Polymorphism

Polymorphism means "many forms", and it occurs when we have many classes that are related to each other by inheritance.The word “poly” means many and “morphs” means forms, So it means many forms.

Like we specified in the previous chapter; Inheritance lets us inherit attributes and methods from another class. Polymorphism uses those methods to perform different tasks. This allows us to perform a single action in different ways.

For example, think of a superclass called `Animal` that has a method called `animalSound()`. Subclasses of Animals could be Pigs, Cats, Dogs, Birds - And they also have their own implementation of an animal sound (the pig oinks, and the cat meows, etc.):

Example

```
class Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The animal makes a sound");
  }
}

class Pig extends Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The pig says: wee wee");
  }
}

class Dog extends Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The dog says: bow wow");
  }
}
```

Now we can create `Pig` and `Dog` objects and call the `animalSound()` method on both of them:

```
class Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The animal makes a sound");
  }
}

class Pig extends Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The pig says: wee wee");
  }
}

class Dog extends Animal {
  public void animalSound() {
    System.out.println("The dog says: bow wow");
  }
}

class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Animal myAnimal = new Animal();  // Create a Animal object
    Animal myPig = new Pig();  // Create a Pig object
    Animal myDog = new Dog();  // Create a Dog object
    myAnimal.animalSound();
    myPig.animalSound();
    myDog.animalSound();
  }
}
```

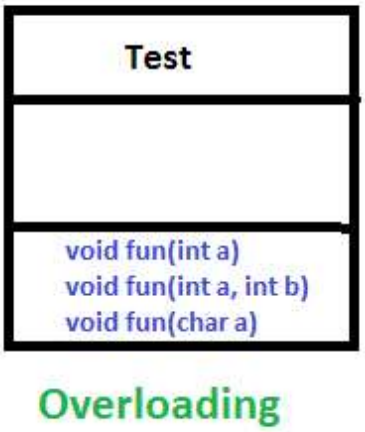
In Java polymorphism is mainly divided into two types:

- Compile-time Polymorphism
- Runtime Polymorphism

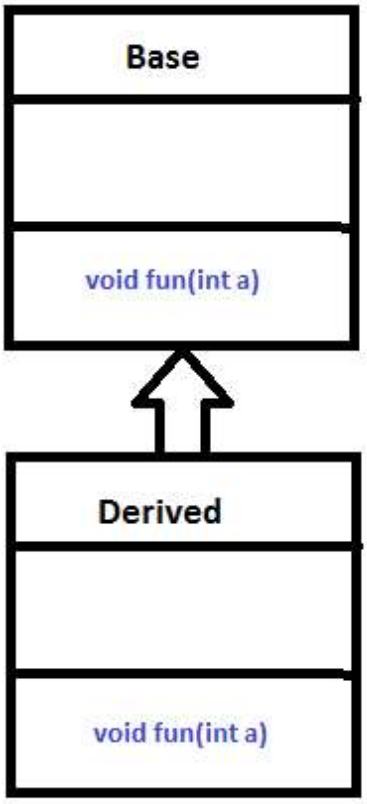
Type 1: Compile-time polymorphism

It is also known as static polymorphism. This type of polymorphism is achieved by function overloading or operator overloading.

Note: *But Java doesn't support the Operator Overloading.*



Overloading



Overriding

Method Overloading: When there are multiple functions with the same name but different parameters then these functions are said to be **overloaded**. Functions can be overloaded by change in the number of arguments or/and a change in the type of arguments.

Type 2: Runtime polymorphism

It is also known as Dynamic Method Dispatch. It is a process in which a function call to the overridden method is resolved at Runtime. This type of polymorphism is achieved by Method Overriding. **Method overriding**, on the other hand, occurs when a derived class has a definition for one of the member functions of the base class. That base function is said to be **overridden**.