

2021/2022(1)  
IF184301 Object Oriented Programming  
Lecture #6

# Inheritance

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# Inheritance: Database project example

- Suppose we have three classes below:

```
DB.java × LinearDB.java TreeDB.java DBTest.java
1 package db;
2 abstract class DB {
3     void addSeveral(int keys[]) {
4         for (int i = 0; i < keys.length; i++) {
5             addKey(keys[i]);
6         }
7     }
8     boolean findOneOf(int keys[]) {
9         for (int i = 0; i < keys.length; i++) {
10            if (search(keys[i])) {
11                return true;
12            }
13        }
14        return false;
15    }
16    abstract void addKey(int key); // No code
17    abstract boolean search(int key); // No code
18 }
```

```
DB.java LinearDB.java × TreeDB.java DBTest.java
1 package db;
2 class LinearDB extends DB {
3     int table[] = new int[10];
4     int size = 0;
5     void addKey(int key) {
6         System.out.println("LinearDB: addKey()");
7     }
8     boolean search(int key) {
9         boolean result = true;
10        System.out.println("LinearDB: searchKey()");
11        return result;
12    }
13 }
```

```
DB.java LinearDB.java TreeDB.java × DBTest.java
1 package db;
2 class TreeDB extends DB {
3     BinarySearchTree data;
4     void addKey(int key) {
5         System.out.println("TreeDB: addKey()");
6     }
7     boolean search(int key) {
8         boolean result = false;
9         System.out.println("TreeDB: searchKey()");
10        return result;
11    }
12 }
```

# Database project example (continued)

- LinearDB has 4 operations

```
void addKey(int key)
boolean search(int key)
void addSeveral(int keys[])
boolean findOneOf(int keys[])
```

- It is as if LinearDB were defined as:

```
int table[] = new int[10];
int size = 0;
void addKey(int key)
boolean search(int key)
void addSeveral(int keys[])
boolean findOneOf(int keys[])
```

- Similarly for TreeDB

# Database project example (continued)

- Variables can be declared of type `DB`. `LinearDB` and `TreeDB` objects can be assigned to them

```
DB ldb = new LinearDB();
```

```
DB tdb = new TreeDB();
```

- There are no `DB` objects – we cannot say `new DB()` – only `LinearDB` and `TreeDB` objects

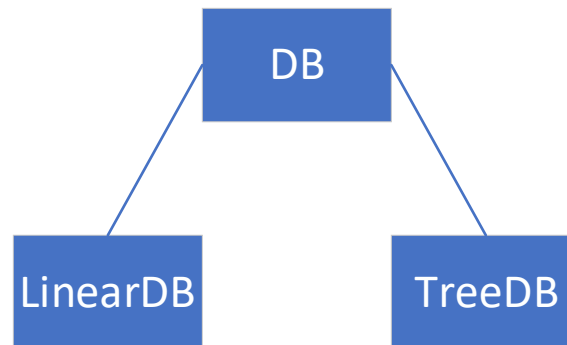
# Database project example (continued)

- We can create a test file: DBTest as below.

```
DB.java  LinearDB.java  TreeDB.java  DBTest.java ×
1 package db;
2 public class DBTest {
3     public static void main(String[] args) {
4         DB ldb = new LinearDB();
5         DB tdb = new TreeDB();
6         ldb.addKey(1);
7         if (ldb.search(1)) {
8             System.out.println("It's found!");
9         } else {
10            System.out.println("It's not found!");
11        }
12        tdb.addKey(2);
13        if (tdb.search(1)) {
14            System.out.println("It's found!");
15        } else {
16            System.out.println("It's not found!");
17        }
18    }
19 }
```

# Database project example: Class hierarchy

- DB is called the *superclass* or *base class*
- LinearDB and TreeDB are *subclasses* or *derived classes*
- We say LinearDB and TreeDB *inherit from* DB, because they obtain the definitions of `addSeveral` and `findOneOf`



# Inheritance: General rules from abstract superclasses

- Given

```
abstract class B { ... }  
abstract C extends B { ... }
```

- It is as if C were defined as

```
class C { ... .. }
```

- That is, C has all the instance variables and methods defined in B in addition to its own instance variables and methods
- If we had `class D extends C { ... }`, D would *inherit* from both C and B

# Method redefinition in subclasses

```
abstract class B { ... }  
abstract C extends B { ... }
```

- A very important aspect of inheritance is that *methods can be redefined* instead of being inherited
- Real rule is: *C inherits* instance variables of *B* and instance methods of *B*, except those that it defines itself



# Method redefinition

- For example, `LinearDB` could redefine `addSeveral` as follows.

```
void addSeveral(int keys[]) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < keys.length; i++) {  
        table[size + i] = keys[i];  
    }  
    size += keys.length;  
}
```

# Inheritance from concrete classes

- It is also possible to inherit from ordinary (i.e., non-abstract, a.k.a. concrete) classes
- Works the same as inheritance from `abstract` classes
- The only difference is that the superclass can have its own instances
- E.g., we could have `TreeDB` inherits from `LinearDB`

# Inheritance from concrete classes (cont'd)

```
LinearDB.java ×
1 package dbconcrete;
2 class LinearDB {
3     void addKey(int key) {
4         System.out.println("LinearDB: addKey()");
5     }
6     boolean search(int key) {
7         boolean result = true;
8         System.out.println("LinearDB: searchKey()");
9         return result;
10    }
11    void addSeveral(int keys[]) {
12        for (int i = 0; i < keys.length; i++) {
13            addKey(keys[i]);
14        }
15    }
16    boolean findOneOf(int keys[]) {
17        for (int i = 0; i < keys.length; i++) {
18            if (search(keys[i])) {
19                return true;
20            }
21        }
22        return false;
23    }
24 }
```

```
LinearDB.java TreeDB.java ×
1 package dbconcrete;
2 class TreeDB extends LinearDB {
3     BinarySearchTree data;
4     void addKey(int key) {
5         System.out.println("TreeDB: addKey()");
6     }
7     boolean search(int key) {
8         boolean result = false;
9         System.out.println("TreeDB: searchKey()");
10        return result;
11    }
12 }
```

# Inheritance from concrete classes (cont'd)

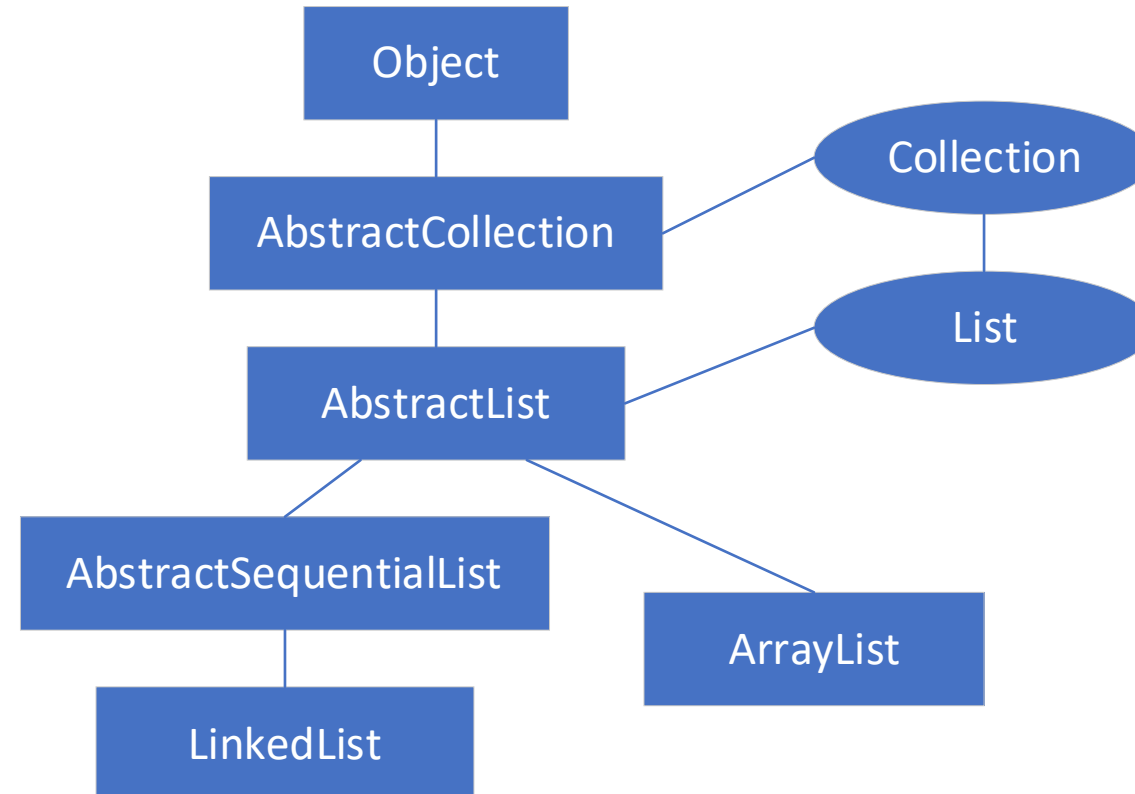
- But be careful – use of `abstract` classes is usually better!

```
LinearDB.java  TreeDB.java  DBTest.java ×
1 package dbconcrete;
2 public class DBTest {
3     public static void main(String[] args) {
4         LinearDB ldb = new LinearDB();
5         TreeDB tdb = new TreeDB();
6         ldb.addKey(1);
7         if (ldb.search(1)) {
8             System.out.println("It's found!");
9         } else {
10            System.out.println("It's not found!");
11        }
12        tdb.addKey(2);
13        if (tdb.search(1)) {
14            System.out.println("It's found!");
15        } else {
16            System.out.println("It's not found!");
17        }
18    }
19 }
```

# Interfaces vs abstract classes

- Interfaces have only *declarations* for methods
- Abstract classes can have both *declarations as well as code* for methods
- But, the constraint is: abstract classes only support **single inheritance**
- We **cannot inherit** from **multiple superclasses**
- It is possible to implement **several** interfaces

# Inheritance in Java API



# Inheritance: Other example

- Geometric figures

Figure

OpenFigure

Line

Curve

ClosedFigure

Rectangle

Oval

# Inheritance: Other example (continued)

- A class hierarchy for a student information

Student

    TaughtStudent

        UndergraduateStudent

        PostgraduateStudent

        OccasionalStudent

    ResearchStudent