Overriding function equals

```java
/** = “Object ob has class C & equals this object */
public boolean equals(Object ob)
```

type must be Object.

c1.equals(new Integer(5)) is false
Overriding function equals

/**
* = "Object ob has class C & equals this object */
* public boolean equals( Object ob )

But it should be an equality relation!
For c1, c2, c3 not null and of the same class

Reflexive: c1.equals(c1) is true.

Symmetric: c1.equals(c2) and c2.equals(c1) yield same value.

Transitive: If c1.equals(c2) and c2.equals(c3) are true, then so is c1.equals(c3).
Specifying equals

equals(Obj)

Make specification *abstract*:

in terms of the meaning of the class, not always in terms of fields, which the user may not know about.

Example: String equality:

/\*\* = “ob is a String and contains the same sequence of characters as this String”. */