

CM 10227: Lecture 6

Dr. Rachid Hourizi and Dr. Michael Wright

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Resources

- More help with this course
 - ▶ Moodle <http://moodle.bath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=30475>
 - ▶ E-mail - programming1@lists.bath.ac.uk
- Online Java IDE
 - ▶ <https://www.codechef.com/ide>
 - ▶ Remember to select Java as the language you are coding in...
- General Help on Java
 - ▶ How to Think Like a Computer Scientist (Java Version)
 - ▶ <http://www.greenteapress.com/thinkjava/thinkjava.pdf>
 - ▶ The Java Tutorial (<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial>)

- The places that you can get additional support if you are finding the pace of the course a little fast now include
 - ▶ The A and B labs
 - ▶ The Drop in Sessions
- If you struggling with the exercises, pace of the course and/or coding in general
- Please come and see Rachid or Michael

- If you are finding the pace a little slow on the other hand,
- You can sign up for the Advanced Programming Labs
- When and Where
 - ▶ Friday 12.15 - 14.15
 - ▶ 1WN 3.12

Last time...

- First Classes and Objects

This week

- Recap on Classes and Objects
- Inheritance
- Polymorphism
- Abstract Classes
- Interfaces

Classes and Objects

- First Objects (In Java)
- Interacting Objects (In Java)
- *Variables*
- Constructors
- Accessors and Mutators
- Methods
- public and private key words

```
public class Example{  
  
}
```



```
public class Example{  
    private int exampleVariable;  
}
```

```
public class Example{  
    private int exampleVariable;  
  
    public Example(){  
        exampleVariable = 1;  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Example{  
    private int exampleVariable;  
  
    public Example(){  
        exampleVariable = 1;  
    }  
  
    public Example(int value){  
        exampleVariable = value;  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Example{
    private int exampleVariable;

    public Example(){
        exampleVariable = 1;
    }

    public Example(int value){
        exampleVariable = value;
    }

    public void setExampleVariable(int value){
        exampleVariable = value;
    }
}
```

```
public class Example{  
    private int exampleVariable;  
  
    public Example(){  
        exampleVariable = 1;  
    }  
  
    public Example(int value){  
        exampleVariable = value;  
    }  
  
    public void setExampleVariable(int value){  
        exampleVariable = value;  
    }  
  
    public int getExampleVariable(){  
        return exampleVariable;  
    }  
}
```

Developing Interactive Classes : A Digital Clock

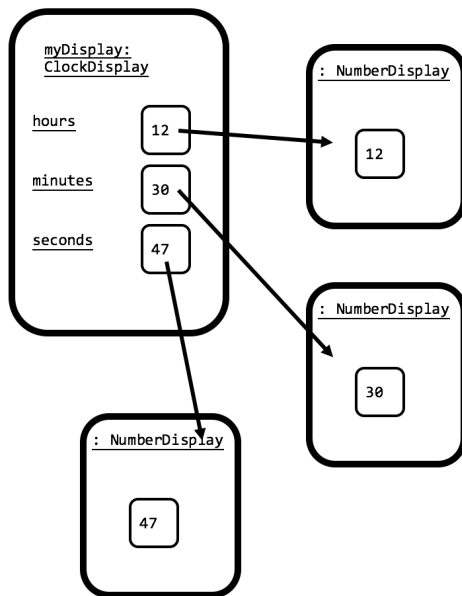


Question : should we develop one 6 digit display or three 2 digit displays?

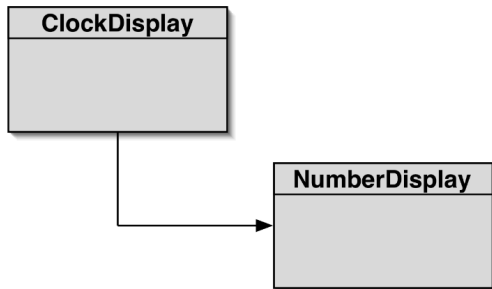
- As we go through this example, we will consider challenges of abstraction and modularization:
 - ▶ Abstraction is the ability to ignore details of parts to focus attention on a higher level of a problem.
 - ▶ Modularization is the process of dividing a whole into well-defined parts, which can be built and examined separately, and which interact in well-defined ways.

- A sensible approach if we go for 3*2-digit displays ('NumberDisplay') is to
 - ▶ write a NumberDisplay class which allows us to show any two digit number (i.e. a template for all NumberDisplay)
 - ▶ write a ClockDisplay class that creates three NumberDisplay instances
 - ▶ In other words, develop one class
 - ▶ that (in turn) creates three instances of another class (three Objects)

Object diagram



Class diagram



- Class Diagrams

- ▶ Show the classes of an application and the relationships between them
- ▶ Give information about the source code
- ▶ Static view of the program

- Object Diagrams

- ▶ Show objects and their relationships at one moment in time during the execution of the program
- ▶ Dynamic view of the program

Implementation: NumberDisplay

```
public class NumberDisplay
{
    private int limit;
    private int value;

    /* Constructor and
     * methods omitted
     */
}
```

Implementation: ClockDisplay

```
public class ClockDisplay
{
    private NumberDisplay hours;
    private NumberDisplay minutes;
    private NumberDisplay seconds;

    /* Constructor and
     * methods omitted
     */
}
```

- Importantly, however, we cannot describe all elements in a Java program using Class and Object diagrams:
- Java defines two very different categories of data type:
- primitive types
 - ▶ int, char, boolean etc.
- object types
 - ▶ ArrayList, LinkedList, NumberDisplay, ClockDisplay

- There are eight primitive data types supported by Java

- ▶ byte (8-bit signed integer)
- ▶ short (16-bit signed integer)
- ▶ int (32-bit signed integer)
- ▶ long (64-bit signed integer)
- ▶ float (32-bit floating point number)
- ▶ double (64-bit floating point number)
- ▶ boolean (single bit true/false)
- ▶ char (16-bit Unicode character)

- All primitive types are predefined by Java.
- Object types originate from classes.
 - ▶ Some of which are predefined and
 - ▶ Some of which we can write ourselves
- The primitive types are non-object types.
 - ▶ Have no constructors, accessors, mutators
- This is the reason why Java is not a completely object oriented language


```
//asignement of a primitive to a variable  
//without a call to a constructor  
int a = 6;
```

```
//asignment of an Object to a variable  
//using a constructor call  
MyObject obj = new MyObject(500);
```

- Primitive variables hold a value
- Object variables hold a reference to an Object

- There are two ways of passing arguments to methods in many programming languages including Java
- **Call-by-value:** A copy of the actual parameter is passed to the formal parameter of the called method. Any change made to the formal parameter will have no effect on the actual parameter.
- **Call-by-reference:** the caller gives the called method the ability to directly access to the callers data and to modify that data if the called method so chooses.

- It may be useful to think of primitives as passed by value
 - ▶ Since a copy is passed to each method that requires a primitive type parameter
- And objects as passed by reference
 - ▶ since an object passed to a method can be changed **permanently** within that method

- Returning to our DigitalClock, we will use the incremental development approach
- Starting with class comments and a class definition for the NumberDisplay class

```

/**
 * The NumberDisplay class represents a digital number
 * display that can hold values from zero to a given
 * limit. The limit can be specified when creating
 * the display. The values range from zero (inclusive)
 * to limit-1. If used, for example, for the seconds
 * on a digital clock, the limit would be 60,
 * resulting in display values from 0 to 59.
 * When incremented, the display automatically rolls
 * over to zero when reaching the limit.
 *
 * @author Michael Kolling and David J. Barnes
 * @version 2001.05.26
 */
public class NumberDisplay{
    // variables, constructors and methods go here
}

```

- followed by a definition of the fields needed by NumberDisplays

```
private int limit;  
private int value;
```

- Next, we define constructor(s) for NumberDisplay

```
/**
 * Constructor for objects of class NumberDisplay
 */
public NumberDisplay(int rollOverLimit){
    limit = rollOverLimit;
    value = 0;
}
```


- Next, we can define the **accessors** for the NumberDisplay class
- ...and the **mutators**

```
// Return the current value of the number display
public int getValue(){
    return value;
}

/**
 * Set the value of the display to the new
 * specified value. If the new value is
 * less than zero or over the limit, do nothing.
 */
public void setValue(int replacementValue){
    if((replacementValue >= 0) &&
        (replacementValue < limit)){
        value = replacementValue;
    }
}
```

```
/**
 * Return the display value (that is, the current
 * value as a two-digit String. If the value is
 * less than ten, it will be padded with
 * a leading zero).
 */
public String getDisplayValue(){
    if(value < 10)
        return "0" + value;
    else
        return "" + value;
}
```

```
/**
 * Increment the display value by one, rolling
 * over to zero if the limit is reached.
 */
public void increment()
{
    value = (value + 1) % limit;
}
```

- Having written code that defines the NumberDisplay class
- i.e. a template for all NumberDisplay Objects
- we can now write a ClockDisplay class
- That uses three NumberDisplay Objects

```
/**
 * The ClockDisplay class implements a digital clock
 * display for a European-style 24 hour clock.
 * The clock shows hours and minutes. The range of
 * the clock is 00:00:00 (midnight) to 23:59:59
 * (one second before midnight).
 *
 * The clock display receives "ticks" (via the
 * timeTick method) every second
 * and reacts by incrementing the display. This is
 * done in the usual clock fashion:
 * the hour increments when the minutes roll over
 * to zero and minutes increment when
 * seconds roll over to zero.
 *
 * @author Michael Kolling and David J. Barnes
 * @version 2001.05.26
 */
```

```
public class ClockDisplay{  
  
    private NumberDisplay hours;  
    private NumberDisplay minutes;  
    private NumberDisplay seconds;  
    private String displayString;  
  
}
```

```
/**
 * Constructor for ClockDisplay objects.
 * This constructor
 * creates a new clock set at 00:00:00.
 */
public ClockDisplay(){
    hours = new NumberDisplay(24);
    minutes = new NumberDisplay(60);
    seconds = new NumberDisplay(60);
    updateDisplay();
}
```



```
/**
 * Constructor for ClockDisplay objects.
 * This constructor creates a new clock
 * set at the time specified by the
 * parameters.
 */
public ClockDisplay(int hour, int minute, int
    second){
    hours = new NumberDisplay(24);
    minutes = new NumberDisplay(60);
    seconds = new NumberDisplay(60);
    setTime(hour, minute, second);
}
```

```
/**
 * This method should get called once every
 * second - it makes the clock
 * display go one minute forward.
 */
public void timeTick(){
    //some code
}

/**
 * Set the time of the display to the specified
 * hour and minute and second.
 */
public void setTime(int hour, int minute, int
    second){
    //some code
}
```

```
/**
 * Return the current time of this display
 * in the format HH:MM:SS.
 */
public String getTime(){
    //some code
}

/**
 * Update the internal string that
 * represents the display.
 */
private void updateDisplay(){
    //some code
}
```

- Note: The ClockDisplay class creates and uses three NumberDisplay Objects
 - ▶ new NumberDisplay(parameter-list)
 - ★ creates a new NumberDisplay Object
 - ★ i.e. we execute the constructor of that class
 - ★ this involves creating sufficient memory to store the values of primitive instance variables and references to object instance variables.

- Public methods:
 - ▶ `public void increment()` can be called externally
- Private methods
 - ▶ `private void updateDisplay()`
 - ▶ can only be called internally used for auxiliary methods

Aside : this keyword

```
public class Point {  
    public int x = 0;  
    public int y = 0;  
  
    //constructor  
    public Point(int x, int y) {  
        this.x = x;  
        this.y = y;  
    }  
}
```

- this is used to go out of the scope of the constructor to class level
 - ▶ this always refers to the current object.
 - ▶ can also used for methods
 - ▶ for internal methods calls and access to instance fields Java automatically inserts this:
 - ▶ updateDisplay → this.updateDisplay

Summary

- Recapped on and explored further Classes and Objects
- Variables
- Constructors
- Accessor and Mutators
- Methods

Inheritance

- **Database of Multimedia Entertainment**
- Stores details about CDs and videos
 - ▶ CD: title, artist, # tracks, playing time, got-it, comment
 - ▶ Video: title, director, playing time, got-it, comment
- Allows (later) to search for information or print lists

DOME Object Diagram



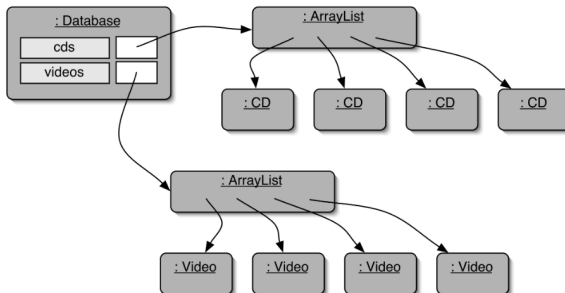
DOME Class Diagram



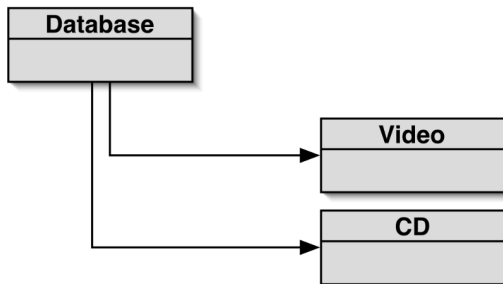
*top half
shows fields*

*bottom half
shows methods*

DOME Object Diagram continued...



DOME Class Diagram continued...



```
public class CD {  
    private String title ;  
    private String artist ;  
    private String comment;  
  
    public CD( String theTitle , String theArtist ) {  
        title = theTitle;  
        artist = theArtist;  
        comment = "";  
    }  
  
    public void setComment (String newComment) {...}  
  
    public String getComment() {...}  
  
    public void print () {...}  
  
}
```

```
public class Video{
    private String title ;
    private String director ;
    private String comment;

    public Video( String theTitle, String theDirect ){
        title = theTitle;
        director=theDirect;
        comment=" ";
    }

    public void setComment(String newComment) { ... }

    public String getComment() { ... }

    public void print()  { ... }

}
```



```
public class Database{
    private ArrayList cds;
    private ArrayList videos;

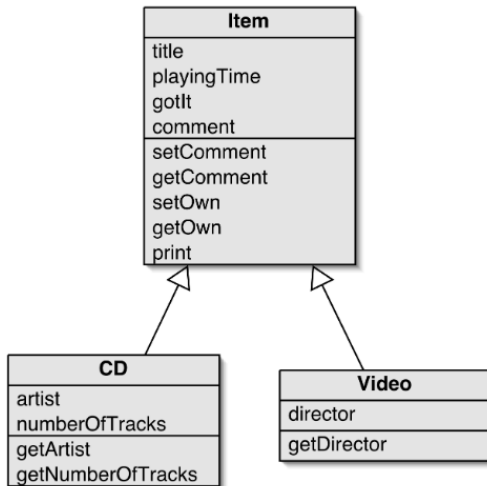
    public void list(){

        for(i=0, i<cds.size(); i++){
            cd.get(i).print();
            System.out.println();
        }

        for(i=0, i<videos.size(); i++){
            videos.get(i).print();
            System.out.println();
        }
    }
}
```

- Critique of DOME
- Code duplication
 - ▶ CD and Video classes very similar (large part are identical)
 - ▶ makes maintenance difficult/more work
 - ▶ introduces danger of bugs through incorrect maintenance
- Code duplication also in Database class

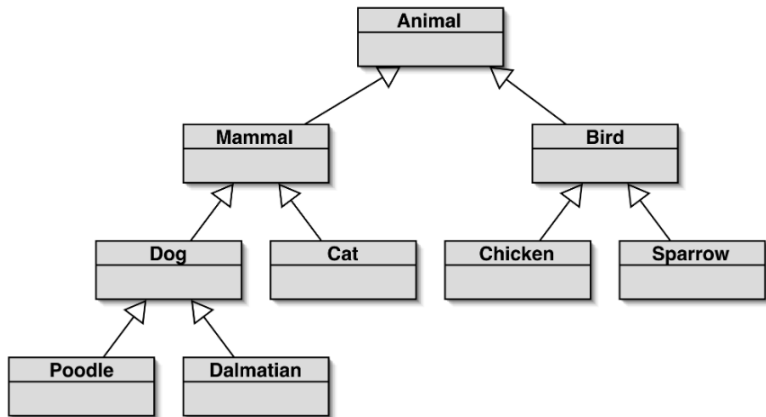
DOME Object Diagram Using Inheritance



• Using Inheritance

- ▶ define one superclass : Item
- ▶ define subclasses for Video and CD
- ▶ the superclass defines common attributes
- ▶ the subclasses inherit the superclass attributes
- ▶ the subclasses add own attributes

DOME Object Diagram Using Inheritance



```
public class Item{  
    private String title ;  
    private int playingTime ;  
    private boolean gotIt ;  
    private String comment;  
  
    //constructors and methods omitted...  
}
```

```
public class CD extends Item{

    private String artist;
    private int numberOfTracks;

    //constructors and methods omitted

}
```

```
public class Video extends Item{

    private String director;

    //constructors and methods omitted

}
```

```
public class Item{

    private String Title;
    private int playingTime;
    private boolean gotIt;
    private String comment;

    public Item(Sring theTitle, int time){
        title = theTitle;
        playingTime = time;
        gotIt = false;
        comment = "";
    }

    //methods omitted

}
```



```
public class CD extends Item{
    private String artist;
    private int numberOfTracks;

    public CD(String theTitle, String theArtist,
               int tracks, int time){
        super(theTitle, time);
        artist = theArtist;
        numberOfTracks = tracks;
    }

    //methods omitted

}
```

- Subclass constructors must always contain a 'super' call.
 - ▶ If none is written, the compiler inserts one (without parameters)
 - ▶ Works only, if the superclass has a constructor without parameters
 - ▶ Must be the first statement in the subclass constructor.

- Why do we care?
- Inheritance (so far) helps with:
 - ▶ Avoiding code duplication
 - ▶ Code reuse
 - ▶ Easier maintenance
 - ▶ Extendibility

```

public class Database {
    private ArrayList<Item> items ;

    // Construct an empty Database
    public Database( ) {
        items = new ArrayList<Item>() ;
    }

    // Add an item to the database
    public void addItem ( Item theItem ) {
        items.add(theItem);
    }
    ...
}

```

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/ArrayList.html>

```
/**
 * Print a list of all currently stored CDs and
 * videos to the text terminal .
 **/

public void list () {
    for(i=0; i<items.size; i++){
        Item item = items.get(i);
        item.print();
        System.out.println() ;
    }
}
```

- Subtyping
- First, we had:
 - ▶ `public void addCD(CD theCD)`
 - ▶ `public void addVideo(Video theVideo)`
- Now, we have:
 - ▶ `public void addItem(Item theItem)`
 - ▶ We call this method with:

```
Video myVideo = new Video(...);  
database.addItem(myVideo);
```

- Subclasses and subtyping
- Classes define types.
- Subclasses define subtypes.
- Objects of subclasses can be used where objects of supertypes are required.
- This is called substitution.

- Subclass objects may be assigned to superclass variables
- e.g. Car extends Vehicle and Bicycle extends Vehicle

```
Vehicle v1 = new Vehicle();  
Vehicle v2 = new Car();  
Vehicle v3 = new Bicycle();
```

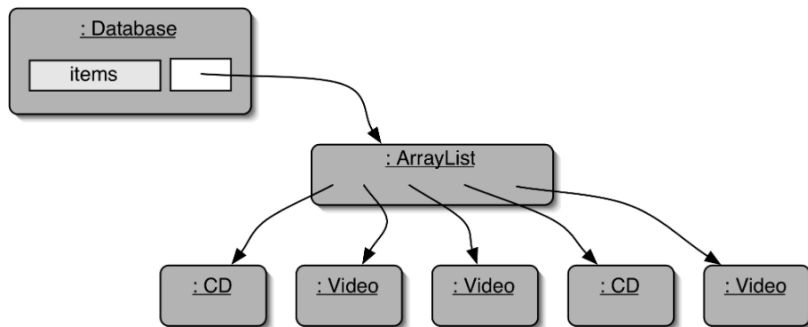

- Subclass objects may be passed to superclass parameters

```
public class Database{  
    public void addItem (Item theItem){  
        ....  
    }  
}
```

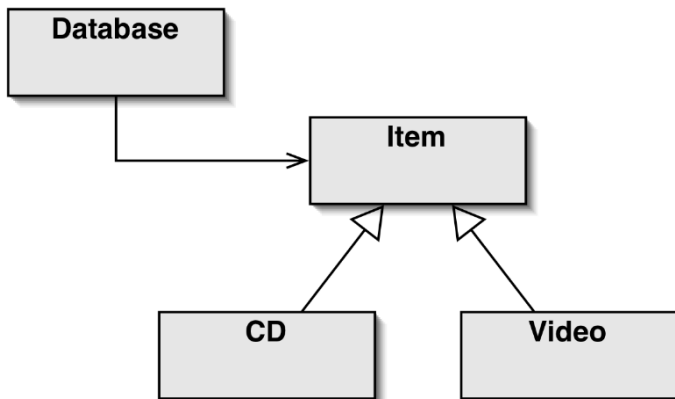
```
//code in another method  
Video video = new Video(...);  
CD cd = new CD(...);
```

```
database.addItem (video);  
database.addItem (cd);
```

Object Diagram Illustrating Inheritance

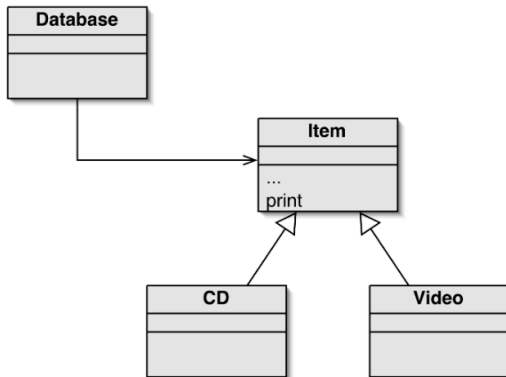


Class Diagram Illustrating Inheritance



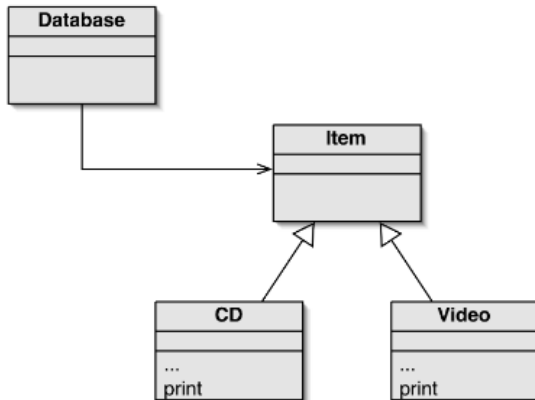
- Review
- Inheritance allows the definition of classes as extensions of other classes.
- Inheritance
 - ▶ avoids code duplication
 - ▶ allows code reuse
 - ▶ simplifies the code
 - ▶ simplifies maintenance and extending
- Variables can hold subtype objects.
- Subtypes can be used wherever supertype objects are expected (substitution).

- Polymorphic variables
- Object variables in Java are polymorphic.
 - ▶ They can hold objects of more than one type.
- They can hold objects of the declared type, or of subtypes of the declared type.



- The print method in Item only prints the common fields.
- Inheritance is a one-way street:
- A subclass inherits the superclass fields.
- The superclass knows nothing about its subclasses fields.

- Attempting to Solve the Problem.
- Place print where it has access to the information it needs.



- Each subclass has its own version.
- But Items fields are private.
- Database cannot find a print method in Item.

- To solve our problem we need to introduce...
- some new terminology:
 - ▶ static type
 - ▶ dynamic type
 - ▶ method dispatch/lookup

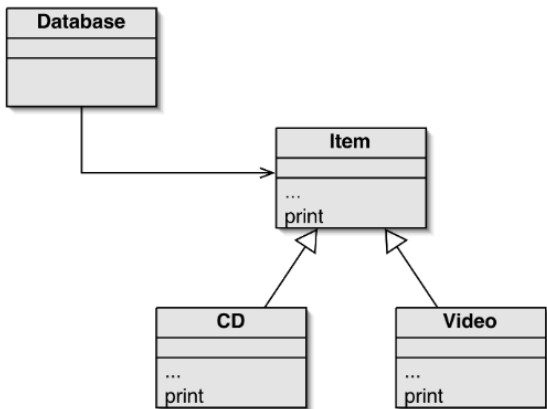
- Static Type and Dynamic Type
- The declared type of a variable is its static type.
- The type of the object a variable refers to is its dynamic type.
- The compilers job is to check for static-type violations.

```
class Alpha{}
class Beta extends Alpha{}
class Fruit extends Beta{}

Fruit f = new Fruit(); //static=Fruit, dynamic=Fruit
Alpha a = f; //static=Alpha, dynamic=Fruit

Fruit f = a //static type violation
```

- Returning to our problem...
- The Solution: Overriding
 - ▶ print method in both super- and subclasses
 - ▶ Satisfies both static and dynamic type checking



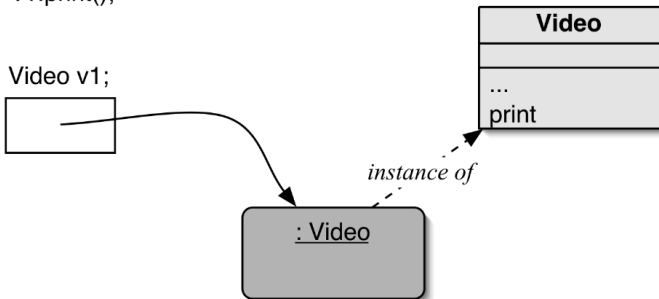
- Superclass and subclass define methods with the same signature.
- Each has access to the fields of its class.
- Superclass satisfies static type check.
- Subclass method is called at runtime it overrides the superclass version.
- What becomes of the superclass version?

• Method Lookup 1

- ▶ No inheritance or polymorphism.
- ▶ The obvious method is selected.

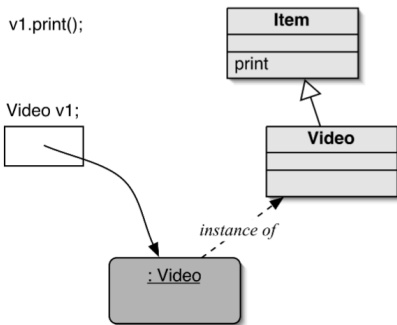
`v1.print();`

`Video v1;`



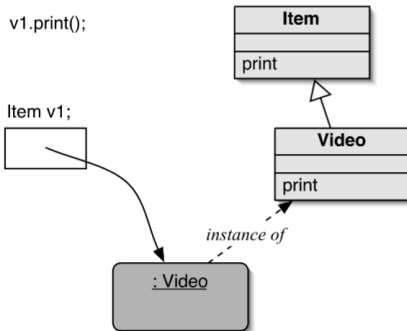
• Method Lookup 2

- ▶ Inheritance but no overriding
- ▶ The inheritance hierarchy is ascended, searching for a match.



• Method Lookup 3

- ▶ Polymorphism and overriding.
- ▶ The first version found is used.



- Method Lookup Summary
- The variable is accessed.
- The object stored in the variable is found.
- The class of the object is found.
- The class is searched for a method match.
- If no match is found, the superclass is searched.
- This is repeated until a match is found, or the class hierarchy is exhausted.
- Overriding methods take precedence.

- Super call in methods
- Overridden methods are hidden ...
- ... but we often still want to be able to call them.
- An overridden method can be called from the method that overrides it
 - ▶ `super.method(...)`
 - ▶ Compare with the use of `super` in constructors.

```
public class CD{  
  
    ...  
  
    public void print (){  
        super.print();  
        System.out.println (" "+artist);  
        System.out.println("tracks:" + numberOfTracks);  
    }  
}
```

- We have been discussing polymorphic method dispatch.
- A polymorphic variable can store objects of varying types.
- Method calls are polymorphic.
 - ▶ The actual method called depends on the dynamic object type.

- Methods in `Object` are inherited by all classes.
- Any of these may be overridden.
- The `toString` method is commonly overridden:
- `public String toString()`
 - ▶ Returns a string representation of the object.

```

public class Item{

    ...

    public String toString (){
        String line1=title + "□:□" + playingTime + "□mins"
        );
        if(gotIt) {
            return line1 + "\n" + comment + "\n");
        }
        else {
            return line1 + "\n" + comment + "□need□to□buy" +
                "\n");
        }
    }
}

```

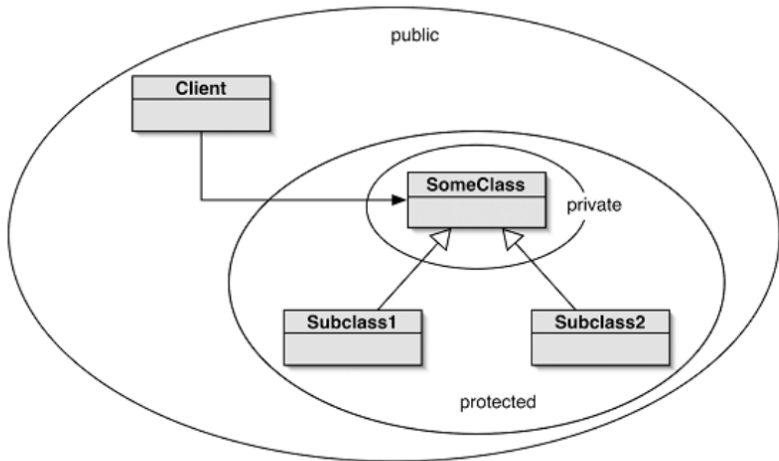

- Explicit print methods can often be omitted from a class:

```
System.out.println(item.toString()) ;
```

- Calls to println with just an object automatically result in
- toString being called:

```
System.out.println(item);
```

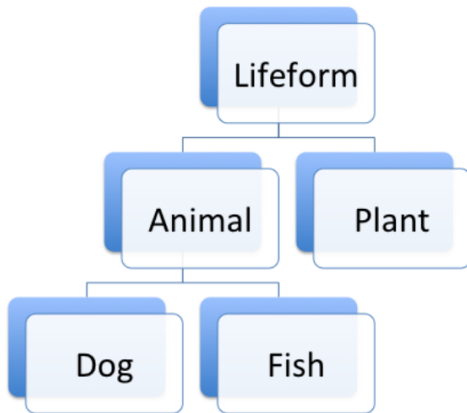
- Private access in the superclass may be too restrictive for a subclass.
- The closer inheritance relationship is supported by protected access.
- Protected access is more restricted than public access.
- We still recommend keeping fields private.
- Define protected accessors and mutators.



- Review
- The declared type of a variable is its static type.
- Compilers check static types.
- The type of an object is its dynamic type.
- Dynamic types are used at runtime.
- Methods may be overridden in a subclass.
- Method lookup starts with the dynamic type.
- Protected access supports inheritance.

Abstract Classes and Interfaces

- We have looked at the concept of overriding methods (extending or rewriting methods in subclasses when they already exist in superclasses)
- In some situations, however, we may want to include methods in superclasses but only allow them to be used by subclasses



- For example, we may want to include an `makeSound()` method in the `Animal` class but only allow it to be used in classes that describe specific kinds of animal (i.e. in subclasses of `Animal`)
- In these cases, we can use abstract methods and classes
- The `makeSound()` method of `Animal`

```
abstract void makeSound();
```


- Abstract classes and methods

- ▶ Abstract methods have abstract in the signature.
- ▶ Abstract methods have no body.
- ▶ Abstract methods make the class abstract.
- ▶ Abstract classes cannot be instantiated.
- ▶ Concrete subclasses complete the implementation.

```
public abstract class Animal{
    private int averageAge;
    private int averageWeight;

    public int getAverageAge(){
        return averageAge;
    }

    // more methods

    // Make the sound of this animal
    abstract void makeSound();
}
```

- Note, however, that abstract classes are still classes
 - ▶ more specifically, partially implemented classes
- So the rules that govern implemented classes also govern abstract classes
 - ▶ No subclass can have two (or more) abstract parents

- Note also that some methods can still be written in full in an abstract class ('implemented' methods)
- So an abstract class can have
 - ▶ constants
 - ▶ fields
 - ▶ abstract methods
 - ▶ implemented methods

- Finally (for now) note that abstract superclasses can have abstract subclasses
- If, for some reason we don't want to implement all the methods in an abstract superclass (parent), we can
 - ▶ implement some methods
 - ▶ leave other methods as abstract
 - ▶ and declare the subclass (child) as abstract
- This approach will leave the subclass's subclasses to instantiate the other abstract methods (or their subclasses, subclass's subclasses etc.)

- At some point, however, we may want an even looser relationship between superclass and subclass
- For example, we may want to specify a superclass in which no methods are implemented
- Leaving subclasses to do all of the implementation
 - ▶ e.g we might want to specify an interface which describes the methods provided by all classes that can be drawn to the screen (the Drawable interface)
 - ▶ we would not, however specify anything about the way that drawing would occur at the level of the interface
 - ▶ all the implementation would be described elsewhere

- In Java, this “specify but implement nothing” approach is achieved through the use of Interfaces
- The fact that a subclass implements a particular interface is (rather unsurprisingly) implemented through the use of the **implements** keyword

● Interfaces

- ▶ A Java interface is a specification of a type (in the form of a type name and methods) that does not define any implementation of methods
- ▶ uses interface instead of class
- ▶ all methods are public (no need to mention)
- ▶ all methods are abstract (no need to mention)
- ▶ no constructors
- ▶ only constant fields are allowed (public static final)

- Animal interface

```
interface Animal{  
    public static final int CONSTANT_VARIABLE = 42;  
  
    String makeSound();  
  
}
```

- Classes implement an interface

```
public class Fox implements Animal{  
    ...  
}
```

- Abstract classes can also implement interfaces

```
abstract class Canine implements Animal {  
    ...  
}
```

- Interfaces are not classes (though they cannot share a name with a class)
- They are more properly described as **design patterns**
- They are, therefore, free of some of the restrictions applied to classes
- You can, for example implement two interfaces in a single subclass
- This is the closest that Java comes to allowing two superclasses (parents) in an inheritance heirarchy
 - ▶ subclasses can extend a superclass and implement one or more interfaces
 - ▶ or simply implement one or more interfaces

- Unlike abstract classes interfaces cannot contain implemented methods (methods for which the body code has been written)
- Interfaces can only contain
 - ▶ method stubs
 - ▶ constants
- Interfaces can, however, extend other interfaces

- Implementing classes do not inherit code, but ...
- ... implementing classes are subtypes of the interface type.
- So, polymorphism is available with interfaces as well as classes.

```
Animal fox = new Fox();
```

Interfaces vs Abstract Classes

- It can be difficult to identify
 - ▶ when to use an abstract class
 - ▶ when to use an interface
- As a simple rule of thumb, when faced with a choice between abstract classes and interfaces
 - ▶ use an abstract class when
 - ▶ you want to implement some but not all of a class's methods
 - ▶ and you are willing to accept the restrictions imposed upon classes
 - ▶ e.g. single inheritance
 - ▶ otherwise use an interface

Multiple Inheritance

- Having a class inherit directly from multiple ancestors.
- Each object oriented programming language has its own rules.
- How to resolve competing definitions?
 - ▶ Java forbids it for classes.
 - ▶ Java permits it for interfaces.
- No competing implementation.

Review

- Inheritance can provide shared implementation.
 - ▶ Concrete and abstract classes.
- Inheritance provides shared type information.
 - ▶ Interfaces.

- Abstract classes function as incomplete superclasses.
 - ▶ No instances.
- Abstract classes support polymorphism
- Abstract methods allow static type checking without requiring implementation

• Interfaces

- ▶ Interfaces provide specification without implementation.
- ▶ Interfaces are fully abstract.
- ▶ Interfaces support polymorphism.
- ▶ Java interfaces support multiple inheritance.