CptS 355- Programming Language Design

Object Oriented Programming and Object Oriented Languages

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- 1. Data and operations belong together
- Abstraction and interface: implementation details are hidden
- 3. Subtyping
- 4. Inheritance
- 5. Static and Dynamic Method Binding (i.e., Static and Dynamic Dispatch)

- 1. Data and operations belong together
 - By packaging up data and operations/methods it will be clearer and easier to write and understand programs.
 - This is closely related to "data abstraction" or "abstract data types"

2. Abstraction and interface:

- The only access to the data should be only via the defined (abstract) operations.
- Implementation details are hidden

- <u>Interface</u>: a set of operations expressed in application-level terms rather than implementation-level terms.
 - Includes: operations, their arguments, their results, and their meaning.
- In Java, the use of the term "interface" is little bit different

3. Subtyping

- A is a subtype of type B when:
 - methods (A) \supseteq methods (B), and
 - fields(A) \supseteq fields (B)
- Notation: A<:B</p>
- If A<:B then:</p>
 - A can be used whenever B can.
- If A<:B, then "A provides all operations B provides, in terms of signatures."
 - However the operations may not have the same meaning. To avoid that languages require the programmer to explicitly declare subtype relationships.

4. Inheritance

 The implementations of methods of a supertype are available (and used) in a subtype unless they are overridden.

- Note: Subtyping vs inheritance
 - <u>subtyping</u> is about compatibility of <u>interfaces</u> (in the general sense)
 - inheritance is about re-use of implementations.

- Static and Dynamic Method Binding (Static and Dynamic Dispatch)
 - Dynamic Dispatch:
 - When we have subtyping, the method to call depends on the actual value contained in variable, not its type.
 - Binding of the method is determined at run time depending on the type of the object pointed to.

Dynamic vs Static Dispatch

C++ Example

```
class Person
{
  public:
    Person() { }
    void setSSN(int myssn){
        ssn=myssn;
    }
    void print {
        out << ssn;
    }
  private:
    int ssn;
}</pre>
```

```
class Student : public Person
{
  public:
    Student() { }
    void setGPA(float mygpa){
        gpa=mygpa;
    }
    void print {
        out << gpa;
    }
  private:
    double gpa;
}</pre>
```

```
void main(){

1    Student s ;
2    s.setSSN("119-23-3212");
3    s.setGPA(3.41);
4    Person *p = &s;
5    s.print();
6    (*p).print();
}
```

The compile time type of (*p) is Person. The runtime type of (*p) is Student.

Dynamic Dispatch

```
void main(){
    Student s ;
    s.setSSN('119-23-3212');
    s.setGPA(3.41);
    Person *p = &s;
    s.print();
    (*p).print();
}
```

- In C++, by default, the decision on which member function to invoke (base or overriden) is made on the basis of the compile-time type.
 - This is called static dispatch
- The decision is made based on the runtime type, when the member function is defined as a virtual function.
 - This is called dynamic dispatch
- How about Java?
- Why the static dispatch is the default in C++?

Dynamic Dispatch

C++ Example

```
class Person
{
  public:
    Person() { }
    string& setSSN(int myssn){
        ssn=myssn;
    }
    virtual void print {
        out << ssn;
    }
  private:
    int ssn;
}</pre>
```

```
class Student : public Person
{
   public:
     Student() { }
     string& setGPA(float mygpa){
        gpa=mygpa;
     }
     virtual void print {
        out << gpa;
     }
   private:
     double gpa;
}</pre>
```

```
void main(){

Student s ;

s.setSSN('119-23-3212');

s.setGPA(3.41);

Person *p = &s;

s.print();

(*p).print();
}
```

- A virtual function uses dynamic dispatch
- A non-virtual function uses static dispatch.

How are virtual methods implemented in C++?

 On a per class basis (not per instance) there is a run-time data structure called a v-table that contains pointers to the code for the virtual methods.

Example:

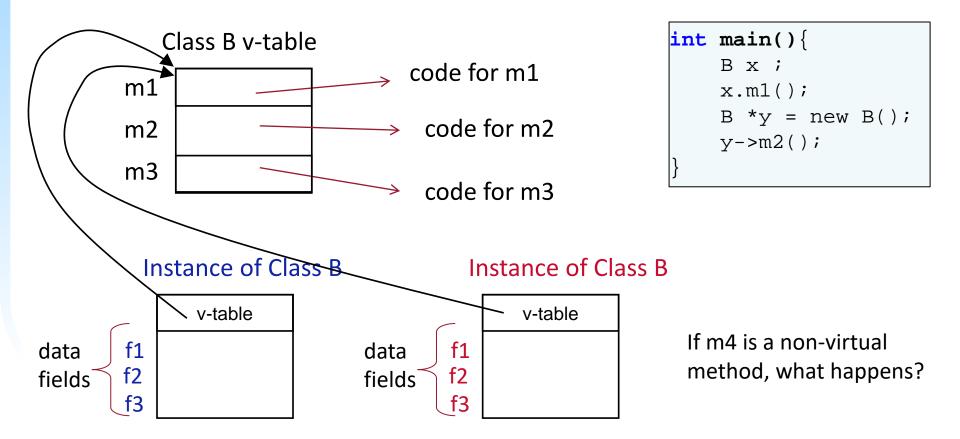
```
class B
{
  public:
    int f1;
    int f2;
    int f3;
    virtual void m1{ some code }
    virtual void m2{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    void m4{ some code }
}
```

```
class A : public B
{
  public:
    int f4;
    virtual void m2{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    virtual void m5{ some code }
    void m4{ some code }
}
```

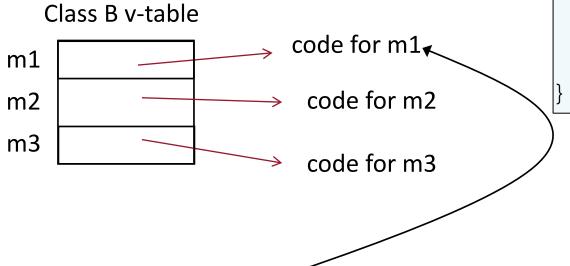
```
int main(){

1    B p ;
2    p.m1();
3    B *q = new A();
4    q->m1();
5    q->m2();
6    q->m4();
}
```

 v-table: run-time data structure which contains pointers to the code for the <u>virtual</u> methods.



class A is subclass of class B



Class A v-table

B p ;
 p.m1();
 B *q = new A();
 q->m1();
 q->m2();
 q->m4();
}

Single Inheritance

• Example:

```
class B
{
  public:
    int f1;
    int f2;
    int f3;
    virtual void m1{ some code }
    virtual void m2{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    void m4{ some code }
}
```

```
class A : public B
{
  public:
    int f4;
    virtual void m2{ some code }
    virtual void m3{ some code }
    virtual void m5{ some code }
    virtual void m5{ some code }
}
```

```
int main(){

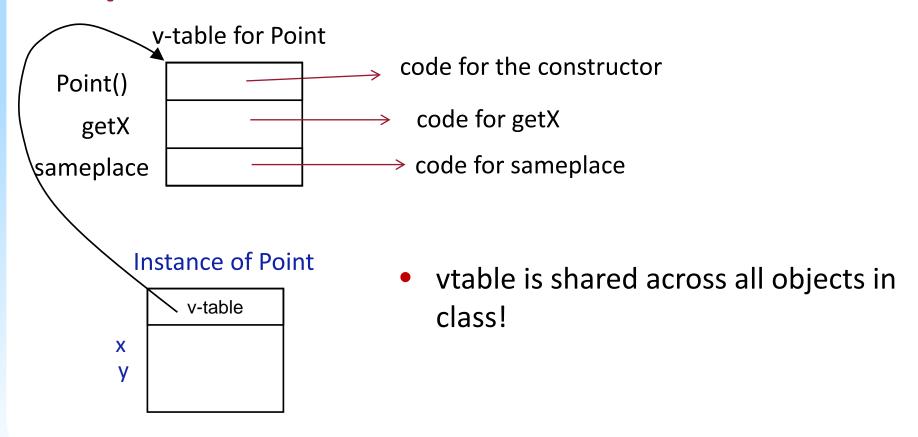
1    B p ;
2    p.m1();
3    B *q = new A();
4    q->m1();
5    q->m2();
6    q->m4();
}
```

• Example:

```
class Point
  public:
    double x;
    double y;
    void Point (double x,double y){
       this.x = ; this.y=y;
    double getX(){
       return x;
    boolean sameplace (Point p){
       return (x==p.x) \&\& (y==p.y)
```

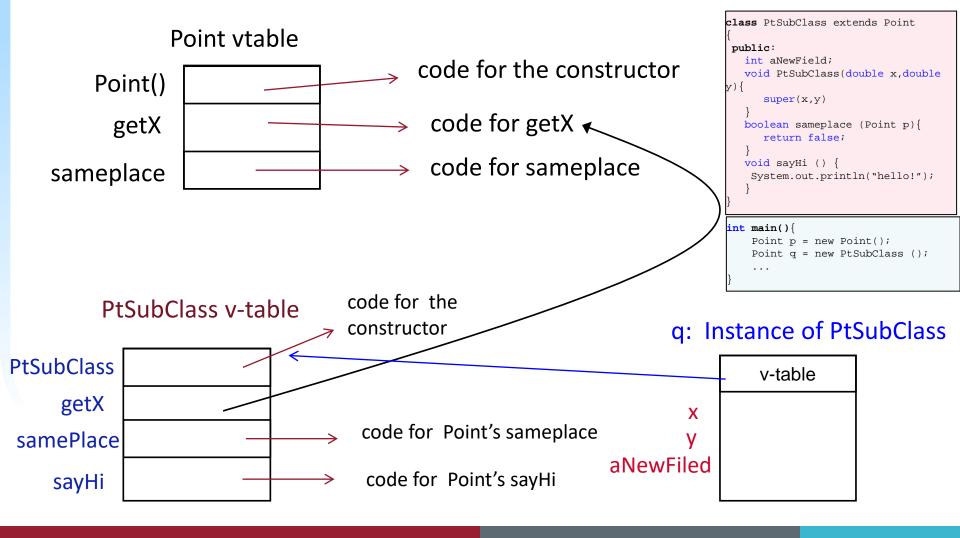
```
class PtSubClass extends Point
public:
   int aNewField;
   void PtSubClass(double x,double y){
      super(x,y)
   boolean sameplace (Point p) {
      return false;
   void sayHi () {
    System.out.println("hello!");
```

```
int main(){
    Point p = new Point();
    Point q = new PtSubClass ();
    ...
}
```



 If the object instance of Point is no longer needed, what will happen to it's vtable?

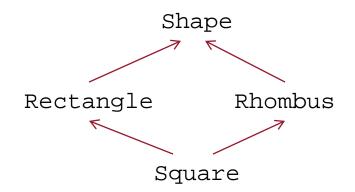
PtSubClass is subclass of Point



- A class inherits from 2 or more other classes
- Why multiple inheritance?
 - When modeling a domain, you often want to express more than one "kind-of" relationship for an object.
 - Example: ReadWriteStream (representing a readable and writeable file) is both a ReadStream and a WriteStream
- However, since there is more than one superclass, problems with ambiguity arise.

- Problems with ambiguity:
 - A class C may inherit from two base classes A and B that both define a method for a message M or both define an instance variable v.
 - When we access C.M, should A's method for M be invoked, or should B's method for M be invoked?
 - Should two copies of V be inherited, or one?
 - This is called a **name clash**.

- Problems with ambiguity:
 - Diamond inheritance: Some base class has two kinds of extensions, and one would like to combine them into a third kind that has the properties of both.
 - Many "natural" inheritance hierarchies have this form



```
class Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Rectangle sublasses Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Rhombus subclasses Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Square subclasses Rectangle, Rhombus {}
```

Duplicate method solutions:

- 1. User resolves ambiguity by overriding in subclass and directing resends to one class
 - C++ uses this approach

```
class Square subclasses Rectangle, Rhombus {
   Float area() {
      return super(Rhombus).area(); }
}
Not an actual syntax
```

Advantages:

- The user has the flexibility to select which inherited methods get invoked for which messages.
- The user gets feedback if (s)he forgets to override an ambiguously inherited method

- 2. User resolves ambiguity by specifying textual ordering.
 - For example: Superclasses are searched from left-to-right (in order of textual declaration at the class definition) for methods. The first one found is the one executed.
 - Python uses this approach.

```
class Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Rectangle sublasses Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Rhombus subclasses Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Square subclasses Rectangle, Rhombus {}
```

- Square.area?
- Disadvantage:
 - Lacks flexibility --- what if you wanted to inherit some methods from Rectangle, and other methods from Rhombus?

- 3. Prohibit multiple inheritance with overlapping methods.
 - Disadvantage:
 - In practice, there are too many opportunities that one must forego. Can't take advantage of those.

Duplicate instance variable solutions:

```
class Shape { float area() { ... } }
class Rectangle sublasses Shape {
    float area() { ... }
    Point topLeft;
    Point bottomRight;
}
class Rhombus subclasses Shape {
    float area() { ... }
    Point topLeft;
    Point topLeft;
    Point bottomRight;
}
class Square subclasses Rectangle, Rhombus {}
```

Not an actual syntax

- 1. Merge duplicates
- 2. Always duplicate
- 3. Merge if originally from same declaration

```
class Window { List menuItems; }
class Restaurant { List menuItems; }
class RestaurantWindow subclasses Window, Restaurant {}
```

Multiple inheritance vs. multiple subtyping

- Recall: inheritance and subtyping are different--inheritance concerns implementations, and subtyping concerns interfaces
- Java prohibits multiple inheritance of implementation.
 However, it supports "multiple inheritance of interface".

```
interface IShape { Float area(); }
interface IRectangle extends IShape { ... }
interface IRhombus extends IShape { ... }
interface ISquare extends IRhombus, IRectangle { ... }

abstract class Shape implements IShape {}

class Rectangle extends Shape implements IRectangle {
   float area() { ... }
}

class Rhombus extends Shape implements IRhombus {
   float area() { ... }
}

class Square extends Rhombus implements ISquare {
}
```

- The problem of doing multiple inheritance "right" is still an open problem in language design.
- Implementation is hard.

Miscellaneous

Method overloading

```
class Calculate{
  void sum(int a,int b){System.out.println(a+b);}
  void sum(int a,int b,int c){System.out.println(a+b+c);}

public static void main(String args[]){
     Calculate c = new Calculate ();
     c.sum(10,10,10);
     c.sum(20,20);
  }
}
```