CS61B Lecture #12: Additional OOP Details, Exceptions
Parent Constructors

- In lecture notes #5, talked about how Java allows implementer of a class to control all manipulation of objects of that class.
- In particular, this means that Java gives the constructor of a class the first shot at each new object.
- When one class extends another, there are two constructors—one for the parent type and one for the new (child) type.
- In this case, Java guarantees that one of the parent’s constructors is called first. In effect, there is a call to a parent constructor at the beginning of every one of the child’s constructors.
- You can call the parent’s constructor yourself explicitly.

```java
class Figure {
    public Figure(int sides) {
        ...
    }
}

class Rectangle extends Figure {
    public Rectangle() {
        super(4);
    }
}
```
Default Constructors

• By default, Java calls the “default” (parameterless) constructor if there is no explicit constructor called.

```java
/* This... */
class Thingy extends Rectangle {
    public Thingy() {
        setThingsUp();
    }
}

/* Is equivalent to... */
class Thingy extends Rectangle {
    public Thingy() {
        super();
        setThingsUp();
    }
}

• And it creates a default constructor for a class if no other constructor is defined for the class.

```java
/* This... */
class Crate {
}

/* Is equivalent to... */
class Crate {
    public Crate() {
    }
}

/* And thus to... */
class Crate {
    public Crate() {
        super();
    }
}
What Happens Here?

class Figure {
    public Figure(int sides) {
        ...
    }
}

class Rectangle extends Figure {
}

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What Happens Here?

class Figure {
    public Figure(int sides) {
    ...
    }
}

class Rectangle extends Figure {
}

Answer: Compiler error. Rectangle has an implicit constructor that tries to call the default constructor in Figure, but there isn't one.
Using an Overridden Method

• Suppose that you wish to \textit{add} to the action defined by a superclass's method, rather than to completely override it.

• The overriding method can refer to overridden methods by using the special prefix super.

• For example, you have a class with expensive functions, and you'd like a memoizing version of the class.

  class ComputeHard {
    int cogitate(String x, int y) { ... }
  }

  class ComputeLazily extends ComputeHard {
    int cogitate(String x, int y) {
      if (\textit{don't already have answer for this }x\textit{ and }y\textit{)} {
        int result = super.cogitate(x, y); // <<< Calls overridden function memoize (save) result;
        return result;
      }
      return memoized result;
    }
  }
Trick: Delegation and Wrappers

- Not always appropriate to use inheritance to extend something.
- Homework gives example of a TrReader, which contains another Reader, to which it delegates the task of actually going out and reading characters.
- Another example: a class that instruments objects:

```java
interface Storage {
    void put(Object x);
    Object get();
}

class Monitor implements Storage {
    int gets, puts;
    private Storage store;
    Monitor(Storage x) { store = x; gets = puts = 0; }
    public void put(Object x) { puts += 1; store.put(x); }
    public Object get() { gets += 1; return store.get(); }
}

// ORIGINAL
Storage S = something;
f(S);

// INSTRUMENTED
Monitor S = new Monitor(something);
f(S);
System.out.println(S.gets + " gets");

Monitor is called a wrapper class.
```
What to do About Errors?

• Large amount of any production program devoted to detecting and responding to errors.

• Some errors are external (bad input, network failures); others are internal errors in programs.

• When method has stated precondition, it’s the client’s job to comply.

• Still, it’s nice to detect and report client’s errors.

• In Java, we throw exception objects, typically:

  throw new SomeException (optional description);

• Exceptions are objects. By convention, they are given two constructors: one with no arguments, and one with a descriptive string argument (which the exception stores).

• Java system throws some exceptions implicitly, as when you dereference a null pointer, or exceed an array bound.
Catching Exceptions

• A throw causes each active method call to terminate abruptly, until (and unless) we come to a try block.

• Catch exceptions and do something corrective with try:

```java
try {
    Stuff that might throw exception;
} catch (SomeException e) {
    Do something reasonable;
} catch (SomeOtherException e) {
    Do something else reasonable;
}
Go on with life;
```

• When SomeException exception occurs during “Stuff…” and is not handled there, we immediately “do something reasonable” and then “go on with life.”

• Descriptive string (if any) available as e.getMessage() for error messages and the like.
Catching Exceptions, II

• Using a supertype as the parameter type in a catch clause will catch any subtype of that exception as well:

   ```java
   try {
       Code that might throw a FileNotFoundException or a MalformedURLException;
       catch (IOException ex) {
           Handle any kind of IOException;
       }
   }
   ```

• Since FileNotFoundException and MalformedURLException both inherit from IOException, the catch handles both cases.

• Subtyping means that multiple catch clauses can apply; Java takes the first.

• Stylistically, it’s nice to be more (concrete) about exception types where possible.

• In particular, our style checker will therefore balk at the use of Exception, RuntimeException, Error, and Throwable as exception supertypes.
Catching Exceptions, III

• There’s a relatively new shorthand for handling multiple exceptions the same way:

```java
try {
    Code that might throw IllegalArgumentException
    or IllegalStateException;
    catch (IllegalArgumentException|IllegalStateException ex) {
        Handle exception;
    }
```
Exceptions: Checked vs. Unchecked

• The object thrown by throw command must be a subtype of Throwable (in java.lang).

• Java pre-declares several such subtypes, among them
  - Error, used for serious, unrecoverable errors;
  - Exception, intended for all other exceptions;
  - RuntimeException, a subtype of Exception intended mostly for programming errors too common to be worth declaring.

• Pre-declared exceptions are all subtypes of one of these.

• Any subtype of Error or RuntimeException is said to be unchecked.

• All other exception types are checked.
Unchecked Exceptions

• Intended for
  - Programmer errors: many library functions throw IllegalArgumentException when one fails to meet a precondition.
  - Errors detected by the basic Java system: e.g.,
    * Executing x.y when x is null,
    * Executing A[i] when i is out of bounds,
    * Executing (String) x when x turns out not to point to a String.
  - Certain catastrophic failures, such as running out of memory.

• May be thrown anywhere at any time with no special preparation.
Checked Exceptions

- Intended to indicate exceptional circumstances that are not necessarily programmer errors. Examples:
  - Attempting to open a file that does not exist.
  - Input or output errors on a file.
  - Receiving an interrupt.
- Every checked exception that can occur inside a method must either be handled by a \texttt{try} statement, or reported in the method's declaration.
- For example,

\begin{verbatim}
void myRead() throws IOException, InterruptedException { ... }
\end{verbatim}

means that myRead (or something it calls) \textit{might} throw IOException or InterruptedException.
- Language Design: Why did Java make the following illegal?

\begin{verbatim}
class Parent {  
    void f() { ... } 
}
class Child extends Parent {  
    void f() throws IOException { ... } 
}
\end{verbatim}
Good Practice

• Throw exceptions rather than using print statements and System.exit everywhere,

• ... because response to a problem may depend on the caller, not just method where problem arises.

• Nice to throw an exception when programmer violates preconditions.

• Particularly good idea to throw an exception rather than let bad input corrupt a data structure.

• Good idea to document when methods throw exceptions.

• To convey information about the cause of exceptional condition, put it into the exception rather than into some global variable:

```java
class MyBad extends Exception {
    public IntList errs;
    MyBad(IntList nums) { errs=nums; }
}
try {...
    ... e.errs ...
} catch (MyBad e) {
}
```