

7B. Object-Oriented Design II

- Objectives - when we have completed this set of notes, you should be familiar with:
 - writing interfaces
 - using interfaces in the Java API including Comparable and Iterator
 - method and constructor overloading
 - method design
 - types of testing



Interfaces

- A Java *interface* consists of abstract methods and/or constants
 - An *abstract method* is a method header without a method body:

```
public abstract double getPerimeter();
```
 - The abstract reserved word can be left off because all methods in an interface are assumed to be abstract:

```
public double getPerimeter();
```
- An interface is used to establish a set of methods that a class will implement



Interfaces

interface is a reserved word



```
public interface TwoDShape {  
  
    public double getNumberSides();  
  
    public double getPerimeter();  
  
}
```

None of the methods in an interface are given a definition (body); an interface may also contain constants

A semicolon immediately follows each method header



Interfaces

- An interface cannot be instantiated
- Methods in an interface have public visibility by default
- A class formally implements an interface:
 - By stating so in the class header

```
public class Triangle implements TwoDShape
```

 - The Triangle class must now have a `getNumberSides` and a `getPerimeter` method
 - And then by providing a body (or implementation) for each abstract method in the interface



Interfaces

- A class that implements an interface can implement other methods as well
 - See [Triangle.java](#) and [Rectangle.java](#), which both implement the [TwoDShape](#) interface
- In addition to (or instead of) abstract methods, an interface can contain constants
- When a class implements an interface, it gains access to all its constants



Multiple Interfaces

- A class can implement multiple interfaces
- The interfaces are listed in the `implements` clause
- The class must implement all methods in all interfaces listed in the header (see [Rectangle.java](#))

```
class ManyThings implements Interface1, Interface2
{
    // all methods of both interfaces
}
```



Comparable Interface

- The Java standard class library contains many helpful interfaces
- The `Comparable` interface contains one abstract method called `compareTo`, which is used to compare two objects
- Recall the `compareTo` method of `String`:
 - The `compareTo` method is defined in the `String` class to compare objects based on lexicographic order

```
str1.compareTo(str2);
```



The Comparable Interface

- Any class can implement the `Comparable` interface to define how objects are compared, making the following code possible:

```
obj1.compareTo(obj2);
```

- The value returned from `compareTo` should be...
 - negative if `obj1` is less than `obj2` (returning any negative number is ok)
 - 0 if they are equal
 - positive if `obj1` is greater than `obj2` (returning any positive number is ok)



The Comparable Interface

- The programmer decides what makes one object less than another
- For example, you may define the `compareTo` method of an `Employee` class to order employees by name (alphabetically) or by employee number
- The `compareTo` method for [Rectangle.java](#) is based on area



The Iterator Interface

- An iterator is an object that provides a means of processing a collection of objects one at a time
- An iterator is created formally by implementing the `Iterator` interface, which contains three methods
 - The `hasNext` method returns a boolean result – true if there are items left to process
 - The `next` method returns the next object in the iteration
 - The `remove` method removes the object most recently returned by the `next` method



The Iterator Interface

- An example of a class that implements Iterator:
 - Scanner: iterates through “tokens” based on a delimiter (default delimiter is one or more spaces)
- You’ll use this in COMP 2210 when you start building data structures like lists
- The for-each version of the `for` loop can be used to process the items in classes that [implement the Iterable Interface \(e.g., ArrayList\)](#).



Interfaces

- You could implement `compareTo` without implementing the interface `Comparable`, but you would limit the functionality
 - For example, `Arrays.sort` relies on `compareTo`.
 - If you try to use `Arrays.sort` on an array of Rectangles, it will generate a run-time error **unless `Comparable` is implemented** (even if you have defined `compareTo`)
 - Try commenting out implements `Comparable<Rectangle>` in [Rectangle.java](#) and running [RectangleSorter.java](#)



Method Overloading

- *Method overloading* is the process of giving a single method name multiple definitions
- If a method is overloaded, the method name is not sufficient to determine which method is being called
- The *signature* of each overloaded method must be unique
- The signature includes the number, type, and order of the parameters



Method Overloading

- The compiler determines which method is being invoked by analyzing the parameters

```
float tryMe(int x)
{
    return x + .375;
}
```

Invocation

```
result = tryMe(25, 4.32)
```

```
float tryMe(int x, double y)
{
    return x*y;
}
```



Method Overloading

- The `println` method is overloaded:

```
println (String s)
println (int i)
println (double d)
```

and so on...

- The following lines invoke different versions of the `println` method:

```
System.out.println ("The total is:");
System.out.println (total);
```



Overloading Methods

- The return type of the method is not part of the signature
- That is, overloaded methods cannot differ only by their return type
- Constructors can be overloaded as well; for example, if we had a class `Book`, we might have the following constructors:

```
Book()
Book(String titleIn)
Book(String titleIn, String authorIn)
```



Method Design

- An *algorithm* is a step-by-step process for solving a problem
- Examples: a recipe, travel directions
- Every method implements an algorithm that determines how the method accomplishes its goals
- An algorithm may be expressed in *pseudocode*, a mixture of code statements and English that communicate the steps to take



Method Decomposition

- A method should be relatively small, so that it can be understood as a single entity
- A potentially large method should be decomposed into several smaller methods as needed for clarity
- A public service method of an object may call one or more private support methods to help it accomplish its goal
- Support methods might call other support methods if appropriate



Method Decomposition

- Let's look at an example that requires method decomposition – translating English into Pig Latin
- Pig Latin is a language in which each word is modified by moving the initial sound of the word to the end and adding "ay"
- Words that begin with vowels have the "yay" sound added on the end
- Examples

book → ookbay

table → abletay

item → itemyay

chair → airchay



Method Decomposition

- The primary objective (translating a sentence) is too complicated for one method to accomplish
- Therefore we look for natural ways to decompose the solution into pieces
- Translating a sentence can be decomposed into the process of translating each word
- The process of translating a word can be separated into translating words that:
 - begin with vowels
 - begin with consonant blends (sh, cr, th, etc.)
 - begin with single consonants

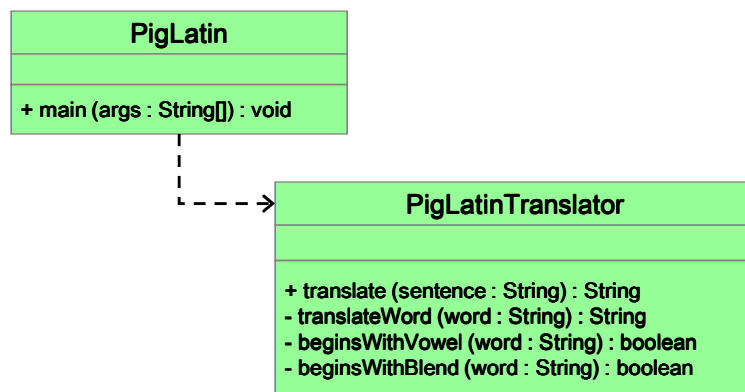


Method Decomposition

- See [PigLatin.java](#)
- See [PigLatinTranslator.java](#)
- In a UML class diagram, the visibility of a variable or method can be shown using special characters
- Public members are preceded by a plus sign
- Private members are preceded by a minus sign



Class Diagram for Pig Latin



Objects as Parameters

- Another important issue related to method design involves parameter passing
- Parameters in a Java method are *passed by value*
- A copy of the actual parameter (the value passed in) is stored into the formal parameter (in the method header)
- Therefore passing parameters is similar to an assignment statement
- When an object is passed to a method, the actual parameter and the formal parameter become aliases of each other



Passing Objects to Methods

- What a method does with a parameter may or may not have a permanent effect (outside the method)
- See [ParameterTester.java](#)
- See [ParameterModifier.java](#)
- See [Num.java](#)
- Note the difference between changing the internal state of an object versus changing which object a reference points to



Testing

- Testing can mean many different things
- It certainly includes running a completed program with various inputs
- It also includes any evaluation performed by human or computer to assess quality
- Some evaluations should occur before coding even begins
- The earlier we find an problem, the easier and cheaper it is to fix



Testing

- The goal of testing is to find defects (via failures)
- As we find and fix defects, we raise our confidence that a program will perform as intended
- We can never really be sure that all defects have been eliminated
- So when do we stop testing?
 - Conceptual answer: Never
 - Snide answer: When we run out of time
 - Better answer: When we are willing to risk that an undiscovered defects still exists



Test Cases

- A *test case* is a set of input and/or user actions, coupled with the expected results
- Often test cases are organized formally into *test suites* which are stored and reused as needed
- For medium and large systems, testing must be a carefully managed process
- Many organizations have a separate Quality Assurance (QA) department to lead testing efforts



Defect and Regression Testing

- *Defect testing* is the execution of test cases to uncover defects/errors
- The act of fixing a defect/error may introduce new defects
- After fixing a set of defects/errors we should perform *regression testing* – running previous test suites to ensure new errors haven't been introduced
- It is not possible to create test cases for all possible input and user actions
- Therefore we should design tests to maximize their ability to find problems



Black-Box Testing

- In *black-box testing*, test cases are developed without considering the internal logic
- They are based on the input and expected output
- Input can be organized into *equivalence categories*
- Two input values in the same equivalence category would produce similar results
- Therefore a good test suite will cover all equivalence categories and focus on the boundaries between categories



White-Box Testing

- *White-box testing* focuses on the internal structure of the code
- The goal is to ensure that every independent path through the code is tested
- Paths through the code are determined by conditional or looping statements in a program
- A good testing effort will include both black-box and white-box tests

