

Inheritance

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Inheritance

- A class can be a sub-type of another class
- The derived class contains
 - ♦ all the members of the class it inherits from
 - ♦ plus any member it defines explicitly
- The derived class can **override** the definition of existing methods by providing its own implementation
- The code of the derived class consists of the changes and additions to the base class

Addition

```
class Employee{  
    String name;  
    double wage;  
    void incrementWage() {...}  
}
```

```
class Manager extends Employee{  
    String managedUnit;  
    void changeUnit() {...}  
}
```

```
Manager m = new Manager();  
m.incrementWage(); // OK, inherited
```

Overriding

```
class Vector{
    int vect[];
    void add(int x) {...}
}
```

```
class OrderedVector extends Vector{
    void add(int x) {...}
}
```

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Inheritance and polymorphism

```
class Employee{
    private String name;
    public void print(){
        System.out.println(name);
    }
}
```

```
Employee e1 = new Employee();
Employee e2 = new Manager();
e1.print(); // name
e2.print(); // name and unit
```

```
class Manager extends Employee{
    private String managedUnit;

    public void print(){ //overrides
        System.out.println(name); //un-optimized!
        System.out.println(managedUnit);
    }
}
```

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Inheritance and polymorphism

```
Employee e1 = new Employee();  
Employee e2 = new Manager(); //ok, is_a  
e1.print(); // name  
e2.print(); // name and unit
```

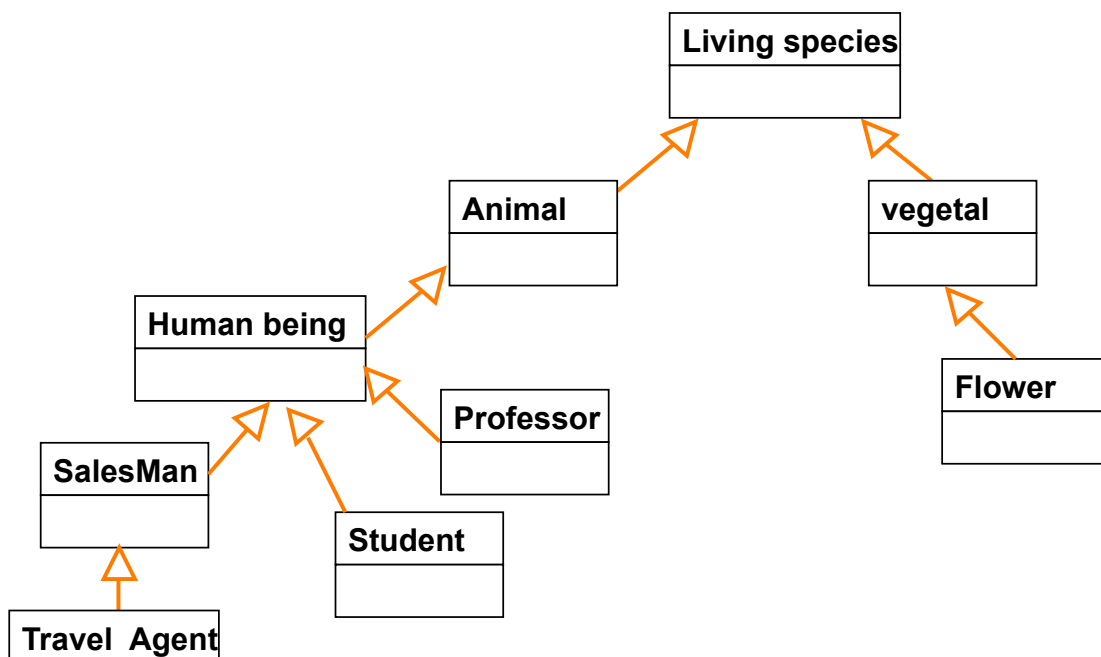
Why inheritance

- Frequently, a class is merely a modification of another class. In this way, there is minimal repetition of the same code
- Localization of code
 - ♦ Fixing a bug in the base class automatically fixes it in the subclasses
 - ♦ Adding functionality in the base class automatically adds it in the subclasses
 - ♦ Less chances of different (and inconsistent) implementations of the same operation

Inheritance in real Life

- A new design created by the modification of an already existing design
 - ♦ The new design consists of only the changes or additions from the base design
- CoolPhoneBook inherits PhoneBook
 - ♦ Add mail address and cell number

Example of inheritance tree



Inheritance terminology

- Class one above
 - ♦ Parent class
- Class one below
 - ♦ Child class
- Class one or more above
 - ♦ Superclass, Ancestor class, Base class
- Class one or more below
 - ♦ Subclass, Descendent class

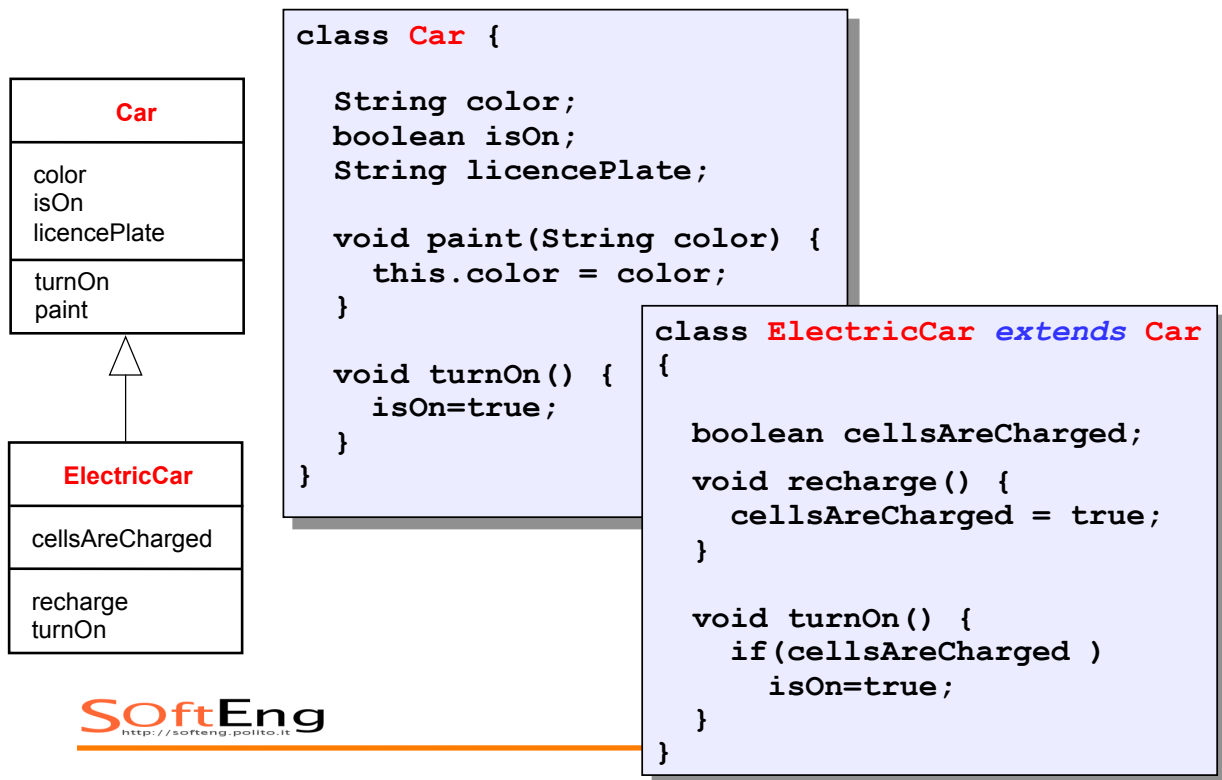
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Inheritance in a few words

- Subclass
 - ♦ Inherits attributes and methods
 - ♦ Can modify inherited attributes and methods (override)
 - ♦ Can add new attributes and methods

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Inheritance in Java: *extends*



ElectricCar

- Inherits
 - ♦ attributes (color, isOn, licencePlate)
 - ♦ methods (paint)
- Modifies (overrides)
 - ♦ turnOn()
- Adds
 - ♦ attributes (cellsAreCharged)
 - ♦ Methods (recharge)

Visibility (scope)



Example

```
class Employee {
    private String name;
    private double wage;
}

class Manager extends Employee {

    void print() {
        System.out.println("Manager" +
            name + " " + wage);
    }
}
```

Not visible

Two arrows originate from the text "Not visible" below. One arrow points to the word "name" in the code snippet above, and the other points to the word "wage" in the same code snippet. The words "name" and "wage" in the code are highlighted in red.

Protected

- Attributes and methods marked as
 - ♦ **public** are always accessible
 - ♦ **private** are accessible within the class only
 - ♦ **protected** are accessible within the class and its subclasses

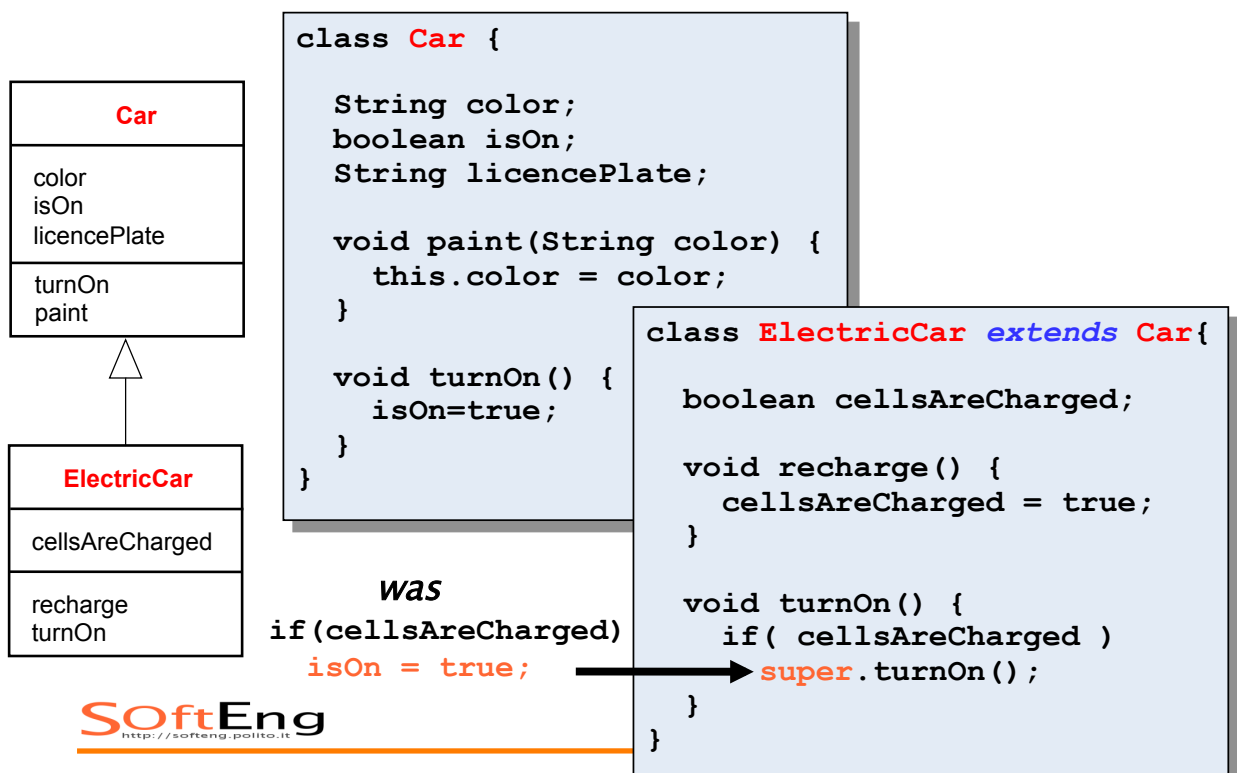
In summary

	Method in the same class	Method of another class in the same package	Method of subclass	Method of class in other package
private	✓			
package	✓	✓		
protected	✓	✓	✓	
public	✓	✓	✓	✓

Super (reference)

- “**this**” is a reference to the current object
- “**super**” is a reference to the parent class

Example



Attributes redefinition

```
▪ Class Parent{
    protected int attr = 7;
}

▪ Class Child{
    protected String attr = "hello";

    void print(){
        System.out.println(super.attr);
        System.out.println(attr);
    }

    public static void main(String args[]){
        Child c = new Child();
        c.print();
    }
}
```



Inheritance and constructors



Construction of child's objects

- Since each object “contains” an instance of the parent class, the latter **must** be initialized
- Java compiler automatically inserts a call to **default constructor** (no params) of parent class
- The call is inserted as the **first** statement of each child constructor

Construction of child objects

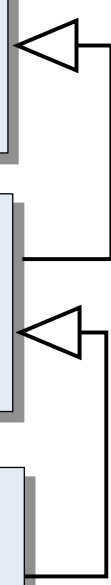
- Execution of constructors proceeds **top-down** in the inheritance hierarchy
- In this way, when a method of the child class is executed (constructor included), the super-class is completely initialized already

Example

```
class ArtWork {  
    ArtWork() {  
        System.out.println("ctor ArtWork"); }  
}
```

```
class Drawing extends ArtWork {  
    Drawing() {  
        System.out.println("ctor Drawing"); }  
}
```

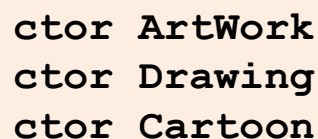
```
class Cartoon extends Drawing {  
    Cartoon() {  
        System.out.println("ctor Cartoon"); }  
}
```



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Example (cont' d)

```
Cartoon obj = new Cartoon();
```



```
ctor ArtWork  
ctor Drawing  
ctor Cartoon
```

A word of advice

- Default constructor “disappears” if custom constructors are defined

```
class Parent{
    Parent(int i){}
}
class Child extends Parent{ }
// error!
```

```
class Parent{
    Parent(int i){}
    Parent(){} //explicit default
}
class Child extends Parent { }
// ok!
```

Super

- If you define custom **constructors with arguments**
 - and default constructor is not defined explicitly
- ➔ the compiler cannot insert the call automatically

Super

- Child class constructor must call the right constructor of the parent class, **explicitly**
- Use **super()** to identify constructors of parent class
- **First** statement in child constructors

Example

```
class Employee {  
    private String name;  
    private double wage;  
    ???  
    Employee(String n, double w) {  
        name = n;  
        wage = w;  
    }  
}
```

```
class Manager extends Employee {  
    private int unit;  
  
    Manager(String n, double w, int u) {  
        super(); ERROR !!!  
        unit = u;  
    }  
}
```

Example

```
class Employee {  
    private String name;  
    private double wage;  
  
    Employee(String n, double w) {  
        name = n;  
        wage = w;  
    }  
}
```

```
class Manager extends Employee {  
    private int unit;  
  
    Manager(String n, double w, int u) {  
        super(n, w);  
        unit = u;  
    }  
}
```

Depth of Inheritance Tree

- In general too deep inheritance trees put at risk the understandability of the code
 - ♦ An empirical limit is 5 levels

Dynamic binding/ polymorphism



Example

- `Car[] garage = new Car[4];`
- `garage[0] = new Car();`
- `garage[1] = new ElectricCar();`
- `garage[2] = new ElectricCar();`
- `garage[3] = new Car();`

- `for(int i=0; i<garage.length; i++){`
 `garage[i].turnOn();`
 `}`

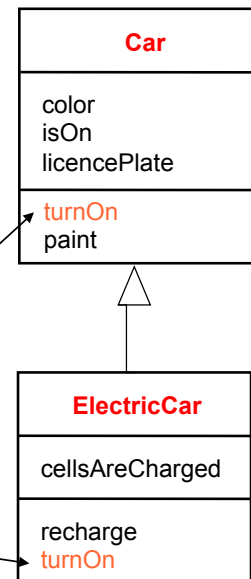
Binding

- Association message/method
- Constraint
 - ◆ Same signature

```
Car a;  
for(int i=0; i<garage.length; i++){  
    a = garage[i]  
    a.turnOn();  
}
```

message

method

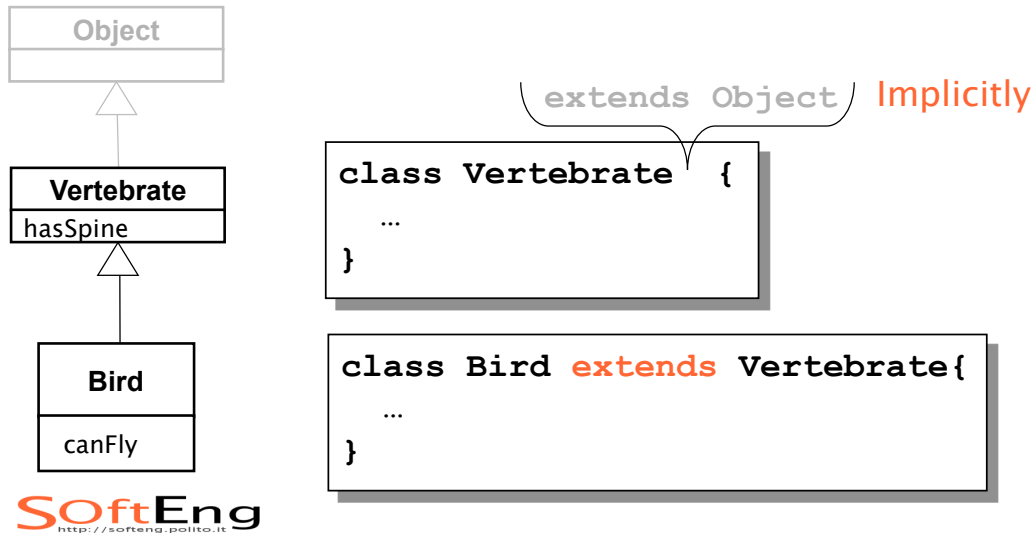


Object



Class Object

- `java.lang.Object`
- All classes are subtypes of Object



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Class Object

- Each instance can be seen as an **Object instance** (see Collection)
- Class Object defines some **services**, which are useful for all classes
- Often, they are **overridden** in sub-classes

Object
<code>toString() : String</code> <code>equals(Object) : boolean</code>

Objects' collections

- References of type **Object** play a role similar to `void*` in C

```
Object [] objects = new Object[3];
objects[0] = "First!";
objects[2] = new Employee("Luca", "Verdi");
objects[1] = new Integer(2);
for(Object obj : objects){
    System.out.println(obj);
}
```

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Wrappers must be used instead of primitive types

Java Object

- `toString()`
 - ♦ Returns a string uniquely identifying the object
 - ♦ Default implementation returns:

`ClassName@#####`

- ♦ Es:

`org.Employee@af9e22`

Object
<code>toString() : String</code> <code>equals(Object) : boolean</code>

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Java Object

- `equals()`

- ♦ Tests equality of values
- ♦ Default implementation compares references:

```
public boolean equals(Object other) {  
    return this == other;  
}
```

- ♦ Must be overridden to compare contents, e.g.:

```
public boolean equals(Object o) {  
    Student other = (Student)o;  
    return this.id.equals(other.id);  
}
```

Object
<code>toString() : String</code> <code>equals(Object) : boolean</code>

System.out.print(Object)

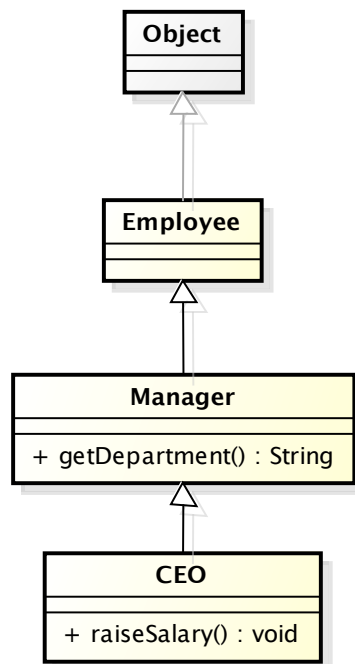
- *print* methods implicitly invoke `toString()` on all object parameters

```
class Car{ String toString(){...} }  
Car c = new Car();  
System.out.print(c); // same as...  
... System.out.print(c.toString());
```

- Polymorphism applies when `toString()` is overridden

```
Object ob = c;  
System.out.print(ob); // Car's toString() called
```

Company



Casting



Types

- Java is a strictly typed language, i.e., each variable has a type
- ```
float f;
f = 4.7; // legal
f = "string"; // illegal
```
- ```
Car c;  
c = new Car(); // legal  
c = new String(); // illegal
```

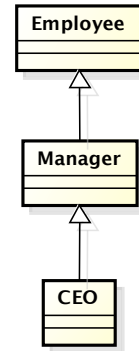
Cast

- Type conversion (explicit or implicit)

```
int i = 44;  
float f = i;  
// implicit cast 2c -> fp  
f = (float) 44;  
// explicit cast
```

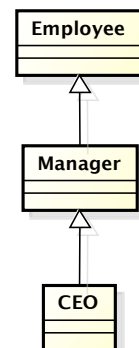
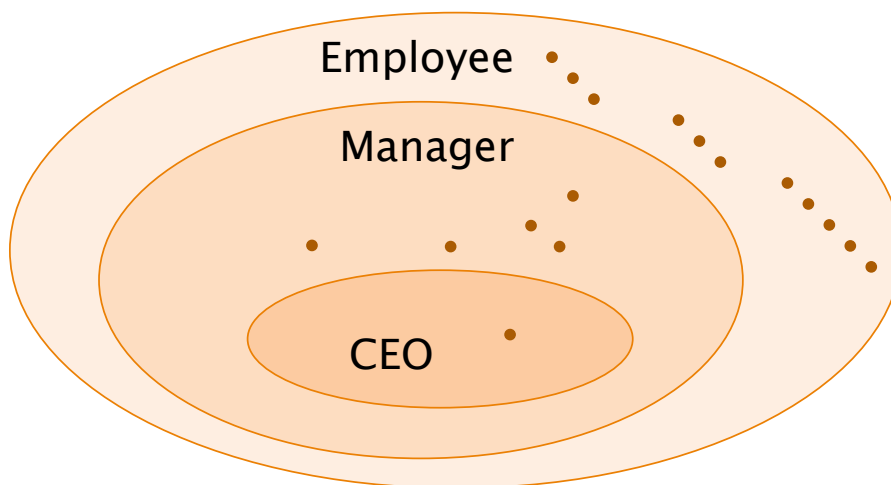
Cast – Generalization

- Things change slightly with inheritance
- Normal case...



```
Employee e = new Employee("Smith", 12000);
Manager m = new Manager("Black", 25000, "IT");
```

Generalization



Upcast

- Assignment from a more specific type (subtype) to a more general type (supertype)
 - ♦ `Employee e = new Employee(...);`
`Manager m = new Manager(...);`
`Employee em = m`
 - ♦ $\forall m \in \text{Manager} : m \in \text{Employee}$
- Upcasts are always type-safe and are performed implicitly by the compiler
 - ♦ Though it is legal to explicitly indicate the cast

Upcast

- Motivation
 - ♦ You can treat indifferently object of different classes, provided they inherit from a common class

```
Employee[] team = {  
    new Manager("Mary Black", 25000, "IT"),  
    new Employee("John Smith", 12000),  
    new Employee("Jane Doe", 12000)  
};
```

Cast

- Reference type and object type are distinct concepts
- A reference cast only affects the reference
 - ♦ In the previous example the object referenced to by 'em' continues to be of Manager type
- Notably, in contrast, a primitive type cast involves a value conversion

Downcast

- Assignment from a more general type (super-type) to a more specific type (sub-type)
 - ♦ `Manager mm = (Manager) em;`
 - $\exists em \in \text{Employee} : em \in \text{Manager}$
 - $\exists em \in \text{Employee} : em \notin \text{Manager}$
- Not safe by default, no automatic conversion provided by the compiler
 - ♦ MUST be **explicit**

Downcast

- Motivation

- ♦ To access a member defined in a class you need a reference of that class type
 - Or any subclass

```
Employee emp = staff[0];  
s = emp.getDepartment();  
Manager mgr = (Manager)staff[0];  
s = mgr.getDepartment();
```

Syntax Error: The method
getDepartment() is
undefined for the type
Employee

Downcast – Warning

- The compiler trusts any downcast.
- JVM at run-time checks type consistency for all reference assignments

```
mgr = (Manager)staff[1];
```

ClassCastException: Employee
cannot be cast to Manager

Down cast – safety

- Use the instanceof operator
 - ♦ aReference instanceof aClass
 - ♦ Returns true if the object referred to by lhs reference can be cast to the rhs class

```
if(staff[1] instanceof Manager) {  
    mgr = (Manager) staff[1];  
}
```

Upcast to Object

- Each class is either directly or indirectly a subclass of **Object**
- It is always possible to upcast any instance to **Object** type (see **Collection**)

```
AnyClass foo = new AnyClass();  
Object obj;  
obj = foo;
```

Abstract classes



Abstract class

- Often, superclass is used to define common behavior for many child classes
- But the class is too general to be instantiated
- Behavior is partially left unspecified (this is more concrete than interface)

Abstract modifier

```
public abstract class Shape {  
    private int color;  
  
    public void setColor(int color){  
        this.color = color;  
    }  
  
    // to be implemented in child classes  
    public abstract void draw();  
}
```

No
method
body

Abstract modifier

```
public class Circle extends Shape {  
    public void draw() {  
        // body goes here  
    }  
}
```

```
Object a = new Shape(); // Illegal: abstract  
Object a = new Circle(); // OK
```

Interfaces



Java interface

- An interface is a special type of “class” where **methods and attributes** are implicitly **public**
 - ♦ Attributes are implicitly **static and final**
 - ♦ Methods are implicitly **abstract** (no body)
- Cannot be instantiated (no new)
- Can be used to define references

Purpose of interfaces

- Define a common “interface” that allows alternative implementations
- Provide a (set of) method(s) that can be called by algorithms
- Define a (set of) callback method(s)

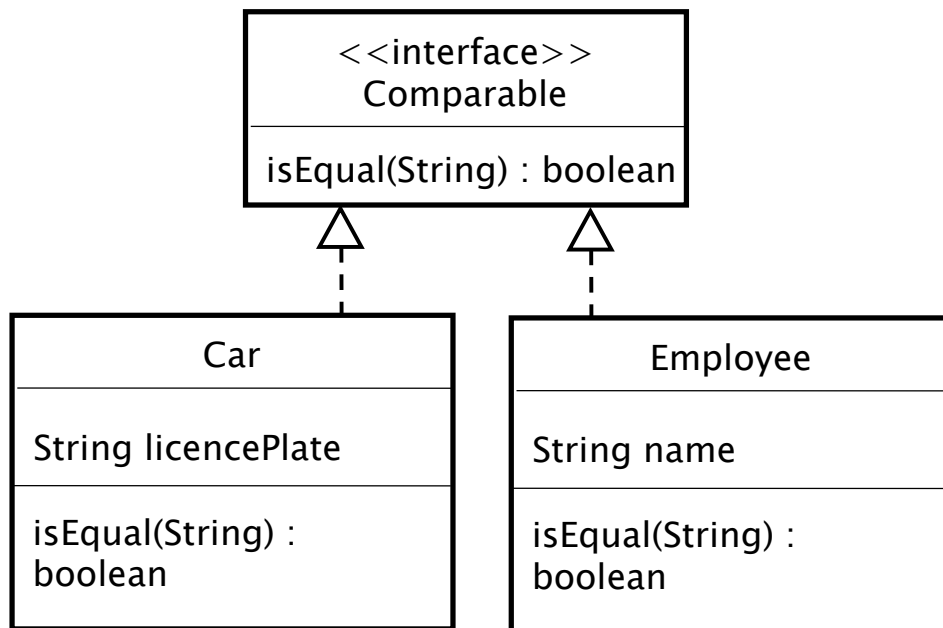
Alternative implementations

- Complex numbers

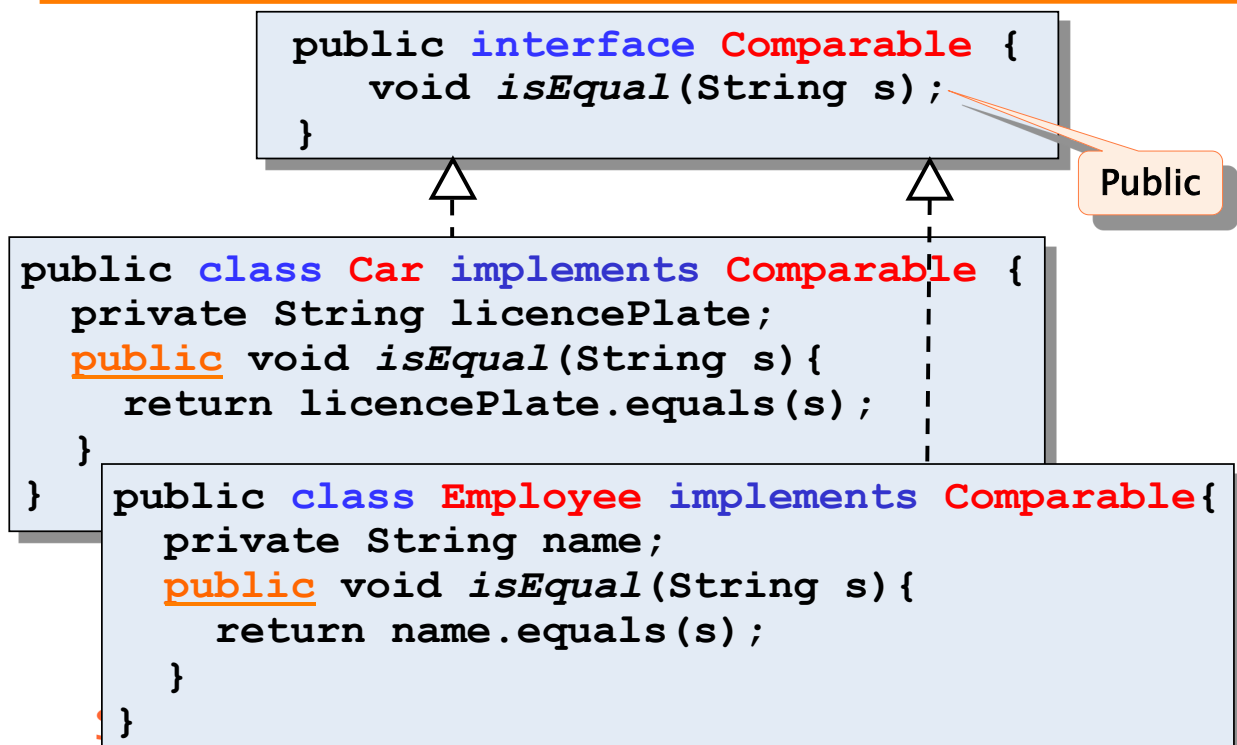
```
public interface Complex {  
    double real();  
    double imaginary();  
    double modulus();  
    double argument();  
}
```

- Can be implemented using either Cartesian or polar coordinates

Example



Example (cont' d)



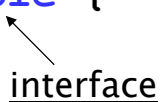
Example

```
public class Foo {
    private Comparable objects[];
    public Foo(){
        objects = new Comparable[3];
        objects[0] = new Employee();
        objects[1] = new Car();
        objects[2] = new Employee();
    }
    public Comparable find(String s){
        for(int i=0; i< objects.length; i++)
            if(objects[i].isEqual(s)
                return objects[i];
    }
}
```

Rules (interface)


- An interface can extend another interface, **cannot extend a class**

```
interface Bar extends Comparable {
    void print();
}
```


interface

- An interface **can extend multiple interfaces**

```
interface Bar extends Orderable, Comparable{
    ...
}
```


interfaces

Rules (class)

- A class can **extend** only **one** class
- A class can **implement multiple** interfaces

```
class Person
    extends Employee
    implements Orderable, Comparable {...}
```

A word of advice

- Defining a class that contains abstract methods only is not illegal but..
 - ◆ You should use interfaces instead
- Overriding methods in subclasses can maintain or extend the visibility of overridden superclass's methods
 - ◆ e.g. protected int m() can't be overridden by
 - private int m()
 - int m()
 - ◆ Only protected or public are allowed

Homework

- See the doc of `java.lang.Comparable`

```
public interface Comparable{  
    int compareTo(Object obj);  
}
```

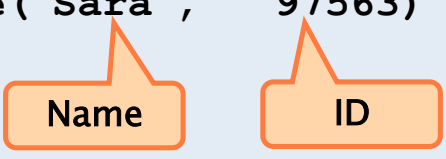
- Returns a negative integer, 0, or a positive integer as this object is less than, equal, or greater than `obj`

Homework (cont' d)

- Define **Employee**, which implements `Comparable` (order by ID)
- Define **OrderedArray** class
 - ◆ `void add(Comparable c) //ordered insert`
 - ◆ `void print() //prints out`
- Test it with the following main

Homework (cont' d)

```
public static void main(String args[]){  
  
    int size = 3; // array size  
    OrderedArray oa = new OrderedArray(size);  
  
    oa.add( new Employee("Mark",    37645) );  
    oa.add( new Employee("Andrew",  12345) );  
    oa.add( new Employee("Sara",    97563) );  
  
    oa.print();  
}
```



Wrap-up session

- Inheritance
 - ♦ Objects defined as sub-types of already existing objects. They share the parent data/methods without having to re-implement
- Specialization
 - ♦ Child class augments parent (e.g. adds an attribute/method)
- Overriding
 - ♦ Child class redefines parent method
- Implementation/reification
 - ♦ Child class provides the actual behaviour of a parent method

Wrap-up session

- Polymorphism
 - ♦ The same message can produce different behavior depending on the actual type of the receiver objects (late binding of message/method)



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