g. when using new).
- Equal to the type of the object being pointed at.



You may find questions on old 61B exams, worksheets, etc. that consider:

- What if a subclass has variables with the same name as a superclass?
- What if subclass has a static method with the same signature as a superclass method?
 - For static methods, we do not use the term overriding for this.
- What if a subclass has methods that overload superclass methods?

These practices are generally not a good idea.

- It is bad style.
- There is almost no good reason to ever do this.
- The rules for resolving the conflict are a bit confusing to learn.
- I've pushed 61B away from learning these rules.
- But if you want to learn them, see

<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/landl/override.html>

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

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Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

Building a General Max Function

- The Naive Approach
- Comparable
- Compilation Error Puzzle
- Comparable

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax


Subtype Polymorphism

The biggest idea of the last couple of lectures: **Subtype Polymorphism**

- Polymorphism: “providing a single interface to entities of different types”

a.k.a. compile-time type

Consider a variable deque of static type Deque:

- When you call `deque.addFirst()`, the actual behavior is based on the dynamic type.  a.k.a. run-time type
- Java automatically selects the right behavior using what is sometimes called “dynamic method selection”.

Curious about alternatives to subtype polymorphism? See [wiki](http://www.stroustrup.com/glossary.html#Gpolymorphism) or CS164.

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

Suppose we want to write a program that prints a string representation of the larger of two objects.

Explicit
HoF
Approach

```
def print_larger(x, y, compare, stringify):  
    if compare(x, y):  
        return stringify(x)  
    return stringify(y)
```

Sometimes called a “callback”.

Subtype
Polymorphism
Approach

```
def print_larger(x, y):  
    if x.largerThan(y):  
        return x.str()  
    return y.str()
```

Not to be confused
with the fascinating
[Dr. Ernest
Kaulbach](#), who
taught my Old
English class.

The Naive Approach

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Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit
Higher Order Functions

Building a General Max Function

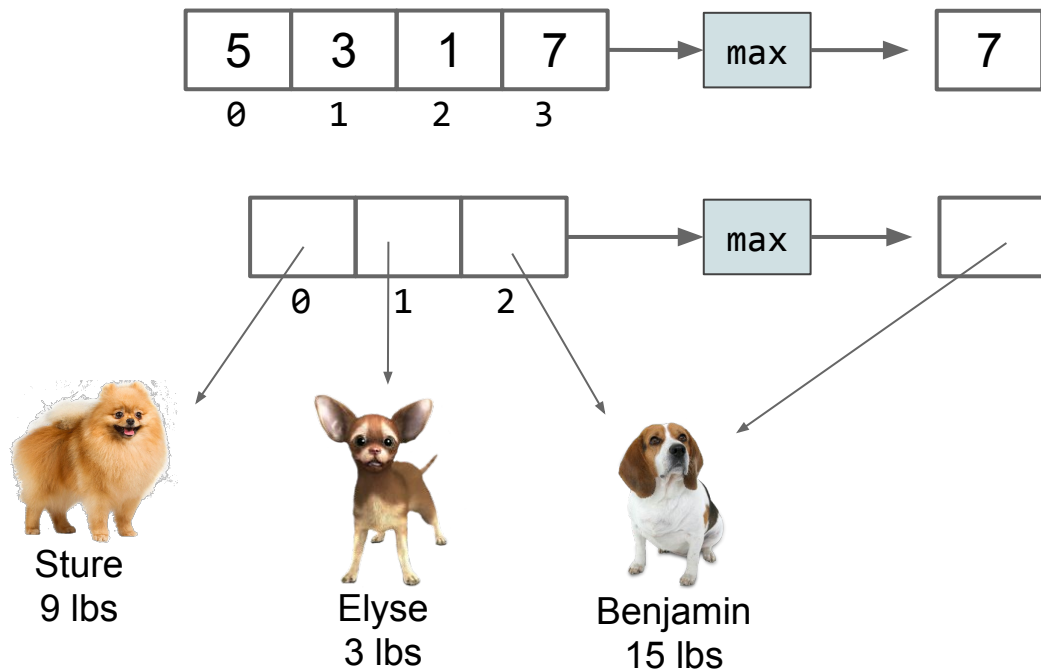
- **The Naive Approach**
- Comparable
- Compilation Error Puzzle
- Comparable

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

Goal: The One True Max Function

Suppose we want to write a function `max()` that returns the max of any array, regardless of type.



Compilation Error Challenge

Suppose we want to write a function `max()` that returns the max of any array, regardless of type. How many compilation errors are there in the code shown?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

Maximizer.java

```
public static Object max(Object[] items) {  
    int maxDex = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
        if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {  
            maxDex = i;  
        }  
    }  
    return items[maxDex];  
}
```

DogLauncher.java

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),  
                  new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};  
    Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);  
    maxDog.bark();  
}
```

Writing a General Max Function

Objects cannot be compared to other objects with >

- One (bad) way to fix this: Write a max method in the Dog class.

Maximizer.java

```
public static Object max(Object[] items) {  
    int maxDex = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
        if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {  
            maxDex = i;  
        }  
    }  
    return items[maxDex];  
}
```

DogLauncher.java

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),  
                  new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};  
    Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);  
    maxDog.bark();  
}
```

One approach to maximizing a Dog array: Leave it to the Dog class.

- What is the disadvantage of this?

```
/** Returns maximum of dogs. */
public static Dog maxDog(Dog[] dogs) {
    if (dogs == null || dogs.length == 0) {
        return null;
    }
    Dog maxDog = dogs[0];
    for (Dog d : dogs) {
        if (d.size > maxDog.size) {
            maxDog = d;
        }
    }
    return maxDog;
}
```

```
Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};
Dog largest = Dog.maxDog(dogs);
```

The Fundamental Problem

Objects cannot be compared to other objects with >

- How could we fix our Maximizer class using inheritance / HoFs?

Maximizer.java

```
public static Object max(Object[] items) {  
    int maxDex = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
        if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {  
            maxDex = i;  
        }  
    }  
    return items[maxDex];  
}
```

DogLauncher.java

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),  
                  new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};  
    Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);  
    maxDog.bark();  
}
```

OurComparable

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Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit
Higher Order Functions

Building a General Max Function

- The Naive Approach
- **OurComparable**
- Compilation Error Puzzle
- Comparable

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

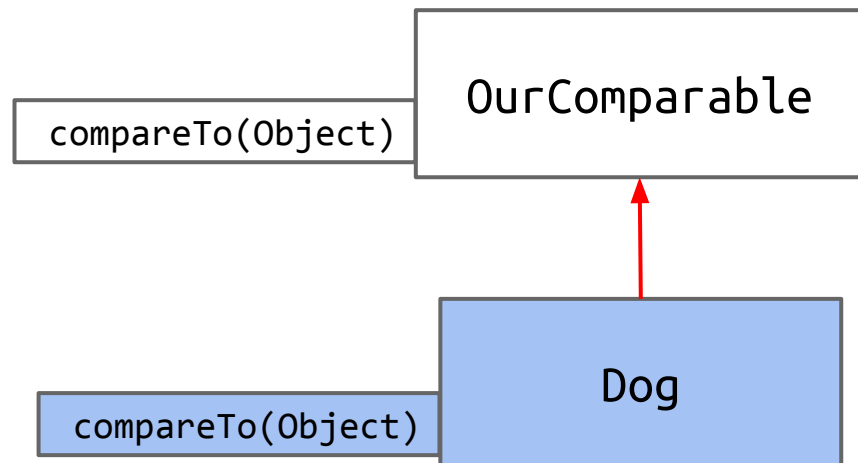
Solution

Create an interface that guarantees a comparison method.

- Have Dog implement this interface.
- Write Maximizer class in terms of this interface.

Interface inheritance says **what** a class can do, in this case compare.

```
public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] items) { ...
```



Coding Demo: Our Comparable

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {
    public static Object max(Object[] items) {
        int maxDex = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {
            if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {
                maxDex = i;
            }
        }
        return items[maxDex];
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),
                       new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};
        Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
        maxDog.bark();
    }
}
```

This doesn't compile because you can't compare objects with the > operator.

Coding Demo: OurComparable

OurComparable.java

```
public interface Comparable {
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

OurComparable.java

```
public interface OurComparable {  
  
    public int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

OurComparable.java

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    /** Return -1 if this < o.  
     * Return 0 if this equals o.  
     * Return 1 if this > o.  
     */  
    public int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;
```

```
}
```

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements Comparable {
    private String name;
    private int size;

    public int compareTo(Object o) {

    }
}
```


Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements Comparable {
    private String name;
    private int size;

    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */
    public int compareTo(Object o) {

    }
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
  
        if (this.size < o.size) {  
            return -1;  
        }  
  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
  
        if (this.size < o.size) {  
            return -1;  
        } else if (this.size == o.size) {  
            return 0;  
        }  
  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
  
        if (this.size < o.size) {  
            return -1;  
        } else if (this.size == o.size) {  
            return 0;  
        }  
        return 1;  
  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {
    private String name;
    private int size;

    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */
    public int compareTo(Object o) {
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;

        if (this.size < uddaDog.size) {
            return -1;
        } else if (this.size == uddaDog.size) {
            return 0;
        }
        return 1;
    }
}
```

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static Object max(Object[] items) {  
        int maxDex = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
  
            if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {  
                maxDex = i;  
            }  
        }  
        return items[maxDex];  
    }  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),  
                       new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};  
        Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);  
        maxDog.bark();  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {
    public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] items) {
        int maxDex = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {

            if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {
                maxDex = i;
            }
        }
        return items[maxDex];
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),
                       new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};
        Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
        maxDog.bark();
    }
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {
    public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] items) {
        int maxDex = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {
            int cmp = items[i].compareTo(items[maxDex]);
            if (items[i] > items[maxDex]) {
                maxDex = i;
            }
        }
        return items[maxDex];
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),
                      new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};
        Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
        maxDog.bark();
    }
}
```


Coding Demo: OurComparable

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {
    public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] items) {
        int maxDex = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {
            int cmp = items[i].compareTo(items[maxDex]);
            if (cmp > 0) {
                maxDex = i;
            }
        }
        return items[maxDex];
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Dog[] dogs = {new Dog("Elyse", 3), new Dog("Sture", 9),
                      new Dog("Benjamin", 15)};
        Dog maxDog = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
        maxDog.bark();
    }
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {
    private String name;
    private int size;

    /** Returns -1 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */
    public int compareTo(Object o) {
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;

        if (this.size < uddaDog.size) {
            return -1;
        } else if (this.size == uddaDog.size) {
            return 0;
        }
        return 1;
    }
}
```

This code is kind of long. We can simplify it with the following trick.

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns <0 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;  
  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
  
    }  
}
```

This code is kind of long. We can simplify it with the following trick.

Coding Demo: OurComparable

OurComparable.java

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    /** Return -1 if this < o.  
     * Return 0 if this equals o.  
     * Return 1 if this > o.  
     */  
    public int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

We need to modify our interface
specification accordingly.

Coding Demo: OurComparable

OurComparable.java

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    /** Return negative number if this < o.  
     * Return 0 if this equals o.  
     * Return positive number if this > o.  
     */  
    public int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

We need to modify our interface
specification accordingly.

The OurComparable Interface

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

Specification, returns:

- Negative number if **this** is less than obj.
- 0 if **this** is equal to object.
- Positive number if **this** is greater than obj.

Could have also been
OurComparable. No
meaningful difference.

General Maximization Function Through Inheritance

[the origin of uddaDog](#)

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    int compareTo(Object o);  
}
```

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    public int compareTo(Object obj) {  
        /** Warning, cast can cause runtime error! */  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) obj;  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    } ...  
}
```

```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] a) {  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

```
Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
Dog largest = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
```

General Maximization Function Through Inheritance

Benefits of this approach:

- No need for array maximization code in every custom type (i.e. no `Dog.maxDog(Dog[])` function required).
- Code that operates on multiple types (mostly) gracefully, e.g.

```
OurComparable[] objs =.getItems("somefile.txt");  
return Maximizer.max(objs);
```


Compilation Error Puzzle

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Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit
Higher Order Functions

Building a General Max Function

- The Naive Approach
- OurComparable
- **Compilation Error Puzzle**
- Comparable

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

Interfaces Quiz #1

```
public class DogLauncher {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        ...  
        Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
        System.out.println(Maximizer.max(dogs));  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Dog  
implements OurComparable {  
    ...  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;  
        return this.size  
            - uddaDog.size;  
    } ...
```

Q: If we omit compareTo(), which file will fail to **compile**?

- A. DogLauncher.java
- B. Dog.java
- C. Maximizer.java
- D. OurComparable.java

```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static OurComparable max(  
        OurComparable[] items) {  
        ...  
        int cmp = items[i].  
            compareTo(items[maxDex]);  
        ...  
    } ...
```

```
public class DogLauncher {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        ...  
        Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
        System.out.println(Maximizer.max(dogs));  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Dog  
implements Comparable {  
    ...  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;  
        return this.size  
            - uddaDog.size;  
    } ...
```

Q: If we omit `implements Comparable`, which file will fail to **compile**?

- A. DogLauncher.java
- B. Dog.java
- C. Maximizer.java
- D. Comparable.java

```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static Comparable max(  
        Comparable[] items) {  
        ...  
        int cmp = items[i].  
            compareTo(items[maxDex]);  
        ...  
    } ...
```

Problem 1: Dog will fail to compile because it does not implement all abstract methods required by OurComparable interface. (And I suppose DogLauncher will fail as well since Dog.class doesn't exist)

Problem 2: DogLauncher will fail, because it tries to pass things that are not OurComparables, and Maximizer expects OurComparables.

Comparable

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Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit
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Building a General Max Function

- The Naive Approach
- OurComparable
- Compilation Error Puzzle
- **Comparable**

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

The Issues With Our Comparable

Two issues:

- Awkward casting to/from Objects.
- We made it up.
 - No existing classes implement Comparable (e.g. String, etc).
 - No existing classes use Comparable (e.g. no built-in max function that uses Comparable)

```
public class Dog implements Comparable {  
    public int compareTo(Object obj) {  
        /** Warning, cast can cause runtime error! */  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) obj;  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    } ...  
}
```

```
Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
Dog largest = (Dog) Maximizer.max(dogs);
```

The Issues With OurComparable

Two issues:

- Awkward casting to/from Objects.
- We made it up.
 - No existing classes implement OurComparable (e.g. String, etc).
 - No existing classes use OurComparable (e.g. no built-in max function that uses OurComparable)

The industrial strength approach: Use the built-in Comparable interface.

- Already defined and used by tons of libraries. Uses generics.

```
public interface Comparable<T> {  
    public int compareTo(T obj);  
}
```

```
public interface OurComparable {  
    public int compareTo(Object obj);  
}
```

Coding Demo: Comparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns <0 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;  
  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    }  
}
```

```
public interface Comparable<T> {  
    public int compareTo(T obj);  
}
```

Replacing OurComparable with the
built-in Comparable interface.

Coding Demo: Comparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements Comparable<Dog> {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns <0 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Object o) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) o;  
  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    }  
}
```

```
public interface Comparable<T> {  
    public int compareTo(T obj);  
}
```

Replacing OurComparable with the built-in Comparable interface.

Coding Demo: Comparable

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements Comparable<Dog> {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns <0 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Dog uddaDog) {  
  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    }  
}
```

```
public interface Comparable<T> {  
    public int compareTo(T obj);  
}
```

Replacing OurComparable with the
built-in Comparable interface.

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Maximizer.java

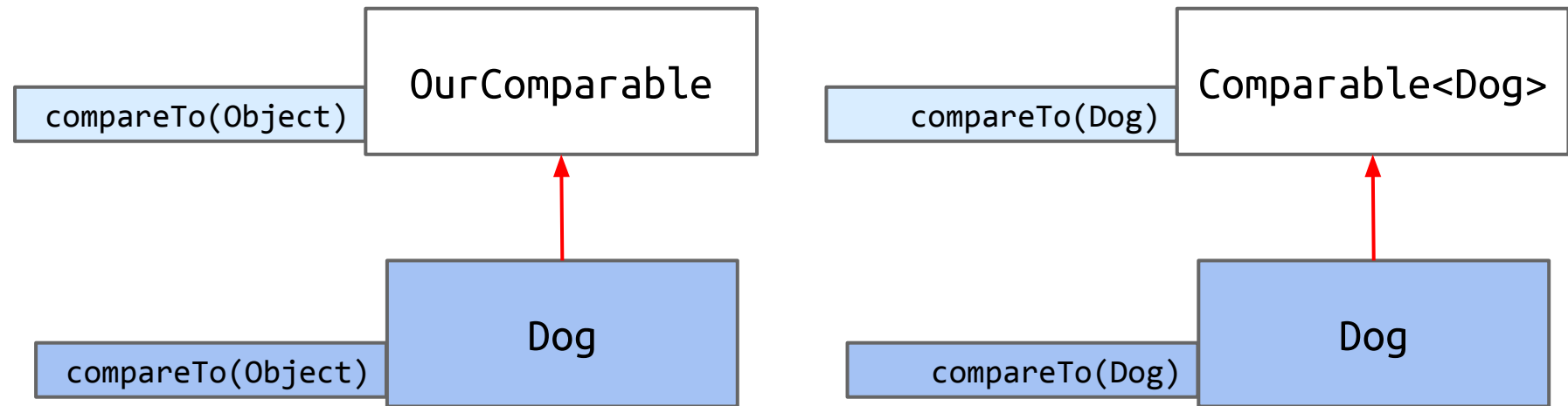
```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static OurComparable max(OurComparable[] items) {  
        int maxDex = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
            int cmp = items[i].compareTo(items[maxDex]);  
            if (cmp > 0) {  
                maxDex = i;  
            }  
        }  
        return items[maxDex];  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: OurComparable

Maximizer.java

```
public class Maximizer {  
    public static Comparable max(Comparable[] items) {  
        int maxDex = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < items.length; i += 1) {  
            int cmp = items[i].compareTo(items[maxDex]);  
            if (cmp > 0) {  
                maxDex = i;  
            }  
        }  
        return items[maxDex];  
    }  
}
```

Comparable vs. OurComparable



Comparable Advantages

- Lots of built in classes implement Comparable (e.g. String).
- Lots of libraries use the Comparable interface (e.g. Arrays.sort)
- Avoids need for casts.

```
public class Dog implements Comparable<Dog> {  
    public int compareTo(Dog uddaDog) {  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    }  
}
```

← Much better!

```
public class Dog implements OurComparable {  
    public int compareTo(Object obj) {  
        Dog uddaDog = (Dog) obj;  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    } ...  
}
```

Implementing Comparable allows library functions to compare custom types (e.g. finding max).

```
Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
Dog largest = Collections.max(Arrays.asList(dogs));
```

Comparators

Lecture 9, CS61B, Fall 2024

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit
Higher Order Functions

Building a General Max Function

- The Naive Approach
- OurComparable
- Compilation Error Puzzle
- Comparable

Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

Natural Order

The term “Natural Order” is sometimes used to refer to the ordering implied by a Comparable’s compareTo method.

- Example: Dog objects (as we’ve defined them) have a natural order given by their size.



“Doge”, size: 5



“Grigometh”, size: 200



“Clifford”, size: 9000

May wish to order objects in a different way.

- Example: By Name.



“Clifford”, size: 9000



“Doge”, size: 5



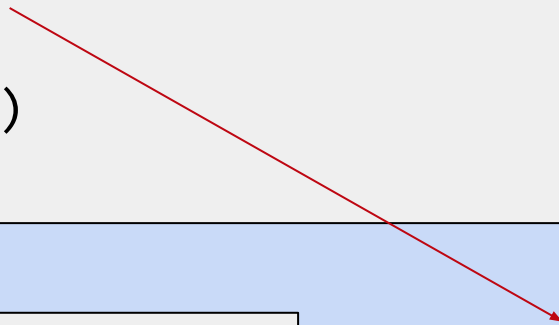
“Grigometh”, size: 200

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

Suppose we want to write a program that prints a string representation of the larger of two objects according to some specific comparison function.

Explicit
HoF
Approach

```
def print_larger(x, y, compare, stringify):  
    if compare(x, y):  
        return stringify(x)  
    return stringify(y)
```



Subtype
Polymorphism
Approach??

```
def print_larger(T x, T y):  
    if x.largerThan(y):  
        return x.str()  
    return y.str()
```

Can simply pass a
different compare
function.

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

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```
def print_larger(x, y, compare, stringify):  
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Can simply pass a
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Some possible designs (not the best):

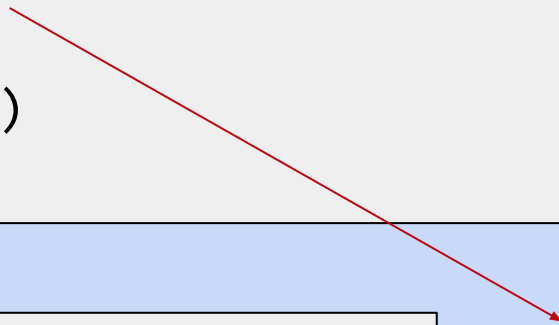
- Add more functions compareTo2, compareTo3, compareTo4, etc.
- Add an extra argument to specify which comparison you want:
`public int compareTo(Dog uddaDog, String whichCompare)`

Subtype Polymorphism vs. Explicit Higher Order Functions

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```
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    if compare(x, y):  
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    return stringify(y)
```



Subtype
Polymorphism
Approach

```
def print_larger(T x, T y, comparator<T> c):  
    if c.compare(x, y):  
        return x.str()  
    return y.str()
```

Can simply pass a
different compare
function.

Coding Demo: Comparator

Dog.java

```
public class Dog implements Comparable<Dog> {  
    private String name;  
    private int size;  
  
    /** Returns <0 if this dog is less than the dog pointed at by o, and so forth. */  
    public int compareTo(Dog uddaDog) {  
        return this.size - uddaDog.size;  
    }  
  
}
```

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    public class NameComparator implements Comparator<Dog> {

    }
}
```

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import java.util.Comparator;

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Coding Demo: Comparator

DogLauncher.java

```
public class DogLauncher {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Dog d1 = new Dog("Elyse", 3);  
        Dog d2 = new Dog("Sture", 9);  
        Dog d3 = new Dog("Benjamin", 15);  
        Dog[] dogs = new Dog[]{d1, d2, d3};  
  
    }  
}
```

Coding Demo: Comparator

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        if (nc.compare(d1, d3) > 0) { // if d1 comes later than d3 in the alphabet  
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        if (nc.compare(d1, d3) > 0) { // if d1 comes later than d3 in the alphabet  
            d1.bark();  
        }  
    }  
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```

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Dog.java

Slight change to reflect Java convention.

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import java.util.Comparator;
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            return a.name.compareTo(b.name);
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    public static Comparator<Dog> getNameComparator() {
    }
}
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        public int compare(Dog a, Dog b) {
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    }

    public static Comparator<Dog> getNameComparator() {
        return new NameComparator();
    }
}
```

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public class DogLauncher {  
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        if (nc.compare(d1, d3) > 0) { // if d1 comes later than d3 in the alphabet
            d1.bark();
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        }
    }
}
```

In some languages, we'd write two comparison functions and simply pass the one we want :

- `sizeCompare()`
- `nameCompare()`

The standard Java approach: Create `SizeComparator` and `NameComparator` classes that implement the `Comparator` interface.

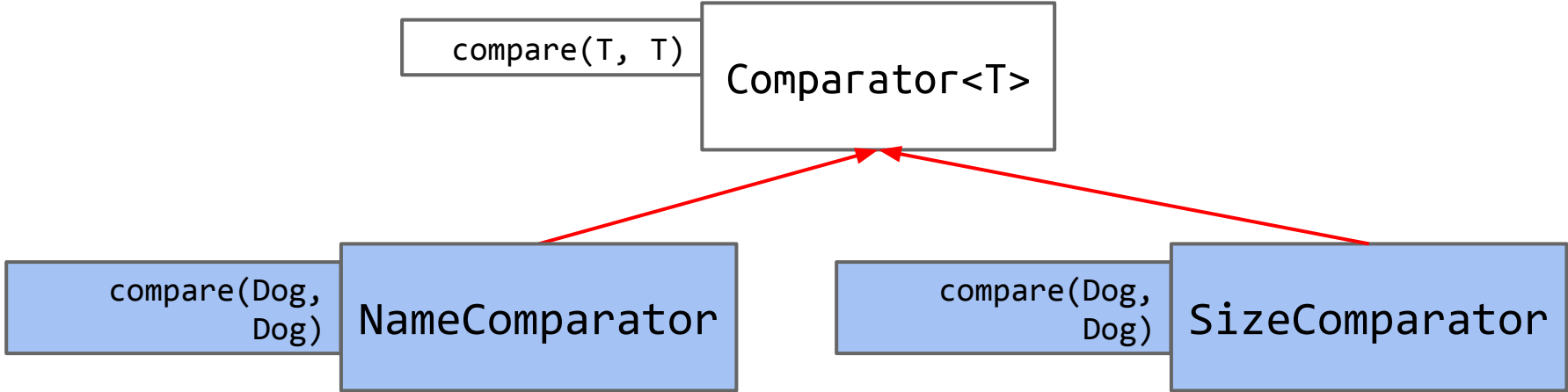
- Requires methods that also take `Comparator` arguments (see project 1C).

```
public interface Comparator<T> {  
    int compare(T o1, T o2);  
}
```



```
public interface Comparator<T> {  
    int compare(T o1, T o2);  
}
```

Dog not related by inheritance to any of the classes below.



Example: NameComparator

```
public class Dog implements Comparable<Dog> {
    private String name;
    private int size;

    public static class NameComparator implements Comparator<Dog> {
        public int compare(Dog d1, Dog d2) {
            return d1.name.compareTo(d2.name);
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

```
Comparator<Dog> cd = new Dog.NameComparator();
if (cd.compare(d1, d3) > 0) {
    d1.bark();
} else {
    d3.bark();
}
```

Result: If d1 has a name that comes later in the alphabet than d3, d1 barks.

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

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Higher Order Functions

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Comparators

Some Miscellaneous Java Syntax

Java philosophy:

- When declaring variables, *minimize* the set of operations permitted on them.
- If you're only planning to use an SLList as a List61B, declare it as a List61B.
- This way, the compiler prevents you from using SLList-specific methods.

Why?

- Greater flexibility when you go back and change code.
 - Can swap SLList with any other List61B class easily.
- Enforces abstraction barriers.
 - Less for you to think about when building on top of that code.
- Communicates to future readers of your code your intended use for that variable.

```
SLList<Integer> L = new SLList<>();
```

 Bad.

```
List61B<Integer> L = new SLList<>();
```

 Good.

If you declare a variable with `final`, you can only assign it a value *once*.

- Reassigning a `final` variable is not allowed.
- If you try, you'll get a compiler error.

```
final int x = 0;  
x = 1;
```



Will not compile!
You can't reassign a final variable.

So far, we've seen:

- **public**: The instance variable is accessible by other classes.
- **private**: The instance variable is only accessible in the current class.
 - Not even accessible by subclasses!

```
public class SLList {  
    private int size;  
    ...  
}
```

```
public class VengefulSLList extends SLList {  
    public int removeLast() {  
        size -= 1;  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Will not compile!
Subclass cannot access
parent's private variables.

So far, we've seen:

- **public**: The instance variable is accessible by other classes.
- **private**: The instance variable is only accessible in the current class.
 - Not even accessible by subclasses!

Another access modifier you can use:

- **protected**: The instance variable is accessible in **the current class, and its subclasses**.

```
public class SLList {  
    protected int size;  
    ...  
}
```

```
public class VengefulSLList extends SLList {  
    public int removeLast() {  
        size -= 1;  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Now, this will compile.
Subclass can access parent's
protected variables.