

# LISKOV SUBSTITUTION PRINCIPLE

LSP

- If  $S$  is a subtype of  $T$ , then objects of type  $S$  may be substituted for objects of type  $T$ , without altering any of the desired properties of the program.
- “ $S$  is a subtype of  $T$ ”?

In Java, this means that  $S$  is a child class of  $T$ , or  $S$  *implements* interface  $T$ .

- “A program that uses an interface must not be confused by an implementation of that interface.” [Uncle Bob]

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## Example

- Mathematically, a square “is a” rectangle.
- In object-oriented design, it is not the case that a Square “is a” Rectangle!
- This is because a Rectangle has *more* behaviours than a Square, not less.
- The LSP is related to the Open/Closed principle: the subclasses should only extend (add behaviours), not modify or remove them.

