Programming Abstractions

CS106X

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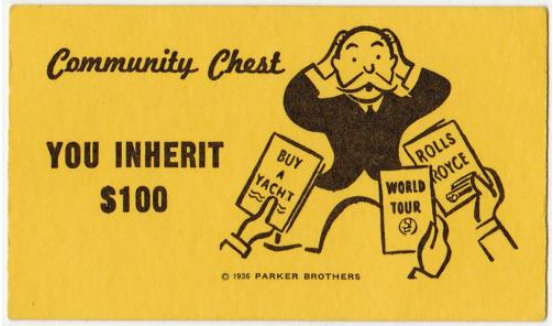
Inheritance Topics

Inheritance

- The basics
  - › Example: Stanford GObject class
- Polymorphism
  - › Example: Expression trees (final project)



Inheritance

What? Why? How?

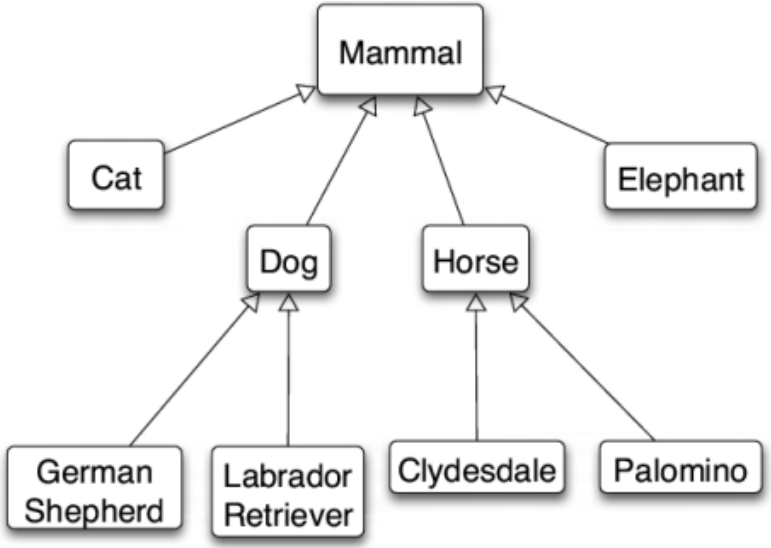
Inheritance: what?

is-a relationship: A hierarchical connection where one category can be treated as a specialized version of another.

- every rectangle *is a* shape
- every lion *is an* animal
- every lawyer *is an* employee

type hierarchy: A set of data types connected by is-a relationships that **can share common code**.

- Re-use!



Inheritance: why?

- Remember the #1 rule of computer scientists:
  - Computer scientists are super lazy
  - …in a good way!

- We want to reuse code and work as much as possible
- You've already seen this going back to the very start of your CS education:
  - Loops and Functions *(instead of copy&paste to repeat code)*
  - Arrays *(instead of copy&paste to make 100 named variables)*
  - Data structures *(same idea as arrays but more expressive)*

- Inheritance is another way of organizing smart reuse of code

Inheritance: how?

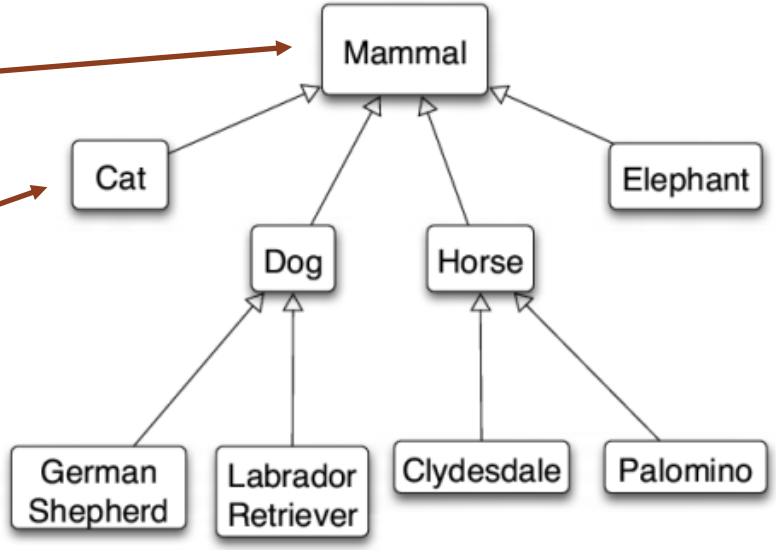
inheritance: A way to form new classes based on existing classes, taking on their attributes/behavior.

- a way to group related classes
- a way to share code between two or more classes

One class can *extend* another, absorbing its data/behavior.

Inheritance vocab

- **superclass** (base class): Parent class that is being extended.
- **subclass** (derived class): Child class that inherits from the superclass.
  - Subclass gets a copy of every field and method from superclass.
  - Subclass can add its own behavior, and/or change inherited behavior.



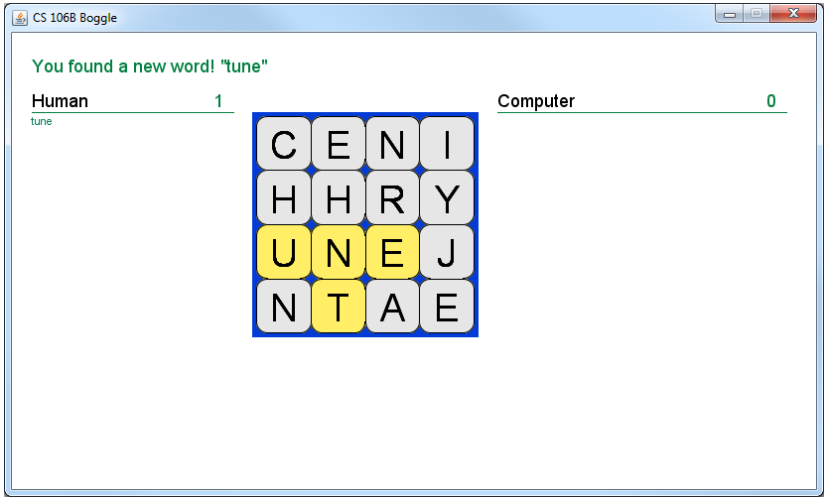
Inheritance Example

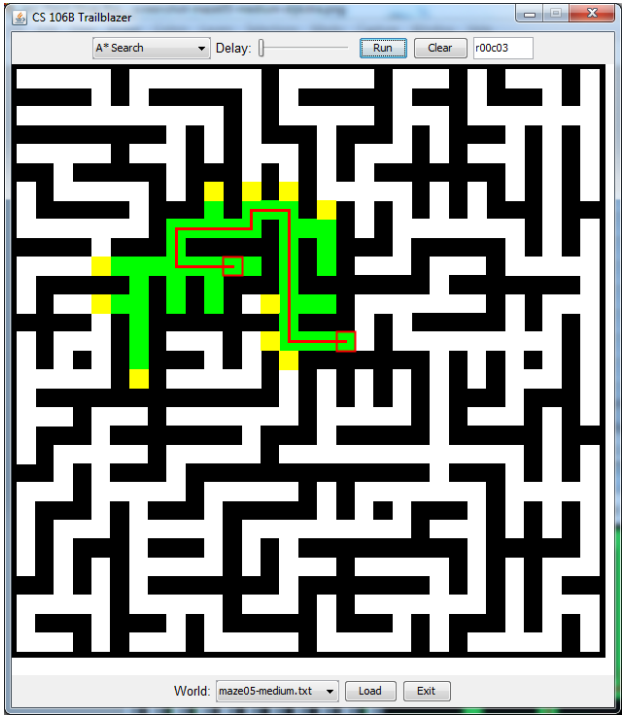
Stanford Library GObject family of classes

Stanford University

Behind the scenes…

- We've always told you not to worry about the graphics parts of your assignments.
- "Just call this BoggleGUI function…"
- Now you can go ahead and take a look!

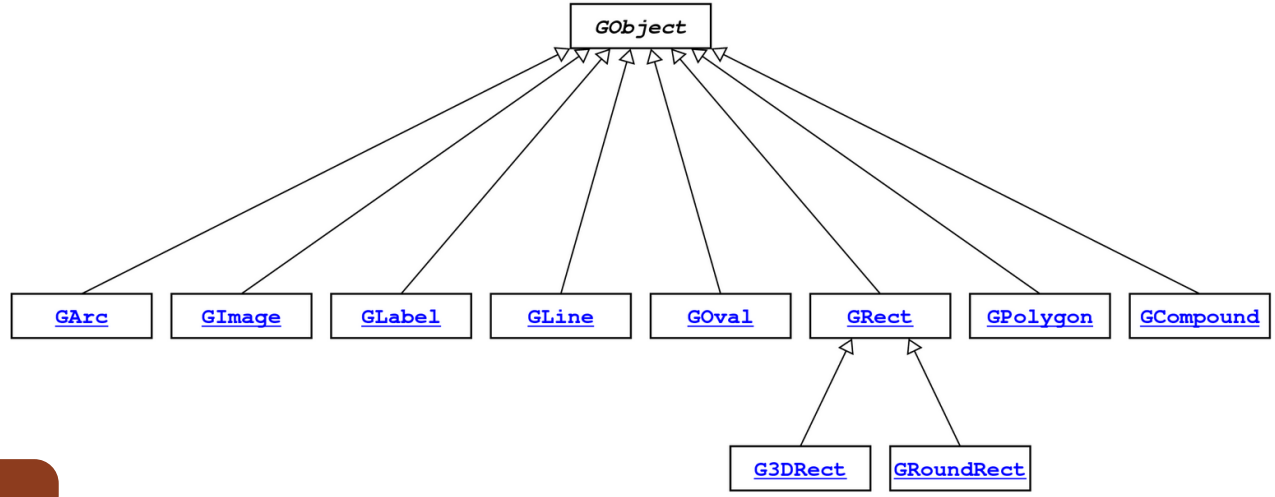




GObject hierarchy

The Stanford C++ library contains a hierarchy of graphical objects based on a common base class named `GObject`.

- `GArc`
- `GImage`
- `GLabel`
- `GLine`
- `GOval`
- `GPolygon`
- `GRect`
- `G3DRect`
- `GRoundRect`



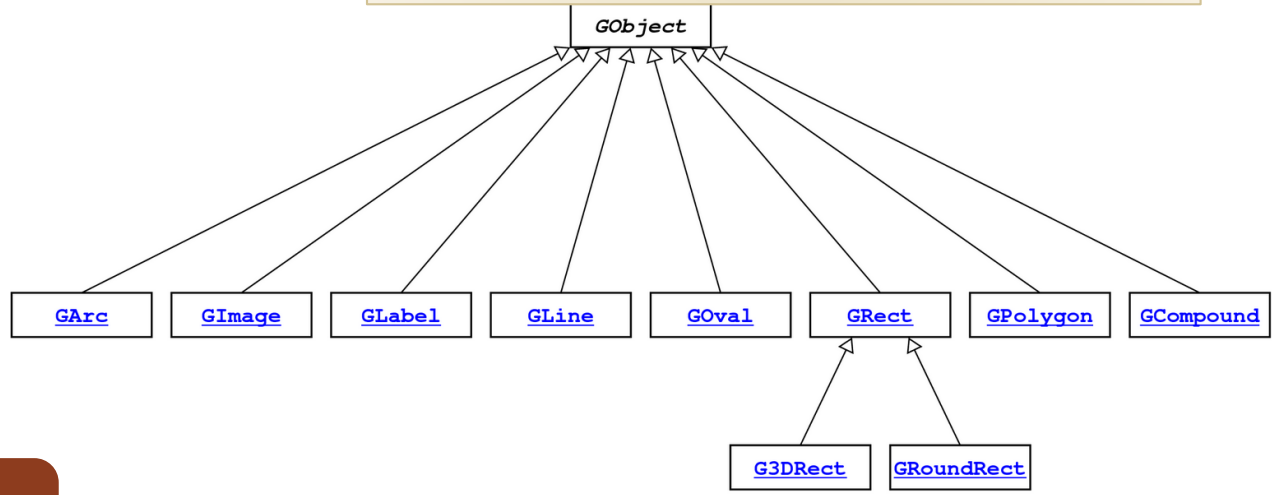
GObject hierarchy

The Stanford C++ library contains a h
objects based on a common base

- GArc
- GImage
- GLabel
- GLine
- GOval
- GPolygon
- GRect
- G3DRect
- GRoundRect

Q: Rectangle is-a Polygon, right?
Why doesn't it inherit from Polygon?

Think about it as we go through some details, and we'll revisit the question later.

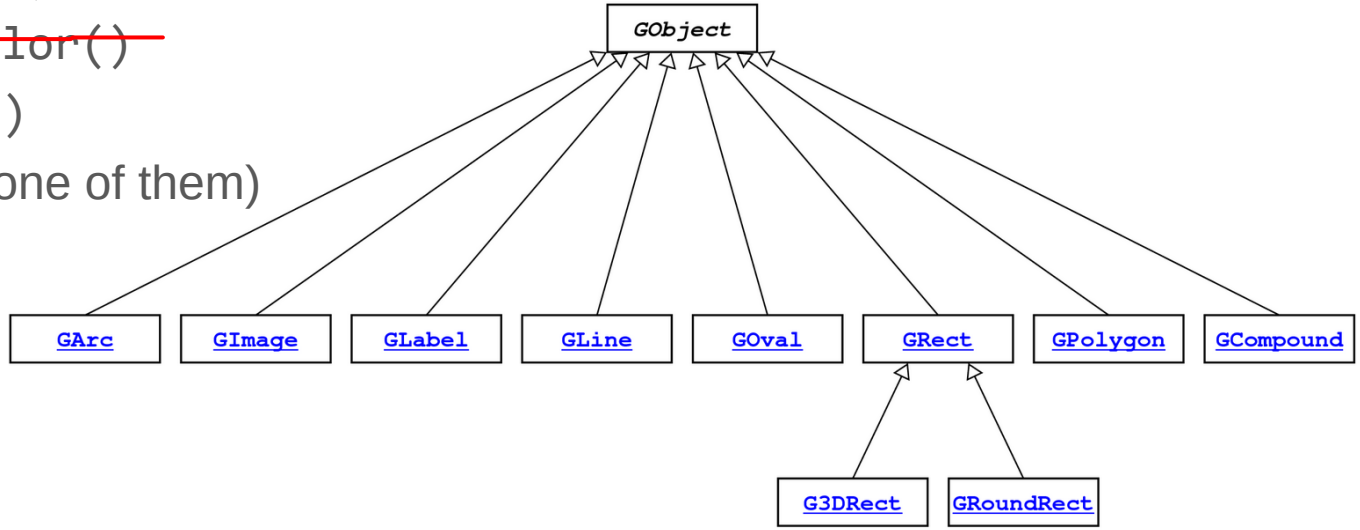


Your turn: GObject design

How many of the following would you put in the base class (GObject), as opposed to a derived class?

- `contains(x, y)` – returns true if (x,y) lands on the item
- `setFont(f)` – sets the font for writing
- `setColor(c)`
- `getFillColor()`
- `getWidth()`

A. 0-1 (none or one of them)
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4-5 of them



GObject members

`GObject` defines the state and behavior common to all shapes:

- `contains(x, y)`
- `get/setColor()`
- `getHeight(), getWidth()`
- `get/setLocation(), get/setX(), get/setY()`
- `move(dx, dy)`
- `setVisible(visible)`

```
double x;
double y;
double lineWidth;
std::string color;
bool visible;
```

The subclasses add state and behavior unique to them:

`GLabel`	`GLine`	`GPolygon`	`GOval`
`get/setFont`	`get/setStartPoint`	`addEdge`	`getSize`
`get/setLabel`	`get/setEndPoint`	`addVertex`	`get/setFillColor`
		`get/setFillColor`	
`...`	`...`	`...`	`...`

GObject members

`GObject` defines the state and behavior common to all shapes:

- `contains(`***x***`, `***y***`)`
- `get/setColor()`
- `getHeight(), getWidth()`
- `get/setLocation(), get/setX(), get/setY()`
- `move(`***dx***`, `***dy***`)`
- `setVisible(`***visible***`)`

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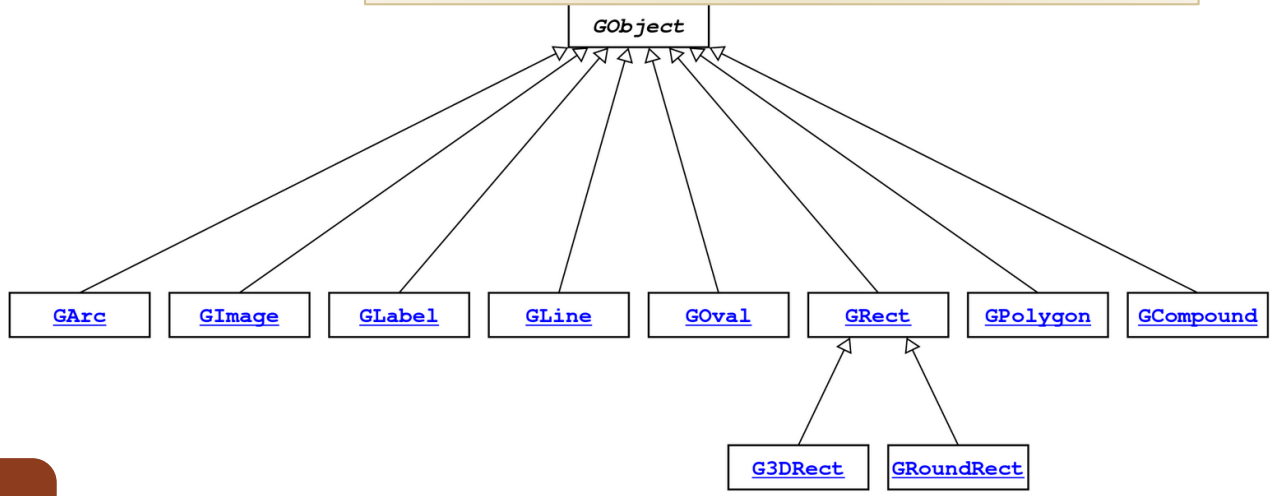
Q: Rectangle is-a Polygon, right?
Why doesn't it inherit from Polygon??

Although true in geometry, they don't share many fields and methods in this case.



Inheritance Example

Your turn: let's write an Employee family of classes

Example: Employees

Imagine a company with the following **employee regulations**:

- All employees work 40 hours / week
- Employees make $40,000 per year plus $500 for each year worked
  - Except for lawyers who get twice the usual pay, and programmers who get the same $40k base but $2000 for each year worked
- Employees have 2 weeks of paid vacation days per year
  - Except for programmers who get an extra week (a total of 3)

Each type of employee has some unique behavior:

- **Lawyers** know how to sue
- **Programmers** know how to write code
- **IT** person knows how to fix PCs
- **Network IT** person knows how to fix PCs and how fix the network

Employee class

```
// Employee.h
class Employee {
public:
    Employee(string name,
             int years);
    virtual int hours();
    virtual string name();
    virtual double salary();
    virtual int vacationDays();
    virtual int years();

private:
    string m_name;
    int m_years;
};
```

```
// Employee.cpp
Employee::Employee(string name, int years) {
    m_name = name;
    m_years = years;
}

int Employee::hours() {
    return 40;
}

string Employee::name() {
    return m_name;
}

double Employee::salary() {
    return 40000.0 + (500 * m_years);
}

int Employee::vacationDays() {
    return 10;
}

int Employee::years() {
    return m_years;
}
```

Exercise: Employees

Exercise: Implement classes `Lawyer` and `Programmer`.

- A Lawyer remembers what **law school** he/she went to.
- Lawyers make twice as much **salary** as normal employees.
- Lawyers know how to **sue** people (unique behavior).
- Lawyers put ", Esq." at the end of their name.

- Programmers make the same base salary as normal employees, but they earn a **bonus of $2k/year** instead of $500/year.
- Programmers know how to write **code** (unique behavior).

Inheritance syntax

```
class Name : public SuperclassName {
```

- Example:

```
class Lawyer : public Employee {
    ...
};
```

By extending `Employee`, each `Lawyer` object now:

- receives a `hours`, `name`, `salary`, `vacationDays`, and `years` method automatically
- can be treated as an `Employee` by client code (see this next class!)

Call superclass c'tor

```
SubclassName::SubclassName(params)
          : SuperclassName(params) {
    statements;
}
```

To call a superclass constructor from subclass constructor, use an *initialization list*, with a colon after the constructor declaration.

- Example:

```
Lawyer::Lawyer(string name, string lawSchool, int years)
        : Employee(name, years) {
    // calls Employee constructor first
    m_lawSchool = lawSchool;
}
```

Your turn: inheritance

```
string Lawyer::name() {
    ???
}
```

For adding ", Esq." to the name, which of the following could work?

A. `return m_name + ", Esq.";`
B. `return name() + ", Esq.";`
C. `return Employee::name() + ", Esq.";`
D. None of the above
E. More than one of the above

```
// Employee.h
class Employee {
public:
    Employee(string name,
             int years);
    int hours();
    string name();
    double salary();
    int vacationDays();
    string vacationForm();
    int years();

private:
    string m_name;
    int m_years;
};
```

Call superclass member

SuperclassName::*memberName*(*params*)

To call a superclass overridden member from subclass member.

- Example:

```
double Lawyer::salary() {          // paid twice as much
    return Employee::salary() * 2;
}
```

- **Note: Subclass *cannot* access private members of the superclass.**
- Note: You only need to use this syntax when the superclass's member has been overridden.
  - If you just want to call one member from another, even if that member came from the superclass, you don't need to write `Superclass::` .