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Polymorphism

- Polymorphism is one is a concept by which we can perform a single action in different ways.
  - Poly
  - Morphs
  - Many Forms
- Polymorphism is derived from 2 Greek words:
- In programming it means many forms.
- Compile Time polymorphism
- Runtime polymorphism

Compile-time polymorphism, also known as

- Also known as Static Polymorphism
- Method overloading is a feature that allows a class to have more than one method having the same name, if their argument lists are different.
- It is similar to constructor overloading in Java, that allows a class to have more than one constructor having different argument lists.
- Method overloading is possible by changing the number of arguments or/and changing the type of arguments.
- Compile time polymorphism is sometimes referred as Static binding.
- Method overloading is an example of Compile time polymorphism.
- In simple terms, we can say that a method is overloaded if the method has the same name but different signature.
- The compiler knows which method to call, because the information is unique.
- Method overloading allows you to define multiple methods with the same name, as long as these methods have unique signatures.
- The compiler does not consider the return type while creating a unique signature for a method. However, you can change the return type of the method as you please, but only if you change the parameter list as well.

Ways to perform overloading in compile time polymorphism:

- Changing number of arguments
- Changing the data type of arguments

Example of Compile time polymorphism:

```
class Calculation {
    public int add(int a, int b){
        return a + b;
    }

    public double add(double a, double b){
        return a + b;
    }
}
```

Consider the following example:

- In the above example, the add function is overloaded with two different signatures. The first takes two integer arguments, the second one takes two double arguments. Whenever each version of the method is called it will perform the operation and return the result.

- In this case, the compiler knows all details at the compile time that which method is called, because this is handled during the compilation.
- Hence, compile time polymorphism allows the code binding rather than binding it during the runtime. Hence, it is also known as static binding. Another name of compile time polymorphism is early binding.

Runtime Polymorphism

- Also known as Dynamic Method Dispatch.
- It is a process in which a call to an overridden method is resolved at runtime rather than compile-time.
- In this process, an overridden method is called through the reference variable of a superclass.
- The determination of the method to be called is based on the object being referred to by the reference variable.

Upcasting

- Reference of Animal type
- Object of Dog type
- If the reference variable of Parent Class refers to the Child class object, it is known as upcasting.
- class A{}
- class B extends A{}
- A a = new B();//upcasting
- For upcasting, we can use the reference or the class name itself. It means both of the following code are valid:

```
Dog d1 = new Dog();
Animal a = new Dog();
```

- Here, we can call only those methods of the Animal class that are overridden in the Dog class, not any other methods of Dog class.

Example of Java Runtime Polymorphism

```
class Animal {
    void eat(){System.out.println("eating...");}
}
class Dog extends Animal {
    void eat(){System.out.println("eating bread...");}
}
class Cat extends Animal {
    void eat(){System.out.println("eating rat...");}
}
class Lion extends Animal {
    void eat(){System.out.println("eating meat...");}
}
```

```
class TestPolymorphism3 {
    public static void main(String[] args){
        Animal a;
        a= new Dog();
        a.eat();
        a= new Cat();
        a.eat();
        a= new Lion();
        a.eat();
    }
}
```

Data Member

- Method in the subclass overrides the method in the superclass
- Base class and derived class have different data members.

```
class Base{
    int speed=80;
}
class Honda3 extends Bike{
    int speed=150;
    public static void main(String[] args){
        Bike obj = new Honda3();
        System.out.println(obj.speed);//150
    }
}
```

- Runtime polymorphism can't be achieved by data members.

Dynamic binding VS static binding

- Dynamic Binding (Runtime Binding)
- Static Binding (Compile-Time Binding)
- Associated Resolution
  - Resolved at runtime based on the dynamic type of the object.
  - Resolved at compile time based on the declared type of the variable.
- Method Selection
  - Selects the most derived method (override) in the hierarchy for the actual object type.
  - Selects the appropriate method based on the declared signature of the variable.
- Type Dependency
  - Depends on the actual type of the object.
  - Depends on the reference type of the object.
- Overriding vs. Overloading
  - Commonly used with method overriding, where a subclass provides its own implementation of a method defined in its superclass.
  - Associated with overloaded methods, where multiple methods with the same name but different parameters are defined in a class.
- Flexibility vs. Efficiency
  - Provides flexibility for runtime method selection, allowing for more dynamic behavior and polymorphism in many scenarios.
  - Offers efficiency as the method resolution is determined at compile time, potentially enhancing the speed by avoiding runtime lookup at runtime.

Abstraction

- Abstraction
  - An interface in Java is a blueprint of a behaviour.
  - A Java interface contains static constants and abstract methods.
  - An interface in Java is a mechanism to achieve abstraction.
  - There can be only abstract methods in the Java interface not the method body.
  - It is used to achieve abstraction and multiple inheritance in Java.
  - In other words, we can say that interfaces can have abstract methods and variables.
  - It cannot have a method body.
  - Interface is used to achieve abstraction and multiple inheritance in Java.
  - Starting from Java 8, we can have default and static methods in an interface.
  - Starting from Java 9, we can have private methods in an interface.
  - Interface does not contain any constructors.
  - All the abstract methods of the interface are implicitly public and abstract by default.
  - A class extending an interface has to implement all the methods declared in the interface.
  - An interface can extend another interface in Java.
- Syntax

```
interface Example{
}
```

- Why do we use an interface?
  - It is used to achieve total abstraction.
  - Since Java does not support multiple inheritance in the case of class, by using an interface it can achieve multiple inheritance.
  - It is also used to achieve loose coupling.
  - Interfaces are used to implement abstraction. That is why they can be thought of as a kind of contract in software development.
  - They force classes to adhere to certain rules (methods) defined by the interface.
  - The reason is, abstraction always means using the interface not its implementation. Just like you know calling the run() method of Runnable interface will run your thread, but you don't know how exactly it will be done.
- Difference between Class and Interface
  - Class
    - Interface
    - In class, you can instantiate variables and create an object.
    - In an interface, you can't instantiate variables and create an object.
    - Class can contain concrete (with implementation) methods
    - The class has a concrete (complete) body.
    - Interface
    - The interface cannot contain concrete (with implementation) methods
    - A class is an instance(i.e. a tangible) for defining attributes.
    - Interface is a blueprint for a class. It defines a set of methods, that a class must implement.
    - Implementation
    - A class can contain instance fields (or variables).
    - A class can't have instance fields (or variables).
    - Keywords
    - A class can contain many keywords like abstract, final, static, private and protected.
    - An interface can contain only the keywords public, static, and final.
    - Inheritance
    - A class can only inherit (extend) one other class.
    - A class can implement (or inherit) any number of interfaces.
    - Instantiation
    - An object of a class can be created.
    - An interface cannot be instantiated.
    - Access Modifiers
    - A class can have any access modifier (public, protected, private, or default).
    - An interface can only have public access modifier.
    - Constructors
    - A class can contain constructors.
    - An interface cannot contain constructors.
    - Purpose
    - A class is used to define a concrete entity (e.g., a car, a person).
    - An interface is used to define a contract or a set of behaviors that classes can implement.
    - Multiple Implementation
    - A class can implement multiple interfaces.
    - An interface cannot implement a class.
- Can Interface
  - Class
  - Interface
  - Functional (Single Abstract Method) Interface
- Extending Interface
  - One interface can inherit another by use of keyword extends.
  - When a class implements an interface that inherits another interface, it must provide implementations for all the methods required by the interface hierarchy as well.
- Can Interface Extend a Class
  - No, an interface cannot extend a class. It can only extend other interfaces.
- Can Interface Have Constructors
  - No, interfaces cannot have constructors because they cannot be instantiated directly.
- Can Interface Have Variables
  - Yes, interfaces can have variables, but they are implicitly public, static, and final.
- Can Interface Have Methods
  - Interfaces can have abstract methods (without implementation) and default methods (with implementation).
- Can Interface Have Static Methods
  - Yes, interfaces can have static methods with implementation.
- Can Interface Have Private Methods
  - Yes, since Java 9, interfaces can have private methods to encapsulate common code within the interface.
- Can Interface Have Protected Methods
  - No, interfaces cannot have protected methods because they are meant to be implemented by any class, not just subclasses.
- Can Interface Have Constructors
  - No, interfaces cannot have constructors because they cannot be instantiated.
- Can Interface Have Instance Variables
  - No, interfaces cannot have instance variables. They can only have constants (public static final).
- Can Interface Have Default Methods
  - Yes, interfaces can have default methods with a default implementation that can be overridden by implementing classes.
- Can Interface Have Static Methods
  - Yes, interfaces can have static methods with an implementation that belongs to the interface itself, not to any instance of a class that implements the interface.
- Can Interface Have Private Methods
  - Yes