Now…

Use what we learned about subtyping for records and functions to understand subtyping for class-based OOP

– Like in Java/C#

Recall:

– Class names are also types
– Subclasses are also subtypes
– Substitution principle: Instance of subclass should usable in place of instance of superclass

An object is…

• Objects: mostly records holding fields and methods
  – Fields are mutable
  – Methods are immutable functions that also have access to `self`

• So could design a type system using types very much like record types
  – Subtypes could have extra fields and methods
  – Overriding methods could have contravariant arguments and covariant results compared to method overridden
    • Sound only because method “slots” are immutable!

Actual Java/C#…

Compare/contrast to what our “theory” allows:

1. Types are class names and subtyping are explicit subclasses
2. A subclass can add fields and methods
3. A subclass can override a method with a covariant return type
   – (No contravariant arguments; instead makes it a non-overriding method of the same name)

(1) Is a subset of what is sound (so also sound)
(3) Is a subset of what is sound and a different choice (adding method instead of overriding)

Classes vs. Types

• A class defines an object’s behavior
  – Subclassing inherits behavior and changes it via extension and overriding

• A type describes an object’s methods’ argument/result types
  – A subtype is substitutable in terms of its field/method types

• These are separate concepts: try to use the terms correctly
  – Java/C# confuse them by requiring subclasses to be subtypes
  – A class name is both a class and a type
  – Confusion is convenient in practice

Optional: More details

Java and C# are sound: They do not allow subtypes to do things that would lead to “method missing” or accessing a field at the wrong type

Confusing (?) Java example:

– Subclass can declare field name already declared by superclass
– Two classes can use any two types for the field name
– Instance of subclass have two fields with same name
– “Which field is in scope” depends on which class defined the method
**self/this is special**

- Recall our Racket encoding of OOP-style
  - "Objects" have a list of fields and a list of functions that take `self` as an explicit extra argument
- So if `self/this` is a function argument, is it contravariant?
  - No, it is covariant: a method in a subclass can use fields and methods only available in the subclass: essential for OOP

```java
class A {
    int m() {
        return 0;
    }
}

class B extends A {
    int x;
    int m() {
        return x;
    }
}
```

- Sound because calls always use the "whole object" for `self`
- This is why coding up your own objects manually works much less well in a statically typed language

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**What are generics good for?**

Some good uses for parametric polymorphism:

- Types for functions that combine other functions:
  ```javascript
  fun compose (g, h) = fn x => g (h x)
  (* compose: ('b -> 'c) * ('a -> 'b) -> ('a -> 'c) *)
  ``

- Types for functions that operate over generic collections
  ```javascript
  val length : 'a list -> int
  val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
  val swap : ('a * 'b) -> ('b * 'a)
  ```

Many other idioms

- General point: When types can "be anything" but multiple things need to be "the same type"

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**Generics in Java**

- Java generics a bit clumsier syntactically and semantically, but can express the same ideas
  - Without closures, often need to use (one-method) objects
  - See also earlier optional lecture on closures in Java/C
- Simple example without higher-order functions (optional):
  ```java
class Pair<T1,T2> {
    T1 x;
    T2 y;
    Pair(T1 _x, T2 _y){ x = _x; y = _y; }
    Pair<T2,T1> swap() {
        return new Pair<T2,T1>(y,x);
    }
}
```

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**Subtyping is not good for this**

- Using subtyping for containers is much more painful for clients
  - Have to downcast items retrieved from containers
  - Downcasting has run-time cost
  - Downcasting can fail: no static check that container holds the type of data you expect
  - (Only gets more painful with higher-order functions like `map`)

```java
class LamePair {
    Object x;
    Object y;
    LamePair(Object _x, Object _y){ x=_x; y=_y; }
    LamePair swap() {
        return new LamePair(y,x);
    }
}
```

// error caught only at run-time:
String s = (String)(new LamePair("hi",4).y);

---

**What is subtyping good for?**

Some good uses for subtype polymorphism:

- Code that "needs a Foo" but fine to have "more than a Foo"
- Geometry on points works fine for colored points
- GUI widgets specialize the basic idea of "being on the screen" and "responding to user actions"

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**Awkward in ML**

ML does not have subtyping, so this simply does not type-check:

```ml
(* (x:real, y:real) -> real *)
fun distToOrigin ((x=x,y=y)) = 
    Math.sqrt(x*x + y*y)
val five = distToOrigin (x=3.0,y=4.0, color="red")
```

Cumbersome workaround: have caller pass in getter functions:

```ml
(* (a -> real) * (a -> real) * a -> real *)
fun distToOrigin (getx, gety, v) = 
    Math.sqrt((getx v)*(getx v) + (gety v)*(gety v))
    + (gety v)* (gety v)
  (* And clients still need different getters for points, color-points *)
```
**Wanting both**

- Could a language have generics and subtyping?
  - Sure!

- More interestingly, want to combine them
  - "Any type $T_1$ that is a subtype of $T_2$"
  - Called bounded polymorphism
  - Lets you do things naturally you cannot do with generics or subtyping separately

**Subtyping?**

```java
List<Point> inCircle(List<Point> pts, Point center, double r) { ... }
```

- Would like to use `inCircle` by passing a `List<ColorPoint>` and getting back a `List<ColorPoint>`
- Java rightly disallows this: While `inCircle` would "do nothing wrong" its type does not prevent:
  - Returning a list that has a non-color-point in it
  - Modifying `pts` by adding non-color-points to it

**Generics?**

```java
List<Point> inCircle(List<Point> pts, Point center, double r) { ... }
```

- We could change the method to be
  ```java
  <T> List<T> inCircle(List<T> pts, Point center, double r) { ... }
  ```
  - Now the type system allows passing in a `List<Point>` to get a `List<Point>` returned or a `List<ColorPoint>` to get a `List<ColorPoint>` returned
  - But cannot implement `inCircle` properly: method body should have no knowledge of type `T`

**Bounds**

- What we want:
  ```java
  <T extends Point> List<T> inCircle(List<T> pts, Point center, double r) where T <: Point
  { ... }
  ```

- Caller uses it generically, but must instantiate `T` with some subtype of `Point` (including `Point`)
- Caller can assume `T <: Point` so it can do its job
- Caller must return a `List<T>` so output will contain only elements from `pts`

**Real Java**

- The actual Java syntax:
  ```java
  <T extends Point> List<T> inCircle(List<T> pts, Point center, double r) { ...
  List<T> result = new ArrayList<T>();
  for(T pt : pts)
    if(pt.distance(center) < r)
      result.add(pt);
  return result;
  }
  ```

- Note: For backward-compatibility and implementation reasons, in Java there is actually always a way to use casts to get around the static checking with generics
  - With or without bounded polymorphism