

APIT - Java recap etc

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Overview

- ▶ Programming
- ▶ Objects, interfaces etc
- ▶ Immutable objects
- ▶ Call by reference / value
- ▶ Final
- ▶ Testing
- ▶ Documenting
- ▶ Tools

Programming

Your experience

- ▶ How many people had their first experience of programming in S1?
- ▶ What other languages have you used?
- ▶ What programming tools have you used?
- ▶ How many of you know what the following things are:
 - ▶ Objects?
 - ▶ Functions?
 - ▶ Stacks? Queues? Linked lists? Arrays?
 - ▶ Regular Expressions?

High v low -level languages

- ▶ Computers follow instructions in *machine code*
 - ▶ binary... quite hard for humans to read
 - ▶ not *that* long ago, humans had to program computers like this (some academics in SoCS will remember...)
 - ▶ Machine code is *low level*
- ▶ At the other extreme, *high level* languages are easier for humans to read
 - ▶ Java is a fairly *high level* language

Compiled v Interpreted v Java

- ▶ Computers run programs in Machine Code
 - ▶ Low level language. Not human readable
- ▶ Some languages require programs to be *compiled* into Machine Code
 - ▶ e.g. C++
- ▶ Some languages are interpreted line by line as they are run
 - ▶ e.g. Matlab
- ▶ Java is a bit different
 - ▶ It is compiled into Bytecode
 - ▶ Bytecode is run on the Java Virtual Machine
 - ▶ What is a virtual machine?

Compiling and running Java from the command line

- ▶ I will do this in class
- ▶ In simplest case, it involves two steps:
 - ▶ Compiling: `javac MyClass.java`
 - ▶ Running: `java MyClass`
- ▶ We will see some more complex examples throughout the course

Organising projects

- ▶ All the programs in this course involve small numbers of classes
- ▶ For larger projects, it is important to organise all your files in a standard manner
 - ▶ Eclipse does this automatically
- ▶ If you want to do it manually, good description is available [here](#)

Object Orientation

- ▶ Java is an *Object Oriented* language
- ▶ What are objects?
- ▶ Why program with objects?
- ▶ Why not program with objects?
- ▶ Homework: read this

Classes

- ▶ Classes define objects
- ▶ Pet is a simple class used by PetTest
- ▶ Classes allow us to neatly combine related attributes and methods

Inheritance

- ▶ One of the big strengths of OOP is *inheritance*
 - ▶ Creating classes that *inherit* everything of another class and add more
 - ▶ e.g. Dog, Goldfish, PetInheritanceTest
- ▶ In this example we also see overridden methods
 - ▶ Dog and Goldfish override the description method
 - ▶ The loop does not care which subclass the objects belong to.
 - ▶ This is very useful in many applications - *polymorphism*

Abstract Classes

- ▶ Standard classes can be *instantiated*
 - ▶ i.e. we can create objects of their type (e.g. Pet, Dog, etc)
- ▶ Java allows you to define classes that cannot be instantiated:
Abstract classes
- ▶ Abstract classes can only be sub-classed
 - ▶ e.g. AbstractPet, Cat and AbstractPetTest
- ▶ There is no situation where you would *have* to use an abstract class but many where it's neater
- ▶ Note that sub-classes have to implement all abstract methods or be abstract themselves

Interfaces

- ▶ Interfaces are similar to abstract classes but:
 - ▶ Cannot have fields (unless they are `static` and `final`)
- ▶ See `InterfacePet`, `Parrot` and `TestInterfacePet`
- ▶ Interfaces are like contracts: they just specify the methods a class must implement
 - ▶ Note that methods in interfaces are abstract by default
- ▶ Note:
 - ▶ Classes can only sub-class one class. . .
 - ▶ . . . but can implement many interfaces

Exercise: measurement with units

You are working in a team building a system to work with GPS data (from e.g. a running watch). Your task is to create the part of the code to deal with distance values, that can be stored in a number of different units (metres, kilometers, miles, etc). Objects with different units have to be able to be compared (for e.g. sorting).

- ▶ Can you think of a way of doing this with a single class (e.g. `UnitDistance` that stores the distance as a double and an object representing the unit). You'll need an interface somewhere...
- ▶ My solution in `recap/code/UnitDistance`
- ▶ Could you solve this with an abstract class instead of an interface? How?

Some odds and ends

public, private and protected

- ▶ Fields/attributes and methods are either public, private, or protected
 - ▶ Public: anything can access
 - ▶ Private: only objects of this type can access
 - ▶ e.g. `provideBone` method in `Dog`
 - ▶ Protected: only objects of this type, sub-classes (and other things within the same package)
 - ▶ e.g. `name` and `age` in `Pet` and `AbstractPet`
- ▶ In general, be as restrictive as possible.

static

- ▶ Fields and methods can also be declared `static`
- ▶ This means that they are accessible without an object being instantiated
- ▶ Useful for storing generic methods and constants
- ▶ e.g. `MyMath` and `MyMathTest`
 - ▶ `areaOfCircle` is used without creating a `MyMath` object
 - ▶ Another static thing is used here - what is it?

static attributes

- ▶ Static attributes within an object are *shared* by all instances
- ▶ Change the value in one, and it will change in all of the others. . .
 - ▶ Useful, but not always the neatest solution

Memory in Java

- ▶ Most data in Java is stored in Objects
- ▶ Objects are stored in an area of memory called the *heap*
 - ▶ There is one heap for the whole program
- ▶ Each thread has its own stack
 - ▶ All programs have at least one thread
 - ▶ In your programmes so far, there is one thread

The Stack

- ▶ The stack is used for three purposes:
 - ▶ Evaluating expressions
 - ▶ Storage of local variables (variables in the current *scope*)
 - ▶ Management of method calls
- ▶ Think of it as a stack of paper.
 - ▶ Pieces of paper are put on (pushed), and taken off (popped), the top of the pile
 - ▶ LIFO: Last In First Out

The Heap

- ▶ The heap is an area of memory used to store objects in Java
- ▶ Objects in the heap are accessible from any part of the program that has a local reference to the object
- ▶ Threads share a single heap
 - ▶ i.e. each thread can access objects in the heap
 - ▶ Useful, but causes all of the multi-threading problems we will see
- ▶ In Java, objects are stored in the heap, references to objects are stored in the stack
 - ▶ This is very important, and we will come back to it later. . .

Garbage collection

- ▶ Java periodically deletes objects when they are not needed
- ▶ An object is not needed if it is *unreachable*
 - ▶ i.e. no references to it exist

```
public class Garbage {  
    public static class A {  
        B b;  
        public A(B b) {  
            this.b = b;  
        }  
    }  
    public class B {}  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        B b = new B();  
        A a = new A(b);  
        B b1 = new B();  
        B b2 = new B();  
        b = null;  
        b2 = null;  
    }  
}
```

Figure 1: Example program

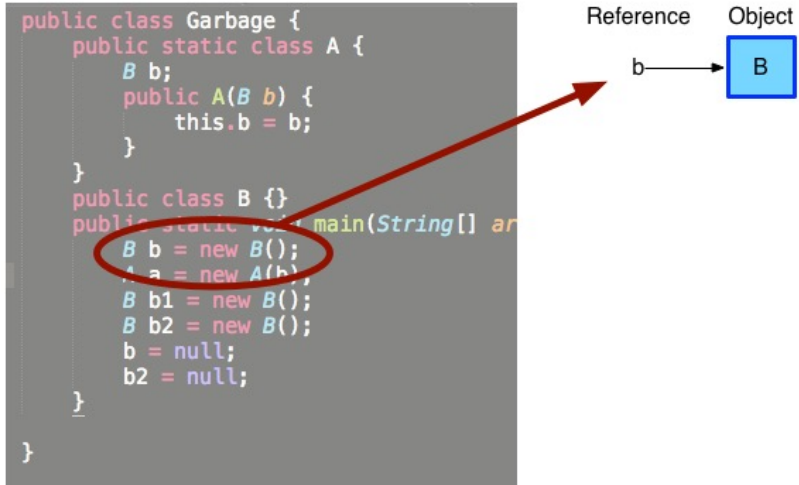


Figure 2: Object (B) and reference (b) created

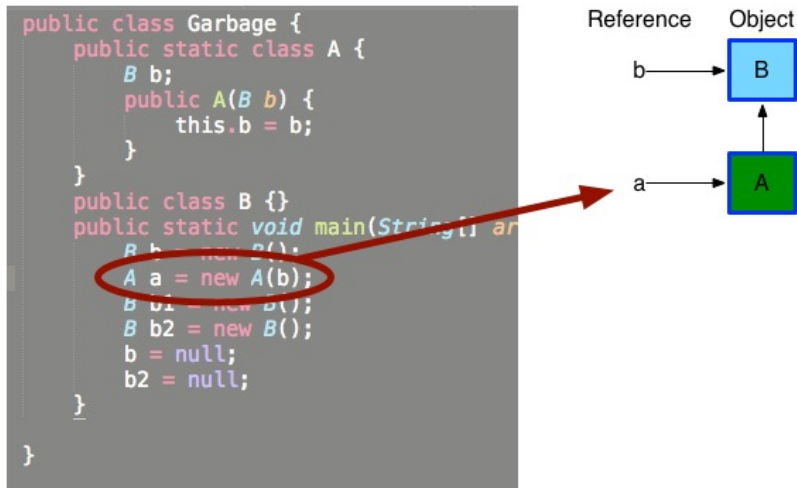


Figure 3: object (A) and reference (a) created. Note that A includes a reference to B)


```

public class Garbage {
    public static class A {
        B b;
        public A(B b) {
            this.b = b;
        }
    }
    public class B {}
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        B b = new B();
        A a = new A(b);
        B b1 = new B();
        B b2 = new B();
        b = null;
        b2 = null;
    }
}

```

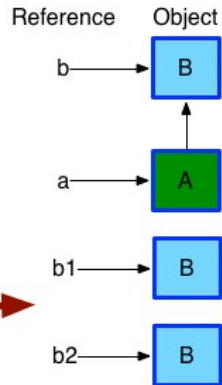


Figure 4: Two more B objects and references created

```

public class Garbage {
    public static class A {
        B b;
        public A(B b) {
            this.b = b;
        }
    }
    public class B {}
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        B b = new B();
        A a = new A(b);
        B b1 = new B();
        B b2 = new B();
        b = null;
        b2 = null;
    }
}

```

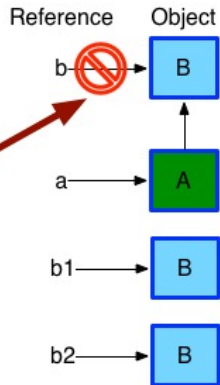


Figure 5: Reference b deleted

```

public class Garbage {
    public static class A {
        B b;
        public A(B b) {
            this.b = b;
        }
    }
    public class B {}
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        B b = new B();
        A a = new A(b);
        B b1 = new B();
        B b2 = new B();
        b = null;
        b2 = null;
    }
}

```

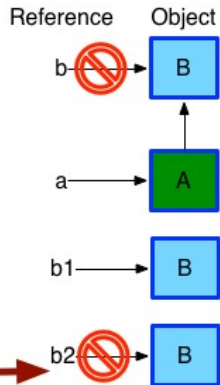


Figure 6: Reference b2 deleted

```

public class Garbage {
    public static class A {
        B b;
        public A(B b) {
            this.b = b;
        }
    }
    public class B {}
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        B b = new B();
        A a = new A(b);
        B b1 = new B();
        B b2 = new B();
        b = null;
        b2 = null;
    }
}

```

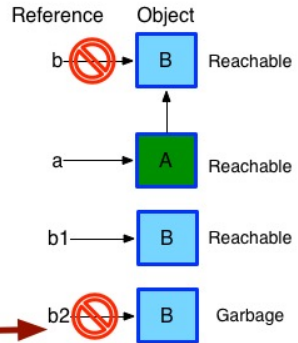


Figure 7: Objects with no reference are garbage. Note that the first B is still referenced from A so isn't garbage even though its original reference has been deleted

Immutable objects

- ▶ Some native Java objects are *immutable*
- ▶ Once they are created they cannot be changed
 - ▶ e.g. String, Double, Float, Integer, etc
- ▶ It looks like we can change them?

```
String a = "hello";  
a+=" simon";
```

- ▶ But, Java is creating a new object and storing the reference in a
 - ▶ Objects in heap, references in stack...
- ▶ See StringExample

Call by value and call by reference

- ▶ Call by value
 - ▶ Value of a variable is passed to a method
 - ▶ Changes to the local copy are not reflected in the calling space
- ▶ Call by reference (e.g. C++)
 - ▶ Object references are passed to method
 - ▶ Actual object can be modified

```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

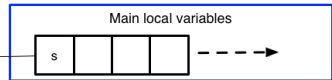
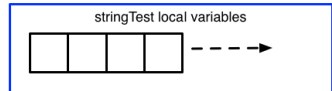
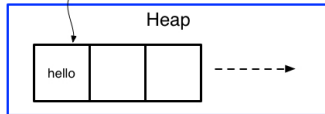


Figure 8:

```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        system.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

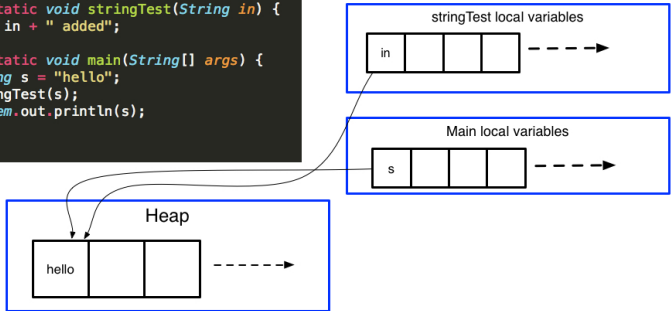


Figure 9:


```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

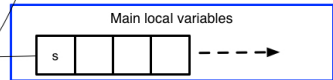
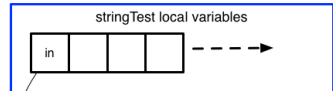
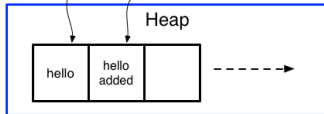


Figure 10:

```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

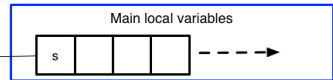
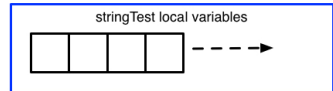
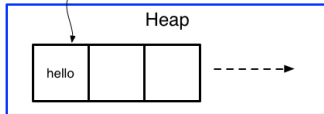


Figure 11:

```

public class ObjectThing {
    public static class myObject {
        private String s;
        public myObject(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public void setString(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public String getString() {
            return this.s;
        }
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        myObject o = new myObject(s);
        myObject o2 = o;
        o.setString("blah");
        System.out.println(o2.getString());
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

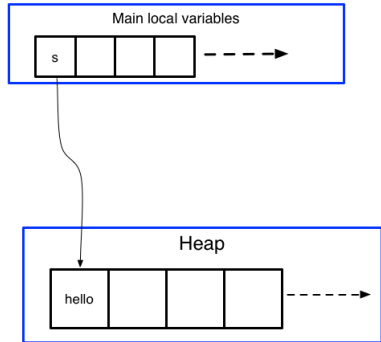


Figure 12:

```

public class ObjectThing {
    public static class myObject {
        private String s;
        public myObject(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public void setString(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public String getString() {
            return this.s;
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        myObject o = new myObject(s);
        myObject o2 = o;
        o.setString("blah");
        System.out.println(o2.getString());
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of
status here

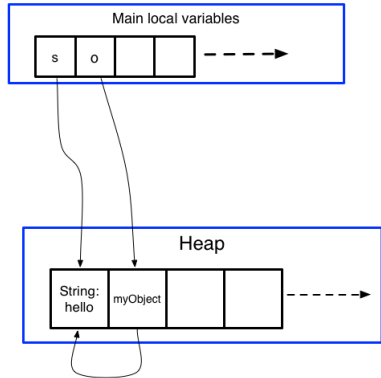


Figure 13:

```

public class ObjectThing {
    public static class myObject {
        private String s;
        public myObject(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public void setString(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public String getString() {
            return this.s;
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        myObject o = new myObject(s);
        myObject o2 = o;
        o.setString("blah");
        System.out.println(o2.getString());
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of status here

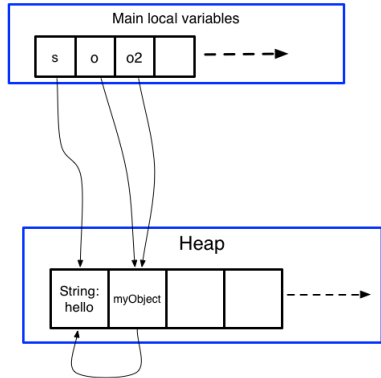


Figure 14:

```

public class ObjectThing {
    public static class myObject {
        private String s;
        public myObject(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public void setString(String s) {
            this.s = s;
        }
        public String getString() {
            return this.s;
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        myObject o = new myObject(s);
        myObject o2 = o;
        o.setString("blah");
        System.out.println(o2.getString());
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

Snapshot of status here

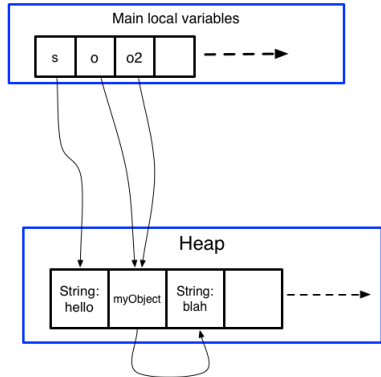


Figure 15:

- ▶ In Java, numbers and object references are call by value. Note that there is a difference between:
 - ▶ Objects are passed by reference
 - ▶ Object references are passed by value
- ▶ Objects passed to a method can be modified, but creating new ones will not be reflected in the calling scope (the reference cannot change)
 - ▶ CallExamples
- ▶ Objects are stored in the heap, references to objects are stored in the stack

```
public class StringThing {  
    public static void stringTest(String in) {  
        in = in + " added";  
    }  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        String s = "hello";  
        stringTest(s);  
        System.out.println(s);  
    }  
}
```

Reference
(main)

Object

Reference
(stringTest)

Figure 16: Example program

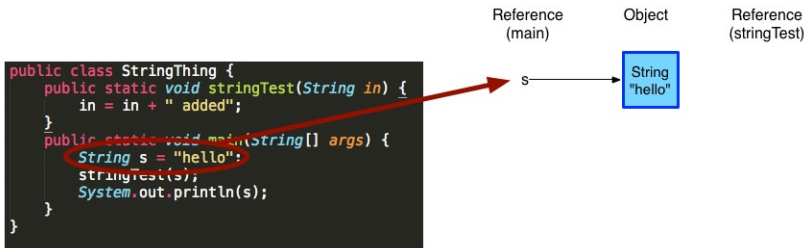


Figure 17: Main makes a String object and a reference (s)

```
public class StringThing {  
    public static void stringTest(String in) {  
        in = in + " added";  
    }  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        String s = "hello";  
        stringTest(s);  
        System.out.println(s);  
    }  
}
```

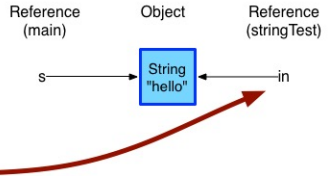


Figure 18: `stringTest` makes its own reference to the `String` object (`in`)

```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

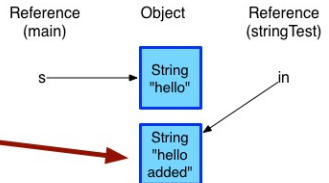


Figure 19: String is an immutable type so when we change it, a new String is made

```

public class StringThing {
    public static void stringTest(String in) {
        in = in + " added";
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "hello";
        stringTest(s);
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}

```

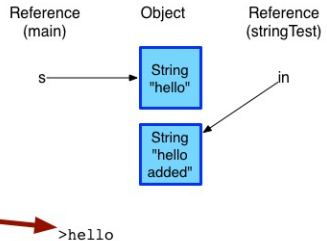


Figure 20: Back in main, s is still a reference to the original object. What happens to the “hello added” string when we return to main?

Mutable objects

- ▶ In `StringExample` the main method created a new `String` object `s+=" simon"`
- ▶ The original one remained unchanged
 - ▶ This is because `String` is *immutable*
- ▶ What about a mutable object?
- ▶ `MutableNastiness`
- ▶ Returning mutable objects is bad practice
- ▶ `MutableNastinessFixed` fixes it by returning a new object

Final

- ▶ It is good practice to make as many things `final` as possible
- ▶ Make as many attributes `final` as possible
- ▶ Stops other people doing bad things to your code
 - ▶ `final` classes can not be sub-classed
 - ▶ `final` methods can not be overloaded
 - ▶ `final` variables cannot be modified once declared
- ▶ `final` is not the same as `immutable`
- ▶ `FinalTest` and `FinalTestFixed`

Some useful Java objects

ArrayList

- ▶ Java arrays are of fixed length
- ▶ ArrayList gives you an object that can handle arrays of any object that change length

```
ArrayList<Integer> a = new ArrayList();  
a.add(3);  
a.add(5);  
System.out.println(a.contains(4)); // Checks if 4 is in a
```

HashSet

- Useful way of keeping a set of objects together (not ordered)

```
HashSet<String> h = new HashSet<String>();  
h.add("hello");  
h.add("simon");  
h.add("hello"); // Won't add as already in there  
h.contains("hello"); // returns true  
h.remove("simon"); // removes this one
```

- Very fast for checking if an item is in the set

HashMap

- Useful way of storing key,value pairs

```
HashMap<String,Double> h = new HashMap<String,Double>()  
h.put("banana",3.0);  
h.put("apple",2.0);  
System.out.println(h.get("apple")); //print 2  
h.keySet(); // Returns a set of the keys
```

- Very fast for obtaining items for a particular key

Generics

ArrayList

- ▶ What is the `<Double>` for in `ArrayList`?
- ▶ It is a generic
- ▶ i.e. `ArrayList` can work with any type (specified when you create it)
- ▶ You can make classes with generics too...

Creating generic objects

```
public class MyClass<T> {  
    private T t;  
    public MyClass(T t) {  
        this.t = t;  
    }  
}
```

- ▶ In the code above T can be any class
- ▶ Can also have multiple types in the definition (<A,B,C,D>)
- ▶ See Dictionary.java