Object Orientation
Definitions

Give definitions for the following:
- Object-oriented language
- Object-oriented programming

Then again, why bother?
Observations

- Object-oriented programming is not the same as programming in an object-oriented language
- Object-oriented languages are not all like Java
Outline

■ 16.2 Object-oriented programming
  - OO in ML
  - Non-OO in Java

■ 16.3 Object-oriented language features
  - Classes
  - Prototypes
  - Inheritance
  - Encapsulation
  - Polymorphism
public class Node {
    private String data;
    private Node link;
    public Node(String theData, Node theLink) {
        data = theData;
        link = theLink;
    }
    public String getData() {
        return data;
    }
    public Node getLink() {
        return link;
    }
}

A previous Java example: a node used to build a stack of strings
Node Class

- Two fields, `data` and `link`
- One constructor that sets `data` and `link`
- Two methods: `getData` and `getLink`
- In the abstract, an object takes a message ("get data", "get link") and produces a response (a String or another object)
- An object is a bit like a function of type `message->response`
datatype message =
    GetData
  | GetLink;

datatype response =
    Data of string
  | Object of message -> response;

fun node data link GetData = Data data
  | node data link GetLink = Object link;

Same OO idea in ML.

We have a type for messages and a type for responses.
To construct a node we call node, passing the first two parameters.
Result is a function of type message -> response.
Node Examples

- val n1 = node "Hello" null;
val n1 = fn : message -> response
- val n2 = node "world" n1;
val n2 = fn : message -> response
- n1 GetData;
val it = Data "Hello" : response
- n2 GetData;
val it = Data "world" : response

- Objects responding to messages
- *null* has to be something of the object type (*message*->*response*); we could use

  fun null _ = Data "null";
Stack Class

- One field, `top`
- Three methods: `hasMore`, `add`, `remove`
- Implemented using a linked list of `node` objects
datatype message =
  | IsNull
  | Add of string
  | HasMore
  | Remove
  | GetData
  | GetLink;

datatype response =
  | Pred of bool
  | Data of string
  | Removed of (message -> response) * string
  | Object of message -> response;

fun root _ = Pred false;

Expanded vocabulary of messages and responses, for both node and stack

Root class handles all messages by returning Pred false
fun null IsNull = Pred true |
  null message = root message;

fun node data link GetData = Data data |
  node data link GetLink = Object link |
  node _ _ message = root message;

fun stack top HasMore = 
  let val Pred(p) = top IsNull
     in Pred(not p) end |
  stack top (Add data) = 
    Object(stack (node data top)) |
  stack top Remove = 
    let
      val Object(next) = top GetLink
      val Data(data) = top GetData
    in
      Removed(stack next, data)
    end |
  stack _ message = root message;
val a = stack null;
val a = fn : message -> response
val b = fn : message -> response
val Object(b) = a (Add "the plow.");
val c = fn : message -> response
val Object(c) = b (Add "forgives ");
val d = fn : message -> response
val Object(d) = c (Add "The cut worm ");
val e = fn : message -> response
val s1 = "The cut worm " : string
val Removed(e,s1) = d Remove;
val f = fn : message -> response
val s2 = "forgives " : string
val Removed(f,s2) = e Remove;
val s3 = "the plow." : string
val Removed(_,s3) = f Remove;
s1^s2^s3;
val it = "The cut worm forgives the plow." : string
Inheritance, Sort Of

Here is a **peekableStack** like the one in Java from Chapter Fifteen:

```plaintext
fun peekableStack top Peek = top GetData
| peekableStack top message = stack top message;
```

This style is rather like a Smalltalk system

- Message passing
- Messages not statically typed
- Unhandled messages passed back to superclass
Thoughts

- Obviously, not a good way to use ML
  - Messages and responses not properly typed
  - No compile-time checking of whether a given object can handle a given message

- (Objective CAML is a dialect that integrates OO features into ML)

- The point is: it’s possible

- OO programming is not the same as programming in an OO language
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  - Polymorphism
Java

- Java is better than ML at supporting an object-oriented style of programming
- But using Java is no guarantee of object-orientation
  - Can use static methods
  - Can put all code in one big class
  - Can use classes as records—public fields and no methods, like C structures
Classes Used As Records

```java
public class Node {
    public String data; // Each node has a String...
    public Node link;   // ...and a link to the next Node
}

public class Stack {
    public Node top;   // The top node in the stack
}
```
A Non-OO Stack

public class Main {
    private static void add(Stack s, String data) {
        Node n = new Node();
        n.data = data;
        n.link = s.top;
        s.top = n;
    }
    private static boolean hasMore(Stack s) {
        return (s.top!=null);
    }
    private static String remove(Stack s) {
        Node n = s.top;
        s.top = n.link;
        return n.data;
    }
    ...
}

Note direct references to public fields—no methods required, data and code completely separate
Polymorphism

- In Chapter Fifteen: Worklist interface implemented by Stack, Queue, etc.
- There is a common trick to support this kind of thing in non-OO solutions
- Each record starts with an element of an enumeration, identifying what kind of Worklist it is...
A Non-OO Worklist

```java
public class Worklist {
    public static final int STACK = 0;
    public static final int QUEUE = 1;
    public static final int PRIORITYQUEUE = 2;
    public int type; // one of the above Worklist types
    public Node front; // front Node in the list
    public Node rear; // unused when type==STACK
    public int length; // unused when type==STACK
}
```

The `type` field says what kind of `Worklist` it is.

Meanings of other fields depend on `type`.

Methods that manipulate `Worklist` records must branch on `type`...
Branch On Type

private static void add(Worklist w, String data) {
    if (w.type==Worklist.STACK) {
        Node n = new Node();
        n.data = data;
        n.link = w.front;
        w.front = n;
    }
    else if (w.type==Worklist.QUEUE) {
        the implementation of add for queues
    }
    else if (w.type==Worklist.PRIORITYQUEUE) {
        the implementation of add for priority queues
    }
}

Every method that operates on a Worklist will have to repeat this branching pattern
Drawbacks

- Repeating the branching code is tedious and error-prone
- Depending on the language, there may be no way to avoid wasting space if different kinds of records require different fields
- Some common maintenance tasks are hard—like adding a new kind of record
OO Advantages

- When you call an interface method, language system automatically dispatches to the right implementation for the object
- Different implementations of an interface do not have to share fields
- Adding a new class that implements an interface is easy—no need to modify existing code
Thoughts

- OO programming is not the same as programming in an OO language
  - Can be done in a non-OO language
  - Can be avoided in an OO language

- Usually, an OO language and an OO programming style do and should go together
  - You usually get a worse ML design by using an OO style
  - You usually get a better Java design by using an OO style (hint: avoid enumerations)
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   - Prototypes
   - Inheritance
   - Encapsulation
   - Polymorphism
Classes

- Most OO languages, including Java, have some kind of class construct
- Classes serve a variety of purposes, depending on the language:
  - Group fields and methods together
  - Are *instantiable*: the running program can create as many objects of a class as it needs
  - Serve as the unit of inheritance: derived class inherits from base class or classes
Classes

More purposes:

- Serve as a type: objects (or references to them) can have a class or superclass name as their static type
- House *static* fields and methods: one per class, not one per instance
- Serve as a labeled namespace; control the visibility of contents outside the class definition
Without Classes

- Imagine an OO language with no classes
- With classes, you create objects by instantiating a class
- Without classes, you could create an object from scratch by listing all its methods and fields on the spot
- Or, you could clone an existing *prototype* object and then modify parts of it
```java
x = new Stack();

x = {
    private Node top = null;
    public boolean hasMore() {
        return (top!=null);
    }
    public String remove() {
        Node n = top;
        top = n.getLink();
        return n.getData();
    }
    ...
}

x = y.clone();
x.top = null;
```

With classes:
- instantiation

Without classes:
- raw object creation

Without classes:
- prototype cloning
Prototypes

- A *prototype* is an object that is copied to make similar objects.
- When making copies, a program can modify the values of fields, and can add or remove fields and methods.
- Prototype-based languages (like Self) use this concept instead of classes.
Without Classes

- Instantiation is only one use of classes
- Other things prototype-based languages must do without:
  - Classes as types: most prototype-based languages are dynamically typed
  - Inheritance: prototype-based languages use a related dynamic technique called *delegation*
Inheritance

- Simple enough in outline
  - Set up a relationship between two classes: a derived class and a base class
  - Derived class gets things from the base class

- But what a derived class gets from the base class (or classes) depends on the language…
Inheritance Questions

■ More than one base class allowed?
  – Single inheritance: Smalltalk, Java
  – Multiple inheritance: C++, CLOS, Eiffel

■ Forced to inherit everything?
  – Java: derived class inherits all methods, fields
  – Sather: derived class can rename inherited methods (useful for multiple inheritance), or just undefine them
Inheritance Questions

- Universal base class?
  - A class from which all inherit: Java’s `Object`
  - No such class: C++

- Specification inherited?
  - Method obligations, as in Java
  - More specification: invariants, as in Eiffel

- Types inherited?
  - Java: all types of the base class
Inheritance Questions

- Overriding, hiding, etc.?
  - Java, roughly (skipping many details):
    - Constructors can access base-class constructors with `super`; implicit call of no-arg super constructor
    - New instance method of the same name and type overrides inherited one; overridden one can be called using `super`
    - New field or static method hides inherited ones; still accessible using `super` or base class static types

- Languages differ considerably
Encapsulation

- Found in virtually all modern programming languages, not just OO ones
- Encapsulated program parts:
  - Present a controlled interface
  - Hide everything else
- In OO languages, objects are encapsulated
- Different languages do it differently
Visibility Of Fields And Methods

- **Java**: four levels of visibility
  - `private`: only within class
  - Default access: throughout package
  - `protected`: package + derived classes
  - `public`: everywhere

- Some OO languages (Smalltalk, LOOPS, Self) have less control: everything public

- Others have more: in Eiffel, features can be exposed to a specific set of client classes
Polymorphism

- Found in many languages, not just OO ones
- Special variation in many OO languages:
  - When different classes have methods of the same name and type, like a stack class and a queue class that both have an `add` method
  - When language permits a call of that method in contexts where the class of the object is not known statically
Example: Java

```java
public static void flashoff(Drawable d, int k) {
    for (int i = 0; i < k; i++) {
        d.show(0,0);
        d.hide();
    }
}
```

- Here, `Drawable` is an interface
- Class of object referred to by `d` is not known at compile time
Dynamic Dispatch

- In Java, static type of the reference may be a superclass or interface of the actual class
- At runtime, the language system must find the right method for the actual class
- That’s *dynamic dispatch*: the hidden, implicit branch-on-class to implement method calls
- Optional in C++; always used in Java and most other OO languages
Implementation And Type

- In Java, two mechanisms:
  - A class inherits both types and implementation from its base class
  - A class gets additional types (but no implementation) by implementing interfaces

- Partially separates inheritance of implementation and inheritance of type

- Other OO languages differ in how much they separate these two
Implementation And Type

In C++, no separation:
- One mechanism for general inheritance
- For inheriting type only, you can use an abstract base class with no implementations

In Sather, complete separation:
- A class can declare that it includes another class, inheriting implementation but not type
- A class can declare that it is a subclass of an abstract class, inheriting type but not implementation (like Java interfaces)
About Dynamic Typing

- Some OO languages use dynamic typing: Smalltalk, Self
- An object may or may not be able to respond to a particular message—no compile-time check (like our ML trick)
- Total freedom: program can try using any method for any object
- Polymorphism is not relevant here
Conclusion

- Today, a cosmopolitan perspective:
  - Object-oriented programming is not the same as programming in an object-oriented language
  - Object-oriented languages are not all like Java
- There is no single OO programming style or set of OO language features: they are often debated and they are evolving
- Be skeptical of definitions!