Java static keyword

The **static keyword** in Java is used for memory management mainly. We can apply java static keyword with variables, methods, blocks and nested class. The static keyword belongs to the class than an instance of the class.

The static can be:

1. Variable (also known as a class variable)
2. Method (also known as a class method)
3. Block
4. Nested class

1) Java static variable

If you declare any variable as static, it is known as a static variable.

- The static variable can be used to refer to the common property of all objects (which is not unique for each object), for example, the company name of employees, college name of students, etc.
- The static variable gets memory only once in the class area at the time of class loading.

Advantages of static variable

It makes your program **memory efficient** (i.e., it saves memory).

Understanding the problem without static variable

```
class Student{
   int rollno;
   String name;
   String college="ITS";
}
```

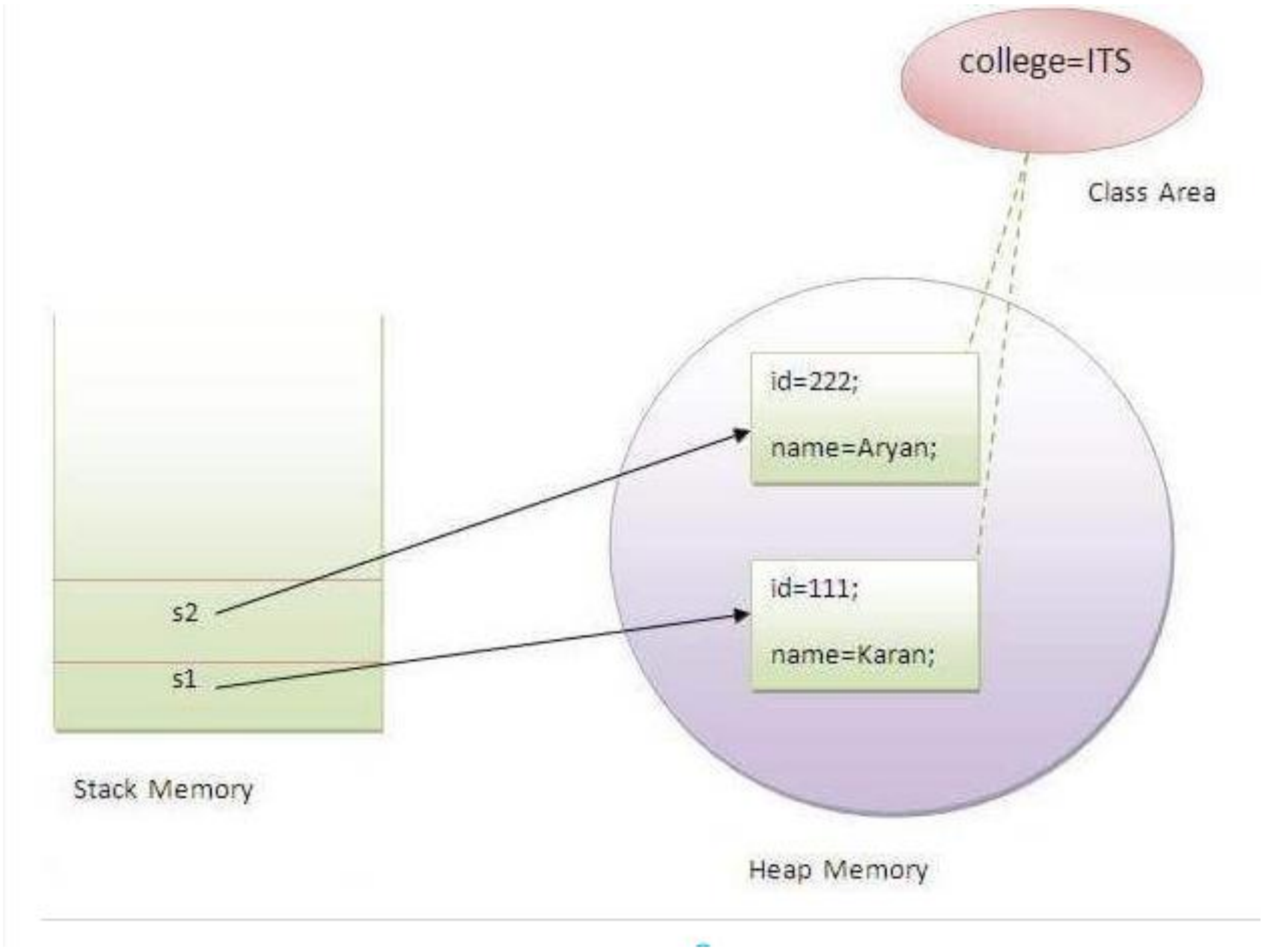
Suppose there are 500 students in my college, now all instance data members will get memory each time when the object is created. All students have its unique rollno and name, so instance data member is good in such case. Here, "college" refers to the common property of all objects. If we make it static, this field will get the memory only once.

Java static property is shared to all objects.

Example of static variable

```
//Java Program to demonstrate the use of static variable
class Student{
   int rollno;//instance variable
   String name;
   static String college ="ITS";//static variable
   //constructor
   Student(int r, String n){
   rollno = r;
   name = n;
   }
   //method to display the values
   void display (){System.out.println(rollno+" "+name+" "+college);}
}
//Test class to show the values of objects
public class TestStaticVariable1{
 public static void main(String args[]){
 Student s1 = new Student(111,"Karan");
 Student s2 = new Student(222,"Aryan");
 //we can change the college of all objects by the single line of code
 //Student.college="BBDIT";
 s1.display();
 s2.display();
 }
}
```

Memory Representation and Usage of Memory of Static Keyword



2) Java static method

If you apply static keyword with any method, it is known as static method.

- A static method belongs to the class rather than the object of a class.
- A static method can be invoked without the need for creating an instance of a class.
- A static method can access static data member and can change the value of it.

Example of static method

```
//Java Program to demonstrate the use of a static method.
class Student{
     int rollno;
     String name;
     static String college = "ITS";
     //static method to change the value of static variable
     static void change(){
     college = "BBDIT";
     }
     //constructor to initialize the variable
     Student(int r, String n){
     rollno = r;
     name = n;
     }
     //method to display values
     void display(){System.out.println(rollno+" "+name+" "+college);}
}
//Test class to create and display the values of object
public class TestStaticMethod{
    public static void main(String args[]){
    Student.change();//calling change method
    //creating objects
    Student s1 = new Student(111,"Karan");
    Student s2 = new Student(222,"Aryan");
    Student s3 = new Student(333,"Sonoo");
    //calling display method
    s1.display();
    s2.display();
    s3.display();
    }
}
```

Test it Now

```
Output:111 Karan BBDIT
       222 Aryan BBDIT
       333 Sonoo BBDIT
```

Another example of a static method that performs a normal calculation

```java
//Java Program to get the cube of a given number using the static method

class Calculate{
  static int cube(int x){
  return x*x*x;
  }

  public static void main(String args[]){
  int result=Calculate.cube(5);
  System.out.println(result);
  }
}
```

Test it Now

```
Output:125
```

Restrictions for the static method

There are two main restrictions for the static method. They are:

1. The static method can not use non static data member or call non-static method directly.
2. this and super cannot be used in static context.

```java
class A{
 int a=40;//non static

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

Test it Now

```
Output:Compile Time Error
```

Q) Why is the Java main method static?

Ans) It is because the object is not required to call a static method. If it were a non-static method, JVM creates an object first then call main() method that will lead the problem of extra memory allocation.

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3) Java static block

- Is used to initialize the static data member.
- It is executed before the main method at the time of classloading.

Example of static block

```
class A2{
  static{System.out.println("static block is invoked");}
  public static void main(String args[]){
   System.out.println("Hello main");
  }
}
```

Test it Now

```
Output:static block is invoked
       Hello main
```

Q) Can we execute a program without main() method?

Ans) No, one of the ways was the static block, but it was possible till JDK 1.6. Since JDK 1.7, it is not possible to execute a java class without the main method.

```
class A3{
  static{
  System.out.println("static block is invoked");
  System.exit(0);
  }
}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
static block is invoked
```

Since JDK 1.7 and above, output would be:

```
Error: Main method not found in class A3, please define the main method as:
   public static void main(String[] args)
or a JavaFX application class must extend javafx.application.Application
```

```java
import java.util.*;
public class BlockExample{
// static variable
static int j = 10;
static int n;

// static block
static {
System.out.println("Static block initialized.");
n = j * 8;
}

public static void main(String[] args)
{
System.out.println("Inside main method");
System.out.println("Value of j : "+j);
System.out.println("Value of n : "+n);
}
}
```

When you execute the above program, static block gets initialized and displays the values of the initialized variables.

Output:

```
Static block initialized
Inside main method
Value of j:10
Value of n : 80
```

Static Class

A class can be made **static** only if it is a nested class.

1. Nested static class doesn't need reference of Outer class
2. A static class cannot access non-static members of the Outer class

We will see these two points with the help of an example:

Static class Example

```
class JavaExample{
   private static String str = "BeginnersBook";

   //Static class
   static class MyNestedClass{
        //non-static method
        public void disp() {

           /* If you make the str variable of outer class
            * non-static then you will get compilation error
            * because: a nested static class cannot access non-
            * static members of the outer class.
            */
           System.out.println(str);
        }

   }
   public static void main(String args[])
   {
       /* To create instance of nested class we didn't need the outer
        * class instance but for a regular nested class you would need
        * to create an instance of outer class first
        */
          JavaExample.MyNestedClass obj = new JavaExample.MyNestedClass();
          obj.disp();
    }
}
```

Output:

```
BeginnersBook
```