

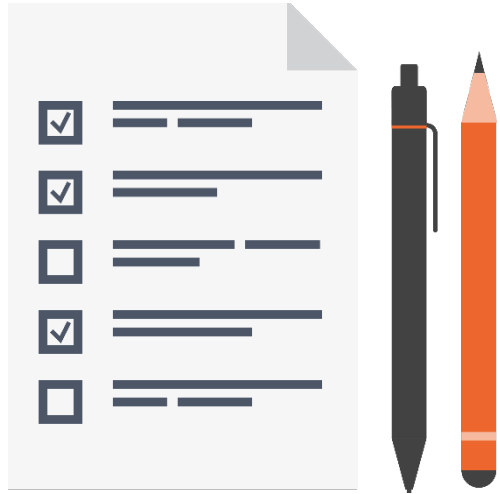
Representing Complex Types with Classes



Jim Wilson

@hedgehogjim | blog.jwhh.com | jimw@jwhh.com

What to Expect in This Module



Classes

Using classes

Classes as reference types

Encapsulation and access modifiers

Method basics

Field accessors and mutators

Classes in Java

- Java is an object-oriented language
- Objects encapsulates data, operations, and usage semantics
 - Allows storage and manipulation details to be hidden
 - Separates “what” is to be done from “how” it is done
- Classes provide a structure for describing and creating objects

*Object
Oriented
Programming
Encapsulate
Data,
Operations,
semantics
Details
hidden
Separates
What From
how
Classes*

Classes

- A class is a template for creating an object
 - Declared with the class keyword followed by the class name
 - Java source file name normally has same name as the class
 - We'll talk more about this shortly
 - Body of the class is contained within brackets

Flight.java

```
class Flight {
```

```
}
```

Classes

- A class is made up of both state and executable code
 - Fields
 - Store object state
 - Methods
 - Executable code that manipulates state and performs operations
 - Constructors
 - Executable code used during object creation to set the initial state

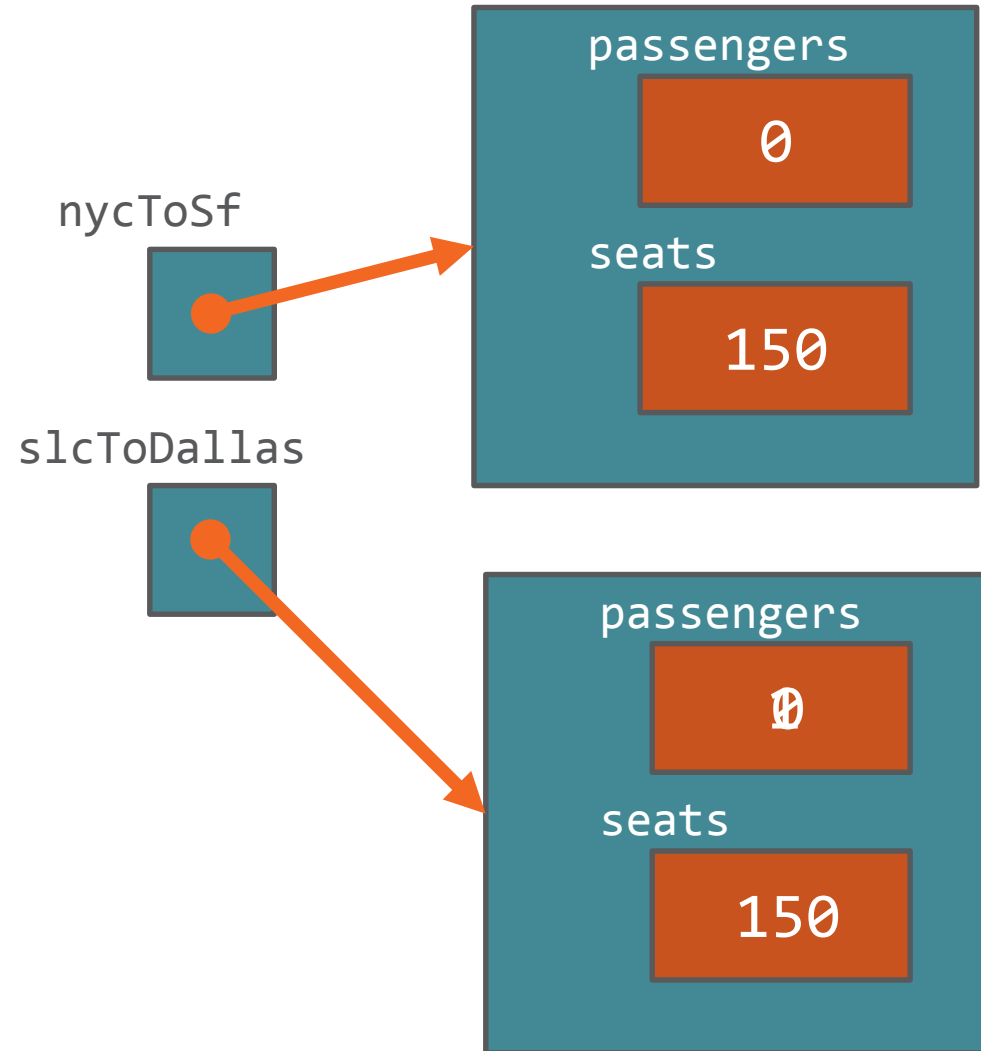
Flight.java

```
class Flight {  
    int passengers;  
    int seats;  
  
    Flight() {  
        seats = 150;  
        passengers = 0;  
    }  
  
    void add1Passenger() {  
        if(passengers < seats)  
            passengers += 1;  
    }  
}
```

Using Classes

- Use the new keyword to create a class instance (a.k.a. an object)
 - Allocates the memory described by the class
 - Returns a reference to the allocated memory

```
Flight nycToSf;  
nycToSf = new Flight();  
Flight slcToDallas = new Flight();  
slcToDallas.add1Passenger();
```



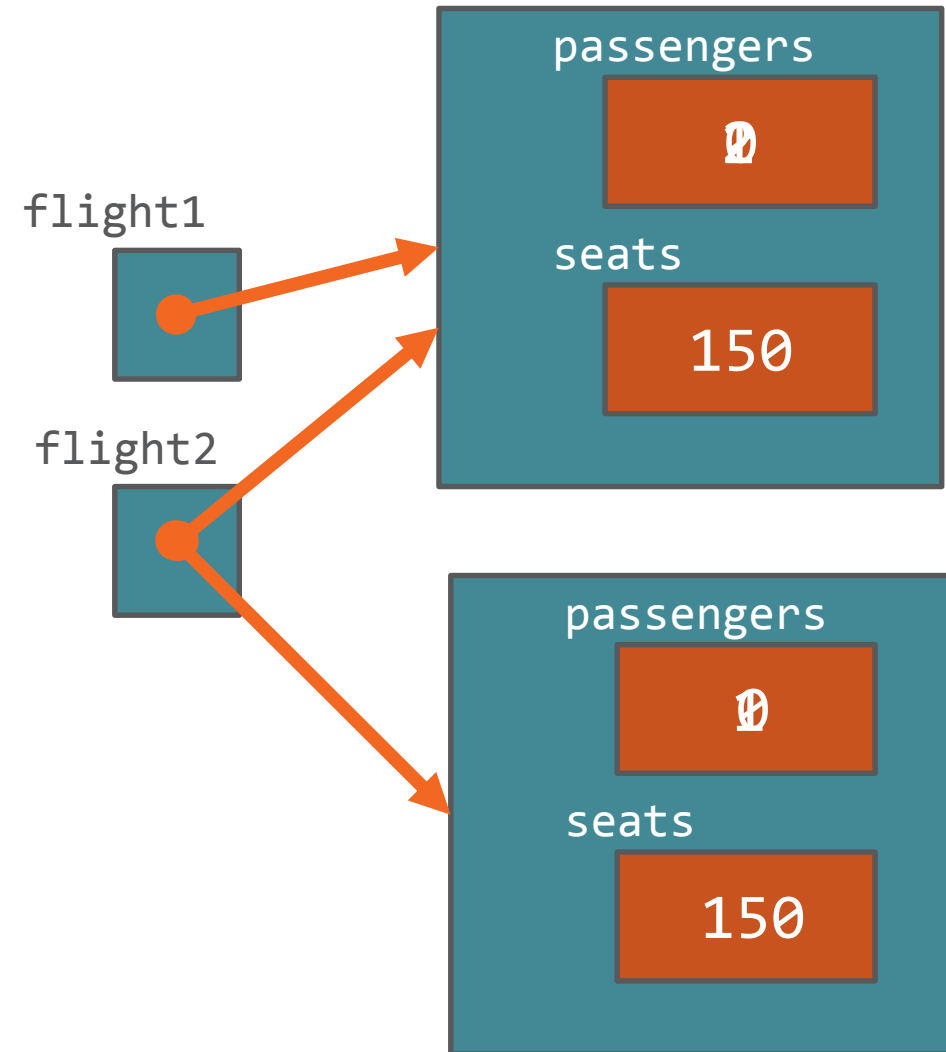
Classes Are Reference Types

```
Flight flight1 = new Flight();  
Flight flight2 = new Flight();  
  
flight2.add1Passenger();  
System.out.println(flight2.passengers);  
  
flight2 = flight1;  
System.out.println(flight2.passengers);  
  
flight1.add1Passenger();  
flight1.add1Passenger();  
  
System.out.println(flight2.passengers);
```

1

0

2



Encapsulation and Access Modifiers

The internal representation of an object is generally hidden

This concept is known as
encapsulation

Java uses *access modifiers* to achieve
encapsulation

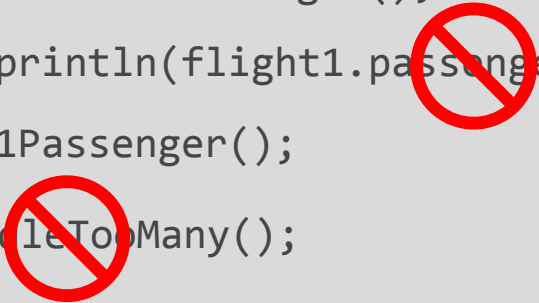
Basic Access Modifiers

Modifier	Visibility	Usable on Classes	Usable on Members
<i>no access modifier</i>	Only within its own package (a.k.a. package private)	Y	Y
public	Everywhere	Y	Y
private	Only within its own class	N *	Y

* As private applies to top-level classes; private is available to nested-classes

Applying Access Modifiers

```
Flight flight1 = new Flight();  
System.out.println(flight1.passengers);  
flight1.add1Passenger();  
flight1.handleTooMany();
```

Two red prohibition signs (a circle with a diagonal line) are placed over the code. One is over the `passengers` field access in `System.out.println(flight1.passengers);` and the other is over the `handleTooMany()` method call in `flight1.handleTooMany();`.

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
  
    public Flight() {  
        seats = 150;  
        passengers = 0;  
    }  
  
    public void add1Passenger() {  
        if (passengers < seats)  
            passengers += 1;  
        else  
            handleTooMany();  
    }  
  
    private void handleTooMany() {  
        System.out.println("Too many");  
    }  
}
```

Flight.java

Naming Classes

- Class names follow the same rules as variable names
- Class name conventions are similar to variables with some differences
 - Use only letters and numbers
 - First character is always a letter
 - Follow the style often referred to as “Pascal Case”
 - Start of each word, including the first, is upper case
 - All other letters are lower case
 - Use simple, descriptive nouns
 - Avoid abbreviations unless abbreviation’s use is more common than full name

```
class BankAccount { ... }  
class Person { ... }  
class TrainingVideo { ... }  
class URL { ... }
```

Method Basics

- Executable code that manipulates state and performs operations
 - Name
 - Same rules and conventions as variables
 - Should be a verb or action
 - Return type
 - Use void when no value returned
 - Typed parameter list
 - Can be empty
 - Body contained with brackets

```
return-type name ( typed-parameter-list ) {  
    statements  
}
```

```
void showSum(float x, float y, int count) {  
    float sum = x + y;  
    for(int i = 0; i < count; i++)  
        System.out.println(sum);  
}
```

Method Basics

- Executable code that manipulates state and performs operations

- Name
 - Same rules and conventions as variables
 - Should be a verb or action
- Return type
 - Use void when no value returned
- Typed parameter list
 - Can be empty
- Body contained with brackets

```
MyClass m = new MyClass();  
m.showSum(7.5, 1.4, 3);
```

8.9
8.9
8.9

```
public class MyClass {  
    public void showSum(float x, float y, int count) {  
        float sum = x + y;  
        for(int i = 0; i < count; i++)  
            System.out.println(sum);  
    }  
}
```

Exiting from a Method

- A method exits for one of three reasons
 - The end of the method is reached
 - A return statement is encountered
 - An error occurs
- Unless there's an error, control returns to the method caller

```
MyClass m = new MyClass();  
m.showSum(7.5, 1.4, 3);  
System.out.println("I'm back");
```

8.9
8.9
8.9

```
void showSum(float x, float y, int count) {  
    float sum = x + y;  
    for(int i = 0; i < count; i++)  
        System.out.println(sum);  
    return;  
}
```

Exiting from a Method

- A method exits for one of three reasons
 - The end of the method is reached
 - A return statement is encountered
 - An error occurs
- Unless there's an error, control returns to the method caller

```
MyClass m = new MyClass();  
m.showSum(7.5, 1.4, 0);  
System.out.println("I'm back");
```

```
if(count < 1)  
return;  
void showSum(float x, float y, int count) {  
    float sum = x + y;  
    for(int i = 0; i < count; i++)  
        System.out.println(sum);  
    return;  
}
```

Method Return Values

- A method returns a single value
 - A primitive value
 - A reference to an object
 - A reference to an array
 - Arrays are objects

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // constructor and other methods elided for clarity  
    public boolean hasRoom(Flight f2) {  
        int total = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        if (total <= seats)  
            return true;  
        else  
            return false;  
    }  
}
```


Method Return Values

- A method returns a single value
 - A primitive value
 - A reference to an object
 - A reference to an array
 - Arrays are objects

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // constructor and other methods elided for clarity  
    public boolean hasRoom(Flight f2) {  
        int total = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        return total <= seats;  
    }  
}
```

Method Return Values

- A method returns a single value
 - A primitive value
 - A reference to an object
 - A reference to an array
 - Arrays are objects

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // constructor and other methods elided for clarity  
    public boolean hasRoom(Flight f2) {  
        int total = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        return total <= seats;  
    }  
  
    public Flight createNewWithBoth(Flight f2) {  
        Flight newFlight = new Flight();  
        newFlight.seats = seats;  
        newFlight.passengers = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        return newFlight;  
    }  
}
```

Method Return Values

```
Flight lax1 = new Flight();  
Flight lax2 = new Flight();  
// add passengers to both flights  
  
Flight lax3;  
if(lax1.hasRoom(lax2))  
    lax3 =  
        lax1.createNewWithBoth(lax2);
```

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // constructor and other methods elided for clarity  
    public boolean hasRoom(Flight f2) {  
        int total = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        return total <= seats;  
    }  
  
    public Flight createNewWithBoth(Flight f2) {  
        Flight newFlight = new Flight();  
        newFlight.seats = seats;  
        newFlight.passengers = passengers + f2.passengers;  
        return newFlight;  
    }  
}
```

Special References: this and null

- Java provides special references with predefined meanings
 - *this* is an implicit reference to the current object
 - Useful for reducing ambiguity
 - Allows an object to pass itself as a parameter
 - *null* is a reference literal
 - Represents an uncreated object
 - Can be assigned to any reference variable

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // constructor and other methods elided for clarity  
  
    public boolean hasRoom(Flight f2) {  
        int total = thispassengers + f2.passengers;  
        return total <= seats;  
    }  
}
```

Special References: this and null

- Java provides special references with predefined meanings
 - *this* is an implicit reference to the current object
 - Useful for reducing ambiguity
 - Allows an object to pass itself as a parameter
 - *null* is a reference literal
 - Represents an uncreated object
 - Can be assigned to any reference variable

```
Flight lax1 = new Flight();
Flight lax2 = new Flight();
// add passengers to both flights

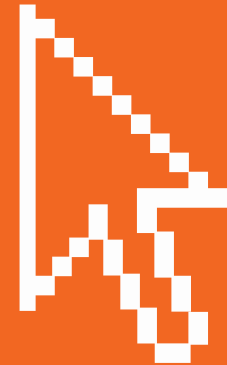
Flight lax3;= null;
if(lax1.hasRoom(lax2))
    lax3 =
        lax1.createNewWithBoth(lax2);

// do some other work

if(lax3 != null)
    System.out.println("Flights combined");
```

Demo

CalcEngine with Classes and Methods



Field Encapsulation

In most cases, a class' fields should not be directly accessible outside of the class

Helps to hide
implementation details

Use methods to
control field access

Accessors and Mutators

- Use the accessor/mutator pattern to control field access
 - Accessor retrieves field value
 - Also called getter
 - Method name: *getFieldName*
 - Mutator modifies field value
 - Also called setter
 - Method name: *setFieldName*

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // other members elided for clarity  
  
    public int getSeats() {  
        return seats;  
    }  
  
    public void setSeats(int seats) {  
        this.seats = seats;  
    }  
}
```


Accessors and Mutators

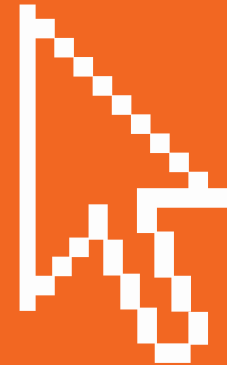
```
Flight slcToNyc = new Flight();  
slcToNyc.setSeats(150);  
System.out.println(slcToNyc.getSeats());
```

150

```
public class Flight {  
    private int passengers;  
    private int seats;  
    // other members elided for clarity  
  
    public int getSeats() {  
        return seats;  
    }  
  
    public void setSeats(int seats)  
    {    this.seats = seats;  
    }  
}
```

Demo

CalcEngine with Accessors and Mutators



Summary

- A class is a template for creating an object
 - Declared with class keyword
 - Class instances (a.k.a. objects) allocated with new keyword
- Classes are reference types
- Use access modifiers to control encapsulation
- Methods manipulate state and perform operations
 - Use return keyword to exit and/or return a value
- Fields store object state
 - Interaction normally controlled through accessors(getters) and mutators(setters)