# Understanding class definitions

Looking inside classes

# Objects and classes

#### objects

 represent 'things' from the real world, or from some problem domain (example: "the red car down there in the car park")

#### classes

represent all objects of a kind (example: "car")

# Methods and parameters

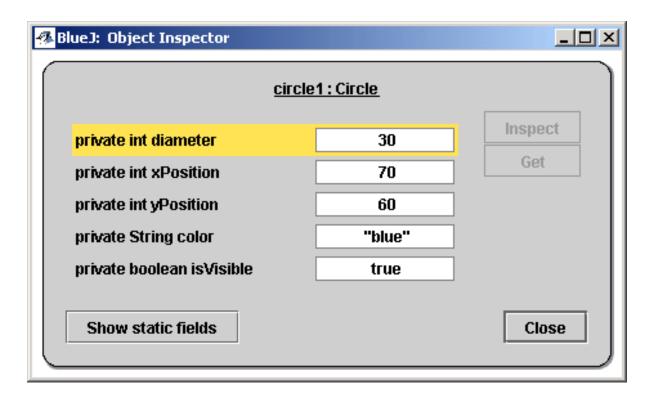
- Objects have operations which can be invoked (Java calls them methods).
- Methods may have parameters to pass additional information needed to execute.

## Other observations

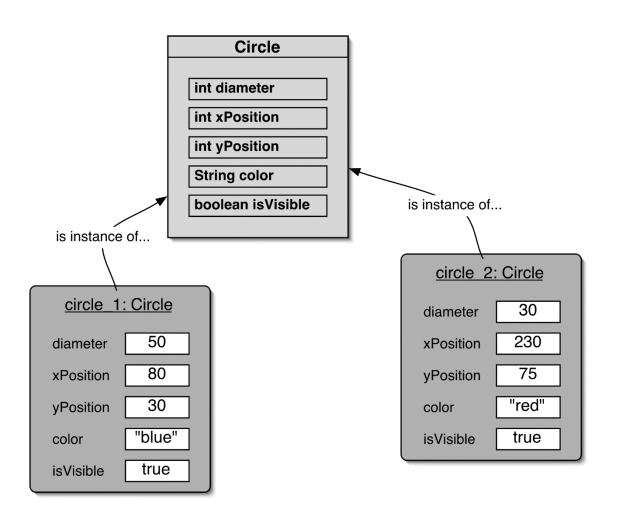
- Many instances can be created from a single class.
- An object has *attributes*: values stored in *fields*.
- The class defines what fields an object has, but each object stores its own set of values (the *state* of the object).

#### Class Object A blueprint for objects of a particular type **Attributes** (Fields) Defines the structure (number, types) of the attributes Defines available **Behaviors** behaviors of its objects (Methods)

## State



# Two circle objects



# Ticket machines - an external view

- Exploring the behavior of a typical ticket machine.
  - Use the *naive-ticket-machine* project.
  - Machines supply tickets of a fixed price.
    - How is that price determined?
  - How is 'money' entered into a machine?
  - How does a machine keep track of the money that is entered?

### Basic class structure

The outer wrapper of TicketMachine

```
public class TicketMachine
    Inner part of the class omitted.
public class ClassName
    Fields
                                    The contents
    Constructors
                                      of a class
    Methods
```

## **Fields**

- Fields store values for an object.
- They are also known as instance variables.
- Fields define the state of an object.

```
public class TicketMachine
{
    private int price;
    private int balance;
    private int total;

    Further details omitted.
}
```

```
visibility modifier type variable name private int price;
```

# Visibility

#### Private members

- Can be accessed only by instances of same class
- Provide concrete implementation / representation

#### Public members

- Can be accessed by any object
- Provide abstract view (client-side)

#### Protected members

- Can be accessed by instances of the same class and its subclasses

#### Declaration with an access modifier

• Each class declaration that begins with the access modifier public must be stored in a file that has exactly the same name as the class and ends with the .java file-name extension.

## Constructors

- Constructors initialize an object.
- They have the same name as their class.
- They store initial values into the fields.
- They often receive external parameter values for this.

```
public TicketMachine(int ticketCost)
{
    price = ticketCost;
    balance = 0;
    total = 0;
}
```

# Constructors (cont.)

- A constructor is a procedure for creating objects of the class.
- Keyword new requests memory from the system to store an object, then calls the corresponding class's constructor to initialize the object.
- A constructor often initializes an object's fields.
- Constructors do <u>not</u> have a <u>return type</u> (not even void) and they do not return a value.
- All constructors in a class have the same name the name of the class.
- Constructors may take parameters.



- If a class has more than one constructor, they must have different numbers and/or types of parameters.
- Programmers often provide a "no-args" constructor that takes no parameters (a.k.a. arguments).
- If a programmer does not define any constructors, Java provides one default (no-args) constructor, which allocates memory and sets fields to the default values.

# Constructors (cont.)

#### Code Example...

- 1) Naïve-TicketMachine
- 2) Just Modified version

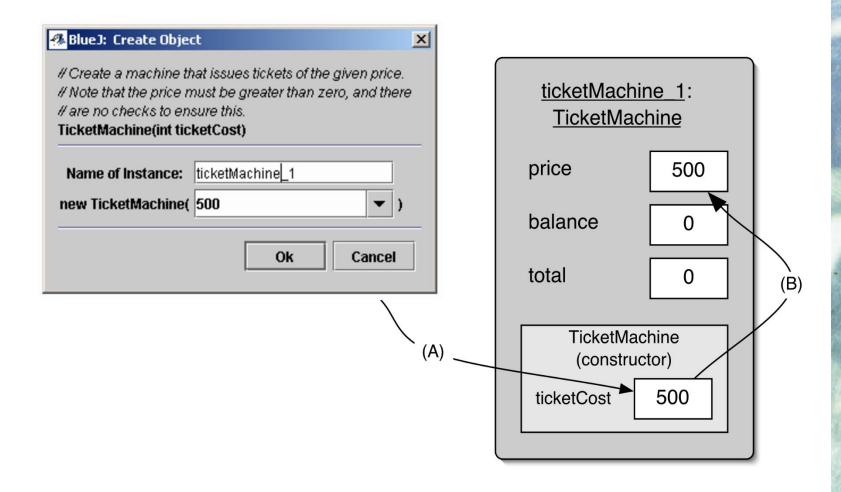
# Constructors (cont.)

```
A nasty bug:
public class MyClass
  // Constructor:
  public void MyClass (...)
```

Compiles fine, but the compiler thinks this is a method and uses

MyClass's default no-args constructor instead.

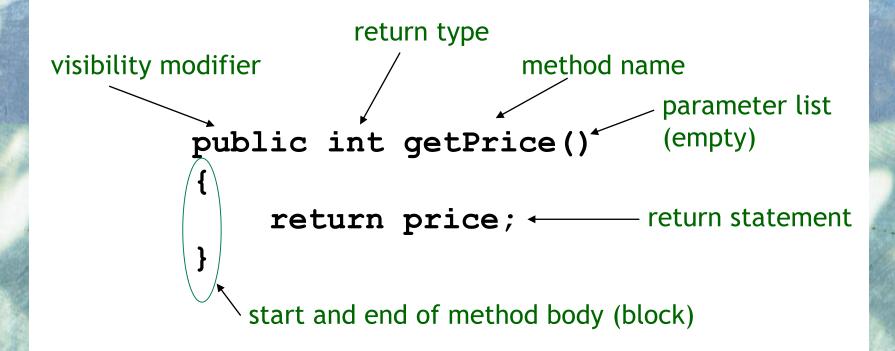
# Passing data via parameters



## Accessor methods

- Methods implement the behavior of objects.
- Accessors provide information about an object.
- Methods have a structure consisting of a header and a body.
- The header defines the method's signature.
   public int getPrice()
- The body encloses the method's statements.

## Accessor methods



## Mutator methods

- Have a similar method structure: header and body.
- Used to *mutate* (i.e., change) an object's state.
- Achieved through changing the value of one or more fields.
  - Typically contain assignment statements.
  - Typically receive parameters.

## Mutator methods

# Printing from methods

```
public void printTicket()
    // Simulate the printing of a ticket.
    System.out.println("################;");
    System.out.println("# The BlueJ Line");
    System.out.println("# Ticket");
    System.out.println("# " + price + " cents.");
    System.out.println("##############");
    System.out.println();
    // Update the total collected with the balance.
    total = total + balance;
    // Clear the balance.
    balance = 0;
```

# Reflecting on the ticket machines

- Their behavior is inadequate in several ways:
  - No checks on the amounts entered.
  - No refunds.
  - No checks for a sensible initialization.
- How can we do better?
  - We need more sophisticated behavior.

# Making choices

#### Now Better-TicketMachine

## Local variables

- Fields are one sort of variable.
  - They store values through the life of an object.
  - They are accessible throughout the class.
- Methods can include shorter-lived variables.
  - They exist only as long as the method is being executed.
  - They are only accessible from within the method.

# Local variables

```
A local variable

public int refundBalance()

{

No visibility int amountToRefund;

amountToRefund = balance;

balance = 0;

return amountToRefund;

}
```

Again Main.java last part

### Review

- Class bodies contain fields, constructors and methods.
- Fields store values that determine an object's state.
- Constructors initialize objects.
- Methods implement the behavior of objects.

### Review

- Fields, parameters and local variables are all variables.
- Fields persist for the lifetime of an object.
- Parameters are used to receive values into a constructor or method.
- Local variables are used for short-lived temporary storage.

# شعر امروز

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