

INHERITANCE

Also known as "Generalization"

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CLASS ROLES



Parent Superclass Base class Ancestor

Child Subclass Derived class Descendant

- Each related class plays a distinct role
 - Parent/Child
 - Superclass/Subclass
 - Base class/derived class
 - Ancestor/Descendant
- UML symbol is a line with a hollow, three-sided arrowhead at one end and undecorated at the other end

UML INHERITANCE SYMBOL

• Two styles used

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- Individual arrows for a few subclasses
- Shared arrows for many subclasses
- Generalization
 - car is general
 - sedan and convertible are more specific



INHERITANCE SEMANTICS / MEANING

• An is a relationship

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- A sedan is a car
- A convertible is a car
- Each subclass inherits all features (members) defined in the superclass
 - Inheritance is a kind of code reuse subclasses do not need to redefine features
 - If a car has a color variable, then both sedan and convertible inherit the color
 - If a car has a start function, both sedan and convertible inherit the function



IMPLEMENTING INHERITANCE

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES















BINDING STRENGTH LIFETIME AND SHARING

 Parent is strongly/tightly bound to child

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- Parent and child are created and destroyed simultaneously (they live and die at the same time)
- The child does not share its parent *object* with any other object

