

MSc/ICY Software Workshop

Introduction – Simple Computation, Variables, Types, static Methods

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Tuesday 1 October 2019

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The Java programming language

Java is

- platform independent
- object-oriented
- strictly typed

We will learn in more depth what this means in the course of the next few weeks.

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The full HelloWorld program

```
/**
 * Java is an object-oriented programming language.
 * Everything is put in classes. The file name
 * HelloWorld.java has to match the name of the class.
 *     public class HelloWorld
 * We ignore for now the meaning of "public class" and
 * the line "public static void main(String[] args)".
 *
 * System.out.println(...); prints the argument
 * to standard output (the terminal here).
 * Objects such as "Hello World!" are called strings.
 */
public class HelloWorld {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("Hello World!");
    }
}
```

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Strings

- If a String contains " then it is represented by \".
- Strings can be put together (concatenated) by +.
E.g. "Hello" + "World" is the string "HelloWorld".
- We can print Strings by something like
`System.out.println("Hello World");`

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Overview

- 1 Pocket calculator computations, base types, simple strings, variables, static methods, JavaDoc
Wed/Thu/Fri: 1st Lab Lecture (login, editor, javac, javadoc)
- 2 Classes, objects, methods, JUnit tests
Wed/Thu/Fri: 2nd Lab Lecture (Eclipse)
- 3 Conditionals, 'for' Loops, arrays, ArrayList
- 4 Exceptions, I/O (Input/Output)
- 5 Functions, interfaces
- 6 Sub-classes, inheritance, abstract classes
- 7 Inheritance (Cont'd), packages
- 8 Revision
- 9 Graphics
- 10 Graphical User Interfaces
- 11 Graphical User Interfaces (Cont'd)

Changes possible

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A simple program

In a few simple steps to a HelloWorld program:

- 1 Open a file `HelloWorld.java` in an editor like jedit or gedit
- 2 Write the program starting with
`public class HelloWorld`
Note that the name of the class here must match the filename.
- 3 Save the file.
- 4 Compile the program on the command line by
`javac HelloWorld.java`
This generates a file `HelloWorld.class`.
- 5 Run the program on the command line by
`java HelloWorld`
- 6 Extract documentation on the command line by
`javadoc HelloWorld.java`

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Comments

- Java is to be understood by **computers and humans**.
- **Computers** translate programs into a level (by an interpreter or by a compiler) that can be executed command by command in the order given by the programmer.
- **Humans** translate programs into something that is meaningful to them.
- If somebody reads somebody else's code (or even their own code after a while) then they may have problems to understand it. What is done in the program? Why is it done? How is it done? When will it work and when not? Does it come with a Best-Before date? Who owns the copyright? Where may it be applied and where not? All relevant information should be written in the program as **comments**.
- In Java, everything between `/*` and `*/` is a comment.
- Everything between an opening `/**` and `*/` is considered by JavaDoc.

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Variables

- All variables must be **declared** with a type such as
`public int x;`
[Note, if Java can infer it, it may be left undetermined (keyword `var`).]
- It is possible to declare several variables of the same type in a single step `public int x, y, z, u, v;`
- Before a variable is used it must be **initialized**, that is, it must be given an initial value. E.g., by the assignment `x = 3;`. The value can be overwritten by a new assignment, e.g., by writing after the first assignment a second such as `x = 4;`. (In such a case the previous value is irrecoverably gone.)

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Variables (Cont'd)

Think of variables as names plus their values, represented in a table as follows:

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	-	-	-	-	-

After an assignment **variable = term**; the term on the right hand side is evaluated with respect to the current values in the table.

The assignment **x = 3**; means that the table is updated, any old value of **x** (or no value in this case) is overwritten by the new value. If the old value is still needed, it must be copied before the assignment, since after the assignment the value is lost.

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	3	-	-	-	-

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Variables (Cont'd)

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	0	50	53	159	-

If variables are needed for this evaluation which do not have a value yet – indicated by the hyphen in the table – then the assignment fails and an error occurs. E.g. **v = v+1**; would fail since **v** has currently no value. However, **x = x+1**; succeeds since the expression on the right hand can be evaluated.

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Methods

Assume the computation of the areas of squares:

- $7.932 * 7.932$
- $8.2 * 8.2$
- $13.87 * 13.87$
- $123.89 * 123.89$

In order to avoid the repetition of the values we would like to write a method that computes the values as

- `square(7.932)`
- `square(8.2)`
- `square(13.87)`
- `square(123.89)`

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Structure

• Lectures:

- Tuesdays 15:00-17:00, Haworth 101
- Wed/Thu/Fri **Lab Lectures** 9:00-11:00 (class split, see separate sheet) in the Grace Hopper Lab

• Tutorials:

- Fridays, 1 hour (13:00-14:00 or 14:00-15:00), see separate sheet.
Attendance will be taken.
- Different groups streamed according to background knowledge and self-assessment.

• MSc/ICY Software Workshop support sessions

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 14:00-17:00.

• Weeks 5 & 10 (28 Oct 2019 & 2 Dec 2019), class tests

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Variables (Cont'd)

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	3	-	-	-	-

After the assignment **y = 2*(x+5)**; the table is computed by evaluating the expression **2*(x+5)** in the OLD TABLE and then overwriting the current value of **y** by the result.

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	3	16	-	-	-

After the assignment **y = 2*(y+x*x)**;

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	3	50	-	-	-

After the assignments **z = x+y**; **u = 3*z**; **x = 0**; the table is:

name	x	y	z	u	v
val	0	50	53	159	-

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Types

Java has 8 different **base types**, 4 for the representation of integers, 2 for floating point numbers, 1 for boolean values, and 1 for characters.

Integers are implemented in a cyclic way (such as a clock):

byte range -128 to 127
short range -32,768 to 32,767
int range -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
long range -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807

Floating point numbers (reals) are approximated by 4 or 8 bytes

float 4 bytes, 6-7 significant decimal digits
3.4028235E38

double 8 bytes

The type **boolean** contains two elements: **true** and **false**.

The type **char** is used to represent characters such as 'a', 'b', 'c', and '\u00A3' (for the pound symbol). They are enclosed in single quotes.

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Methods (Cont'd)

```
public static int square(int x) {  
    return x * x;  
}
```

- **public** means that the method can be called by anybody who can access the class.
- **static** we ignore for now.
- the first **int** is the return type.
- **square** is the name of the method with which it is "called."
- the second **int** is the type of the parameter **x**.
- **x** is the name of the parameter.
- **return** specifies what the method gives back as value.

This method is called by something like **square(4)**, e.g., **System.out.println(square(4))** will print 16.

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Assessment

This module is a 40cr module over two terms. 50% of the module mark are on the 20cr of this term.

The overall mark is computed as:

- 70% Examination in May/June 2020
- 20% Continuous Assessment Term 1 and Term 2
- 10% Team Project in Term 2

This term the Continuous Assessment is in form of 4 assessed Worksheets which must be submitted via Canvas, and in form of the second Class test.

MSc students need an overall mark of at least 50, ICY students an overall mark of at least 40 in order to pass this module.

[For the MSc students on the 20cr version of the module, the examination counts 75% and the continuous assessment 25% of the module mark.]

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Continuous Assessment

Assignment	Hand out	Hand in	%	Marking
WS 1	Wk1	Wk2 8 Oct 2019	0	
WS 2	Wk2	Wk4 22 Oct 2019	3	Tests
EW 1	Wk3			
WS 3	Wk4	Wk6 5 Nov 2019	3	Tests
EW 2	Wk5			
InClass1		Wk5 28 Oct 2019	0	Paper
WS 4	Wk6	Wk8 19 Nov 2019	3	Tests
EW 3	Wk7			
WS 5	Wk8	Wk10 3 Dec 2019	3	Viva
EW 4	Wk9			
EW 5	Wk10			
InClass2		Wk10 2 Dec 2019	3	Paper
EW 6	Wk11			

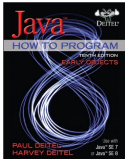
[Changes possible but not planned]. All Worksheet hand-ins are Tuesday at 12 noon sharp. Late submission invokes a penalty of 5 marks. No hand-in after 24 hours.

[For the MSc students on the 20cr version of the module, each piece of continuous assessment is worth 5 marks.]

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Reading

In order for the lectures being most effective you are expected to have read the corresponding material **BEFORE** the lectures!



Paul and Harvey Deitel, Java - How to Program, Ed. 10 or 11

Week 1: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2: Chapter 3

[Note: There are other books which cover the same material. You are free to choose a different book for your reading. However, I will indicate the reading according to the book above.]

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Plagiarism

- You can and are advised to cooperate in your revision, in the lab lectures, the non-assessed exercises, and in understanding the assessed exercises.
- You **must not collaborate** in writing the code for the assessed Worksheets and also **must not cheat** in the two in-class tests. If we find out we will take disciplinary measures.
- The University's Code of Practice on plagiarism is at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/documents/public/Cohort-Legislation-2019-20/CoP-Academic-Integrity-19-20.pdf>, and the School guidance notes are at <http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/internal/taught-students/plagiarism>

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What Next?

- 1 Lab lecture Grace Hopper Lab, Wed/Thu/Fri 9-11
- 2 Tutorials Fri 13-14 or 14-15.
- 3 Follow the pages on <https://birmingham.instructure.com/courses/38428>
- 4 More Examples

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