# Subtyping and Inheritance

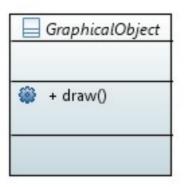
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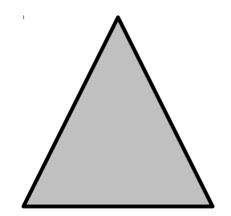
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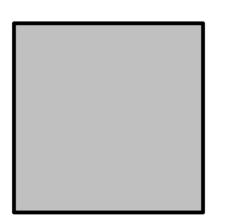
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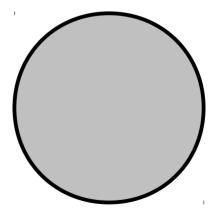
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#### **Subtyping Examples 1/3**

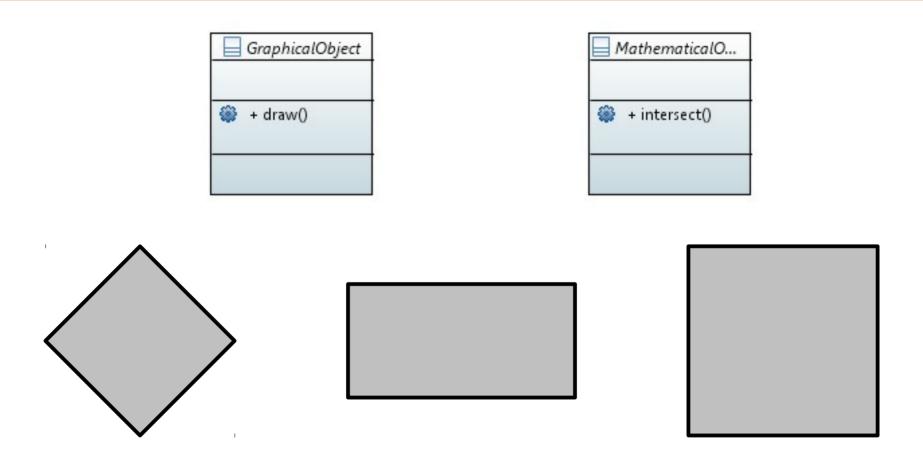




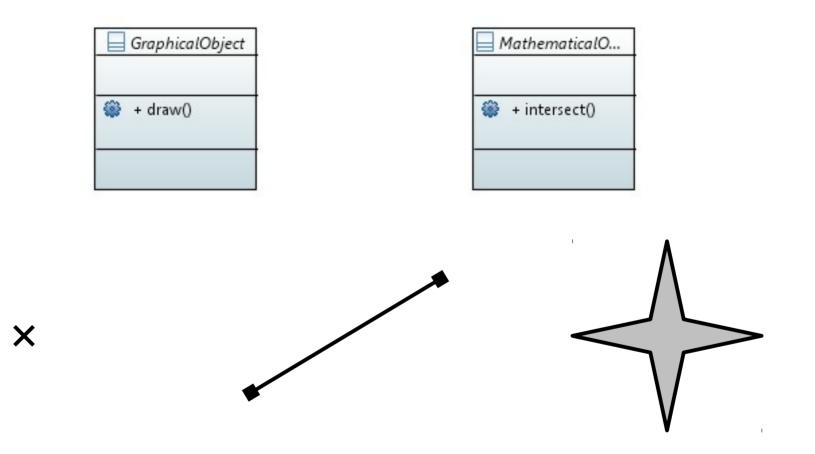




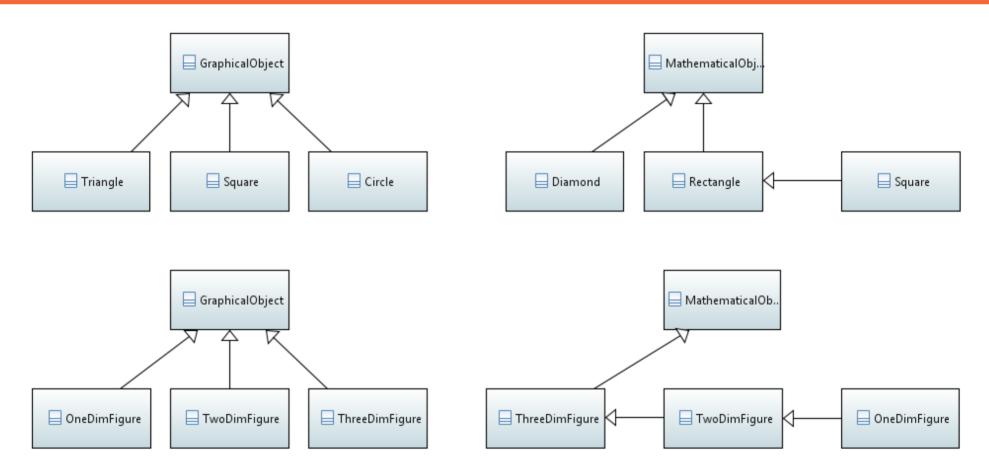
#### **Subtyping Examples 2/3**



#### **Subtyping Examples 3/3**



#### **Subtyping Examples Discussion Continued**



#### The Subtype Requirement [LW94] [1]

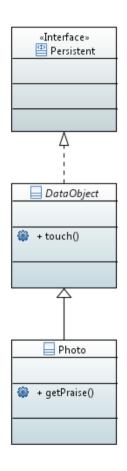
Let  $\varphi(x)$  be a property provable about objects x of type T. Then  $\varphi(y)$  should be provable for objects y of type S, where S is a subtype of T.

#### **In Simpler Words**

All properties that hold for instances of a supertype should also hold for instances of a subtype.

# No surprises for a use-client!

#### Subclasses as Extended Subtypes



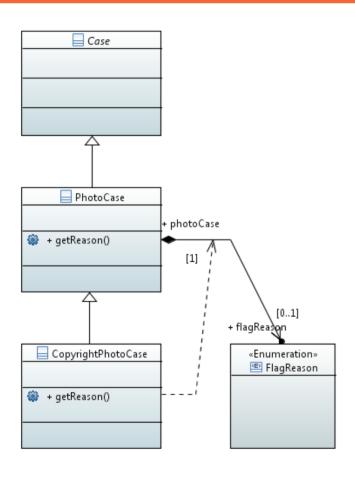
#### Subclass

- Adds methods and state
- Does not constrain superclass

#### Example

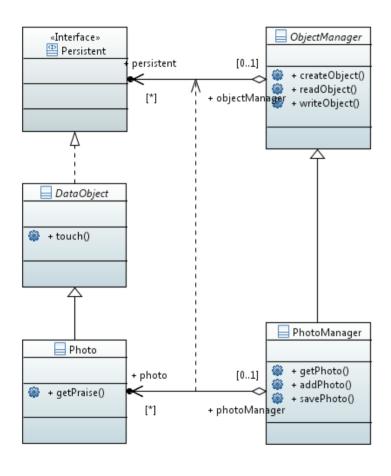
- public void DataObject#touch()
- public float Photo#getPraise()

#### **Subclasses as Constrained Subtypes**



- Constrained subtypes
  - Superclass defines possibility space
  - Subclass constrains behavior or return results
- Example
  - FlagReason PhotoCase#getReason()
    - Returns any of enum FlagReason
  - FlagReason CopyrightPhotoCase#getReason()
    - Returns only FlagReason.COPYRIGHT

#### **Dual Class Hierarchies**



- Constrained subtypes
  - ObjectManager
  - PhotoManager
- Extended subtypes
  - DataObject
  - Photo
- Association refinement

#### **Covariance and Contravariance**

#### Covariant redefinition

 A method has been covariantly redefined in its result or argument types if those result or argument types are of a subclass of the original result or argument types

#### Contravariant redefinition

A method of a has been contravariantly redefined in its result or argument types if those result or argument types are of a superclass of the original result or argument types

#### **Quiz: Co- and Contravariance**

- 1. Which form of redefinition of result types violates the Liskov Substituability Principle, if any?
  - a. Contravariant redefinition
  - b. Covariant redefinition
  - c. None
  - d. Both
- 2. Which form of redefinition of method argument types violates the Liskov Substituability Principle, if any?
  - a. Contravariant redefinition
  - b. Covariant redefinition
  - c. None
  - d. Both

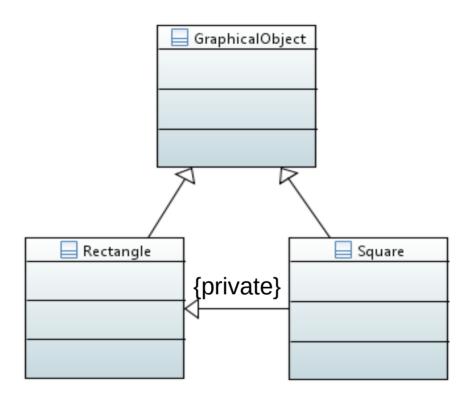
#### **Covariance of Method Result Types**

- General Java examples
  - Object Object#clone()
  - MyClass MyClass#clone()
- Wahlzeit examples
  - Persistent ObjectManager#createObject(...)
  - Photo PhotoManager#createObject(...)
- Covariant redefinition of method result types satisfies the LSP
  - Case of the constrained subtypes

#### **Contravariance of Method Argument Types**

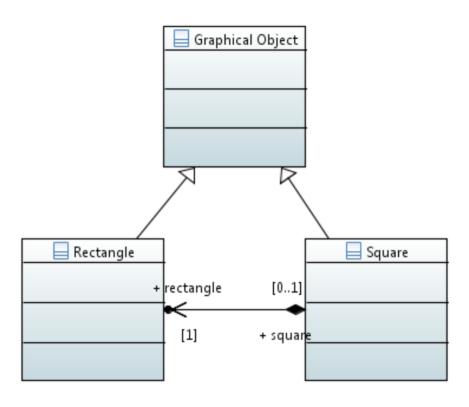
- Not a language feature in Java (but in other languages)
  - Hence no examples at hand
- Contravariant redefinition of method arguments satisfies the LSP
  - Case of the extended subtypes

#### **Multiple Inheritance**



Not possible in Java (not a language feature)

#### **Implementation Delegation**



Well possible in Java (and other languages)

#### Interface vs. Implementation Inheritance

#### Interface inheritance

- Follows the LSP
- Can be realized in Java
  - Using Java interfaces
  - Using regular classes

#### Implementation inheritance

- Breaks the LSP
- Can be realized in Java
  - But is generally a bad idea
  - Rather use delegation

#### **Inheritance and Abstractness**

- Inheritance
  - Relationship between two classes, a superclass and a subclass
- Abstract(ness)
  - Relationship between a class and its instances (none if abstract)

#### How to Make a Class Abstract (in Java)

- By declaration
  - of the class, e.g. "abstract class Counter { ... }"
  - of at least one method, e.g. "public abstract void count(...)"
- By hiding constructors
  - by declaring them protected or private
  - by making sure no implicit public empty constructor exists
- By inheritance
  - by inheriting from an abstract class and
  - not completing it
- The best way is to explicitly declare one's intention

#### **Abstract Superclass Rule (ASR) [H94]**

### All superclasses must be abstract (in design).

#### **Abstract Superclass Rule as a Guideline**

A superclass should be abstract in implementation.

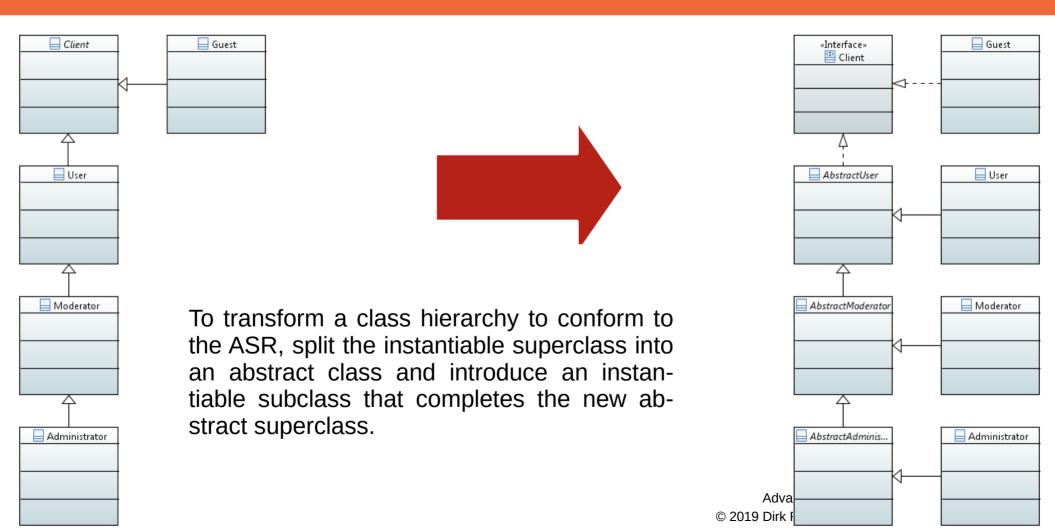
#### **Corollaries to Abstract Superclass Rule**

- Hard corollaries (rules)
  - No abstract class should subclass a concrete class
  - All subclasses should first be abstract, then concrete
- Soft corollaries (guidelines)
  - The root of a class hierarchy should be an abstract class
  - Leaf classes in an application should be concrete
- In a framework, leaf classes may be abstract
  - Because they are expecting subclasses in applications

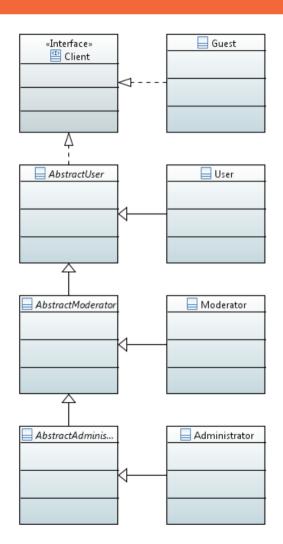
#### **But Why? LSP applied to ASR**

- The ASR helps comply with the LSP
  - The ASR automatically casts subclasses as constrained subtypes
    - Applying the ASR, developers have to think about subclasses
    - Subclasses fill in the holes defined by the abstract superclass
    - Thus, concrete subclasses constrain the abstract superclass
    - With this, the abstract superclass becomes better (re)usable

#### **Transforming a Class Hierarchy**

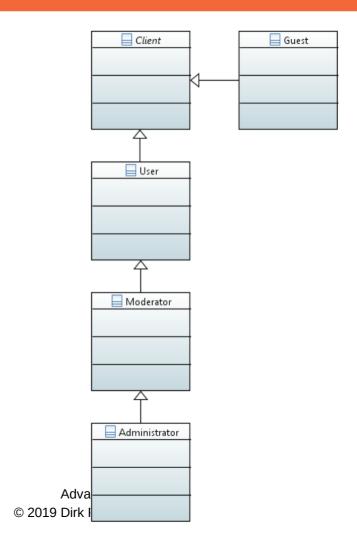


#### **Simplifying a Class Hierarchy**





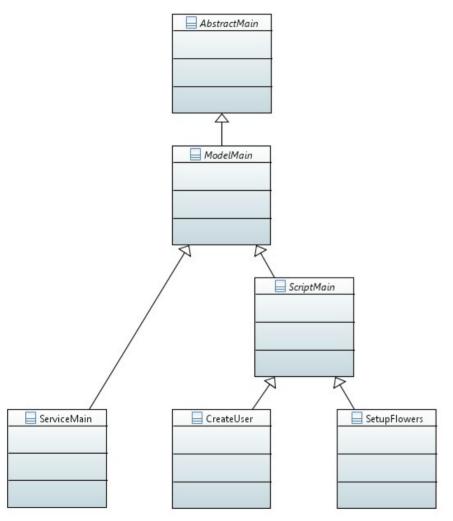
To simplify a class hierarchy, merge a default implementation with its abstract superclass.



#### What to Use When?

- Transform to conform in preparation for
  - increasingly complex default implementation class
  - other implementation classes as alternatives
- Simplify (and not conform) to
  - reduce number of overall classes
  - assuming implementation class is basically empty

#### **Cascading Inheritance Interfaces**



- ServiceMain#startUp() →
  - ModelMain#startUp() →
    - AbstractMain#startUp()
- ServiceMain#shutDown() →
  - Modelmain#shutDown() →
    - AbstractMain#shutDown()
- CreateUser#execute() →
- ScriptMain#execute()

#### **Cascading Superclass Calls**

```
public void ServiceMain#startUp(boolean ip, String rd) ... {
 super.startUp(ip, rd);
 log.info("ModelMain#startUp() completed");
 log.config(LogBuilder.createSystemMessage()...);
 initWebPartTemplateService();
  . . .
protected void ModelMain#startUp(boolean ip, String rd) ... {
 super.startUp(ip);
 log.info("AbstractMain#startUp() completed");
 log.config(LogBuilder.createSystemMessage()...);
 initImageStore();
  . . .
protected void AbstractMain#startUp(boolean ip) throws Exception {
 isInProduction = ip;
```

#### Traditional Run vs. ServletContext

```
public static main(String[] argv) { new FlowersMain.run() }
void FlowersMain#run() {
  startUp();
  execute();
  shutDown();
public void contextInitialized(ServletContextEvent sce) {
  serviceMain.startUp(true, rootDir);
  . . .
public void contextDestroyed(ServletContextEvent sce) {
  serviceMain.shutDown();
```

#### **Review / Summary of Session**

- Typing and subtyping
  - Liskov Substitutability Principle (LSP)
- Class hierarchies
  - Abstract Superclass Rule (ASR)
  - Interface vs. implementation inheritance
  - Types of class hierarchies

### Thank you! Questions?

dirk.riehle@fau.de – http://osr.cs.fau.de

dirk@riehle.org – http://dirkriehle.com – @dirkriehle

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