

# Inheritance Allows programmer to derive a class from an existing one Existing class is called the parent class, or superclass Derived class is called the child class or subclass The child class inherits the (public) members defined for the parent class Inherited trait can be accessed as though it was locally declared (defined)

# Calling one constructor from another In a subclass' constructor, call the superclass' constructor with the keyword super instead of the superclass' (constructor's) name Always make a call to the superclass' constructor as the 1st statement in a constructor in a subclass!

```
class TrickDice extends Dice {

private int weightedSide; //Weighted side appears more often private int weight; //Weighted side appears weight // times as often as other sides

/** TrickDice has side s appearing with weight w */ public TrickDice(int numFaces, int s, int w) {

super(numFaces); weightedSide= s; weight= w; }

//other methods...
}
```

```
class Dice {
    private int top; // top face
    private int sides; // number of sides

/** A Dice has numSides sides and the top face is random */
public Dice(int numSides) {
    sides= numSides;
    roll();
}

/** top gets a random value in 1..sides */
public void roll() { setTop(randInt(1,getSides())) ; }

/** = random int in [low..high], low<high */
public static int randInt(int low, int high) {
    return (int) (Math.random()*(high-low+1))+low;
}

/** Set top to faceValue */
private void setTop(int faceValue) { top= faceValue; }
// more methods below...
}
```

# Reserved word super

Invoke constructor of superclass

```
super(parameter-list);
```

parameter-list must match that in superclass' constructor

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### Calling one constructor from another

- In a subclass' constructor, call the superclass' constructor with the keyword super instead of the superclass' (constructor's) name
- To call another constructor from a constructor in the same class, use the keyword this
- Always make a call to a constructor (super or this) as the 1<sup>st</sup> statement in a constructor in a subclass!

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```
/* A 2<sup>nd</sup> TrickDice constructor: 6-sided
TrickDice has side s appearing with weight w,
S<=6 */
public TrickDice(int s, int w) {
   //what goes in here?
}
a. TrickDice(6, s, w);
b. this(6, s, w);
c. Dice(6, s, w);
d. super(6, s, w);
e. 2 of the above
```

# Which components get inherited?

- public components get inherited
- private components exist in object of child class, but cannot be directly accessed in child class ⇒ we say they are not inherited
- Note the difference between inheritance and existence!

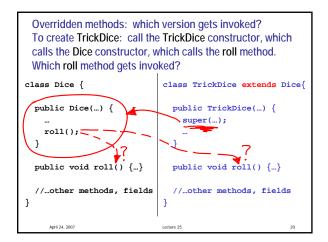
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### protected visibility (see Sec 7.2 for detail)

- Visibility modifiers control which members get inherited
- private
  - Not inherited, can be accessed by local class only
- public
  - Inherited, can be accessed by all classes
- protected
  - Inherited, can be accessed by subclasses
- Access: access as though declared locally
- All variables from a superclass exist in the subclass, but the private ones cannot be accessed directly

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# Overriding methods

- Subclass can override definition of inherited method
- New method in subclass must have same signature as superclass (but has different method body)
- Which method gets used??
   The object that is used to invoke a method determines which version is used
- Method declared to be final cannot be overridden
- Do not confuse overriding with overloading!

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# Accessing members in superclass

### super

- From constructor in subclass, call superclass' constructor
- Access superclass' version of a overridden method. E.g.:

super.toString()

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### static methods & variables

- Do not re-declare static components!
- Same rules for inheritance (accessibility) with respect to visibility modifiers
- Static method: implicitly final
- Static variable: same memory space as superclass

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# Important ideas in inheritance

- Single inheritance
- Keep common features as high in the hierarchy as reasonably possible
- Use the superclass' features as much as possible
- "Inherited" ⇒ "can be accessed as though declared locally"

(private variables in superclass exists in subclasses; they just cannot be accessed directly)

- Inherited features are continually passed down the line
- Use different hierarchies for different problems

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```
/** A Dice (or Die) */
class Dice {
  private int top;  // top face
  private int sides; // number of sides
   /** A Dice has numSides sides and the top face is random */
  public Dice(int numSides) {
    sides= numSides;
    roll();
   /** top gets a random value in 1..sides */
  public void roll() {
    setTop(randInt(1,getSides()));
   /** = random int in [low..high], low<high */</pre>
  public static int randInt(int low, int high) {
    return (int) (Math.random()*(high-low+1))+low;
   /** Set top to faceValue */
  protected void setTop(int faceValue) { top= faceValue; }
   /** = Get top face */
  public int getTop() { return top; }
   /** = Get number of sides */
  public int getSides() { return sides; }
   /** = String description of this Dice */
  public String toString() {
    return getSides() + "-sided dice shows face " + getTop();
} //class Dice
/** A TrickDice has one weightedSide such that the
 * weightedSide appears weight times as often as other sides
class TrickDice extends Dice {
 private int weightedSide; //Weighted side appears more often
 private int weight;
                             //Weighted side appears weight times as often as other sides
 /** TrickDice has side s appearing with weight w */
 public TrickDice(int numFaces, int s, int w) {
   super(numFaces);
   weightedSide= s;
   weight= w;
 }
  /** = Get weighted side */
 public int getWSide() { return weightedSide; }
  /** = Get weight of weighted side */
 public int getWeight() { return weight; }
 /** top gets random value in 1..sides given trick property */
 public void roll() {
   int r= randInt(1,(getSides()+weight-1));
   if (r>qetSides())
     setTop(weightedSide);
   else
     setTop(r);
  }
  /** = String description of this TrickDice */
 public String toString() { return "Tricky " + super.toString(); }
} //class TrickDice
```