

CHAPTER8 Polymorphism (Abstract Class and Interface)

Shin-Jie Lee (李信杰)
Associate Professor
Computer and Network Center
Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering
National Cheng Kung University





Introduction to Polymorphism

- ☐ There are three main programming mechanisms that constitute object-oriented programming (OOP)
 - > Encapsulation
 - ➤ Inheritance
 - **>** Polymorphism



Introduction to Polymorphism

□ **Polymorphism**: A same operation can behave differently (be implemented by different methods).



- **Early binding** or static binding
 - > which method is to be called is decided at compiletime
 - Overloading: an invocation can be operated on arguments of more than one type
- Late binding or dynamic binding
 - > which method is to be called is decided at run-time
 - *Overriding*: a derived class inherits methods from the base class, it can change or override an inherited method

Lab: Early binding (through overloading)

```
public class SayHello {
  public String sayHello(String name){
    return "Hello! "+ name;
  public String sayHello(String name, String gender){
    if(gender.equals("boy")){
      return "Hello! Mr. "+ name;
    else if(gender.equals("girl")){
      return "Hello! Miss. "+ name;
    }else{
      return "Hello! "+ name;
  public static void main(String[] args){
    SayHello hello = new SayHello();
    System.out.println(hello.sayHello("S.J.")); //decided at compile time
    System.out.println(hello.sayHello("S.J.", "boy")); //decided at compile time
```



Lab: Late binding (through overriding)

```
public class Payment {
   public void pay(){
      System.out.println("Pay in cash");
   }
   public void checkout(){
      pay();
   }
}
```

```
public class Store {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Payment p1 = new Payment();
    p1.checkout();
  }
}
```

Lab: Late binding (through overriding)

```
public class CreditCardPayment extends Payment{
   public void pay() {
     System.out.println("Pay with credit card");
   }
}
```

```
public class Store {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Payment p1 = new Payment();
    p1.checkout();

    Payment p2 = new CreditCardPayment();
    p2.checkout();
  }
}
```



- □ Java uses static binding with private, final, and static methods
 - In the case of **private** and **final** methods, late binding would serve no purpose
 - However, in the case of a static method invoked using a calling object, it does make a difference



```
public class Payment {
   public static void pay(){
      System.out.println("Pay in cash");
   }
   public void checkout(){
      pay();
   }
}
```

```
public class CreditCardPayment extends Payment{
   public static void pay() {
     System.out.println("Pay with credit card");
   }
}
```

```
public class Store {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Payment p1 = new Payment();
    p1.checkout();

    Payment p2 = new CreditCardPayment();
    p2.checkout();
  }
}
```

the type of **p2** is determined by its variable name, not the object that it references



Upcasting and Downcasting

Upcasting is when an object of a derived class is assigned to a variable of a base class (or any ancestor class)

```
Payment p2 = new CreditCardPayment();
p2.checkout();
```



Upcasting and Downcasting

- Downcasting is when a type cast is performed from a base class to a derived class (or from any ancestor class to any descendent class)
 - > Downcasting has to be done very carefully
 - In many cases it doesn't make sense, or is illegal:

```
Payment p1 = new Payment();
CreditCardPayment p2 = (CreditCardPayment)p1; //runtime error
```



Tip: Checking to See if Downcasting is Legitimate

- ☐ Downcasting to a specific type is only sensible if the object being cast is an instance of that type
 - This is exactly what the **instanceof** operator tests for:

object instanceof ClassName

- ➤ It will return true if **object** is of type **ClassName**
- In particular, it will return true if **object** is an instance of any descendent class of **ClassName**

Step1: Remove "static" in CreditCardPayment and Payment

```
Step2
public class CreditCardPayment extends Payment{
   public void pay() {
      System.out.println("Pay with credit card");
   }
   public void sign(){
      System.out.println("Signing...");
   }
}
```

```
public class Store {
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Payment p1 = new Payment();
  p1.checkout();
  payProcess(p1);
  Payment p2 = new CreditCardPayment();
  p2.checkout();
  payProcess(p2);
public static void payProcess(Payment p){
 if(p instanceof CreditCardPayment){
   ((CreditCardPayment)p).sign();
```



- ☐ Creates and returns a copy of this object.
 - \triangleright x.clone() != x
- The heading for the **clone** method defined in the **Object** class is as follows:

protected Object clone()

A change to a more permissive access, such as from protected to public, is always allowed when overriding a method definition

```
public class A implements Cloneable{
  int num = 1;
  B b = new B();
  public Object clone(){
   try{
      return super.clone();
    }catch(Exception e){
      return null;
public class B implements Cloneable{
  int speed = 100;
```

Lab (Shallow Copy)

```
public class Test {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
   A = new A();
    System.out.println(a.num);
                                           //1
                                           //100
    System.out.println(a.b.speed);
    A clone_a = (A) a.clone();
    System.out.println(clone_a.num);
                                           //1
    System.out.println(clone a.b.speed);
                                           //100
    clone a.num = 2;
    clone_a.b.speed = 200;
    System.out.println(a.num);
                                           //1
    System.out.println(a.b.speed);
                                           //200
```



☐ If a class has a copy constructor, the **clone** method for that class can use the *copy constructor* to create the copy returned by the **clone** method

```
public Sale clone()
{
   return new Sale(this);
}
```

Lab (Deep Copy)

```
public class A implements Cloneable{
 int num = 1;
 B b = new B();
 public A(A a){
   num = a.num;
   b.speed = a.b.speed;
  public A(){}
 public Object clone(){
   return new A(this);
```

```
public class Test {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
   A = new A();
    System.out.println(a.num);
                                           //1
                                           //100
    System.out.println(a.b.speed);
    A clone_a = (A) a.clone();
    System.out.println(clone_a.num);
                                           //1
    System.out.println(clone a.b.speed);
                                           //100
    clone_a.num = 2;
    clone_a.b.speed = 200;
    System.out.println(a.num);
    System.out.println(a.b.speed);
```



Introduction to Abstract Classes

- ☐ In order to postpone the definition of a method, Java allows an *abstract method* to be declared
 - An abstract method has a heading, but no method body
 - The body of the method is defined in the derived classes
- ☐ The class that contains an abstract method is called an *abstract class*



Abstract Method

☐ An abstract method is like a placeholder for a method that will be fully defined in a descendent class ☐ It has a complete method heading, to which has been added the modifier abstract ☐ It cannot be private ☐ It has no method body, and ends with a semicolon in place of its body public abstract double getPay(); public abstract void doIt(int count);



Abstract Class

- A class that has at least one abstract method is called an *abstract class*
 - An abstract class must have the modifier abstract included in its class heading:

```
public abstract class Employee
{
   private instanceVariables;
   . . .
   public abstract double getPay();
   . . .
}
```



- An abstract class can have any number of abstract and/or fully defined methods
- If a derived class of an abstract class adds to or does not define all of the abstract methods, then it is abstract also, and must add abstract to its modifier
- ☐ A class that has no abstract methods is called a concrete class



Pitfall: You Cannot Create Instances of an Abstract Class

- ☐ An abstract class can only be used to derive more specialized classes
 - ➤ While it may be useful to discuss employees in general, in reality an employee must be a salaried worker or an hourly worker
- An abstract class constructor cannot be used to create an object of the abstract class

```
public abstract class Animal {
  public abstract void run();
  public void sit(){ System.out.println("Sit down..."); }
}
```

```
public class Dog extends Animal {
  public void run(){
    System.out.println("The dog is running");
  }
}
```

```
public class Cat extends Animal{
  public void run(){
    System.out.println("The cat is running");
  }
}
```



```
public class House {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
   Animal dog = new Dog();
   Animal cat = new Cat();
   playWith(dog);
   playWith(cat);
    dog.sit();
    cat.sit();
  public static void playWith(Animal animal){
    animal.run();
```



- binding refers to the method definition being associated with the method invocation when the code is compiled.
 - (a)Dynamic
 - (b)Late
 - (c)Early
 - (d)None of the above



Java does not use late binding for methods marked as:

- (a)final
- (b)static
- (c)private
- (d)all of the above



Assigning an object of a derived class to a variable of a base class is called:

- (a)static binding
- (b)dynamic binding
- (c)Upcasting
- (d)downcasting



Assigning an object of an ancestor class to a descendent class is called:

- (a)static binding
- (b)dynamic binding
- (c)Upcasting
- (d)downcasting



If you choose to use the method clone in your code, you must _____ the clone method.

(a)overload
(b)encapsulate
(c)override
(d)protect



You cannot create an object using a/an:

- (a) superclass constructor
- (b)subclass constructor
- (c)ancestor class constructor
- (d)abstract class constructor



An abstract method cannot be modified by:

- (a)public
- (b)protected
- (c)private
- (d)none of the above



A class that has at least one abstract method is called an:

- (a)concrete class
- (b)encapsulated class
- (c)abstract class
- (d)private class



A class with no abstract methods is called a

- (a)concrete class
- (b)encapsulated class
- (c)abstract class
- (d)private class



- An *interface* is something like an extreme case of an abstract class
 - However, an interface is not a class
 - It is a type that can be satisfied by any class that implements the interface
- ☐ The syntax for defining an interface is similar to that of defining a class
 - Except the word interface is used in place of class



- ☐ An interface specifies a set of methods that any class that implements the interface must have
 - ➤ It contains **method headings** and **constant definitions** only
 - Any variables defined in an interface must be public, static, and final
 - It contains no instance variables nor any complete method definitions

```
public interface Shape {
  int color = 1; // => public static final int color = 1;
}

public class Paint {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println(Shape.color);
  }
}
```



- All methods in an interface are **implicitly public and abstract**, so you can omit the public modifier.
 - ➤ They cannot be given private or protected

```
public interface ISpec1 {
     private void run(); //Not allowed
     protected void run(); //Not allowed

    void run(); // Allowed. Equal to the following definition
    public abstract void run(); //Allowed
}
```

```
public interface Shape {
  int color = 1; // => public static final int color = 1;
  public abstract double area(); //=> double area();
}
```



- ☐ *Multiple inheritance* is not allowed in Java
- ☐ Instead, Java's way of approximating multiple inheritance is through interfaces



- ☐ To *implement an interface*, a concrete class must do two things:
 - 1. implements Interface_Name
 - 2. The class must implement *all* the method headings listed in the definition(s) of the interface(s)

```
public class Rectangle implements Shape{
  int x1=0;
  int y1=0;
  int x2=10;
  int y2=10;
  public double area(){
    return (x2-x1)*(y2-y1);
public class Circle implements Shape{
  double radius = 3;
  public double area(){
    return radius*radius*3.14;
```

```
public class Paint {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println(Shape.color);
    Shape shape1 = new Rectangle();
   printArea(shape1);
    Shape shape2 = new Circle();
   printArea(shape2);
  public static void printArea(Shape shape){
   System.out.println(shape.area());
```



Abstract Classes Implementing Interfaces

- ☐ Abstract classes may implement one or more interfaces
 - Any method headings given in the interface that are not given definitions are made into abstract methods
- ☐ A concrete class must give definitions for all the method headings given in the abstract class *and* the interface



Abstract Class vs. Interface

```
public abstract class Animal {
   public abstract void run();
   public void sit(){ System.out.println("Sit down..."); }
}
```

VS.

```
public interface Shape {
  int color = 1; // => public static final int color = 1;
  public abstract double area(); //=> double area();
}
```



- Like classes, an interface may be derived from a base interface
 - This is called *extending* the interface
 - The derived interface must include the phrase extends BaseInterfaceName
- ☐ A concrete class that implements a derived interface must have definitions for any methods in the derived interface as well as any methods in the base interface

```
public interface Drawing {
   public abstract void drawBorder();
}

public interface Shape extends Drawing{
   int color = 1; // => public static final int color = 1;
   public abstract double area();
}
```

```
public class Rectangle implements Shape{
  int x1=0;
  int y1=0;
  int x2=10;
  int y2=10;
  public double area(){
    return (x2-x1)*(y2-y1);
  public void drawBorder(){
    System.out.println("Drawing the border of the rectangle...");
```

```
public class Circle implements Shape{

double radius = 3;
public double area(){
   return radius*radius*3.14;
}

public void drawBorder(){
   System.out.println("Drawing the border of the circle...");
}
```



A class that uses an interface must use the keyword:

- (a)Extends
- (b)Inherits
- (c)Super
- (d)Implements



An interface and all of its method headings are normally declared to be:

- (a)public
- (b)private
- (c)Protected
- (d)package access



An interface may contain:

- (a)instance variables
- (b)primitive variables
- (c)constant variables
- (d)all of the above

```
public interface Printable {
  void printAll();
class Person implements Printable {
 private String name = new String("Bill");
  private int age = 22;
  public void printAll() {
    System.out.println("Name is " + name + ", age is " + age);
public class PrintableTest {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Printable p = new Person();
    p.printAll();
```



- ☐ "Absolute Java". Walter Savitch and Kenrick Mock. Addison-Wesley; 5 edition. 2012
- ☐ "Java How to Program". Paul Deitel and Harvey Deitel. Prentice Hall; 9 edition. 2011.
- □ "A Programmers Guide To Java SCJP Certification: A Comprehensive Primer 3rd Edition". Khalid Mughal, Rolf Rasmussen. Addison-Wesley Professional. 2008