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Relationships between objects or classes: Using references, we can refer from one object of a class to another object of the same or a different class.

References define **relationships** between objects (instance or object level) and between classes (type or class level)

Types of relationships:

- organizational
 e.g., a list element refers to its successor
- application-specific
 e.g., a student is enrolled for a field of study
- "is-a" (specialization, generalization, inheritance)
 e.g., an automobile is a vehicle (and has all properties of a vehicle, in addition to properties specific to an automobile)
- "has-a" (composition)
 e.g., a car has an engine, has four wheels, etc.

Inheritance:

- Goal: Reusability!
- Definition of new classes based on existing classes
 - Reuse data and behavior from the existing class
 - add new properties
- Superclass is specialized to subclass
 - objects with additional, more specific properties.
- Superclass generalizes its subclasses
 - generalization of the objects to their common properties.
- Keyword in Java: subclass "extends" superclass
- Principle:
 - Subclass inherits the variables and methods of the superclass,
 - extends them by new variables and methods and
 - may overwrite methods to adapt to the extended properties of the objects.

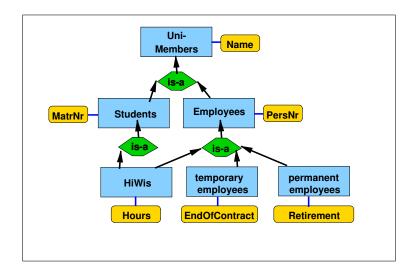
Class hierarchy

- The inheritance defines a class hierarchy.
- The most general class in Java is the class Object.
- An object of a subclass is also an object of all corresponding superclasses, e.g.:

A sports car is a car, is also a land vehicle, is also a means of transportation, is also a ...

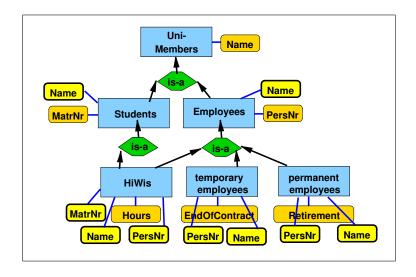
- subclass: sports car
- direct superclass: car
- ▶ indirect superclasses: land vehicle, means of transportation, ...
- Superclasses usually represent larger sets of objects than subclasses, e.g.:
 - superclass land vehicle includes cars, buses, trucks, motorbikes, bicycles, ...
 - subclass car only contains vehicles with special properties.

Example: **University members**, initially without inherited properties:

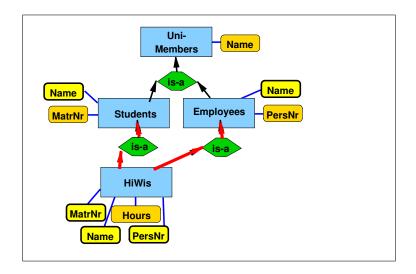


Example: University members,

with inherited properties:



Attention: Example includes **multiple inheritance**! (forbidden in Java, only 'workaround' possible)

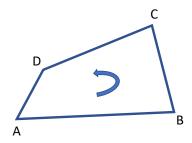


Inheritance hierarchy in Java

- Inheritance hierarchies were developed in the 60ies when trying to process natural language with the computer. Thus inheritance hierarchies often followed terminological is-a relationsips.
- Inheritance hierarchies have a tree-like structure, where every class is super- and/or subclass.
- In Java the root of the inheritance hierarchy (i.e., the most general class) is the class Object.
- In the following Java examples, reuse of class definitions is in the focus.

Inheritance hierarchy in Java

- We consider specific geometric objects, namely quadrilaterals (polygons with four sides and four corners):
 - Quadrilaterals
 - Parallelograms
 - Rectangles
- We represent a geometric object by its corners, i.e., for a quadrilateral, we store four corner points (in counter-clockwise order)



As a foundation for representing these objects, we use the class Pt which represents points in the plane.

```
1 public class Pt {
   private int x, y;
3
4
   public Pt(int xVal, int vVal) {
5
   x = xVal : v = vVal : 
6
7
   public void setX( int xVal ) {x = xVal;}
8
9
   public void setY( int vVal ) {v = vVal;}
10
11
   public int getX() {return x;}
   public int getY() {return y;}
12
13
14
   public double dist(Pt p) {
15
     return Math.sqrt((x-p.getX()) * (x-p.getX())
16
                       +(v-p.qetY())*(v-p.qetY()));}
17
   public String toString() {return "("+x+";"+y+")";}
18
19 }
```

Class for Quadrilateral objects

```
1 public class Quadrilateral {
   private Pt a,b,c,d;
2
3
   public Ouadrilateral() { }
4
5
   public Ouadrilateral
6
           (Pt p1, Pt p2,
7
           Pt p3, Pt p4) {
8
   a=p1; b=p2; c=p3; d=p4;
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
   public Pt getA() {return a;}
16
   public Pt getB() {return b;}
   public Pt getC() {return c;}
17
18
   public Pt getD() {return d;}
19
20
```

Class for Parallelogram objects

```
public class Parallelogram {
   private Pt a,b,c,d;
   public Parallelogram() { }
   public Parallelogram
           (Pt p1, Pt p2,
           Pt p3){
    a=p1; b=p2; c=p3;
    int dx=a.getX()-b.getX();
    int dy=a.getY()-b.getY();
10
    d=new Pt(c.getX()+dx,
11
12
              c.qetY()+dv);
13
14
   public Pt getA() {return a;}
15
16
   public Pt getB() {return b;}
   public Pt getC() {return c;}
17
18
   public Pt getD() {return d;}
19
20
```

```
1
2
3
5
8
9
10
   public double perimeter() {
    return a.dist(b)+b.dist(c)
11
           +c.dist(d)+d.dist(a);}
12
13
14
   public String toString() {
15
    return "["+a+","+b+","
16
                +c+","+d+"]";}
17
```

```
public double area() {
    return
       a.getX()*b().getY()
     +a.getY() *c().getX()
     +b.getX() *c().getY()
     -b.getY() *c().getX()
     -a.getY() *b().getX()
     -a.getX()*c().getY();}
10
11
   public double perimeter() {
    return a.dist(b)+b.dist(c)
12
13
           +c.dist(d)+d.dist(a);}
14
15
   public String toString() {
    return "PG["+a+","+b+","
16
17
               +c+","+d+"]":}
18
```

These *independent* definitions of the classes **Quadrilateral** and **Parallelogram** show commonalities, e.g.:

- equal: variables a, b, c, d, methods getA etc., perimeter
- different are: constructor, methods area, toString

Now: Parallelogram as subclass of Quadrilateral:

```
1 public class Ouadrilateral {
2
  private Pt a,b,c,d;
5
   public Quadrilateral() { }
6
   public Quadrilateral
7
           (Pt p1, Pt p2,
8
           Pt p3, Pt p4) {
9
   a=p1; b=p2; c=p3; d=p4;
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
   public int getA() {return a;}
   public int getB() {return b;}
19
20
   public int getC() {return c;}
   public int getD() {return d;}
21
22
```

```
1 public class Parallelogram
   extends Quadrilateral {
3
   // a,b,c,d are inherited
5
   public Parallelogram() { }
6
   public Parallelogram
7
        (Pt p1, Pt p2,
8
         Pt p3){
9
    super (p1, p2, p3,
10
           new Pt(p3.getX()
11
                 +p1.getX()
                 -p2.qetX(),
12
                  p3.getY()
13
                 +p1.getY()
14
                 -p2.getY());
15
16
17
18
  // getA() is inherited
   // getB() is inherited
19
20
  // getC() is inherited
   // getD() is inherited
21
22
```

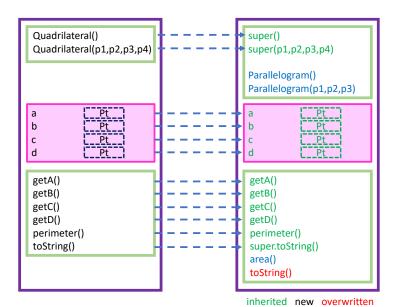
```
1
2
3
7
8
9
10
11
   public double perimeter() {
    return a.dist(b)+b.dist(c)
12
           +c.dist(d)+d.dist(a);}
13
14
15
16
   public String toString() {
    return "["+a+","+b+","
17
                +c+","+d+"]":}
18
19
```

```
public double area() {
3
    return
      getA().getX()*getB().getY()
     +getA().getY()*getC().getX()
6
     +getB().getX()*getC().getY()
     -getB().getY()*getC().getX()
     -getA().getY()*getB().getX()
     -getA().getX()*getC().getY();
10
11
  // perimeter inherited
12
13
14
  // toString, overwritten
  public String toString() {
16
    return "PG"
17
18
           +super.toString();}
19
```

- a,b,c and d are declared as private in Quadrilateral and thus cannot be directly accessed in Parallelogram.
- Alternative: Modifier protected, between public and private: accessible in all subclasses and all classes of the same package (see later)
- Three methods of the superclass Quadrilateral are not directly accessible in the subclass Parallelogram, but only with the keyword super to access the superclass:
 - the two constructors Quadrilateral() and Quadrilateral(p1,p2,p3,p4), only via super() or super(p1,p2,p3,p4) at the start of the constructors of Parallelogram.
 - the overwritten method toString() as super.toString()

The calls super.toString(), super() and super(p1,p2,p3,p4) can be used in this form only in direct subclasses

 Quadrilateral and Parallelogram are also (indirect) subclasses of Object and thus have additional methods (later...)!



Visibility modifiers for the instance variables a, b, c, d in Quadrilateral:

private:

then access to a,b,c,d from the subclass Parallelogram not directly possible, only using inherited methods, i.e., getA(),getB(),getC(),getD(),perimeter(), super.toString(), super(), super(p1,p2,p3,p4)

- protected: direct access from subclass Parallelogram allowed
- public: direct access allowed in all classes

Recommendation: Variables should be **private**, without direct access outside the defining class

Thus: define a,b,c and d in Quadrilateral as private and access them only via methods!

Complete example C5E09_Inheritance:

- file Pt. java: class Pt as before for representing points in the plane.
- file Quadrilateral.java: class Quadrilateral as above, with private modifier for the instance variables.
- file Parallelogram.java: Klasse Parallelogram as subclass of Quadrilateral.
- file Rectangle. java: extension of the class hierarchy by the class Rectangle as subclass of Parallelogram.
- additionally main in the class Rectangle as a method for testing.

$\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{file} & \texttt{Rectangle.java:} & \textbf{extension of the class hierarchy by the class} \\ & \texttt{Rectangle} & \textbf{as subclass of} & \texttt{Parallelogram} \\ \end{tabular}$

```
public class Rectangle extends Parallelogram {
2
3
   public Rectangle() {}
4
5
   public Rectangle( Pt p1, Pt p2, Pt p3) {
6
     super( p1, p2, p3 );
7
8
9
   public double area() {
10
      return getA().dist(getB())
             *getB().dist(getC());
11
12
13
   public double diag() {
14
       return getA().dist(getC());
15
16
17
18
   @Override public String toString() {
      return "Rect:"+super.toString();
19
20
21
```

in file Rectangle.java: method for testing class Rectangle

```
public static void main( String[] args ) {
1
2
        System.out.println("Test method for class hierarchy.\n");
3
4
       Rectangle c = new Rectangle
5
                           (new Pt (0,0), new Pt (2,0), new Pt (2,2));
6
7
        System.out.println(rect);
8
        System.out.println("area : " +rect.area());
9
        System.out.println("perim : "+rect.perimeter());
        System.out.println("diag : "+rect.diag());
10
11
12
13 }
```

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The generation of a subclass object generates a sequence of **constructor** calls:

- The subclass constructor first(!) implicitly or explicitly calls the superclass constructor.
- The constructor calls follow the class hierarchy up to the constructor of the class Object.
- The method bodies of the constructors are then executed from the superclass to the subclass (along the class hierarchy 'top down').
- Explicit calls of a constructor of the superclass must always be done at the beginning of the declaration of the calling constructor.

- The garbage collector removes objects from memory to which no references refer.
- In early versions of Java, a finalizer was recommended, but this has been deprecated since Java 9.
- Many programs never make use of finalizers!
- In practice the gargabe collector works only after some delay. i.e., even calling it directly may not immediately start garbage collection.

Example K5B10E_Constructors:

(a) class **SuperClass** for constructor example:

```
public class SuperClass {
3
     private String superData;
     public SuperClass() {
5
6
         superData = "-SP-";
7
         System.out.println("super default constructor: " + this);
8
9
10
     public SuperClass(String name) {
11
         superData=name ;
         System.out.println("super special constructor: " + this);
12
13
14
     @Override public String toString() {
15
         return "superData," + superData;
16
17
18
```

(b) class **SubClass** for constructor example:

```
public class SubClass extends SuperClass {
2
     private String subData;
3
4
5
     public SubClass()
6
        subData = "-sb-"::
7
        System.out.println("sub default constructor: " + this);
8
9
     public SubClass(String supername, String subname) {
10
11
        super( supername );
12
        subData = subname:
        System.out.println("sub special constructor: " + this);
13
14
15
16
     @Override public String toString() {
        return "subData_" + subData + ", "+ super.toString();
17
18
19
```

(c) test class:

```
public class Test {
     public static void main( String args[] ) {
2
        SuperClass a = new SuperClass ("-AA-");
3
        SubClass b = new SubClass ():
        SubClass c = new SubClass ("-C1-"."-C2-"):
6
        System.out.println();
7
        a = null; // marked for garbage collection
8
        b = null; //
        c = null; //
9
10
        System.gc(); // call garbage collector
11
```

(d) example output:

```
super special constructor: superData -AA-
super default constructor: subData null, superData -SP-
sub default constructor: subData -sb-, superData -SP-
super special constructor: subData null, superData -C1-
sub special constructor: subData -C2-, superData -C1-
```

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Important: When can we store a reference to a class in a variable of another class?

Possible combinations of variables and references with inheritance (with example Parallelogram as subclass of Quadrilateral):

x = r	reference r to superclass	reference r to subclass
variable x of superclass type	yes	yes (Parallelogram 'is-a' Quadrilateral)
variable x subclass type	no (Quadrilateral 'is-NOT-a' Parallelogram)	yes

Example C5E11_References (using the known classes

```
Quadrilateral and Parallelogram):
 1 public class References {
    public static void main( String[] args ) {
 3
     Pt a=new Pt(0,0), b=new Pt(1,0), c=new Pt(1,1), d=new Pt(0,1);
 4
   // Superclass reference to Superclass object:
 6
      Quadrilateral ql = new Quadrilateral(a,b,c,d);
 7
   // Subclass reference to Subclass object:
      Parallelogram pg = new Parallelogram(a,b,c);
 9
 10
   // Superclass reference to Subclass object:
 11
     Ouadrilateral glRef = pg:
 12
 13
 14 // Subclass reference to Superclass object:
 15 // Parallelogram pgRef = gl; // compile error
 16
 17
      System.out.println( gl.toString() +
         "\n_(call toString() of the class Quadrilateral)\n\n");
 18
 19
      Svstem.out.println(pg.toString() +
 20
 21
         "\n_(call toString() of the class Parallelogram)\n\n");
```

Casting of a superclass reference is possible if the test **instanceof** for the subclass property is successfull.

instanceof is a special boolean operator that has a reference and a class name as parameters, see Example K5B12E_ReferenceCast:

```
1 public class ReferenceCast {
   public static void main( String[] args ) {
3
     Pt a=new Pt(0,0), b=new Pt(1,0), c=new Pt(1,1), d=new Pt(0,1);
5
6
     Quadrilateral glRef = new Parallelogram(a,b,c,d);
7
8
     Parallelogram pgRef = new Parallelogram();
     if ( qlRef instanceof Parallelogram )
9
        pgRef = (Parallelogram) qlRef;
10
11
     System.out.println( glRef.toString()
12
13
        + "\n__call toString() of the class Parallelogram"
        + "\n, superclass reference to subclass object\n\n");
14
15
16
     System.out.println(pgRef.toString()
17
        + "\n, call toString() of the class Parallelogram"
        + "\n, superclass reference to subclass object "
18
19
        + "cast to Parallelogram\n");
20
```

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- Annotation: language component to include meta data into the source code, used by the compiler
- most important example: @Override
- purpose: annotate methods that overwrite superclass methods
- if no corresponding superclass method exists: compile error!
- helps to identify typos, e.g. @Override public tostring()
 instead of @Override public toString()
- other annotations: @Deprecated

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Methods in Java can be defined as 'abstract' (without body):

```
public abstract double perimeter (); // no '{}'
```

A class including an abstract method must be defined as abstract as well:

```
public abstract class Figure {
   public abstract double perimeter ();
   public abstract double area ();
}
```

- Abstract classes cannot be instantiated, they only serve to construct subclasses.
- Classes can also defined as abstract if they include non-abstract methods. (This prevents an instantiation.)

- A subclass of an abstract class can be instantiated, if it overwrites and implements all abstract methods of the superclass.
- A subclass that does not implement all inherited abstract methods is itself abstract.

	class	abstract class	final class
Generation of objects	yes	no	yes
Creation of subclasses	yes	yes	no

Example: abstract class Shape

```
1 public abstract class Shape {
  // concrete constructor:
  // for (usually implicit) calls by subclass constructors
5
     protected Shape() { }
6
  // abstract methods:
8
9
     public abstract double perimeter();
10
11
  // concrete methods:
12
     public String getName() {
13
14
        return this.getClass().toString();
       // name of the class of an object, as String
15
16
17
```

Quadrilateral as concrete subclass of the abstract class Shape

```
1 public class Quadrilateral extends Shape {
2
3
   private Pt a,b,c,d;
4
5
   public Quadrilateral() { }
6
7
   public Quadrilateral(Pt p1, Pt p2, Pt p3, Pt p4) {
8
     a=p1; b=p2; c=p3; d=p4; }
9
  // overwrite abstract methods with concrete methods
11
   @Override public double perimeter() {
12
   return a.dist(b)+b.dist(c)+c.dist(d)+d.dist(a);}
13
14
  // additional methods:
15
16
17
    public int getA() {return a;}
18
    public int getB() {return b;}
    public int getC() {return c;}
19
20
    public int getD() {return d;}
21
22
   @Override public String toString() {
    return "["+a+","+b+","+c+","+d+"]";}
23
24
```

Parallelogram as indirect subclass of the abstract class Shape

```
1 public class Parallelogram extends Quadrilateral {
  // new constructors:
  public Parallelogram() { }
3
   public Parallelogram (Pt p1, Pt p2, Pt p3) {
5
    super(p1,p2,p3, new Pt(p3.getX()+p1.getX()-p2.getX(),
6
                            p3.getY()+p1.getY()-p2.getY());
7
  // new methods:
   public double area() {
    return getA().getX()*getB().getY()+getA().getY()*getC().getX()
10
11
          +qetB().qetX()*qetC().qetY()-qetB().qetY()*qetC().qetX()
          -qetA().qetY()*qetB().qetX()-qetA().qetX()*qetC().qetY();
12
13
  // inherited (from Shape): getName
14
15
  // inherited (from Ouadrilateral): perimeter
16
17
  // overwritten (from Quadrilateral):
   @Override public String toString() {
19
     return "PG" + super.toString();
20
21
22
```

Rectangle as indirect subclass of the abstract class Shape

```
1 public class Rectangle extends Parallelogram {
  // new:
  public Rectangle() { }
   public Rectangle(Pt p1, Pt p2, Pt p3 ) {
5
      super( p1, p2, p3 );
6
7
8
   public double diag() {
9
      return getA().dist(getC());
10
  // overwritten (from Parallelogram):
  @Override public double area() {
13
      return getA().dist(getB())
             *getB().dist(getC());
14
15
16
   @Override public String toString() {
17
      return "Rect:"+super.toString()
18
19
  // inherited (from Quadrilateral): perimeter
20
  // inherited (from Shape): getName
22
```

Example C5E13_Shape_Abstract: calling 'polymporphic' methods

```
1 public class ShapeTest {
2
   public static void main( String args[] ) {
3
4
    Quadrilateral ql = new Quadrilateral (new Pt(0,0), new Pt(1,0),
5
                                          new Pt(1,1), new Pt(0,1));
6
    Parallelogram pg = new Parallelogram(new Pt(0,0), new Pt(2,0),
7
                                          new Pt(2,2));
8
    Rectangle re = new Rectangle (new Pt (0,0), new Pt (3,0),
9
                                          new Pt(3,3));
10
11
  // usual access to methods of each class:
    System.out.println("\n\n" + ql.qetName() + "..(direct)\n"
12
         + "[." + ql.qetA() + ".., " + ql.qetB()
13
14
         + ".,.."+ ql.getC() + ".,.." + ql.getD() + "]");
15
16
    System.out.println("\n\n" + pg.getName() + "_(direct)\n"
17
         + "[_" + pg.getA() + "_,_" + pg.getB()
18
         + "_,_"+ pg.getC() + "_,_" + pg.getD() + "]");
19
20
    System.out.println("\n\n" + re.getName() + ".(direct)\n"
21
         + "[_" + re.getA() + "_,_" + re.getB()
22
         + ".,.."+ re.getC() + ".,.." + re.getD() + "]");
23
24
```

```
1
2
    Shape arrayOfShapes[] = new Shape[ 3 ];
3
    arrayOfShapes[ 0 ] = ql;assignment of subclass references!
    arravOfShapes[1] = pg:
5
    arravOfShapes[2] = re;
6
  // access via concrete methods of Shape/Quadrilateral:
7
    for ( int i = 0; i < arrayOfShapes.length; i++ ) {</pre>
8
       System.out.println("\n\n"
9
           + arrayOfShapes[ i ].getName() + "..(via.Shape)\n");
10
  // use of overwritten methods:
11
12
    for ( int i = 0; i < arrayOfShapes.length; i++ ) {</pre>
       System.out.println("\n\n"
13
           + arrayOfShapes[ i ].getName() + "..(via.Shape)\n"
14
           + "\n" + arrayOfShapes[ i ].toString()
15
           + "\nperimeter = " + arrayOfShapes[ i ].perimeter());
16
17
18
19 }
```

Polymorphism:

- Methods are polymorphic if they can be used with objects of different types.
- Implementation in Java:
 - Definition the method in a superclass (abstract or not)
 - Overwriting of the method in the corresponding subclasses.
 - Method can be applied for objects of classes where the implementation of the method is defined.
- The array arrayOfShapes is defined on the abstract class
 Shape and can thus contain elements of arbitrary (non-abstract)
 subclasses of Shape.
- The methods perimeter, getName can be called for the abstract class Shape, the (overwriting) implementation of the corresponding subclass is executed.
- The methods getA, getB, getC, getD can be called only for objects of the class Quadrilateral or its subclasses.
 The method area and toString are polymorphic since the implementations in different subclasses are different.

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 - Abstract methods & abstract classes
 - Interfaces
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Interfaces are similar to abstract classes and are used to define interfaces.

	Interfaces	abstract classes	
identifier	interface	abstract class	
	ifname	classname	
methods	all implicitly abstract	abstract and concrete	
variables	Only static final	arbitrary	
constructors	none	default or explicit	
subclasses	implements ifname	extends classname	
subinterfaces	extends ifname	-	

A class can

- be a subclass of at most one superclass (extends), but
- implement arbitrary many interfaces (implements)

Thus:

Interfaces in Java implement a restricted form of multiple inheritance.

Example interface Shape

- no constructor (constructor not useful since any variables must be static final)
- All methods are implicitly(!) defined as abstract.

```
public interface Shape {

// no constructor !

// all methods abstract

public double perimeter();

public String getName();

}
```

Quadrilateral as concrete subclass of interface Shape:

 overwrites abstract methods with concrete (implemented) methods

```
public class Ouadrilateral implements Shape {
2
3
   private Pt a,b,c,d;
4
   public Ouadrilateral() { }
6
   public Quadrilateral(Pt p1, Pt p2, Pt p3, Pt p4) {
7
     a=p1; b=p2; c=p3; d=p4; }
8
9
  //implementation as before:
10
    public int getA() {return a;}
    public int getB() {return b;}
11
12
    public int getC() {return c;}
    public int getD() {return d;}
13
14
  //implementation of abstract methods:
16
   @Override public double perimeter() {
    return a.dist(b) +b.dist(c) +c.dist(d) +d.dist(a);}
17
   @Override public String getName() { return this.getClass().toString()
18
  //overwrite the method inherited from Object :
  @Override public String toString()
20
    {return "["+a+","+b+","+c+","+d+"]";}
21
22
```

The classes Parallelogram, Rectangle and ShapeTest can be reused without any change(!) from the example for abstract classes with identical result, see C5E14_Shape_Interface!