

Understanding Dependencies, Covariance, and Contravariance



Zoran Horvat

OWNER AT CODING HELMET CONSULTANCY

@zoranh75 www.codinghelmet.com



We May Encounter Problems While...

**Instantiating
an object
through the
constructor**

**Assigning
references
to variables**

**Passing objects
as arguments**



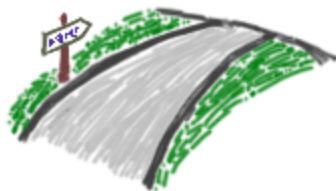
In This Module...

Constructor preconditions

With special attention to
class dependencies

**Covariance
and contravariance
of generic types**





```
class RoadSegment
{
    private double distanceKm;
    private TimeSpan timeSpent;

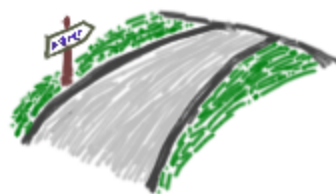
    public RoadSegment(double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
    {
        this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
        this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
    }

    public double DistanceKm[...]

    public TimeSpan TimeSpent[...]

    public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;

    public ISupplies DemandSupplies()
    {
        return new Fuel(this.DistanceKm * 8.0 / 100.0);
    }
}
```



```
class RoadSegment
{
    private double distanceKm;
    private TimeSpan timeSpent;

    public RoadSegment(double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
    {
        this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
        this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
    }

    public double DistanceKm[...]

    public TimeSpan TimeSpent[...]

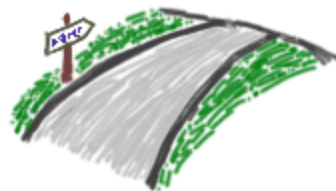
    public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;

    public ISupplies DemandSupplies()
    {
        //return new Fuel(this.DistanceKm * 8.0 / 100.0);
        return new BottleOfWater((int)Math.Ceiling(this.distanceKm / 5.0));
    }
}
```

***How do we
decide?***

***There must be some
switching logic***

***Better yet:
Move logic to
a separate object!***



```
class RoadSegment
{
    private ISuppliesCalculator SuppliesCalculator { get; }
    private double distanceKm;
    private TimeSpan timeSpent;

    public RoadSegment(ISuppliesCalculator suppliesCalculator,
        double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
    {
        if (suppliesCalculator == null) throw new ArgumentNullException();
        this.SuppliesCalculator = suppliesCalculator;
        this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
        this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
    }

    public double DistanceKm...

    public TimeSpan TimeSpent...

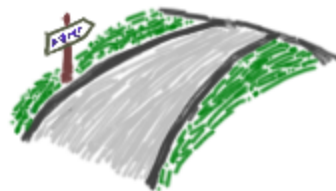
    public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;

    public ISupplies DemandSupplies() =>
        this.SuppliesCalculator.EstimateFromDistance(this.DistanceKm);
}
```

***Introduce
a new object***

***Supply it through
the constructor***

***Delegate the call
to the dependency***



```
class RoadSegment
{
    private ISuppliesCalculator SuppliesCalculator { get; }
    private double distanceKm;
    private TimeSpan timeSpent;

    public RoadSegment(ISuppliesCalculator suppliesCalculator,
        double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
    {
        if (suppliesCalculator == null) throw new ArgumentNullException();
        this.SuppliesCalculator = suppliesCalculator;
        this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
        this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
    }

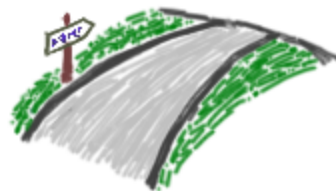
    public double DistanceKm...

    public TimeSpan TimeSpent...

    public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;

    public ISupplies DemandSupplies() =>
        this.SuppliesCalculator.EstimateFromDistance(this.DistanceKm);
}
```

***ISupplies looks
like an example of
the Composite pattern***



```
class RoadSegment
{
    private ISuppliesCalculator SuppliesCalculator { get; }
    private double distanceKm;
    private TimeSpan timeSpent;

    public RoadSegment(ISuppliesCalculator suppliesCalculator,
        double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
    {
        if (suppliesCalculator == null) throw new ArgumentNullException();
        this.SuppliesCalculator = suppliesCalculator;
        this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
        this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
    }

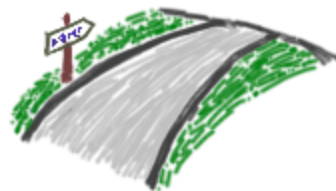
    public double DistanceKm...

    public TimeSpan TimeSpent...

    public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;

    public ISupplies DemandSupplies() =>
        this.SuppliesCalculator.EstimateFromDistance(this.DistanceKm);
}
```

***Dependency
is mandatory***



```
class RoadSegment
```

```
{
```

```
private ISuppliesCalculator SuppliesCalculator { get; }
```

```
private double distanceKm;
```

```
private TimeSpan timeSpent;
```

```
public RoadSegment(ISuppliesCalculator suppliesCalculator,  
double distanceKm, TimeSpan timeSpent)
```

```
{
```

```
if (suppliesCalculator == null) throw new ArgumentNullException();
```

```
this.SuppliesCalculator = suppliesCalculator;
```

```
this.DistanceKm = distanceKm;
```

```
this.TimeSpent = timeSpent;
```

```
}
```

```
public double DistanceKm...
```

```
public TimeSpan TimeSpent...
```

```
public double VelocityKph => this.DistanceKm / this.TimeSpent.TotalHours;
```

```
public ISupplies DemandSupplies() =>
```

```
this.SuppliesCalculator.EstimateFromDistance(this.DistanceKm);
```

```
}
```

Dependency

State

Constructor Preconditions

Most of the classes

come with some

before an object is created.

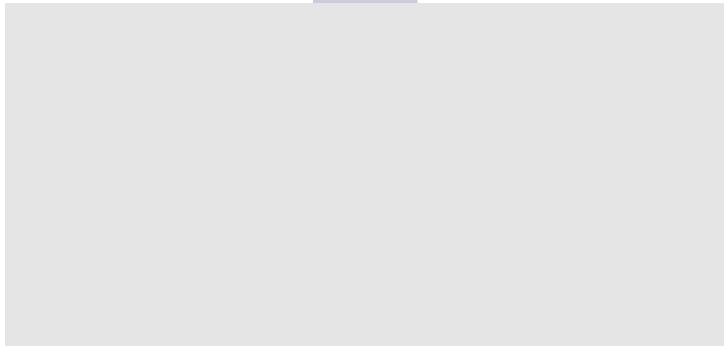
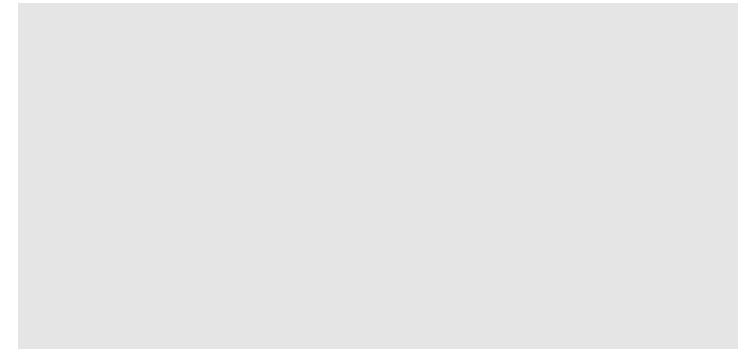
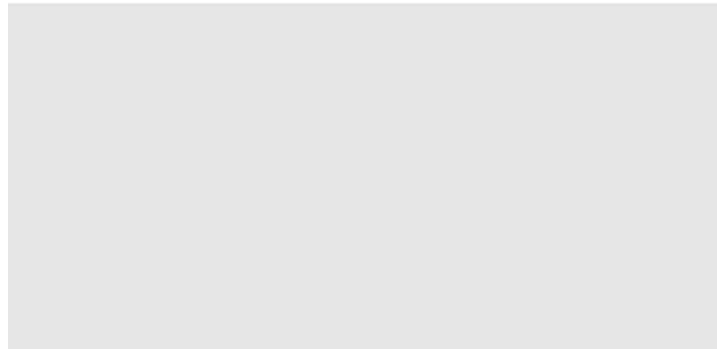
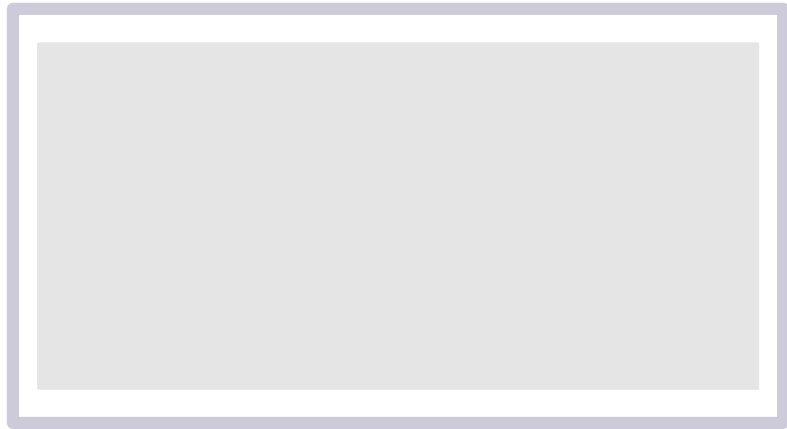
ctor is called after all prerequisites hold

ctor then guarantees to create a new object

Client will be able to use the new object without fear of a failure

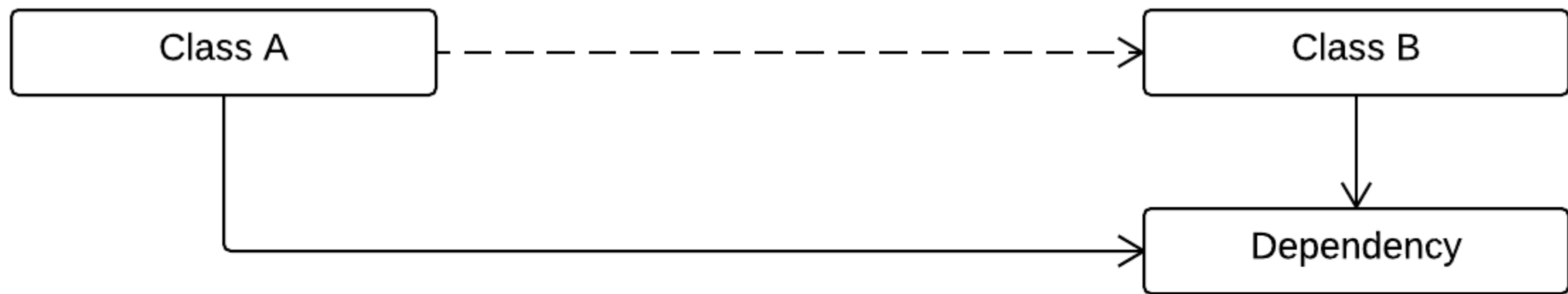


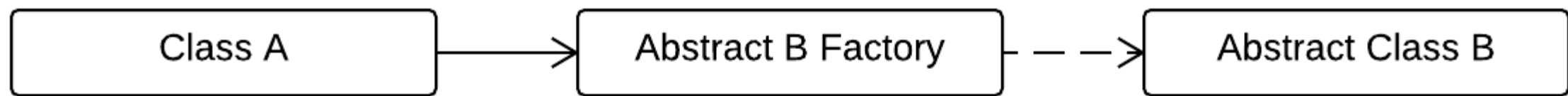
Tactical Design Patterns in .NET Series



Factory had a specific responsibility
other than just creating objects

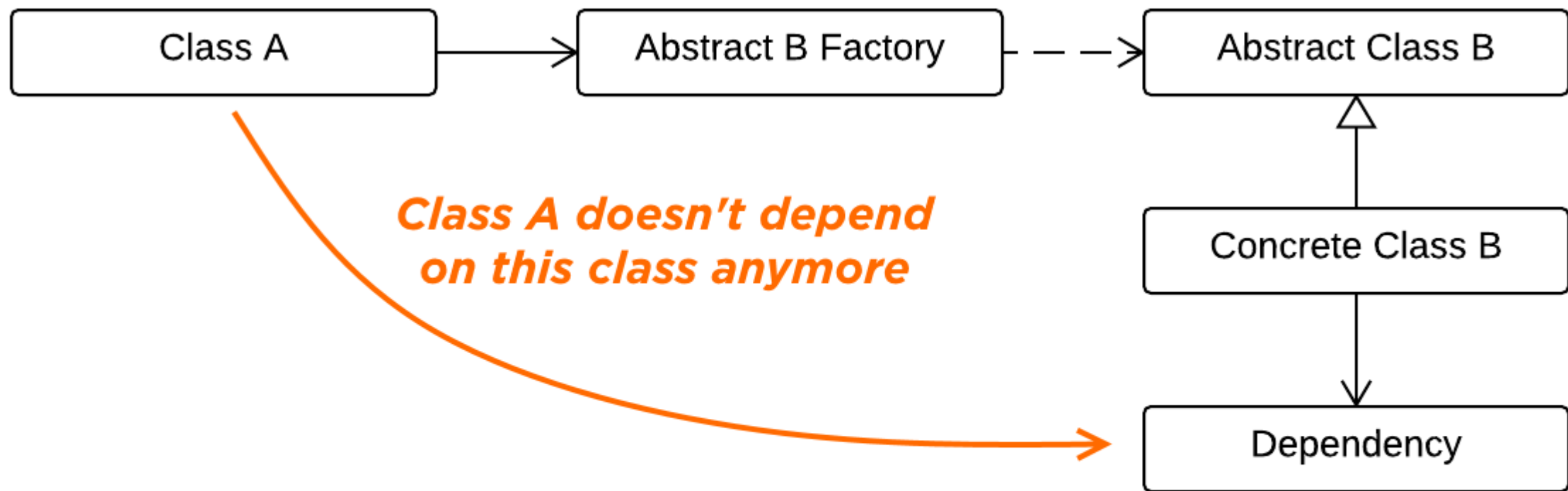


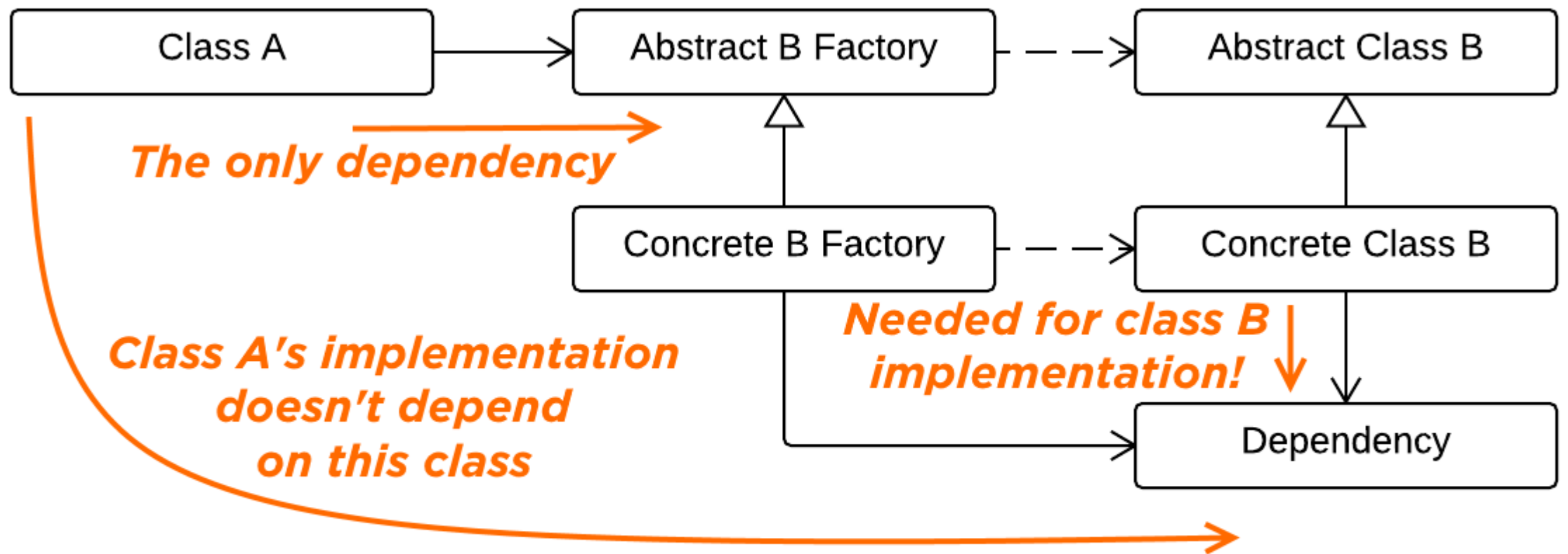


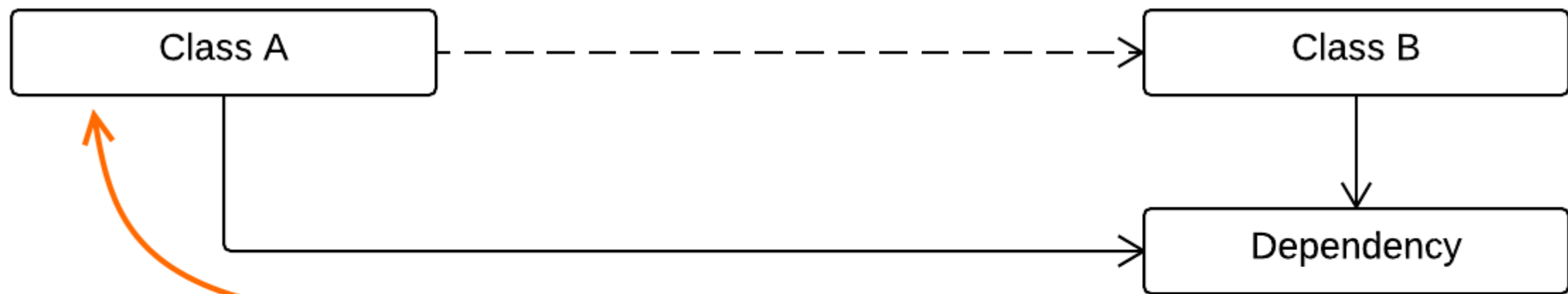


*Synthesized
abstraction*



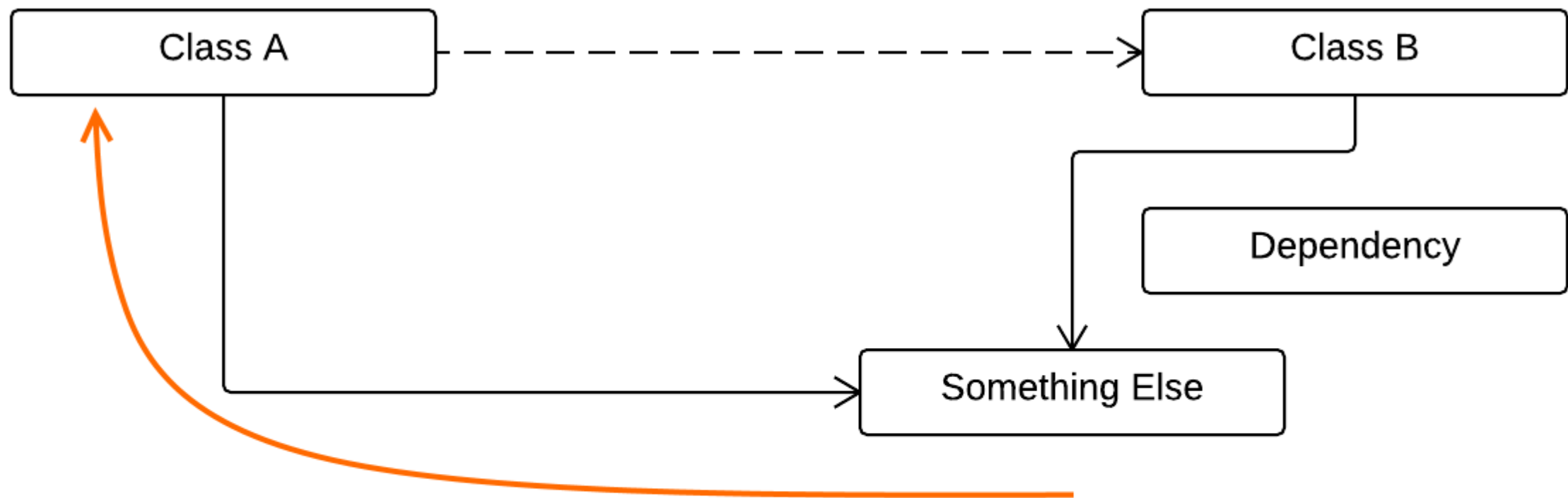






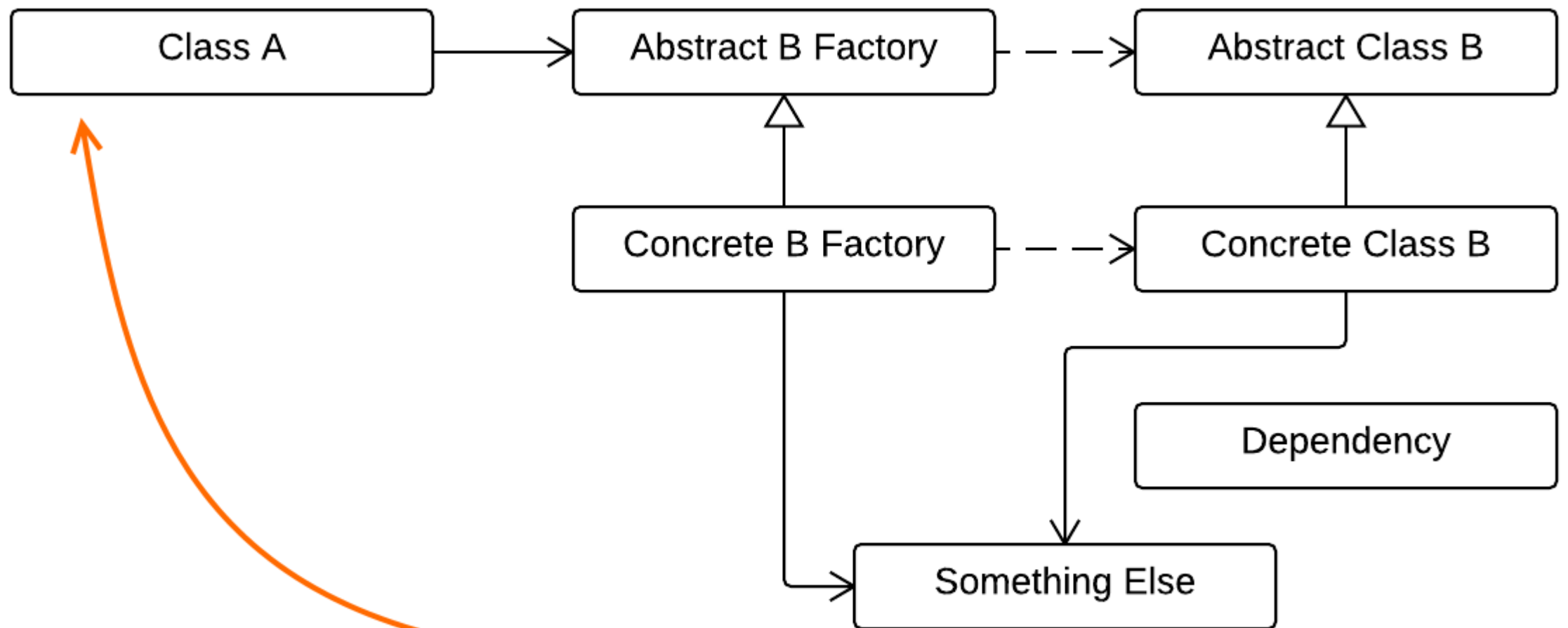
***Implementation of class B
has leaked back into its creator***



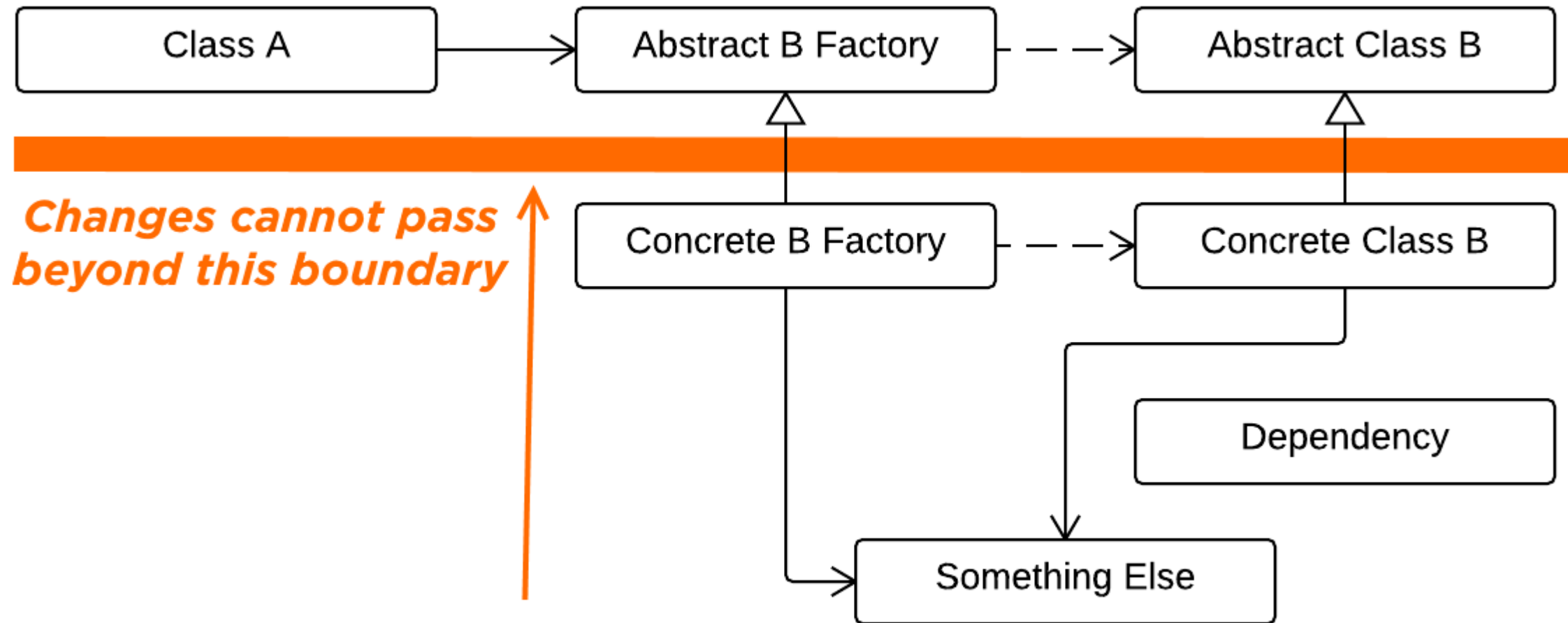


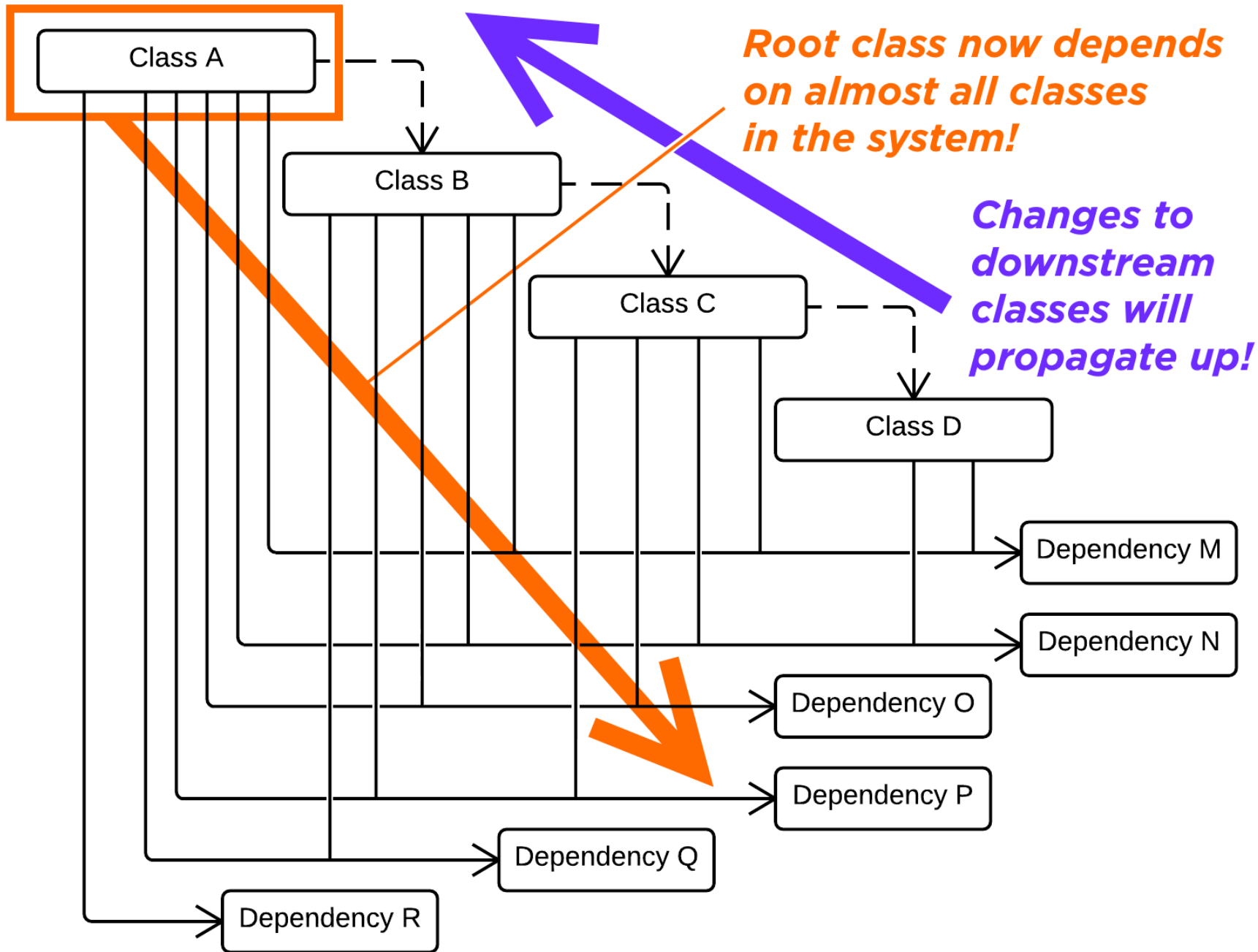
***Change in implementation of class B
immediately leaked up into class A***

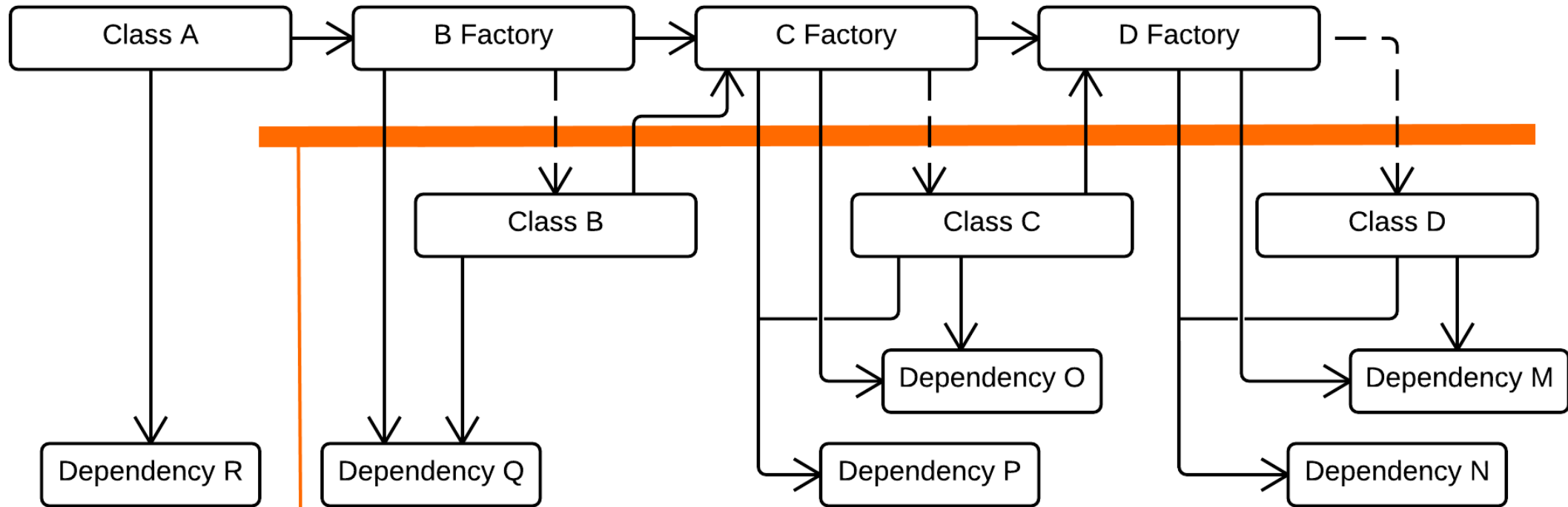




Change did not propagate up

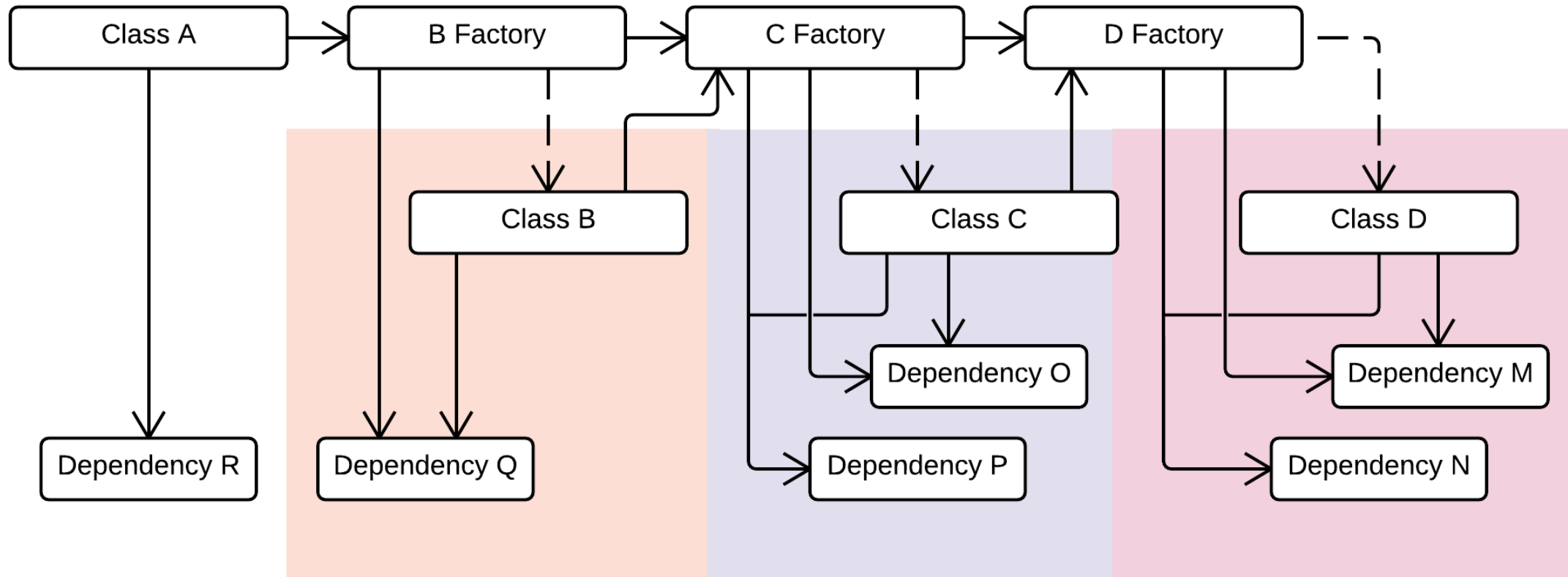






***Change propagation
ends at this boundary***





Classes are boxed together with their dependencies



Abstract Factory as a Dependency Breaker

Dependencies tend to leak upstream

More constructor arguments are added

They only support dependencies of dependencies

This is the symptom of implementation leakage

Introduce Abstract Factory

Close the class for future modifications caused by changing dependencies

Open for future extensions by supporting different products

Abstract Factory is reinforcing the Open/Closed Principle



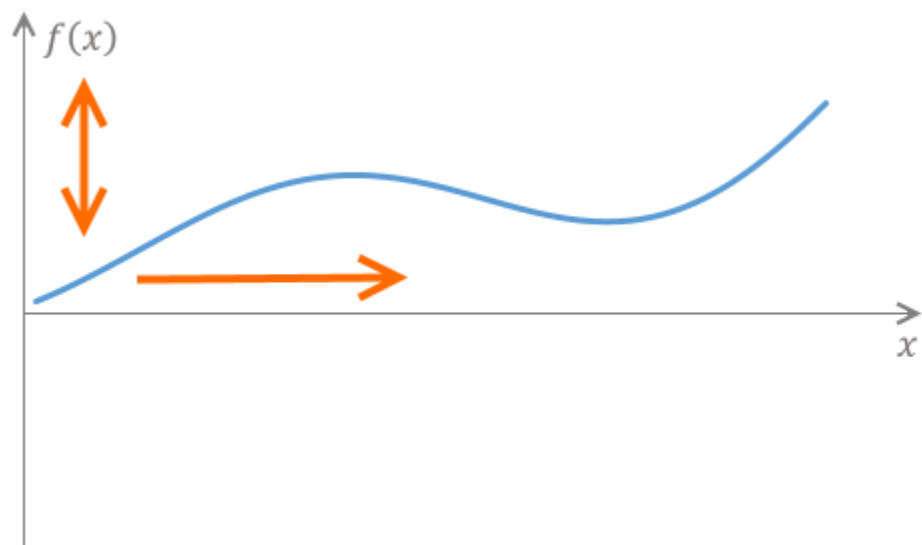
Variance

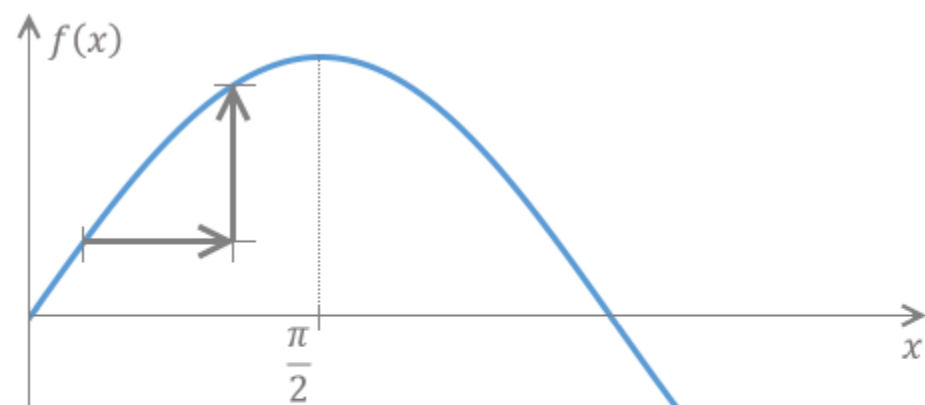
Covariance
Contravariance

Used in:

Category theory,
Topology,
Vectors, etc.

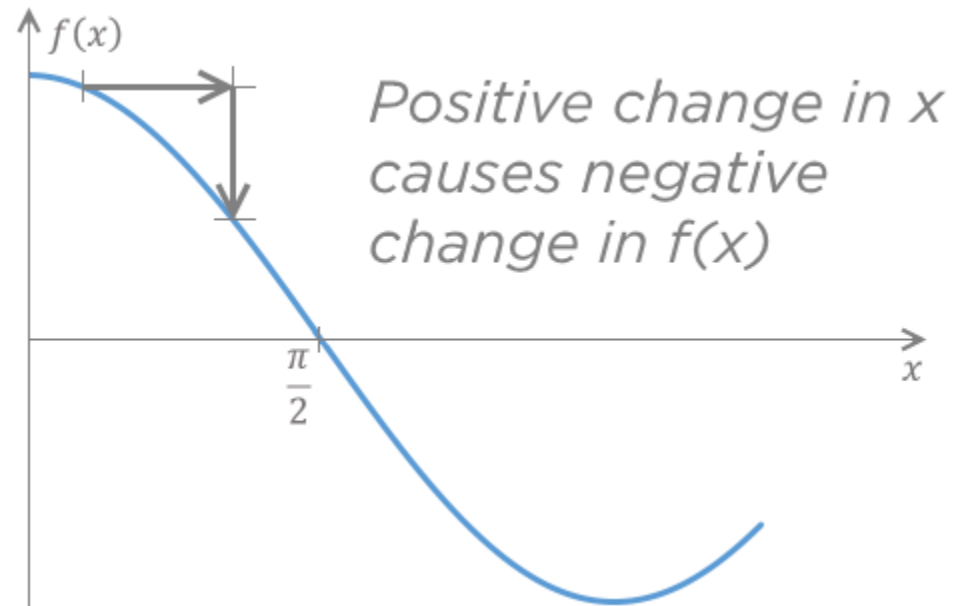
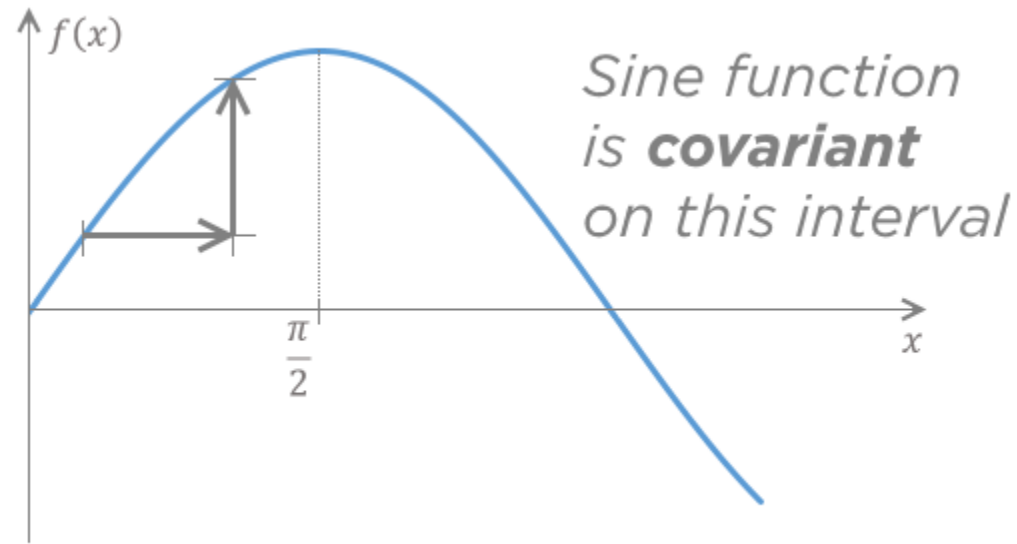


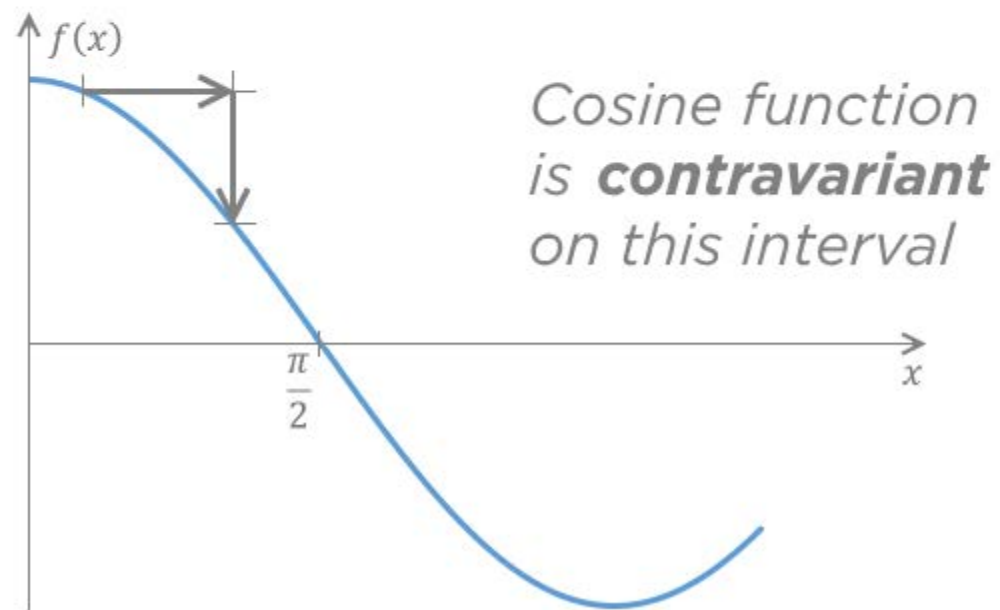
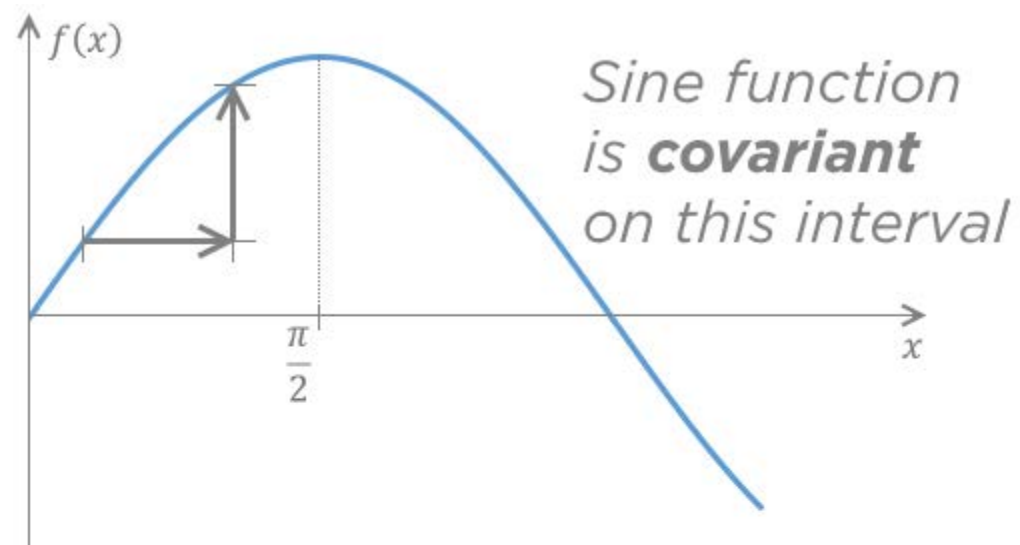




*Positive change in x
causes positive change in $f(x)$*







IUserFactory.cs* Program.cs* X

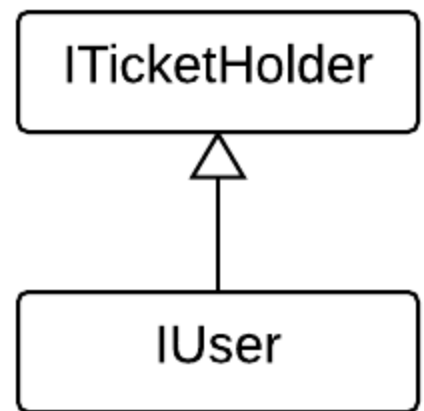
C# VarianceDemo AbstractFactoryDemo.Program RegisterUser(IUserFactory<IUser> userFactory)

```

using AbstractFactoryDemo.Factories.Interfaces;
using AbstractFactoryDemo.Interfaces;
using AbstractFactoryDemo.Models;

namespace AbstractFactoryDemo
{
    class Program
    {
        static void RegisterUser(IUserFactory<IUser> userFactory)
        {
            IUserFactory<ITicketHolder> lessDerivedFactory = userFactory;
        }

        static void Main(string[] args)
        {
        }
    }
}
    
```



Solution Explorer

Search Solution Explorer (Ctrl+;)

- Solution 'VarianceDemo' (1 project)
 - C# VarianceDemo
 - Properties
 - References
 - Factories
 - Interfaces
 - C# IUserFactory.cs
 - Machine
 - Person
 - Interfaces
 - C# ITicketHolder.cs
 - C# IUser.cs
 - C# IUserIdentity.cs
 - Models
 - App.config
 - C# Program.cs

Properties Solution Explorer

109 %

Output

Show output from: General

Error List

Less derived



More derived

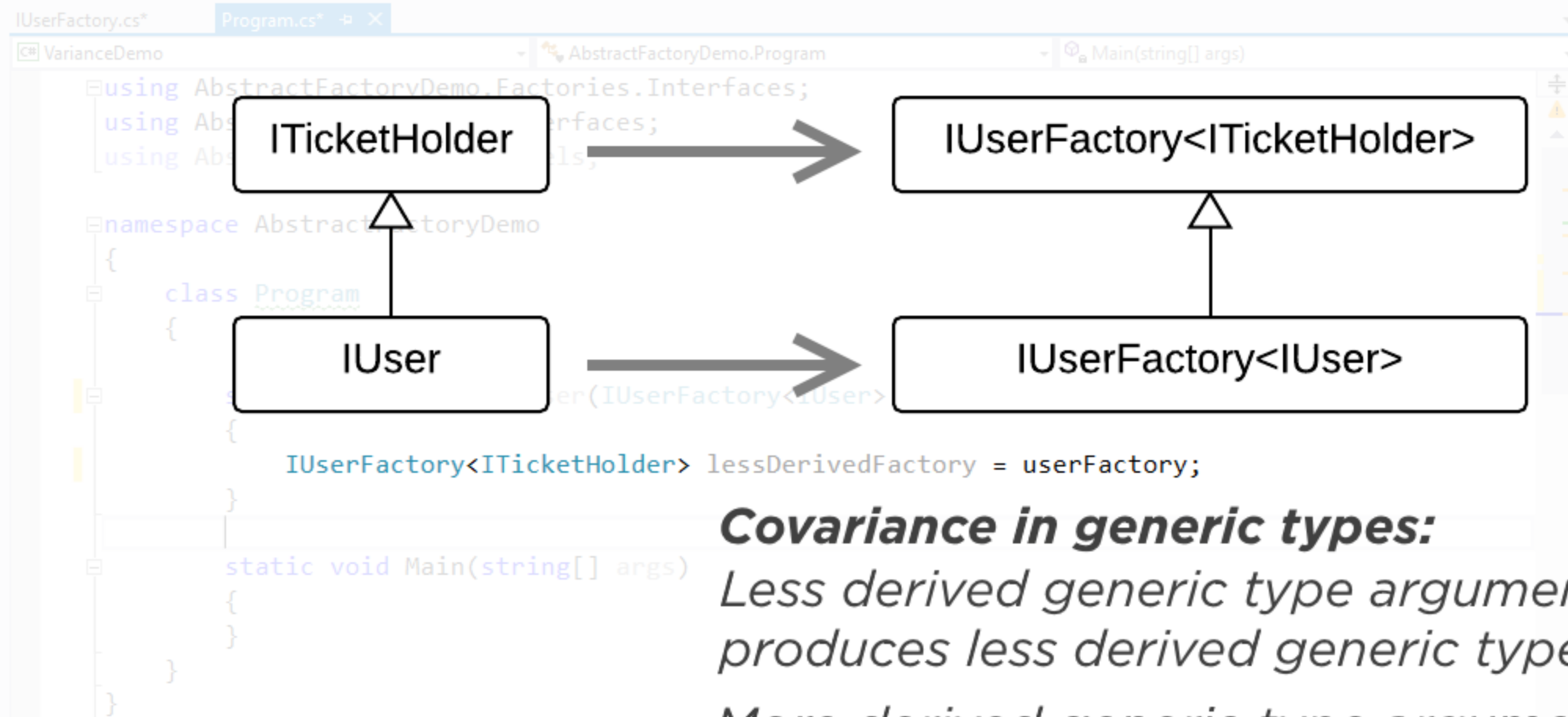


More derived

```
IUserFactory<ITicketHolder> lessDerivedFactory = userFactory;
```

Substitution Principle:

*Variable to the left
of the assignment operator
is equally or less derived
than the object to the right*



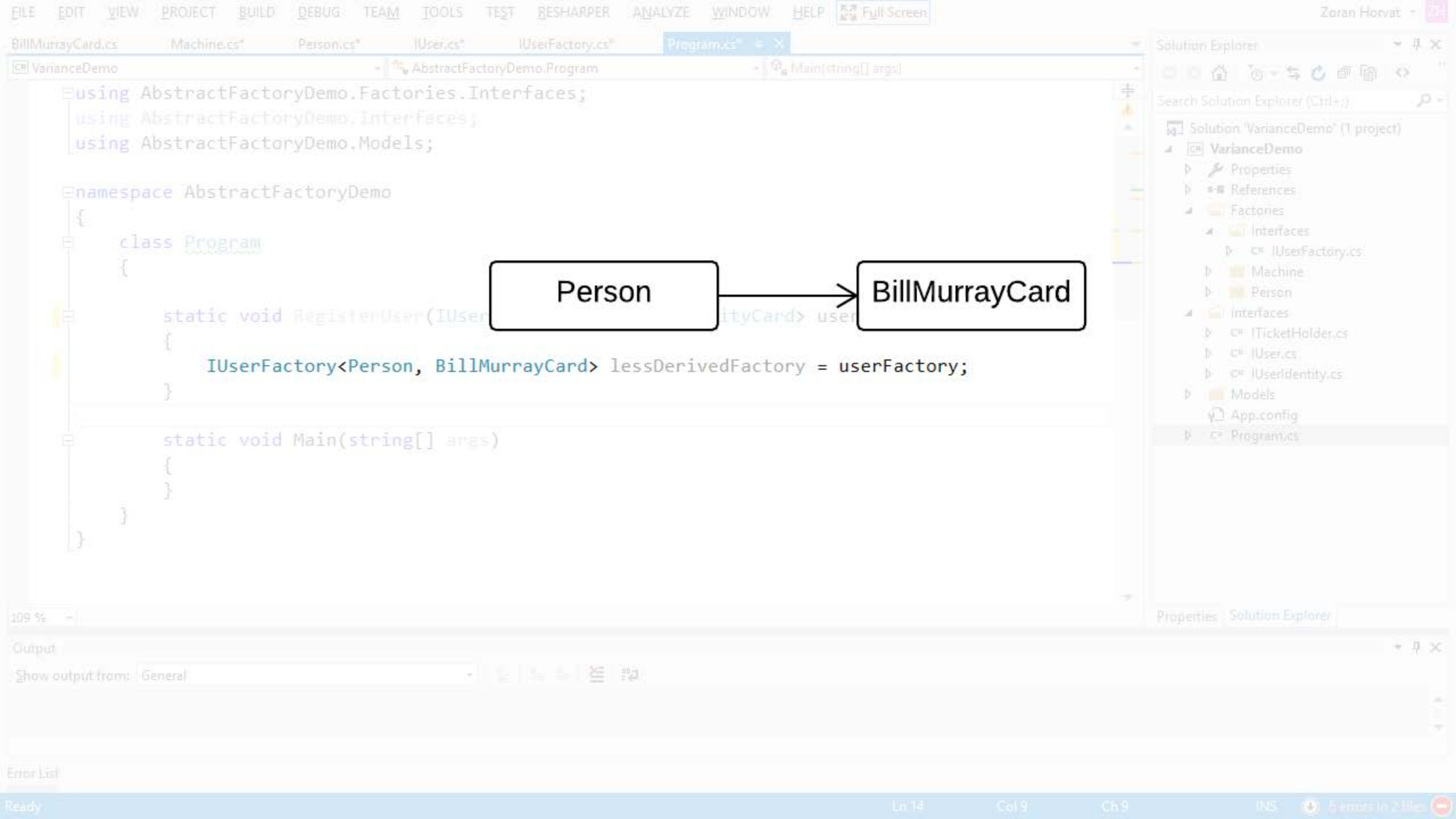
Solution Explorer

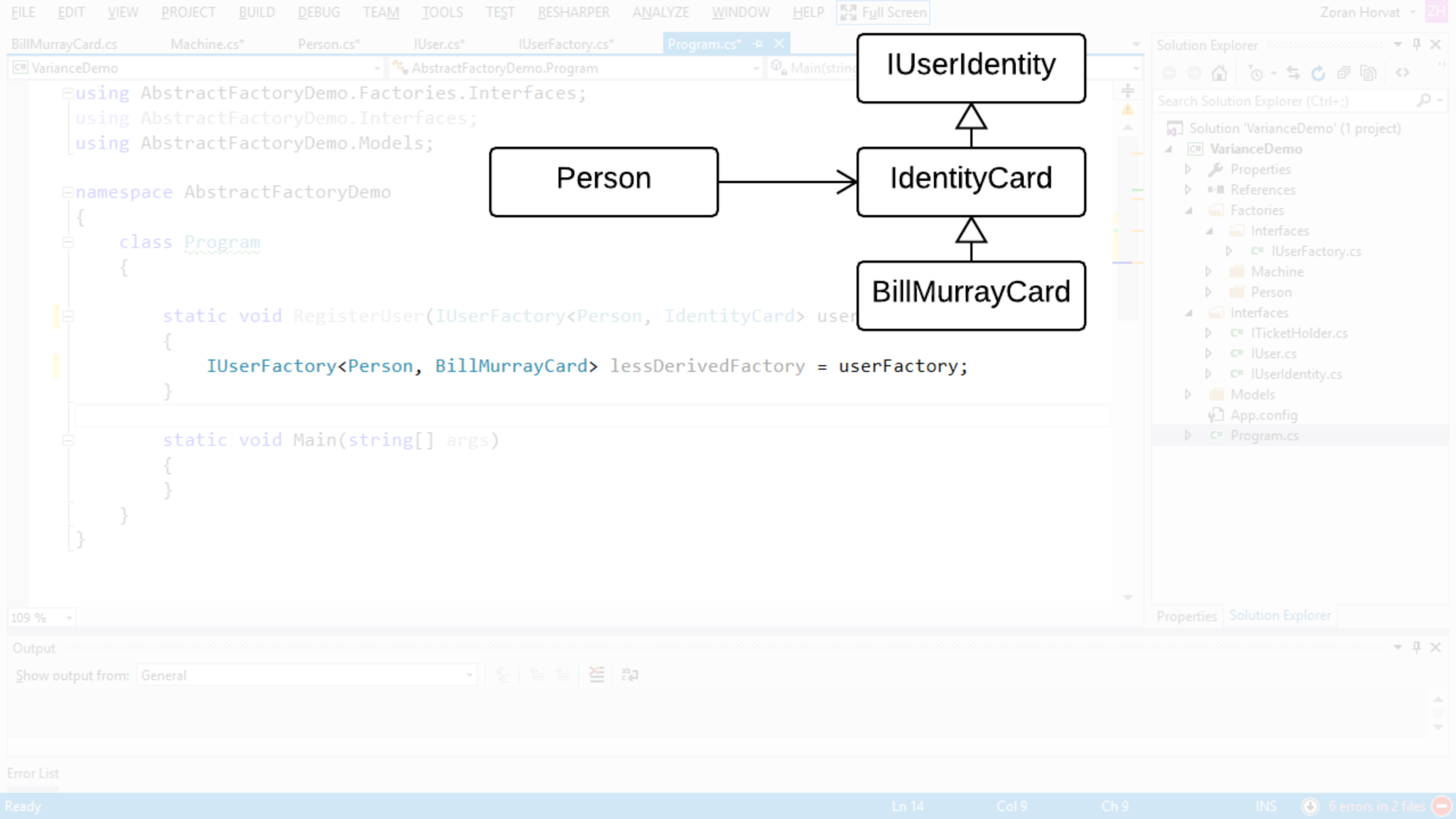
Search Solution Explorer (Ctrl+;)

Solution 'VarianceDemo' (1 project)

- VarianceDemo
 - Properties
 - References
 - Factories
 - Interfaces
 - IUserFactory.cs
 - Machine
 - Person
 - Interfaces
 - ITicketHolder.cs
 - IUser.cs
 - IUserIdentity.cs
 - Models
 - App.config
 - Program.cs

Covariance in generic types:
 Less derived generic type argument produces less derived generic type
 More derived generic type argument produces more derived generic type





FILEEDITVIEWPROJECTBUILDDEBUGTEAMTOOLSTESTRESHARPERANALYZEWINDOWHELPFull Screen

BillMurrayCard.csMachine.cs*Person.cs*IUser.cs*IUserFactory.cs*Program.cs* X

C#VarianceDemoAbstractFactoryDemo.ProgramMain(string[] args)

```
using AbstractFactoryDemo.Factories.Interfaces;
using Interfaces;
using Models;

namespace AbstractFactoryDemo
{
    class Program
    {
        IUserFactory<Person, BillMurrayCard> lessDerivedFactory = userFactory;

        static void Main(string[] args)
        {
        }
    }
}
```

IdentityCard

BillMurrayCard

IUserFactory<Person, BillMurrayCard>

IUserFactory<Person, IdentityCard>

BillMurrayCard

IUserFactory<Person, IdentityCard>

IdentityCard

IUserFactory<Person, BillMurrayCard>

Invoked

Executed

Contravariance in generic types:

Less derived generic type argument produces more derived generic type

More derived generic type argument produces less derived generic type

109 %

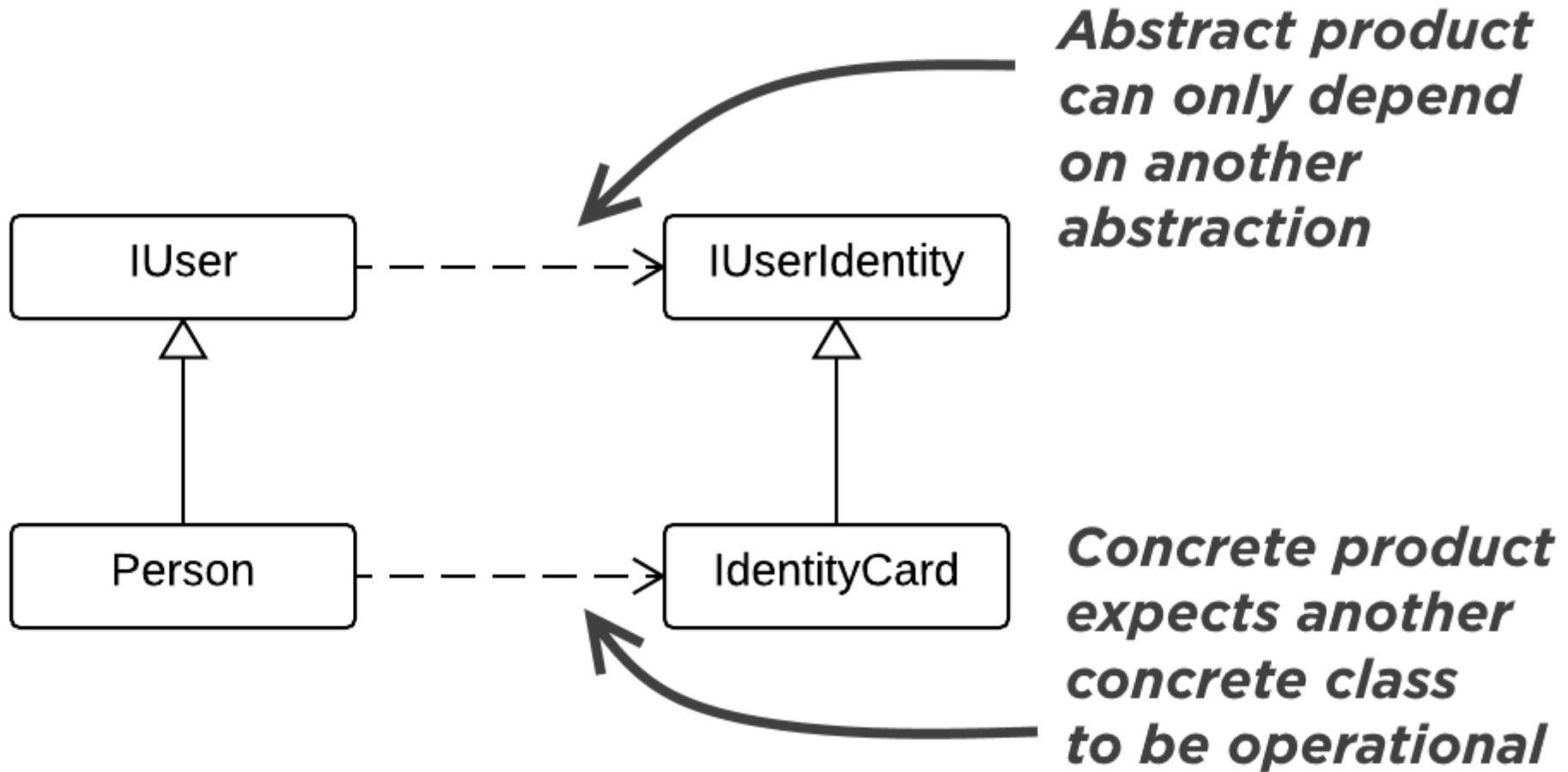
Output

Show output from: General

Error List

ReadyLn 14Col 9Ch 9INS6 errors in 2 files

Covariance-Contravariance Clash



Covariance-Contravariance Clash

Abstract Factory

Cannot resolve
the issue

Builder

Addresses
the issue
by hiding
abstract types

Specification

Same as
the Builder



Summary



Class dependencies

- Abstract Factory helps isolate dependencies

Covariance and contravariance

- Apply to generic types in object-oriented languages
- Objects look like being *covariant* on types their methods return
- Objects look like being *contravariant* on types of method arguments

Summary



The problem of Abstract Factory

- It is covariant on types of its concrete products
- Concrete products are contravariant on types of method arguments

This can become a serious problem

- It appears in cases when one product depends on another

Covariance-contravariance mismatch

- It will always be there
- Significant part of designing goes into working around this problem



Summary



More theory on the horizon...

Substitution Principle

- It tells which types can stand in place of which other types
- Ensures *syntactical* correctness

Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP)

- Extends the Substitution Principle
- Defines constraints on substitutes
- Ensures *semantical* correctness



Summary



Connection to covariance/contravariance

- Substitution Principle resembles covariance
- Liskov Substitution Principle resembles contravariance



Next module -

Applying the Substitution and Liskov Substitution Principles

