B.Sc. In Software Development.

Applications Programming.

Inheritance, Polymorphism and Interfaces.

LIMERICK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE,
ENGINEERING & I.T.
Department of Information Technology

Inheritance

- A class c1 derived from another c2 is called a subclass, and c2 is called a superclass.
  - Sometimes a superclass is referred to as a parent class or a base class and a subclass is referred to as a child class, an extended class or a derived class.
- A subclass inherits functionality from its superclass and also creates new data and new methods.
- Subclasses have more functionality than their super classes.

Inheritance Example

```
1   public class Circle {
4
5       private double radius;
6
7       public Circle() {
8           radius = 1.0;
9       }//end default constructor Circle
10
11      public Circle(double r) {
12          radius = r;
13      }//end constructor Circle (double)
14
15      public double getRadius() { return this.radius; }
16
17      public void setRadius(double radius) { this.radius = radius; }
18
19      public double findArea() {
20          return radius * radius * 3.14159;
21      }
22
23  }//end class Circle
```

Inheritance Example

```
3   public class Cylinder extends Circle {
4
5       private double length;
6
7           public Cylinder() {
8                   super();
9                   length = 1.0;
10          }
11          public Cylinder(double radius, double length) {
12                  super(radius);
13                  this.length = length;
14          }
15
16          public double getLength() {
17                  return length;
18          }
19
20          public double findVolume() {
21                  return findArea()*length;
22          }
23
24  }//end class Cylinder
```

Inheritance Example

```
3   public class TestCylinder {
4
5       public static void main(String[] args) {
6           // Create a Cylinder object and display its properties
7           Cylinder myCylinder = new Cylinder(5.0, 2.0);
8           System.out.println("The length is " + myCylinder.getLength());
9           System.out.println("The radius is " + myCylinder.getRadius());
10          System.out.println("The volume of the cylinder is " + myCylinder.findVolume());
11          System.out.println("The area of the circle is " + myCylinder.findArea());
12      }//end main
13
14  }//end TestCylinder
```

Output - OOSource (run)

```
run:
The length is 2.0
The radius is 5.0
The volume of the cylinder is 157.0795
The area of the circle is 78.53975
```

The Super Keyword

- Refers to the superclass & used in two ways.
  1. To call a superclass constructor.
  2. To call a superclass method.

- You could rewrite the findVolume() method in the Cylinder class with the following:

```
double findVolume() {
  return super.findArea()*length;
 }
```

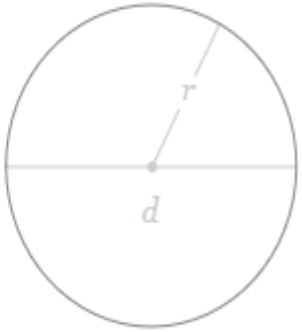
Overriding Methods Example

- A subclass inherits methods from a superclass.
- Sometimes it is necessary for the subclass to modify the methods defined in the superclass.
- This is referred to as method overriding.

Overriding Methods Example

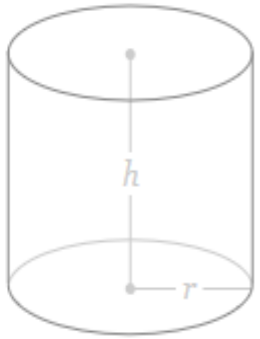
Area of a Circle

$$A = \pi r^2$$



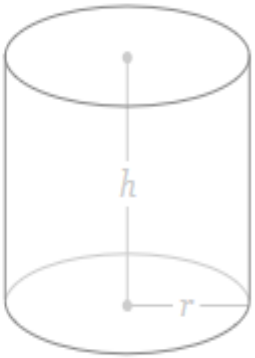
(Surface) Area of a Cylinder

$$A = 2\pi r h + 2\pi r^2$$



Volume of a Cylinder

$$V = \pi r^2 h$$



Overriding Methods Example

```
3   public class Cylinder extends Circle {
4
5       private double length;
6
7       public Cylinder() {
8           super();
9           length = 1.0;
10      }
11
12      public Cylinder(double radius, double length) {
13          super(radius);
14          this.length = length;
15      }
16
17      public double getLength() {
18          return length;
19      }
20
21      public double findVolume() {
22          return super.findArea() * length;
23      }
24
25      public double findArea() {
26          return 2 * super.findArea() + (2 * getRadius() * Math.PI) * length;
27      }
28
29  }//end class Cylinder
```

Overriding Methods Example

```
3   public class TestOverrideMethods {
4
5       public static void main(String[] args) {
6           Cylinder myCylinder = new Cylinder(5.0, 2.0);
7           System.out.println("The length is " + myCylinder.getLength());
8           System.out.println("The radius is " + myCylinder.getRadius());
9           System.out.println("The surface area of the cylinder is " + myCylinder.findArea());
10          System.out.println("The volume of the cylinder is " + myCylinder.findVolume());
11      }//end main
12
13  }//end class TestOverrideMethods
```

Output - OOSource (run)

```
run:
The length is 2.0
The radius is 5.0
The surface area of the cylinder is 219.91135307179587
The volume of the cylinder is 157.0795
```

Object Class

- Every class in Java is derived from the `java.lang.Object` class.
- If no inheritance is specified when a class is defined; the superclass of the class is `Object`.
- Important to be familiar with some of the more useful the methods with the `Object` class.

Object Class – equals Method

- Tests if two objects are equal.
- The syntax is:

```
object1.equals(object2)
```

- In the above case, object1 and object2 are objects of the same class.

- The default implementation of the equals method in the `Object` class is as follows:

```
public boolean equals(Object obj) {
        return(this ==obj)
}
```

Object Class – equals Method

- Using the equals method is equivalent to the == operator in the `Object` class.
- Its intended for the subclasses of the `Object` class to modify the equals method to test whether two distinct objects of the same class have the same contents.

Object Class – toString Method

- Invoking `object.toString()` returns a `String` representation of this object.
- By default, it returns a string consisting of a class name of which the object is an instance, the at sign (@), and a number representing this object.
- For example, consider the following:

```
Cylinder cyl = new Cylinder(5.0, 2.0);
System.out.println(cyl.toString());
```

Object Class – toString Method

- You should override the `toString` method so that it returns a useful string.
- For example, you can override the `toString` method in the `Cylinder` class.

```
public String toString() {
return "Cylinder length = " + length;
}
```

- `System.out.print(myCylinder.toString())` would display something like this:

Cylinder length = 2;

Object Class – clone Method

- Sometimes you need to make a copy of an object.
- Mistakenly, you might use the following assignment statement like this one.

```
newObject = oldObject;
```

- This statement does not create a duplicate object.
- It simply assigns the reference of oldObject to newObject.
- To create a new object with separate memory space, you need to use the clone() method.

```
newObject = oldObject.clone();
```

Abstract Classes

- In an inheritance hierarchy, classes become more specific and concrete with each new subclass.
- If you move from a subclass back up to a superclass, the classes become more general and less specific.
- Proper class design should ensure that a subclass contains common features of its subclasses.
- Sometimes a superclass is so abstract that is cannot have any specific instances.
  - An Abstract class.

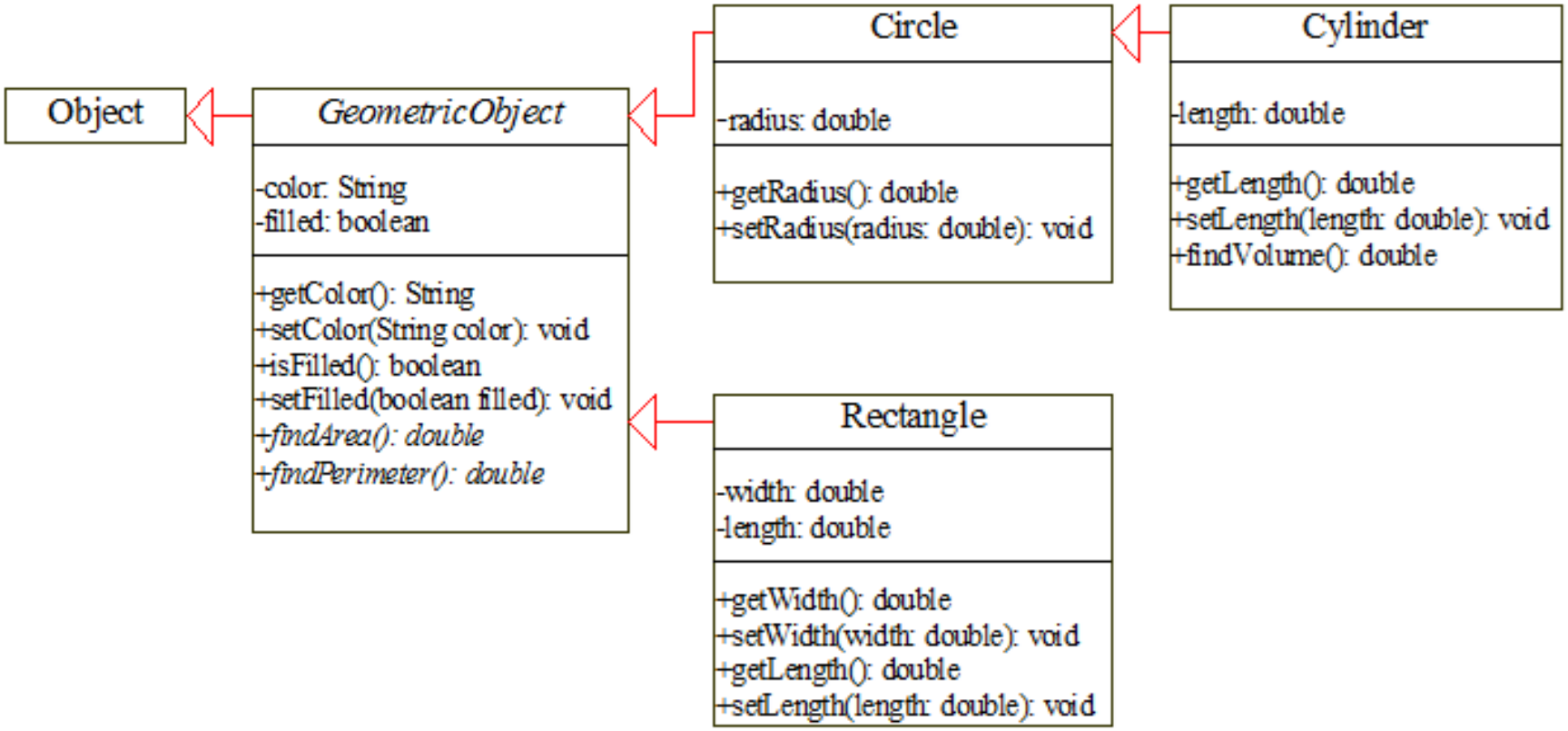
Abstract Classes

- Suppose you want to design the classes to model geometric objects like circles, cylinders and rectangles.
- Geometric objects have common properties and behaviours.
- They can be drawn in a certain colour, filled or unfilled.
  - Colour and filled are two common properties.
- Common behaviours include the fact that the areas and perimeters of geometric objects can be computed.
- A general class `GeometricObject` can be used to model all geometric objects.
  - This class contains the properties `colour` and `filled` along with the methods `findArea` and `findPerimeter`.

Abstract Classes

- A circle is a special type of geometric object, and thus it shares common properties and methods with a geometric object.
- A cylinder is a special type of circle, and thus it shares common properties and behaviours with a circle.
- It makes sense to define a `Circle` class that extends the `GeometricObject` class and a `Cylinder` class, which extends the `Circle` class.

Abstract Classes



Abstract classes are like regular classes with data and methods, but you cannot create instances of abstract classes using the new operator.

Abstract Classes

- The methods `findArea` and `findPerimeter` cannot be implemented in the `GeometricObject` class, because their implementation is dependent on the specific type of geometric object.
- Such methods are referred to as abstract methods.
  - An abstract method is a method signature without implementation.
  - Its implementation is provided by the subclasses.
  - A class that contains abstract methods must be declared abstract.

Abstract Classes

- The `GeometricObject` abstract class provides the common features (data and methods) for geometric objects.
- Because you don't know how to compute areas and perimeters of geometric objects, `findArea` and `findPerimeter` are defined as abstract methods.
- These methods are implemented in the subclasses.

Abstract Classes - Example

```
public abstract class GeometricObject {

  private String color = "white";
  private boolean filled;

  /**Default constructor*/
  protected GeometricObject() {
  }

  /**Construct a geometric object*/
  protected GeometricObject(String color, boolean filled) {
    this.color = color;
    this.filled = filled;
  }

  public String getColor() { return color; }

  public void setColor(String color) { this.color = color; }

  public boolean isFilled() { return filled; }

  public void setFilled(boolean filled) { this.filled = filled; }

  /**Abstract method findArea*/
  public abstract double findArea();

  /**Abstract method findPerimeter*/
  public abstract double findPerimeter();

}//end class
```

Abstract Classes - Example

```
5
6       private double radius;
7
8       public Circle() {
9           this(1.0);
10      }
11
12      public Circle(double radius) {
13          this(radius, "white", false);
14      }
15
16      public Circle(double radius, String color, boolean filled) {
17          super(color, filled);
18          this.radius = radius;
19      }
20
21      public double getRadius() { return radius; }
22
23      public void setRadius(double radius) { this.radius = radius; }
24
25      /**
26       * Implement the findArea method defined in GeometricObject
27       */
29      public double findArea() {
29          return radius * radius * Math.PI;
30      }
```

Abstract Classes - Example

Circle class contd…

```
32      /**
33       * Implement the findPerimeter method defined in GeometricObject
34       */
35      public double findPerimeter() {
36          return 2 * radius * Math.PI;
37      }
38
39      /**
40       * Override the equals() method defined in the Object class
41       */
42      public boolean equals(Circle circle) {
43          return this.radius == circle.getRadius();
44      }
45
46      /**
47       * Override the toString() method defined in the Object class
48       */
49      public String toString() {
50          return "[Circle] radius = " + radius;
51      }
52
53  }//end class Circle
```

Abstract Classes - Example

```
4   public class Cylinder extends Circle {
5
6       private double length;
7
8       public Cylinder() {
9           this(1.0, 1.0);
10      }
11
12      public Cylinder(double radius, double length) {
13          this(radius, "white", false, length);
14      }
15
16      public Cylinder(double radius, String color, boolean filled, double length) {
17          super(radius, color, filled);
18          this.length = length;
19      }
20
21      public double getLength() { return length; }
22
23      public void setLength(double length) { this.length = length; }
24
25      /**
26       * Return the surface area of this cylinder
27       */
28      public double findArea() {
29          return 2 * super.findArea() + (2 * getRadius() * Math.PI) * length;
30      }
```

Abstract Classes - Example

Cylinder class contd…

```
32      /**
33       * Return the volume of this cylinder
34       */
        public double findVolume() {
36          return super.findArea() * length;
37      }
38
39      /**
40       * Override the equals method defined in the Object class
41       */
        public boolean equals(Cylinder cylinder) {
43          return (this.getRadius() == cylinder.getRadius())
44                  && (this.length == cylinder.getLength());
45      }
46
47      /**
48       * Override the toString method defined in the Object class
49       */
        public String toString() {
51          return "[Cylinder] radius = " + getRadius() + " and length " + length;
52      }
53  }//end Cylinder class
```

Abstract Classes - Example

```
4   public class Rectangle extends GeometricObject {
5
6       private double width;
7       private double height;
8
9       public Rectangle() {
10          this(1.0, 1.0);
11      }
12
13      public Rectangle(double width, double height) {
14          this(width, height, "white", false);
15      }
16
17      public Rectangle(double width, double height, String color, boolean filled) {
18          super(color, filled);
19          this.width = width;
20          this.height = height;
21      }
22
23      public double getWidth() { return width; }
24
25      public void setWidth(double width) { this.width = width; }
26
27      public double getHeight() { return height; }
28
29      public void setHeight(double height) { this.height = height; }
```

Abstract Classes - Example

Rectangle class contd…

```
31      /**
32       * Implement the findArea method in GeometricObject
33       */
35      public double findArea() {
36          return width * height;
37      }
38
39      /**
40       * Implement the findPerimeter method in GeometricObject
42       */
43      public double findPerimeter() {
44          return 2 * (width + height);
45      }
46
47      /**
49       * Override the equals method defined in the Object class
50       */
51      public boolean equals(Rectangle rectangle) {
52          return (width == rectangle.getWidth()) && (height == rectangle.getHeight());
53      }
54
56      /**
57       * Override the toString method defined in the Object class
58       */
59      public String toString() {
          return "[Rectangle] width = " + width + " and height = " + height;
      }

  }//end class Rectangle
```

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding

- An object of a subclass can be used by any code designed to work with an object of its superclass.
  - If a method expects a parameter of the `GeometricObject` type, you can invoke it with a `Circle` object.
- A `Circle` object can be used as both a `Circle` object and a `GeometricObject` object.
  - This is Polymorphism.
- A method may be defined in a superclass but is overridden in a subclass.
- The JVM will determine at runtime which implementation of the method is used on a particular call dynamically.
  - This is Dynamic Binding.

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding

- Dynamic binding works as follows.
- Suppose an object o is an instance of classes c1, c2….cn-1 an cn; where c1 is a subclass of c2, c2 is a subclass of c3, and cn-1 is a subclass of cn. That is, cn is the most general class, and c1 must be the most specific class.
- cn is the Object class.
- If o invokes a method p, the JVM searches for the implementation of the method p in c1, c2…..cn-1, cn, in this order, until it is found.
- Once an implementation is found, the search stops and the first found implementation is invoked.

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example

- This example demonstrates polymorphism and dynamic binding.
- It creates two `GeometricObject`s, a `Circle` and a `Rectangle` and invokes the `equalArea` method to check whether the two objects have equal areas, and invokes the `dsiplayGeometricObject` method to display the objects.

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example

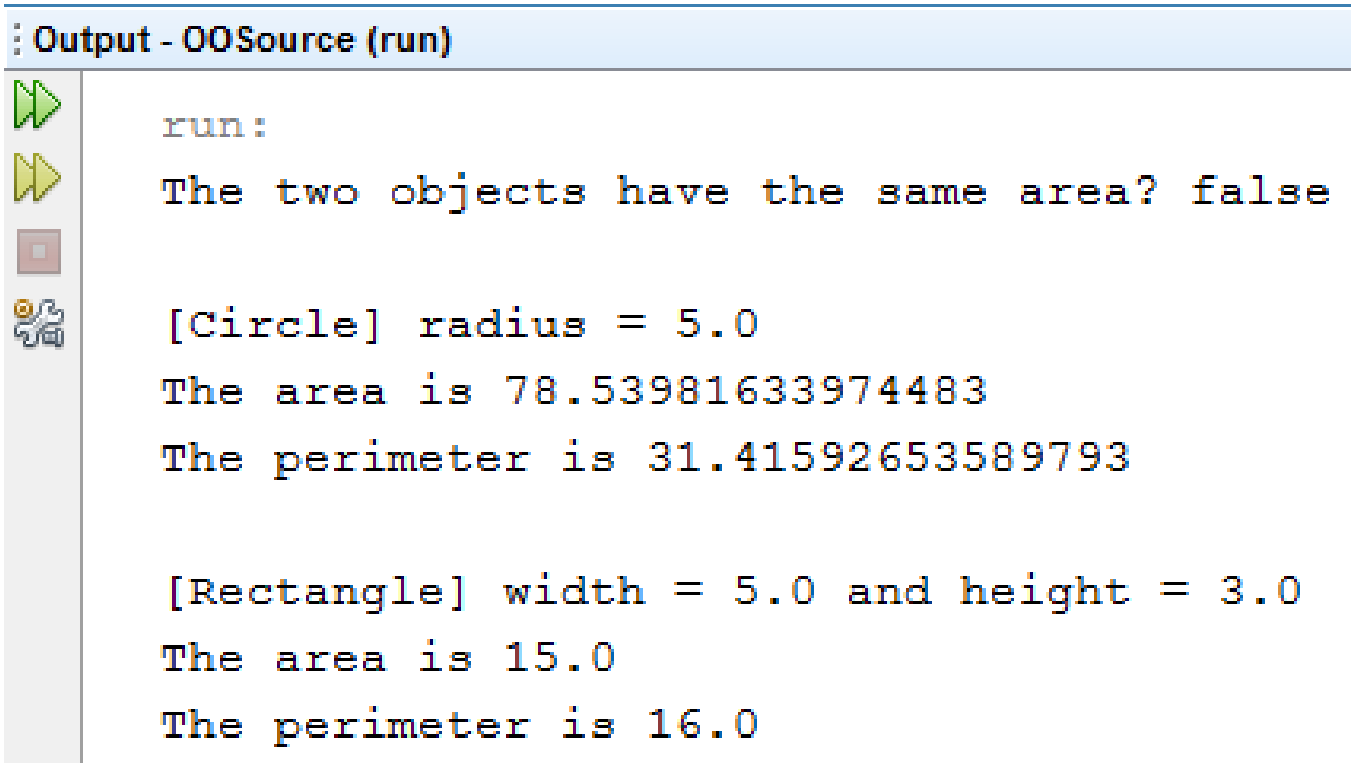
```
3   public class TestPolymorphism {
4
5       public static void main(String[] args) {
6           // Declare and initialize two geometric objects
7           GeometricObject geoObject1 = new Circle(5);
8           GeometricObject geoObject2 = new Rectangle(5, 3);
9
10          System.out.println("The two objects have the same area? "
11                  + equalArea(geoObject1, geoObject2));
12
13          // Display circle
14          displayGeometricObject(geoObject1);
15
16          // Display rectangle
17          displayGeometricObject(geoObject2);
18      }//end main
19
20      /**
21       * A method for comparing the areas of two geometric objects
22       */
23      static boolean equalArea(GeometricObject object1, GeometricObject object2) {
24          return object1.findArea() == object2.findArea();
25      }//end equalArea
```

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example

TestPolymorphsim class contd…

```
20      /**
21       * A method for comparing the areas of two geometric objects
22       */
23      static boolean equalArea(GeometricObject object1, GeometricObject object2) {
24          return object1.findArea() == object2.findArea();
25      }//end equalArea
26
27      /**
28       * A method for displaying a geometric object
29       */
30      static void displayGeometricObject(GeometricObject object) {
31          System.out.println();
32          System.out.println(object.toString());
33          System.out.println("The area is " + object.findArea());
34          System.out.println("The perimeter is " + object.findPerimeter());
35      }//end displayGeometricObject
36
37  }//end class TestPolymorphism
```

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example



Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example

- The statements

```
GeometricObject geoObject1 =
                    new Circle(5);
GeometricObject geoObject2 =
                  new Rectangle(5, 3);
```

- Create a new circle and rectangle, and assign them to variables geoObject1 and geoObject2. These two variables are of the `GeometricObject` type (class).
- These assignments are known as implicit casting, are legal since both circles and rectangles are geometric objects.

Polymorphism & Dynamic Binding -Example

- Similarly, when invoking `displayGeometricObject(geoObject1)`, the methods `findArea` and `findPerimeter`, and `toString` defined in the `Circle` class are used, and when invoking `displayGeometricObject(geoObject2)`, the methds `findArea`, `findPerimeter`, and `toString` defined in the `Rectangle` class are used.
- Which of these methods are invoked is dynamically determined at runtime, depending on the type of the object.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- You have already used casting before, whereby you convert objects of one type to objects of another.
- The statement

```
GeometricObject geoObject1 =
                    new Circle(5);
```

is known as implicit casting, it assigns a circle to a variable of the `GeometricObject` type.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- To perform explicit casting, use a syntax similar to the one used for casting among primitive data types.
- Enclose the target object type in parenthesis and place it before the object to be cast.

```
Circle myCircle =
        (Circle)myCylinder;
Cylinder myCylinder =
            (Cylinder)myCircle;
```

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- The first statement converts `myCylinder` to its superclass variable `myCircle`; the second converts `myCircle` to its subclass variable `myCylinder`.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- It is always possible to convert an instance of a subclass to an instance of a superclass, because an instance of a subclass is also an instance of its superclass.
- For example, an apple is an instance of the Apple class, which is a subclass of the Fruit class. An apple is always a fruit. Therefore, you can always assign an apple to a variable of the Fruit class.
- For this reason, explicit casting can be omitted in this case.
- Thus,

```
Circle myCircle = myCylinder;
```

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- is equilivent to:

```
Cylinder myCylinder =
     (Cylinder)myCircle;
```

- When converting an instance of a superclass to an instance of its subclass, explicit casting must be used to confirm your intention to the compiler with the (Subclass Name) cast notation.
- For the casting to be successful, you must make sure that the object to be cast is an instance of the subclass.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- If the superclass object is not an instance of the subclass, a runtime exception occurs.
- For example, if the fruit is an orange, an instance of the Fruit class cannot be cast into an instance of the Apple class.
- It is good practice, therefore, to ensure that the object is an instance of another object before attempting a casting.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- This can be accomplished by using the `instanceof` operator. Consider the following code:

```
Circle myCircle = new Circle();

if (myCircle instanceof Cylinder) {
    //perform casting if myCircle is an instance of Cylinder
    Cylinder myCylinder = (Cylinder) myCircle;
    .....
}
```

- You may be wondering how `myCircle` could become an instance of the Cylinder class and why it is necessary to perform casting.

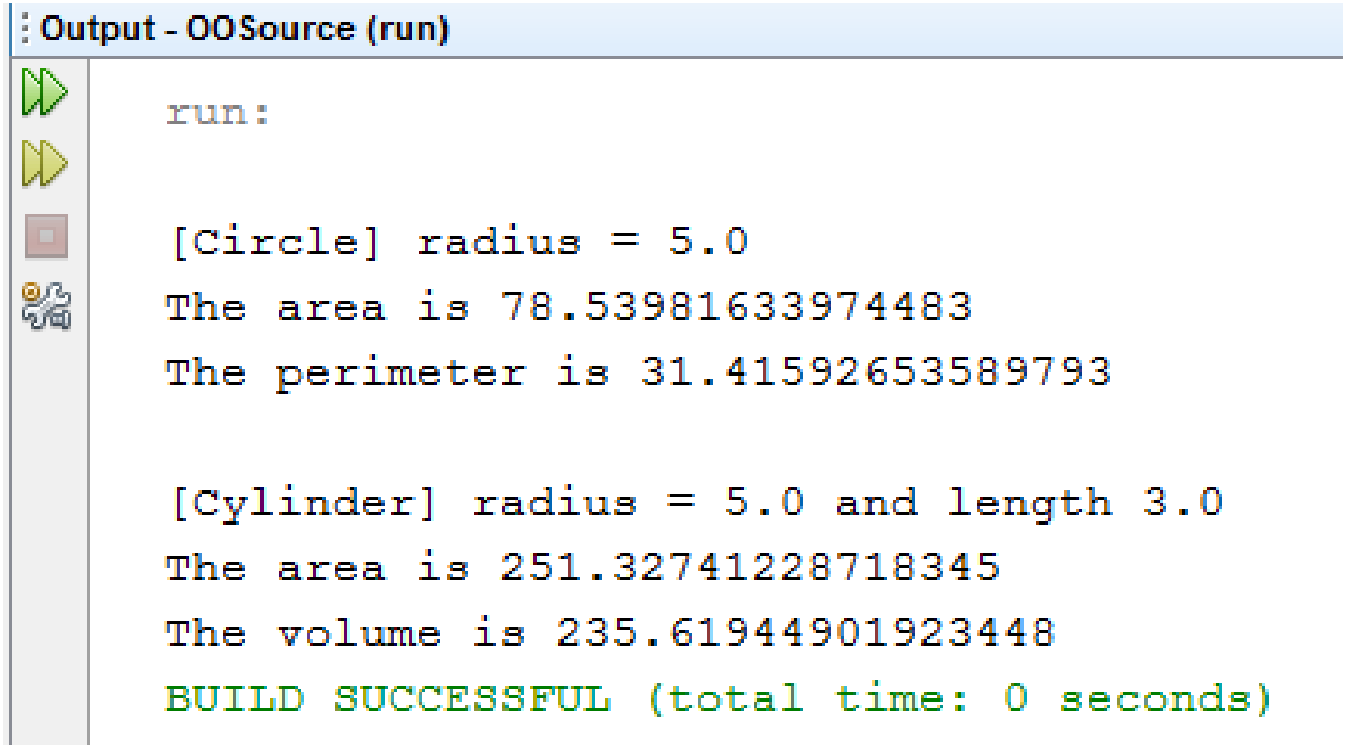
Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator

- There are some cases in which a variable of a superclass holds an instance of a subclass.
- To fully explore the properties and functions, you need to cast the object to its subclass.
- This is shown in the following example.
- This example creates two geometric objects, a circle and a cylinder, and invokes the `displayGeometricObject` method to display them. The `displayGeometricObject` method displays area and perimeter if the object is a circle, and area and volume if the object is a cylinder.

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator - Example

```
4   public class TestCasting {
5
6       public static void main(String[] args) {
7           // Declare and initialize two geometric objects
8           GeometricObject geoObject1 = new Circle(5);
9           GeometricObject geoObject2 = new Cylinder(5, 3);
10
11          // Display circle
12          displayGeometricObject(geoObject1);
13
14          // Display cylinder
15          displayGeometricObject(geoObject2);
16      }//end main method
17
18      static void displayGeometricObject(GeometricObject object) {
19          System.out.println();
20          System.out.println(object.toString());
21
22          if (object instanceof Cylinder) {
23              System.out.println("The area is " + ((Cylinder) object).findArea());
24              System.out.println("The volume is " + ((Cylinder) object).findVolume());
25          }//end if
26          else if (object instanceof Circle) {
27              System.out.println("The area is " + object.findArea());
28              System.out.println("The perimeter is " + object.findPerimeter());
29          }//end else if
30
31      }//end method displayGeometricObject
32
33  }//end class TestCasting
```

Casting Objects and the Instanceof Operator - Example



Interfaces

- Classes group similar objects together, and inheritance groups similar classes together.
- You might like to group together objects that are related because they all play a particular role.
  - Group together classes that model humans, birds, ants & robots, because they all walk.
  - Classes may not have anything else in common.
  - Not appropriate to give them a single superclass, because there isn't a useful category that contains them all, but they do share a particular ability.
  - A mechanism exists for modelling such a situation and its called an interface.

Interfaces

- Sometimes it is necessary to derive a subclass from several classes, thus inheriting their data and methods.
- Java, does not allow multiple inheritance.
- If you use the extends keyword to define a subclass, it allows only one parent class.
- With interfaces, you can obtain the effect of multiple inheritance.
- An interface is a “classlike” construct that contains only constants and abstract methods.
- Similar to an abstract class, but an abstract class can contain constants and abstract methods as well as variables and concrete methods.

Interfaces

- Each interface is compiled into a separate bytecode file, just like a regular class.
- As with an abstract class, you cannot create an instance for the interface using the new operator.
- You can use an interface more or less the same way you use an abstract class.
- For example, you can use an interface as a data type for a variable, as the result of casting etc.

Interfaces - Example

- You want to design a generic method to find the larger of two objects.
- The objects can be students, circles, cylinders or Bank Accounts.
- Compare methods are different for different types of objects, you need a generic compare method to determine the order of the two objects.
- Then you can tailor the method to compare students, circles, or cylinders.
  - For example, you can use student ID as the key for comparing students, radius as the key for comparing circles, and volume as the key for comparing cylinders.

Interfaces - Example

- You can use an interface to define a generic `compareTo` method, as follows:

```
3    public interface Comparable {
4
5        public int compareTo(Object p);
6    }
```

Interfaces - Example

- The `compareTo` method determines the order of this object with the specified object o, and returns a negative integer, zero, or a positive integer if this object is less than, equal to, or greater than the specified object o.

```
3   public class Max {
4
5       /**
6        * Return the maximum between two objects
7        */
8       public static Comparable max(Comparable o1, Comparable o2) {
9           if (o1.compareTo(o2) > 0) {
10              return o1;
11          } else {
12              return o2;
13          }
14      }
15  }
```

Interfaces - Example

```
3   public class TestInterface {
4       public static void main(String[] args) {
5           // Create two comparable circles
6           ComparableCircle circle1 = new ComparableCircle(5);
7           ComparableCircle circle2 = new ComparableCircle(4);
8
9           // Display the max circle
10          Comparable circle = Max.max(circle1, circle2);
11          System.out.println("The max circle's radius is " + ((Circle) circle).getRadius());
12          System.out.println(circle);
13
14          // Create two comparable cylinders
15          ComparableCylinder cylinder1 = new ComparableCylinder(5, 2);
16          ComparableCylinder cylinder2 = new ComparableCylinder(4, 5);
17
18          // Display the max cylinder
19          Comparable cylinder = Max.max(cylinder1, cylinder2);
20          System.out.println();
21          System.out.println("cylinder1's volume is " + cylinder1.findVolume());
22          System.out.println("cylinder2's volume is " + cylinder2.findVolume());
23          System.out.println("The max cylinder's \tradius is " + ((Cylinder)cylinder).getRadius()
24                  + "\n\t\t\tlength is " + ((Cylinder) cylinder).getLength()
25                  + "\n\t\t\tvolume is " + ((Cylinder) cylinder).findVolume());
26          System.out.println(cylinder);
27      }//end main
28  }//end class TestInterface
```

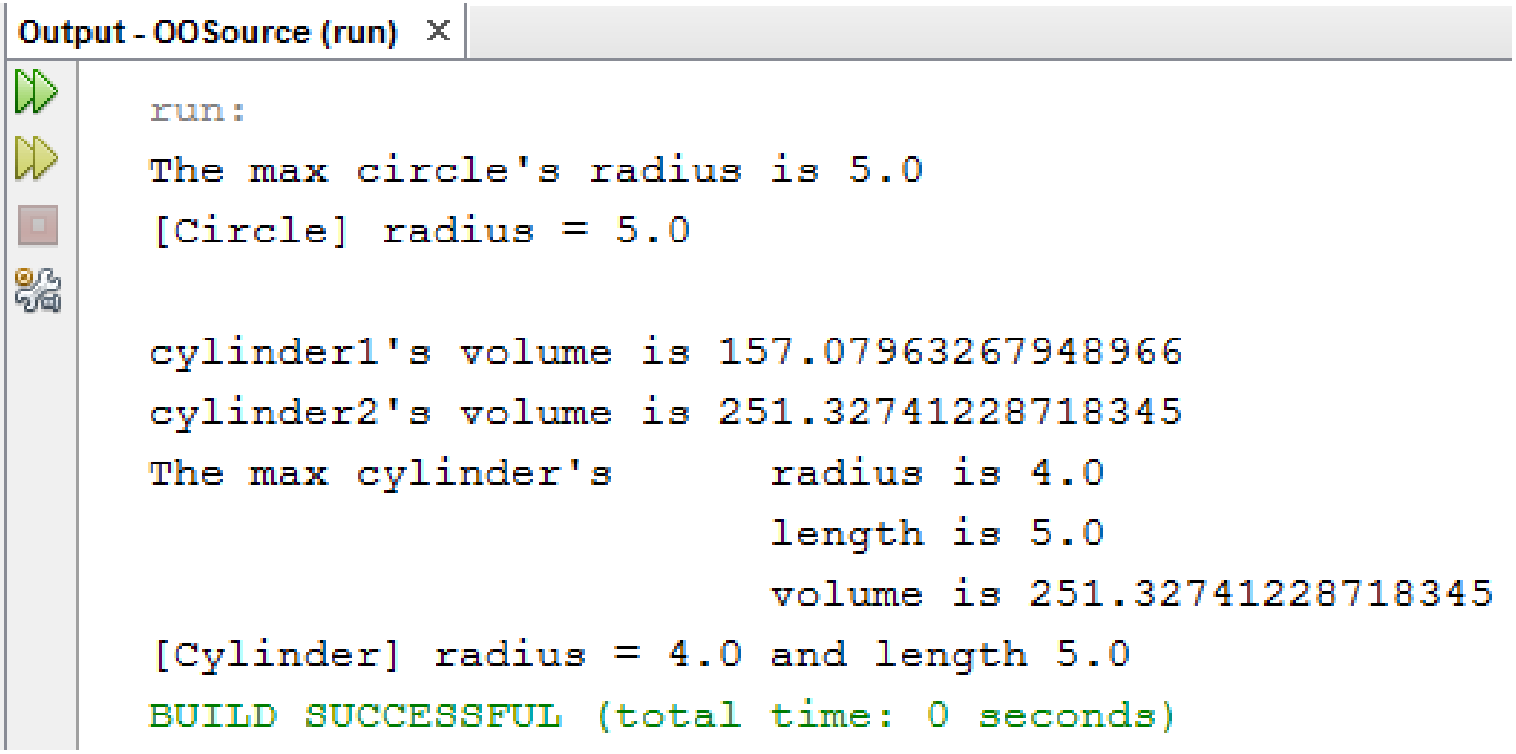
Interfaces - Example

```
3   class ComparableCircle extends Circle implements Comparable {
4
5       public ComparableCircle(double r) {
6           super(r);
7       }//end method ComparableCircle
8
9       /**
10       * Implement the compareTo method defined in Comparable
11       */
        public int compareTo(Object o) {
13          if (getRadius() > ((Circle) o).getRadius()) {
14              return 1;
15          } else if (getRadius() < ((Circle) o).getRadius()) {
16              return -1;
17          } else {
18              return 0;
19          }
20      }//end method compareTo
21  }//end class ComparableCircle
```

Interfaces - Example

```
5   class ComparableCylinder extends Cylinder implements Comparable {
6
7       ComparableCylinder(double r, double l) {
8           super(r, l);
9       }//end conbstructor
10
11      /**
12       * Implement the compareTo method defined in Comparable interface
13       */
14      public int compareTo(Object o) {
15          if (findVolume() > ((Cylinder) o).findVolume()) {
16              return 1;
17          } else if (findVolume() < ((Cylinder) o).findVolume()) {
18              return -1;
19          } else {
20              return 0;
21          }
22      }//end compareTo
23  }//end class ComparableCylinder
```

Interfaces - Example



References

Paul J Deitel (2016) *Java How To Program.* 10/E. ISBN-13 9780134800271 (Link)

Y. Daniel Liang (2014) *Intro to Java Programming and Data Structures, Comprehensive Version.* 11/E. Pearson. ISBN-13 978-0134670942 (Link)