

CS1110 Classes, stepwise refinement 25 Sep 2008

Miscellaneous points about classes.  
More on stepwise refinement.

Prelim 7:30-9:00 Tuesday, 30 Sept., Philips 101

Review session: 1:00-3:00, Sunday, 28 Sept., Philips 101

Research on spelling

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

Help: Get it now if you need it!!

- One-on-one help from TAs. For info, get on the course website and click "Staff-info".
- Call Cindy Pakkala 255-8240 for an appointment with Gries.
- See a consultant in the ACCEL Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 4:00pm to 11:00pm.
- Peer tutoring (free). On <http://www.engineering.cornell.edu>, click on "student services". On the page that comes up, click on "Engineering Learning Initiatives (ELI.)" in the left column, upper part. Then, click on "peer tutoring" in the left column.
- Take an AEW courses. Ask in Olin 167.

2

Content of this lecture

This lecture contains some final miscellaneous points to round out your knowledge of classes and subclasses. There are a few more things to learn after this, but we will handle them much later.

- Inheriting fields and methods and overriding methods. Sec. 4.1 and 4.1.1: pp. 142–145
- Purpose of **super** and **this**. Sec. 4.1.1, pp. 144–145.
- More than one constructor in a class; another use of **this**. Sec. 3.1.3, pp. 110–112.
- Constructors in a subclass —calling a constructor of the super-class. Sec. 4.1.3, pp. 147–148.

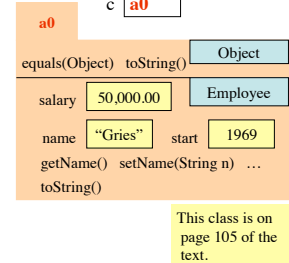
3

Employee c = new Employee("Gries", 1969, 50000);  
c.toString() Sec. 4.1, page 142

Which method toString() is called?

Overriding rule or bottom-up rule:

To find out which is used, start at the bottom of the class and search upward until a matching one is found.



This class is on page 105 of the text.

**Terminology.** Employee inherits methods and fields from Object. Employee overrides function toString.

4

Purpose of super and this Sec. 4.1, pages 144-145

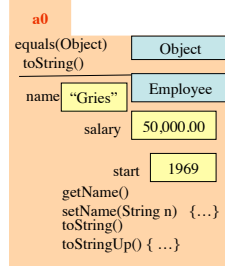
**this** refers to the name of the object in which it appears. **super** is similar but refers only to components in the partitions above.

```
/** = String representation of this Employee */
public String toString() {
    return this.getName() + ", year " +
           getStart() + ", salary " + salary;
}
```

ok, but unnecessary

```
/** = toString value from superclass */
public String toStringUp() {
    return super.toString();
}
```

necessary



5

A second constructor in Employee Sec. 3.1.3, page 110

Provide flexibility, ease of use, to user

```
/** Constructor: a person with name n, year hired d, salary s */
public Employee(String n, int d, double s) {
    name = n; start = d; salary = s;
} // First constructor

/** Constructor: a person with name n, year hired d, salary 50,000 */
public Employee(String n, int d) {
    name = n; start = d; salary = 50000;
} // Second constructor; salary is always 50,000

/** Constructor: a person with name n, year hired d, salary 50,000 */
public Employee(String n, int d) {
    this(n, d, 50000);
} // Another version of second constructor; calls first constructor
```

Here, **this** refers to the other constructor. You HAVE to do it this way

6

```

public class Executive extends Employee {
    private double bonus;
    /** Constructor: name n, year hired
        d, salary 50,000, bonus b */
    public Executive(String n, int d, double b) {
        super(n, d);
        bonus = b;
    }
}

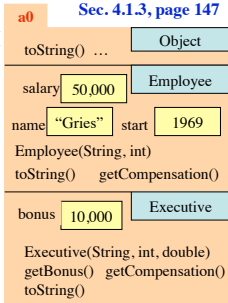
```

The first (and only the first) statement in a constructor has to be a call to a constructor of the superclass. If you don't put one in, then this one is automatically used:

**super();**

**Principle:** Fill in superclass fields first.

**Calling a superclass constructor from the subclass constructor**  
 Sec. 4.1.3, page 147



7

**Anglicizing an Integer**

anglicize("1") is "one"  
 anglicize("15") is "fifteen"  
 anglicize("123") is "one hundred twenty three"  
 anglicize("10570") is "ten thousand five hundred seventy"

/\*\* = the anglicization of n.

Precondition: 0 < n < 1,000,000 \*/

```

public static String anglicize(int n) {
}

```

8

**Principles and strategies**

Develop algorithm step by step, using principles and strategies embodied in "stepwise refinement" or "top-down programming."  
 READ Sec. 2.5 and Plive p. 2-5.

- Take small steps.
- Replace an English statement (what to do) by a sequence of statements—in English or Java—to do it (how to do).
- Compile often.
- Intersperse programming and testing.
- Write a method spec. before writing the method body.
- **Mañana Principle:** Write the method spec. and put something in the body so that can be compiled and produces something that allows further development. Put off its complete development until later. (*Mañana* means tomorrow, or an indefinite time in the future.)

9