

Java Programming Tutorial

OOP - Wrapping Up

1. static Variable / Method

You can apply modifier static to variables and methods. A static variable/method belongs to the class, hence, it is also called a *class variable/method*. A non-static (absence of keyword static) variable/method belongs to a specific instance of a class, also called an *instance variable/method*.

Each instance maintains its own storage. As the result, each instance variable/method has its own copy in the instances and not shared among different instances. To reference an instance variable/method, you need to identify the instance, and reference it via *anInstanceName.aVariableName* or *anInstanceName.aMethodName()*.

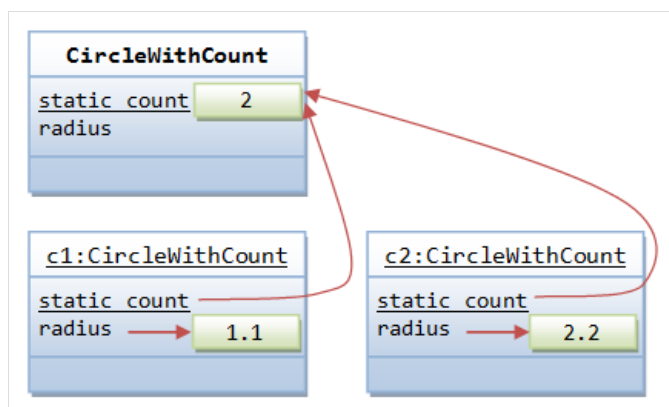
A static variable/method has a single common memory location kept in the class and shared by all the instances. The JVM allocates static variable during the class loading. The static variable exists even if no instance is created and regardless of the number of instances created. A static variable/method can be referenced via *AClassName.aVariableName* or *AClassName.aMethodName()*. It can also be referenced from any of its instances (but not recommended), e.g., *instance1.aVariableName* or *instance2.aVariableName* or *instance3.aVariableName*.

Non-static variables/methods belong to the instances. To use a non-static variable/method, an instance must first be constructed. On the other hand, static variables/methods belong to the class, they are global in nature. You need not construct any instance before using them.

One usage of static variables/methods to provide a "global" variable, which is applicable to all the instances of that particular class (for purpose such as counting the number of instances, resource locking among instances, and etc).

UML Notation: static variables/methods are underlined in the class diagram.

1.1 Example



CircleWithCount.java

```

1 public class CircleWithCounter {
2     static int count = 0; // static variable to count the number of instances created
3                           // shared by all the instances
4     private double radius; // instance variable for each circle to maintain its own radius
5     public CircleWithCounter(double radius) {
6         count++; // one more instance created
7     }
8 }
  
```

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```

7      this.radius = radius;
8  }
9  public String toString() {
10     return "A Circle with radius = " + radius;
11 }
12 }

```

Test Program

```

1  public class TestCircleWithCounter {
2      public static void main(String[] args) {
3          CircleWithCounter c1 = new CircleWithCounter(1.1);
4          System.out.println(c1);
5          System.out.println("Number of circle created " + CircleWithCounter.count);
6          CircleWithCounter c2 = new CircleWithCounter(2.2);
7          System.out.println(c2);
8          System.out.println("Number of circle created " + CircleWithCounter.count);
9      }
10 }

```

```

A Circle with radius = 1.1
Number of circle created 1
A Circle with radius = 2.2
Number of circle created 2

```

Try removing the "static" modifier from the variable count, and re-run the program. Also try adding the "static" modifier to the variable radius and explain the output.

Another usage of "static" modifier is to provide *global variables* and *global methods*, that are accessible by other classes, without the need to create an instance of that providing class. For example, the class `java.lang.Math` composes purely public static variables and methods. To use the static variable in Math class (such as `PI` and `E`) or static methods (such as `random()` or `sqrt()`), you do not have to create an instance of Math class. You can invoke them directly via the class name, e.g., `Math.PI`, `Math.E`, `Math.random()`, `Math.sqrt()`.

Non-static (instance) methods: Although from the OOP view point, each instance has its own copy of instance methods. In practice, the instances do not need their own copy, as methods do not have states and the implementation is exactly the same for all the instances. For efficiency, all instances use the copy stored in the class.

A static method can access only static variables/methods. It cannot access non-static variables/methods, before they are different in scope! On the other hand, an instance method can access static and non-static variables/methods. For example,

```

public class Hello {
    private static String msgStatic = "Hello from static";
    private String msgInstance = "Hello from non-static";
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println(msgStatic); // Okay
        // System.out.println(msgInstance);
        // Compilation error: non-static variable xxx cannot be referenced from a static context
    }
}

```

If a class has only one single instance (singleton design pattern?), it could be more efficient to use static variable/method for that particular one-instance class?!

static variable or methods cannot be hidden or overridden in the subclass as non-static.

This keyword `static` is inherited from C/C++, which denotes a certain variable retains its value instead of re-initializes. Similarly, a static variable in Java retains its value even if new instances are created.

1.2 Static_INITIALIZER

A *static initializer* is a block of codes labeled `static`. The codes are executed *exactly once*, when the class is loaded. For example,

```

public class Foo {
    static int number; // a static variable
    static {           // a static initializer block - run only once when the class is loaded
        number = 88;
        System.out.println("loading class...");
    }
    .....
}

```

During the class loading, JVM allocates the static variables and then runs the static initializer. The static initializer could be used to initialize static variables or perform an one-time tasks for the class.

1.3 Class Loader

Every JVM has a built-in *class loader* (of type `java.lang.ClassLoader`) that is responsible for loading classes into the memory of a Java program.

Whenever a class is referenced in the program, the class loader searches the classpath for the class file, loads the bytecode into memory, and instantiates a `java.lang.Class` object to maintain the loaded class.

The class loader loads a class only once, so there is only one `java.lang.Class` object for each class that used in the program. This `Class` object stores the static variables and methods.

During the class loading, the class loader also allocates the static variables, and invokes the explicit initializers and static initializers (in the order of appearance).

```
public class Hello {
    private static int number1 = 11; // explicit initializer
    static {                          // static initializer
        number1 = 99;
        number2 = 88;
    }
    private static int number2 = 22; // explicit initializer

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("number1 is " + number1); // 99
        System.out.println("number2 is " + number2); // 22
    }
}
```

1.4 Instance Initializer

Similarly, you could use the so-called instance initializer, which runs during the instantiation process, to initialize an instance. Instance initializer is rarely-used. For example,

```
public class Foo {
    int number; // an instance variable
    {          // an instance initializer block - run once per instantiation
        number = 88;
        System.out.println("Creating an instance...");
    }

    public Foo() { // Constructor
        super();
        // run instance initializer before the body of the constructor
        .....
    }
}
```

1.5 Instantiation Process

The sequence of events when a new object is instantiated via the `new` operator (known as the instantiation process) is as follows:

1. JVM allocates memory for the instance in the heap.
2. JVM initializes the instance variables to their assigned values or default values.
3. JVM invokes the constructor.
4. The first statement of the constructor is always a call to its immediate superclass' constructor. JVM invokes the selected superclass' constructor.
5. JVM executes the instance initializers in the order of appearance.
6. JVM executes the body of the constructor.
7. The `new` operator returns a reference to the new object.

For example,

```
public class Hello {
    private int number1 = 11; // explicit initializer
    {                          // instance initializer
        number1 = 99;
        number2 = 88;
    }
    private int number2 = 22; // explicit initializer

    public Hello() { }

    public Hello(int number1, int number2) { // Constructor
        this.number1 = number1;             // Run after initializers
        this.number2 = number2;
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Hello h = new Hello();
        System.out.println("number1 is " + h.number1); // 99
        System.out.println("number2 is " + h.number2); // 22
    }
}
```

```

Hello h2 = new Hello(55, 66);
System.out.println("number1 is " + h2.number1); // 55
System.out.println("number2 is " + h2.number2); // 66
}
}

```

2. final Class / Variable / Method

You can declare a class, a variable or a method to be `final`.

- A final class cannot be sub-classed (or extended).
- A final method cannot be overridden in the subclass.
- A final variable cannot be *re-assigned* a new value.
 - A final variable of primitive type is a constant, whose value cannot be changed.

A "public final static" variable of primitive type is a *global constant*, whose value cannot be changed. For example,

```

// class java.lang.Math
public static final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
public static final double E = 2.718281828459045;
// class java.lang.Integer
public static final int MAX_VALUE = 2147483647;
public static final int MIN_VALUE = -2147483648;
public static final int SIZE = 32;

```

- A final variable of a reference type (e.g., an instance of a class or an array) cannot be re-assigned a new value (reference). That is, you can modify the content of the instance, but cannot re-assign the variable to another instance. For example,

```

public class TestFinalReference {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        final StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer("Hello"); // final reference type
        sb.append(", world!"); // can change the contents of the reference
        System.out.println("The object is \"" + sb + "\"");

        // Compilation Error: cannot assign a value to final variable
        sb = new StringBuffer("World Peace!");
    }
}

```

Constant Naming Convention: a noun, or noun phrase made up of several words. All words are in uppercase separated by underscore '_'. For examples, MIN_WIDTH, MAX_VALUE, PI, RED.

final vs. abstract: final is opposite to abstract. A final class cannot be extended; while an abstract class must be extended and the extended class can then be instantiated. A final method cannot be overridden; while an abstract method must be overridden to complete its implementation. [abstract modifier is applicable to class and method only.]

3. Package, Import, Classpath & JAR

If I have a class called Circle and you also have a class called Circle. Can the two Circle classes co-exist or even be used in the same program? The answer is yes, provided that the two Circle classes are placed in two different *packages*.

A *package*, like a library, is a *collection of classes*, and other related entities such as interfaces, errors, exceptions, annotations, and enums.

UML Notation: Packages are represented in UML notation as *tabbed folders*, as illustrated.

Package name (e.g., java.util) and classname (e.g., Scanner) together form the so-called *fully-qualified name* in the form of *packagename.classname* (e.g., java.util.Scanner), which unambiguously identifies a class.

Packages are used for:

1. *Organizing* classes and related entities.
2. *Managing namespaces* - Each package is a *namespace*.
3. *Resolving naming conflicts*. For example, com.zzz.Circle and com.yyy.Circle are treated as two distinct classes. Although they share the same classname Circle, they belong to two different packages: com.zzz and com.yyy. These two classes can co-exist and can even be used in the same program via the fully-qualified names.
4. *Access control*: Besides public and private, you can grant access of a class/variable/method to classes within the same package only.

java.lang

String
StringBuilder
StringBuffer
Math
Integer
Double
System
Object

java.util

Random
Scanner
Formatter
Arrays

5. *Distributing Java classes*: All entities in a package can be combined and compressed into a single file, known as JAR (Java Archive) file, for distribution.

Package Naming Convention

A package name is made up of the *reverse* of the domain Name (to ensure uniqueness) plus your own organization's project name *separated by dots*. Package names are in lowercase. For example, suppose that your Internet Domain Name is "zzz.com", you can name your package as "com.zzz.project1.subproject2".

The prefix "java" and "javax" are reserved for the core Java packages and Java extensions, e.g., java.lang, java.util, and java.net, javax.net.

Package Directory Structure

The "dots" in a package name correspond to the directory structure for storing the class files. For example, the com.zzz.Cat is stored in directory "...\\com\\zzz\\Cat.class" and com.yyy.project1.subproject2.Orange is stored in directory "...\\com\\yyy\\project1\\subproject2\\Orange.class", where "..." denotes the *base directory of the package*.

JVM can locate your class files only if the *package base directory* and the *fully-qualified name* are given. The *package base directory* is provided in the so-called *classpath* (to be discussed later).

The "dot" does not mean sub-package (there is no such thing as sub-package). For example, java.awt and java.awt.event are two *distinct* packages. Package java.awt is kept in "...\\java\\awt"; whereas package java.awt.event is stored in "...\\java\\awt\\event".

3.1 Import Statement

There are two ways to reference a class in your source codes:

1. Use the *fully-qualified name* in the form of *packagename.classname* (such as java.util.Scanner). For example,

```
public class ScannerNoImport {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // Use fully-qualified name in "ALL" the references
        java.util.Scanner in = new java.util.Scanner(System.in);
        System.out.print("Enter a integer: ");
        int number = in.nextInt();
        System.out.println("You have entered: " + number);
    }
}
```

Take note that you need to use the *fully-qualified name* for ALL the references to the class. This is clumpy!

2. Add an "import *fully-qualified-name*" statement at the beginning of the source file. You can then use the classname alone (without the package name) in your source codes. For example,

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class ScannerWithImport {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // Package name can be omitted for an imported class
        // Java compiler searches the import statements for the fully-qualified name
        Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in); // classname only
        System.out.print("Enter a integer: ");
        int number = in.nextInt();
        System.out.println("You have entered: " + number);
    }
}
```

The compiler, when encounter an unresolved classname, will search the import statements for the fully-qualified name.

The import statement provides us a *convenient way* for referencing classes without using the fully-qualified name. "Import" does not *load* the class, which is carried out by the so-called *class loader* at runtime. It merely resolves a classname to its fully-qualified name, or *brings the classname into the namespace*. "Import" is strictly a compiled-time activity. The Java compiler replaces the classnames with their fully-qualified names, and removes all the import statements in the compiled bytecodes. There is a slight compile-time cost but no runtime cost.

The import statement(s) must be placed after the package statement but before the class declaration. It takes the following syntax:

```
import packagename.classname;
import packagename.*
```

You can import a *single class* in an import statement by providing its fully-qualified name, e.g.,

```
import java.util.Scanner; // import the class Scanner in package java.util
import java.awt.Graphics; // import the class Graphics in package java.awt
```

You can also import *all the classes in a package* using the *wildcard **. The compiler will search the entire package to resolve classes referenced in the program. E.g.,

```
import java.util.*; // import all classes in package java.util
```

```
import java.awt.*;           // import all classes in package java.awt
import java.awt.event.*;     // import all classes in package java.awt.event
```

Using wildcard may result in slightly fewer source lines. It has no impact on the resultant bytecodes. It is not recommended as it lacks clarity and it may lead to ambiguity if two packages have classes of the same names.

The Java core language package `java.lang` is *implicitly imported to every Java program*. Hence no explicit `import` statements are needed for classes inside the `java.lang` package, such as `System`, `String`, `Math`, `Integer` and `Object`.

There is also no need for `import` statements for classes within the *same package*.

3.2 Import static statement (JDK 1.5)

Prior to JDK 1.5, only classes can be "imported" - you can omit the *package name* for an imported class. In JDK 1.5, the static variables and methods of a class can also be "imported" via the "import static" declaration - you can omit the *classname* for an imported static variable/method. For example:

```
1  import static java.lang.System.out; // import static variable "out" of "System" class
2  import static java.lang.Math.*;     // import "ALL" static variables/methods in "Math" class
3
4  public class TestImportStatic {
5      public static void main(String[] args) {
6          // Classname can be omitted for imported static variables/methods
7          out.println("Hello, PI is " + PI);
8          out.println("Square root of PI is " + sqrt(PI));
9      }
10 }
```

The `import static` statement takes the following syntax:

```
import static packagename.classname.staticVariableName;
import static packagename.classname.staticMethodName;
import static packagename.classname.*; // wildcard * denotes all static variables/methods of the class
```

Using import static

The `import static` is handy in this situation:

Suppose that you need to define a set of *constants* in your program. You could do so by defining a constant-only interface, which is not really appropriate for the use of interface. Instead, you could define the constants (e.g., `ROWS`, `COLS`) in one of the class, (e.g., `GameMain`), and include `import static` statements in all the other classes (e.g., `import static GameMain.ROWS`).

```
public class GameMain {
    public static final ROWS = 3;
    public static final COLS = 3;
    .....
    .....
}

import static GameMain.ROWS;
import static GameMain.COLS;
// Change the import static statements if these constants are moved

public class GamePanel {
    // Can use ROWS and COLS in the class without the classname GameMain
    int[][] score = int[ROWS][COLS];
    .....
    for (int row = 0; row < ROWS; row++) {
        for (int col = 0; col < COLS; col++) {
            .....
        }
    }
    .....
}
```

The advantages are:

1. These constants (e.g., `ROWS`) can be used in the classes without the classname (e.g., `ROWS` instead of `GameMain.ROWS`).
2. If you need to move the constants to another class, you merely need to change the `import static` statements, not the programming codes.

3.3 Creating Packages

To put a class as part of a package, include a package statement before the class definition (as the first statement in your program). For example,

```
package com.zzz.test;

public class HelloPackage {
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println("Hello from a package...");
}
}
```

You can create and use package in IDE (such as Eclipse/NetBeans) easily, as the IDE takes care of the details. You can simply create a new package, and then create a new class inside the package.

Compiling Classes in Package

To compile classes in package using JDK, you need to use "-d" flag to specify the *destination package base directory*, for example,

```
// Set the current working directory to the directory containing HelloPackage.java
> javac -d e:\myproject HelloPackage.java
```

The "-d" option instructs the compiler to place the class file in the given package base directory, as well as to create the necessary directory structure for the package. Recall that the dot '.' in the package name corresponds to sub-directory structure. The compiled bytecode for `com.zzz.test.HelloPackage` will be placed at `"e:\myproject\com\zzz\test\HelloPackage.class"`

Running Classes in Package

To run the program, you need to set your current working directory at the package base directory (in this case `"e:\myproject"`), and provide the *fully-qualified name*:

```
// Set the current working directory to the package base directory
e:\myproject> java com.zzz.test.HelloPackage
```

It is important to take note that you shall always work in the *package base directory* and issue *fully-qualified name*.

As mentioned, if you use an IDE, you can compile/run the classes as usual. IDE will take care of the details.

3.4 The Default Unnamed Package

So far, all our examples do not use a package statement. These classes belong to a so-called *default unnamed* package. Use of the default unnamed package is not recommended should be restricted to toy programs only, as they cannot be "imported" into another application. For production, you should place your classes in proper packages.

3.5 Java Archive (JAR)

An Java application typically involves many classes. For ease of distribution, you could bundles all the class files and relevant resources into a single file, called JAR (Java Archive) file.

JAR uses the famous "zip" algorithm for compression. It is modeled after Unix's "tar" (Tape Archive) utility. You can also include your digital signature (or certificate) in your JAR file for authentication by the recipients.

JDK provides an utility called "jar" to create and manage JAR files. For example, to create a JAR file, issue the following command:

```
// To create a JAR file from c1 ... cn classes (c:create, v:verbose, f:filename):
> jar cvf myjarfile.jar c1.class ... cn.class
```

Example

To place the earlier class `com.zzz.test.HelloPackage` (and possible more related classes and resources) in a JAR file called `helloworld.jar`:

```
// Set the current working directory to the package base directory (i.e., e:\myproject)
e:\myproject> jar cvf helloworld.jar com\zzz\test\HelloPackage.class
added manifest
adding: com/zzz/test/HelloPackage.class(in = 454) (out= 310)(deflated 31%)
```

Read ["Java Archive \(JAR\)"](#) for more details.

3.6 Classpath - Locating Java Class Files

Java allows you to store your class files anywhere in your file system. To locate a class, you need to provide the *package base directory* called *classpath* (short for *user class search path*) and the *fully-qualified name*. For example, given that the package base directory is `e:\myproject`, the class `com.zzz.test.HelloPackage` can be found in `e:\myproject\com\zzz\test\HelloPackage.class`.

When the Java compiler or runtime needs a class (given its fully-qualified name), it searches for it from the *classpath*. You could specify the *classpath* via the command-line option `-cp` (or `-classpath`); or the environment variable `CLASSPATH`.

A classpath may contain many entries (separated by ';' in Windows or ':' in Unixes/Macs). Each entry shall be a package base directory (which contains many Java classes), or a JAR file (which is a single-file archives of many Java classes).

3.7 Example on Package, Classpath and JAR

In this example, we shall keep the source files and class files in separate directories - "src" and "bin" - for ease of distribution minus the source.

`com.zzz.geometry.Circle`

Let's create a class called Circle in package com.zzz.geometry. We shall keep the source file as `d:\zzzpackages\src\com\zzz\geometry\Circle.java` and the class file in package base directory of `d:\zzzpackages\bin`.

```
package com.zzz.geometry;
public class Circle { // save as d:\zzzpackages\src\com\zzz\geometry\Circle.java
    public String toString() {
        return "This is a Circle";
    }
}
```

To compile the Circle class, use javac with -d option to specify the destination package base directory.

```
// Set current working directory to source file (d:\zzzpackages\src\com\zzz\geometry)
> javac -d d:\zzzpackages\bin Circle.java
// Output class file is d:\zzzpackages\bin\com\zzz\geometry\Circle.class
```

`com.zzz.geometry.Cylinder`

Next, create a class called Cylinder in the same package (com.zzz.geometry) that extends Circle.

```
package com.zzz.geometry;
public class Cylinder extends Circle { // save as d:\zzzpackages\src\com\zzz\geometry\Cylinder.java
    public String toString() {
        return "This is a Cylinder";
    }
}
```

No import statement for Circle is needed in Cylinder, because they are in the same package.

To compile the Cylinder class, we need to provide a classpath to the Circle class via option -cp (or -classpath), because Cylinder class references Circle class.

```
// Set current working directory to source file (d:\zzzpackages\src\com\zzz\geometry)
> javac -d d:\zzzpackages\bin -cp d:\zzzpackages\bin Cylinder.java
// Output class file is d:\zzzpackages\bin\com\zzz\geometry\Cylinder.class
```

`com.yyy.animal.Cat`

Create another class called Cat in another package (com.yyy.animal). We shall keep the source file as `d:\yyypackages\src\com\yyy\animal\Cat.java` and the class file in package base directory of `d:\yyypackages\bin`.

```
package com.yyy.animal;
public class Cat { // save as d:\yyypackages\src\com\yyy\animal\Cat.java
    public String toString() {
        return "This is a Cat!";
    }
}
```

Again, use -d option to compile the Cat class. No classpath needed as the Cat class does not reference other classes.

```
// Set current working directory to source file (d:\yyypackages\src\com\yyy\animal)
> javac -d d:\yyypackages\bin Cat.java
// Output class file is d:\yyypackages\bin\com\yyy\animal\Cat.class
```

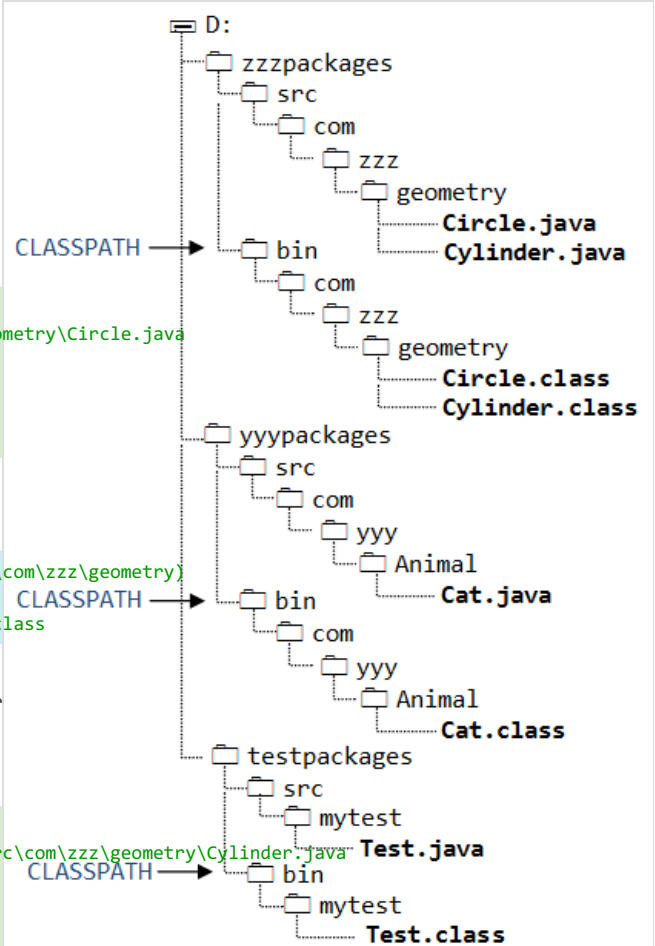
`myTest.test`

We shall write a Test class (in package myTest) to use all the classes. We shall keep the source file as `d:\testpackages\src\mytest\Test.java` and the class file in package base directory of `d:\testpackages\bin`.

```
package mytest;

import com.zzz.geometry.Circle;
import com.zzz.geometry.Cylinder;
import com.yyy.animal.Cat;

public class Test { // save as d:\testpackages\src\mytest\Test.java
    public static void main(String[] args) {
```




```

    Circle circle = new Circle();
    System.out.println(circle);
    Cylinder cylinder = new Cylinder();
    System.out.println(cylinder);
    Cat cat = new Cat();
    System.out.println(cat);
}
}

```

To compile the `Test` class, we need `-d` option to specify the destination and `-cp` to specify the package base directories of `Circle` and `Cylinder` (`d:\zzzpackages\bin`) and `Cat` (`d:\yyypackages\bin`).

```

// Set current working directory to source file (d:\testpackages\src\mytest)
> javac -d d:\testpackages\bin -cp d:\zzzpackages\bin;d:\yyypackages\bin Test.java
// Output class file is d:\testpackages\bin\mytest\Test.class

```

To run the `myTest.Test` class, set the current working directory to the package base directory of `myTest.Test` (`d:\testpackages\bin`) and provide classpath for `Circle` and `Cylinder` (`d:\zzzpackages\bin`), `Cat` (`d:\yyypackages\bin`) and the current directory (for `myTest.Test`).

```

// Set current working directory to package base directory (d:\testpackages\bin)
> java -cp .;d:\zzzpackages\bin;d:\yyypackages\bin mytest.Test

```

J a r r i n g m y z z . g e o m e t r y

Now, suppose that we decided to jar-up the `com.zzz.geometry` package into a single file called `geometry.jar` (and kept in `d:\jars`):

```

// Set current working directory to package base directory (d:\zzzpackages\bin)
// 'c' to create, 'v' for verbose, 'f' follows by jar filename
> jar cvf d:\jars\geometry.jar com\zzz\geometry\*.class
added manifest
adding: com/zzz/geometry/Circle.class(in = 300) (out= 227)(deflated 24%)
adding: com/zzz/geometry/Cylinder.class(in = 313) (out= 228)(deflated 27%)
// Output is d:\jars\geometry.jar

// OR
// Set current working directory to package base directory (d:\zzzpackages\bin)
// jar the current directory (.) and its sub-directories
> jar cvf d:\jars\geometry.jar .
added manifest
adding: com/(in = 0) (out= 0)(stored 0%)
adding: com/zzz/(in = 0) (out= 0)(stored 0%)
adding: com/zzz/geometry/(in = 0) (out= 0)(stored 0%)
adding: com/zzz/geometry/Circle.class(in = 300) (out= 227)(deflated 24%)
adding: com/zzz/geometry/Cylinder.class(in = 313) (out= 228)(deflated 27%)

```

To run `myTest.Test` with the JAR file, set the classpath to the JAR file (classpath accepts both directories and JAR files).

```

// Set current working directory to package base directory (d:\testpackages\bin)
> java -cp .;d:\jars\geometry.jar;d:\yyypackages\bin mytest.Test

```

S e p a r a t i n g S o u r c e F i l e s a n d C l a s s e s

For ease of distribution (without source files), the source files and class files are typically kept in separate directories.

1. Eclipse keeps the source files under "src", class files under "bin", and jar files and native libraries under "lib".
2. NetBeans keeps the source files under "src", class files under "build\classes", jar files and native libraries under "build\lib".

T w o C l a s s e s o f t h e S a m e C l a s s n a m e ?

Suppose that we have two `Circle` classes in two different packages, can we use both of them in one program? Yes, however, you need to use fully-qualified name for both of them. Alternatively, you may also import one of the classes, and use fully-qualified name for the other. But you cannot import both, which triggers a compilation error.

3 . 8 H o w J V M F i n d C l a s s e s

Reference: JDK documentation on "[How classes are found](#)".

To locate a class (given its fully-qualified name), you need to locate the base directory or the JAR file.

The JVM searches for classes in this order:

1. Java Bootstrap classes: such as "rt.jar" (runtime class), "i18n.jar" (internationalization class), `charsets.jar`, `jre/classes`, and others.
2. Java Standard Extension classes: JAR files located in "\$JDK_HOME\jre\lib\ext" directory (for Windows and Ubuntu); "/Library/Java/Extensions" and "/System/Library/Java/Extensions" (for Mac). The location of Java's Extension Directories is kept in Java's System Property "java.ext.dirs".
3. User classes.

The user classes are searched in this order:

1. The default ".", i.e., the current working directory.
2. The CLASSPATH environment variable, which overrides the default.
3. The command-line option -cp (or -classpath), which overrides the CLASSPATH environment variable and default.
4. The runtime command-line option -jar, which override all the above.

The JVM puts the classpath is the system property `java.class.path`. Try running the following line with a -cp option and without -cp (which uses CLASSPATH environment variable) to display the program classpath:

```
System.out.println(System.getProperty("java.class.path"));
```

`java -cp %CLASSPATH% -jar %JAR%`

I have demonstrated the command-line option -classpath (or -cp) in the earlier example.

The CLASSPATH Environment Variable

Alternatively, you could also provide your classpath entries in the CLASSPATH *environment variable*. Take note that if CLASSPATH is not set, the default classpath is the current working directory. However, if you set the CLASSPATH environment variable, you must include the current directory in the CLASSPATH, or else it will not be searched.

Read "[Environment Variables \(PATH, CLASSPATH, JAVA_HOME\)](#)" for more details about CLASSPATH environment variable.

It is recommended that you use the -cp (-classpath) command-line option (customized for each of your applications), instead of setting a permanent CLASSPATH environment for all the Java applications. IDE (such as Eclipse/NetBeans) manages -cp (-classpath) for each of the applications and does not rely on the CLASSPATH environment.

3.9 More Access Control Modifiers

Java has four *access control modifiers* for class/variable/method. Besides the public (available to all outside classes) and private (available to this class only), they are two modifiers with visibility in between public and private:

- **protected**: available to all classes in the same package and the subclasses derived from it.
- **default**: If the access control modifier is omitted, by default, it is available to classes in the same package only. This is also called *package* or *friendly* accessibility.

3.10 Java Source File

A Java source file must have the file type of ".java". It can contain at most one top-level public class, but may contain many non-public classes (not recommended). The file name shall be the same as the top-level public classname.

The source file shall contain statements in this order:

1. Begins with one optional package statement. If the package statement is omitted, the default package (.) is used. Use of default package is not recommended.
2. Follows by optional import or import static statement(s).
3. Follows by class, interface or enum definitions.

Each class, interface or enum is compiled into its own ".class" file.

The top-level class must be either public or *default*. It cannot be private (no access to other classes including JVM!?) nor protected (meant for member variables/methods accessible by subclasses), which triggers compilation error "modifier private|protected not allowed here".

4. Dissecting the Hello-world

Let's revisit the "Hello-world" program, which is reproduced below:

```
1 public class Hello {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         System.out.println("Hello, world!");
4     }
5 }
```

The class Hello is declared public to be accessible by any other classes. In this case, the JRE need to access the Hello class to run the main(). Try declaring the Hello class private/protected/package and run the program. (What is the use of a private class, which is not accessible to others? I will explain the usage of private class later in so-called *inner class*.)

Similarly, the main() method is declared public, so that JRE can access and invoke the method. Try declaring the main() method private/protected/package!

The `main()` method is declared static. Remember that a static variable/method belongs to the *class* instead of a particular *instance*. There is no need to create instances to use a static method. A static method can be invoked via the classname, in the form of `ClassName.aStaticMethod()`. JRE can invoke the static `main()` method, by calling `Hello.main()`, from the class directly. Note that the program does not create any instance of the `Hello` class. Try omitting the static keyword and observe/explain the error message.

The `main()` method is the entry point for JRE, which takes as an argument of a `String` array (corresponds to the command-line arguments supplied by the user), performs the program operations, and return void (or nothing) to the JRE. Try omitting the argument (`String[] args`) from the `main()` method and re-compile the program. You will get an error message "main: NoSuchMethodException". This further strengthens the concept that a method's *signature* includes the *argument list* (to support the so-called *method overloading*) and not just the method name.

In C language, the signature of `main()` function is:

```
main(int argc, char *argv[]) { ..... }
```

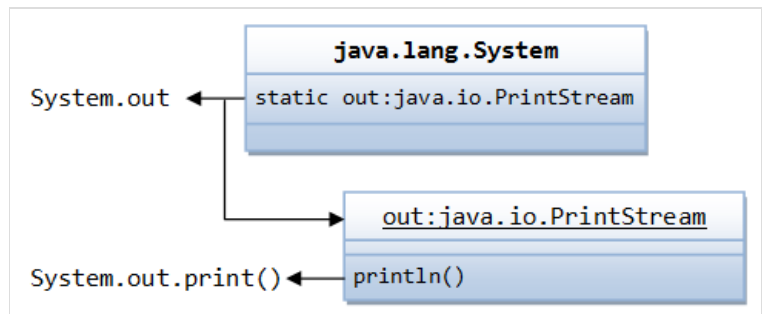
Two parameters are used for the command-line argument – `int argc` to spell out the number of arguments and string-array `argv` to keep each of the argument. In Java, only one parameter – a `String` array is needed, as the Java array contains the length internally. The number of arguments can be retrieved via `args.length`. Furthermore, in C, the name of the program is passed as the first command-line argument. In Java, the program name is not passed, as the class name is kept with the object. You can retrieve the class name via `this.getClass().getName()`.

System.out.println()

If you check the JDK API specification, you will find that:

- "System" is a class in the package `java.lang`.
- "out" is a static public variable of the class `java.lang.System`.
- "out" belongs a class called "`java.io.PrintStream`".
- The class `java.io.PrintStream` provides a public method called "`println()`".

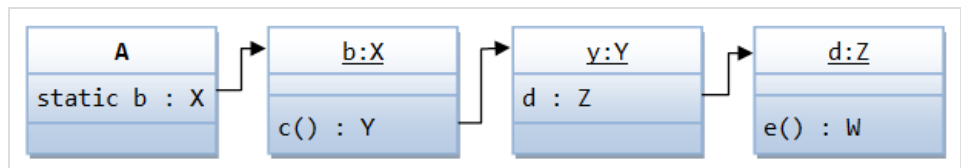
The figure illustrate the classes involved in `System.out.println()`.



Example

As an example, the reference "`A.b.c().d.e()`" can be interpreted as follows:

- "A" is a class.
- "b" is a static variable of class "A" (because it is referenced via the classname).
- The variable "b" belongs to a class says "X".
- The class "X" provides a public method "`c()`".
- The "`c()`" method returns an instance "y" of class says "Y".
- The "Y" class has a variable called "d".
- The variable "d" belongs to a class says "Z".
- The class "Z" provides a public method called "`e()`".



5. Nested and Inner Classes

Read "[Nested and Inner Classes](#)".

6. Scope of Variables & Garbage Collection

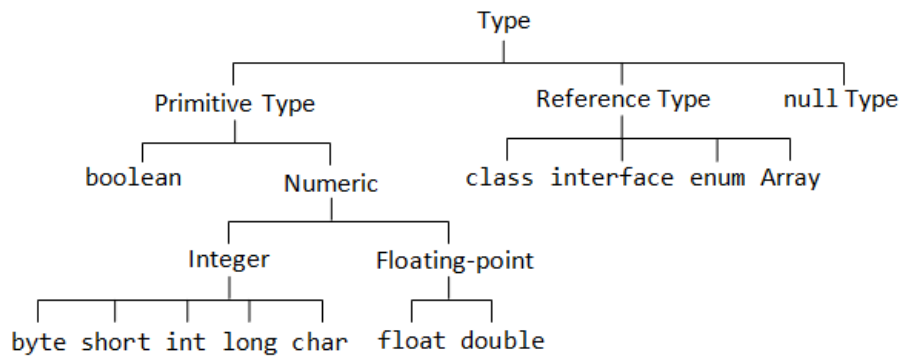
6.1 Types of Variables

The *type* of a variable determines what kinds of *value* the variable can hold and what operations can be performed on the variable. Java is a "strong-type" language, which means that the type of the variables must be known at compile-time.

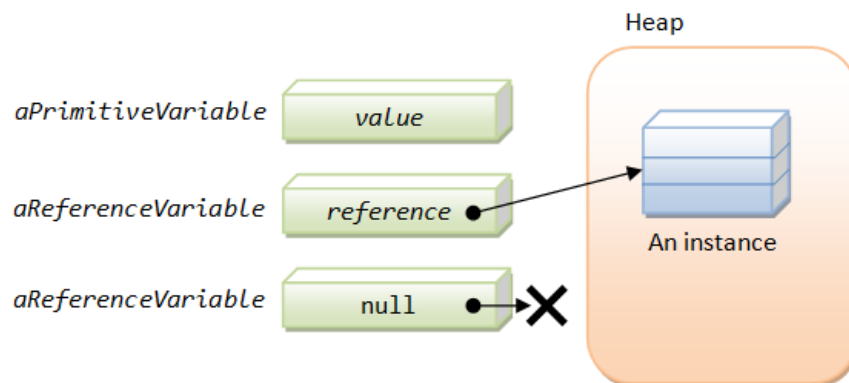
Java has three kinds of types:

1. Primitive type: There are eight primitive types in Java: `byte`, `short`, `int`, `long`, `float`, `double`, `char`, and `boolean`. A primitive-type variable holds a *simple value*.
2. Reference type: Reference types include `class`, `interface`, `enum` and *array*. A reference-type variable holds a *reference* to an object or array.

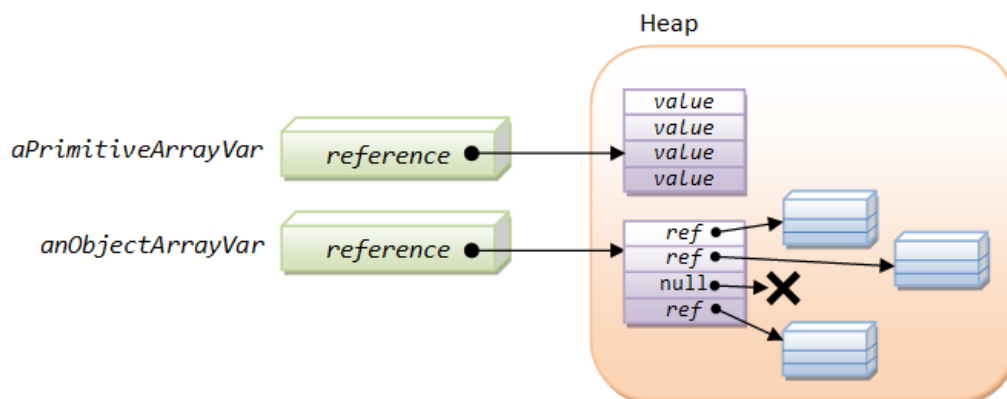
3. A special null type, holding a special null reference. It could be assigned to a reference variable that does not reference any object.



A primitive variable holds a primitive value (in this storage). A reference variable holds a reference to an object or array in the heap, or null. A reference variable can hold a reference of the type or its sub-type (polymorphism). The value null is assigned to a reference variable after it is declared. A reference is assigned after the instance is constructed. An object (instance) resides in the heap. It must be accessed via a reference.



Java implicitly defines a reference type for each possible array type - one for each of the eight primitive types and an object array.



6.2 Scope & Lifetime of Variables

The *scope* of a variable refers to the portion of the codes that the variable can be accessed. The *lifetime* refers to the span the variable is created in the memory until it is destroyed (garbage collected). A variable may exist in memory but not accessible by certain codes.

Java supports three types of variables of different lifetimes:

Automatic variable (or Local variable): Automatic variables include method's local variables and method's parameters. Automatic variables are created on entry to the method and are destroyed when the method exits. The scope of automatic variables of a method is inside the block where they are defined. Local variable cannot have access modifier (such as private or public). The only modifier applicable is final.

For example,

```

public static void main(String[] args) { // Scope of method parameter args is within this method
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) { // Scope of i is within the for-loop
        ....
    }
    System.out.println(i); // Compilation error, i has gone out of scope

    int j = 0; // Scope of j is within the method, from this point onwards
    for (j = 0; j < 10; j++) {
        ....
    }
}
  
```

```

System.out.println(j);           // okay

int k = 1;
do {
    int x = k*k;    // The scope of x is within the block (per iteration?!)
    ++k;
    .....
} while (x < 100); // compilation error!
}

```

Class member variable (or Instance variable): A member variable of a class is created when an instance is created, and it is destroyed when the object is destroyed (garbage collected).

Class static variable (or Class variable): A static variable of a class is created when the class is loaded (by the JVM's class loader) and is destroyed when the class is unloaded. There is only one copy for a static variable, and it exists regardless of the number of instances created, even if the class is not instantiated. Take note that static variables are created (during class loading) before instance variables (during instantiation).

6.3 Variable Initialization

All class member and static variables that are not explicitly assigned a value upon declaration are assigned a default initial value:

- "zero" for numeric primitive types: 0 for int, byte, short and long, 0.0f for float, 0.0 for double;
- '\u0000' (null character) for char;
- false for boolean;
- null for reference type (such as array and object).

You can use them without assigning an initial value.

Automatic variables are not initialized, and must be explicitly assigned an initial value before it can be referenced. Failure to do so triggers a compilation error "variable xxx might not have been initialized".

6.4 Array Initializer

Array's elements are also initialized once the array is allocated (via the new operator). Like member variables, elements of primitive type are initialized to zero or false; while reference type are initialized to null. [Take note that C/C++ does not initialize array's elements.] For example,

```

String[] strArray = new String[3];
for (String str: strArray) {
    System.out.println(str); // null, null, null
}

```

You can also use the so-called *array initializer* to initialize the array during declaration. For example,

```

int[] numbers = {11, 22, 33};
String[] days = {"Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday"};
Circle[] circles = {new Circle(1.1), new Circle(2.2), new Circle(3.3)};
float[][] table = {{1.1f, 2.2f, 3.3f}, {4.4f, 5.5f, 6.6f}, {7.7f, 8.8f, 9.9f}};
int[][] data = {{1, 4, 8}, {2, 3}, {4, 8, 1, 5}};

```

6.5 Garbage Collector

6.6 Where Primitives and Objects Live?

Primitive types, such as int and double are created in the program stack during compiled time for efficiency (less storage and fast access). Java's designer retained primitives in a object-oriented language for its efficiency.

Reference types, such as objects and arrays, are created in the "heap" at runtime (via the new operator), and accessed via a reference. Heap is less efficient as stack, as complex memory management is required to allocate, manage and release storage.

For automatic variable of reference type: the reference is local (allocated in the method stack), but the object referenced is allocated in the heap.

Stack and heap are typically located at the opposite ends of the data memory, to facilitate expansion.

6.7 Object References

When a Java object is constructed via the new operator and constructor, the constructor returns a value, which is a bit pattern that uniquely identifies the object. This value is known as the *object reference*.

In some JVM implementations, this object reference is simply the *address* of the object in the heap. However, the JVM specification does not specify how the object reference shall be implemented as long as it can uniquely identify the object. Many JVM implementations use so-called *double indirection*, where the object reference is the address of an address. This approach facilitates the garbage collector (to be explained next) to relocate objects in the heap to reduce memory fragmentation.

Objects are created via the new operator and the constructor. The new operator:

1. creates a new instance of the given class, and allocate memory dynamically from the heap;
2. calls one of the overloaded constructors to initialize the object created; and
3. returns the reference.

For primitives stored in the stack, compiler can determine how long the item lasts and destroy it once it is out of scope. For object in heap, the compiler has no knowledge of the creation and lifetime of the object.

In C++, you must destroy the heap's objects yourself in your program once the objects are no longer in use (via delete operator). Otherwise, it leads to a common bug known as "memory leak" - the dead objects pile-up and consume all the available storage. On the other hand, destroying an object too early, while it is still in use, causes runtime error. Managing memory explicitly is tedious and error prone, although the programs can be more efficient.

In Java, you don't have to destroy and de-allocate the objects yourself. JVM has a built-in process called *garbage collector* that automatically releases the memory for an object when there is *no more reference* to that object. The garbage collector runs in a low priority thread.

An object is eligible for garbage collection when there is no more reference to that object. Reference that is held in a variable is dropped when the variable has gone out of its scope. You may also explicitly drop an object reference by setting the object reference to null to signal to the garbage collector it is available for collection. However, it may or may not get garbage collected because there is no guarantee on when the garbage collector will be run or it will be run at all. The garbage collector calls the object's destructor (a method called `finalize()`), if it is defined, before releasing the memory back to the heap for re-use.

If a new reference is assigned to a reference variable (e.g., via new and constructor), the previous object will be available for garbage collection (if there is no other references). For example,

```
String str = "Hello";
str += " world";
// str has a new reference to "Hello world"
// "Hello" is now available for garbage collection
```

System.gc() or Runtime.gc()

You can explicitly ask for garbage collection by calling static methods `System.gc()` or `Runtime.gc()`. However, the behavior of these methods is JVM dependent. Some higher priority thread may prevent garbage collector from being run. You cannot rely on the `gc()` methods to perform garbage collection as the JVM specification merely states that "calling this method suggests that the Java Virtual Machine expends effort toward recycling unused objects". So the critical question "When the storage is recovered?" cannot be answered in Java.

Pitfalls of Java

Java's garbage collector frees you from worrying about memory management of objects (no more free or delete) so that you can focus on more productive works. It also insures against so called "memory leak" (i.e., used objects were not de-allocated from memory and slowly fill up the precious memory space); or releasing object too early which results in runtime error. These are common problems in C/C++ programs.

However, garbage collector does has its drawbacks:

1. Garbage collector consumes computational resources and resulted in runtime overhead.
2. The rate of execution is not guarantee and can be inconsistent. This is because JVM specification does not spell out when and how long the garbage collector should be run. This may have an impact on real-time programs, when a response is expected within a certain time, which cannot be interrupted by the garbage collector.

Many programmers prefer to use C++ for game programming and animation, as these programs could create millions of objects in a short span. Managing memory efficiently is critical, instead of relying on garbage collector.

There are some (imperfect) solutions to memory management in Java, e.g.,

1. Pre-allocate and re-use the objects, instead of creating new objects. This requires effort from programmers.
2. The author of "jBullet", which is a Java port of the famous Collision Physics library "Bullet Physics", created a library called `jStackAlloc`, which allocates objects on the method's stack instead of program heap. This improves real-time performance by reducing the frequency of garbage collection.

This solution shall remain imperfect until the Java designers decided to allow programmers to manage the storage, which is not likely.

7. Passing Argument into Methods

Recall that a method takes *arguments*, performs operation defined in the method body, and returns a piece of result or void to the caller.

To differentiate the parameters inside and outside the method, we have:

- *Actual parameters* (or *arguments*): The actual values passed into the method and used inside the method.
- *Formal parameters* (or *method parameters*): The *placeholders* used in the method definition, which are replaced by the actual parameters when the method is invoked.

For example:

```

public static double getArea(double radius) {
    return radius * radius * Math.PI;
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    double r = 1.2;
    getArea(r);    // invoke method with a variable
    getArea(3, 4); // invoke method with a literal value
}

```

In the above method definition, `radius` is a *parameter placeholder* or *formal parameter*. If we invoke the method with a variable `r` with value of 1.2, i.e., `getArea(r)`, `r` (1.2) is the actual parameter.

Passing Primitive - Type Argument into Method - Pass

If the argument is a primitive type (e.g., `int` or `double`), a *copy* of identical value is created and passed into the method. The method operates on the *cloned copy*. It does not have access to the original copy. If the value of the argument is changed inside the method, the original copy is not affected. This is called *pass-by-value* (passing a cloned value into the method).

For example,

```

1 public class TestPassingPrimitive {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         int number = 10;    // primitive type
4         System.out.println("In caller, before calling the method, the value is: " + number);
5         aMethodWithPrimitive(number); // invoke method
6         System.out.println("In caller, after calling the method, the value is: " + number);
7     }
8
9     public static void aMethodWithPrimitive(int number) {
10        System.out.println("Inside method, before operation, the value is " + number);
11        number++; // change the parameter
12        System.out.println("Inside method, after operation, the value is " + number);
13    }
14 }

```

```

In caller, before calling the method, the value is: 10
Inside method, before operation, the value is 10
Inside method, after operation, the value is 11
In caller, after calling the method, the value is: 10

```

Although the variables are called `number` in the caller as well as in the method's formal parameter, they are two different copies with their own scope.

Passing Reference - Type Argument into Method - Also

If the argument is a reference type (e.g., an array or an instance of a class), a *copy of the reference* is created and passed into the method. Since the caller's object and the method's parameter have the same reference, if the method changes the member variables of the object, the changes are permanent and take effect outside the method.

For example,

```

1 public class TestParameterReference {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer("Hello");
4         System.out.println("In caller, before calling the method, the object is \"" + sb + "\"");
5         aMethodOnReference(sb); // invoke method with side-effect
6         System.out.println("In caller, after calling the method, the object is \"" + sb + "\"");
7     }
8
9     public static void aMethodOnReference(StringBuffer sb) {
10        System.out.println("Inside method, before change, the object is \"" + sb + "\"");
11        sb.append(", world"); // change parameter
12        System.out.println("Inside method, after change, the object is \"" + sb + "\"");
13    }
14 }

```

```

In caller, before calling the method, the object is "Hello"
Inside method, before change, the object is "Hello"
Inside method, after change, the object is "Hello, world"
In caller, after calling the method, the object is "Hello, world"

```

If a method affects values outside the method itself other than the value returned, we say that the method has *side-effect*. Side effects may not be obvious by reading the method's codes, and must be handled with extreme care, and should be avoided if feasible. Proper comments should be provided in the method's header.

Re-assigning the Reference Inside the Method

Since a *copy of the reference* is passed into the method, if the method *re-assigns* the reference to the argument, the caller's object and the argument

will not have the same reference. Change in the argument will not be reflected in the caller's object.

For example,

```
1 public class TestParameterReferenceReassign {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer("Hello");
4         System.out.println("In caller, before calling the method, the object is \"\" + sb + \"\"");
5         aMethodOnReference(sb); // invoke method with side-effect
6         System.out.println("In caller, after calling the method, the object is \"\" + sb + \"\"");
7     }
8
9     public static void aMethodOnReference(StringBuffer sb) {
10        System.out.println("Inside method, before change, the object is \"\" + sb + \"\"");
11        sb = new StringBuffer("world"); // re-assign the reference to the parameter
12        sb.append(" peace");           // the re-assigned parameter
13        System.out.println("Inside method, after change, the object is \"\" + sb + \"\"");
14    }
15 }
```

```
In caller, before calling the method, the object is "Hello"
Inside method, before change, the object is "Hello"
Inside method, after change, the object is "world peace"
In caller, after calling the method, the object is "Hello"
```

Reference - Type Argument - Pass - by - Reference or Pass - by - Value

As the object parameter can be modified inside the method, some people called it *pass-by-reference*. However, in Java, a copy of reference is passed into the method, hence, Java designers called it *pass-by-value*.

Passing a Primitive as a One - Element Array ?

Primitive-type parameters are passed-by-value. Hence, the method is not able to modify the caller's copy. If you wish to let the method to modify the caller's copy, you might pass the primitive-type parameter as a one-element array.

8 . Method Overloading vs . Overriding

An overriding method must have the same argument list; while an overloading method must have different argument list. You override a method in the subclass. You typically overload a method in the same class, but you can also overload a method in the subclass.

A overriding method:

1. must have the same parameter list as its original.
2. must have the same return-type or sub-type of its original return-type (since JDK 1.5 - called *covariant return-type*).
3. cannot have more restrictive access modifier than its original, but can be less restrictive, e.g., you can override a protected method as a public method.
4. cannot throw more exceptions than that declared in its original, but can throw less exceptions. It can throw exceptions that is declared in its original or their sub-types.
5. overriding a private method does not make sense, as private methods are not really inherited by its subclasses.
6. You cannot override a non-static method as static, and vice versa.
7. Technically, a subclass does not override a static method, but merely hides it. Both the superclass' and subclass' versions can still be accessed via the classnames.
8. A final method cannot be overridden. An abstract method must be overridden in an implementation subclass (otherwise, the subclass remains abstract).

A overloading method:

1. must be differentiated by its parameter list. It shall not be differentiated by return-type, exception list or access modifier (which generates compilation error). It could have any return-type, exception list or access modifier, as long as it has a different parameter list than the others.
2. can exist in the original class or its sub-classes.

9 . Frequently - Used Packages in JDK API

JDK API is huge and consists of many packages (refer to JDK API specification). These are the frequently-used packages:

- `java.lang` (the core package): contains classes that are core to the language itself, e.g., `System`, `String`, `Math`, `Object`, etc.
- `java.util`: contains utilities such as `Scanner`, `Random`, `Date`, `ArrayList`, `Vector`, `Hashtable`.
- `java.io`: contains input and output classes for reading files and I/O streams, such as `File`.
- `java.net`: contains networking support, such as `Socket` and `URL`.

- `java.awt` (Abstract Windowing Toolkit): contains classes for implementing a graphical user interface, including classes like `Frame`, `Button`, `CheckBox`.
- `java.awt.event`: contains event handling classes, such as key-press, mouse-click etc.
- `java.swing`: Advanced GUI classes, e.g., `JFrame`, `JButton`, `JApplet`, etc.
- `java.applet`: contains classes for implementing Java applets.
- `java.sql`: contains classes for database programming, such as `Connection`, `Statement`, `ResultSet`.
- Many others.

10. Package `java.lang` classes used

"`java.lang`" is the Java *core language package*, which contains class central to the Java language, such as `Object`, `System` and `String`. It is implicitly "imported" into every Java program. That is, no explicit "import" statement required for using classes in `java.lang`. Frequently-used classes in "`java.lang`" are:

- `String`, `StringBuffer` and `StringBuilder`: `String` is immutable whereas `StringBuffer`/`StringBuilder` is mutable. `StringBuffer` is thread safe; while `StringBuilder` is not thread safe and is meant for single-thread operations.
- `Math`: contains public static fields `PI` and `E`, and many public static methods such as `random()`, `square()`, `sqrt()`, `sin()`, `cos()`, `asin()`, `acos()`, `log()`, `exp()`, `floor()`, `ceil()`, `pow()`, and etc.
- Wrapper class for primitive types: `Byte`, `Integer`, `Short`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`, `Character`, `Boolean`. The wrapper class is used to wrap a primitive type into a Java class. They are used when a class is needed for purpose such as using multithreading, synchronization and collection.
- `System`: contains the public static variables `in`, `out`, and `err`, corresponds to the standard input, output, and error streams.
- `Object`: the common root class for all the Java classes. This common root class defines the baseline behaviors needed to support features like multithreading (lock and monitor), synchronization (`wait()`, `notify()`, `notifyAll()`), garbage collection, `equals()`, `hashCode()` and `toString()`.

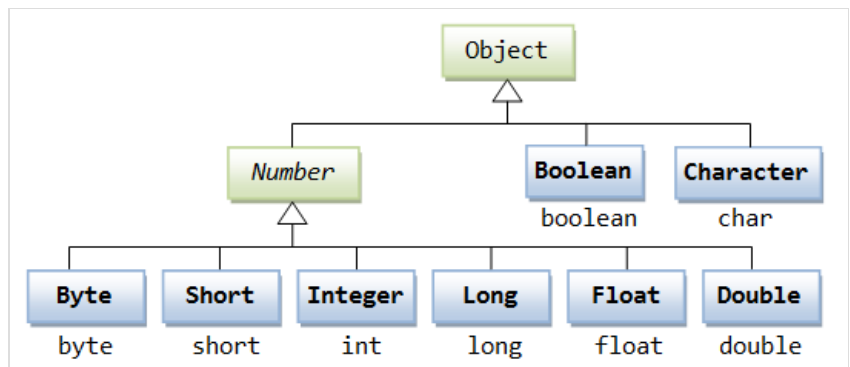
10. `java.lang.StringBuilder` and `StringBuffer`

Read "[Java String is Special](#)".

10.2 Wrapper Classes for Primitive Types

The designers of Java language retain the primitive types in an object-oriented language, instead of making everything object, so as to improve the runtime performance. However, in some situations, an object is required instead of a primitive value. For example,

- The data structures in the `Collection` framework, such as the "dynamic array" `ArrayList` and `Vector`, stores only objects (reference types) and not primitive types.
- `Object` is needed to support synchronization in multithreading.
- Objects are needed, if you wish to modify the arguments passed into a method (because primitive types are passed by value).



JDK provides the so-called *wrapper classes* that wrap primitive values into objects, for each primitive type - `Byte` for `byte`, `Short` for `short`, `Integer` for `int`, `Long` for `long`, `Float` for `float`, `Double` for `double`, `Character` for `char`, and `Boolean` for `boolean`, as shown in the class diagram.

Each of the wrapper classes contains a private member variable that holds the primitive value it wraps. The wrapped value cannot be changed.

Wrap via Constructors

Each of the wrapper classes has a constructor that takes in the data type it wraps. For examples:

```

// Wrap an int primitive value into an Integer object
Integer aIntObj = new Integer(5566);
// Wrap a double primitive value into a Double object
Double aDoubleObj = new Double(55.66);
// Wrap a char primitive value into a Character object
Character aCharObj = new Character('z');
// Wrap a boolean primitive value into a Boolean object
Boolean aBooleanObj = new Boolean(true);

```

All wrapper classes, except `Character`, also have a constructor that takes a `String`, and parse the `String` into the primitive value to be wrapped.

Unwrapping Numeric Objects

The abstract superclass `Number` defines the following `xxxValue()` methods to unwrap, which are implemented in concrete subclasses `Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`.

```
// In classes Byte, Short, Integer, Long, Float and Double
public byte byteValue()           // returns the wrapped "numeric" value as a byte
public short shortValue()         // ... as a short
public abstract int intValue()    // ... as an int
public abstract long longValue()  // ... as a long
public abstract float floatValue() // ... as a float
public abstract double doubleValue() // ... as a double
```

Similarly, the `Character` and `Boolean` classes have a `charValue()` and `booleanValue()`, respectively.

```
// In Character class
public char charValue()           // Returns as char
// In Boolean class
public boolean booleanValue()     // Returns as boolean
```

Example

```
// Wrap a primitive int into an Integer object
Integer intObj = new Integer(556677);
// Unwrap
int i = intObj.intValue();
short s = intObj.shortValue(); // truncate
byte b = intObj.byteValue();   // truncate

// Wrap a primitive double into an Double object
Double doubleObj = new Double(55.66);
// Unwrap
double d = doubleObj.doubleValue();
int i1 = doubleObj.intValue(); // truncate

// Wrap a primitive char into an Character object
Character charObj = new Character('z');
// Unwrap
char c = charObj.charValue();

// Wrap a primitive boolean into a Boolean object
Boolean booleanObj = new Boolean(false);
// Unwrap
boolean b1 = booleanObj.booleanValue();
```

Constants

All wrapper classes (except `Boolean`) contain the following constants, which give the minimum, maximum, and bit-length.

```
// All except Boolean
public static final type MIN_VALUE // Minimum value
public static final type MAX_VALUE // Maximum value
public static final int SIZE       // Number of bits
// Float and Double only
public static final int MAX_EXPONENT // Maximum exponent
public static final int MIN_EXPONENT // Maximum exponent
```

For examples:

```
// Integer class
System.out.println(Integer.MAX_VALUE); // 2147483647
System.out.println(Integer.MIN_VALUE); // -2147483648
System.out.println(Integer.SIZE);      // 32
// Double class
System.out.println(Double.MAX_VALUE);   // 1.7976931348623157E308
System.out.println(Double.MIN_VALUE);   // 4.9E-324
System.out.println(Double.SIZE);        // 64
System.out.println(Double.MAX_EXPONENT); // 1023
System.out.println(Double.MIN_EXPONENT); // -1022
```

Static Methods for Parsing Strings

Each of the wrapper classes (except `Character`) also contain a static method to parse a given `String` into its respective primitive value:

```
// Byte class
public static byte parseByte(String s) throws NumberFormatException
// Short class
public static short parseShort(String s) throws NumberFormatException
```

```
// Integer class
public static int parseInt(String s) throws NumberFormatException
// Long class
public static long parseLong(String s) throws NumberFormatException
// Float class
public static float parseFloat(String s) throws NumberFormatException
// Double class
public static double parseDouble(String s) throws NumberFormatException
// Boolean class
public static boolean parseBoolean(String s)
    // returns true for string "true" (case insensitive); returns false otherwise
```

For examples:

```
// Parse a String into int. Throw NumberFormatException if the String is not valid
int i = Integer.parseInt("5566");
i = Integer.parseInt("abcd");    // Runtime Error: NumberFormatException
i = Integer.parseInt("55.66");   // Runtime Error: NumberFormatException

// Parse a String into double
double d = Double.parseDouble("55.66");
```

10.3 Auto-Boxing & Auto-Unboxing (JDK 1.5)

Prior to JDK 1.5, the programmers have to explicitly wrap a primitive value into an object, and explicitly unwrap an object to get a primitive value. For example,

```
// Pre-JDK 1.5
Integer intObj = new Integer(5566);    // wrap int to Integer
int i = intObj.intValue();              // unwrap Integer to int

Double doubleObj = new Double(55.66);  // wrap double to Double
double d = doubleObj.doubleValue();    // unwrap Double to double
```

The pre-JDK 1.5 approach involves quite a bit of code to do the wrapping and unwrapping. Why not ask the compiler to do the wrapping and unwrapping automatically? JDK 1.5 introduces a new feature called *auto-boxing and unboxing*, where the compiler could do the wrapping and unwrapping automatically for you based on their contexts. For example:

```
// Java SE 5.0
Integer intObj = 5566;    // autobox from int to Integer
int i = intObj;           // auto-unbox from Integer to int

Double doubleObj = 55.66; // autoboxing from double to Double
double d = doubleObj;     // auto-unbox from Double to double
```

With the auto-boxing and unboxing, you can practically ignore the distinction between a primitive and its wrapper object.

10. java.lang.Mathematical Functions & Constants

The `java.lang.Math` class provides mathematical constants (PI and E) and functions (such as `random()`, `sqrt()`). A few functions are listed below for references. Check the JDK API specification for details.

```
// static constants
public static double Math.PI;    // constant π
public static double Math.E;    // constant e
// static methods
public static double Math.random(); // generate a random number btw 0.0 & 1.0
public static double Math.sin(double x); // sine function
public static double Math.exp(double x); // exponential function
public static double Math.log(double x); // natural logarithm of x
public static double Math.pow(double x, double y); // x raised to power of y
public static double Math.sqrt(double x); // square root of x
```

For examples:

```
double radius = 1.1;
double area = radius * radius * Math.PI;
int number = (int)Math.pow(2, 3); // int 2 and 3 implicitly promoted to double
                                   // invoke pow(double, double) which return a double
                                   // cast the result back to an int
```

Take note that `Math` class is `final` - you cannot create subclasses. The constructor of `Math` class is private - you cannot create instances.

10. java.lang.Object - Common Java Root Class

`java.lang.Object` is the superclass of all Java classes. In other words, all classes are subclass of `Object` - directly or indirectly. A reference of class

Object can hold any Java object, because all Java classes are subclasses of Object. In other word, every Java class *is-a* Object.

Java adopts a *single common root class* approach in its design, to ensure that all Java classes have a set of common baseline properties. The Object class defines and implements all these common attributes and behaviors that are necessary of all the Java objects running under the JVM. For example,

- Ability to compare itself to another object, via `equals()` and `hashCode()`.
- Provides a text string description, via `toString()`.
- Inter-thread communication, via `wait()`, `notify()` and `notifyAll()`.
- Automatic garbage collection.

The Object class has the following public methods:

```
// The following methods must be overridden to be used
public boolean equals(Object obj);
public int hashCode();
// The following methods may be overridden
protected Object clone();
protected void finalize();
public String toString();
// The following methods are final and cannot be overridden
public final Class getClass();
public final void wait(...);
public final void notify();
public final void notifyAll();
```

The method `getClass()` returns a runtime representation of the class in a `Class` object. A `Class` object exists for all the objects in Java. It can be used, for example, to discover the fully-qualified name of a class, its members, its immediate superclass, and the interfaces that it implemented. For example,

```
objectName.getClass().getName()    // retrieve the class name
objectName.getClass().newInstance() // create a new instance
```

The method `toString()` returns a text string description of the object's current state, which is extremely useful for debugging. The `toString()` is implicitly called by `println()` and the string concatenation operator `'+'`. The default implementation in Object returns the classname followed by its hash code (in hexadecimal) (e.g., `java.lang.Object@1e78fc6`). This method is meant to be overridden in the subclasses.

The method `equals()` defines a notion of object equality, based on the object's contents rather than their references. However, the default implementation in Object class use `"=="` which compares the object's references. This method is meant to be overridden in the subclasses to compare the content via "deep" comparison, rather than references. The `equals()` shall be reflective and transitive, i.e., `a.equals(b)` is true, `b.equals(a)` shall be true; if `a.equals(b)` and `b.equals(c)` are true, then `a.equals(c)` shall be true.

The method `hashCode()` maps an object into a hash value. The same object must always produce the same hash value. Two objects which are `equals()` shall also produce the same hash value. The reverse is, however, not valid.

The method `clone()` is used to make a duplicate of an object. It creates an object of the same type from an existing object, and initializes the new object's member variables to have the same value as the original object. For example,

```
aCloneableObject.clone()
```

The object to be cloned must implement `Cloneable` interface. Otherwise, a `CloneNotSupportedException` will be thrown. For reference type variable, only the reference is cloned, not the actual object.

The methods `wait()`, `notify()`, `notifyAll()` are used in concurrent (multithreading) programming. These methods are declared `final` and cannot be overridden in the subclasses.

The method `finalize()` is run before an object is destroyed (i.e., destructor). It can be used for cleanup operation before the object is garbage-collected.

10 .j6a v a . l a n g . S y s t e m

The `System` class contains three static variables `System.in`, `System.out` and `System.err`, corresponding to the *standard input, output and error streams*, respectively.

The `System` class also contains many useful static methods, such as:

- `System.exit(returnCode)`: terminate the program with the return code.
- `System.currentTimeMillis()` & `System.nanoTime()`: get the current time in milliseconds and nanoseconds. These methods can be used for accurate timing control.
- `System.getProperties()`: retrieving all the system properties.

10 .j7a v a . l a n g . R u n t i m e

Every Java program is associated with an instance of `Runtime`, which can be obtained via the static method `Runtime.getRuntime()`. You can

interface with the operating environment via this Runtime, e.g., `exec(String command)` launches the *command* in a separate process.

```
1 // Call up another program
2 import java.io.IOException;
3
4 public class ExecTest {
5     public static void main(String[] args) {
6         try {
7             Runtime.getRuntime().exec("calc.exe");
8         } catch (java.io.IOException ex) {
9             ex.printStackTrace();
10        }
11    }
12 }
```

11. Package `java.util` - Frequently - Used Classes

11.1 `java.util.Random`

Although `Math.random()` method can be used to generate a random double between `[0.0, 1.0)`, the `java.util.Random` class provides more extensive operations on random number, e.g., you can set a random number generator with a initial seed value, to generate the same sequence of random values repeatedly.

EXAMPLE

```
import java.util.Random;
public class TestRandomClass {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // Allocate a pseudorandom number generator with default random seed
        Random random = new Random();

        // Generate the next 10 pseudorandom uniformly distributed int value
        // between 0(inclusive) and 100(exclusive)
        for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
            System.out.print(random.nextInt(100) + " ");
        }
        System.out.println();

        // Generate the next pseudorandom uniformly distributed double/float value
        // between 0.0(inclusive) and 1.0(exclusive)
        System.out.println(random.nextDouble());
        System.out.println(random.nextFloat());

        // Allocate a pseudorandom number generator with the specified seed value
        Random anotherRandom = new Random(12345);
        // Generate the "same" sequence of 10 integers
        for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
            System.out.print(anotherRandom.nextInt(100) + " ");
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
}
```

EXAMPLE: Simulating throw of 3 dice.

```
/*
 * Throw 3 dices and get the total score.
 * Also examine for
 * - 3-of-a-kind (all 3 dice are the same);
 * - pair (any two dice are the same);
 * - special (one dice is more than the sum of the other two)
 */
import java.util.Random;
public class DiceSimulation {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Random random = new Random(); // Allocate a random generator
        int[] diceScores = new int[3]; // Allocate 3 dice
        int totalScore = 0;

        // Throw the dice
        for (int i = 0; i < diceScores.length; i++) {
            diceScores[i] = random.nextInt(6) + 1; // 1 to 6
        }

        // Compute total score
        System.out.print("The dice are:");
    }
}
```

```

for (int diceScore : diceScores) {
    totalScore += diceScore;
    System.out.print(" " + diceScore);
}
System.out.println();
System.out.println("The total score is " + totalScore);

// Check for 3-of-a-kind and pair
if (diceScores[0] == diceScores[1]) {
    if (diceScores[0] == diceScores[2]) {
        System.out.println("It's a 3-of-a-kind");
    } else {
        System.out.println("It's a pair");
    }
} else {
    if (diceScores[0] == diceScores[2] || diceScores[1] == diceScores[2]) {
        System.out.println("It's a pair");
    }
}

// Check for special
if ((diceScores[0] > diceScores[1] + diceScores[2]) ||
    (diceScores[1] > diceScores[0] + diceScores[2]) ||
    (diceScores[2] > diceScores[0] + diceScores[1])) {
    System.out.println("It's a special");
}
}
}

```

1 1 .j2a v a . u t i l . S a c n n e r . F o r m a t t e d T e x t I O

Read "Formatted-text I/O".

1 1 .j3a v a . u t i l . A r r a y s

The Arrays class contains various static methods for manipulating arrays, such as comparison, sorting and searching.

For examples,

- The static method boolean `Arrays.equals(int[] a, int[] b)`, compare the contents of two int arrays and return boolean true or false.
- The static method void `Arrays.sort(int[] a)` sorts the given array in ascending numerical order.
- The static method int `binarySearch(int[] a, int key)` searches the given array for the specified value using the binary search algorithm.
- others

[TODO] Example

1 2 . P a g e s a c n n e r - e x t e n s i b l e - U s e d C l a s s e s

The `java.text` package contains classes and interfaces for handling text, dates, numbers and currencies with locale (internationalization) support.

[TODO] compare with (JDK 1.5) `String.format()` and format specifiers and `Formatter/Sacnner` - check for locale support.

The `NumberFormat/DecimalFormat` and `DateFormat/SimpleDateFormat` supports both output formatting (number/date -> string) and input parsing (string -> number/date) in a *locale-sensitive* manner for internationalization (i18n).

1 2 .j1a v a . t e x t . N u m b e r F o r m a t

The `NumberFormat` class can be used to format numbers and currencies for any locale. To format a number for the current Locale, use one of the static factory methods:

```
String myString = NumberFormat.getInstance().format(myNumber);
```

The available factory methods are:

```

public static final NumberFormat getInstance();           // Returns a general-purpose number format
public static final NumberFormat getInstance(Locale l);
public static final NumberFormat getNumberInstance();    // Returns a general-purpose number format
public static final NumberFormat getNumberInstance(Locale l);
public static final NumberFormat getIntegerInstance();   // Returns a integer number format
public static final NumberFormat getIntegerInstance(Locale l);
public static final NumberFormat getCurrencyInstance(); // Returns a currency number format
public static final NumberFormat getCurrencyInstance(Locale l);

```



```

public static final NumberFormat getPercentInstance();           // Returns a percent number format
public static final NumberFormat getPercentInstance(Locale l);

```

The default currency format rounds the number to two decimal places; the default percent format rounds to the nearest integral percent; the default integer format rounds to the nearest integer.

Example 1

```

1  import java.text.NumberFormat;
2  import java.util.Locale;
3
4  public class TestNumberCurrencyFormat {
5      public static void main(String[] args) {
6          Locale[] locales = { Locale.US, Locale.FRANCE, Locale.JAPAN };
7
8          for (Locale loc:locales) {
9              NumberFormat formatter = NumberFormat.getInstance(loc);
10             String formattedNumber = formatter.format(123456789.12345);
11             System.out.format("%15s: %s\n", loc.getDisplayCountry(), formattedNumber);
12         }
13
14         for (Locale loc:locales) {
15             NumberFormat formatter = NumberFormat.getCurrencyInstance(loc);
16             String formattedNumber = formatter.format(123456789.12345);
17             System.out.format("%15s: %s\n", loc.getDisplayCountry(), formattedNumber);
18         }
19     }
20 }
21 }

```

```

United States: 123,456,789.123
France: 123 456 789,123
Japan: 123,456,789.123
United States: $123,456,789.12
France: 123 456 789,12 €
Japan: ¥123,456,789

```

Example 2

In this example, we use static method `NumberFormat.getAvailableLocales()` to retrieve all supported locales, and try out `getInstance()`, `getIntegerInstance()`, `getCurrencyInstance()`, `getPercentInstance()`.

```

1  import java.util.Locale;
2  import java.text.NumberFormat;
3
4  public class NumberFormatTest {
5      public static void main(String[] args) {
6          // Print a number using the localized number, integer, currency,
7          // and percent format for each available locale
8          Locale[] locales = NumberFormat.getAvailableLocales();
9          double myNumber = -1234.56;
10         NumberFormat format;
11
12         // General Number format
13         System.out.println("General Format:");
14         for (Locale locale : locales) {
15             if (locale.getCountry().length() == 0) continue; // Skip language-only locales
16             format = NumberFormat.getInstance(locale);
17             System.out.printf("%40s -> %s\n", locale.getDisplayName(), format.format(myNumber));
18         }
19
20         // Integer format
21         System.out.println("Integer Format:");
22         for (Locale locale : locales) {
23             if (locale.getCountry().length() == 0) continue; // Skip language-only locales
24             format = NumberFormat.getIntegerInstance(locale);
25             System.out.printf("%40s -> %s\n", locale.getDisplayName(), format.format(myNumber));
26         }
27
28         // Currency format
29         System.out.println("Currency Format:");
30         for (Locale locale : locales) {
31             if (locale.getCountry().length() == 0) continue; // Skip language-only locales
32             format = NumberFormat.getCurrencyInstance(locale);
33             System.out.printf("%40s -> %s\n", locale.getDisplayName(), format.format(myNumber));
34         }
35
36         // Percent format
37         System.out.println("Percent Format:");

```

```

38     for (Locale locale : locales) {
39         if (locale.getCountry().length() == 0) continue; // Skip language-only locales
40         format = NumberFormat.getPercentInstance(locale);
41         System.out.printf("%40s -> %s%n", locale.getDisplayName(), format.format(myNumber));
42     }
43 }
44 }

```

You can also use the NumberFormat to parse an input string (represent in the locale) to a Number:

```
public Number parse(String source) throws ParseException
```

1 2 .j2a v a . t e x t . D e c i m a l F o r m a t

The DecimalFormat class is a subclass of NumberFormat, which adds support for formatting floating-point numbers, such as specifying precision, leading and trailing zeros, and prefixes and suffixes. A DecimalFormat object has a pattern to represent the format of the decimal number, e.g., "#,###,##0.00", where 0 denotes zero padding, and # without the zero-padding.

To use a DecimalFormat with the default locale, invoke its constructor with the pattern, e.g.,

```

double d = -12345.789
DecimalFormat format = new DecimalFormat("$#,###,##0.00"); // default locale
System.out.println(format.format(d)); // -$12,345.79

format.applyPattern("#,##0.0#;(#,##0.0#)"); // "positive;negative"
System.out.println(format.format(d)); // (12,345.79)

```

To use a DecimalFormat with locale, get a NumberFormat by calling the getInstance() and downcast it to DecimalFormat. For example,

```

double d = -12345.789;
NumberFormat nf = NumberFormat.getInstance(Locale.GERMAN);
if(nf instanceof DecimalFormat) {
    DecimalFormat df = (DecimalFormat) nf;
    df.applyPattern("##,##0.00#");
    System.out.println(df.format(d)); // -12.345,789
}

```

1 2 .j3a v a . t e x t . D a t e F o r m a t

The DateFormat class can be used to format a date instance with locale.

Read "[Date and Time](#)".

To format a date/time for the current locale, use one of the static factory methods:

```
myString = DateFormat.getDateInstance().format(myDate);
```

The available factory methods for getting a DateFormat instance are:

```

public static final DateFormat getTimeInstance();
public static final DateFormat getTimeInstance(int timeStyle); // DateFormat.FULL, LONG, MEDIUM and SHORT
public static final DateFormat getTimeInstance(int timeStyle, Locale l)
public static final DateFormat getDateInstance();
public static final DateFormat getDateInstance(int dateStyle);
public static final DateFormat getDateInstance(int dateStyle, Locale l)
public static final DateFormat getDateTimeInstance();
public static final DateFormat getDateTimeInstance(int dateStyle, int timeStyle);
public static final DateFormat getDateTimeInstance(int dateStyle, int timeStyle, Locale l);
public static final DateFormat getInstance(); // default DateTime formatter in SHORT style

```

The exact display for each style depends on the locales, but in general,

- DateFormat.SHORT is completely numeric, such as 12.13.52 or 3:30pm
- DateFormat.MEDIUM is longer, such as Jan 12, 1952
- DateFormat.LONG is longer, such as January 12, 1952 or 3:30:32pm
- DateFormat.FULL is pretty completely specified, such as Tuesday, April 12, 1952 AD or 3:30:42pm PST.

You can also use the DateFormat to parse an input string containing a date in the locale to a Date object.

```
public Date parse(String source) throws ParseException
```

1 2 .j4a v a . t e x t . S i m p l e D a t e F o r m a t

The SimpleDateFormat is a concrete subclass of DataFormat for formatting and parsing dates in a locale-sensitive manner. It supports output formatting (date to string), input parsing (string to date), and normalization.

You can construct a `SimpleDateFormat` via one of its constructors:

```
public SimpleDateFormat(String pattern);  
public SimpleDateFormat(String pattern, Locale locale);
```

For example, [TODO]

LINK TO JAVA REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Latest version tested: JDK 1.7.0_17
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Feedback, comments, corrections, and errata can be sent to Chua Hock-Chuan (ehchua@ntu.edu.sg) | [HOME](#)