# Chapter 7 Inheritance

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## Overview of inheritance

- Introduction to inheritance
- Derived classes
- Subclasses
- parent/child classes

## Introduction to Inheritance

- *Inheritance* is one of the main techniques of object-oriented programming (OOP)
- Using this technique, a very general form of a class is first defined and compiled, and then more specialized versions of the class are defined by adding instance variables and methods
  - The specialized classes are said to inherit the methods and instance variables of the general class

### Introduction to Inheritance

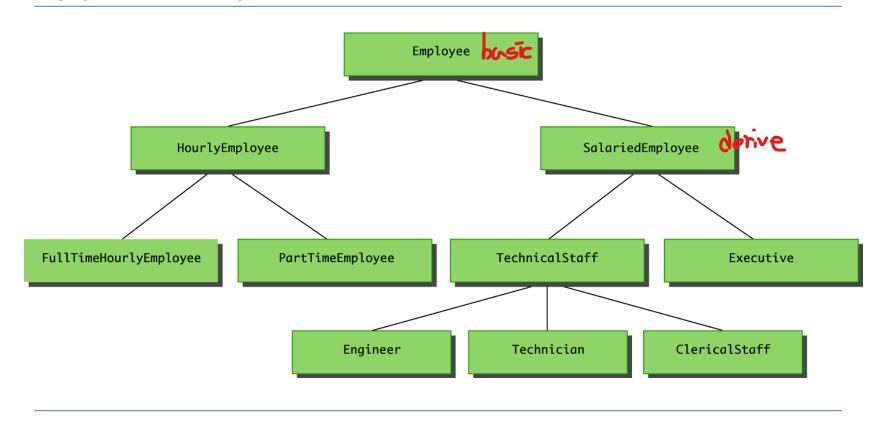
- Inheritance is the process by which a new class is created from another class
  - The new class is called a derived class
  - The original class is called the base class
- A derived class automatically has all the instance variables and methods that the base class has, and it can have additional methods and/or instance variables as well
- Inheritance is especially advantageous because it allows code to be reused, without having to copy it into the definitions of the derived classes

- When designing certain classes, there is often a natural hierarchy for grouping them
  - In a record-keeping program for the employees of a company, there are hourly employees and salaried employees
  - Hourly employees can be divided into full time and part time workers
  - Salaried employees can be divided into those on technical staff, and those on the executive staff

- All employees share certain characteristics in common
  - All employees have a name and a hire date
  - The methods for setting and changing names and hire dates would be the same for all employees
- Some employees have specialized characteristics
  - Hourly employees are paid an hourly wage, while salaried employees are paid a fixed wage
  - The methods for calculating wages for these two different groups would be different

## A Class Hierarchy

Display 7.1 A Class Hierarchy



- Within Java, a class called Employee can be defined that includes all employees
- This class can then be used to define classes for hourly employees and salaried employees
  - In turn, the HourlyEmployee class can be used to define a PartTimeHourlyEmployee class, and so forth

- Since an hourly employee is an employee, it is defined as a derived class of the class Employee
  - A <u>derived class</u> is defined by adding instance variables and methods to an existing class
  - The existing class that the derived class is built upon is called the base class
  - The phrase extends BaseClass must be added to the derived class definition:

```
public class HourlyEmployee extends Employee
```

- When a derived class is defined, it is said to inherit the instance variables and methods of the base class that it extends
  - Class Employee defines the instance variables name and hireDate in its class definition
  - Class HourlyEmployee also has these instance variables, but they are not specified in its class definition
  - Class HourlyEmployee has additional instance variables wageRate and hours that are specified in its class definition

- Just as it inherits the instance variables of the class Employee, the class HourlyEmployee inherits all of its methods as well
  - The class HourlyEmployee inherits the methods getName, getHireDate, setName, and setHireDate from the class Employee
  - Any object of the class HourlyEmployee can invoke one of these methods, just like any other method

#### Display 7.2 The Base Class Employee

```
public class Employee
    private String name;
                                           The class Date is defined in
    private Date hireDate;
                                           Display 4.13.
    public Employee()
         name = "No name";
         hireDate = new Date("January", 1, 1000); //Just a placehold
     Precondition: Neither theName nor theDate is null.
    public Employee(String theName, Date theDate)
        if (theName == null || theDate == null)
             System.out.println("Fatal Error creating employee.");
             System.exit(0);
        name = theName;
        hireDate = new Date(theDate);
    public Employee(Employee originalObject)
         name = originalObject.name;
        hireDate = new Date(originalObject.hireDate);
    public String getName()
        return name;
    public Date getHireDate()
        return new Date(hireDate);
```

```
Precondition newName is not null
public void setName(String newName)
    if (newName == null)
         System.out.println("Fatal Error set
         System.exit(0);
        name = newName;
Precondition newDate is not null.
public void setHireDate(Date newDate)
    if (newDate == null)
         System.out.println("Fatal Error set
         System.exit(0);
        hireDate = new Date(newDate);
public String toString()
    return (name + " " + hireDate.toString()
public boolean equals(Employee otherEmployee)
   return (name.equals(otherEmployee.name)
                   && hireDate.equals(otherEn
```

#### Display 7.3 The Derived Class HourlyEmployee

Multe class HourlyEmployee extends Employee

wageRate = originalObject.wageRate;

hours = originalObject.hours;

private double wageRate;

```
private double hours; //for the month
                                                 definition.
public HourlyEmployee()
                         If this line is omitted, Java will still invoke
    wageRate = 0;
                          the no-argument constructor for the
    hours = 0;
                          base class.
 Precondition: Neither theName nor theDate is null;
theWageRate and theHours are nonnegative.
public HourlyEmployee(String theName, Date theDate,
                   double theWageRate, double theHours)
     super(theName, theDate);
     if ((theWageRate >= 0) && (theHours >= 0))
         wageRate = theWageRate;
         hours = theHours;
         System.out.println(
                   "Fatal Error: creating an illegal hourly employee.");
         System.exit(0);
                             THEIRING Employee ofth

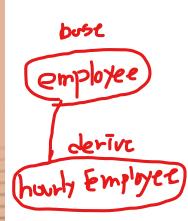
Employee original Object) => derived closs t basecless
public HourlyEmployee(HourlyEmployee originalObject)
     super(originalObject);
                                               ___ An object of the class
```

It will take the rest of Section

HourlyEmployee is also an

instance of the class Employee.

7.1 to explain this class



#### Display 7.3 The Derived Class HourlyEmployee

```
public double getRate()
    return wageRate;
public double getHours()
    return hours:
Returns the pay for the month.
public double getPay()
    return wageRate*hours;
Precondition: hoursWorked is nonnegative.
public void setHours(double hoursWorked)
     if (hoursWorked >= 0)
         hours = hoursWorked;
     else
        System.out.println("Fatal Error: Negative hours worked.")
        System.exit(0);
```

```
Precondition: newWageRate is nonnegative.
public void setRate(double newWageRate)
     if (newWageRate >= 0)
         wageRate = newWageRate;
     else
         System.out.println("Fatal Error: Negative wage rate.");
         System.exit(0):
public String toString()
    return (getName() + " " + getHireDate().toString()
            + "\n$" + wageRate + " per hour for " + hours + " hours");
public boolean equals(HourlyEmployee other)
   return (getName().equals(other.getName())
            && getHireDate().equals(other.getHireDate())
            && wageRate == other.wageRate
            && hours == other.hours);
                                           We will show you a better way to d
                                           equals later in this chapter.
```

## Derived Class (Subclass)

A derived class, also called a subclass, is defined by starting with another already defined class, called a base class or superclass, and adding (and/or changing) methods, instance variables, and static variables

- The derived class inherits all the public methods, all the public and private instance variables, and all the public and private static variables from the base class
- The derived class can add more instance variables, static variables, and/or methods

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#### Parent and Child Classes

- A base class is often called the parent class
  - A derived class is then called a child class
- These relationships are often extended such that a class that is a parent of a parent . . . of another class is called an ancestor class
  - If class A is an ancestor of class B, then class B can be called a descendent of class A

## Sub-topics w.r.t. inheritances

- Overriding methods
- The final modifier
- The super constructor
- The this constructor
- An Enhanced StringTokenizer Class
- Access to a Redefined Base Method

## **Overriding** a Method Definition

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- Although a derived class inherits methods from the base class, it can change or override an inherited method if necessary
  - In order to override a method definition, a new definition of the method is simply placed in the class definition, just like any other method that is added to the derived class

## Pitfall: Overriding Versus Overloading

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- Do not confuse *overriding* a method in a derived class with *overloading* a method name
  - When a method is overridden, the new method definition given in the derived class has the exact same number and types of parameters as in the base class
  - When a method in a derived class has a different signature from the method in the base class, that is overloading
  - Note that when the derived class overloads the original method, it still inherits the original method from the base class as well

## The **final** Modifier

- If the modifier final is placed before the definition of a method, then that method may not be redefined in a derived class
- It the modifier final is placed before the definition of a class, then that class may not be used as a base class to derive other classes

## The **super** Constructor

- A derived class uses a constructor from the base class to initialize all the data inherited from the base class
  - In order to invoke a constructor from the base class, it uses a special syntax:

```
public derivedClass(int p1, int p2, double p3)
{

super(p1, p2); 당상단위에 선인

instanceVariable = p3;

}

Super(p1, p2); 당상단위에 선인

Super(p1, p2); 당상단
```

 In the above example, super (p1, p2); is a call to the base class constructor

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## The super Constructor

- A call to the base class constructor can never use the name of the base class, but uses the keyword super instead
- A call to super must always be the first action taken in a constructor definition
- An instance variable cannot be used as an argument to super

## The **super** Constructor

- If a derived class constructor does not include an invocation of super, then the no-argument constructor of the base class will automatically be invoked
  - This can result in an error if the base class has not defined a no-argument constructor
- Since the inherited instance variables should be initialized, and the base class constructor is designed to do that, then an explicit call to super should always be used

## The **this** Constructor

- Within the definition of a constructor for a class,
   this can be used as a name for invoking another constructor in the same class
  - The same restrictions on how to use a call to super apply to the this constructor
- If it is necessary to include a call to both super and this, the call using this must be made first, and then the constructor that is called must call super as its first action

## The this Constructor

- Often, a no-argument constructor uses this to invoke an explicit-value constructor
  - No-argument constructor (invokes explicit-value constructor using this and default arguments):

```
public ClassName()
{
   this(argument1, argument2);
}
```

Explicit-value constructor (receives default values):

```
public ClassName(type1 param1, type2 param2)
{
    . . .
}
```

## The this Constructor

```
public HourlyEmployee()
{
   this("No name", new Date(), 0, 0);
}
```

 The above constructor will cause the constructor with the following heading to be invoked:

```
public HourlyEmployee(String theName,
  Date theDate, double theWageRate, double
  theHours)
```

#### An Enhanced StringTokenizer Class

기본 String class 의학상

- Thanks to inheritance, most of the standard Java library classes can be enhanced by defining a derived class with additional methods
- For example, the **StringTokenizer** class enables all the tokens in a string to be generated one time
  - However, sometimes it would be nice to be able to cycle through the tokens a second or third time

#### Access to a Redefined Base Method

 Within the definition of a method of a derived class, the base class version of an overridden method of the base class can still be invoked

```
- Simply preface the method name with super and a dot
public String toString()
{
   return (super.toString() + "$" + wageRate);
}
```

 However, using an object of the derived class outside of its class definition, there is no way to invoke the base class version of an overridden method



# The protected access modifiers and package access

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- Private instance variables/method
- Protected and package access
- Access modifiers

## Encapsulation and Inheritance Pitfall: Use of Private Instance Variables from the Base Class

- An instance variable that is private in a base class is not accessible by name in the definition of a method in any other class, not even in a method definition of a derived class
  - For example, an object of the HourlyEmployee class cannot access the private instance variable hireDate by name, even though it is inherited from the Employee base class
- Instead, a private instance variable of the base class can only be accessed by the public accessor and mutator methods defined in that class
  - An object of the HourlyEmployee class can use the getHireDate or setHireDate methods to access hireDate



## Pitfall: Private Methods Are Effectively Not Inherited

- The private methods of the base class are like private variables in terms of not being directly available
- However, a private method is completely unavailable, unless invoked indirectly
  - This is possible only if an object of a derived class invokes a public method of the base class that happens to invoke the private method
- This should not be a problem because private methods should just be used as helping methods
  - If a method is not just a helping method, then it should be public, not private

# Protected and Package Access

- If a method or instance variable is modified by protected (rather than public or private), then it can be accessed by name
  - Inside its own class definition
  - Inside any class derived from it
  - In the definition of any class in the same package
- The protected modifier provides very weak protection compared to the private modifier
  - It allows direct access to any programmer who defines a suitable derived class
  - Therefore, instance variables should normally not be marked protected

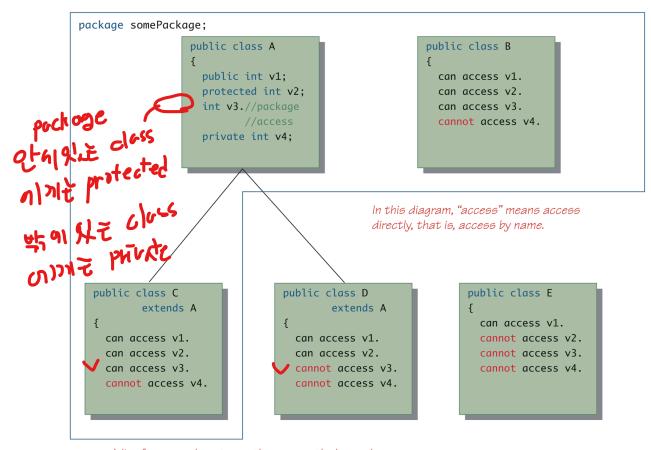
# Protected and Package Access

- An instance variable or method definition that is not preceded with a modifier has package access
  - Package access is also known as default or friendly access
- Instance variables or methods having package access can be accessed by name inside the definition of any class in the same package
  - However, neither can be accessed outside the package



## **Access Modifiers**

Display 7.9 Access Modifiers



A line from one class to another means the lower class is a derived class of the higher class.

If the instance variables are replaced by methods, the same access rules apply.

## The Class Object

- The Class Object
- The right way to define equals
- The instance of operator
- The getClass() method

# The Class Object

- In Java, every class is a descendent of the class
   Object
  - Every class has Object as its ancestor
  - Every object of every class is of type Object, as well as being of the type of its own class
- If a class is defined that is not explicitly a derived class of another class, it is still automatically a derived class of the class Object

### The Class Object

- The class Object is in the package java.lang which is always imported automatically
- Having an Object class enables methods to be written with a parameter of type Object
  - A parameter of type Object can be replaced by an object of any class whatsoever
  - For example, some library methods accept an argument of type Object so they can be used with an argument that is an object of any class

#### The Class Object

- The class Object has some methods that every Java class inherits
  - For example, the equals and toString methods
- Every object inherits these methods from some ancestor class
  - Either the class Object itself, or a class that itself inherited these methods (ultimately) from the class Object
- However, these inherited methods should be overridden with definitions more appropriate to a given class
  - Some Java library classes assume that every class has its own version of such methods

## The Right Way to Define equals

 Since the equals method is always inherited from the class Object, methods like the following simply overload it:

```
public boolean equals(Employee otherEmployee)
{ . . . }
```

 However, this method should be overridden, not just overloaded:

```
public boolean equals(Object otherObject)
{ . . . }
```

### The Right Way to Define equals

- The overridden version of equals must meet the following conditions
  - The parameter otherObject of type Object must be type cast to the given class (e.g., Employee)
  - However, the new method should only do this if otherObject really is an object of that class, and if otherObject is not equal to null
  - Finally, it should compare each of the instance variables of both objects

#### A Better **equals** Method for the Class

```
Employee
public boolean equals (Object otherObject) Owiet 17120 1114
  if(otherObject == null)
    return false;
  else if(getClass() != otherObject.getClass())
    return false; class tipe
                                       type costing
  else
    Employee otherEmployee = (Employee)otherObject;
    return (name.equals(otherEmployee.name) &&
      hireDate.equals(otherEmployee.hireDate));
```

### The getClass() Method

- Every object inherits the same getClass() method from the Object class
  - This method is marked **final**, so it cannot be overridden
- An invocation of getClass() on an object returns a representation only of the class that was used with new to create the object
  - The results of any two such invocations can be compared with == or != to determine whether or not they represent the exact same class

```
(object1.getClass() == object2.getClass())
```

## The instanceof Operator

• The instance of operator checks if an object is of the type given as its second argument

#### Object instanceof ClassName

- This will return **true** if **Object** is of type **ClassName**, and otherwise return **false**
- Note that this means it will return true if
   Object is the type of any descendent class of
   ClassName

define => hace an 分the hace +> derive

#### Tip: getClass Versus instanceof

- Many authors suggest using the instanceof operator in the definition of equals
  - Instead of the getClass() method
- The instanceof operator will return true if the object being tested is a member of the class for which it is being tested
  - However, it will return true if it is a descendent of that class as well
- It is possible (and especially disturbing), for the equals method to behave inconsistently given this scenario

#### Tip: getClass Versus instanceof

 Here is an example using the class Employee . . . //excerpt from bad equals method else if(!(OtherObject instanceof Employee)) return false; . . . And an example using the class HourleyEmployee . . . //excerpt from bad equals method else if(!(OtherObject instanceof HourleyEmployee)) return false; . . . Now consider the following: Employee e = new Employee("Joe", new Date()); HourlyEmployee h = new HourlyEmployee("Joe", new Date(),8.5, 40); boolean testH = e.equals(h); twr 

#### Tip: getClass Versus instanceof

- testH will be true, because h is an Employee
   with the same name and hire date as e
- However, testE will be false, because e is not an HourlyEmployee, and cannot be compared to h
- Note that this problem would not occur if the getClass() method were used instead, as in the previous equals method example

### instanceof and getClass

- Both the instanceof operator and the getClass() method can be used to check the class of an object
- However, the getClass() method is more exact
  - The instanceof operator simply tests the class of an object
  - The getClass() method used in a test with == or != tests if two objects were created with the same class