

Polymorphism

Object-oriented Programming

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Review: Inheritance

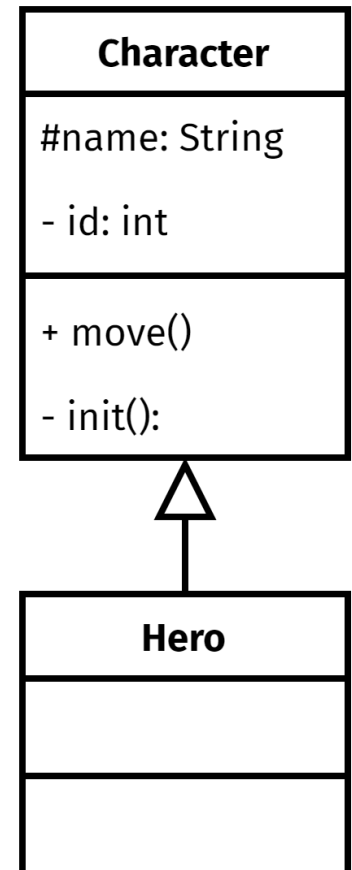
- Generalization relationship is also known as "inheritance" relationship
 - non-private members (attributes and methods) of superclass were inherited to the subclass.
- In generalization, a subclass inherits all the members of its superclass, except for those with private modifier.

```
public class Character {
    protected String name;
    private int id;
    public void move() { ... }
    private void init() { ... }
}
```

```
public class Hero extends Character {}
```

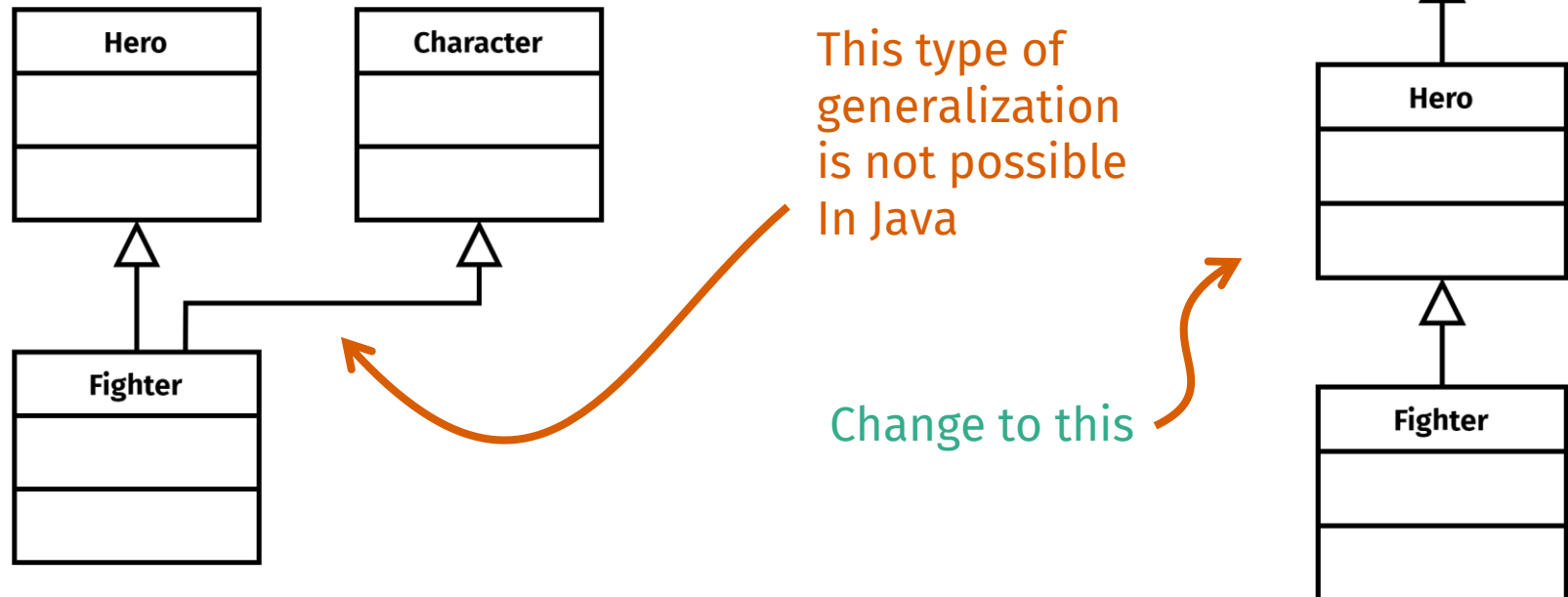
```
Hero hero = new Hero();
hero.move(); // inherited
```

```
hero.init();    // Error, not inherited
print(hero.id); // Error, not inherited
```



Review: Multilevel Inheritance

- Java supports only single-parent relationship in generalization



The code below is OK

```
public class Character {}  
public class Hero extends Character {}  
public class Fighter extends Hero {}  
// Fighter inherits Hero and Character
```

But this one is not OK

```
public class Character {}  
public class Hero {}  
public class Fighter extends Character, Hero {}  
// Not allowed, a class cannot extends  
// two or more classes at a time
```

Review: Overload vs Override

Overload

- Two or more method have the same name, but different parameter signature
 - different type, number, and/or order
- Can be implemented in a single class
- Can be implemented in two or more different class having generalization relationship

Override

- Two or more method have the same name and have the same parameter signature
 - same type, number, and order
- Can only be implemented in generalization relationship, abstract class, or implementation of interface

Polymorphism

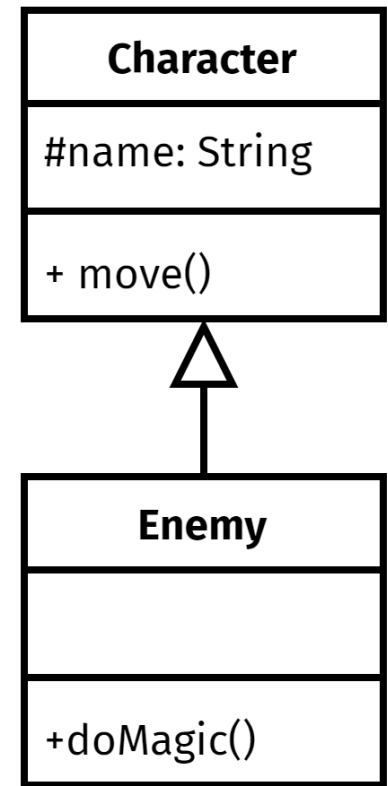
Polymorphism

- Polymorphism means "**many forms**", and it occurs when we have many classes that are related to each other by generalization.
- Each class in generalization may have methods of the **same name and signature**, but have **different implementation body**
- Polymorphism occur when **variable of supertype** refers to **object of subtype**

Subtype and Supertype

- A class is defining a (data) type
- A subtype is a (data) type defined by a subclass
- A supertype is a (data) type defined by a superclass

Character is a supertype of Enemy
Enemy is a subtype of Character



Type of Polymorphism

- Static Polymorphism
 - Uses overloading technique
 - Compile-time polymorphism, compiler decides which method to execute by the **signature** of the method call
- Dynamic Polymorphism
 - Uses overriding technique
 - Run-time polymorphism, JVM decides which method to execute by **resolving the overridden method** during run-time

Type of Polymorphism

- Static Polymorphism
 - Uses overloading technique
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- Dynamic Polymorphism
 - Uses overriding technique
 - Run-time polymorphism

```

public class Hero {
    public void say() {
        print("Hello!");
    }

    // same name but different parameter signature!
    public void say(String words) {
        print("Yo! " + words);
    }
}

Hero h = new Hero();
// Compiler decides which method to call
h.say(); // Hello!
h.say("Bruh..."); // Yo! Bruh...

```

Dynamic Polymorphism: Upcasting in Generalization

- **Upcasting** refers to the process where an **object of the subclass** is referred to by a **reference** variable of the **superclass**.
- The approach to this type of polymorphism is called **dynamic binding**

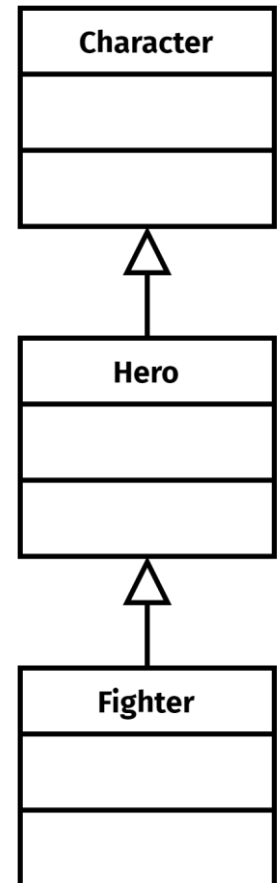
```
public class Character {  
    public void say(String words) {  
        print("Hello!");  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Hero extends Character {  
    @Override // Same name and signature  
    public void say(String words) {  
        print("Yo! " + words);  
    }  
}  
  
// A character is morphing to Hero  
// Hero upcasted to Character  
Character ch = (Character) new Hero();  
ch.say("Bruh..."); // Yo! Bruh...
```

Dynamic Binding

- Dynamic binding occurs when the declaration of a supertype variable is instantiated by a subtype (upcasting).

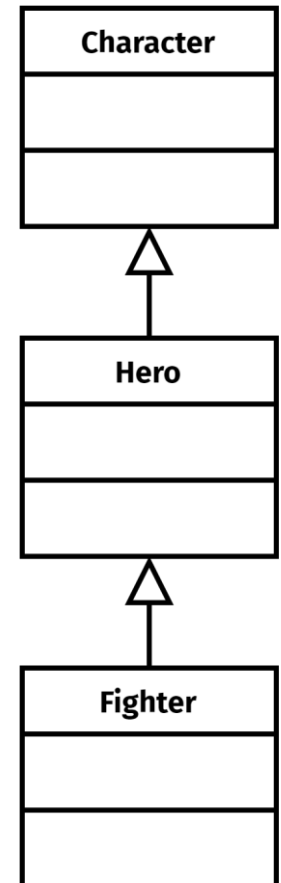
```
// Polymorphism of a Character
// Hero is upcasted to Character
// ch is now a Hero
Character ch = (Character) new Hero();
// Fighter is upcasted to Character
// ch is now morphing to a Fighter
ch = (Character) new Fighter();
```



Dynamic Binding

- Casting in upcasting may be written **implicitly**, automatically determined by the declaration of the supertype variable.

```
Character ch;  
ch = (Character) new Hero();  
// is the same with  
ch = new Hero();  
  
ch = (Character) new Fighter();  
// is also the same with  
ch = new Fighter();
```




```
public class Character {  
    public void who() { print("I am a Character"); }  
}
```

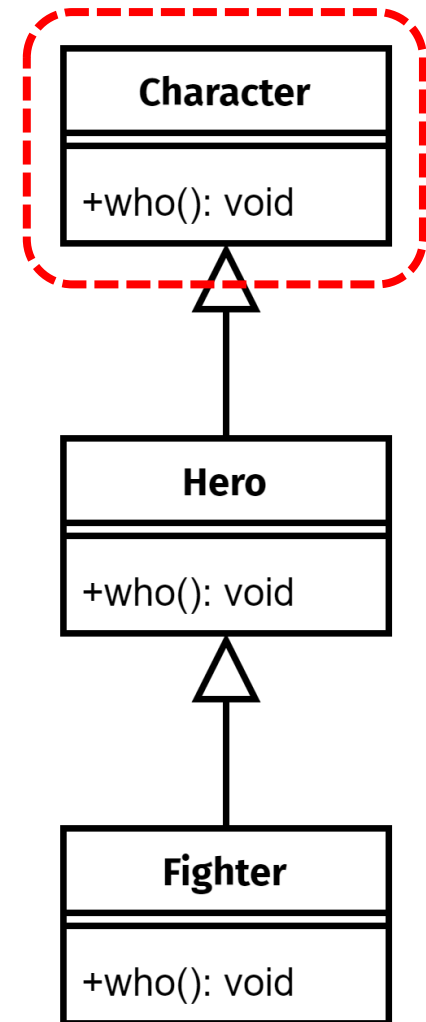
```
public class Hero extends Character {  
    @Override  
    public void who() { print("I am a Hero); }  
}
```

```
public class Fighter extends Hero {  
    @Override  
    public void who() { print("I am a Fighter"); }  
}
```

```
Character ch = new Character();
ch.who(); // I am a Character
```

```
// Morphing to Hero
ch = new Hero();
ch.who(); // I am a Hero
```

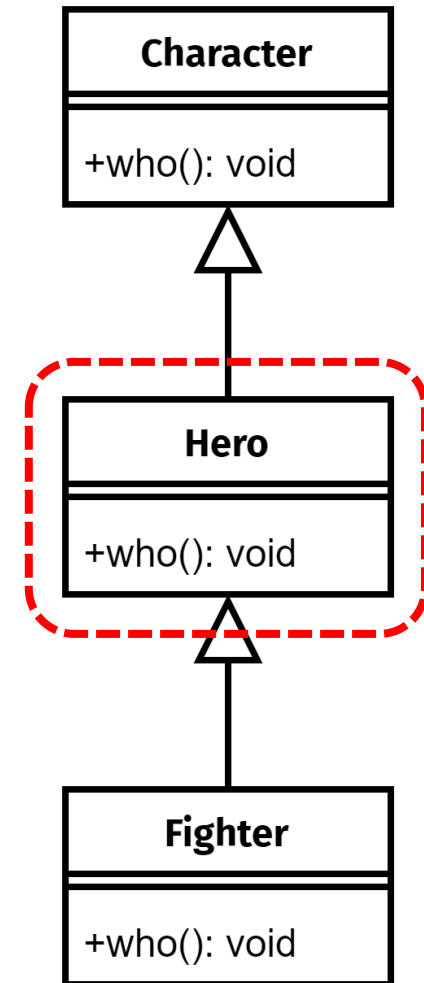
```
// Morphing to Fighter
ch = new Fighter();
ch.who(); // I am a Fighter
```



```
Character ch = new Character();
ch.who(); // I am a Character
```

```
----- Character ch
// Morphing to Hero
ch = new Hero();
ch.who(); // I am a Hero
```

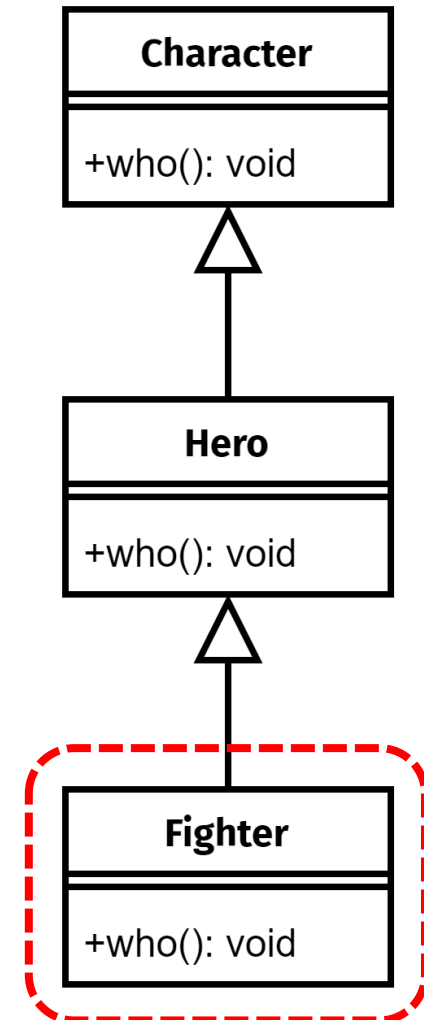
```
// Morphing to Fighter
ch = new Fighter();
ch.who(); // I am a Fighter
```



```
Character ch = new Character();
ch.who(); // I am a Character
```

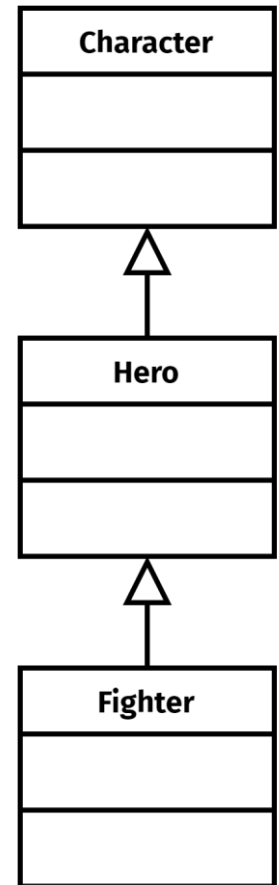
```
// Morphing to Hero
ch = new Hero();
ch.who(); // I am a Hero
```

```
----- Character ch
// Morphing to Fighter
ch = new Fighter();
ch.who(); // I am a Fighter
```



Generic Method Parameter

- Polymorphism allows passing an object of a subtype to a method with a supertype parameter



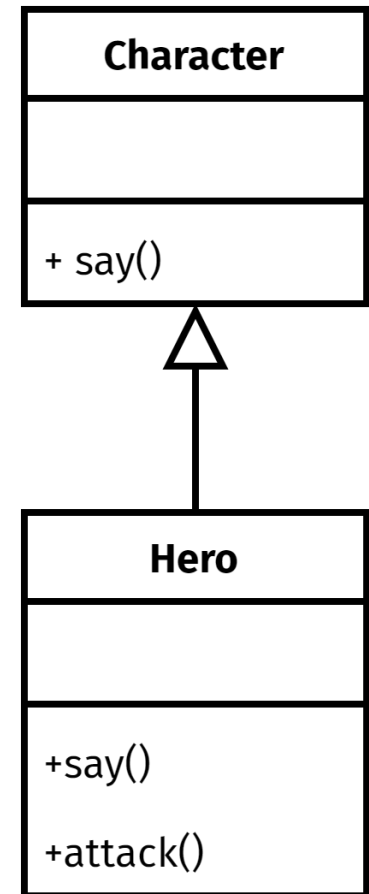
```
public class Game {
    public static void introduce(Character c) {
        c.who();
    }
}
```

```
Character character = new Character();
Hero hero          = new Hero();
Fighter fighter    = new Fighter();
```

```
Game.introduce(character); // I am a Character
Game.introduce(hero);     // I am a Hero
Game.introduce(fighter);  // I am a Fighter
```

Downcasting

- When a **supertype variable** refer to a **subtype object**, the variable cannot "see" methods of subtype that are not overridden from the current supertype.
- To call non-override methods of subtype, the supertype variable must be downcasted to a target subtype
- In Java, **downcasting** a variable of supertype must be written **explicitly**



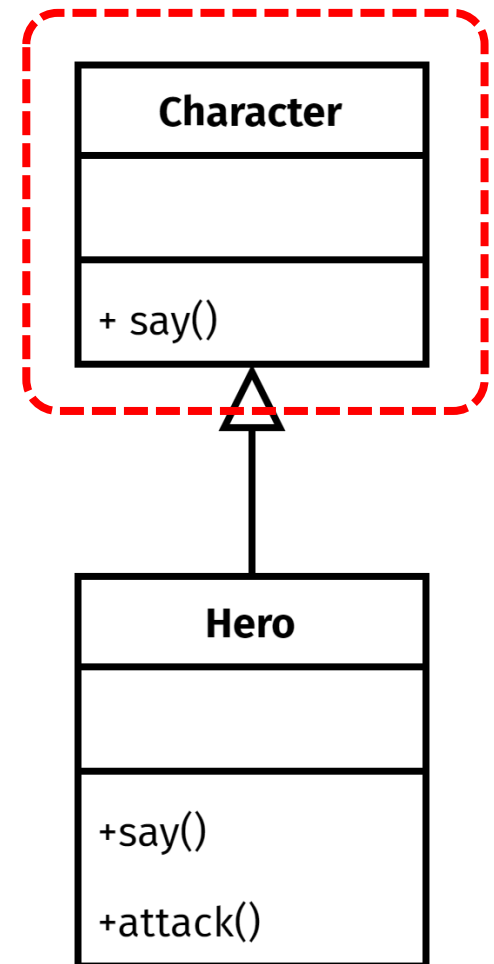
```
Character ch = new Character()  
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Character
```

```
ch = new Hero();  
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
```

```
// ch.attack(); // Error  
// Character cannot "see" attack() method
```

```
Hero h = (Hero) ch; // Downcasting to Hero
```

```
// Character: ch can now see Hero's method  
// through new reference variable: h  
h.say(); // Calling say() of Hero  
h.attack(); // Calling attack() of Hero
```



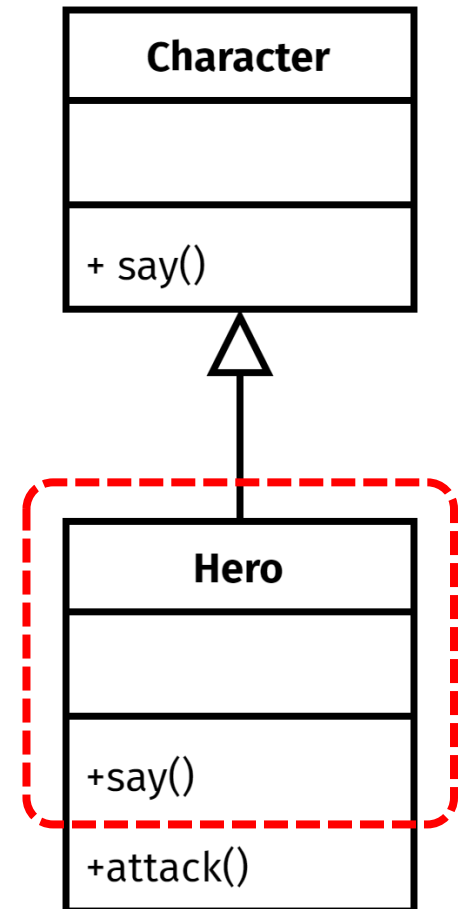

```
Character ch = new Character()
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Character
```

```
Character ch
ch = new Hero();
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
```

```
// ch.attack(); // Error
// Character cannot "see" attack() method
```

```
Hero h = (Hero) ch; // Downcasting to Hero
```

```
// Character: ch can now see Hero's method
// through new reference variable: h
h.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
h.attack(); // Calling attack() of Hero
```



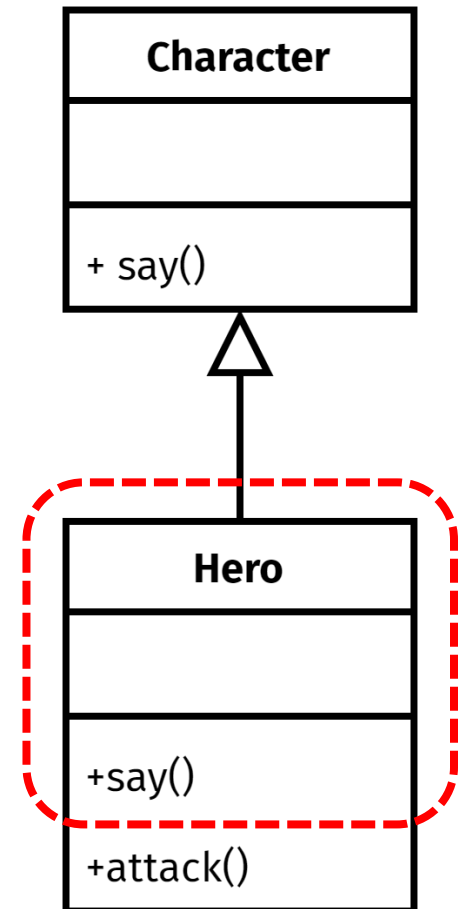
```
Character ch = new Character()
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Character
```

```
ch = new Hero();
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
```

```
// ch.attack(); // Error
// Character cannot "see" attack() method
```

```
Hero h = (Hero) ch; // Downcasting to Hero
```

```
// Character: ch can now see Hero's method
// through new reference variable: h
h.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
h.attack(); // Calling attack() of Hero
```



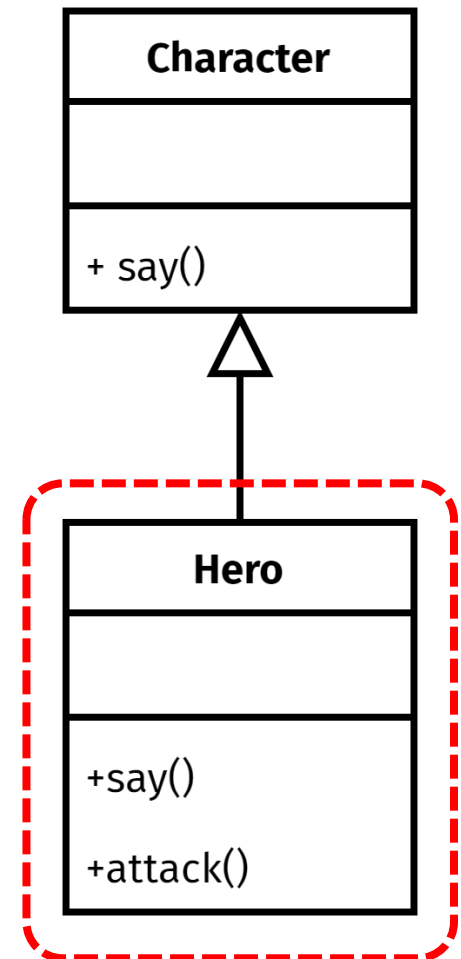
```
Character ch = new Character()
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Character
```

```
ch = new Hero();
ch.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
```

```
// ch.attack(); // Error
// Character cannot "see" attack() method
```

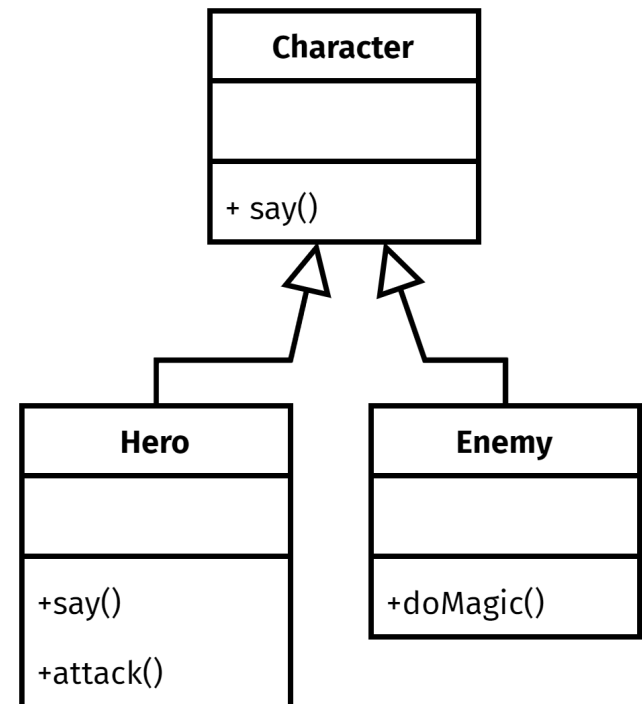
```
----- Character -> Hero -----
Hero h = (Hero) ch; // Downcasting to Hero
```

```
// Character: ch can now see Hero's method
// through new reference variable: h (Hero)
h.say(); // Calling say() of Hero
h.attack(); // Calling attack() of Hero
```



Checking Object of a Type

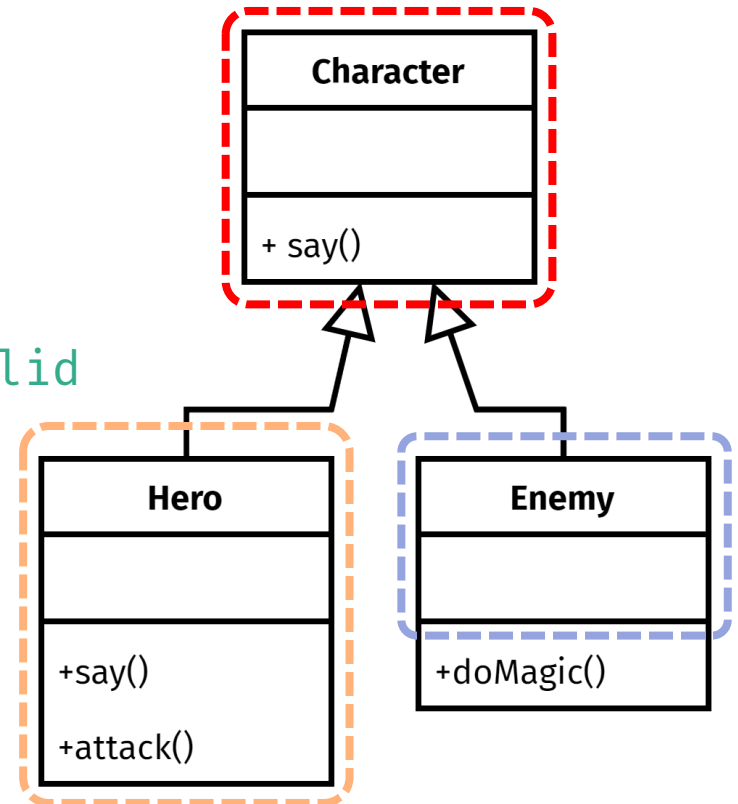
- Java provides an **instanceof** operator to check whether an object is an instance of a type/class
- This operator is useful to **check** whether an object is the **correct type** before **downcasting** a supertype to subtype.



```
Character ch = new Hero();
Enemy e = (Enemy) ch; // valid
```

```
// e.doMagic(); // runtime error
// the actual object
// is not of Enemy type
```

```
// perform a check
if (ch instanceof Hero) {
    Hero h = (Hero) ch; // also valid
    h.attack(); // ok
}
```



Questions?