# Computer System Design & Application 计算机系统设计与应用A

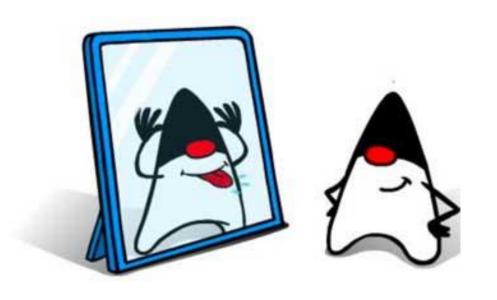
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#### Lecture 10

- Reflection
- Annotation

## What is Reflection (反射)?



- Reflection is a feature in Java, an API in java.lang.reflect package
- Reflection is used to examine or modify the behavior of methods, classes, interfaces at runtime
  - Examining all fields and methods of a class
  - Invoking a method of an object
  - Accessing a private field from another class

## A Motivating Example

```
Object x = . .;
if (x instanceof Shape)
{
    Shape s = (Shape) x;
    g2.draw(s);
}
```

- x might be obtained from users, JSON file, server response, etc.; We do not know its exact type
- Using instanceof, we still do not know the exact type of x (it might be a subclass, e.g., Rectangle)
- What if we need to perform different actions for different types of x? Should we write a dozen if instanceof block?

## Finding the actual type

public final class Class<T>
extends Object

- If you have any object reference, you can find the actual type of the object to which it refers with the getClass() method
- The getClass() method returns an object of type Class that describes the object's class.

```
Class c = x.getClass()
```

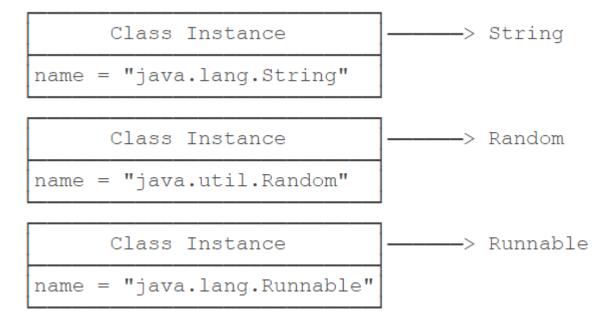
```
\begin{array}{l} \textbf{getClass}() \\ \textbf{Returns the runtime class of this 0bject.} \end{array}
```

After you have a Class object, you can obtain a large amount of information about the class (e.g., name, fields, constructors, methods)

#### The Class class

## Reflection: getting information of a class through its Class instance

JVM creates one instance of type Class for every data type (including primitive types, classes and interfaces)



A Class instance has detailed information for the corresponding class

Image source: https://www.liaoxuefeng.com/wiki/1252599548343744/1264799402020448

## JVM Loading Process

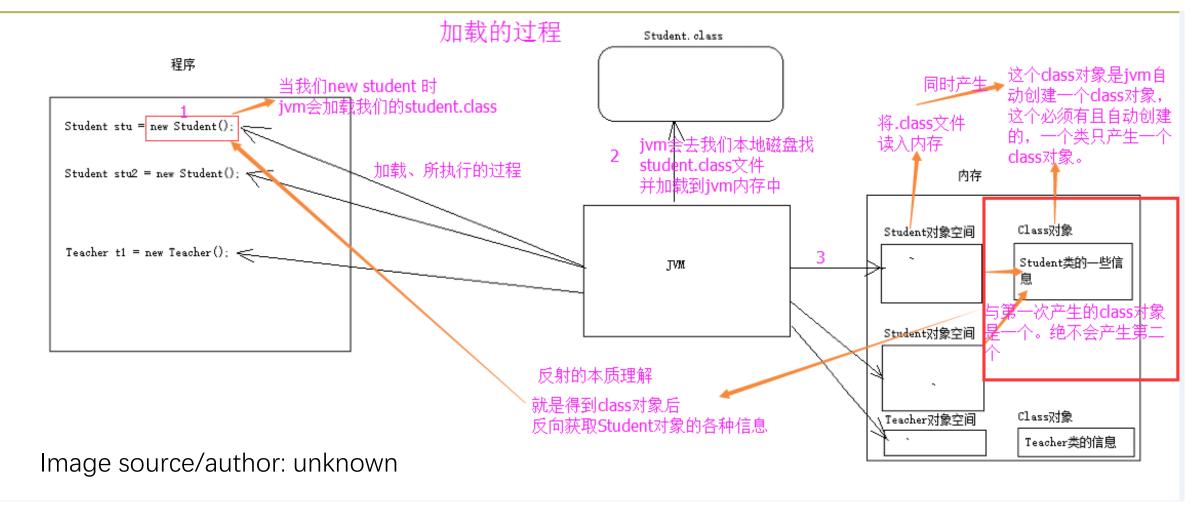
- Class objects are constructed automatically by JVM when it loads classes (.class files)
- Whenever JVM loads a class/type (e.g., String.class), it creates an instance of type Class for it

```
Class cls = new Class(String);
```

Sort of. Class has no public constructor so we cannot create Class objects, only JVM can.

```
/*
 * Constructor. Only the Java Virtual Machine creates Class
 * objects.
 */
private Class() {}
```

## JVM Loading Process



## Getting Class Objects

Approach 1: using .class (for known classes)

```
Class cls1 = String.class;
```

• Approach 2: using Class.forName() (using full package name)

```
Class cls2 = Class.forName("java.lang.String");
```

Approach 3: using getClass() on class instances

```
String s = "Hello";
Class cls3 = s.getClass();
```

What is the relationship between cls1, cls2, and cls3?

#### Getting Class Objects

- There is only one Class object for every type that has been loaded into JVM
- We can use the == operator to test whether two class objects describe the same type

```
Class cls1 = String.class;

Class cls2 = Class.forName("java.lang.String");

String s = "Hello";

Class cls3 = s.getClass();

System.out.println(cls1 == cls2);
System.out.println(cls3 == cls2);
```

## Getting Class Names

 To get the exact class name of a Java object, get its Class object and invoke getName() on it

```
String s = "Hello";
System.out.println(s.getClass().getName());
```

java.lang.String

## Getting Class Names

```
NOTE For historical reasons, the getName method produces strange-looking names for array types. For example, double[].class.getName() is
```

```
"[D"
and String[][].class.getName() is
"[[Ljava.lang.String;"
```

In general, an array type name is made up according to the following rules:

```
Etype

B byte

C char

D double

F float

I int

J long

Lname; class or interface

S short

D cay S. Horstmann. Chapter 7.
```

## Getting Class Fields

Field getField(name)	get public field given the name
Field getDeclaredField(name)	get field given the name
<pre>Field[] getFields()</pre>	get all public fields
<pre>Field[] getDeclaredFields()</pre>	get all fields (excludes inherited fields)

This includes public, protected, default (package) access, and private fields, but excludes inherited fields.

#### The Field Class

 A Field provides information about, and dynamic access to, a single field of a class or an interface

```
Field f = String.class.getDeclaredField( name: "value");
System.out.println(f.getName()); // value
System.out.println(f.getType()); // [B

int m = f.getModifiers();
System.out.println(Modifier.isFinal(m)); // true
System.out.println(Modifier.isPrivate(m)); // true
```

getModifiers() returns the Java language modifiers for the field represented by this Field object, as an integer. The Modifier class should be used to decode the modifiers.

## The Field Class

Using Reflection, we could update a field value (even for private fields)

```
BankAccount bc = new BankAccount();
System.out.println(bc.getBalance()); // 0.0
Class clz = bc.getClass();
// get the private field
Field f = clz.getDeclaredField( name: "balance");
// make the private field accessible
f.setAccessible(true);
// set the balance
f.set(bc, 1000);
System.out.println(bc.getBalance()); // 1000.0
```

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#### Getting Class Methods

An array of Class objects that identify the method's formal parameter types, in declared order (e.g., int.class)

Method getMethod(name, Class)	get public method
Method getDeclaredMethod(name, Class)	get method
<pre>Method[] getMethods()</pre>	get all public methods
<pre>Method[] getDeclaredMethods()</pre>	get all methods (excludes inherited methods)

This includes public, protected, default access, and even private methods, but excludes inherited ones.

#### The Method Class

int	<pre>getModifiers() Returns the Java language modifiers for t</pre>
String	<pre>getName() Returns the name of the method represen</pre>
Annotation[][]	<pre>getParameterAnnotations() Returns an array of arrays of Annotations of the Executable represented by this obj</pre>
int	<pre>getParameterCount() Returns the number of formal parameters executable represented by this object.</pre>
Class []	<pre>getParameterTypes() Returns an array of Class objects that represented by this object.</pre>
Class	<pre>getReturnType() Returns a Class object that represents the</pre>

- A Method provides information about, and access to, a single method on a class or interface.
- The reflected method may be a class method or an instance method (including an abstract method).

## Invoking Methods using Reflection

 Invokes the underlying method represented by this Method object, on the specified object with the specified parameters.

```
String s = "Hello world";
Method m = String.class.getMethod( name: "substring", int.class);
String r = (String) m.invoke(s, ...args: 6);
System.out.println(r);
```

Example:

https://www.liaoxuefeng.com/wiki/1252599548343744/1264803678201760

What's the output?

## Invoking Methods using Reflection

 Invokes the underlying method represented by this Method object, on the specified object with the specified parameters.

```
Method m = Integer.class.getMethod( name: "parseInt", String.class);
Integer n = (Integer) m.invoke( obj: null, ...args: "12345");
System.out.println(n);
```

Example:

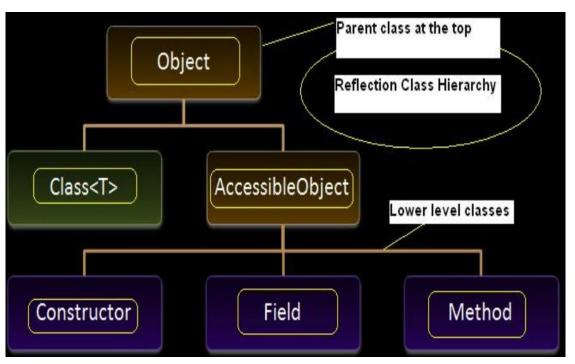
https://www.liaoxuefeng.com/wiki/1252599548343744/1264803678201760

Why null?

#### Method Accessibility

- By default, not all reflected methods are accessible. This means that the JVM enforces access control checks when invoking them.
- For instance, if we try to call a private method outside its defining class or a protected method from outside a subclass or its class's package, we'll get an IllegalAccessException
- By calling setAccesible(true) on a reflected method object, the JVM suppresses the access control checks and allows us to invoke the method without throwing an exception

## AccessibleObject



- The AccessibleObject class is the base class for Field, Method, and Constructor objects (known as reflected objects)
- It provides features to check access and suppress access checks

boolean	<pre>canAccess(Object obj)</pre>
void	<pre>setAccessible(boolean flag)</pre>
static void	<pre>setAccessible (AccessibleObject[] array, boolean flag)</pre>
boolean	trySetAccessible()

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https://docs.oracle.com/javase/9/docs/api/java/lang/reflect/AccessibleObject.html

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## Object Instantiation using Reflection

- Using newInstance()
  - Creates a new instance of the class represented by this Class object.
  - The class is instantiated as if by a new expression with an empty argument list.

```
Class cls = Student.class;
Student s = (Student) cls.newInstance();
```

## Object Instantiation using Reflection

- Use getConstructor(Class<?>...)
  - Returns a Constructor object that reflects the specified public constructor of the class represented by this Class object
  - Could specify formal parameters of constructors

```
Class clz = Student.class;
Constructor constructor = clz.getConstructor(String.class, int.class);
Student std = (Student) constructor.newInstance("Alice", 15);
```

#### Inspecting Class Inheritance with Reflection

```
Class ac = ArrayList.class;
Class sc = ac.getSuperclass();
System.out.println(sc);
System.out.println("----");
Class[] ai = ac.getInterfaces();
for (Class i : ai) {
    System.out.println(i);
}
```

```
class java.util.AbstractList
----
interface java.util.List
interface java.util.RandomAccess
interface java.lang.Cloneable
interface java.io.Serializable
```

#### Real Usages of Reflection

- IDEs code auto completion: method name suggestion
- Code analyzer tools: they do static analysis of syntax, show optimization tips and even report error conditions, and many more such things.
- **JUnit test cases**: previous Junit processor was using reflection to iterate over all methods in test classes, and find-out methods starting with *test* and run them as testcases.

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#### Lecture 10

- Reflection
- Annotation

#### Java Annotation Overview

- Java annotations start with '@'
- Java annotations are metadata (data about data) attached to program entities such as classes, interfaces, fields and methods
- Java annotations leave the semantics of a program unchanged (i.e., annotations do not change the action or execution of a compiled program)
- We cannot consider annotations (注解) as pure comments (注释)
  as they can change the way a compiler treats a program

#### Java Annotation Overview

- Java annotations are typically used for providing the following extra information:
  - **Compiler instructions**: The compiler can use annotations to catch errors or suppress warnings.
  - Build-time instructions: Build tools may scan Java code for specific annotations and generate source code or other files (e.g., XML) based on these annotations
  - Runtime instructions: Some annotations are available to be examined (by Reflection) at runtime.

## Compiling vs Building

The "Build" is a process that covers all the steps required to create a "deliverable" of your software. In the Java world, this typically includes:

- 1. Generating sources (sometimes).
- 2. Compiling sources.
- 3. Compiling test sources.
- 4. Executing tests (unit tests, integration tests, etc).
- 5. Packaging (into jar, war, ejb-jar, ear).
- 6. Running health checks (static analyzers like Checkstyle, Findbugs, PMD, test coverage, etc).
- 7. Generating reports.

So as you can see, compiling is only a (small) part of the build (and the best practice is to fully automate all the steps with tools like Maven or Ant and to run the build continuously which is known as <u>Continuous Integration</u>).

https://stackoverflow.com/a/2650423/636398

## **Annotation Categories**

- Predefined annotations
- 1
- <u>Built-in annotation</u>: annotation types used by the Java language
- Meta-annotation: annotations that apply to other annotations



Custom annotations

#### **Built-in Annotations**

#### Annotation types defined in java.lang

- @Deprecated
- @Override
- @SuppressWarnings
- @FunctionalInterface
- @SafeVarargs

## @Deprecated

```
Date dt = new Date( year: 2002, month: 12, date: 20);

'Date(int, int, int)' is deprecated

@Deprecated
@Contract(pure = true)
public Date(
    int year,
    @MagicConstant(intValues = {Calint date})
```

- This annotation indicates the element (class, method, field, etc.) is deprecated and should no longer be used
- The compiler generates a warning whenever a program uses a method, class, or field with the @Deprecated annotation

## @Override

- This annotation informs the compiler that the element is meant to override an element declared in a superclass
- While it is not mandatory to use this annotation when overriding a method, it helps to prevent errors.
- If a method marked with @Override fails to correctly override a method of its superclass (e.g., wrong parameter type), the compiler generates an error.

## Example of using @Override

The code compiles and runs, but the close button won't work

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
public class AnnotationOverrideDemo extends Frame {
   public AnnotationOverrideDemo() {
        this.addWindowListener(new WindowAdapter() {
            public void windowclosing(WindowEvent e) {
                 System.exit(0);
            }
        });
        setSize(200, 100);
        setTitle("Annotation Override Demo");
        setVisible(true);
      }
      public static void main(String[] args) { new AnnotationOverrideDemo(); }
}
```

Example: https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ehchua/programming/java/Annotation.html

## Example of using @Override

 Add annotation @Override to the windowClosing(), which signals your intention, serves as documentation, and allows the compiler to catch this error.

```
@Override
public void windowclosing(WindowEvent e) {
   System.exit(0);
}
```

```
Override

public v

Syst

Method does not override method from its superclass
```

Should be windowClosing

Example: https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ehchua/programming/java/Annotation.html

## @SuppressWarnings

- This annotation tells the compiler to suppress specific warnings that it would otherwise generate
- Every compiler warning belongs to a category. The Java Language Specification lists two categories: deprecation and unchecked. The unchecked warning can occur when interfacing with legacy code written before the advent of generics.
- To suppress multiple categories of warnings, use:

```
@SuppressWarnings({"unchecked", "deprecation"})
```

# @SuppressWarnings

```
private List list = new ArrayList();

public void addSth(String sth) {
    list.add(sth);
}

Unchecked call to 'add(E)' as a member of raw type 'java.util.List'
```

```
private List list = new ArrayList();

@SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
public void addSth(String sth) {
   list.add(sth);
}
```

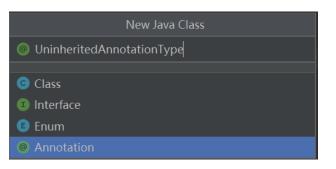
### @SafeVarargs

- varargs: a method has parameter(s) of variable length
- Compiler gives the warning about unsafe usage
- If we are sure that our actions are safe, we could use the @SafeVarargs annotation to suppress this warning

```
public class SafeVarargsDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        display(...array: "10", 20, 30.00);
    }

    @SafeVarargs
    public static <T> void display(T... array){
        for(T arg: array){
            System.out.println(arg.getClass().getName());
        }
    }
}
```





- It is also possible to create your own custom annotations.
- An annotation type class implicitly extends the marker interface java.lang.annotation.Annotation
- Annotation type declarations are similar to normal interface declarations
- The @interface keyword is used to declare a new annotation type

#### **Custom Annotations**

```
Meta-annotations go here
```

```
[Access Specifier] @interface<AnnotationName> {
   DataType <Method Name>() [default value];
}
```

- Annotations can be created by using @interface followed by the annotation name.
- The annotation can have elements that look like methods but they do not have an implementation.
- The default value is optional. The parameters cannot have a null value.
- The return type (DataType) of the method can be primitive, enum, string, class name or array of these types.

https://www.programiz.com/java-programming/annotation-types

# Example

https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/annotations/declaring.html

Many annotations replace comments in code.

Suppose that a software group traditionally starts the body of every class with comments providing important information:

```
public class Generation3List extends Generation2List {
    // Author: John Doe
    // Date: 3/17/2002
    // Current revision: 6
    // Last modified: 4/12/2004
    // By: Jane Doe
    // Reviewers: Alice, Bill, Cindy
    // class code goes here
}
```

# Example

https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/annotations/declaring.html

To add this same metadata with an annotation, you must first define the annotation type. The syntax for doing this is:

```
@interface ClassPreamble {
   String author();
   String date();
   int currentRevision() default 1;
   String lastModified() default "N/A";
   String lastModifiedBy() default "N/A";
   // Note use of array
   String[] reviewers();
}
```

```
[Access Specifier] @interface<AnnotationName> {
   DataType <Method Name>() [default value];
}
```

The annotation type definition looks similar to an interface definition where the keyword interface is preceded by the at sign (@) (@ = AT, as in annotation type). Annotation types are a form of *interface*, which will be covered in a later lesson. For the moment, you do not need to understand interfaces.

## Example

https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/annotations/declaring.html

After defining the ClassPreamble annotation, you can use it with the values filled in, which is:

- More organized
- Easy to be included in automatically generated Javadoc

```
@ClassPreamble (
   author = "John Doe",
   date = "3/17/2002",
   currentRevision = 6,
   lastModified = "4/12/2004",
   lastModifiedBy = "Jane Doe",
   // Note array notation
   reviewers = {"Alice", "Bob", "Cindy"}
)
public class Generation3List extends Generation2List {
   // class code goes here
}
```

#### Meta-annotations

- Annotations that apply to other annotations are called meta-annotations.
- There are several meta-annotation types defined in java.lang.annotation.
  - @Target
  - @Retention
  - @Documented
  - @Inherited
  - @Repeatable

# @Target

- This annotation marks another annotation to restrict what kind of Java elements the annotation can be applied to.
  - ElementType.ANNOTATION\_TYPE can be applied to an annotation type.
  - ElementType.CONSTRUCTOR can be applied to a constructor.
  - ElementType.FIELD can be applied to a field or property.
  - ElementType.LOCAL\_VARIABLE can be applied to a local variable.
  - ElementType.METHOD can be applied to a method-level annotation.
  - ElementType.PACKAGE can be applied to a package declaration.
  - ElementType.PARAMETER can be applied to the parameters of a method.
  - ElementType.TYPE can be applied to any element of a class.

#### @Target

```
@Target({ElementType.METHOD})
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.SOURCE)
public @interface Override
extends annotation.Annotation
```

```
@Documented
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Target({ElementType.TYPE})
public @interface FunctionalInterface
extends annotation.Annotation
```

```
@Target({ElementType.TYPE,ElementType.FIELD,ElementType.METHOD,ElementType.PARAMETER,ElementType.CONSTRUCTOR
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.SOURCE)
public @interface SuppressWarnings
extends annotation.Annotation
```

### @Retention

- This annotation specifies how an annotation is stored (at which level it is available)
- Syntax: @Retention(RetentionPolicy)
- 3 types of RententionPolicy
  - RetentionPolicy.SOURCE The marked annotation is retained only in the source level and is ignored by the compiler (do not exist in .class files).
  - RetentionPolicy.CLASS The marked annotation is retained by the compiler at compile time, but is ignored by JVM (recorded in the .class file but are discarded during runtime)
  - RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME The marked annotation is retained by the JVM so it can be accessed by the runtime environment.

#### RetentionPolicy.SOURCE

@Target(value=METHOD)
 @Retention(value=SOURCE)
public @interface Override

The marked annotation is retained only in the source level and is ignored by the compiler (do not exist in .class files).

@Target(value={TYPE,FIELD,METHOD,PARAl
 @Retention(value=SOURCE)
public @interface SuppressWarnings

# RetentionPolicy.CLASS

- The marked annotation is retained by the compiler at compile time, but is ignored by JVM
- The compiler keeps the annotations in the .class files, however they are not loaded by the ClassLoader when running a program.
- Useful for bytecode manipulation/processing tools (without interfering with runtime behaviors)
  - Code obfuscation: @KeepName
  - See https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3849593/java-annotations-looking-for-an-example-of-retentionpolicy-class

#### RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Target(ElementType.FIELD)
public @interface Range {
    int min() default 0;
    int max() default 255;
}
```

Example adapted from https://www.liaoxuefeng.com/wiki/1252599548 343744/1265102026065728

This signals to the Java compiler and JVM that the annotation should be available via reflection at runtime.

```
public class Person {
    @Range(min=3, max=20)
    public String name;
    @Range(max=10)
    public String city;
    @Range(min=1, max=100)
    public int age;
    public Person(String name, String city, int age){
        this.name = name;
        this.city = city;
        this.age = age;
```

RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME

Example adapted from https://www.liaoxuefeng.com/wiki/125 2599548343744/1265102026065728

```
public static void check(Person person) throws IllegalArgumentException, Reflective
    // go through each field
    for (Field field : person.getClass().getFields()) {
        // get the @Range annotation of the field:
        Range range = field.getAnnotation(Range.class);
        if (range != null) {
            // get the value of the field
            Object value = field.get(person);
            if (value instanceof String) {
                String s = (String) value;
                if (s.length() < range.min() || s.length() > range.max()) {
                    throw new IllegalArgumentException(
                            "Invalid range of string field: " + field.getName());
            else{
                int i = (int) value;
                if (i < range.min() || i > range.max()) {
                    throw new IllegalArgumentException(
                            "Invalid range of int field: " + field.getName());
```

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# RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME

```
Person p1 = new Person( name: "Alice", city: "Beijing", age: 20);
Person p2 = new Person( name: "a", city: "Beijing", age: 12);
Person p3 = new Person( name: "Alice", city: "The city name is Beijing", age: 30);
Person p4 = new Person( name: "Alice", city: "Shenzhen", age: 130);
check(p1);
                OK
check(p2);
                java.lang.lllegalArgumentException: Invalid range of string field: name
                java.lang.lllegalArgumentException: Invalid range of string field: city
check(p3);
check(p4);
                java.lang.lllegalArgumentException: Invalid range of int field: age
```

#### @Inherited

- @Inherited annotation indicates that the annotation type can be inherited from the super class
- Subclasses of annotated classes are considered having the same annotation as their superclass.

```
@Inherited
@Target(ElementType.TYPE)
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
public @interface InheritedAnnotationType {
}
```

```
@Target(ElementType.TYPE)
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
public @interface UninheritedAnnotationType {
}
```

```
@UninheritedAnnotationType
class A {
@InheritedAnnotationType
class B extends A {
class C extends B {
```

#### @Inherited

```
@UninheritedAnnotationType
class A {

@InheritedAnnotationType
class B extends A {

}

class C extends B {
}
```

```
System.out.println(new A().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(InheritedAnnotationType.class));
System.out.println(new B().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(InheritedAnnotationType.class));
System.out.println(new C().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(InheritedAnnotationType.class));
System.out.println(new A().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(UninheritedAnnotationType.class));
System.out.println(new B().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(UninheritedAnnotationType.class));
System.out.println(new C().getClass().isAnnotationPresent(UninheritedAnnotationType.class));
```

```
false
true
true
true
false
false
```



- @Documented annotation indicates that whenever the specified annotation is used, those elements should be documented using the Javadoc tool
- @Repeatable indicates that the marked annotation can be applied more than once to the same declaration or type use. See <a href="https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/annotations/repeating.html">https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/annotations/repeating.html</a> for more info.

#### **Next Lecture**

Unit Testing