

# Inheritance



EECS2030 B: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
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## No Inheritance: ResidentStudent Class



```
class ResidentStudent {
    String name;
    Course[] registeredCourses;
    int numberOfCourses;
    double premiumRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
    ResidentStudent (String name) {
        this.name = name;
        registeredCourses = new Course[10];
    }
    void register(Course c) {
        registeredCourses[numberOfCourses] = c;
        numberOfCourses ++;
    }
    double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfCourses; i++) {
            tuition += registeredCourses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition * premiumRate;
    }
}
```

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## Why Inheritance: A Motivating Example



**Problem:** A *student management system* stores data about students. There are two kinds of university students: *resident* students and *non-resident* students. Both kinds of students have a *name* and a list of *registered courses*. Both kinds of students are restricted to *register* for no more than 10 courses. When *calculating the tuition* for a student, a base amount is first determined from the list of courses they are currently registered (each course has an associated fee). For a non-resident student, there is a *discount rate* applied to the base amount to waive the fee for on-campus accommodation. For a resident student, there is a *premium rate* applied to the base amount to account for the fee for on-campus accommodation and meals.

**Tasks:** Write Java classes that satisfy the above problem statement. At runtime, each type of student must be able to register a course and calculate their tuition fee.

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## No Inheritance: NonResidentStudent Class



```
class NonResidentStudent {
    String name;
    Course[] registeredCourses;
    int numberOfCourses;
    double discountRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
    NonResidentStudent (String name) {
        this.name = name;
        registeredCourses = new Course[10];
    }
    void register(Course c) {
        registeredCourses[numberOfCourses] = c;
        numberOfCourses ++;
    }
    double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfCourses; i++) {
            tuition += registeredCourses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition * discountRate;
    }
}
```

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## No Inheritance: Testing Student Classes



```
class Course {
    String title;
    double fee;
    Course(String title, double fee) {
        this.title = title; this.fee = fee; }
}
```

```
class StudentTester {
    static void main(String[] args) {
        Course c1 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        Course c2 = new Course("EECS3311", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        ResidentStudent jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim.setPremiumRate(1.25);
        jim.register(c1); jim.register(c2);
        NonResidentStudent jeremy = new NonResidentStudent("J. Gibbons");
        jeremy.setDiscountRate(0.75);
        jeremy.register(c1); jeremy.register(c2);
        System.out.println("Jim pays " + jim.getTuition());
        System.out.println("Jeremy pays " + jeremy.getTuition());
    }
}
```

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## No Inheritance: Issues with the Student Classes



- Implementations for the two student classes seem to work. But can you see any potential problems with it?
- The code of the two student classes share a lot in common.
- **Duplicates of code make it hard to maintain your software!**
- This means that when there is a change of policy on the common part, we need modify *more than one places*.

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## No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (1)



What if the way for registering a course changes?

e.g.,

```
void register(Course c) {
    if (numberOfCourses >= MAX_ALLOWANCE) {
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Too many courses");
    }
    else {
        registeredCourses[numberOfCourses] = c;
        numberOfCourses++;
    }
}
```

We need to change the register method in *both* student classes!

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## No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (2)



What if the way for calculating the base tuition changes?

e.g.,

```
double getTuition() {
    double tuition = 0;
    for(int i = 0; i < numberOfCourses; i++) {
        tuition += registeredCourses[i].fee;
    }
    /* ... can be premiumRate or discountRate */
    return tuition * inflationRate * ...;
}
```

We need to change the getTuition method in *both* student classes.

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## No Inheritance: A Collection of Various Kinds of Students

How do you define a class `StudentManagementSystem` that contains a list of *resident* and *non-resident* students?

```
class StudentManagementSystem {
    ResidentStudent[] rss;
    NonResidentStudent[] nrss;
    int nors; /* number of resident students */
    int nonrs; /* number of non-resident students */
    void addRS(ResidentStudent rs) { rss[nors]=rs; nors++; }
    void addNRS(NonResidentStudent nrs) { nrss[nonrs]=nrs; nonrs++; }
    void registerAll(Course c) {
        for(int i = 0; i < nors; i++) { rss[i].register(c); }
        for(int i = 0; i < nonrs; i++) { nrss[i].register(c); }
    }
}
```

But what if we later on introduce *more kinds of students*?  
Very *inconvenient* to handle each list of students *separately*!

a polymorphic collection of students

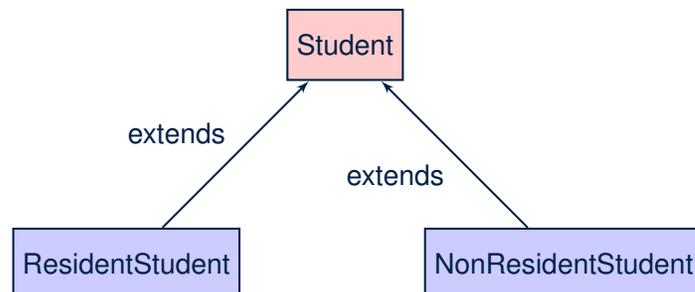
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## Inheritance: The Student Parent/Super Class

```
class Student {
    String name;
    Course[] registeredCourses;
    int numberOfCourses;
    Student(String name) {
        this.name = name;
        registeredCourses = new Course[10];
    }
    void register(Course c) {
        registeredCourses[numberOfCourses] = c;
        numberOfCourses++;
    }
    double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfCourses; i++) {
            tuition += registeredCourses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition; /* base amount only */
    }
}
```

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## Inheritance Architecture



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## Inheritance: The Resident Student Child/Sub Class

```
1 class ResidentStudent extends Student {
2     double premiumRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
3     ResidentStudent(String name) { super(name); }
4     /* register method is inherited */
5     double getTuition() {
6         double base = super.getTuition();
7         return base * premiumRate;
8     }
9 }
```

- L1 declares that `ResidentStudent` inherits all attributes and methods (except constructors) from `Student`.
- There is no need to repeat the `register` method
- Use of `super` in L4 is as if calling `Student(name)`
- Use of `super` in L8 returns what `getTuition()` in `Student` returns.
- Use `super` to refer to attributes/methods defined in the super class:

`super.name`, `super.register(c)`

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## Inheritance: The NonResidentStudent Child/Sub Class

```

1 class NonResidentStudent extends Student {
2     double discountRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
3     NonResidentStudent (String name) { super(name); }
4     /* register method is inherited */
5     double getTuition() {
6         double base = super.getTuition();
7         return base * discountRate;
8     }
9 }

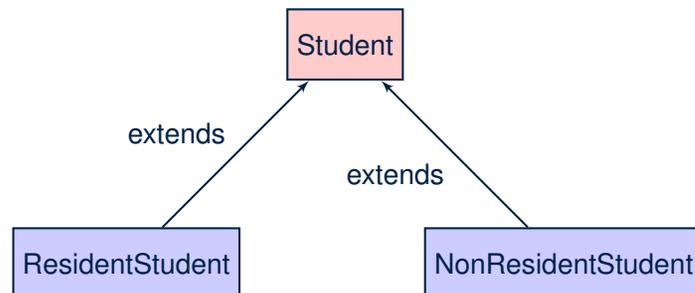
```

- L1 declares that NonResidentStudent inherits all attributes and methods (except constructors) from Student.
- There is no need to repeat the register method
- Use of *super* in L4 is as if calling Student(name)
- Use of *super* in L8 returns what getTuition() in Student returns.
- Use *super* to refer to attributes/methods defined in the super class:

```
super.name, super.register(c).
```

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## Inheritance Architecture Revisited



- The class that defines the common attributes and methods is called the **parent** or **super** class.
- Each “extended” class is called a **child** or **sub** class.

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## Using Inheritance for Code Reuse

**Inheritance** in Java allows you to:

- Define **common attributes and methods** in a separate class. e.g., the Student class
- Define an “extended” version of the class which:
  - **inherits** definitions of all attributes and methods e.g., name, registeredCourses, numberOfCourses e.g., register e.g., base amount calculation in getTuition  
*This means code reuse and elimination of code duplicates!*
  - **defines new** attributes and methods if necessary e.g., setPremiumRate for ResidentStudent e.g., setDiscountRate for NonResidentStudent
  - **redefines/overrides** methods if necessary e.g., compounded tuition for ResidentStudent e.g., discounted tuition for NonResidentStudent

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## Visualizing Parent/Child Objects (1)

- A child class inherits **all** attributes from its parent class.  
⇒ A child instance has **at least as many** attributes as an instance of its parent class.

Consider the following instantiations:

```

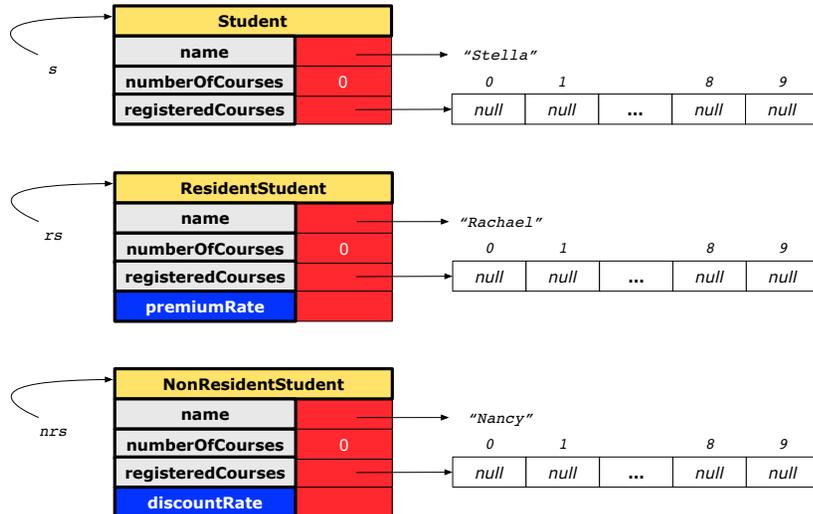
Student s = new Student("Stella");
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");

```

- How will these initial objects look like?

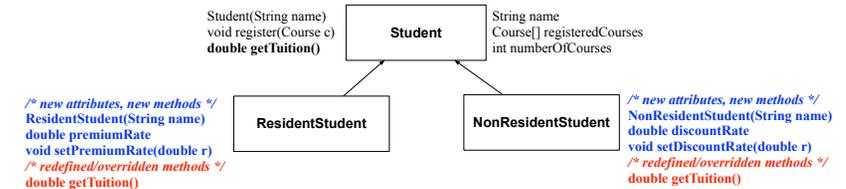
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## Visualizing Parent/Child Objects (2)



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## Inheritance Architecture: Static Types & Expectations



```

Student s = new Student("Stella");
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
    
```

	name	rscs	noc	reg	getT	pr	setPR	dr	setDR
s.			✓					✗	
rs.			✓			✓			✗
nrs.			✓			✗			✓

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## Testing the Two Student Sub-Classes



```

class StudentTester {
    static void main(String[] args) {
        Course c1 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        Course c2 = new Course("EECS3311", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        ResidentStudent jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim.setPremiumRate(1.25);
        jim.register(c1); jim.register(c2);
        NonResidentStudent jeremy = new NonResidentStudent("J. Gibbons");
        jeremy.setDiscountRate(0.75);
        jeremy.register(c1); jeremy.register(c2);
        System.out.println("Jim pays " + jim.getTuition());
        System.out.println("Jeremy pays " + jeremy.getTuition());
    }
}
    
```

- The software can be used in exactly the same way as before (because we did not modify *method signatures*).
- But now the internal structure of code has been made *maintainable* using *inheritance*.

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## Polymorphism: Intuition (1)



```

1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */
    
```

- Which one of L4 and L5 is *valid*? Which one is *invalid*?
- Hints:
  - L1: What *kind* of address can *s* store? [ Student ]  
∴ The context object *s* is *expected* to be used as:
    - s*.register(eecs2030) and *s*.getTuition()
  - L2: What *kind* of address can *rs* store? [ ResidentStudent ]  
∴ The context object *rs* is *expected* to be used as:
    - rs*.register(eecs2030) and *rs*.getTuition()
    - rs*.setPremiumRate(1.50) [increase premium rate]

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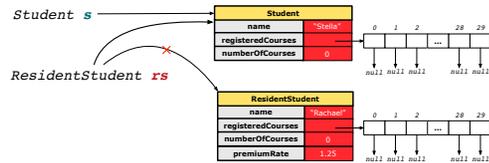
## Polymorphism: Intuition (2)

```

1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */

```

- $rs = s$  (L5) should be *invalid*:



- Since  $rs$  is declared of type ResidentStudent, a subsequent call  $rs.setPremiumRate(1.50)$  can be expected.
- $rs$  is now pointing to a Student object.
- Then, what would happen to  $rs.setPremiumRate(1.50)$ ?

**CRASH** ∴  $rs.premiumRate$  is *undefined*!!

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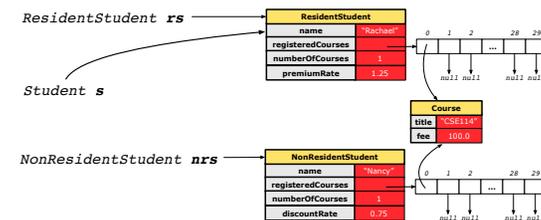
## Dynamic Binding: Intuition (1)

```

1 Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 100.0);
2 Student s;
3 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25); rs.register(eeecs2030);
6 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.75); nrs.register(eeecs2030);
7 s = rs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* output: 125.0 */
8 s = nrs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* output: 75.0 */

```

After  $s = rs$  (L7),  $s$  points to a ResidentStudent object.  
 ⇒ Calling  $s.getTuition()$  applies the premiumRate.



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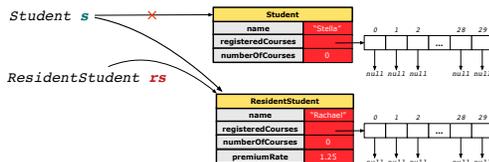
## Polymorphism: Intuition (3)

```

1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */

```

- $s = rs$  (L4) should be *valid*:



- Since  $s$  is declared of type Student, a subsequent call  $s.setPremiumRate(1.50)$  is *never* expected.
- $s$  is now pointing to a ResidentStudent object.
- Then, what would happen to  $s.getTuition()$ ?

**OK** ∴  $s.premiumRate$  is *never directly used*!!

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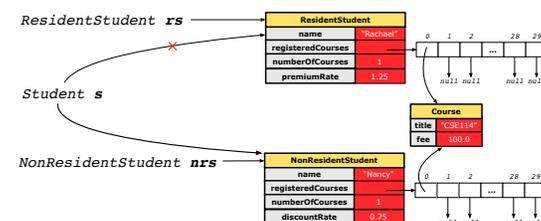
## Dynamic Binding: Intuition (2)

```

1 Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 100.0);
2 Student s;
3 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25); rs.register(eeecs2030);
6 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.75); nrs.register(eeecs2030);
7 s = rs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* output: 125.0 */
8 s = nrs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* output: 75.0 */

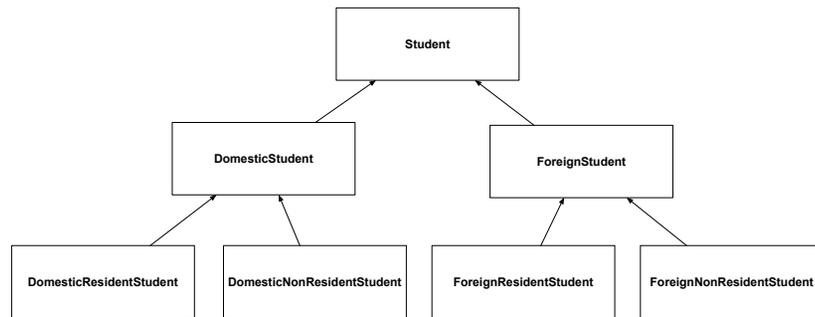
```

After  $s = nrs$  (L8),  $s$  points to a NonResidentStudent object.  
 ⇒ Calling  $s.getTuition()$  applies the discountRate.



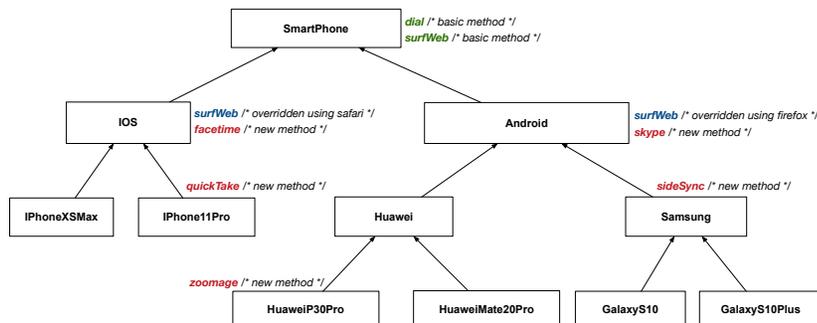
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## Multi-Level Inheritance Architecture



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## Multi-Level Inheritance Hierarchy: Smart Phones



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## Inheritance Forms a Type Hierarchy



- A (data) **type** denotes a set of related *runtime values*.
  - Every *class* can be used as a type: the set of runtime *objects*.
- Use of *inheritance* creates a **hierarchy** of classes:
  - (Implicit) Root of the hierarchy is `Object`.
  - Each `extends` declaration corresponds to an upward arrow.
  - The `extends` relationship is *transitive*: when A extends B and B extends C, we say A *indirectly* extends C. e.g., Every class implicitly `extends` the `Object` class.
- **Ancestor** vs. **Descendant** classes:
  - The **ancestor classes** of a class A are: A itself and all classes that A *directly*, or *indirectly*, extends.
    - A *inherits* all code (attributes and methods) from its *ancestor classes*.  
∴ A's instances have a **wider range of expected usages** (i.e., attributes and methods) than instances of its *ancestor* classes.
  - The **descendant classes** of a class A are: A itself and all classes that *directly*, or *indirectly*, extends A.
    - Code defined in A is *inherited to* all its *descendant classes*.

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## Inheritance Accumulates Code for Reuse



- The *lower* a class is in the type hierarchy, the *more code* it accumulates from its *ancestor classes*:
  - A *descendant class* inherits all code from its *ancestor classes*.
  - A *descendant class* may also:
    - Declare new attributes
    - Define new methods
    - **Redefine / Override** inherited methods
- Consequently:
  - When being used as **context objects**, instances of a class' *descendant classes* have a **wider range of expected usages** (i.e., attributes and methods).
  - When expecting an object of a particular class, we may **substitute** it with (**re-assign** it to) an object of any of its *descendant classes*.
  - e.g., When expecting a `SmartPhone` object, we may substitute it with either a `iPhone11Pro` or a `Samsung` object.
  - **Justification:** A *descendant class* contains **at least as many** methods as defined in its *ancestor classes* (but not vice versa!).

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## Static Types Determine Expectations

- A reference variable's **static type** is what we declare it to be.
  - `Student jim` declares jim's ST as Student.
  - `SmartPhone myPhone` declares myPhone's ST as SmartPhone.
  - The **static type** of a reference variable **never changes**.
- For a reference variable  $v$ , its **static type**  $C$  defines the **expected usages of  $v$  as a context object**.
- A method call  $v.m(\dots)$  is **compilable** if  $m$  is defined in  $C$ .
  - e.g., After declaring `Student jim`, we
    - may** call `register` and `getTuition` on `jim`
    - may not** call `setPremiumRate` (specific to a resident student) or `setDiscountRate` (specific to a non-resident student) on `jim`
  - e.g., After declaring `SmartPhone myPhone`, we
    - may** call `dial` and `surfWeb` on `myPhone`
    - may not** call `facetime` (specific to an IOS phone) or `skype` (specific to an Android phone) on `myPhone`

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## Rules of Substitution

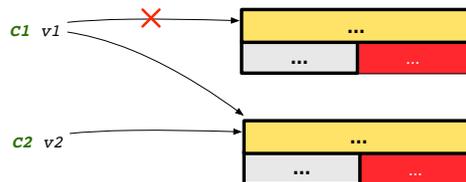
When expecting an object of **static type**  $A$ :

- It is **safe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is any of the **descendant class** of  $A$  (including  $A$ ).
  - $\therefore$  Each **descendant class** of  $A$ , being the new substitute, is guaranteed to contain all (non-private) attributes/methods defined in  $A$ .
  - e.g., When expecting an IOS phone, you **can** substitute it with either an iPhoneXSMAX or iPhone11Pro.
- It is **unsafe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is any of the **ancestor classes of  $A$ 's parent** (excluding  $A$ ).
  - $\therefore$  Class  $A$  may have defined new methods that do not exist in any of its **parent's ancestor classes**.
  - e.g., When expecting IOS phone, **unsafe** to substitute it with a `SmartPhone`  $\therefore$  `facetime` not supported in Android phone.
- It is also **unsafe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is **neither an ancestor nor a descendant of  $A$** .
  - e.g., When expecting IOS phone, **unsafe** to substitute it with a `HuaweiP30Pro`  $\therefore$  `facetime` not supported in Android phone.

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## Substitutions via Assignments

- By declaring `C1 v1`, **reference variable**  $v1$  will store the **address** of an object "of class  $C1$ " at runtime.
- By declaring `C2 v2`, **reference variable**  $v2$  will store the **address** of an object "of class  $C2$ " at runtime.
- Assignment `v1 = v2` **copies address** stored in  $v2$  into  $v1$ .
  - $v1$  will instead point to wherever  $v2$  is pointing to. [**object alias**]



- In such assignment `v1 = v2`, we say that we **substitute** an object of (**static**) type  $C1$  by an object of (**static**) type  $C2$ .
- Substitutions** are subject to **rules!**

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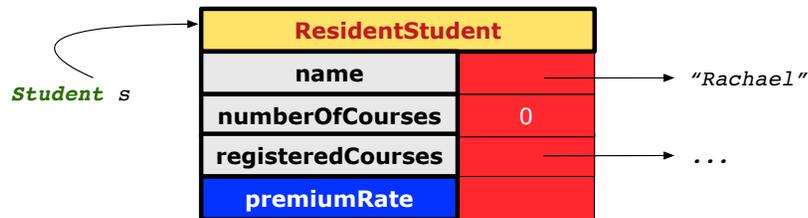
## Reference Variable: Dynamic Type

A **reference variable's dynamic type** is the type of object that it is currently pointing to at **runtime**.

- The **dynamic type** of a reference variable **may change** whenever we **re-assign** that variable to a different object.
- There are two ways to re-assigning a reference variable.

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## Visualizing Static Type vs. Dynamic Type



- Each segmented box denotes a *runtime* object.
- Arrow denotes a variable (e.g., `s`) storing the object's address. Usually, when the context is clear, we leave the variable's *static type* implicit (`Student`).
- Title of box indicates type of runtime object, which denotes the *dynamic type* of the variable (`ResidentStudent`).

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## Reference Variable: Changing Dynamic Type (1)



Re-assigning a reference variable to a newly-created object:

- Substitution Principle: the new object's class must be a *descendant class* of the reference variable's *static type*.
- e.g., `Student jim = new ResidentStudent(...)` changes the *dynamic type* of `jim` to `ResidentStudent`.
- e.g., `jim = new NonResidentStudent(...)` changes the *dynamic type* of `jim` to `NonResidentStudent`.
- e.g., `ResidentStudent jeremy = new Student(...)` is illegal because `Student` is **not** a *descendant class* of the *static type* of `jeremy` (i.e., `ResidentStudent`).

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## Reference Variable: Changing Dynamic Type (2)



Re-assigning a reference variable `v` to an existing object that is referenced by another variable `other` (i.e., `v = other`):

- Substitution Principle: the static type of `other` must be a *descendant class* of `v`'s *static type*.
- e.g., Say we declare

```
Student jim = new Student(...);
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent(...);
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent(...);
```

- `jim = rs` ✓  
changes the *dynamic type* of `jim` to the dynamic type of `rs`
- `jim = nrs` ✓  
changes the *dynamic type* of `jim` to the dynamic type of `nrs`
- `rs = jim` ✗
- `nrs = jim` ✗

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (1)



- *Polymorphism*: An object variable may have "multiple possible shapes" (i.e., allowable *dynamic types*).
  - Consequently, there are *multiple possible versions* of each method that may be called.
    - e.g., A `Student` variable may have the *dynamic type* of `Student`, `ResidentStudent`, or `NonResidentStudent`.
    - This means that there are three possible versions of the `getTuition()` that may be called.
- *Dynamic binding*: When a method `m` is called on an object variable, the version of `m` corresponding to its "current shape" (i.e., one defined in the *dynamic type* of `m`) will be called.

```
Student jim = new ResidentStudent(...);
jim.getTuition(); /* version in ResidentStudent */
jim = new NonResidentStudent(...);
jim.getTuition(); /* version in NonResidentStudent */
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (2.1)



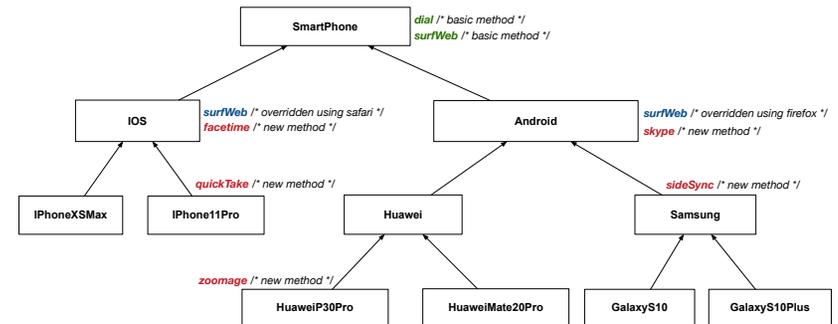
```
class Student {...}
class ResidentStudent extends Student {...}
class NonResidentStudent extends Student {...}
```

```
class StudentTester1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Student jim = new Student("J. Davis");
        ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim = rs; /* legal */
        rs = jim; /* illegal */

        NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim = nrs; /* legal */
        nrs = jim; /* illegal */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.1)



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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (2.2)



```
class Student {...}
class ResidentStudent extends Student {...}
class NonResidentStudent extends Student {...}
```

```
class StudentTester2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
        Student jim = new Student("J. Davis");
        ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
        jim = rs;
        System.out.println(jim.getTuition()); /* 750.0 */
        NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5);
        jim = nrs;
        System.out.println(jim.getTuition()); /* 250.0 */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.2)



```
class SmartPhoneTest1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SmartPhone myPhone;
        IOS ip = new iPhoneXSMax();
        Samsung ss = new GalaxyS10Plus();
        myPhone = ip; /* legal */
        myPhone = ss; /* legal */

        IOS presentForHeeyeon;
        presentForHeeyeon = ip; /* legal */
        presentForHeeyeon = ss; /* illegal */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.3)



```
class SmartPhoneTest2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SmartPhone myPhone;
        IOS ip = new iPhone11Pro();
        myPhone = ip;
        myPhone.surfWeb(); /* version of surfWeb in iPhone11Pro */

        Samsung ss = new GalaxyS10();
        myPhone = ss;
        myPhone.surfWeb(); /* version of surfWeb in GalaxyS10 */
    }
}
```

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (1.1)

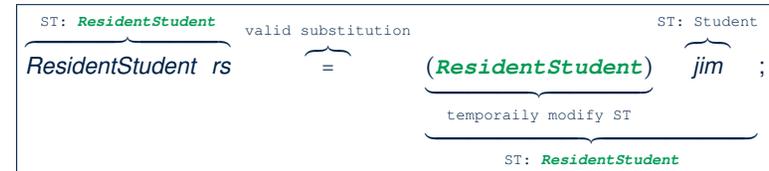


```
1 Student jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
2 ResidentStudent rs = jim;
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
```

- **L1 is legal:** ResidentStudent is a **descendant class** of the **static type** of jim (i.e., Student).
- **L2 is illegal:** jim's **ST** (i.e., Student) is **not** a descendant class of rs's **ST** (i.e., ResidentStudent).  
Java compiler is **unable to infer** that jim's **dynamic type** in L2 is ResidentStudent!
- Force the Java compiler to believe so via a cast in L2:  
ResidentStudent rs = (**ResidentStudent**) jim;  
  - The cast (**ResidentStudent**) jim on the **RHS of =** temporarily modifies jim's **ST** to ResidentStudent.
  - Alias rs of **ST** ResidentStudent is then created via an assignment.
- **dynamic binding:** After the **cast**, L3 will execute the correct version of setPremiumRate.

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (1.2)



- Variable rs is declared of **static type (ST)** ResidentStudent.
- Variable jim is declared of **ST** Student.
- The cast expression (**ResidentStudent**) jim **temporarily** modifies jim's **ST** to ResidentStudent.  
  - ⇒ Such a cast makes the assignment **valid**.
  - ∴ RHS's **ST** (ResidentStudent) is a **descendant** of LHS's **ST** (ResidentStudent).
  - ⇒ The assignment creates an **alias** rs with **ST** ResidentStudent.
- **No** new object is created.  
Only an **alias** rs with a different **ST** (ResidentStudent) is created.
- After the assignment, jim's **ST** **remains** Student.

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (2.1)

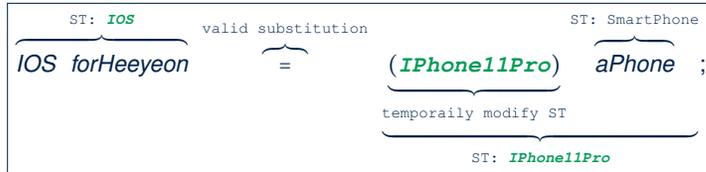


```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone11Pro();
2 IOS forHeeyeon = aPhone;
3 forHeeyeon.facetime();
```

- **L1 is legal:** iPhone11Pro is a **descendant class** of the **static type** of aPhone (i.e., SmartPhone).
- **L2 is illegal:** aPhone's **ST** (i.e., SmartPhone) is **not** a descendant class of forHeeyeon's **ST** (i.e., IOS).  
Java compiler is **unable to infer** that aPhone's **dynamic type** in L2 is iPhone11Pro!
- Force Java compiler to believe so via a **cast** in L2:  
IOS forHeeyeon = (**iPhone11Pro**) aPhone;  
  - The cast (**iPhone11Pro**) aPhone on the **RHS of =** temporarily modifies aPhone's **ST** to iPhone11Pro.
  - Alias forHeeyeon of **ST** IOS is then created via an assignment.
- **dynamic binding:** After the **cast**, L3 will execute the correct version of facetime.

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (2.2)



- Variable `forHeeyeon` is declared of **static type (ST)** `IOS`.
- Variable `aPhone` is declared of **ST** `SmartPhone`.
- The cast expression `(iPhone11Pro) aPhone` temporarily modifies `aPhone`'s **ST** to `iPhone11Pro`.
  - ⇒ Such a cast makes the assignment valid.
  - ∴ RHS's **ST** (`iPhone11Pro`) is a descendant of LHS's **ST** (`IOS`).
  - ⇒ The assignment creates an alias for `forHeeyeon` with **ST** `IOS`.
- No** new object is created.
  - Only an alias for `forHeeyeon` with a different **ST** (`IOS`) is created.
- After the assignment, `aPhone`'s **ST** *remains* `SmartPhone`.

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## Notes on Type Cast (1)



- Given variable `v` of **static type**  $ST_v$ , it is **compatible** to cast `v` to `C`, as long as `C` is an **ancestor** or **descendant** of  $ST_v$ .
- Without cast, we can **only** call methods defined in  $ST_v$  on `v`.
- Casting `v` to `C` temporarily changes the **ST** of `v` from  $ST_v$  to `C`.
  - ⇒ All methods that are defined in `C` can be called.

```

Android myPhone = new GalaxyS10Plus();
/* can call methods declared in Android on myPhone
 * dial, surfweb, skype ✓ sideSync × */
SmartPhone sp = (SmartPhone) myPhone;
/* Compiles OK ∴ SmartPhone is an ancestor class of Android
 * expectations on sp narrowed to methods in SmartPhone
 * sp.dial, sp.surfweb ✓ sp.skype, sp.sideSync × */
GalaxyS10Plus ga = (GalaxyS10Plus) myPhone;
/* Compiles OK ∴ GalaxyS10Plus is a descendant class of Android
 * expectations on ga widened to methods in GalaxyS10Plus
 * ga.dial, ga.surfweb, ga.skype, ga.sideSync ✓ */
  
```

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## Type Cast: Named or Anonymous



**Named Cast:** Use intermediate variable to store the cast result.

```

SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone11Pro();
IOS forHeeyeon = (iPhone11Pro) aPhone;
forHeeyeon.facetime();
  
```

**Anonymous Cast:** Use the cast result directly.

```

SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone11Pro();
((iPhone11Pro) aPhone).facetime();
  
```

**Common Mistake:**

```

1 SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone11Pro();
2 (iPhone11Pro) aPhone.facetime();
  
```

**L2**  $\equiv$  `(iPhone11Pro) (aPhone.facetime())`: Call, then cast.

⇒ This does **not** compile ∴ `facetime()` is **not** declared in the **static type** of `aPhone` (`SmartPhone`).

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## Reference Type Casting: Danger (1)



```

1 Student jim = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
2 ResidentStudent rs = (ResidentStudent) jim;
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
  
```

- L1** is **legal**: `NonResidentStudent` is a **descendant** of the static type of `jim` (`Student`).
- L2** is **legal** (where the cast type is `ResidentStudent`):
  - cast type is **descendant** of `jim`'s **ST** (`Student`).
  - cast type is **descendant** of `rs`'s **ST** (`ResidentStudent`).
- L3** is **legal** ∴ `setPremiumRate` is in `rs`' **ST** `ResidentStudent`.
- Java compiler is **unable to infer** that `jim`'s **dynamic type** in **L2** is actually `NonResidentStudent`.
- Executing **L2** will result in a **`ClassCastException`**.
  - ∴ Attribute `premiumRate` (expected from a **`ResidentStudent`**) is **undefined** on the **`NonResidentStudent`** object being cast.

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## Reference Type Casting: Danger (2)

```

1 SmartPhone aPhone = new GalaxyS10Plus();
2 iPhone11Pro forHeeyeon = (iPhone11Pro) aPhone;
3 forHeeyeon.quickTake();

```

- **L1** is *legal*: GalaxyS10Plus is a **descendant** of the static type of aPhone (SmartPhone).
- **L2** is *legal* (where the cast type is iPhone6sPlus):
  - cast type is **descendant** of aPhone's ST (SmartPhone).
  - cast type is **descendant** of forHeeyeon's ST (iPhone11Pro).
- **L3** is *legal* ∴ quickTake is in forHeeyeon' **ST** iPhone11Pro.
- Java compiler is *unable to infer* that aPhone's **dynamic type** in **L2** is actually NonResidentStudent.
- Executing **L2** will result in a **ClassCastException**.  
∴ Methods facetime, quickTake (expected from an **iPhone11Pro**) is *undefined* on the **GalaxyS10Plus** object being cast.

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.2)

Given a variable  $v$  of static type  $ST_v$  and dynamic type  $DT_v$ :

- $(C) v$  is **compilable** if  $C$  is  $ST_v$ 's **ancestor** or **descendant**.
- Casting  $v$  to  $C$ 's **ancestor/descendant** **narrows/widens** expectations.
- However, being **compilable** does not guarantee **runtime-error-free!**

```

1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 iPhone11Pro ip = (iPhone11Pro) myPhone;
4 /* Compiles OK ∴ iPhone11Pro is a descendant class of SmartPhone
5  * can now call methods declared in iPhone11Pro on ip
6  * ip.dial, ip.surfweb, ip.facetime, ip.quickTake ✓ */

```

- Type cast in **L3** is **compilable**.
- Executing **L3** will cause **ClassCastException**.  
**L3**: myPhone's **DT** Samsung cannot meet expectations of the temporary **ST** iPhone11Pro (e.g., quickTake).

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.1)

Given a variable  $v$  of static type  $ST_v$  and dynamic type  $DT_v$ :

- $(C) v$  is **compilable** if  $C$  is  $ST_v$ 's **ancestor** or **descendant**.
- Casting  $v$  to  $C$ 's **ancestor/descendant** **narrows/widens** expectations.
- However, being **compilable** does not guarantee **runtime-error-free!**

```

1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 GalaxyS10Plus ga = (GalaxyS10Plus) myPhone;
4 /* Compiles OK ∴ GalaxyS10Plus is a descendant class of SmartPhone
5  * can now call methods declared in GalaxyS10Plus on ga
6  * ga.dial, ga.surfweb, ga.skype, ga.sideSync ✓ */

```

- Type cast in **L3** is **compilable**.
- Executing **L3** will cause **ClassCastException**.  
**L3**: myPhone's **DT** Samsung cannot meet expectations of the temporary **ST** GalaxyS10Plus (e.g., sideSync).

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.3)

A cast  $(C) v$  is **compilable** and **runtime-error-free** if  $C$  is located along the **ancestor path** of  $DT_v$ .

e.g., Given `Android myPhone = new Samsung();`

- Cast myPhone to a class along the **ancestor path** of its **DT Samsung**.
- Casting myPhone to a class with more expectations than its **DT Samsung** (e.g., GalaxyS10Plus) will cause **ClassCastException**.
- Casting myPhone to a class irrelevant to its **DT Samsung** (e.g., HuaweiMate20Pro) will cause **ClassCastException**.

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## Required Reading: Static Types, Dynamic Types, Casts



[https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2019/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030\\_F19\\_Notes\\_Static\\_Types\\_Cast.pdf](https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2019/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030_F19_Notes_Static_Types_Cast.pdf)

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## Compilable Cast vs. Exception-Free Cast



```
class A { }  
class B extends A { }  
class C extends B { }  
class D extends A { }
```

```
1 B b = new C();  
2 D d = (D) b;
```

- After L1:
  - **ST** of b is B
  - **DT** of b is C
- Does L2 compile? [ NO ]  
∴ cast type D is neither an ancestor nor a descendant of b's **ST** B
- Would `D d = (D) ((A) b)` fix L2? [ YES ]  
∴ cast type D is an ancestor of b's cast, temporary **ST** A
- `ClassCastException` when executing this fixed L2? [ YES ]  
∴ cast type D is not an ancestor of b's **DT** C

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## Reference Type Casting: Runtime Check (1)



```
1 Student jim = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");  
2 if (jim instanceof ResidentStudent) {  
3     ResidentStudent rs = (ResidentStudent) jim;  
4     rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);  
5 }
```

- L1 is **legal**: NonResidentStudent is a descendant class of the **static type** of jim (i.e., Student).
- L2 checks if jim's **dynamic type** is ResidentStudent.  
**FALSE** ∴ jim's **dynamic type** is NonResidentStudent!
- L3 is **legal**: jim's cast type (i.e., ResidentStudent) is a descendant class of rs's **static type** (i.e., ResidentStudent).
- L3 will not be executed at runtime, hence no `ClassCastException`, thanks to the check in L2!

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## Reference Type Casting: Runtime Check (2)



```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new GalaxyS10Plus();  
2 if (aPhone instanceof iPhone11Pro) {  
3     IOS forHeeyeon = (iPhone11Pro) aPhone;  
4     forHeeyeon.facetime();  
5 }
```

- L1 is **legal**: GalaxyS10Plus is a descendant class of the static type of aPhone (i.e., SmartPhone).
- L2 checks if aPhone's **dynamic type** is iPhone11Pro.  
**FALSE** ∴ aPhone's **dynamic type** is GalaxyS10Plus!
- L3 is **legal**: aPhone's cast type (i.e., iPhone11Pro) is a descendant class of forHeeyeon's **static type** (i.e., IOS).
- L3 will not be executed at runtime, hence no `ClassCastException`, thanks to the check in L2!

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## Notes on the instanceof Operator (1)



Given a reference variable  $v$  and a class  $C$ , you write

```
v instanceof C
```

to check if the **dynamic type** of  $v$ , at the moment of being checked, is a **descendant class** of  $C$  (so that `(C) v` is safe).

```
SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
println(myPhone instanceof Android);
/* true :: Samsung is a descendant of Android */
println(myPhone instanceof Samsung);
/* true :: Samsung is a descendant of Samsung */
println(myPhone instanceof GalaxyS10);
/* false :: Samsung is not a descendant of GalaxyS10 */
println(myPhone instanceof IOS);
/* false :: Samsung is not a descendant of IOS */
println(myPhone instanceof iPhone11Pro);
/* false :: Samsung is not a descendant of iPhone11Pro */
```

⇒ **Samsung** is the most specific type which `myPhone` can be safely cast to.

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## Notes on the instanceof Operator (2)



Given a reference variable  $v$  and a class  $C$ ,

`v instanceof C` checks if the **dynamic type** of  $v$ , at the moment of being checked, is a descendant class of  $C$ .

```
1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 if(myPhone instanceof Samsung) {
4     Samsung samsung = (Samsung) myPhone;
5 }
6 if(myPhone instanceof GalaxyS10Plus) {
7     GalaxyS10Plus galaxy = (GalaxyS10Plus) myPhone;
8 }
9 if(myPhone instanceof HuaweiMate20Pro) {
10    Huawei hw = (HuaweiMate20Pro) myPhone;
11 }
```

• **L3** evaluates to *true*. [safe to cast]

• **L6** and **L9** evaluate to *false*. [unsafe to cast]

This prevents **L7** and **L10**, causing `ClassCastException` if executed, from being executed.

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## Static Type and Polymorphism (1.1)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone11Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 SmartPhone sp = new iPhone11Pro(); ✓
2 sp.dial(); ✓
3 sp.facetime(); ✗
4 sp.quickTake(); ✗
```

**Static type** of `sp` is `SmartPhone`

⇒ can only call methods defined in `SmartPhone` on `sp`

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## Static Type and Polymorphism (1.2)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone11Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 IOS ip = new iPhone11Pro(); ✓
2 ip.dial(); ✓
3 ip.facetime(); ✓
4 ip.quickTake(); ✗
```

**Static type** of `ip` is `IOS`

⇒ can only call methods defined in `IOS` on `ip`

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## Static Type and Polymorphism (1.3)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone11Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 iPhone11Pro ip6sp = new iPhone11Pro(); ✓
2 ip6sp.dial(); ✓
3 ip6sp.facetime(); ✓
4 ip6sp.quickTake(); ✓
```

**Static type** of `ip6sp` is `iPhone11Pro`

⇒ can call all methods defined in `iPhone11Pro` on `ip6sp`

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## Static Type and Polymorphism (2)



Given a reference variable declaration

```
C v;
```

- **Static type** of reference variable `v` is class `C`
- A method call `[v.m]` is valid if `m` is a method **defined** in class `C`.
- Despite the **dynamic type** of `v`, you are only allowed to call methods that are defined in the **static type** `C` on `v`.
- If you are certain that `v`'s **dynamic type** can be expected **more** than its **static type**, then you may use an `instanceof` check and a cast.

```
Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
Student s = new ResidentStudent("Jim");
s.register(eeecs2030);
if (s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    ((ResidentStudent) s).setPremiumRate(1.75);
    System.out.println(((ResidentStudent) s).getTuition());
}
```

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## Static Type and Polymorphism (1.4)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone11Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 SmartPhone sp = new iPhone11Pro(); ✓
2 ((iPhone11Pro) sp).dial(); ✓
3 ((iPhone11Pro) sp).facetime(); ✓
4 ((iPhone11Pro) sp).quickTake(); ✓
```

**L4** is equivalent to the following two lines:

```
iPhone11Pro ip6sp = (iPhone11Pro) sp;
ip6sp.quickTake();
```

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (1)



```
1 class StudentManagementSystem {
2     Student[] ss; /* ss[i] has static type Student */ int c;
3     void addRS(ResidentStudent rs) { ss[c] = rs; c++; }
4     void addNRS(NonResidentStudent nrs) { ss[c] = nrs; c++; }
5     void addStudent(Student s) { ss[c] = s; c++; } }
```

- **L3**: `ss[c] = rs` is valid. ∴ RHS's ST `ResidentStudent` is a **descendant class** of LHS's ST `Student`.
- Say we have a `StudentManagementSystem` object `sms`:
  - `sms.addRS(o)` attempts the following assignment (recall call by value), which replaces parameter `rs` by a copy of argument `o`:

```
rs = o;
```

    - Whether this argument passing is valid depends on `o`'s **static type**.
- In the signature of a method `m`, if the type of a parameter is class `C`, then we may call method `m` by passing objects whose **static types** are `C`'s **descendants**.

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (2.1)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
Student s1 = new Student();
Student s2 = new ResidentStudent();
Student s3 = new NonResidentStudent();
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent();
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent();
StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
sms.addRS(s1); ×
sms.addRS(s2); ×
sms.addRS(s3); ×
sms.addRS(rs); ✓
sms.addRS(nrs); ×
sms.addStudent(s1); ✓
sms.addStudent(s2); ✓
sms.addStudent(s3); ✓
sms.addStudent(rs); ✓
sms.addStudent(nrs); ✓
```

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (2.3)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: NonResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ×
```

- o L4 compiles with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - Valid cast :: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' ST.
  - Valid call :: s' temporary ST (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' ST (ResidentStudent).
- o But, there will be a **ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' DT (NonResidentStudent) **not descendant** of ResidentStudent.
- o We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The instanceof expression will evaluate to **false**, meaning it is **unsafe** to cast, thus preventing ClassCastException.

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (2.2)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: Student */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ×
```

- o L4 compiles with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - Valid cast :: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' ST.
  - Valid call :: s' temporary ST (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' ST (ResidentStudent).
- o But, there will be a **ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' DT (Student) is **not a descendant** of ResidentStudent.
- o We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The instanceof expression will evaluate to **false**, meaning it is **unsafe** to cast, thus preventing ClassCastException.

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (2.4)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: ResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ×
```

- o L4 compiles with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - Valid cast :: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' ST.
  - Valid call :: s' temporary ST (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' ST (ResidentStudent).
- o And, there will be **no ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' DT (ResidentStudent) is **descendant** of ResidentStudent.
- o We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The instanceof expression will evaluate to **true**, meaning it is **safe** to cast.

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## Polymorphism: Method Call Arguments (2.5)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent();
2 /* ST: NonResidentStudent; DT: NonResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(nrs); ✗
```

Will L4 with a cast compile?

```
sms.addRS( (ResidentStudent) nrs)
```

**NO** ∴ (ResidentStudent) is **not** a descendant of nrs's **ST** (NonResidentStudent).

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding: A Polymorphic Collection of Students (1)



```
1 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
2 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
3 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
4 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5);
5 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
6 sms.addStudent(rs); /* polymorphism */
7 sms.addStudent(nrs); /* polymorphism */
8 Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
9 sms.registerAll(eeecs2030);
10 for(int i = 0; i < sms.numberOfStudents; i++) {
11     /* Dynamic Binding:
12      * Right version of getTuition will be called */
13     System.out.println(sms.students[i].getTuition());
14 }
```

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## Why Inheritance: A Polymorphic Collection of Students



How do you define a class StudentManagementSystem that contains a list of *resident* and *non-resident* students?

```
class StudentManagementSystem {
    Student[] students;
    int numOfStudents;

    void addStudent(Student s) {
        students[numOfStudents] = s;
        numOfStudents++;
    }

    void registerAll (Course c) {
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfStudents; i++) {
            students[i].register(c)
        }
    }
}
```

a collection of students without inheritance

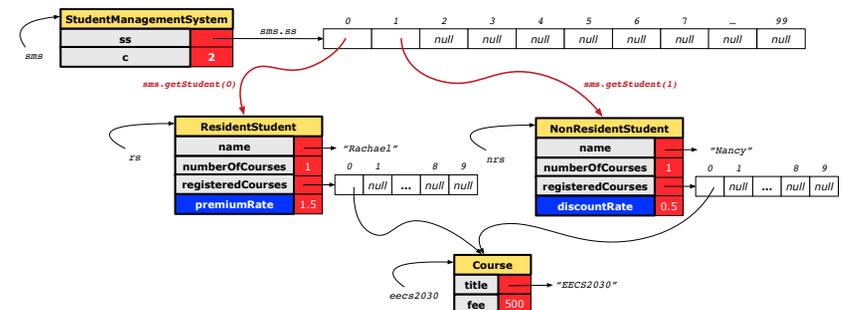
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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding: A Polymorphic Collection of Students (2)



At runtime, attribute `sms.ss` is a **polymorphic** array:

- **Static type** of each item is as declared: **Student**
- **Dynamic type** of each item is a descendant of **Student**: **ResidentStudent**, **NonResidentStudent**



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## Polymorphism: Return Values (1)



```

1 class StudentManagementSystem {
2     Student[] ss; int c;
3     void addStudent(Student s) { ss[c] = s; c++; }
4     Student getStudent(int i) {
5         Student s = null;
6         if(i < 0 || i >= c) {
7             throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid index.");
8         }
9         else {
10            s = ss[i];
11        }
12        return s;
13    }
}

```

L4: Student is **static type** of getStudent's return value.

L10: ss[i]'s ST (Student) is **descendant** of s' ST (Student).

**Question:** What can be the **dynamic type** of s after L10?

**Answer:** All descendant classes of Student.

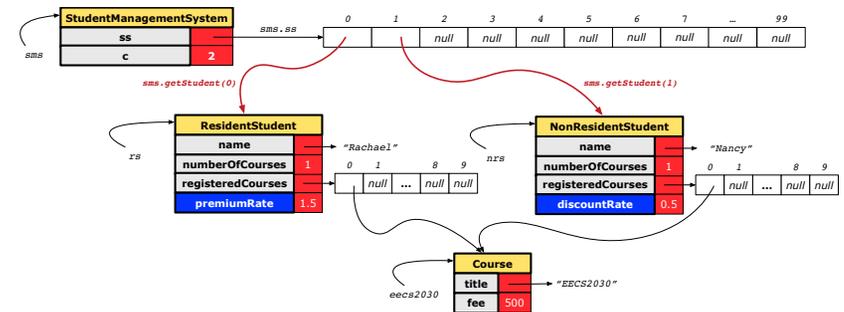
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## Polymorphism: Return Values (3)



At runtime, attribute `sms.ss` is a **polymorphic** array:

- **Static type** of each item is as declared: **Student**
- **Dynamic type** of each item is a **descendant of Student**: **ResidentStudent**, **NonResidentStudent**



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## Polymorphism: Return Values (2)



```

1 Course eecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500);
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5); rs.register(eecs2030);
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5); nrs.register(eecs2030);
6 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
7 sms.addStudent(rs); sms.addStudent(nrs);
8 Student s = sms.getStudent(0); /* dynamic type of s? */
9
10 static return type: Student
11 print(s instanceof Student && s instanceof ResidentStudent); /* true */
12 print(s instanceof NonResidentStudent); /* false */
13 print(s.getTuition()); /* Version in ResidentStudent called: 750 */
14 ResidentStudent rs2 = sms.getStudent(0); /* x */
15 s = sms.getStudent(1); /* dynamic type of s? */
16
17 static return type: Student
18 print(s instanceof Student && s instanceof NonResidentStudent); /* true */
19 print(s instanceof ResidentStudent); /* false */
20 print(s.getTuition()); /* Version in NonResidentStudent called: 250 */
21 NonResidentStudent nrs2 = sms.getStudent(1); /* x */

```

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## Static Type vs. Dynamic Type: When to consider which?



- **Whether or not Java code compiles** depends only on the **static types** of relevant variables.
  - ∴ Inferring the **dynamic type** statically is an **undecidable** problem that is inherently impossible to solve.
- **The behaviour of Java code being executed at runtime** (e.g., which version of method is called due to dynamic binding, whether or not a ClassCastException will occur, etc.) depends on the **dynamic types** of relevant variables.
  - ⇒ Best practice is to visualize how objects are created (by drawing boxes) and variables are re-assigned (by drawing arrows).

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## Summary: Type Checking Rules



CODE	CONDITION TO BE TYPE CORRECT
<code>x = y</code>	Is <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> a <b>descendant</b> of <i>x</i> 's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x.m(y)</code>	Is method <i>m</i> defined in <i>x</i> 's <b>ST</b> ? Is <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> a <b>descendant</b> of <i>m</i> 's parameter's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>z = x.m(y)</code>	Is method <i>m</i> defined in <i>x</i> 's <b>ST</b> ? Is <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> a <b>descendant</b> of <i>m</i> 's parameter's <b>ST</b> ? Is <b>ST</b> of <i>m</i> 's return value a <b>descendant</b> of <i>z</i> 's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>(C) y</code>	Is <i>C</i> an <b>ancestor</b> or a <b>descendant</b> of <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x = (C) y</code>	Is <i>C</i> an <b>ancestor</b> or a <b>descendant</b> of <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> ? Is <i>C</i> a <b>descendant</b> of <i>x</i> 's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x.m((C) y)</code>	Is <i>C</i> an <b>ancestor</b> or a <b>descendant</b> of <i>y</i> 's <b>ST</b> ? Is method <i>m</i> defined in <i>x</i> 's <b>ST</b> ? Is <i>C</i> a <b>descendant</b> of <i>m</i> 's parameter's <b>ST</b> ?

Even if `(C) y` compiles OK, there will be a runtime `ClassCastException` if *C* is not an **ancestor** of *y*'s **DT**!

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## Root of the Java Class Hierarchy



- Implicitly:
  - Every class is a *child/sub* class of the `Object` class.
  - The `Object` class is the *parent/super* class of every class.
- There are two useful *accessor methods* that every class *inherits* from the `Object` class:

- `boolean equals(Object other)`
  - Indicates whether some other object is "equal to" this one.
  - The default definition inherited from `Object`:

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

- `String toString()`
  - Returns a string representation of the object.
- Very often when you define new classes, you want to **redefine/override** the inherited definitions of `equals` and `toString`.

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (1)

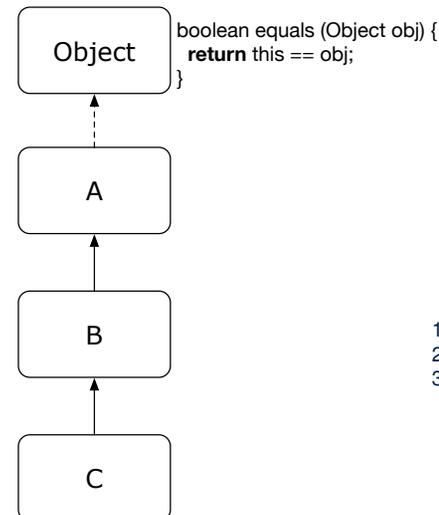


`Object` is the common parent/super class of every class.

- Every class inherits the **default version** of `equals`
- Say a reference variable *v* has **dynamic type D**:
  - Case 1** *D* **overrides** `equals`  
⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes the **overridden version** in *D*
  - Case 2** *D* does **not override** `equals`  
**Case 2.1** At least one ancestor classes of *D* **override** `equals`  
⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes the **overridden version** in the **closest ancestor class**
  - Case 2.2** No ancestor classes of *D* **override** `equals`  
⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes **default version** inherited from `Object`.
- Same principle applies to the `toString` method, and all overridden methods in general.

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.1)



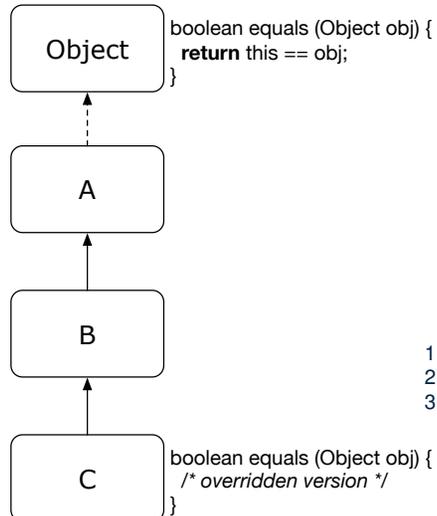
```
class A {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
class B extends A {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
class C extends B {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
```

```
1 Object c1 = new C();
2 Object c2 = new C();
3 println(c1.equals(c2));
```

**L3** calls which version of `equals`? [ `Object` ]

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.2)



```
class A {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
class B extends A {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
class C extends B {
    boolean equals(Object obj) {
        /* overridden version */
    }
}
```

```
1 Object c1 = new C();
2 Object c2 = new C();
3 println(c1.equals(c2));
```

L3 calls which version of equals? [C]

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## Behaviour of Inherited toString Method (1)



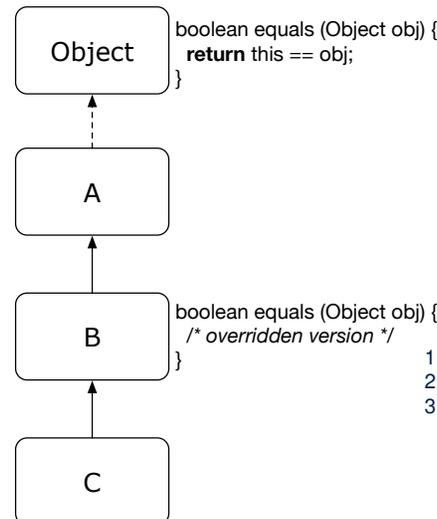
```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);
System.out.println(p1);
```

Point@677327b6

- Implicitly, the toString method is called inside the println method.
- By default, the address stored in p1 gets printed.
- We need to **redefine / override** the toString method, inherited from the Object class, in the Point class.

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.3)



```
class A {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
class B extends A {
    boolean equals(Object obj) {
        /* overridden version */
    }
}
class C extends B {
    /*equals not overridden*/
}
```

```
1 Object c1 = new C();
2 Object c2 = new C();
3 println(c1.equals(c2));
```

L3 calls which version of equals? [B]

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## Behaviour of Inherited toString Method (2)



```
class Point {
    double x;
    double y;
    public String toString() {
        return "(" + this.x + ", " + this.y + ")";
    }
}
```

After redefining/overriding the toString method:

```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);
System.out.println(p1);
```

(2, 4)

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## Behaviour of Inherited toString Method (3)



**Exercise:** Override the equals and toString methods for the ResidentStudent and NonResidentStudent classes.

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