

CS 2340 Objects and Design - Scala

Traits and Packages

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Traits

Traits are like abstract classes except:


- Traits cannot take constructor arguments, and
- `super` calls are dynamically bound (not statically as in classes) - more later

Given this trait definition:

```
trait Philosophical {  
  def philosophize() {  
    println("I consume memory, therefore I am!")  
  }  
}
```

You can *mix-in* the trait using the `extends` keyword, just like for classes:

```
class Frog extends Philosophical {  
  override def toString = "green"  
}
```

Traits define types, and mixing-in a trait creates a subtype relationship 

Mixing-in Multiple Traits

When extending a class and mixing-in a trait, class must come first

```
class Animal

class Frog extends Animal with Philosophical {
  override def toString = "green"
}
```

Can mix-in multiple traits with additional `with` keywords and override methods from traits just like methods from superclasses

```
class Animal
trait HasLegs

class Frog extends Animal with Philosophical with HasLegs {
  override def toString = "green"

  override def philosophize() {
    println("It ain't easy being " + toString + "!")
  }
}
```

Thin vs. Rich Interfaces

- Thin interfaces easier for library authors to maintain
- Rich interfaces easier for client code to use

A rich rectangle class without traits

```
class Point(val x: Int, val y: Int)

class Rectangle(val topLeft: Point, val bottomRight: Point) {
  def left = topLeft.x
  def right = bottomRight.x
  def width = right - left
}
```

Extension Traits

A trait can turn a thin interface into a rich interface

- Define the basic thin interface
- Define rich extensions using the basic thin interface

For example:

```
trait Rectangular {  
  def topLeft: Point  
  def bottomRight: Point  
  def left = topLeft.x  
  def right = bottomRight.x  
  def width = right - left  
}
```

`topLeft` and `bottomRight` are the basic thin interface on which the rich extension methods `left`, `right` and `width` are based

Using an Extension Trait

Given the following complete definition for Rectangle

```
class Rectangle(val topLeft: Point, val bottomRight: Point)
  extends Rectangular
```

Users can use the rich interface

```
scala> val rect = new Rectangle(new Point(1, 1), new Point(10, 10))
rect: Rectangle = Rectangle@3536fd
```

```
scala> rect.left
res2: Int = 1
```

```
scala> rect.right
res3: Int = 10
```

BTW, how does this work? In particular, where are the definitions of `topLeft` and `bottomRight` that are abstract in the `Rectangular` trait?

The Uniform Access Principle in Action

Recall the definitions of Rectangle and rectangular:

```
trait Rectangular {  
  def topLeft: Point  
  def bottomRight: Point  
  def left = topLeft.x  
  def right = bottomRight.x  
  def width = right - left  
}  
class Rectangle(val topLeft: Point, val bottomRight: Point)  
  extends Rectangular
```

- `topLeft` and `bottomRight` are abstract *parameterless methods* in trait `Rectangular`
- `Rectangle` **overrides** `topLeft` and `bottomRight` with parametric fields
- Overriding methods with fields is made possible by the uniform access principle and employing the convention for defining parameterless methods

An Enrichment Example From the Standard Library

Recall the `Rational` class from chapter 6. If you wanted to add convenient comparison operators, their implementation would look something like this:

```
class Rational(n: Int, d: Int) {  
  // ...  
  def < (that: Rational) = this.number * that.denom > that.number *  
    this.denom  
  
  def > (that: Rational) = that < this  
  
  def <= (that: Rational) = (this < that) || (this == that)  
  def >= (that: Rational) = (this > that) || (this == that)  
}
```

Other classes that supported these comparison operators would look the same. Can we factor out the boilerplate?

The Ordered Trait

Here's the entire definition of the `Ordered` trait from the Scala library (minus comments):

```
trait Ordered[A] extends java.lang.Comparable[A] {  
  
  def compare(that: A): Int  
  
  def < (that: A): Boolean = (this compare that) < 0  
  def > (that: A): Boolean = (this compare that) > 0  
  def <= (that: A): Boolean = (this compare that) <= 0  
  def >= (that: A): Boolean = (this compare that) >= 0  
  def compareTo(that: A): Int = compare(that)  
}
```

Classes that mix-in the `Ordered` trait need only define the `compare` method. All of the other convenient comparison operations are defined in terms of `compare`

Note that `Ordered` takes a type parameter.

The Rational Class with Ordered Mixed-in

Given the following (details elided) definition of `Rational` (note the type parameter supplied to `Ordered`):

```
class Rational(n: Int, d: Int) extends Ordered[Rational] {  
  // ...  
  def compare(that: Rational) =  
    (this.numer * that.denom) - (that.numer * this.denom)  
}
```

You get all the comparison operators defined in trait `Ordered`

```
scala> val half = new Rational(1, 2)  
half: Rational = 1/2  
  
scala> val third = new Rational(1, 3)  
third: Rational = 1/3  
  
scala> half < third  
res5: Boolean = false  
  
scala> half > third  
res6: Boolean = true
```

Stackable Modifications

Consider an abstract `IntQueue` class:

```
abstract class IntQueue {  
  def get(): Int  
  
  def put(x: Int)  
}
```

We can make a basic concrete subclass like this:

```
import scala.collection.mutable.ArrayBuffer  
class BasicIntQueue extends IntQueue {  
  private val buf = new ArrayBuffer[Int]  
  
  def get() = buf.remove(0)  
  
  def put(x: Int) { buf += x }  
}
```

... and we can add modifications in a modular way using traits.

Stackable Doubling Modification

Say we want to double the contents of the `BasicIntQue` as they are added. We can define this modification to `InQue`'s as a trait:

```
trait Doubling extends IntQueue {  
  abstract override def put(x: Int) { super.put(2 * x) }  
}
```

- `trait Doubling extends IntQueue`, so you can only mix this trait into classes that extend `IntQue`
- The `abstract override` modifier (which can only be done in traits) on the `put` method together with the `super` call says that `Doubling` must be mixed into a class that has a concrete definition of `put` (which might itself be provided by a trait that is mixed-in *before* `Doubling` is mixed-in)

The Doubling Modification in Action

We can mix-in the Doubling trait in a class definition

```
scala> class MyQueue extends BasicIntQueue with Doubling
defined class MyQueue

scala> val queue = new MyQueue
queue: MyQueue = MyQueue@91f017

scala> queue.put(10) scala> queue.get()
res12: Int = 20
```

Since the definition of `MyQueue` defines no new code, we don't need to define a whole new class. We can mix-n traits in calls to `new`

```
scala> val queue = new BasicIntQueue with Doubling
queue: BasicIntQueue with Doubling = $anon$1@5fa12d

scala> queue.put(10)

scala> queue.get()
res14: Int = 20
```

Stackable Modifications

But wait, there's more! We can define additional traits and stack these modifications. Here are two more modification traits:

```
trait Incrementing extends IntQueue {  
  abstract override def put(x: Int) { super.put(x + 1) }  
}  
trait Filtering extends IntQueue {  
  abstract override def put(x: Int) { if (x >= 0) super.put(x) }  
}
```

Here's how these *stackable modifications* to BasicIntQueue work:

```
scala> val queue = (new BasicIntQueue with Incrementing with Filtering)  
queue: BasicIntQueue with Incrementing with Filtering...  
  
scala> queue.put(-1); queue.put(0); queue.put(1)  
  
scala> queue.get()  
res15: Int = 1  
  
scala> queue.get()  
res16: Int = 2
```

Linearization Enables Stackable Traits

- In a class, methods in traits are executed from right to left
- `super` calls in a trait are bound dynamically based on where the trait is in the linearization - for stacked traits, `super` invokes the trait to the left
- `super` calls in a class are bound statically to the superclass, which is linearized before the `super` call is bound

The upshot: the order of trait mix-ins is important

```
scala> val queue = new BasicIntQueue with Filtering with Incrementing
queue: BasicIntQueue with Filtering with Incrementing...
```

```
scala> queue.put(-1); queue.put(0); queue.put(1) scala> queue.get()
res17: Int = 0
```

```
scala> queue.get()
res18: Int = 1
```

```
scala> queue.get()
res19: Int = 2
```

Traits in Summary

- Like abstract classes that can't take constructor arguments
- Can contain abstract methods (like Java interfaces) and definitions, including fields and concrete methods
- Can mix-in multiple traits
- Specially defined traits with `abstract override` methods and dynamically-bound `super` calls create *stackable modifications* that can be mixed-in flexibly into classes

Traits are Scala's mechanism for *mix-in composition* that avoids many of the pitfalls of true multiple inheritance. Mixing-in traits is something between inheritance and composition. Traits create types like inheritance, but are also used for type-aware composition, as with stackable modifications.

Packages

Two ways to define packages:

- with a package statement at the top of a source file,

```
package bobsrockets.navigation  
  
class Navigator
```

- or using *packaging syntax*

```
package bobsrockets.navigation {  
    class Navigator  
}
```

Both syntaxes create a class named

`bobsrockets.navigation.Navigator`

I prefer the package statement syntax, which is like Java's.

Packages Namespaces/Scopes

You can nest packages and get the expected referencing behavior:

```
package bobsrockets {  
  package navigation {  
    class Navigator // ...  
  }  
  class Ship {  
    // No need to say bobsrockets.navigation.Navigator  
    val nav = new navigation.Navigator  
  }  
  package fleets {  
    class Fleet {  
      // No need to say bobsrockets.Ship  
      def addShip() { new Ship }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Note that if you use separate files and package statements (the Java way, and the way most Scala programmers do it), you have to import parent package members - they're not automatically in scope as they are in the single-file packaging syntax example above.

Imports

Given the following package:

```
package bobsdelights

abstract class Fruit( val name: String, val color: String)

object Fruits {
  object Apple extends Fruit("apple", "red")
  object Orange extends Fruit("orange", "orange")
  object Pear extends Fruit("pear", "yellowish")
  val menu = List(Apple, Orange, Pear)
}
```

- `import bobsdelights._` imports all members of the package into the namespace in which the import occurs (which could be anywhere - including inside a method)
- `import bobsdelights.Fruit` imports only the `Fruit` class
- `import Fruits.{Apple, Orange}` imports only `Apple` and `Orange` from object `Fruits`

More Imports

```
package bobsdelights

abstract class Fruit( val name: String, val color: String)

object Fruits {
  object Apple extends Fruit("apple", "red")
  object Orange extends Fruit("orange", "orange")
  object Pear extends Fruit("pear", "yellowish")
  val menu = List(Apple, Orange, Pear)
}
```

- `import Fruits.{Apple => McIntosh, Orange}` imports Apple and Orange but renames Apple to McIntosh in the current namespace
- `import Fruits._` or `import Fruits._` imports all members from object Fruits
- `import Fruits.{Pear => _, _}` imports all members of Fruits except Pear