

## **CSE 331**

## **Mutation of Heap State**

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### 331 So Far...

- Saw how to implement ADTs without mutation
- Introducing more mutation going forward
  - core idea is that mutation makes things harder
- Introduced local variable mutation last time
  - causes some difficulty for implementers
     need to reason line-by-line for any variable that is mutated
  - causes <u>no</u> difficulty for *clients* they literally cannot tell the difference

#### 331 So Far...

- Instances of classes and arrays are "heap" data
  - can still be in use after the call returns
- Mutation of heap data is different
  - clients can often see that this occurred!
- Must also be update specifications
  - need to explain any possible mutation that may happen by default, nothing is being mutated
  - higher likelihood of potential bugs
     miscommunication between programmers is a common cause
  - these will be harder to debug

### **Mutation of Heap Data**

- Plan for today:
  - **1.** Mutation in simple functions (revisit Topic 1)
  - 2. Mutation in ADTs (revisit Topic 3)

# **Mutation of Arguments**

### Recall: Writing Method Specifications in Java

- Every input falls in one of three cases:
  - 1. input is disallowed
  - 2. input is allowed and will return something
  - 3. input is allowed and will throw something
- Item 1 is the precondition
  - explained in @param and @requires
- Items 2-3 are the postcondition
  - explained in @return and @throws

### Writing Method Specifications in Java

- Every input falls in one of three cases:
  - 1. input is disallowed
  - 2. input is allowed and will return something
  - 3. input is allowed and will throw something
- The postcondition can also include mutation
  - client will see that something argument was changed
  - explained in @modifies and @effects

### **Describing Mutation in Specifications**

- List anything that may change in @modifies
  - anything not listed is assumed <u>not modified</u>
  - no @modifies means nothing is mutated
- Results of the mutation listed in @effects
  - promises about the state when the call returns
  - no @effects means any change is possible

```
// @modifies A
// @effects all entries of A set to zero
void clear(int[] A)
```

```
/**
 * Changes the first instance of v in A to w
 * @param A The list to look in. Must be non-null
 * @param v The value to look for
 * @param w The value to replace the first v with
 * @modifies A
 * @effects changes A[i] = w, where i is the
       smallest index with A[i] = v_{i} and leaves
 *
       A[j] unchanged for all j /= i
 *
 * @throws NotFound if no such index i exists
 * /
void changeFirst(List<Integer> A, int v, int w)
```

### Recall: Example 2

```
/**
 * Returns the concatenation of two lists.
 * @param A The first list. Must be non-null
 * @param B The second list. Must be non-null
 * @return a list containing the elements of A
 * followed by all the elements of B.
 */
List<Integer> concat(
   List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
```

How would we change this to mutate instead?

```
/**
 * Returns the concatenation of two lists.
 * @param A The first list. Must be non-null
 * @param B The second list. Must be non-null
 * @modifies A
 * @effects A = A_0 ++ B
 */
void concat(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
```

We are now using Floyd logic in the spec!

Can B also be modified?

```
/**
 * Returns the number of common elements in both
 * A and B. Sorts A and B in the process.
 * @param A The first list. Must be non-null
 * @param B The second list. Must be non-null
 *
 *
 *
 *
 * /
int commonElems(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
```

How should we specify this?

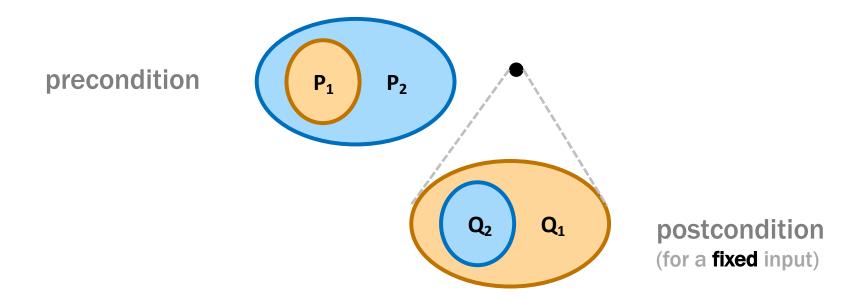
```
/**
 * Returns the number of common elements in both
 * A and B. Sorts A and B in the process.
 * @param A The first list. Must be non-null
 * @param B The second list. Must be non-null
 * @modifies A, B
 * @effects A is sorted and B is sorted
 * @returns the number of indexes i such that
 *
        A[i] also appears in B somewhere
 * /
int commonElems(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
```

### **Recall: Comparing Specifications**

- Specification S<sub>1</sub> is stronger than S<sub>2</sub>...
  - whenever is  $S_1$  satisfied,  $S_2$  is also satisfied
  - i.e., satisfying S<sub>1</sub> implies satisfying S<sub>2</sub>
- Changing from S<sub>2</sub> to S<sub>1</sub> (strengthening)...
  - cannot break any clients!
  - client works with any implementation satisfying  $S_2$  and that includes anything satisfying  $S_1$
- But what does this mean...
  - in terms of precondition and postcondition

### **Recall: Comparing Specifications**

- Specification S<sub>1</sub> is stronger than S<sub>2</sub> if it has...
  - a weaker precondition
     and the same postcondition
  - a stronger postcondition and the same precondition
  - (or both)



### **Comparing Specifications With Mutation**

- Specification S<sub>1</sub> is stronger than S<sub>2</sub> if it has...
- A stronger postcondition:
  - adds more to @returns
  - adds more to @effects
  - removes from @modifies
     promise is not to modify anything not listed
- A weaker precondition:
  - no change here

```
int commonElems(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
// Specification S1
// @modifies A, B
// @effects A is sorted and B is sorted
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
// A[i] also appears in B somewhere
// Specification S2
                                 How does S_1 relate to S_2?
// @modifies A, B
// @effects
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
       A[i] also appears in B somewhere
```

```
int commonElems(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
// Specification S3
// @modifies A, B
// @effects A is sorted
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
// A[i] also appears in B somewhere
// Specification S4
                                 How does S_3 relate to S_4?
// @modifies A
// @effects A is sorted
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
       A[i] also appears in B somewhere
```

```
int commonElems(List<Integer> A, List<Integer> B)
// Specification S1
// @modifies A, B
// @effects A is sorted and B is sorted
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
// A[i] also appears in B somewhere
// Specification S4
                                 How does S_1 relate to S_4?
// @modifies A
// @effects A is sorted
// @returns the number of indexes i such that
       A[i] also appears in B somewhere
```

## **Mutation in ADTs**

#### Recall: Mutable vs Immutable ADTs

Immutable
observers
mutators
producers

Mutable

✓

✓

✓

✓

(usually not)

- Sensible to pick one or the other
  - would be dangerous to provide both

will see why later on

### Recall: Specifying FastList

```
/**
       * A list of integers that can retrieve the last
       * element in O(1) time.
       */
      interface FastList {
        // Returns the last element of the list (O(1) time)
        // @requires obj /= nil
observer // @return last(obj)
        int getLast();
        // Returns the object as a regular list of items.
observer
        // @return obj
        List getList();
```

### Recall: Specifying FastList

```
/**
    * A list of integers that can retrieve the last
    * element in O(1) time.
    */
    interface FastList {
        ...
        /**
        * Returns a new list with x in front of this list.
producer    * @return x :: obj
        */
        FastList cons(int x);
```

How do we make this a mutator?

### **Specifying a Mutable FastList**

```
/**
 * A mutable list of integers that can retrieve the
 * last element in O(1) time.
 */
interface MutableFastList {
    ...
    /**
    * Adds x to the front of this list.
    * @modifies obj
    * @effects obj = x :: obj_0
    */
    void cons(int x);
```

Changes obj to have x at the beginning

### **Recall: Specifying Point**

```
/** Represents an (x, y) point in 2D space. */
interface Point {
   /** @return x */
   double getX();

   /** @return y */
   double getY();
```

- Abstract state is a pair (x, y)
  - i.e., we have (x, y) := obj
  - so, we can refer to "x" and "y"

### **Recall: Specifying Point**

```
/** Represents an (x, y) point in 2D space. */
interface Point {
   /** @return (x^2 + y^2)^(1/2) */
   double getR();

   /** @return arctan(y/x) */
   double getTheta();
```

#### Imperative specifications

- code may or may not actually do these calculations
- PolarPoint just returns the value in a field

## **Recall: Specifying Point**

```
/** Represents an (x, y) point in 2D space. */
interface Point {

   /** @return (x + dx, y + dy) */
   Point shiftBy(double dx, double dy);
```

How do we make this a mutator?

### **Specifying a Mutable Point**

```
/** Represents a mutable (x, y) point in 2D space. */
interface MutablePoint {

   /**
   * Moves the point right by dx and up by dy
   * @modifies obj
   * @effects obj = (x_0 + dx, y_0 + dy)
   */
   void shiftBy(double dx, double dy);
```

### Recall: Immutable Queue

- A queue is a list that can only be changed two ways:
  - add elements to the front
  - remove elements from the back

### **Mutable Queue**

```
// @return [x] ++ obj
NumberQueue enqueue(int x);
```

How do we make this mutable?

```
// @modifies obj
// @effects obj = [x] ++ obj_0
void enqueue(int x);
```

### **Mutable Queue**

```
// @requires len(obj) > 0
// @return (x, Q) with obj = Q ++ [x]
DequeueParts dequeue();
```

How do we make this mutable?

```
// @modifies obj
// @effects obj_0 = obj ++ [x]
// @return x
int dequeue();
```

### **Mutable Queue**

Note the symmetry between these operations:

```
// @modifies obj
// @effects obj = [x] ++ obj_0
void enqueue(int x);

// @modifies obj
// @effects obj_0 = obj ++ [x]
// @return x
int dequeue();
```

Which one of these is declarative?

### **Recall: Specifying Polynomials**

```
/**
 * Represents a polynomial with int coefficients.
 * This is a list of pairs (c, n), where each "c" is
 * called a coefficient and "n" an exponent.
 *
 * A polynomial can be thought of as a function whose
 * value at a given x is calculated as follows:
 *
 * value(nil, x) := 0
 * value((c, n) :: L, x) := c * x^n + value(L, x)
 */
interface IntPoly {
```

### **Recall: Specifying Polynomials**

```
/**
 * Represents a polynomial with int coefficients.
 * This is a list of pairs (c, n), ...
*/
interface IntPoly {
  /** @return value(obj, x) */
  int eval(int x);
                                      Which method(s) change
                                      in a mutable version?
  /** @return obj ++ p */
  IntPoly add(IntPoly p);
  // Returns the coefficient with exponent "m"
  // @return coeff(obj, m), where...
  int coeff(int n);
```

### **Mutable Polynomials**

```
// Returns a list that also includes p's pairs
// @return obj ++ p
IntPoly add(IntPoly p);
```

How do we make this mutable?

```
// Adds all the pairs in the given poly to this one
// @modifies obj
// @effects obj = obj_0 ++ p
void add(IntPoly p);
```

### **Converting Between Mutators and Producers**

- We can transform between these in general
  - assume that "T" is our interface

```
// @return f(obj, x)
T produce(int x);

1. change return type
2. change @return expression
into @effects obj = expression

// @modifies obj

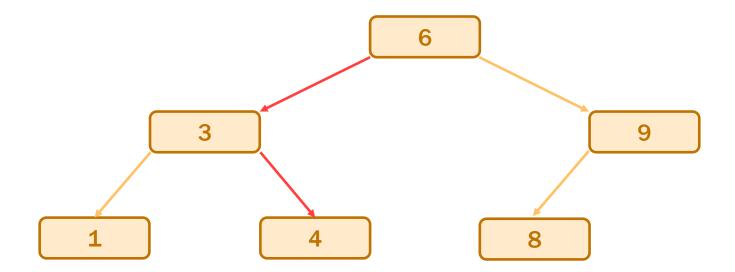
// @effects obj = f(obj_0, x)

void mutate(int x);
```

# Aliasing

# **Recall: Binary Search Trees**

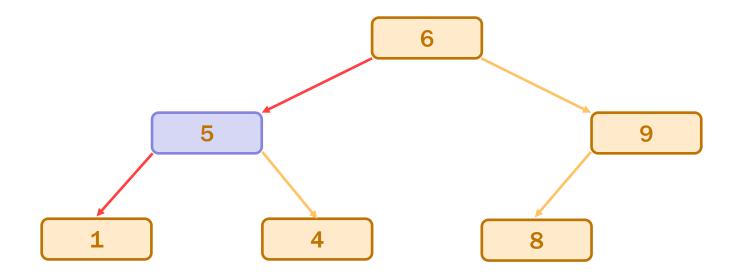
- Consider the following tree
  - searching for "4" proceeds as follows:



Suppose someone changed "3" into "5"...

## **Recall: Binary Search Trees**

- Suppose someone changed "3" into "5"...
  - now this happens when we search for "4":



- It can no longer be found!
  - Doesn't crash. It's just not found.
- Problem doesn't occur on the line with the change

# **Scary Bugs**

- Do not fear crashes
  - often no debugging at all
     get a stack trace that tells you exactly where it went wrong
- <u>Do</u> fear unexpected mutation
  - failure will give you no clue what went wrong
     will take a long time to realize the BST invariant was violated by mutation
  - bug could be almost anywhere in the code anyone who mutates a Location could have caused it
  - could take weeks to track it down

### **Another Example**

```
class Name {
                                 Somewhere else...
 private String first;
                                 Map<Name, Integer> M;
 private String last;
 public String toString() {
    return first + " " + last;
 public void capitalize() {
    this.first = first.substring(0, 1).toUpperCase()
        + first.substring(1);
    this.second = second.substring(0, 1).t
        + second.substring(1);
```

# Even Worse in C/C++

- C/C++ strings are mutable
  - commonly used as map keys
  - this sort of bug is still very common
- Java strings are immutable
  - was hugely controversial at the time in retrospect, it was clearly a good idea
  - other mutable types can still be used as keys

### **Aliases**

- Extra references to an object are called "aliases"
  - possible for any reference type
- Aliases are fine when objects are immutable
  - we don't care if someone else reads the data
  - we only care if someone mutates it
- Aliases are scary when objects are <u>mutable</u>...
  - creates the potential for failures far from bugs
  - that means painful debugging

### **Mutable Heap State**

- "With great power, comes great responsibility"
  - Uncle Ben
- With aliases to mutable heap state:
  - gain efficiency in some cases
  - must keep track of every alias that could mutate that state any alias, anywhere in the entire program could cause a bug
- **EJ 17**: minimize mutability in classes

### 1. Do not mutate heap state

- don't need to think about aliasing at all
- any number of aliases is fine

#### 2. Do not allow aliases...

create the state in your constructor and don't share it

```
class MyClass {
    // RI: vals is sorted
    private String[] vals;

public MyClass() {
    this.vals = new String[10]; // only reference
    ...
}
```

Not enough just to declare it "private"

```
class MyClass {
    // RI: vals is sorted
    private String[] vals;
    ...
    public String[] values() {
        return this.vals;
        this is "representation exposure"
        we will treat it as a bug
```

- anyone can get an alias by calling values ()
- "private" is a clue that aliases might be bad

- 2. Do not allow aliases
  - (a) do not hand out aliases yourself
    - return copies instead

- 2. Do not allow aliases
  - (b) make a copy of anything you want to keep
  - does not matter if the caller mutates the original

#### 1. Do not use mutable state

- don't need to think about aliasing at all
- any number of aliases is fine

#### 2. Do not allow aliases to *mutable* state

- a) do not hand out aliases yourself
- b) make a copy of anything you want to keep

ensures only <u>one</u> reference to the object (no aliases)

- For 331, mutable aliasing across files is a <u>bug!</u>
  - gives other parts the ability to break your code
  - we will stick to these simple strategies for avoiding it

## An Advanced (Two-Stage) Approach

- Mutable object has only one reference (owner)
  - one reference that is allowed to use & mutate it
- Object is eventually "frozen", making it immutable
  - no longer necessary to track ownership
- Example: Java's StringBuilder vs String
  - StringBuilder is mutable (be careful!)
  - StringBuilder.toString returns the value as a String
  - String is immutable

### **Rules of Thumb**

#### **Client Side**

#### 1. Data is small

anything on screen is O(1)

### 2. Aliasing is common

- UI design forces modules
- data is widely shared

#### **Rule:** avoid mutation

- create new values instead
- performance will be fine

### **Server Side**

### 1. Data is large

efficiency maters

### 2. Aliasing is avoidable

- you decide on modules
- data is <u>not</u> widely shared

#### Rule: avoid aliases

- do not allow aliases to your data
- hand out copies not aliases
- (good enough for us in 331)

### **Using List**

• Same issue arises with List as with arrays

```
class MyClass {
    // RI: vals is sorted
    private List<String> vals;

public List<String> values() {
    return this.vals; // unsafe
};
```

- since a List is mutable, we cannot create aliases

### **Another Alternative**

With List, a third option is sometimes used:

```
class MyClass {
    // RI: vals is sorted
    private List<String> vals;

public List<String> values() {
    return Collections.unmodifiableList(this.vals);
};
```

- throws an exception when mutators are called
- runs in O(1) time instead of O(n) to copy

Can this change break the client?

### **Another Alternative**

- This can break clients
  - this works with a copy

```
MyClass m = ...;
List<String> list = m.values()
list.add("another");
```

- but not with UnmodifiableList
- Specification must make clear the behavior
  - how do the two options relate?

### **Another Alternative**

- These two are incomparable
  - they have differing behavior
  - client can work with one but not the other and v.v.
- How is this possible when both return List?
  - the unmodifiable list does not implement List!
    the spec doesn't let you throw on any call to add
  - this is a terrible idea
     but occasionally necessary in extreme circumstances
- Really these are different return types
  - would be better to make then different interfaces

### **Unmodifiable View**

- Unmodifiable list is a "view" of the underlying list
- It changes whenever the underlying list changes
  - updates to that list show up in the view immediately
  - it is not a copy of the data at that point
- This can lead to difficult bugs
  - do not use such a view as a key in a map
  - any alias to it can mutate it at any point

### **Unmodifiable View**

- Why would someone do this?
- Like most CS bugs, it is for performance
  - we all know that O(1) is better than O(n)
- But most client uses are O(n) anyway!
  - client probably wants to loop through the list
  - in that case, there is no O(..) gain to
- We will stick to immutable or copying (no aliases)

"Designing modules is the heart of software design."

— Michael Ernst

- In Java, a "module" is a file or a top-level class
- Module design is an enormous subject
  - can look for many properties such as decomposability, composability, understandability, continuity, isolation
- We will keep things simpler...

- Modules should have
  - high cohesion
  - low coupling
- Cohesion: the parts go together
  - they all serve one purpose or represent one concept
  - examples: an ADT, java.util.Arrays
  - non-example: one class for sorting, drawing, & printing
  - primarily about the specification

- Modules should have
  - high cohesion
  - low coupling
- Coupling: the parts only understandable together
  - must learn both to understand either
  - example: an immutable ADT
  - non-example: a mutable ADT that allows aliases
     must understand how all aliases are used to know if it's correct
  - primarily about the implementation
  - will see another non-example next time..

## **Coupling Is Bad**

- Coupling makes the code less understandable
  - truth for both humans and Al
  - highly coupling becomes "spaghetti code"
  - often shows up as a "god class"
- Coupling makes the code hard to change
  - all the interrelated parts may require changes
- Coupling creates potential for painful debugging
  - bugs in one piece can cause failures in another
  - e.g., any misuse of an alias can break use by any other alias

# **Subclasses**

### **Subclasses**

- Subclassing is a means of sharing code
  - subclass gets parent fields & methods (unless overridden)

```
class Product {
 private String name;
 private int price;
 public String getName() {return name; }
 public int getPrice() { return price; }
class SaleProduct extends Product {
 private float discount;
 public int getPrice() {
    return (1 - discount) * super.getPrice();
```

### **Subclasses**

- Subclassing is a surprisingly dangerous feature
- Subclassing tends to break modularity
  - creates tight coupling between super- and sub-class
  - often see the "fragile base class" problem changes to super class often break subclasses
- Let's see some examples...

# **Example 1: Tight Coupling**

```
class Product {
 private int price;
  public int getPrice() { return price; }
  // @returns true iff obj's price < p's price
  public boolean isCheaperThan(Product p) {
    return getPrice() < p.getPrice();</pre>
class SaleProduct extends Product {
 public int getPrice() {
    return (1 - discount) * super.getPrice();
```

looks okay so far...

# **Example 1: Tight Coupling**

```
class Product {
  private int price;
  public int getPrice() { return price; }
  // @returns true iff obj's price < p's price
  public boolean isCheaperThan(Product p) {
    return this.price < p.price;</pre>
                      Made it faster by eliminating a method call!
class SaleProduct extends Product {
  public int getPrice() {
    return (1 - discount) * super.getPrice();
                      What's wrong?
                      Oops! Broke the subclass
```

# **Example 2: Tight Coupling**

```
class InstrumentedHashSet extends HashSet<Integer> {
 private static int count = 0;
 public boolean add(Integer e) {
    count += 1;
   return super.add(e);
 public boolean addAll(Collection<Integer> c) {
    count += c.size();
   return super.addAll(c);
 public int getCount() { return count; }
```

– what could possibly go wrong?

# **Example 2: Tight Coupling**

```
InstrumentedHashSet S = new InstrumentedHashSet();
System.out.println(S.getCount()); // 0
S.addAll(Arrays.asList(1, 2));
System.out.println(S.getCount()); // 4?!?
```

- what does this print?
- What is printed depends on HashSet's addAll:
  - if it calls add, then this prints 4
  - if it does not call add, then this prints 2
- Also possible to be dependent on order of calls

# **Subclassing Creates Tight Coupling**

- Creates tight coupling between super- and sub-class
- Example 1: super-class needs to know about subclass
  - direct field access in parent breaks subclass
- Example 2: subclass needs to know about super-class
  - subclass dependent on which methods call each other
- But wait... There's more!

## **Example 3: Tight Coupling**

```
class WorkList {
  // RI: len(names) = len(times) and total = sum(times)
  protected ArrayList<String> names;
  protected ArrayList<Integer> times;
 protected int total;
  public addWork(Job job) {
    addToLists(job.getName(), job.getTime());
    total += job.getTime();
  protected addToLists(String name, int time) {
    names.add(name);
    times.add(time);
```

## **Example 3: Tight Coupling**

```
// Makes sure no task is too large compared to rest
class BalancedWorkList extends WorkList {
  protected addToLists(String name, int time) {
    if (times.size() <= 3 || 2*time < total)
      super.addToLists(name, time); // okay
    } else {
     throw new ImbalancedWorkException(name, time);
    }
}</pre>
```

- prevents item from being added if too big
- (also: this subclass is not a subtype!)

# **Example 3: Tight Coupling**

```
class WorkList {
    // RI: len(names) = len(times) and total = sum(times)
    protected ArrayList<String> names;
    protected ArrayList<Integer> times;
    protected int total;

public addWork(Job job) {
    int time = job.getTime(); // just one call
    total += time;
    addToLists(job.getName(), time);
}

RI not true in method call
}
```

- reordering the updates breaks the subclass!
- subclass is using total that includes the new job

# **Example 3: Tight Coupling**

- RI can be false in calls to non-public methods
  - only needs to hold at end of the public method
- Requires extra care to get it right
  - method is tightly coupled with the ones that call it
  - needs to know what is true in those methods
     not enough to just know the RI
- Hard for multiple people to communicate this clearly
  - can be okay when it's all your code
  - very error prone when methods are written by others

# **Subclassing Creates Tight Coupling**

- Creates tight coupling between super- and sub-class
  - direct field access can break subclass
  - subclass dependent on which methods call each other
  - subclass dependent on order of method calls
  - subclass can be called when RI is false
- Often see the "fragile base class" problem
- Subclassing is a surprisingly dangerous feature!
  - up to you to verify subclass method specs are stronger
  - up to you to prevent tight coupling

## **Subclassing is Best Avoided**

- **EJ 19**: either design for subclassing or prohibit it
  - from Josh Bloch, author of (much of) the Java libraries
- We haven't used subclassing in our ADTs
  - we used interfaces and implemented them with classes
  - these problems are the main reason why we avoided it
- Subclassing is not necessary anyway
  - we have other ways to share code
  - EJ 18: prefer composition to inheritance

# **Equality**

## **Equity of User-Defined Types**

- For any type, useful to know which are "the same"
- Java "==" is not useful on records:

```
new Integer(1) == new Integer(1) // false!
```

- this is "reference equality"
- tells you if they refer to the same object in memory
- Checking if the fields are the same is also wrong
  - different concrete states can have same abstract state

#### **Storing a List In Two Parts**

```
// Stores a list, split in two parts.
class ListPair implements List {
    // AF: obj = this.front ++ this.back
    private List front;
    private List back;
```

– three ways of representing the same abstract state:

front	back	front # back
[1, 2]		[1, 2]
[1]	[2]	[1, 2]
	[1, 2]	[1, 2]

– same abstract states should be considered equal!

#### Recall: HW3

```
/**
 * Represents an immutable collection of integers.
 * Clients can think of a set as a list of integers. However, they can only ask
 * if an integer is present or not. The order of the integers does not matter.
 * The number of times that an integer appears in the list does not matter.
 */
public interface IntSet {
  /**
                                                     The abstract state allows duplicates,
   * Determines whether n is in the list.
                                                     but clients can't tell.
   * Oparam n the number to look for in the list
   * @returns contains(n, obj), where
         contains(n, nil) := false
         contains(n, m :: L) := true
                                                if m = n
         contains(n, m :: L) := contains(n, L) if m /= n
   */
  public boolean contains(int n);
  /**
   * Creates and returns a new list containing n as well as all of obj.
   * Oparam n the number to add to the new list.
   * @returns n :: obj
   */
  public IntSet add(int n);
```

#### **Equality on Sets**

Suppose our concrete representation is:

```
// RI: this.list has no duplicates
// AF: obj = this.list
private List list;
```

- Method add returns a different list than the spec
  - spec says add(1) on [1] returns [1, 1]
  - if the code add a second 1, abstract state is still [1]
- Need "equal" that says these states are "the same"
  - two abstract states are equal if they contain the same values

```
equal(L, R) := true iff contains(x, L) = contains(x, R) for any x
```

# **Equality**

- Often useful / necessary to define your own equal
  - check if references point to records that are "the same"
- Sensible definition should act like "=" in math:
  - 1. equal(a, a) = T for any a : A

reflexive

2. equal(a, b) = equal(b, a) for any a, b : A

symmetric

3. if equal(a, b) and equal(b, c), then equal(a, c) for any ...

transitive

- (311 alert: this is an "equivalence relation")
- Java has two more rules for Object.equal

#### **Java Equals**

Jave requires the following parts:

```
1. a.equals(a) = true
```

3. a.equals(b) and b.equals(c) means a.equals(c)

4. a.equals(null) = false asymmetric with null

5. a.equals(b) cannot change value consistency unless a or b is mutated

#### **Equals in Java**

- Every class inherits an equals method
  - this implements reference equality

```
public class Object {
   public boolean equals(Object o) {
     return this == o;
   }
}
```

Make your own equals by overriding it:

```
public class MyClass {
   public boolean equals(Object o) {
      // ... new code here ...
   }
}
```

## **Example: Duration**

- Define Duration to be an amount of time in seconds
  - one representation stores separate minutes and seconds

```
type Duration = {min : \mathbb{Z}, sec : \mathbb{Z}} with 0 \le \sec < 60
```

- second part is a rep invariant
- Can define equality on Duration this way:

```
equal(\{min: m, sec: s\}, \{min: n, sec: t\}) := (m = n) and (s = t)
```

true iff these are the same amount of time

(wouldn't be true without the invariant)

## **Example: Duration**

```
equal(\{min: m, sec: s\}, \{min: n, sec: t\}) := \{m = n\} and \{s = t\}
```

#### Does this have the required properties?

#### reflexive

```
\begin{array}{l} equal(\{min: m, sec: s\}, \{min: m, sec: s\}) \\ = (m = m) \ and \ (s = s) \\ = T \ and \ T \\ = T \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{def of equal} \\ \text{proof by calculation} \\ \text{that it holds for any record} \end{array}
```

#### symmetric

```
\begin{array}{l} \text{equal}(\{\text{min: m, sec: s}\}, \{\text{min: n, sec: t}\}) \\ = (m=n) \text{ and } (s=t) & \text{def of equal} \\ = (n=m) \text{ and } (t=s) \\ = \text{equal}(\{\text{min: n, sec: t}\}, \{\text{min: m, sec: s}\}) & \text{def of equal} \end{array}
```

## **Example: Duration**

```
equal(\{min: m, sec: s\}, \{min: n, sec: t\}) := \{m = n\} and \{s = t\}
```

Does this have the required properties?

reflexiveyes

symmetricyes

transitive also yes (but a little long for a slide)

Good evidence that this is a reasonable definition

# Non-Example: "==" in JavaScript

```
0 == "0" true
0 == "" true
0 == "" true
```

- Which property fails?
  - transitivity: "" != " "
- Good evidence that this is not a reasonable definition

#### **Example: Duration in Java**

```
// Represents an amount of time measured in seconds
class Duration {
    // RI: 0 <= sec < 60
    // AF: obj = 60 * this.min + this.sec
    private int min;
    private int sec;

public boolean equals(Duration d) {
    return this.min == d.min && this.sec == d.sec;
};</pre>
```

- What is wrong with this?
  - it doesn't override equals (Object)

#### **Example: Duration in Java**

```
// Represents an amount of time measured in seconds
class Duration {
   // RI: 0 <= sec < 60
   // AF: obj = 60 * this.min + this.sec
   private int min;
   private int sec;

   public boolean equals(Object o) {
      return this.min == o.min && this.sec == o.sec;
   };</pre>
```

- What is wrong with this?
  - it doesn't compile

#### **Example: Duration in Java**

```
// Represents an amount of time measured in seconds
class Duration {
  // RI: 0 \le sec \le 60
 // AF: obj = 60 * this.min + this.sec
 private int min;
 private int sec;
 public boolean equals(Object o) {
    if (!(o instanceof Duration))
      return false;
    Duration d = (Duration) o;
    return this.min == d.min && this.sec == d.sec;
```

Correct and idiomatic Java

Suppose a subclass also measures nanoseconds

```
class NanoDuration extends Duration {
   // min: number (inherited)
   // sec: number (inherited)
   private int nano;
...
```

How should we define equal?

```
class NanoDuration extends Duration {
  // min: number (inherited)
  // sec: number (inherited)
  private int nano;
  public boolean equals(Object o) {
    if (!(o instanceof NanoDuration)) {
     return false;
    NanoDuration n = (NanoDuration) o;
    return this.min === n.min &&
           this.sec === n.sec &&
           this.nano === n.nano;
```

symmetry

Which property does this lack?

```
Duration d = new Duration(2, 10);
NanoDuration n = new NanoDuration(2, 10, 300);
System.out.println(n.equals(d)); // false
System.out.println(d.equals(n)); // true!
```

- NanoDuration is only equal to other NanoDurations
- Duration can be equal to a NanoDuration if they have the same minutes and seconds

```
class NanoDuration extends Duration {
  public boolean equals(Object o) {
    if (!(o instanceof Duration))
     return false;
    if (!(o instanceof NanoDuration)) {
      Duration d = (Duration) o;
      return this.min == d.min && this.sec == d.sec;
    } else {
      NanoDuration n = (NanoDuration) o;
      return this.min === d.min &&
        this.sec === d.sec && this.nano === d.nano;
  };
```

Fixes symmetry! all good now?

No! It lacks transitivity

```
NanoDuration n1 = new NanoDuration(2, 10, 300);
Duration d = new Duration(2, 10);
NanoDuration n2 = new NanoDuration(2, 10, 400);
System.out.println(n1.equals(d)); // true
System.out.println(d.equals(n2)); // true
System.out.println(n1.equals(n2));// false!
```

– transitivity requires n1 to equal n2 (but it doesn't)

- Can fix this instead as follows:
  - have both agree that Duration ≠ NanoDuration

This is arguably the most sensible answer...

Should have spelled out the abstract states:

- Abstract states of the two types are different
  - time in seconds vs nanoseconds
  - two different types of things should not be equal

#### **Duration and NanoDuration**

- We fixed it... but at what cost?
- Duration and NanoDuration are tightly coupled
  - the two classes are tightly intertwined
- This usually happens with subclasses
  - saw several different ways they are interdependent
  - very hard to avoid coupling between subclasses
     <u>EJ 19</u>: either design for subclassing or prohibit it
  - better to simply not use it
     find other ways to share code (e.g., shared utility functions etc.)

#### HashCode in Java

Java has another method called hashCode

```
public int hashCode();
```

- Should override hashCode and equals together
  - almost certainly a bug to only override equals

#### Java HashCode

- Java has another method called hashCode
  - provided to make HashMap etc. work

```
public int hashCode();
```

- Its spec has the following requirements:
  - 1. a.hashCode() cannot change value unless a is mutated self-consistency

#### **Equals & HashCode in Java**

Every class inherits a hashCode method

```
public class Object {
   public int hashCode() {
      // ... consistent with reference equality ...
   }
}
```

- When you override equals, also override hashCode
  - almost certainly a bug to only override equals

```
public class MyClass {
  public int hashCode() {
    // ... something consistent with new equality ...
  }
}
```