

Inheritance

Programming in the large

Software is complex. Three ways we deal with complexity:

- ▶ Abstraction - boiling a concept down to its essential elements, ignoring irrelevant details
- ▶ Decomposition - decompose system into packages, classes, functions
- ▶ Reuse - reuse library function in many different places

Today we introduce another kind of reuse: inheritance

What is inheritance?



What is inheritance?

More like genetics ...



Inheritance

Inheritance: deriving one class from another class.

```
public class Employee { ... }  
public class HourlyEmployee extends Employee { ... }  
public class SalariedEmployee extends Employee { ... }
```

- ▶ Employee is the **base class** or **superclass**
- ▶ HourlyEmployee and SalariedEmployee are **derived classes** or **subclasses**
- ▶ Subclasses **inherit** the interface and implementation of their superclass(es)
- ▶ extends is the Java syntax for inheriting from another class

Important idea to plant in your head now: subclassing is about concept reuse not merely implementation reuse. For example, HourlyEmployee **is-a** Employee conceptually.

Superclasses

Consider the superclass `Employee1`:

```
public class Employee1 {  
    private String name;  
    private Date hireDate;  
  
    public Employee1(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        disallowNullArguments(aName, aHireDate);  
        name = aName;  
        hireDate = aHireDate;  
    }  
    public String getName() {  
        return name;  
    }  
    public Date getHireDate() {  
        return hireDate;  
    } // and toString(), etc. ...  
}
```

`Employee` defines the basic information needed to define any employee.

Subclasses

The `extends` clause names the direct superclass of the current class ([JLS §8.1.4](#)).

Here is a subclass of `Employee1`, `HourlyEmployee1`:

```
public class HourlyEmployee extends Employee {  
  
    public HourlyEmployee(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        super(aName, aHireDate);  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ `HourlyEmployee` inherits all the members of `Employee`
- ▶ `HourlyEmployee` can't access private members of `Employee` directly
- ▶ The `super` call in the constructor calls `Employee`'s constructor to initialize `HourlyEmployee` instances

The `HourlyEmployee` concept extends the `Employee` concept.

super Subtleties

- ▶ If present, an explicit `super` call must be the first statement in a constructor.
- ▶ If an explicit `super` call is not present and the superclass has a no-arg constructor, `super()` will implicitly be the first statement in any constructor
- ▶ If there is no no-arg constructor in a superclass (for example, if the superclass defines other constructors without explicitly defining a no-arg constructor), then subclass constructors must explicitly include a `super` call.

Together, these rules create a constructor chain from the highest superclass of a class to the class itself.

Subclass Constructors

Recall our definitions of Employee1 and HourlyEmployee1.

```
public class Employee1 {  
    // The only constructor in Employee  
    public Employee1(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        name = aName;  
        hireDate = aHireDate;  
    }  
    // ...  
}  
  
public class HourlyEmployee1 extends Employee1 {  
  
    public HourlyEmployee1(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        super(aName, aHireDate);  
    }  
}
```

Would HourlyEmployee1.java compile if we left off the constructor definition?

Inherited Members

Given our previous definitions of `Employee1` and `HourlyEmployee1`, we can write code like this (from [EmployeeDemo1](#)):

```
DateFormat df = DateFormat.getDateInstance();
HourlyEmployee eva =
    new HourlyEmployee("Eva L. Uator",
                        df.parse("February 18, 2013"));
System.out.println(eva.getName() + " was hired on "
                   + eva.getHireDate());
```

Note that

- ▶ we didn't have to define `getName` and `getHireDate` in `HourlyEmployee`
- ▶ our current implementation of `HourlyEmployee` doesn't add anything to `Employee`

Subclasses Specialize Superclasses

We define subclasses to **extend** or **specialize** the functionality of their superclasses. Let's add suitable extensions to HourlyEmployee:¹

```
public class HourlyEmployee2 extends Employee2 {  
    private double hourlyWage;  
    private double monthlyHours;  
  
    public HourlyEmployee(String name, Date hireDate,  
                          double wage, double hours) {  
        super(name, hireDate);  
        hourlyWage = wage;  
        monthlyHours = hours;  
    }  
    public double getHourlyWage() { return hourlyWage; }  
    public double getMonthlyHours() { return monthlyHours; }  
    public double getMonthlyPay() { return hourlyWage * monthlyHours; }  
    // ...  
}
```

Food for thought: what is the monthly pay rule for ~HourlyEmployee~s?
What if an employee works more than 40 hours per week?

¹Employee2 is the same as Employee1, but we'll keep the numbers consistent to avoid confusion.



Access Modifiers

Modifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
public	Y	Y	Y	Y
protected	Y	Y	Y	N
no modifier	Y	Y	N	N
private	Y	N	N	N

- ▶ Every class has an access level (for now all of our classes are **public**).
- ▶ Every member has an access level.
- ▶ The default access level, no modifier, is also called "package private."

Access Restrictions Extend to Subclasses

private members of superclasses are present in subclasses, but can't be directly accessed. So this won't compile:

```
public class HourlyEmployee2 extends Employee2 {  
    // ...  
    public String toString() {  
        return name + "; Hire Date: " + hireDate + "; Hourly Wage: "  
            + hourlyWage + "; Monthly Hours: " + monthlyHours;  
    }  
}
```

because name and hireDate are private in Employee2. But their getter methods are public:

```
public class HourlyEmployee3 extends Employee3 {  
    public String toString() {  
        return getName() + ", Hire Date: " + getHireDate()  
            + ", Wage: " + hourlyWage  
            + ", Hours: " + monthlyHours;  
    }  
}
```

Overriding Methods

Overriding a method means providing a new definition of a superclass method in a subclass. We've been doing this all along with `toString` and `equals`, which are defined in `java.lang.Object`, the highest superclass of all Java classes.

```
public class Object {  
    public String toString() {  
        return getClass().getName() + "@"  
            + Integer.toHexString(hashCode());  
    }  
    public boolean equals(Object obj) {  
        return (this == obj);  
    }  
}
```

We redefine these on our classes because

- ▶ the default implementation of `toString` just prints the class name and hash code (which is the memory address by default).
- ▶ the default implementation of `equals` just compares object references, i.e., identity equality. What we want from `equals` is value equality.

@Override Annotation

The optional `@Override` annotation informs the compiler that the element is meant to override an element declared in a superclass.

```
public class Employee2 {  
    // ...  
    @Override  
    public String toString() {  
        return name + "; Hire Date: " + hireDate;  
    }  
}
```

Now if our subclass's `toString()` method doesn't actually override `java.lang.Object`'s (or some other intermediate superclass's) `toString()`, the compiler will tell us.

Explicit Constructor Invocation with this

What if we wanted to have default values for hourly wages and monthly hours? We can provide an alternate constructor that delegates to our main constructor with this [HourlyEmployee3.java](#):

```
public final class HourlyEmployee3 extends Employee3 {  
    /**  
     * Constructs an HourlyEmployee with hourly wage of 20 and  
     * monthly hours of 160.  
     */  
    public HourlyEmployee3(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        this(aName, aHireDate, 20.00, 160.0);  
    }  
    public HourlyEmployee3(String aName, Date aHireDate,  
                           double anHourlyWage, double aMonthlyHours) {  
        super(aName, aHireDate);  
        disallowZeroesAndNegatives(anHourlyWage, aMonthlyHours);  
        hourlyWage = anHourlyWage;  
        monthlyHours = aMonthlyHours;  
    }  
    // ...  
}
```

this and super

- ▶ If present, an explicit constructor call must be the first statement in the constructor.
- ▶ Can't have both a super and this call in a constructor.
- ▶ A constructor with a this call must call, either directly or indirectly, a constructor with a super call (implicit or explicit).

```
public final class HourlyEmployee3 extends Employee3 {  
    public HourlyEmployee3(String aName, Date aHireDate) {  
        this(aName, aHireDate, 20.00);  
    }  
    public HourlyEmployee3(String aName, Date aHireDate, double anHourlyWage) {  
        this(aName, aHireDate, anHourlyWage, 160.0);  
    }  
    public HourlyEmployee3(String aName, Date aHireDate,  
                           double anHourlyWage, double aMonthlyHours) {  
        super(aName, aHireDate);  
        disallowZeroesAndNegatives(anHourlyWage, aMonthlyHours);  
        hourlyWage = anHourlyWage;  
        monthlyHours = aMonthlyHours;  
    }  
    // ...  
}
```

The Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP)

Subtypes must be substitutable for their supertypes.

Consider the method:

```
public static Date vestDate(Employee employee) {  
    Date hireDate = employee.getHireDate();  
    int vestYear = hireDate.getYear() + 2;  
    return new Date(vestYear,  
                    hireDate.getMonth(),  
                    hireDate.getDay());  
}
```

We can pass any subtype of Employee to this method:

```
DateFormat df = DateFormat.getDateInstance();  
HourlyEmployee eva = new HourlyEmployee("Eva L. Uator",  
                                         df.parse("February 13, 2013"), 20.00, 200);  
Date evaVestDate = vestDate(eva);
```

We must ensure that subtypes are indeed substitutable for supertypes.

LSP Counterexample

A surprising counter-example:

```
public class Rectangle {  
    public void setWidth(double w) { ... }  
    public void setHeight(double h) { ... }  
}  
public class Square extends Rectangle {  
    public void setWidth(double w) {  
        super.setWidth(w);  
        super.setHeight(w);  
    }  
    public void setHeight(double h) {  
        super.setWidth(h);  
        super.setHeight(h);  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ We know from math class that a square "is a" rectangle.
- ▶ The overridden `setWidth` and `setHeight` methods in `Square` enforce the class invariant of `Square`, namely, that `width == height`.

LSP Violation

Consider this client of Rectangle:

```
public void g(Rectangle r) {  
    r.setWidth(5);  
    r.setHeight(4);  
    assert r.area() == 20;  
}
```

- ▶ Client (author of `g`) assumes width and height are independent in `r` because `r` is a `Rectangle`.
- ▶ If the `r` passed to `g` is actually an instance of `Square`, what will be the value of `r.area()`?

The Object-oriented **is-a** relationship is about behavior. `Square`'s `setWidth` and `setHeight` methods don't behave the way a `Rectangle`'s `setWidth` and `setHeight` methods are expected to behave, so a `Square` doesn't fit the object-oriented **is-a** `Rectangle` definition. Let's make this more formal ...

Conforming to LSP: Design by Contract

Require no more, promise no less.

Author of a class specifies the behavior of each method in terms of preconditions and postconditions. Subclasses must follow two rules:

- ▶ Preconditions of overridden methods must be equal to or weaker than those of the superclass (enforces or assumes no more than the constraints of the superclass method).
- ▶ Postconditions of overridden methods must be equal to or greater than those of the superclass (enforces all of the constraints of the superclass method and possibly more).

In the Rectangle-Square case the postcondition of Rectangle's `setWidth` method:

```
assert((rectangle.w == w) && (rectangle.height == old.height))
```

cannot be satisfied by Square, which tells us that a Square doesn't satisfy the object-oriented **is-a** relationship to Rectangle.

LSP Conforming 2D Shapes

```
public interface 2dShape {  
    double area();  
}  
public class Rectangle implements 2dShape {  
    public void setWidth(double w) { ... }  
    public void setHeight(double h) { ... }  
    public double area() {  
        return width * height;  
    }  
}  
public class Square implements 2dShape {  
    public void setSide(double w) { ... }  
    public double area() {  
        return side * side;  
    }  
}
```

Notice the use of an **interface** to define a type.

Interfaces

An interface represents an object-oriented type: a set of public methods (declarations, not definitions) that any object of the type supports.

Recall the `2dShape` interface:

```
public interface 2dShape {  
    double area();  
}
```

You can't instantiate interfaces. So you must define a class that implements the interface in order to use it. Implementing an interface is similar to extending a class, but uses the `implements` keyword:

```
public class Square implements 2dShape {  
    public void setSide(double w) { ... }  
    public double area() {  
        return side * side;  
    }  
}
```

Now a `Square` **is-a** `2dShape`.

Interfaces Define a Type

```
public interface 2dShape {  
    double area();  
}
```

This means that any object of type 2dShape supports the area method, so we can write code like this:

```
public double calcTotalArea(2dShape ... shapes) {  
    double area = 0.0;  
    for (2dShape shape: shapes) {  
        area += shape.area();  
    }  
    return area;  
}
```

Two kinds of inheritance: **implementation** and **interface** inheritance.

- ▶ extending a class means inheriting both the interface and the implementation of the superclass
- ▶ implementing an interface means inheriting only the interface, that is, the public methods

Default Methods in Interfaces

Normally, an interface declares methods that concrete classes must implement.

```
public interface Named {  
    String getName();  
}
```

- ▶ Beginning with Java 8 (jdk1.8), interface methods can have default method implementations. Default methods can only reference local variables and static variables defined in the interface or any superinterfaces.

```
public interface Destiny {  
  
    default public String getName() {  
        return "Child";  
    }  
    default public String say() {  
        return "my " + getName();  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ Interfaces can also have static methods, which can't access instance state anyway.

Conflicting Methods From Interfaces and Superclasses

Superclasses win.

```
public abstract class AbstractPerson {  
    private String name;  
  
    public AbstractPerson(String name) {  
        this.name = name;  
    }  
    public String getName() {  
        return name;  
    }  
}
```

So this is OK: the getName method from AbstractPerson wins.

```
public class GoodPerson extends AbstractPerson implements Destiny {  
  
    public GoodPerson(String name) {  
        super(name);  
    }  
}
```

Conflicting Default Methods from Interfaces

Interfaces clash.

```
public interface Destiny {  
  
    default public String getName() {  
        return "Child";  
    } // ...  
}  
  
public interface Maggot {  
  
    default public String getName() {  
        return "Robert Paulson";  
    }  
}
```

So this won't compile:

```
public class BadPerson implements Destiny, Maggot {  
    // Won't compile -- Destiny and Maggot both define default getName methods  
}
```

Programming Exercise

To get some practice writing classes that use inheritance, write:

- ▶ A class named `Animal` with:
 - ▶ A private instance variable `name`, with a public getter and setter.
(Note: `name` is a name of an animal, not the animal's species.)
 - ▶ A single constructor that takes the name of the `Animal`
 - ▶ A public instance method `speak` that returns a `String` representation of the sound it makes.
- ▶ A class named `Dog` that extends `Animal` and specializes the `speak` method appropriately.
- ▶ A `Kennel` class with
 - ▶ a private instance variable `dogs` that is an array of `Dog`
 - ▶ a single constructor that takes a variable number of single `Dog` parameters and initializes the `dogs` instance variable with the constructor's actual parameters.
 - ▶ a method `soundOff()` that prints to `STDOUT` (`System.out`) one line for each `Dog` in `dogs` that reads "[dog name] says [output of speak method]!", e.g. "Chloe says woof, woof!"

We'll review this at the start of the next lecture.

