

# HASKELL'S TYPECLASSES

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SVN update then look in *HaskellTypeClasses*  
folder and open *typeClasses.hs*



# HASKELL *TYPECLASSES*

- Like interfaces in Java
  - Provide polymorphism by specifying that a type supports certain operations
  - But more powerful...

# EXAMPLE

instance type name,  
think “self” but for types

```
class MyEq a where  
  isEqual :: a -> a -> Bool
```

declares a typeclass,  
but think “interface”

Any type that claims to be an instance of MyEq (think “implements the MyEq interface”) must provide a function that takes two things of its type and returns a Bool.



# INSTANCE DECLARATIONS

- Syntax:

***instance*** *TypeClassName* *Data Type* ***where***

<Required and optional function declarations>

- Example: **instance MyEq String** where

```
isEqual "" "" = True
```

```
isEqual "" _ = False
```

```
isEqual _ "" = False
```

```
isEqual (c:cs) (c':cs') =
```

```
(c == c') && isEqual cs cs'
```

think “String  
implements  
MyEq”

# MORE POWER!

```
class MyEq2 a where  
  isEqual2 :: a -> a -> Bool
```

```
isNotEqual2 :: a -> a -> Bool
```



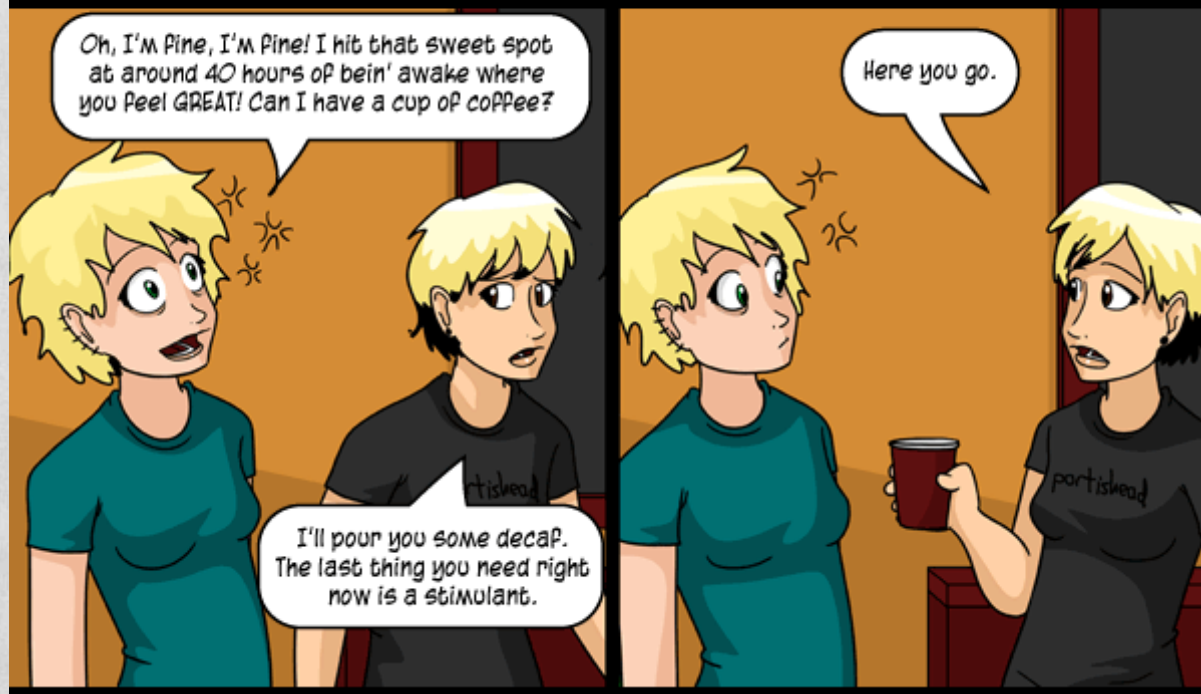


# MORE POWER!

```
class MyEq2 a where
  isEqual2 :: a -> a -> Bool
  isEqual2 x y =
    not (isNotEqual2 x y)

  isNotEqual2 :: a -> a -> Bool
  isNotEqual2 x y =
    not (isEqual2 x y)
```









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# SOME BUILT-IN TYPECLASSES

- Show: converts values to Strings
  - `show :: (Show a) => a -> String`
- Read: the opposite of Show, provides simple parsing
  - `read :: (Read a) => String -> a`
  - `readsPrec :: (Read a) => Int -> String -> [(a, String)]`
- Eq, Ord, Num, Double, Float, Int, Integer, Rational, ...

# I NEED MORE POWER!

data Color = Red | Yellow | Blue  
deriving  
(Read, Show, Eq, Ord, Enum)



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# ONE MORE WAY TO NAME TYPES

Type constructor

Name of new type

Representation type

```
newtype UserID = UserID Int  
deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

Operations to expose

# THREE WAYS TO NAME TYPES

- *data BinTree a = ExtNode | IntNode a (BinTree a) (BinTree a)*
  - A brand new, structured, algebraic datatype
- *type String = [Char]*
  - Just synonyms, *String* and *[Char]* interchangeable
- *newtype UserID = UserID Int deriving (Eq, Show, Ord)*
  - Distinct type, represented as underlying type, but only supports some operations, not interchangeable