Conformance

Object-Oriented Programming

236703

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What’s Conformance?

- **Overriding**: replace method body in sub-class
- **Polymorphism**: subclass is usable wherever superclass is usable
- **Dynamic Binding**: consequence of overriding + polymorphism
  - Select right method body
- **Aftermath**: User knows the static type’s interface and behavior, but not the dynamic type’s!

**Conformance**: overriding method and overridden method should be equivalent

```java
class Base {
    f(arg) {
        // do x
    }
}

class Derived {
    f(arg) {
        // do y
    }
}
```
Conformance and Overriding

• Ideally, an overriding method should be semantically compatible with the overridden one
  • All versions of “draw” should draw the object
  • Not well-defined
  • Impossible to guarantee! (ask Turing…)

• We must content ourselves with syntactic compatibility, considering the following aspects:
  • **Signature**: input arguments, output arguments, input-output arguments, return type, exceptions
  • **Accessibility**
  • **Contract**: pre- and post-conditions, invariants
Same or better: An overriding method should have at least the same functionality as the overridden method. Namely:

Overriding should not pose surprises to client

**The Liskov Substitution Principle:**
Functions that use pointers or references to base classes must be able to use objects of derived classes* - without knowing it!

* Given *subtyping* (Derived *is a* Base, not just Derive : Base, AKA *subclassing*)
Liskov Substitution Principle

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck but needs batteries, you probably have the wrong abstraction.
“Same or better” Principle
Semantics vs. Syntax

class Rectangle {
    virtual void setW(int);
    virtual void setH(int);
};

class Square : public Rectangle {
    void setW(int) override;
    void setH(int) override;
};

void foo(Rectangle* r) {
    r->setW(20);
    r->setH(10);
}

Can Square replace a Rectangle?
LSP doesn’t apply! Remember:

*Overriding should not pose surprises to client*
Signature Conformance

Three alternatives:

• **No-variance**: *The argument’s type cannot be changed*

```cpp
class Base {
    virtual void f(Base*);
}
class Derived : public Base {
    void f(Base*) override;
}
```

We start the discussion with arguments, but *variance* is a general term.

To override, argument type must not be changed
Signature Conformance

Three alternatives:

- **No-variance**: *no change*
- **Covariance**: *Change argument’s type in the same direction as the inheritance direction*

```cpp
class Base {
    virtual void f(Base*);
}
class Derived : public Base {
    void f(Derived*) override;
}
```

Note: this is not legal C++ code!

To override, argument type can be a subtype.
Signature Conformance

Three alternatives:

• **No-variance**: no change
• **Covariance**: change downwards
• **Contravariance**: *Change argument’s type in the opposite direction of the inheritance direction*

```cpp
class Base {
    virtual void f(Base*);
}
class Derived : public Base {
    void f(BaseBase*) override;
}
```

Note: this is not legal C++ code!

To override, argument type can be a supertype
Type of Arguments

- For simplicity, we consider only input arguments
  - Arguments can be used for output or both
- Suppose that:
  - \( M \) is a method of a base class
  - \( M \) takes an argument of class \( A \)
  - \( M \) is overridden by \( M' \) in a derived class
- What is the type of the corresponding argument of \( M' \) in the derived class?

<table>
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<th>Variance Type</th>
<th>Argument Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>No-variance</td>
<td>Must be ( A )</td>
<td>C++, Java, C#</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covariance</td>
<td>( A ) or derived class thereof</td>
<td>Eiffel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contravariance</td>
<td>( A ) or base class thereof</td>
<td>Sather</td>
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What about Squeak?
Arguments Covariance is Natural

More examples:

Base: Graph and Node. Derived: MyGraph and MyNode
Base: Animal and Food. Derived: Lion and Meat
class Food{}
class Meat extends Food{}

class Animal {
    void feed(Food f) {
        //...
    }
}

class Lion extends Animal {
    void feed(Meat m) {
        //...
    }
}

void f(Animal a) {
    Food f = new Food();
    a.feed(f);
}
Arguments Contravariance is Safe

class Food{}
class Meat extends Food{}

class Animal {
  void feed(Food f) {
    //...
  }
}

class Pig extends Animal {
  void feed(Object o) {
    //...
  }
}

void f(Animal a) {
  Food f = new Food();
  a.feed(f);
}
Covariance and Static Typing

• We have seen that covariance is type unsafe
  • It may generate run-time type errors

• Q: How can covariance exist in Eiffel?
  • Given Eiffel has static type checking

• A: Eiffel's type system has “holes” (*catcalls*)
  • Some messages will not have a compatible method in the receiver
  • The developer should be aware of that
    • Similar to programming in a dynamically typed language

• A subclass with a covariant overriding is not a proper subtype of its superclass
  • The compiler will allow assignability
  • But, you may get a “method-not-found” runtime error
Covariance and Static Typing

• We have seen that covariance is type unsafe.
  • It may generate run-time type errors.

• Q: How can covariance exist in Eiffel?
  • Given Eiffel has static type checking

• **Possible solution: A whole-world-analysis**
  • The compiler tries to find all possible assignments to a variable
    • => Tries to predict the dynamic type of all variables
  • Cannot be achieved in the general case
• Suppose that:
  • M is a method of a base class
  • M returns a value of class A
  • M is overridden by M’ in a derived class

• Q: What should be the return type of M’ in the derived class?

• A: Covariance of return type is both natural and safe
Covariance of Return Type is Safe

```java
class Food{}
class Meat extends Food{}

class Animal {
    Food whatDoIEat() {
        //...
    }
}

class Lion extends Animal {
    Meat whatDoIEat() {
        //...
    }
}

void f(Animal a) {
    Food f = a.whatDoIEat();
}
```

When can the covariant return type be used?
Use case: Virtual Constructor Pattern

```cpp
struct Employee {
    virtual Employee* clone() {
        return new Employee(*this);
    }
};

struct Manager : Employee {
    Manager* clone() override {
        return new Manager(*this);
    }
};

void f() {
    Employee* e1 = new Employee();
    Employee* e2 = new Manager();
    Employee* e3;
    e3 = e1->clone();  // e3 points to an Employee
    e3 = e2->clone();  // e3 points to a Manager
    Manager* m = (new Manager())->clone();
}
```
Variance in C++ and Java

• Return value: Covariance is allowed!
  • C++: Must be pointer or reference
  • Absolutely type safe
  • Quite useful
  • Painful C++ implementation... (in a few weeks)

• Arguments: No Variance

• If a method has a covariant argument, It does not override the “old” method
  • Java: The new method **overloads** the old one
  • C++: The new method **hides** the old one
  • Specifying @Override/override ➔ compilation error
Covariance + Overloading = Headache

• This is a legal Java program
  • Recall: Covariance of arguments => Overloading

```java
class A {
    int f(A a) { return 1; }
}
class B extends A {
    int f(A a) { return 2; }
    int f(B b) { return 3; }
}
void f() {
    A a = new A(), ab = new B();
    B b = new B();
    a.f(a);  a.f(ab);  a.f(b);  // 1, 1, 1
    ab.f(a); ab.f(ab); ab.f(b);  // 2, 2, 2
    b.f(a);  b.f(ab);  b.f(b);  // 2, 2, 3
}
```

What would happen if we remove one at a time? And if this was C++?
Hiding in C++

• A similar program in C++
  • Recall: Covariance of arguments => hiding

```cpp
class A {
  public: virtual int f(A* a) { return 1; }
}
class B : public A {
  public: virtual int f(B* b) { return 3; }
}

void f() {
  A *a = new A(), *ab = new B();
  B* b = new B();
  a->f(a); a->f(ab); a->f(b); // 1, 1, 1
  ab->f(a); ab->f(ab); ab->f(b); // 1, 1, 1
  b->f(a); b->f(ab); b->f(b); // compilation error!
}
```
Conformance and Arguments Number

• Suppose that:
  • M is a method of a base class taking N arguments
  • M is overridden by M’ in a derived class

• Then, how many arguments should m’ have?
  • Exactly N:
    • Most current programming languages
  • N or less:
    • It does not matter which arguments are omitted as long as naming is consistent; available in JavaScript
  • N or more:
    • The BETA programming language (daughter of Simula).

• Note that adding arguments in an overriding method violates the “same or better” principle! (recall the LSP)
Conformance of Fields

• Usually, fields can be read-from and written-to
  • Similar to input-output arguments of a method
  • Thus, an overriding field should not change the field's type (No-variance)
• But, in most languages there's no overriding of fields...

```java
class Base {
    Base f;
}

class Derived extends Base {
    Object f; ??
    Derived f; ??
}
```
Conformance of Exceptions

• Suppose that:
  • M is a method of a base class that throws exceptions of types \{E_1...E_N\}
  • M is overridden by M’ in a derived class
  • M’ throws exceptions of types \{X_1...X_L\}

• What is the relationship between \{E_1...E_N\} and \{X_1...X_L\}?  

Java
• Recall: a calling function should handle the callee’s exceptions – catch or declare
• Therefore, for each \(X_i \ (1 \leq i \leq M)\) we require that there is \(E_j \ (1 \leq j \leq L)\) where \(X_i\) is a subtype of \(E_j\)

C++
• exceptions are not part of the signature
• C++ `throws` clause is checked at run-time
Access Conformance

All versions of a method should have at least the same visibility

- Smalltalk: All methods are public
- Java: Subclass can only improve the visibility of a method
- C++: Not enforced, may lead to breaking of encapsulation

```cpp
struct X {
    virtual void f();
};

struct Y : X {
    private:
        void f() override;
} y, *py = &y;

X* px = py;
py->f();  // Error! Y::f is private.
px->f();  // OK! (but breaks encapsulation)
```
A friend of base class is not necessarily a friend of the derived class.

class X {
    friend void amigo();
    virtual void f();
};
class Y : public X {
    void f() override;
};
void amigo()
{
    Y* y = new Y();
y->f(); // Error! Y::f is private
X* x = y; // Simple up casting
x->f(); // OK! now the same Y::f is accessible
}
Design By Contract

• A method can declare **pre-conditions**
  • Expected arguments values
• A method can declare **post-conditions**
  • Guaranteed return value
• A class can declare **invariants**
  • Object’s state (when stable)
• Contract is checked at run time
  • Like an assert – exception thrown upon failure
• **Allows enforcing semantic compatibility!**
  • But only at run time 😞
Language Support

• Introduced in Eiffel, later adopted by others
• Use case: Contracts for Java
  • A library providing Design by Contract abilities

```java
@Invariant("balance >= 0")
class Account {
    int balance, opsCtr;
    @Requires("sum > 0")
    @Ensures("result = old(balance) + sum")
    int deposit(int sum) {
        balance += sum;
        opsCtr++;
        return balance;
    }
}
```
Pre-condition Conformance

Overriding method must demand the same or less from its client (preconditions are or-ed):

class X {
    @Require("i > 0") void f(int i) { ... }
}

class Y extends X {
    @Require("i >= 0") void f(int i) { ... }
};

void f() {
    Y y = new Y();
    X x = y;
    x.f(1); // Ok: >0 is expected
    y.f(0); // Ok: 0 is allowed
}
Post-condition Conformance

Overriding method must ensure the **same or more** to its client (post-conditions are *and*-ed):

class X {
    @Ensures("result > 0") int f() { ... }
}
class Y extends X {
    @Ensures("result > 5") int f() { ... }
};
void f() {
    Y y = new Y();
    X x = y;
    assert(x.f() > 0); // Ok: >0 is expected (got >5)
    assert(y.f() > 5); // Ok: >5 is expected
}
Derived must **keep** Base invariants; can **add** invariants guarding new fields:

```java
@Invariant("m > 0")
class X {
    int m;
}

@Invariant("n % 2 == 0")
class Y extends X {
    int n;
}
```

What would changing Base invariants cause?
- Reduce requirements: might surprise client
- Increase requirements: might get Base methods to break new invariants