





Lecture 4: Inheritance





http://aiti.mit.edu

What is Inheritance?

In the real world:

- We have general terms for objects in the real world, example "Vehicle"
 - Vehicles have wheels, they move, you can ride them, etc.
- There are many specific types of "Vehicles"
 - Cars, bicycle, trucks, busses etc.
 - They all share (inherit) attributes of a vehicle
 - But each is more specific:
 - Cars have 4 wheels, carry 5 people
 - Bicycles have 2 wheels, carry 1 person

What is Inheritance?

In software:

- Objects that are derived from other object "resemble" their parents by *inheriting* both state (fields) and behaviour (methods).
- Parents are more general than children
- Children refine parents class specification for different uses

Dog Class

```
public class Dog {
    private int numOfLegs;
```

```
public Dog(int legs){
  numOfLegs = 4;
}
```

```
public int getNumLegs(){
  return numOfLegs;
```

```
public String bark(){
  return "Woof";
```

<u>Dog</u> int numOfLegs int getNumLegs() void bark()

Duck Class

```
public class Duck {
    private int numOfLegs;
```

```
public Cat(int legs){
numOfLegs = 2;
```

```
public int getNumLegs(){
  return numOfLegs;
}
```

```
public String quack(){
  return "quack";
```

<u>Duck</u>

int numOfLegs
int getNumLegs()
void quack()

Problem: Code Duplication

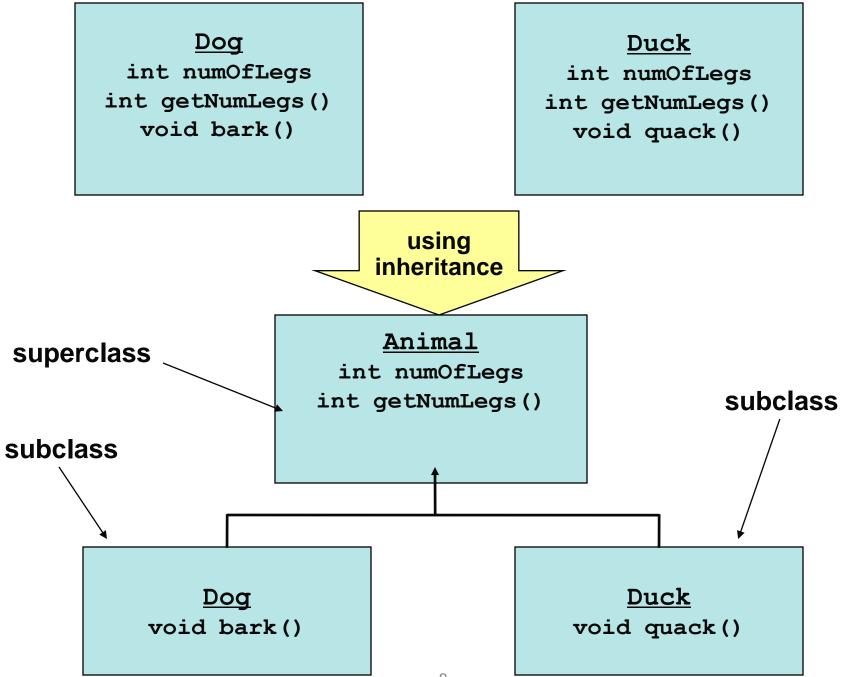
• Duck and Dog have the numOfLegs field and the getNumLegs method in common

 Classes often have a lot of state and behaviour in common

• Result: lots of duplicate code!

Solution: Inheritance

- Inheritance allows you to write new classes that inherit from existing classes
- The existing class whose properties are inherited is called the "parent" or superclass
- The new class that inherits from the super class is called the "child" or subclass
- Result: Lots of **code reuse**!



Animal Superclass

```
public class Animal {
   public int numOfLegs;
```

```
public Animal(int numOfLegs) {
  this.numOfLegs = numOfLegs;
}
```

```
public int getNumLegs() {
  return this.numOfLegs;
}
```

Inheritance Rules

- Use the extends keyword to indicate that one class inherits from another
- The subclass inherits public (and *protected*) fields and methods of the superclass
- Use the super keyword in the subclass constructor to call the superclass constructor

Dog Class

public class Dog extends Animal {

```
public Dog() {
    super(4);
}
```

```
public String bark() {
  return "Woof";
}
```

Duck Class

```
public class Duck extends Animal {
   public Duck() {
      super(2);
   }
```

```
public String quack(){
  return "Quack";
}
```

Is-A Relationship

- Inheritance defines an "is-a" relationship
 - Dog *is an* Animal
 - Duck *is an* Animal
 - One way relationship
 - Animal is not a Dog! (Remember this when coding!)
- The derived class inherits access to methods and fields from the parent class
 - Use inheritance when you want to reuse code

Aside: Has-A Relationship

When one class has a field of another class (or primitive type)

Animal has an int

• Do not confuse with inheritance!

Inheritance Review 1

What is the output of the following?

```
Dog d = new Dog();
Duck u = new Duck();
```

```
System.out.println("A dog has " +
    d.getNumLegs() + d.bark());
```

```
System.out.println("A duck has " +
    u.getNumLegs() + u.quack());
```

(Dog and Duck inherit the getNumLegs() method from the Animal super class, but get bark and quack from their own class)

Which Lines Don't Compile?

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Animal a1 = new Animal(4);
  al.getNumLegs();
  al.bark(); // Animal does not have bark
  al.quack(); // Animal does not have quack
  Dog a2 = new Dog();
  a2.getNumLegs();
  a2.bark();
  a2.quack(); // Dog does not have a quack
  Duck du = new Duck();
  du.getNumLegs();
  du.bark(); // Duck does not have bark
  du.quack();
}
```

Subclass Constructor

- The first thing a subclass constructor must do is call *a constructor* in the superclass.
- If the subclass constructor does not do this, then the default superclass constructor (with no arguments) will be called implicitly.

Implicit Super Constructor Call

then this **Beef** subclass:

If I have this **Food** class:

```
public class Food {
    private boolean raw;
    public Food() {
        raw = true;
    }
```

}

```
public class Beef extends Food {
    private double weight;
    public Beef(double w) {
        weight = w
     }
}
is equivalent to:
```

```
public class Beef extends Food {
    private double weight;
    public Beef(double w) {
        super();
        weight = w
    }
}
```

Inheritance Review 2

```
public class A {
   public A() { System.out.println("I'm A"); }
}
public class B extends A {
   public B() { System.out.println("I'm B"); }
}
public class C extends B {
   public C() { System.out.println("I'm C"); }
}
```

What does this print out?

C x = new C();

Overriding Methods

• Subclasses can *override* methods in their superclass

```
class Therm {
  protected double celsius;
  public Therm(double c) {
    celsius = c;
  }
  public double getTemp() {
    return celcius;
  }
}

class ThermUS extends Therm {
  class ThermUS extends Therm {
    public ThermUS(double c) {
        super(c);
    }
    // degrees in Fahrenheit
    public double getTemp() {
        return celsius * 1.8 + 32;
    }
}
```

What is the output of the following?
 ThermUS thermometer = new ThermUS(100);
 System.out.println(thermometer.getTemp());
 212

Calling Superclass Methods

When you override a method, you can call the superclass's copy of the method by using the syntax **super.method()**

```
class Therm {
  private double celsius;
  public Therm(double c) {
    celcius = c;
  }
  public double getTemp() {
    return celcius;
  }
```

class ThermUS extends Therm {
 public ThermUS(double c) {
 super(c);
 }
 public double getTemp() {

```
return super.getTemp() {
    return super.getTemp()
    * 1.8 + 32;
```

Remember Casting?

• "Casting" means "promising" the compiler that the object will be of a particular type.

- So the compiler should go ahead and convert

 You can cast a variable to the type of the object that it references to use that object's methods.

```
Animal a2 = new Dog();
a2.bark(); //Animal does not have a bark method
-> ((Dog)a2).bark();
```

• The casting will fail if the variable doesn't reference an object of that type.

Which Castings Will Fail?

public static void main(String[] args) {
 Animal a1 = new Dog();
 ((Dog)a1).bark(); //a1 changed to Dog
 ((Duck)a1).quack(); //a1 is not a Cat

Animal a2 = new Duck();
((Duck)a2).quack(); //a2 changed to Duck
((Dog)a2).bark(); //Dog is not a Dog

Programming Example

A company has a list of Employees. It asks you to provide a payroll sheet for all employees.

Different types of employees

- manager, engineer, software engineer.
- Manager straight Salary
- Engineer Hourly
- You have an old Employee class but need to add very different data and methods for managers and engineers.

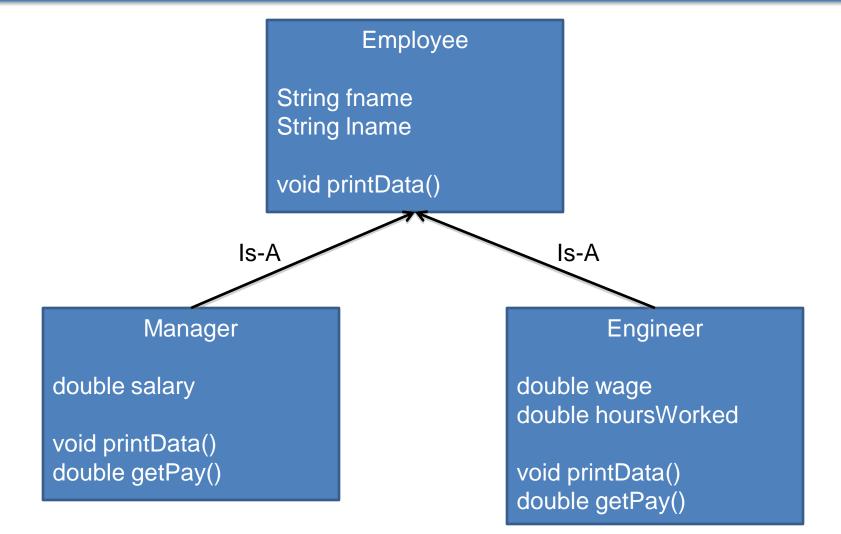
Employee Class

}

This is a simple super or base class.

```
class Employee {
    // Fields
   private String firstName, lastName;
    // Constructor
   public Employee(String fName, String lName) {
        firstName= fName; lastName= lName;
    }
    // Method
   public void printData() {
        System.out.println(firstName + " " + lastName);
      }
```

Inheritance



Engineer Subclass

}

```
class Engineer extends Employee {
   private double wage;
   private double hoursWorked;
   public Engineer(String fName, String lName,
                    double rate, double hours) {
        super(fName, lName);
       wage = rate;
       hoursWorked = hours;
    }
   public double getPay() {
        return wage * hoursWorked;
    }
   public void printData() {
        super.printData(); // PRINT NAME
        System.out.println("Weekly pay: $" +
                             getPav(); }
```

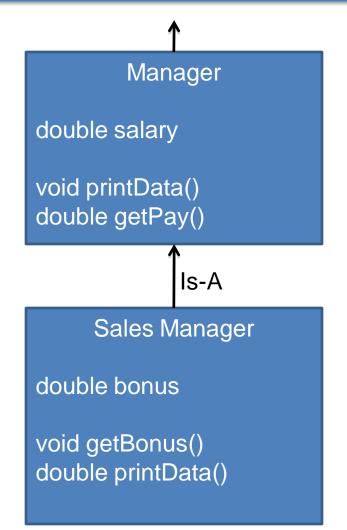
Manager Subclass

```
class Manager extends Employee {
    private double salary;
```

}

```
public Manager(String fName, String lName, double sal){
    super(fName, lName);
    salary = sal; }
public double getPay() {
    return salary; }
public void printData() {
    super.printData();
    System.out.println("Monthly salary: $" + salary);}
```

More Inheritance



SalesManager Class

class SalesManager extends Manager {
 private double bonus; // Bonus Possible as commission.

```
// A SalesManager gets a constant salary of $1250.0
public SalesManager(String fName, String lName, double b) {
    super(fName, lName, 1250.0);
    bonus = b; }
```

```
public double getBonus() {
    return bonus; }
```

```
public void printData() {
    super.printData(); //Print from both Super Classes
    System.out.println("Bonus Pay: $" + getBonus(); }
```

SalesManager

SalesManager	
Manager	
Employee	
public Employee(String, String) public void printData()	
public Manager(String, String, double) public void printData() public double getPay()	
private double bonus	
public SalesManager(String, String, double) public double getBonus() public void printData()	

Main Method

}

```
public class PayRoll {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Engineer fred = new Engineer("Fred", "Smith", 12.0, 8.0);
    Manager ann = new Manager("Ann", "Brown", 1500.0);
    SalesManager mary = new SalesManager("Mary", "Kate", 2000.0);
```

```
Employee[] employees = new Employee[3];
employees[0]= fred;
employees[1]= ann;
employees[2]= mary; Java knows the
for (int i=0; i < 3; i++) object type and
employees[i].printData(); chooses the
} appropriate method
at run time
```

Output from main method

Fred Smith

Weekly pay: \$96.0

Ann Brown

Monthly salary: \$1500.0

Mary Barrett

Monthly salary: \$1250.0 Bonus: \$2000.0

Note that we could not write:

```
employees[i].getPay();
```

because getPay() is not a method of the superclass Employee.

In contrast, printData() is a method of Employee, so Java can find the appropriate version, starts from subclass (most inherited) and works the way up for method

instanceof Operator

- How about if you want to test if an object is of a specific class?
- Use the instance of operator
 - returns true if an object is of the class
 - returns true if an object is a subclass of the class
- Form:

obj instanceof Class

instanceof Example

```
Employee emp = new Employee("first", "last");
Engineer eng = new Engineer("Fred", "Smith",
12.0, 8.0);
Manager mana = new Manager("Ann", "Brown", 1500.0);
SalesManager salesm = new SalesManager("Mary", "Kate",
2000.0);
```

emp instanceof Employee emp instanceof Engineer mana instanceof Employee eng instanceof Engineer salesm instanceof Manager

true false true true true

instanceof Example

}

```
public class PayRoll {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Engineer fred = new Engineer("Fred", "Smith", 12.0, 8.0);
    Manager ann = new Manager("Ann", "Brown", 1500.0);
    SalesManager mary = new SalesManager("Mary", "Kate", 2000.0);
```

```
Employee[] employees = new Employee[3];
employees[0]= fred;
employees[1]= ann;
employees[2]= mary;
for (int i=0; i < 3; i++)
    if (employees[i] instanceof SalesManager)
        System.out.println(employees[i].getBonus());
    }
```

Object Class

- All Java classes implicitly inherit from java.lang.Object
- So every class you write will automatically have methods in Object such as equals, hashCode, and toString.
- We'll learn about the importance of some of these methods in later lectures.