

➤ Contracts and Abstraction

- Casts
- Checking a Type
- Interfaces

Contracts

What is the contract for the `equals` method of `String`?

```
"hello".equals(...)
```

So far, we've pretended that it takes a `String` and produces a `boolean`

```
"hello".equals("bye") → false
```

```
"hello".equals(8) contract mismatch
```

The truth is somewhat more complex:

```
"hello".equals(new Posn(1, 2)) → false
```

The Whole Truth

- The `equals` method takes an `Object` and returns a `boolean`
- Every class extends `Object`

```
class Posn {  
    double x;  
    ...  
}
```

is a shorthand for

```
class Posn extends Object {  
    double x;  
    ...  
}
```

- The `equals` method is defined in `Object`

The Default Equals Method

```
class Object {  
    ...  
    boolean equals(Object o) {  
        return o == this;  
    }  
}
```

where `==` is like `eq?` in Scheme

Using Object for Abstraction

In Scheme, we eventually wrote abstractions for lists:

```
; A list-of-X is either
; - empty
; - (cons X list-of-X)
```

A precise translation to a Java-like notation:

```
abstract class ListOf<X> { }
class EmptyListOf<X> { ... }
class ConsListOf<X> {
  <X> first;
  ListOf<X> rest;
  ...
}

new ConsListOf<String>("apple", ...)
```

But Java doesn't support this, yet

Using Object for Abstraction

In Scheme, we eventually wrote abstractions for lists:

```
; A list-of-X is either
; - empty
; - (cons X list-of-X)
```

A usable translation to Java:

```
abstract class List { }
class Empty { ... }
class Cons {
  Object first;
  List rest;
  ...
}

new Cons("apple", ...)
```

Object Lists

```
abstract class List {
  abstract boolean isMember(Object o);
}

class Empty extends List {
  Empty() { }
  boolean isMember(Object o) { return false; }
}

class Cons extends List {
  Object first;
  List rest;
  Cons(Object first, List rest) {
    this.first = first; this.rest = rest;
  }
  boolean isMember(Object o) {
    return this.first.equals(o) || this.rest.isMember(o);
  }
}
```

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Extracting Objects

- Implement the `List` method `nth`, which takes a number n and returns the first item in the list after skipping n items, or an empty list if no items are left

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Using Extracted Objects

```
new Cons(new Posn(1, 2), new Empty()).nth(0)
→ Posn(x = 1, y = 2)
```

```
new Cons(new Posn(1, 2), new Empty()).nth(0).x
contract error
```

The contract error occurs because `nth` promises merely to return an `Object`, not necessarily a `Posn`

Java provides a way around this weakness in the contract system...

Casts

A **cast** is a dynamic request for an improved contract

General syntax:

```
(Class)expr
```

The parentheses are required

Examples:

```
(Posn)(new Cons(new Posn(1, 2), new Empty()).nth(0))
```

```
Path escapePath(Person p) {
  Path lp = this.left.escapePath(p);
  if (lp.isOk())
    return new Left((Success)lp);
  ...
}
```

Using A Cast to implement equals

A problem with `Posn`:

```
new Posn(1, 2).equals(new Posn(1, 2))
→ false
```

To fix this, we need to override `equals`:

```
class Posn {
  double x;
  double y;
  Posn(double x, double y) {
    this.x = x; this.y = y;
  }
  boolean equals(Object o) {
    return (this.x == ((Posn)o).x
        && (this.y == ((Posn)o).y));
  }
}
```

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Checking Types

A remaining problem:

```
"hello".equals(new Posn(1, 2)) → false
new Posn(1, 2).equals("hello") → cast failed
```

Our `equals` should only cast if the argument really is a `Posn`

The `instanceof` operator tests whether a cast will succeed

```
boolean equals(Object o) {
    if (o instanceof Posn)
        return (this.x == ((Posn)o).x
                && (this.y == ((Posn)o).y));
    else
        return false;
}
```

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Using instanceof

The `instanceof` operator is only in **Advanced Java** because it's rarely the right way to implement something

Example bad use:

```
class Cons extends List {
    ...
    boolean isMember(Object o) {
        if (this.first.equals(o))
            return true;
        else if (this.rest instanceof Empty)
            return false;
        ...
    }
}
```

Your HW 13 solution must be implemented with **Intermediate Java**

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Named Doors

Suppose that we want to make the following improvements to our maze game:

- Some doors will have names
- We want to get all of the named places in a maze, including both escapes and named doors
- We'll need certain methods on named places, such as `isNice`
- We don't want to add named-place methods to all doors
- We refuse to use `instanceof`

```
abstract class Door {  
    ...  
    abstract List places();  
}
```

Interface

An **interface** is like an abstract class with no fields and all abstract methods

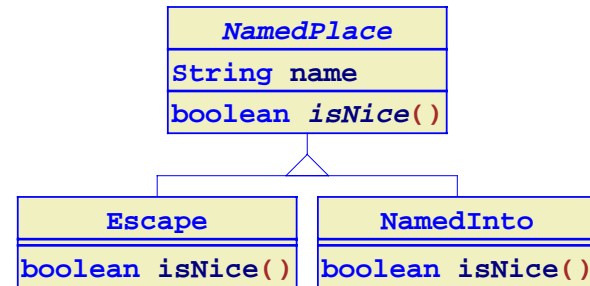
```
interface NamedPlace {  
    boolean isNice();  
}
```

Instead of extending an interface, classes implement it

```
class Escape extends Door implements NamedPlace {  
    ...  
    boolean isNice() { return true; }  
}  
  
class NamedInto extends Into implements NamedPlace {  
    ...  
    boolean isNice() { return false; }  
}
```

A NamedPlace Abstract Class

Like this?

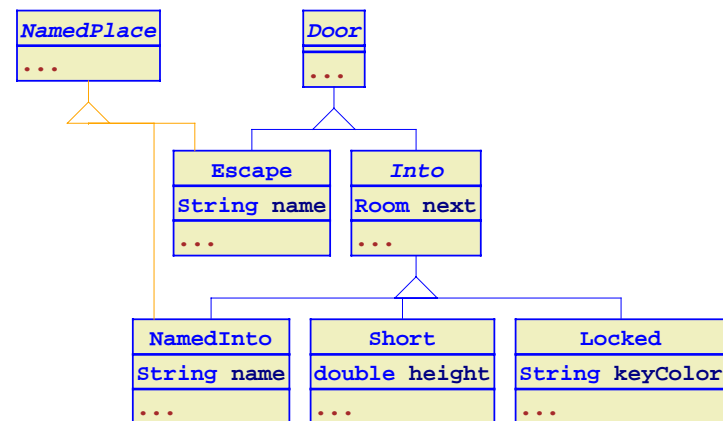


`NamedPlace` can't be an abstract class, because `Escape` already extends `Door`, and `NamedInto` should extend `Into`

A class must extend exactly one class

However, `NamedPlace` can be an interface...

Door Hierarchy with Interfaces



Single vs. Multiple, Implementation vs. Interface

A class must extend only one class

- This is ***single inheritance*** of ***implementation***

A class interface can implement any number of interfaces

- This is ***multiple inheritance*** of ***interface***