



Chapter 10: Inheritance

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Objectives

- ▶ Inheritance (继承)
- ▶ Superclass (父类) and subclass (子类)
- ▶ The `protected` keyword
- ▶ Method overriding (重写)

A Motivating Example

- ▶ Consider a scenario where you have carefully designed and implemented a **Animal** class, and you need a **Tiger** class in your system. Will you create the new class from scratch?

On one hand, tigers have some traits in common with many animals. Some code can be shared (So no?)



On another hand, tigers have their own characteristics, e.g., four legs, carnivore. (So yes?)

Inheritance (继承)

- ▶ Rather than declaring completely new members, you can designate that the new class should inherit the members of an existing class.
 - `Animal` class is the **superclass** (base class, parent class)
 - `Tiger` class is the **subclass** (derived class, child class)



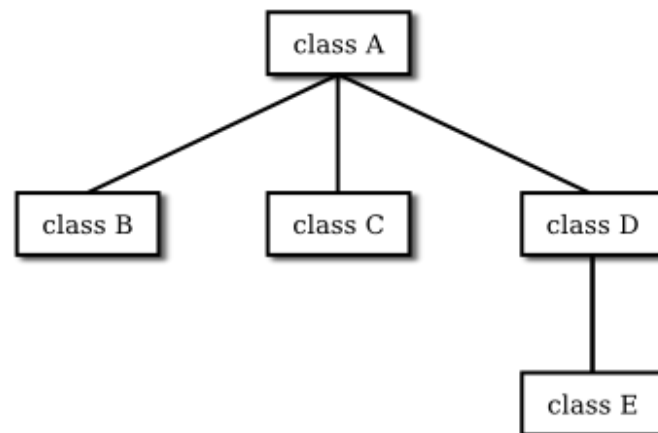
Superclass & Subclass

- ▶ A subclass inherits the fields and methods of its superclass
- ▶ A subclass can add its own fields and methods.
- ▶ Reusability: The subclass exhibits/reuses the behaviors of its superclass and can add new behaviors that are specific to the subclass.
 - This is why inheritance is sometimes referred to as **specialization (特殊化)**.



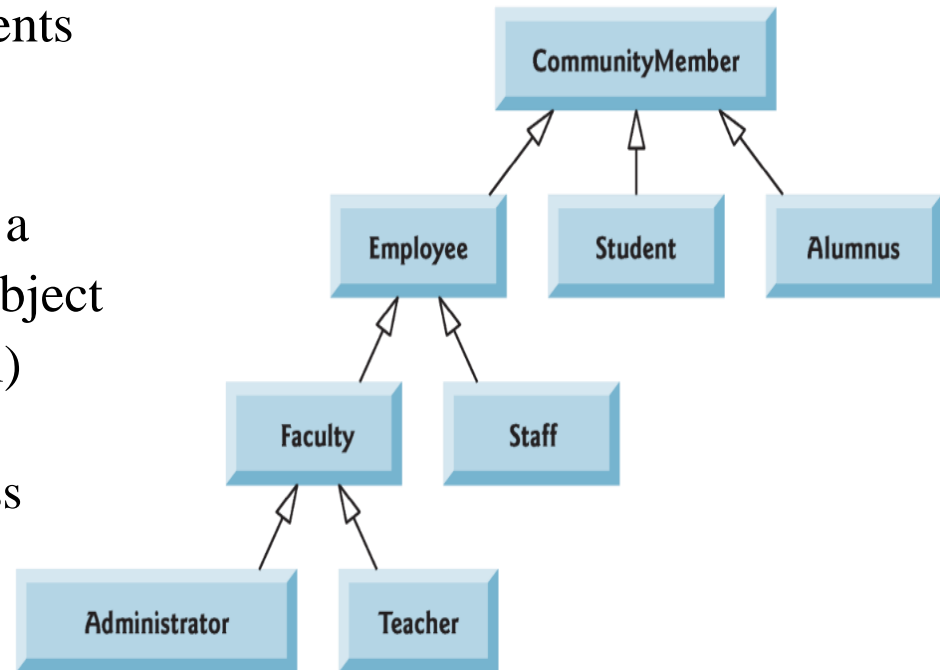
Class Hierarchy

- ▶ Each subclass can be a superclass of future subclasses, forming a **class hierarchy** (类层次结构)
- ▶ The **direct superclass** is the superclass from which the subclass explicitly inherits (A is the direct superclass of C)
- ▶ An **indirect superclass** is any class above the direct superclass in the **class hierarchy** (e.g., A is an indirect superclass of E)



Class Hierarchy

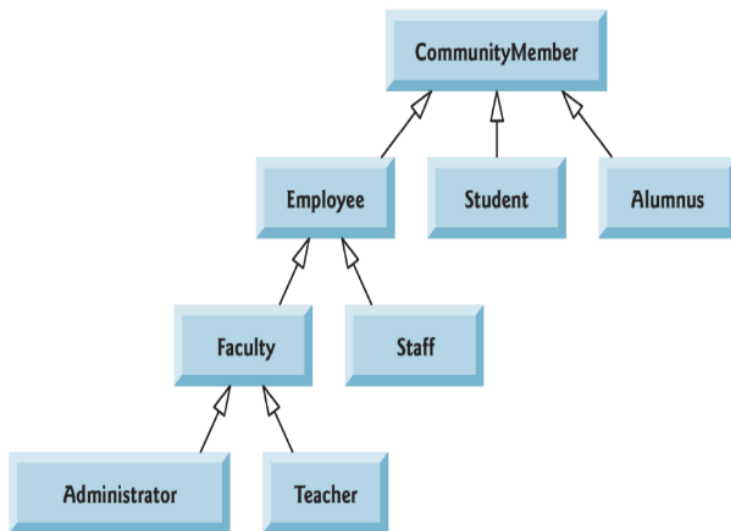
- ▶ Each arrow in the hierarchy represents an *is-a relationship*.
- ▶ In an is-a relationship, an object of a subclass can also be treated as an object of its superclass (a tiger is a animal)
- ▶ Follow the arrows upward in the class hierarchy
 - a Teacher is a Faculty (also an Employee, a CommunityMember)



Inheritance vs. Composition

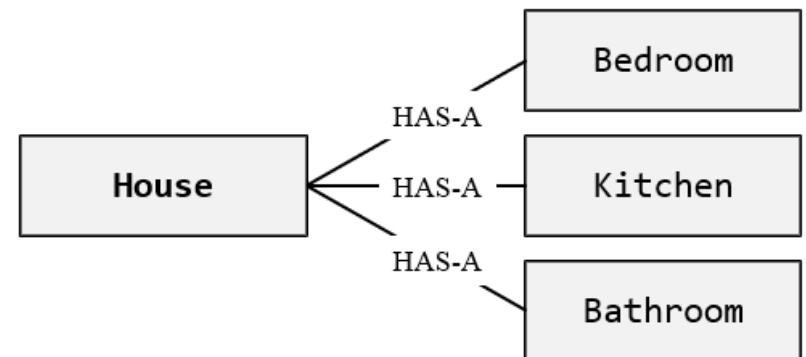
- ▶ **Inheritance:** *Is-a* relationship between classes

- In an *is-a* relationship, an object of a subclass can also be treated as an object of its superclass (a tiger **is a** animal)



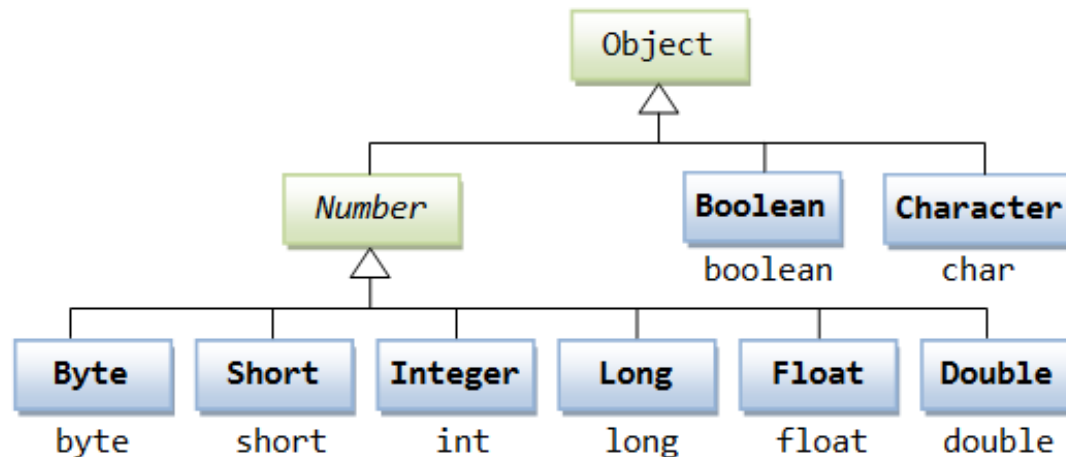
- ▶ **Composition:** *Has-a* relationship between classes

- In a *has-a* relationship, an object contains references to other objects as members (a house **has a** kitchen)



Object: the Cosmic Superclass

- ▶ The Java class hierarchy begins with class `java.lang.Object`
 - *Every* class directly or indirectly **extends** (or “inherits from”) `Object`.
- ▶ Java supports only **single inheritance**, in which each class is derived from exactly one direct superclass.



More Examples

Superclasses tend to be “more general” and subclasses “more specific”

Superclass	Subclasses
Student	GraduateStudent, UndergraduateStudent
Shape	Circle, Triangle, Rectangle, Sphere, Cube
Loan	CarLoan, HomeImprovementLoan, MortgageLoan
Employee	Faculty, Staff
BankAccount	CheckingAccount, SavingsAccount

Case Study: A Payroll Application

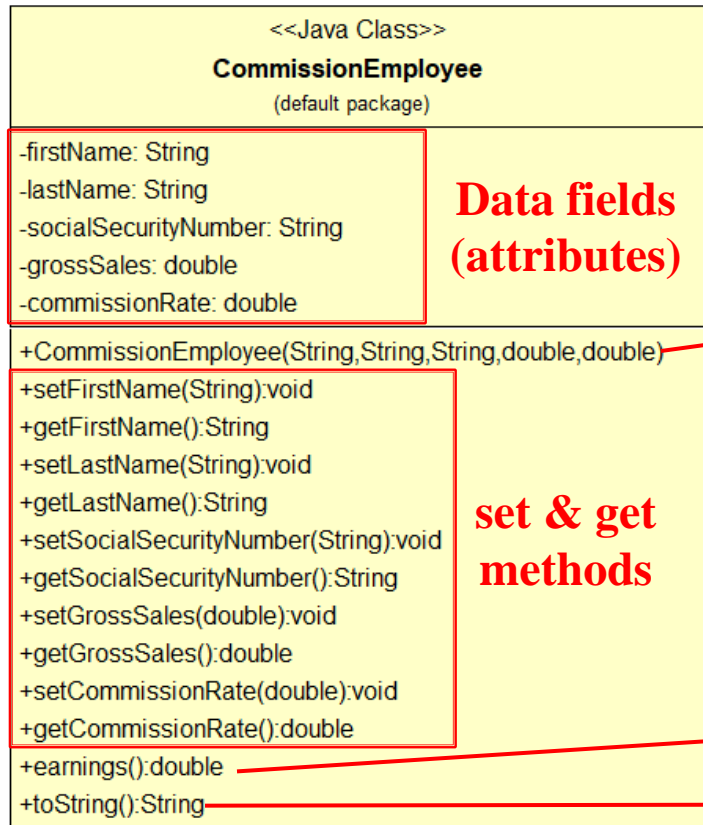
(工资表应用程序)

- ▶ Suppose we need to create classes for two types of employees
 - **Commission employees** (佣金员工) are paid a percentage of their sales (ComissionEmployee)
 - **Base-salaried commission employees** (持底薪佣金员工) receive a base salary plus a percentage of their sales (BasePlusCommissionEmployee)



Design Choice #1

- ▶ Creating the two classes independently



**Data fields
(attributes)**

A five-argument constructor

**set & get
methods**

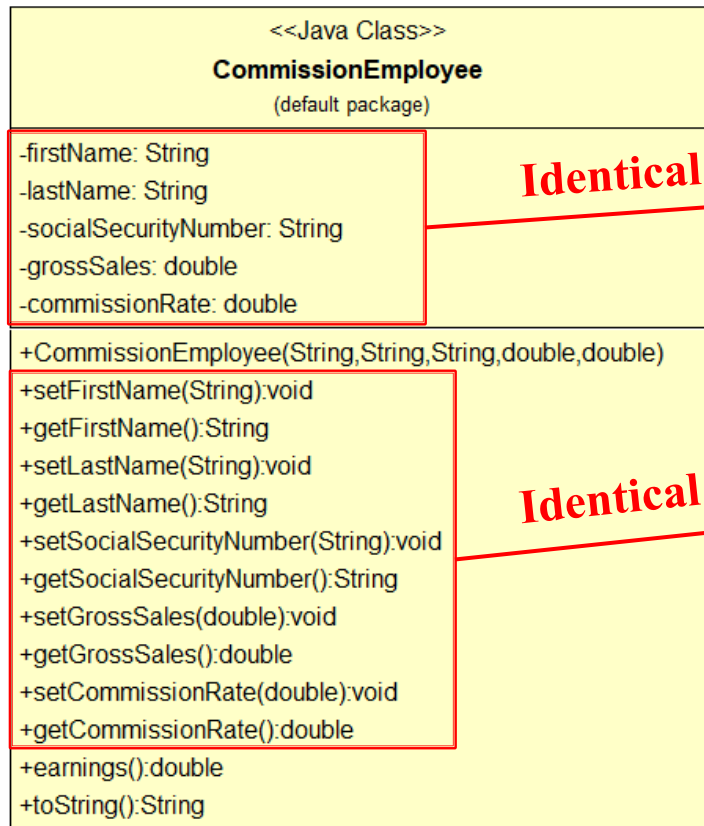
Earning calculation method

Transform object to string representation

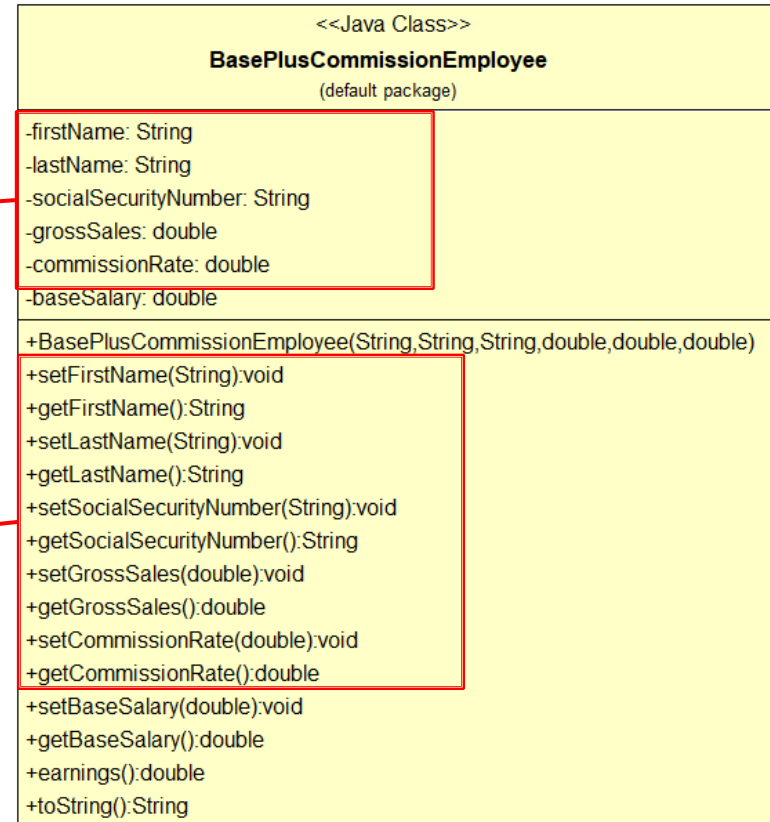
extends Object

Design Choice #1

- ▶ Creating the two classes independently



extends Object

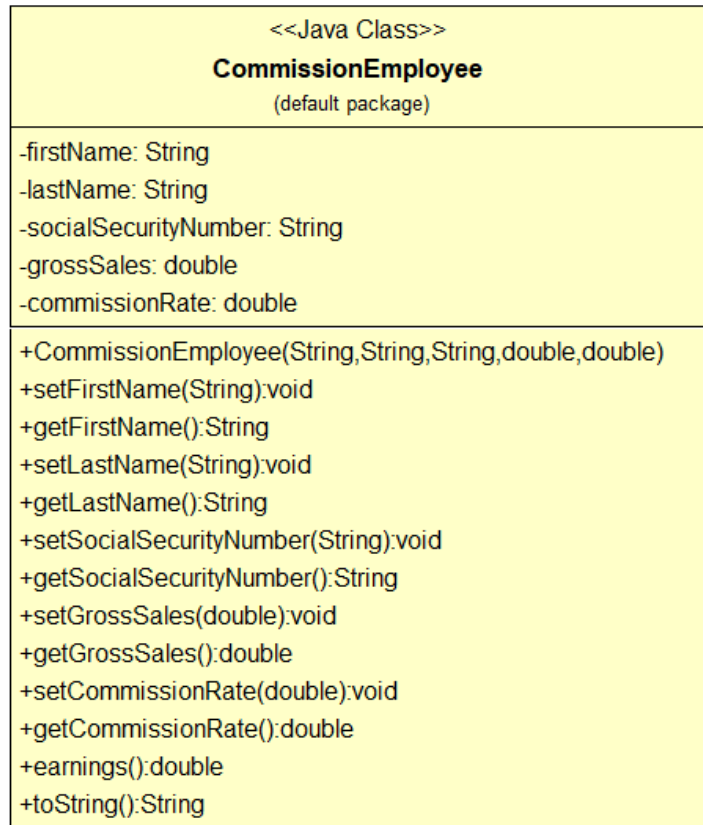


extends Object

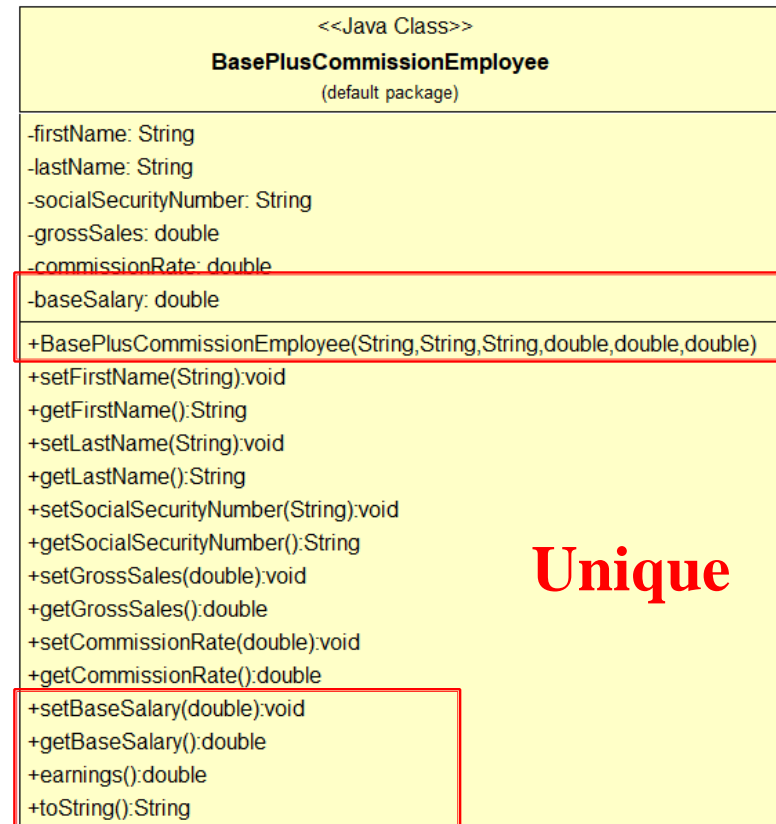
Design Choice #1



- ▶ Creating the two classes independently



extends Object

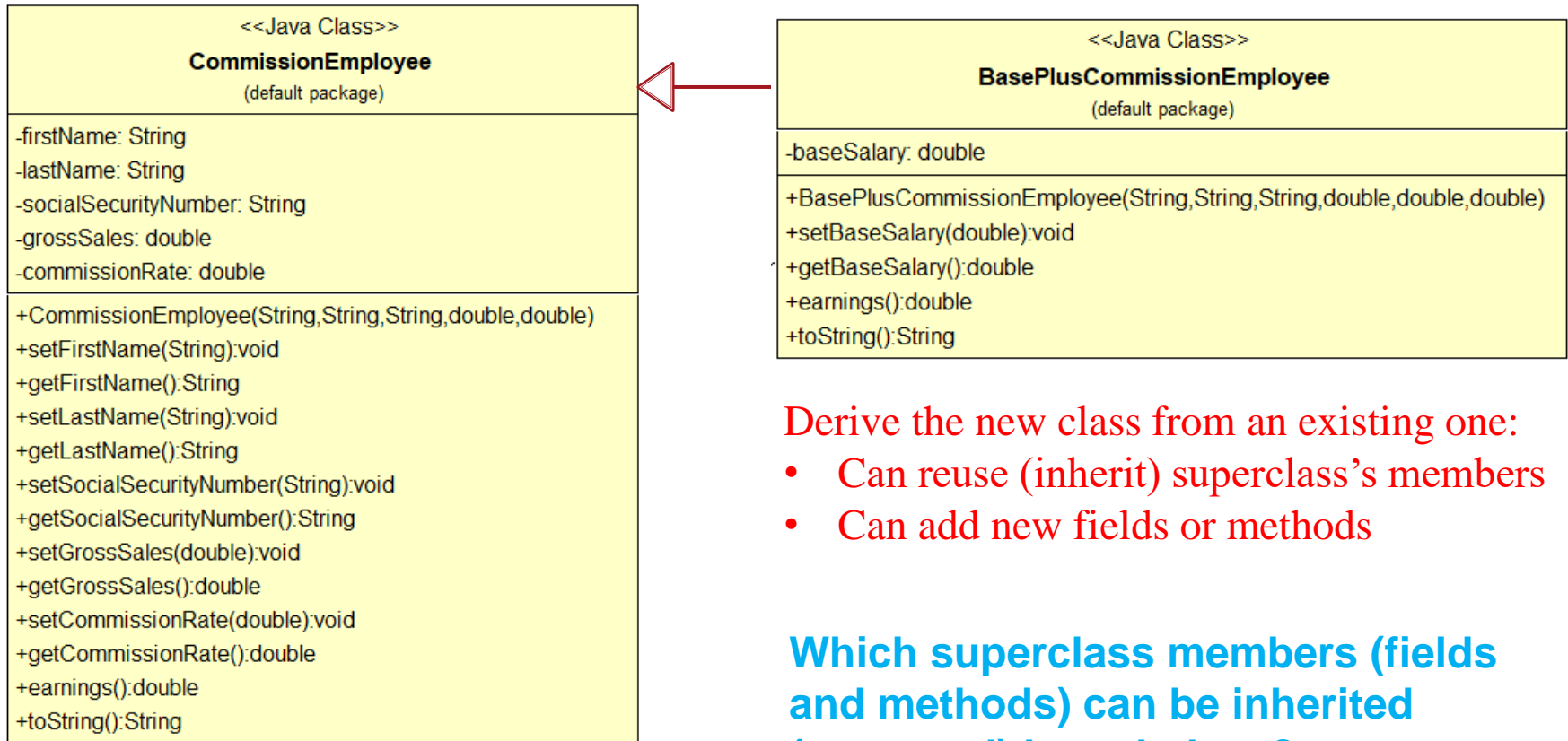


Unique

extends Object

Design Choice #2

- ▶ BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee



Derive the new class from an existing one:

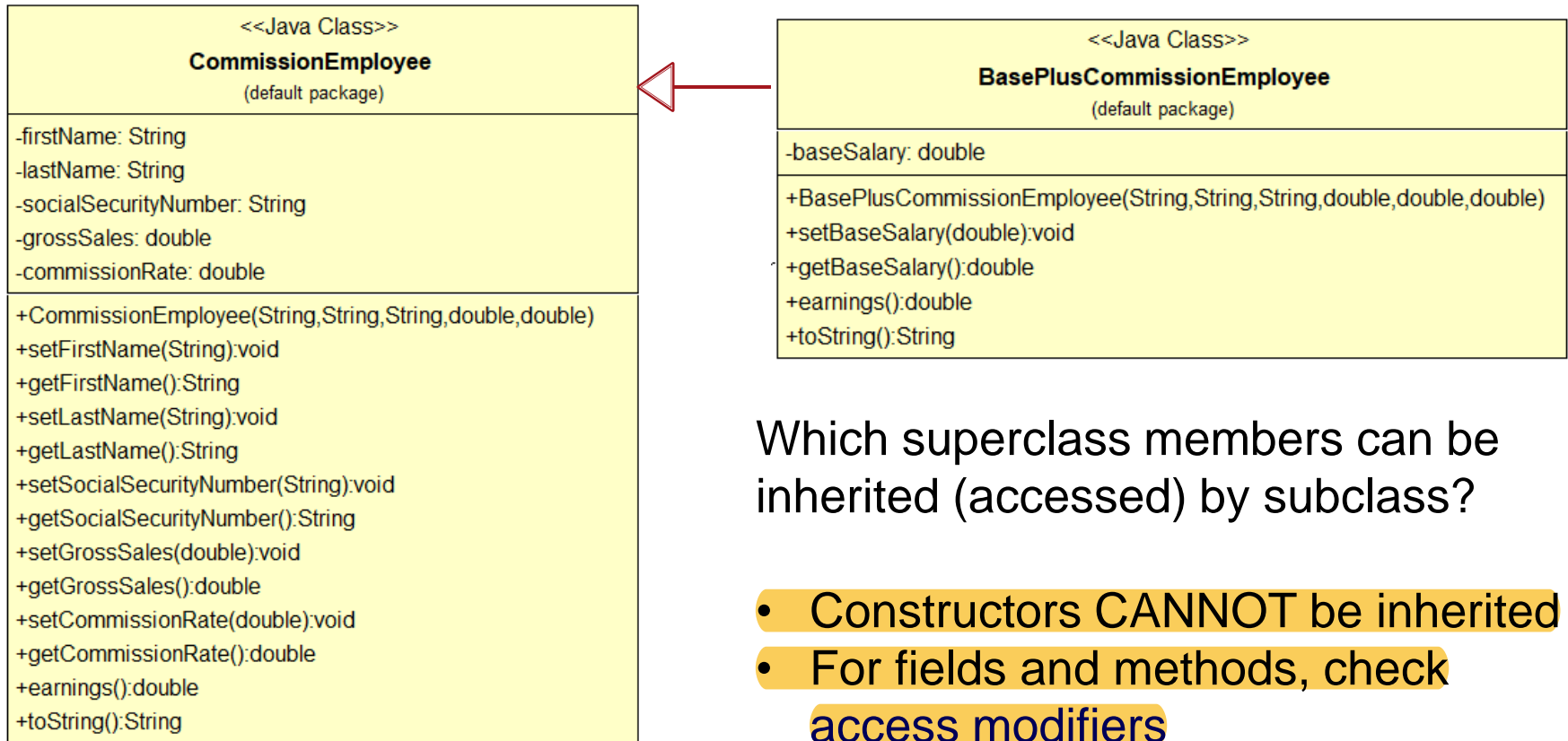
- Can reuse (inherit) superclass's members
- Can add new fields or methods

Which superclass members (fields and methods) can be inherited (accessed) by subclass?

Design Choice #2



- ▶ BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee



Which superclass members can be inherited (accessed) by subclass?

- Constructors CANNOT be inherited
- For fields and methods, check access modifiers

Access Level Modifiers (ALL)

Modifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
public	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	Y
protected	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>no modifier</i>	Y	Y	N*	N
private	Y	N	N	N

A subclass inherits all public members of its superclass, no matter what package the subclass is in.

Public members in the superclass are directly accessible in the subclass

Access Level Modifiers (ALL)

Modifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
public	Y	Y	Y	Y
protected	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	N
<i>no modifier</i>	Y	Y	N*	N
private	Y	N	N	N

A superclass's protected members can be accessed by

- members of that superclass
- members of its subclasses
- members of other classes in the same package

Access Level Modifiers (ALL)

Modifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
public	Y	Y	Y	Y
protected	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>no modifier</i>	Y	Y	N*	N
private	Y	N	N	N

Package-private class members are inherited if the subclass is in the same package as the superclass

Access Level Modifiers (ALL)

Modifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
public	Y	Y	Y	Y
protected	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>no modifier</i>	Y	Y	N*	N
private	Y	N	<u>N</u>	N

A subclass **does NOT** inherit the private members, or, private fields are **hidden** from the subclass
private fields need to be **accessed using the public, protected, or package-private methods** inherited from superclass.

CommissionEmployee

```
public class CommissionEmployee extends Object {  
    private String firstName;  
    private String lastName;  
    private String socialSecurityNumber;  
    private double grossSales;  
    private double commissionRate;  
    ...  
}
```

“**extends Object**” is optional. If you don’t explicitly specify which class a new class extends, the class extends **Object** implicitly.



CommissionEmployee

```
public CommissionEmployee(String first, String last, String ssn,  
                           double sales, double rate) {  
    firstName = first;  
    lastName = last;  
    socialSecurityNumber = ssn;  
    setGrossSales(sales); // data validation  
    setCommissionRate(rate); // data validation  
}  
public void setGrossSales(double sales) {  
    grossSales = (sales < 0.0) ? 0.0 : sales;  
}  
public void setCommissionRate(double rate) {  
    commissionRate = (rate > 0.0 && rate < 1.0) ? rate : 0.0;  
}
```

A five-argument constructor



CommissionEmployee

Several other getter and setter methods

```
public void setFirstName(String first) { firstName = first; }
public String getFirstName() { return firstName; }
public void setLastName(String last) { lastName = last; }
public String getLastName() { return lastName; }
public void setSocialSecurityNumber(String ssn) { socialSecurityNumber = ssn; }
public String getSocialSecurityNumber() { return socialSecurityNumber; }
public double getGrossSales() { return grossSales; }
public double getCommissionRate() { return commissionRate; }
```

CommissionEmployee

Calculation and string transformation methods

```
public double earnings() {  
    return commissionRate * grossSales;  
}  
  
@Override  
public String toString() {  
    return String.format("%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",  
        "commission employee", firstName, lastName,  
        "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,  
        "gross sales", grossSales,  
        "commission rate", commissionRate);  
}
```


BasePlusCommissionEmployee

Declare the superclass

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee {  
    private double baseSalary; Added a new field
```

```
    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee(String first, String last, String ssn,  
                                     double sales, double rate, double salary) {  
        super(first, last, ssn, sales, rate);  
        setBaseSalary(salary);  
    }
```

Subclass's own constructor.

In Java, constructors are not class members
and are NOT inherited by subclasses

```
    public void setBaseSalary(double salary) {  
        baseSalary = (salary < 0.0) ? 0.0 : salary;  
    }
```

...

BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee {  
    private double baseSalary;  
  
    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee(String first, String last, String ssn,  
                                     double sales, double rate, double salary) {  
        super(first, last, ssn, sales, rate);  
        setBaseSalary(salary);  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ The **super** keyword can be used to **invoke a superclass's constructor**
- ▶ Invocation of a superclass constructor must be the first line in the subclass constructor. This ensures that properties inherited from the superclass are set up first correctly

BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee {  
    private double baseSalary;  
  
    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee(String first, String last, String ssn,  
                                     double sales, double rate, double salary) {  
        super(first, last, ssn, sales, rate);    Compiler inserts super();  
        setBaseSalary(salary);  
    }  
}
```

If **super** is not explicitly invoked, the compiler automatically inserts a call to the no-argument constructor of the superclass.

If the super class does not have a no-argument constructor, you will get a compile-time error.

Constructor Chaining

```
class MyGrandpa {  
    1 usage  
    MyGrandpa(){  
        System.out.println("Grandpa");  
    }  
}
```

```
1 usage    1 inheritor  
class MyDad extends MyGrandpa {  
    1 usage  
    MyDad(String name){  
        System.out.println("Dad " + name);  
    }  
}
```

```
2 usages  
class Myself extends MyDad {  
    1 usage  
    Myself(){  
        super(name: "Joe"); // comment this?  
        System.out.println("Me");  
    }  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    Myself me = new Myself();  
}
```

Object (java.lang)

- * MyGrandpa (lecture11)
- MyDad (lecture11)
- Myself (lecture11)

Grandpa

Dad Joe

Me



BasePlusCommissionEmployee

Overriding (重写) the two inherited methods for customized behaviors

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

```
public String toString() {  
    return String.format("%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",  
        "base-salaried", firstName, lastName,  
        "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,  
        "gross sales", grossSales,  
        "commission rate", commissionRate,  
        "base salary", baseSalary);  
}
```



BasePlusCommissionEmployee

Overriding (重写) the two inherited methods for customized behaviors

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

```
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:35: commissionRate has private access in  
CommissionEmployee
```

```
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
                          ^
```

```
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:35: grossSales has private access in  
CommissionEmployee
```

```
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
                                   ^
```

```
}
```

Compilation error!



BasePlusCommissionEmployee

Overriding (重写) the two inherited methods for customized behaviors

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

```
public String toString() {  
    return String.format("%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",  
        "base-salaried", firstName, lastName,  
        "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,  
        "gross sales", grossSales,  
        "commission rate", commissionRate,  
        "base salary", baseSalary);  
}
```

Compilation error!

Solving the Compilation Problem

- Design #1: using inherited methods

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( getCommissionRate() * getGrossSales() );  
}
```



Solving the Compilation Problem

- Design #2: declaring superclass fields as protected

```
public class CommissionEmployee {  
    private protected String firstName;  
    private protected String lastName;  
    private protected String socialSecurityNumber;  
    private protected double grossSales;  
    private protected double commissionRate;  
  
    ...  
}
```

Subclass methods can refer to public and protected members inherited from the superclass simply by using the member names.

Comparing the Designs

- ▶ Inheriting protected instance variables (design #2) slightly increases performance, because we directly access the variables in the subclass without incurring the overhead of set/get method calls.

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

VS.

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( getCommissionRate() * getGrossSales() );  
}
```



Problems of protected Members

- ▶ **(Problem #1)** The subclass object can set an inherited protected variable's value directly without using a set method. **The value could be invalid**, leaving the object in an inconsistent state.
- ▶ **(Problem #2)** If protected variables are used in many methods in the subclass, these methods will depend on the superclass's data implementation
 - **Subclasses should depend only on the superclass services (e.g., public methods) and not on the superclass data implementation**
- ▶ **(Problem #3)** A class's **protected** members are visible to all classes in the same package, this is not always desirable.

Comparing the Designs

- ▶ From the point of **data encapsulation**, it's better to use private instance variables (Design #1). Code will be easier to maintain, modify and debug

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( getCommissionRate() * getGrossSales() );  
}
```

VS.

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );  
}
```

The **super** Keyword: usage #2

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee {
    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return String.format("%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",
            "base-salaried", getFirstName(), getLastName(),
            "social security number", getSocialSecurityNumber(),
            "gross sales", getGrossSales(),
            "commission rate", getCommissionRate(),
            "base salary", getBaseSalary());
    }
}
```

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee {
    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return String.format("%s %s\n%s: %.2f",
            "base-salaried", super.toString(),
            "base salary", getBaseSalary());
    }
}
```

What if we don't use **super**.?



Using CommissionEmployee

```
public class CommissionEmployeeTest
{
    public static void main( String[] args )
    {
        // instantiate CommissionEmployee object
        CommissionEmployee employee = new CommissionEmployee(
            "Sue", "Jones", "222-22-2222", 10000, .06 );

        // get commission employee data
        System.out.println(
            "Employee information obtained by get methods: \n" );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "First name is",
            employee.getFirstName() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Last name is",
            employee.getLastName() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Social security number is",
            employee.getSocialSecurityNumber() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Gross sales is",
            employee.getGrossSales() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Commission rate is",
            employee.getCommissionRate() );
    }
}
```



```
employee.setGrossSales( 500 ); // set gross sales
employee.setCommissionRate( .1 ); // set commission rate

System.out.printf( "\n%s:\n\n%s\n",
    "Updated employee information obtained by toString", employee );
} // end main
} // end class CommissionEmployeeTest
```

Employee information obtained by get methods:

First name is Sue
Last name is Jones
Social security number is 222-22-2222
Gross sales is 10000.00
Commission rate is 0.06

Updated employee information obtained by toString:

commission employee: Sue Jones
social security number: 222-22-2222
gross sales: 500.00
commission rate: 0.10



Using BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```
public class BasePlusCommissionEmployeeTest
{
    public static void main( String[] args )
    {
        // instantiate BasePlusCommissionEmployee object
        BasePlusCommissionEmployee employee =
            new BasePlusCommissionEmployee(
                "Bob", "Lewis", "333-33-3333", 5000, .04, 300 );

        // get base-salaried commission employee data
        System.out.println(
            "Employee information obtained by get methods: \n" );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "First name is",
            employee.getFirstName() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Last name is",
            employee.getLastName() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Social security number is",
            employee.getSocialSecurityNumber() );
        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Gross sales is",
            employee.getGrossSales() );
    }
}
```

Invoke subclass's constructor, which invokes superclass's constructor first

Inherited from superclass, and can be invoked directly because public



Inherited from
superclass

Defined in
subclass

```
System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Commission rate is",
    employee.getCommissionRate() );
System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Base salary is",
    employee.getBaseSalary() );

    employee.setBaseSalary( 1000 ); // set base salary

System.out.printf( "\n%s:\n\n%s\n",
    "Updated employee information obtained by toString",
    employee.toString() ); Method override in subclass
} // end main
} // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployeeTest
```

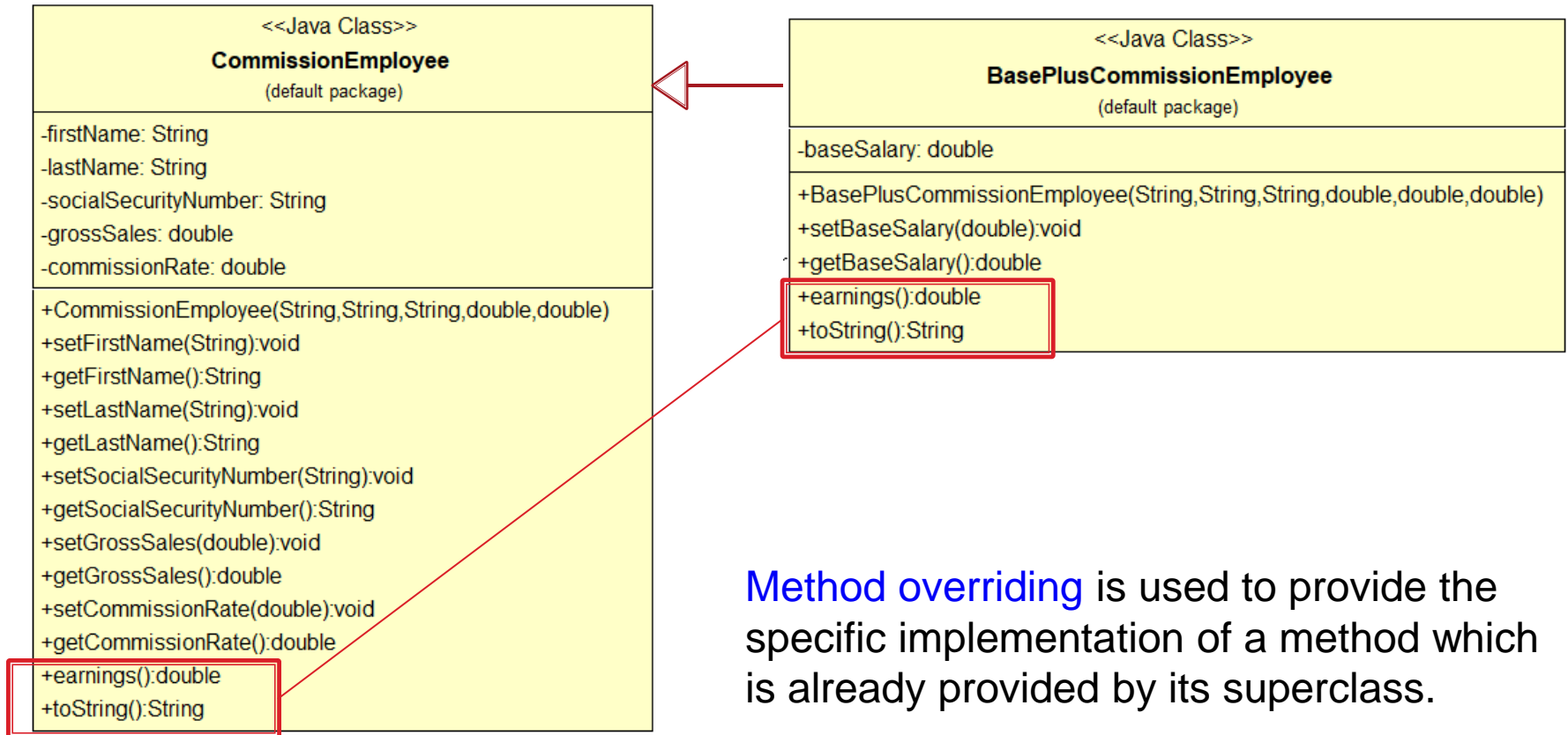
Employee information obtained by get methods:

```
First name is Bob
Last name is Lewis
Social security number is 333-33-3333
Gross sales is 5000.00
Commission rate is 0.04
Base salary is 300.00
```

Updated employee information obtained by toString:

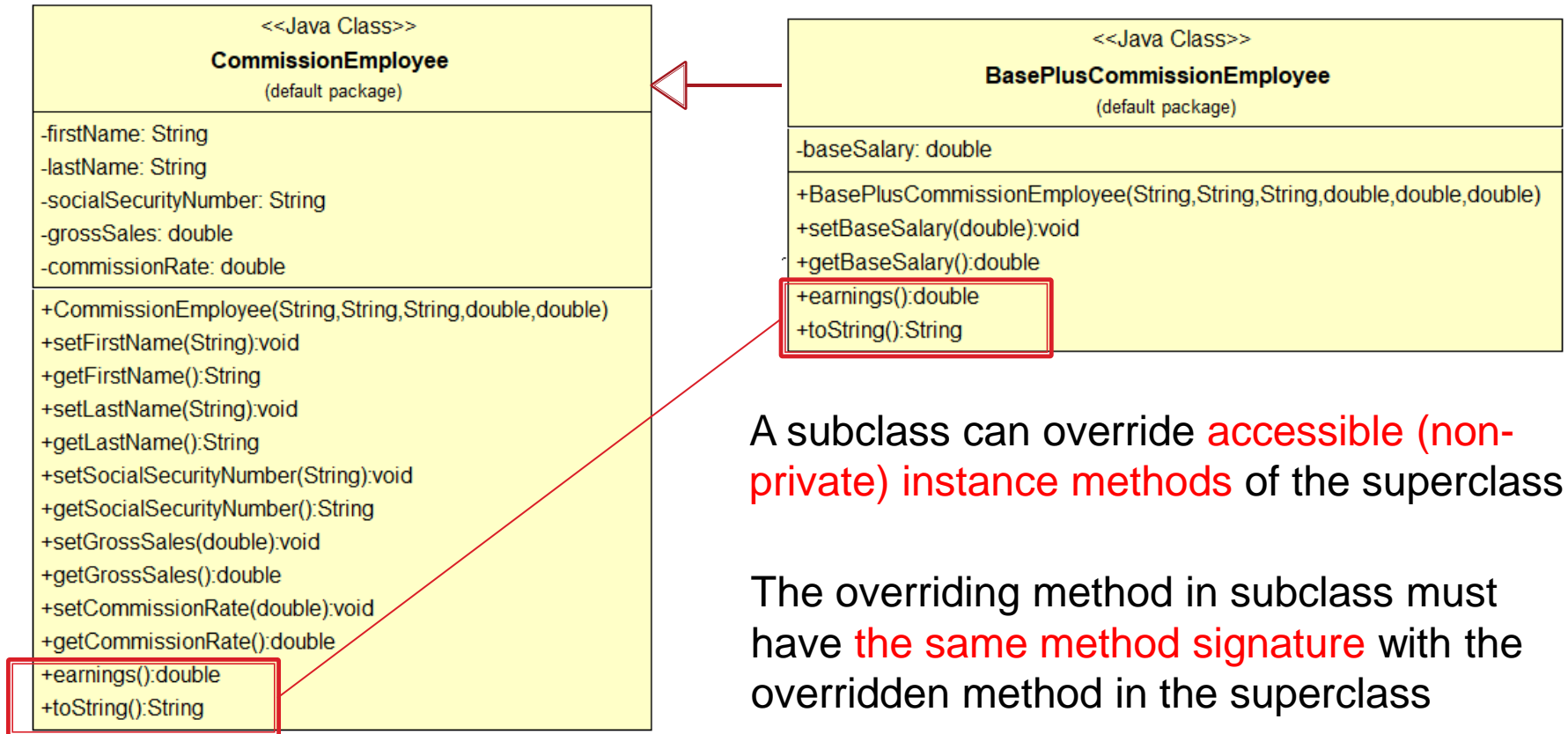
```
base-salaried commission employee: Bob Lewis
social security number: 333-33-3333
gross sales: 5000.00
commission rate: 0.04
base salary: 1000.00
```

Method Overriding (方法重写)



Method overriding is used to provide the specific implementation of a method which is already provided by its superclass.

Method Overriding (方法重写)



Overriding earnings()

- ▶ In superclass `CommissionEmployee`

```
public double earnings() {  
    return commissionRate * grossSales;  
}
```

- ▶ In subclass `BasePlusCommissionEmployee`

```
public double earnings() {  
    return baseSalary + ( getCommissionRate() * getGrossSales() );  
}
```

Overriding toString()

- ▶ In superclass CommissionEmployee

```
public String toString() {  
    return String.format("%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",  
        "commission employee", firstName, lastName,  
        "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,  
        "gross sales", grossSales,  
        "commission rate", commissionRate);  
}
```

- ▶ In subclass BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```
public String toString() {  
    return String.format("%s %s\n%s: %.2f",  
        "base-salaried", super.toString(),  
        "base salary", getBaseSalary());  
}
```

Overriding toString() Method

- ▶ `toString()` is one of the methods that every class inherits directly or indirectly from class `Object`.
 - Returns a `String` that “textually represents” an object.
 - Called implicitly whenever an object must be converted to a `String` representation (e.g., `System.out.println(objRef)`)
- ▶ Class `Object`’s `toString()` method returns a `String` that includes the name of the object’s class.
 - If not overridden, returns something like “`CommissionEmployee@70dea4e`” (the part after `@` is the hexadecimal representation of the hash code of the object)
 - This is primarily a placeholder that can be overridden by a subclass to specify customized `String` representation.

Overriding equals(Object) Method

- ▶ equals(Object) is another method that every class inherits directly or indirectly from class Object.

```
public boolean equals(Object o)
```

- ▶ This method checks whether two objects are equal.

```
object1.equals(object2)
```

- ▶ By default, the method tests whether two reference variables [refer to the same object](#).

```
public boolean equals(Object obj){  
    return this == obj;  
}
```

Overriding equals(Object) Method

- ▶ We often want to implement state-based equality testing, in which two objects are considered equal when they have the **same state** (e.g., id). For this purpose, we have to override the equals method.

```
public boolean equals(Object otherObject){  
    if(this == otherObject) return true;  
    if(otherObject == null) return false;  
    if(!(otherObject instanceof CommissionEmployee)){  
        return false;  
    }  
    // type cast  
    CommissionEmployee other = (CommissionEmployee) otherObject;  
    return Objects.equals(socialSecurityNumber, other.socialSecurityNumber);  
}
```

`Objects.equals(a, b)` returns true if both arguments are null, false if only one is null, and calls `a.equals(b)` otherwise.

Method Overriding

```
class Grandpa {  
    public void hi()  
    {  
        System.out.println("I'm grandpa");  
    }  
}
```

```
class Dad extends Grandpa {  
    public void hi()  
    {  
        System.out.println("I'm dad");  
    }  
}
```

```
class Me extends Dad {  
  
    public void hi(String name)  
    {  
        System.out.println("I'm " + name);  
    }  
}
```

```
public class OverrideDemo {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Grandpa g = new Grandpa();  
        Dad d = new Dad();  
        Me m = new Me();  
  
        g.hi();  
        d.hi();  
        m.hi();  
        m.hi( name: "Joe");  
    }  
}
```

What's the output?



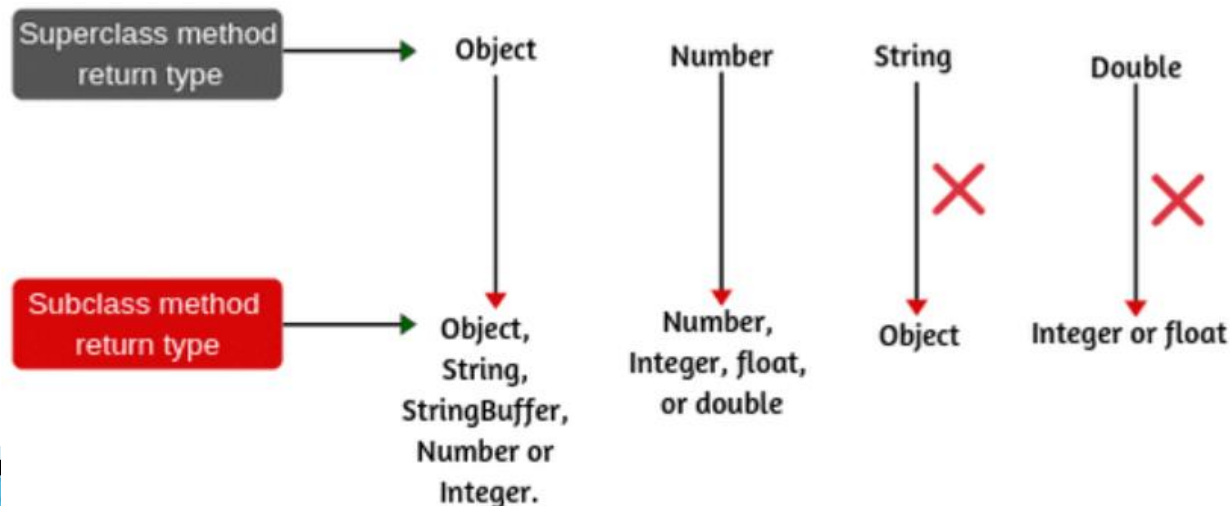
Access Level of Overriding Method

- ▶ The access level of an overriding method can be higher, but not lower than that of the overridden method (package-private < protected < public)
- ▶ The access modifier for an overriding method can allow more, but not less, access than the overridden method (e.g., a **protected** instance method in the superclass can be made **public**, but not **private**, in the subclass.)

The child class must present *at least the same* interface as the parent class. Making protected/public things less visible would violate this idea

Return Type of Overriding Method

- ▶ When overriding a method in a subclass, the signature must match, the return type should:
 - Either be the same
 - Or be a subtype of the return type of the superclass's method (an overridden method can have a more specific return type)





Method Overriding

- ▶ Overriding requires an inheritance relation.
- ▶ Overriding is for **accessible instance methods**
- ▶ Static methods CANNOT be overridden, but can be hidden (see next lecture)
- ▶ Class fields CANNOT be overridden, but can be hidden (later)

Using the **super** Keyword

- ▶ (Usage #1) The `super` keyword can be used to invoke a superclass's constructor (as illustrated by our earlier example)
- ▶ (Usage #2) If your method overrides its superclass's method, you can invoke that method of the superclass using the keyword `super`.
- ▶ (Usage #3) `super` can be used to refer to instance variables of the parent class.

The **super** Keyword: usage #3

```
class Animal{  
    String color="white";  
}
```

```
class Dog extends Animal{
```

```
    String color="black";
```

What if we remove this line?

```
    void printColor(){  
        //print color of Dog: black  
        System.out.println(color);  
        //print color of Animal: white  
        System.out.println(super.color);  
    }  
}
```

```
Dog dog = new Dog();
```

```
dog.printColor();
```

- ▶ Within a class, a field that has the same name as a field in the superclass **hides** the superclass's field, even if their types are different.
- ▶ Within the subclass, the field in the superclass cannot be referenced by its simple name. Instead, the field must be accessed through **super**

Lookup Order

```
class Grandpa {  
    String name = "Name: grandpa";  
    int age = 99;  
}
```

```
class Dad extends Grandpa {  
    String name = "Name: dad";  
    int height = 180;  
}
```

```
class Me extends Dad {  
    String name = "Name: me";  
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
  
    Me m = new Me();  
  
    System.out.println(m.name);  
    System.out.println(m.height);  
  
    System.out.println(m.age);  
}
```

```
Name: me  
180  
99
```

Inheritance in a Nutshell

- ▶ **The idea of inheritance is simple but powerful:** When you want to create a new class and there is already a class that includes some code you want, you can derive the new class from the existing one.
- ▶ The new class inherits its superclass's members, including static/instance fields and methods, but not constructors, though the **private** superclass members are **hidden (i.e., cannot be accessed)** from the subclass.



Inheritance in a Nutshell

- ▶ You can **customize** the new class to meet your needs by including **additional members** and by **overriding superclass members**.
 - This does not require the subclass programmer to change (or even have access to) the superclass's source code.
- ▶ By doing this, you can reuse the fields and methods of the existing class without having to write (and debug!) them all by yourself from scratch.