Administrivia

 Reminder: Homework 1 design due today. Code due next Thursday. Next two classes should cover enough material for you to do what's needed.

A request: You will turn in almost all work for this course by e-mail. Please do
include the name or number of the course in the subject line of your message,
plus something about which assignment it is, to help me get it into the correct
folder for grading.

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More Administrivia

- Two options for transferring files between machines:
 - Simple, not particularly smart: Just copy . java files between machines.
 Several options.
 - More complicated to get started, more professional: Use CVS (versioning software, Eclipse has built-in support).
- Some instructions in project description . . .

Java Basics Example, Continued

• Let's try to quickly write some more of the methods of that Account class

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Arrays, Briefly

- Syntax is like C, except for explicit new:
 - int[] x = new int[10]; creates 10 integers.
 - String[] args = new String[20]; creates 20 references
 to strings.

- Arrays are "first-class" objects, with length variable.
- Java checks for out-of-bounds array references.

Miscellaneous Other Stuff

- No operator overloading (except "+" for String class).
- On reference variables, = and == operate on references, not objects. (So, you may instead want copy constructors or equals ().)
- No C-style strings, but a String class.
- A little about packages, and Java "generics" (new with 5.0), later.

UML Class Diagrams

 "Unified Modeling Language" — formal graphic representation of software analysis and design.

Many types of diagrams, some of which you'll probably encounter in other courses. Tools exist for drawing them, but worth noting that they were designed to be whiteboard-friendly.

- We will mainly use class diagrams:
 - Box representing a class has name, attributes, operations.
 - Subclass points to its superclass (represents the path to follow to figure out inheritance).

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Inheritance (Short Version)

- Given a class, it can be useful to define specialized versions "subclasses".
- A subclass inherits attributes and operations from its superclass (which can in turn have a superclass ...).

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• Subclasses also form "subtypes" — e.g., if CheckingAccount is a subclass of Account, can use a CheckingAccount anywhere we need an Account.

Polymorphism (Short Version)

- "Many shapes" something that works with many types.
- E.g., a function that works on Accounts should work on CheckingAccounts, SavingsAccounts, ...

Inheritance and Code Reuse

• If class Account defines private double balance; public double getBalance(); then if SavingsAccount is a subclass of Account, SavingsAccount also has variable balance and method getBalance.

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- This can be a good way to reduce code duplication.
- If it's not what you want, subclasses can "override" methods (or variables but this is not usually a good idea).
- Or a superclass can leave methods unimplemented; subclasses must then
 define (maybe differently for different classes). E.g., for Account, if we
 make deposit and withdraw abstract, each subclass must provide its
 own code.

Inheritance and Subtypes

 In the bank-account example, class Account defines a type, and SavingsAccount and CheckingAccount are subtypes. Anywhere we need a Account, we can use a SavingsAccount — e.g., Account s = new SavingsAccount();

(but not SavingsAccount s = new Account();)

- So we could have an array of Accounts, whose elements could be SavingsAccounts or CheckingAccounts.
- Let's write more code for that example ...

Minute Essay

 What changes would you make to the bank-account example to allow paying interest on accounts? (Would you add variables and/or methods? To what class(es)?)

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Minute Essay Answer

- There should probably be a method addInterest, and I think it should be in Account, at least as an abstract method. Beyond that there are some decisions to make:
- Do all accounts pay interest the same way, or is it different for different types?
 if it's the same for all, code can go in Account, otherwise it needs to go in subclasses.
- Do all accounts pay interest at the same rate, or is it different for different types, or even for different individual accounts? if it's different for different account, it probably should be an instance variable.
- Is the rate the same every time, or does it change (e.g., varies from month to month)? If it changes, it probably should be a parameter to addInterest rather than being an instance variable.