

## Encapsulation. Use accessor methods, not public fields

```
//Classes like this are a sign of bad design
class Point {
    public double x;
    public double y;
}
```

Because the data fields of such classes are accessed directly, these classes **do not offer the benefits of encapsulation**. You can't change the representation without changing the API, you can't enforce invariants, and you can't take auxiliary action when a field is accessed. These classes also go against the principles of Object-Oriented programming and should, in 99.99% of situations, be replaced by classes with private fields and public accessor methods (getters) and, for mutable classes, mutators (setters):

How to solve:

```
//Encapsulation of data by accessor methods and mutators
class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;

    public Point(double x, double y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }

    public double getX() { return x; }
    public double getY() { return y; }
    public void setX(double x) { this.x = x; }
    public void setY(double y) { this.y = y; }
}
```

If a public class exposes its data fields, all hope of changing its representation is lost, as client code can be distributed far and wide.