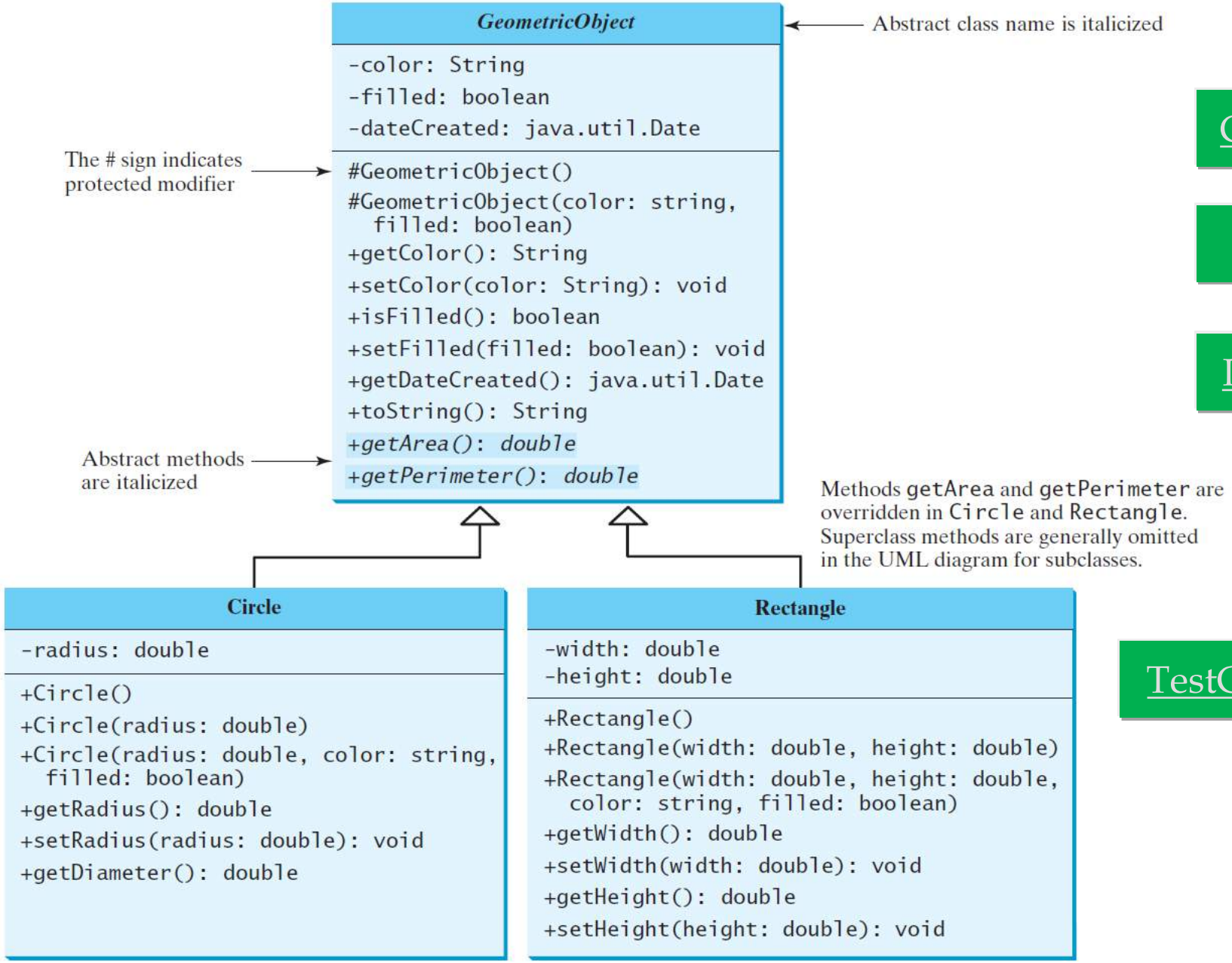
Chapter 13 Abstract Classes and Interfaces

Objectives

- To design and use abstract classes (§ 13.2).
- To generalize numeric wrapper classes, **BigInteger**, and **BigDecimal** using the abstract **Number** class (§ 13.3).
- To process a calendar using the **Calendar** and **GregorianCalendar** classes (§ 13.4).
- To specify common behavior for objects using interfaces (§ 13.5).
- To define interfaces and define classes that implement interfaces (§ 13.5).
- To define a natural order using the **Comparable** interface (§ 13.6).
- To make objects cloneable using the **Cloneable** interface (§ 13.7).
- To explore the similarities and differences among concrete classes, abstract classes, and interfaces (§ 13.8).
- To design the **Rational** class for processing rational numbers (§ 13.9).
- To design classes that follow the class-design guidelines (§ 13.10).

Abstract Classes and Abstract Methods



GeometricObject

Circle

Rectangle

TestGeometricObject

abstract method in abstract class

An abstract method cannot be contained in a nonabstract class. If a subclass of an abstract superclass does not implement all the abstract methods, the subclass must be defined abstract. In other words, in a nonabstract subclass extended from an abstract class, all the abstract methods must be implemented, even if they are not used in the subclass.

object cannot be created from abstract class

An abstract class cannot be instantiated using the new operator, but you can still define its constructors, which are invoked in the constructors of its subclasses. For instance, the constructors of GeometricObject are invoked in the Circle class and the Rectangle class.

abstract class without abstract method

A class that contains abstract methods must be abstract. However, it is possible to define an abstract class that contains no abstract methods. In this case, you cannot create instances of the class using the new operator. This class is used as a base class for defining a new subclass.

superclass of abstract class may be concrete

A subclass can be abstract even if its superclass is concrete. For example, the Object class is concrete, but its subclasses, such as GeometricObject, may be abstract.

concrete method overridden to be abstract

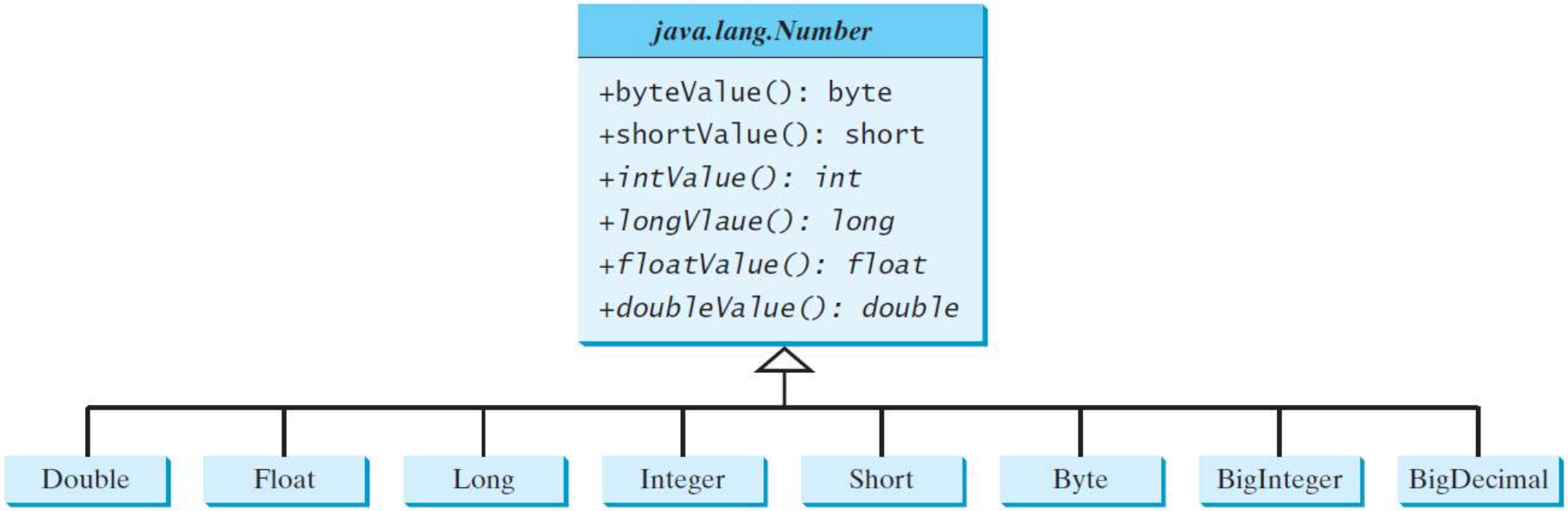
A subclass can override a method from its superclass to define it abstract. This is rare, but useful when the implementation of the method in the superclass becomes invalid in the subclass. In this case, the subclass must be defined abstract.

abstract class as type

You cannot create an instance from an abstract class using the new operator, but an abstract class can be used as a data type. Therefore, the following statement, which creates an array whose elements are of GeometricObject type, is correct.

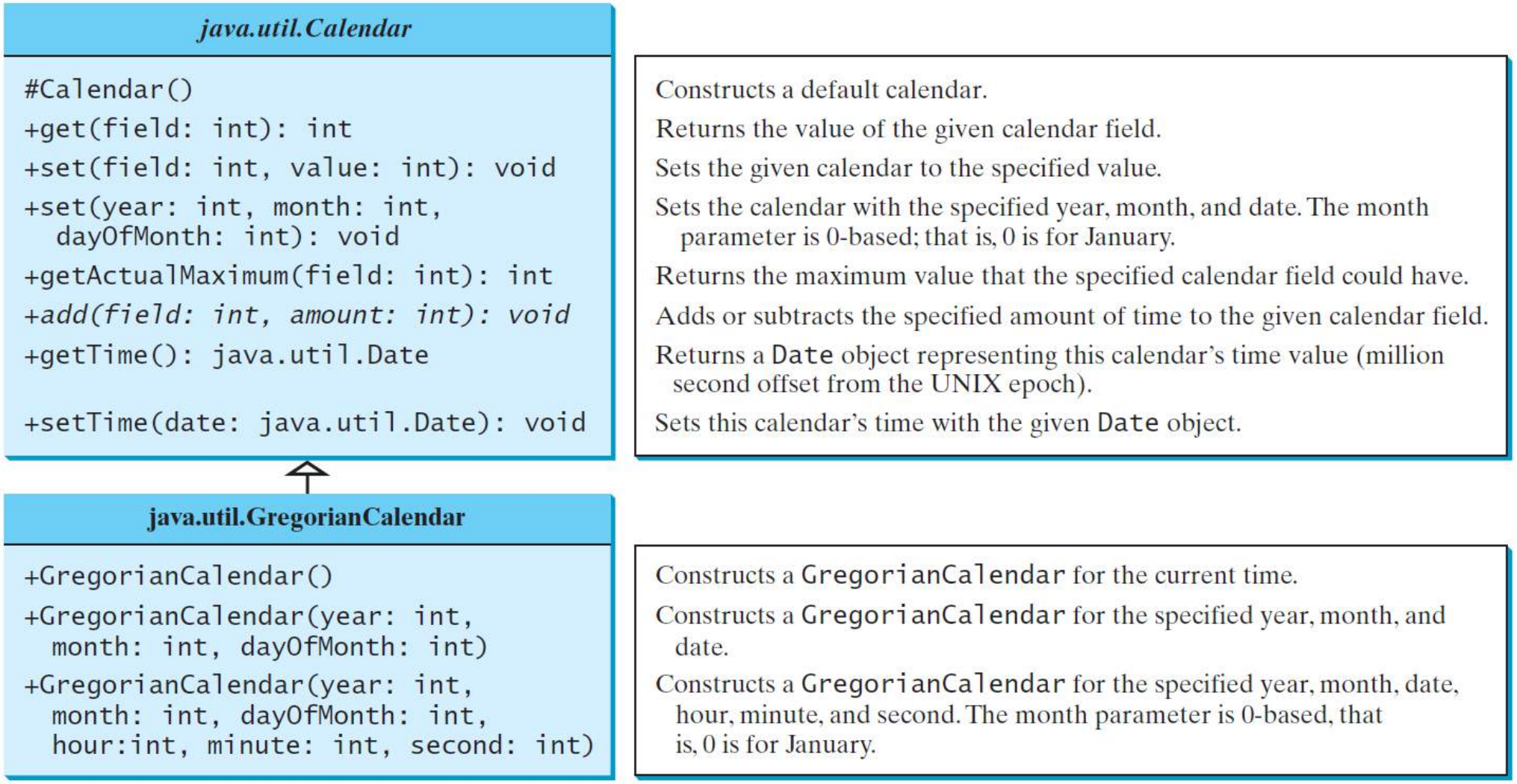
```
GeometricObject[] geo = new    GeometricObject[10];

GeometricObject geo = new    Circle(1);
```

Case Study: the Abstract Number Class



LargestNumbers

The Abstract Calendar Class and Its GregorianCalendar subclass



The Abstract Calendar Class and Its GregorianCalendar subclass

An instance of java.util.Date represents a specific instant in time with millisecond precision. java.util.Calendar is an abstract base class for extracting detailed information such as year, month, date, hour, minute and second from a Date object. Subclasses of Calendar can implement specific calendar systems such as Gregorian calendar, Lunar Calendar and Jewish calendar. Currently, java.util.GregorianCalendar for the Gregorian calendar is supported in the Java API.

The GregorianCalendar Class

You can use new GregorianCalendar() to construct a default GregorianCalendar with the current time and use new GregorianCalendar(year, month, date) to construct a GregorianCalendar with the specified year, month, and date. The month parameter is 0-based, i.e., 0 is for January.

The get Method in Calendar Class

The get(int field) method defined in the Calendar class is useful to extract the date and time information from a Calendar object. The fields are defined as constants, as shown in the following.

Constant	*Description*
YEAR	The year of the calendar.
MONTH	The month of the calendar, with 0 for January.
DATE	The day of the calendar.
HOUR	The hour of the calendar (12-hour notation).
HOUR_OF_DAY	The hour of the calendar (24-hour notation).
MINUTE	The minute of the calendar.
SECOND	The second of the calendar.
DAY_OF_WEEK	The day number within the week, with 1 for Sunday.
DAY_OF_MONTH	Same as DATE.
DAY_OF_YEAR	The day number in the year, with 1 for the first day of the year.
WEEK_OF_MONTH	The week number within the month, with 1 for the first week.
WEEK_OF_YEAR	The week number within the year, with 1 for the first week.
AM_PM	Indicator for AM or PM (0 for AM and 1 for PM).

Getting Date/Time Information from Calendar

TestCalendar

Interfaces

What is an interface?

Why is an interface useful?

How do you define an interface?

How do you use an interface?

What is an interface? Why is an interface useful?

An interface is a classlike construct that contains only constants and abstract methods. In many ways, an interface is similar to an abstract class, but the intent of an interface is to specify common behavior for objects. For example, you can specify that the objects are comparable, edible, cloneable using appropriate interfaces.

Define an Interface

To distinguish an interface from a class, Java uses the following syntax to define an interface:

```
public interface InterfaceName {
  constant declarations;
  abstract method signatures;
}
```

Example:

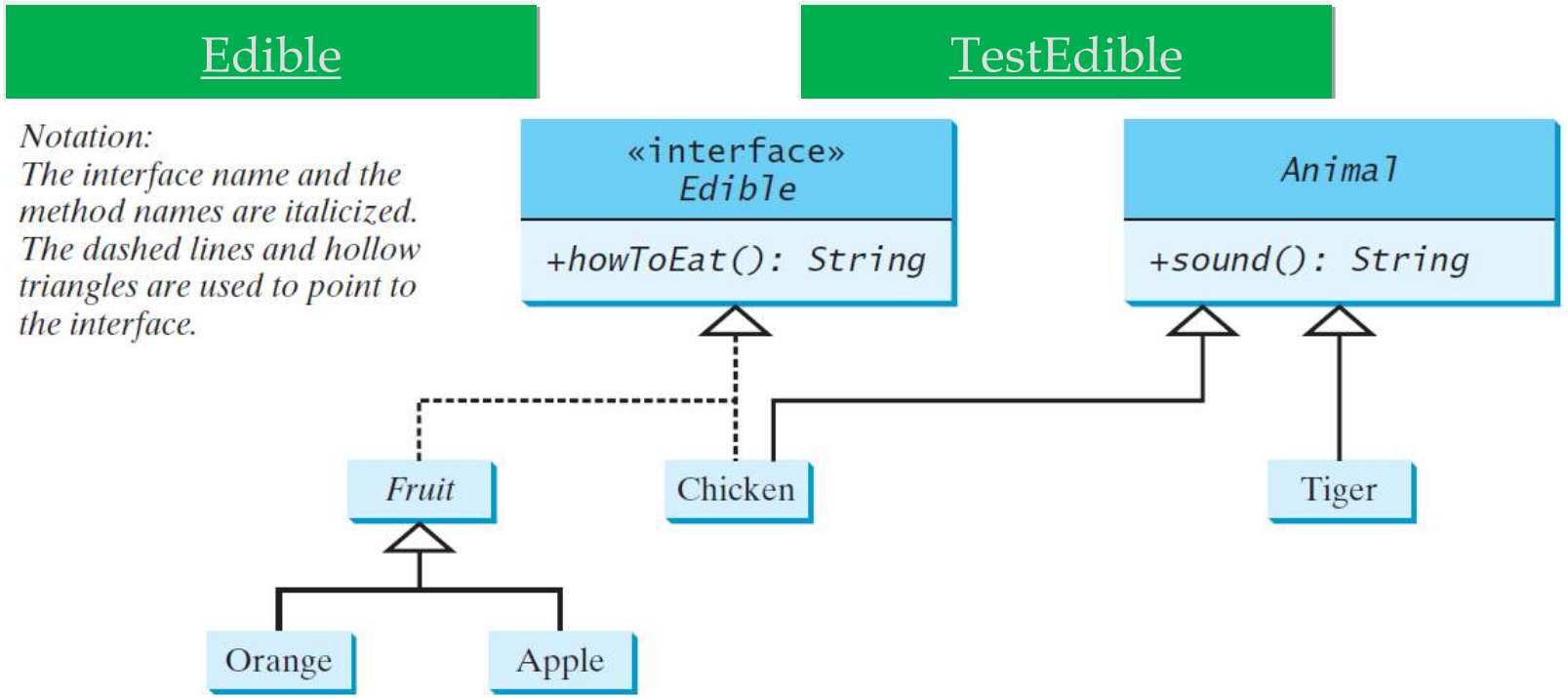
```
public interface Edible {
  /** Describe how to eat */
  public abstract String howToEat();
}
```

Interface is a Special Class

An interface is treated like a special class in Java. Each interface is compiled into a separate bytecode file, just like a regular class. Like an abstract class, you cannot create an instance from an interface using the new operator, but in most cases 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, and so on.

Example

You can now use the Edible interface to specify whether an object is edible. This is accomplished by letting the class for the object implement this interface using the implements keyword.



Omitting Modifiers in Interfaces

All data fields are *public final static* and all methods are *public abstract* in an interface. For this reason, these modifiers can be omitted, as shown below:

```
public interface T1 {
  public static final int K = 1;

  public abstract void p();
}
```

Equivalent

```
public interface T1 {
  int K = 1;

  void p();
}
```

A constant defined in an interface can be accessed using syntax InterfaceName.CONSTANT_NAME

Interface Enhancement in Java 8

Interface was meant to define a contract before Java 8, where we were able to define the methods a class needed to implement if binding himself with the interface. Interface was only involved with abstract methods and constants.

In Java 8, Interface has methods defined using **static** or **default**

Interface Enhancement in Java 8

default methods can be overridden

This way we can add the default methods to existing interfaces without bothering about the classes that implements these interfaces.

static methods cannot be overridden

the static methods in interface are similar to default method so we need not to implement them in the implementation classes. We can safely add them to the existing interfaces without changing the code in the implementation classes.

Interface Enhancement in Java 8

TestDandSMethodinInterface.java

Example: The Comparable Interface

```
// This interface is defined in
// java.lang package
package java.lang;

public interface Comparable<E> {
  public int compareTo(E o);
}
```

The toString, equals, and hashCode Methods

Each wrapper class overrides the toString, equals, and hashCode methods defined in the Object class. Since all the numeric wrapper classes and the Character class implement the Comparable interface, the compareTo method is implemented in these classes.

Integer and BigInteger Classes

```
public class Integer extends Number
    implements Comparable<Integer> {
  // class body omitted

  @Override
  public int compareTo(Integer o) {
    // Implementation omitted
  }
}
```

```
public class BigInteger extends Number
    implements Comparable<BigInteger> {
  // class body omitted

  @Override
  public int compareTo(BigInteger o) {
    // Implementation omitted
  }
}
```

String and Date Classes

```
public class String extends Object
    implements Comparable<String> {
  // class body omitted

  @Override
  public int compareTo(String o) {
    // Implementation omitted
  }
}
```

```
public class Date extends Object
    implements Comparable<Date> {
  // class body omitted

  @Override
  public int compareTo(Date o) {
    // Implementation omitted
  }
}
```

```
 *
 * @param   anotherString   the {@code String} to be compared.
 * @return  the value {@code 0} if the argument string is equal to
 *          this string; a value less than {@code 0} if this string
 *          is lexicographically less than the string argument; and a
 *          value greater than {@code 0} if this string is
 *          lexicographically greater than the string argument.
 */
public int compareTo(String anotherString) {
    int len1 = value.length;
    int len2 = anotherString.value.length;
    int lim = Math.min(len1, len2);
    char v1[] = value;
    char v2[] = anotherString.value;

    int k = 0;
    while (k < lim) {
        char c1 = v1[k];
        char c2 = v2[k];
        if (c1 != c2) {
            return c1 - c2;
        }
        k++;
    }
    return len1 - len2;
}
```

String Class

Date Class

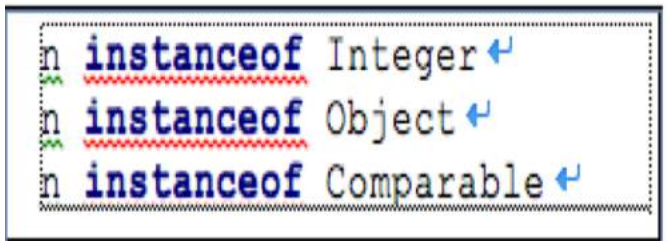
```
/**
 * Compares two Dates for ordering.
 *
 * @param   anotherDate   the <code>Date</code> to be compared.
 * @return  the value <code>0</code> if the argument Date is equal to
 *          this Date; a value less than <code>0</code> if this Date
 *          is before the Date argument; and a value greater than
 *      <code>0</code> if this Date is after the Date argument.
 * @since   1.2
 * @exception NullPointerException if <code>anotherDate</code> is null.
 */
public int compareTo(Date anotherDate) {
    long thisTime = getMillisOf(this);
    long anotherTime = getMillisOf(anotherDate);
    return (thisTime<anotherTime ? -1 : (thisTime==anotherTime ? 0 : 1));
}
```

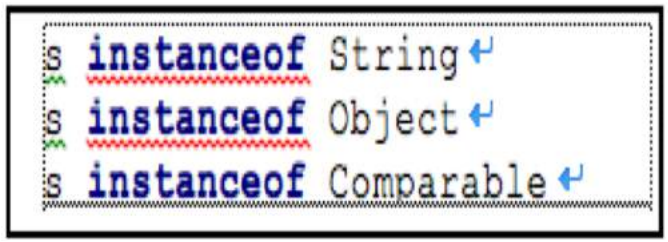
Example

```
1  System.out.println(new Integer(3).compareTo(new Integer(5)));
2  System.out.println("ABC".compareTo("ABE"));
3  java.util.Date date1 = new java.util.Date(2013, 1, 1);
4  java.util.Date date2 = new java.util.Date(2012, 1, 1);
5  System.out.println(date1.compareTo(date2));
```

Generic `sort` Method

Let **n** be an **Integer** object, **s** be a **String** object, and **d** be a **Date** object. All the following expressions are **true**.

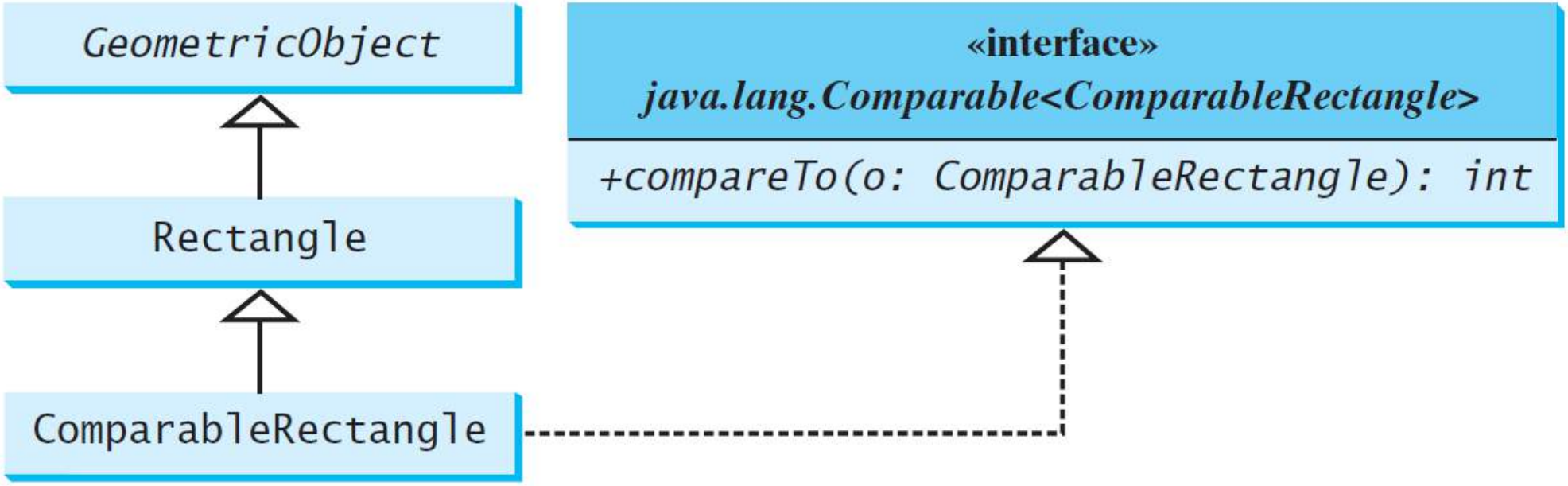




The java.util.Arrays.sort(array) method requires that the elements in an array are instances of Comparable<E>.

SortComparableObjects

Defining Classes to Implement Comparable



ComparableRectangle

SortRectangles

The `Cloneable` Interfaces

Marker Interface: An empty interface.

A marker interface does not contain constants or methods. It is used to denote that a class possesses certain desirable properties. A class that implements the Cloneable interface is marked cloneable, and its objects can be cloned using the clone() method defined in the Object class.

```
package java.lang;
public interface Cloneable {
}
```

Examples

Many classes (e.g., Date and Calendar) in the Java library implement Cloneable. Thus, the instances of these classes can be cloned. For example, the following code

```
Calendar calendar = new GregorianCalendar(2003, 2, 1);
Calendar calendarCopy = (Calendar)calendar.clone();
System.out.println("calendar == calendarCopy is " +
  (calendar == calendarCopy));
System.out.println("calendar.equals(calendarCopy) is " +
  calendar.equals(calendarCopy));
```

displays

calendar == calendarCopy is false

calendar.equals(calendarCopy) is true

Implementing Cloneable Interface

To define a custom class that implements the Cloneable interface, the class must override the clone() method in the Object class. The following code defines a class named House that implements Cloneable and Comparable.

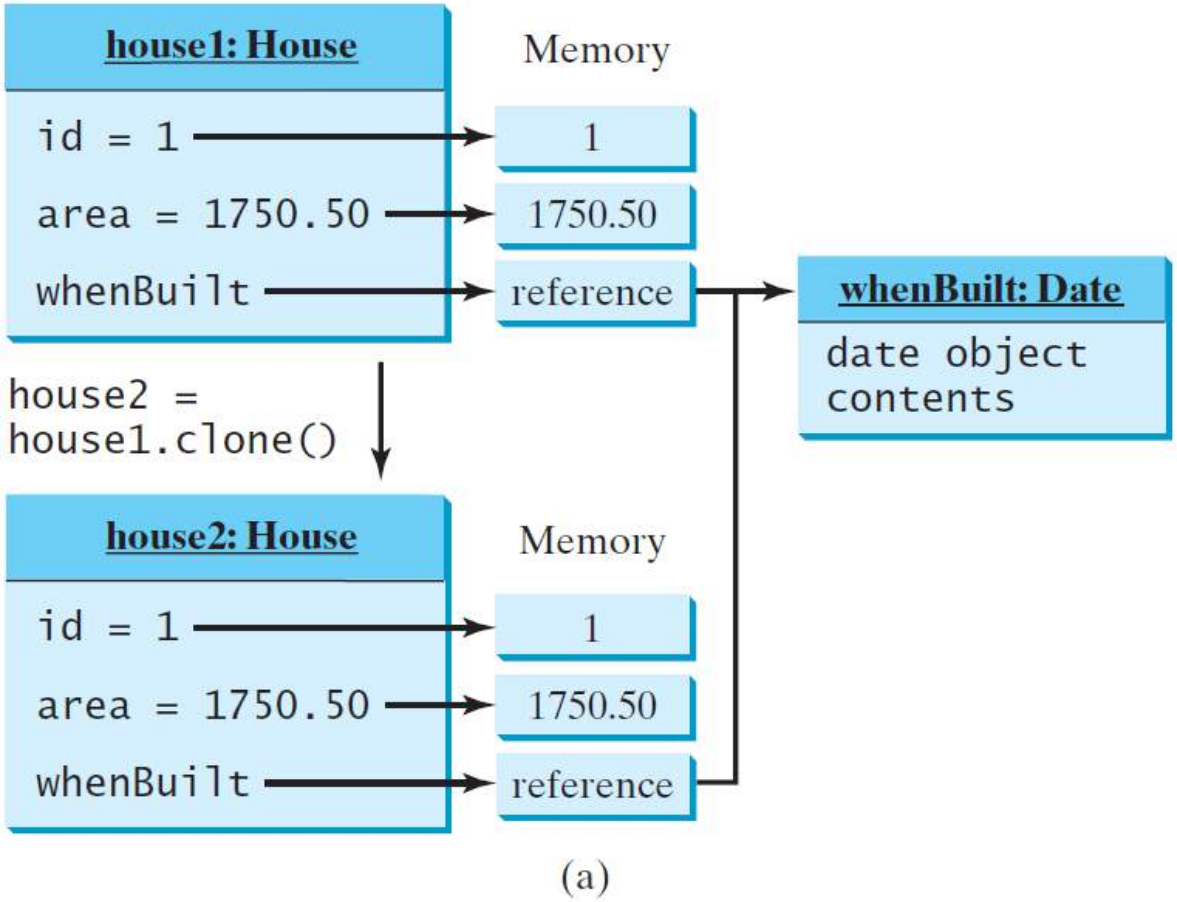
House

Shallow vs. Deep Copy

House house1 = new House(1, 1750.50);

House house2 = (House)house1.clone();

Shallow Copy



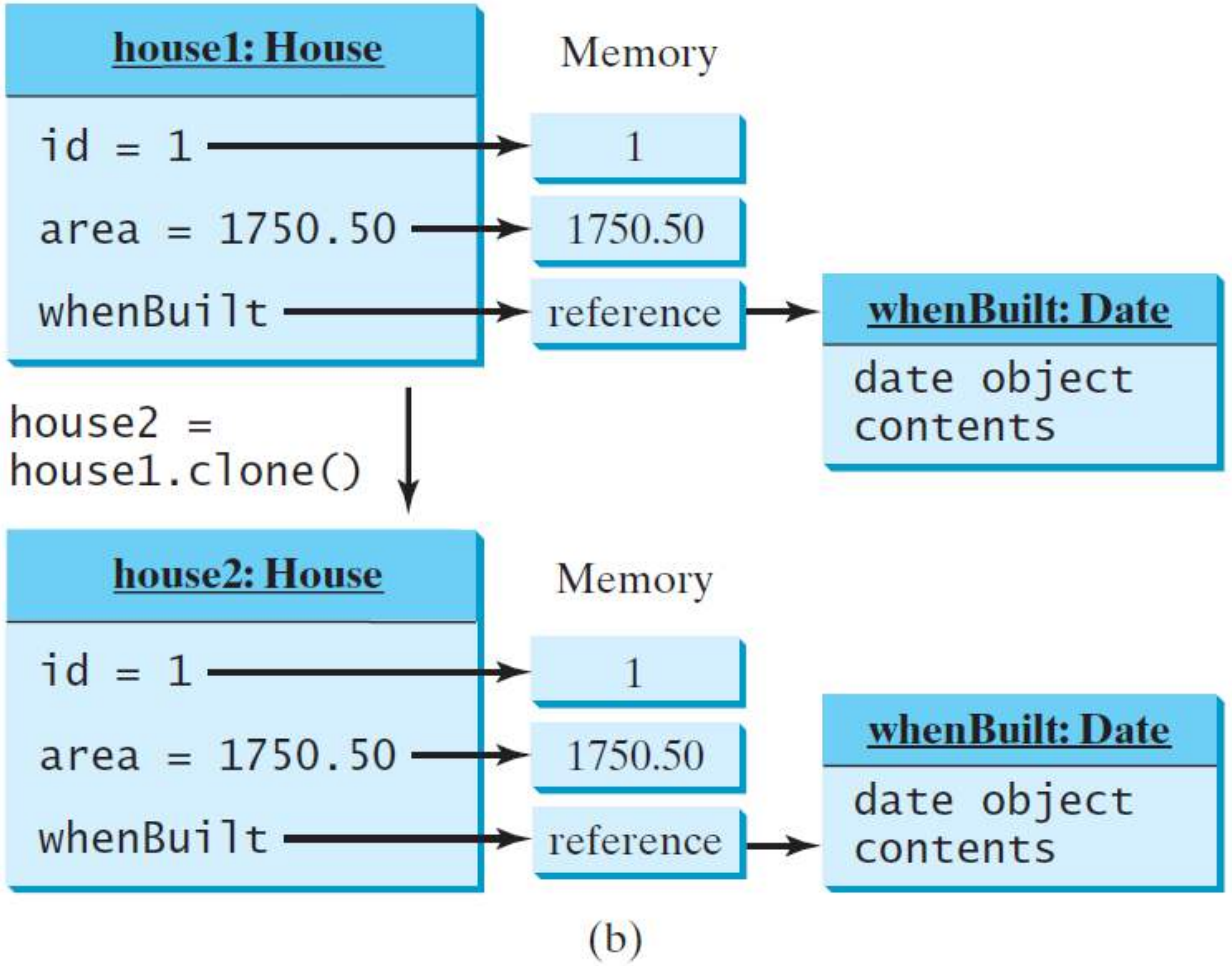
(a)

Shallow vs. Deep Copy

House house1 = new House(1, 1750.50);

House house2 = (House)house1.clone();

Deep Copy



(b)

Interfaces vs. Abstract Classes

In an interface, the data must be constants; an abstract class can have all types of data.

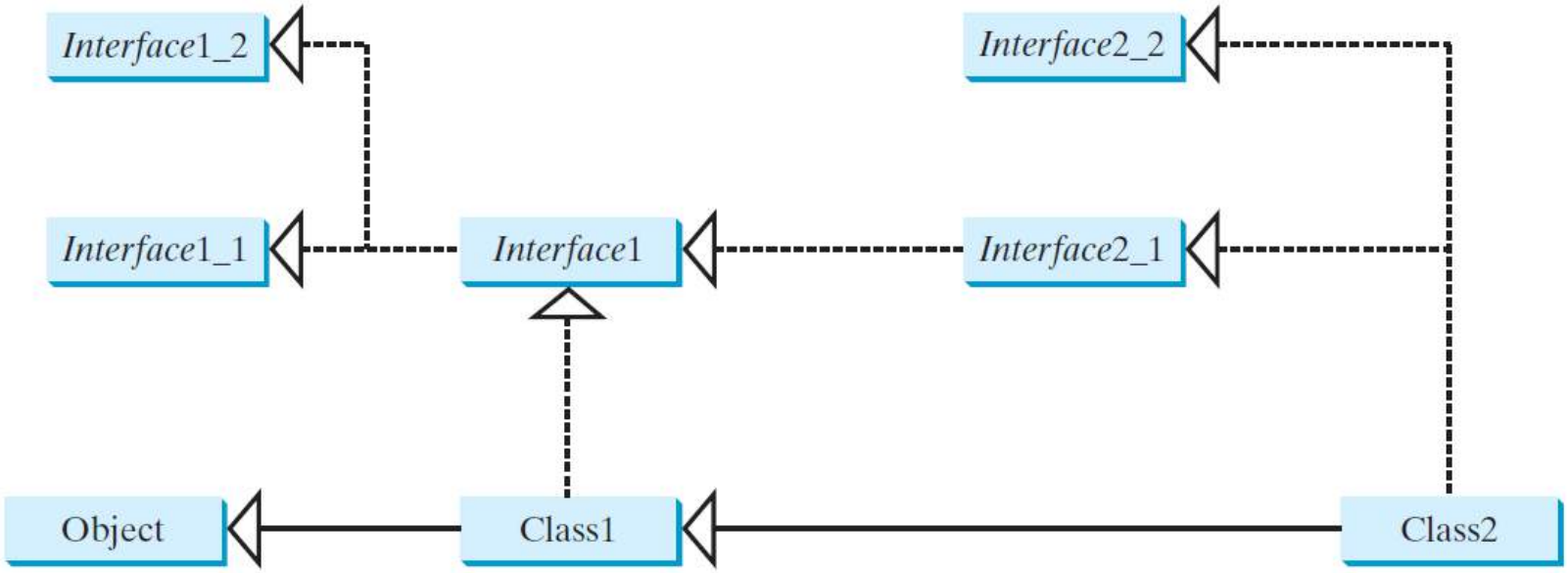
Each method in an interface has only a signature without implementation; an abstract class can have concrete methods.

TABLE 13.2 Interfaces vs. Abstract Classes

	Variables	*Constructors*	*Methods*
Abstract class	No restrictions.	Constructors are invoked by subclasses through constructor chaining. An abstract class cannot be instantiated using the new operator.	No restrictions.
Interface	All variables must be `public static final`.	No constructors. An interface cannot be instantiated using the new operator.	May contain public abstract instance methods, public default, and public static methods.

Interfaces vs. Abstract Classes, cont.

All classes share a single root, the Object class, but there is no single root for interfaces. Like a class, an interface also defines a type. A variable of an interface type can reference any instance of the class that implements the interface. If a class extends an interface, this interface plays the same role as a superclass. You can use an interface as a data type and cast a variable of an interface type to its subclass, and vice versa.



Suppose that c is an instance of Class2. c is also an instance of Object, Class1, Interface1, Interface1_1, Interface1_2, Interface2_1, and Interface2_2.

Do We Still Need Abstract Classes? After Java8

After the Java 8 interface enhancements, the new version of Interface looks like a great replacement for the Abstract class, right?

No, not at all.

Caution: conflict interfaces

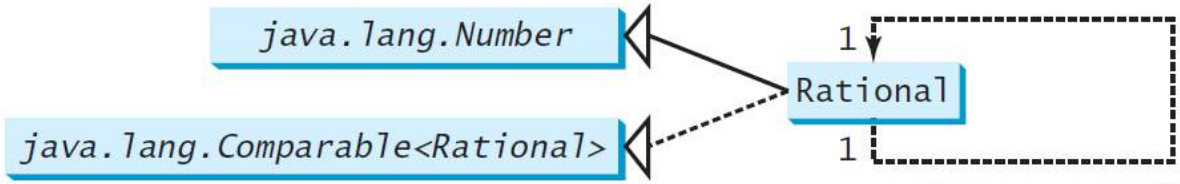
In rare occasions, a class may implement two interfaces with conflict information (e.g., two same constants with different values or two methods with same signature but different return type). This type of errors will be detected by the compiler.

TestInterfaceMain.java

Whether to use an interface or a class?

Abstract classes and interfaces can both be used to model common features. How do you decide whether to use an interface or a class? In general, a strong is-a relationship that clearly describes a parent-child relationship should be modeled using classes. For example, a staff member is a person. A weak is-a relationship, also known as an is-kind-of relationship, indicates that an object possesses a certain property. A weak is-a relationship can be modeled using interfaces. For example, all strings are comparable, so the String class implements the Comparable interface. You can also use interfaces to circumvent single inheritance restriction if multiple inheritance is desired. In the case of multiple inheritance, you have to design one as a superclass, and others as interface.

The `Rational` Class



Rational
-numerator: long -denominator: long
+Rational() +Rational(numerator: long, denominator: long) +getNumerator(): long +getDenominator(): long +add(secondRational: Rational): Rational +subtract(secondRational: Rational): Rational +multiply(secondRational: Rational): Rational +divide(secondRational: Rational): Rational +toString(): String -gcd(n: long, d: long): long

The numerator of this rational number.
The denominator of this rational number.
Creates a rational number with numerator 0 and denominator 1.
Creates a rational number with a specified numerator and denominator.
Returns the numerator of this rational number.
Returns the denominator of this rational number.
Returns the addition of this rational number with another.
Returns the subtraction of this rational number with another.
Returns the multiplication of this rational number with another.
Returns the division of this rational number with another.
Returns a string in the form "numerator/denominator." Returns the numerator if denominator is 1.
Returns the greatest common divisor of n and d.

Rational

TestRationalClass