Application

According to Sun, 3 billion devices run Java. There are many devices where Java is currently used. Some of them are as follows:

1. Desktop Applications such as acrobat reader, media player, antivirus, etc.
2. Web Applications such as irctc.co.in, javatpoint.com, etc.
3. Enterprise Applications such as banking applications.
4. Mobile
5. Embedded System
6. Smart Card
7. Robotics
8. Games, etc.

Types of Java Applications

There are mainly 4 types of applications that can be created using Java programming:

1) Standalone Application

Standalone applications are also known as desktop applications or window-based applications. These are traditional software that we need to install on every machine. Examples of standalone application are Media player, antivirus, etc. AWT and Swing are used in Java for creating standalone applications.

2) Web Application

An application that runs on the server side and creates a dynamic page is called a web application. Currently, Servlet, JSP, Struts, Spring, Hibernate, JSF, etc. technologies are used for creating web applications in Java.

3) Enterprise Application

An application that is distributed in nature, such as banking applications, etc. is called enterprise application. It has advantages of the high-level security, load balancing, and clustering. In Java, EJB is used for creating enterprise applications.

4) Mobile Application

An application which is created for mobile devices is called a mobile application. Currently, Android and Java ME are used for creating mobile applications.

Java Platforms / Editions

There are 4 platforms or editions of Java:

1) Java SE (Java Standard Edition)

It is a Java programming platform. It includes Java programming APIs such as java.lang, java.io, java.net, java.util, java.sql, java.math etc. It includes core topics like OOPs, String, Regex, Exception, Inner classes, Multithreading, I/O Stream, Networking, AWT, Swing, Reflection, Collection, etc.

2) Java EE (Java Enterprise Edition)

It is an enterprise platform which is mainly used to develop web and enterprise applications. It is built on the top of the Java SE platform. It includes topics like Servlet, JSP, Web Services, EJB, JPA, etc.

3) Java ME (Java Micro Edition)

It is a micro platform which is mainly used to develop mobile applications.

4) JavaFX

It is used to develop rich internet applications. It uses a light-weight user interface API.

Prerequisite

To learn Java, you must have the basic knowledge of C/C++ programming language.

Audience

Our Java programming tutorial is designed to help beginners and professionals.

Problem

We assure that you will not find any problem in this Java tutorial. However, if there is any mistake, please post the problem in the contact form.

Do You Know?

- What is the difference between JRE and JVM?
- What is the purpose of JIT compiler?

- Can we save the java source file without any name?
- Why java uses the concept of Unicode system?

Method Overloading in Java

1. Different ways to overload the method
2. By changing the no. of arguments
3. By changing the datatype
4. Why method overloading is not possible by changing the return type
5. Can we overload the main method
6. method overloading with Type Promotion

If a class has multiple methods having same name but different in parameters, it is known as **Method Overloading**.

If we have to perform only one operation, having same name of the methods increases the readability of the program.

Suppose you have to perform addition of the given numbers but there can be any number of arguments, if you write the method such as a(int,int) for two parameters, and b(int,int,int) for three parameters then it may be difficult for you as well as other programmers to understand the behavior of the method because its name differs.

So, we perform method overloading to figure out the program quickly.

Advantage of method overloading

Method overloading *increases the readability of the program*.

Different ways to overload the method

There are two ways to overload the method in java

1. By changing number of arguments
2. By changing the data type

> In java, Method Overloading is not possible by changing the return type of the method only.

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1) Method Overloading: changing no. of arguments

In this example, we have created two methods, first add() method performs addition of two numbers and second add method performs addition of three numbers.

In this example, we are creating static methods so that we don't need to create instance for calling methods.

```
1. class Adder{
2. static int add(int a,int b){return a+b;}
3. static int add(int a,int b,int c){return a+b+c;}
4. }
5. class TestOverloading1{
6. public static void main(String[] args){
7. System.out.println(Adder.add(11,11));
8. System.out.println(Adder.add(11,11,11));
9. }}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
22
33
```

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2) Method Overloading: changing data type of arguments

In this example, we have created two methods that differs in data type. The first add method receives two integer arguments and second add method receives two double arguments.

```
1. class Adder{
2. static int add(int a, int b){return a+b;}
```

```
3. static double add(double a, double b){return a+b;}
4. }
5. class TestOverloading2{
6. public static void main(String[] args){
7. System.out.println(Adder.add(11,11));
8. System.out.println(Adder.add(12.3,12.6));
9. }}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
22
24.9
```

Q) Why Method Overloading is not possible by changing the return type of method only?

In java, method overloading is not possible by changing the return type of the method only because of ambiguity. Let's see how ambiguity may occur:

```
1. class Adder{
2. static int add(int a,int b){return a+b;}
3. static double add(int a,int b){return a+b;}
4. }
5. class TestOverloading3{
6. public static void main(String[] args){
7. System.out.println(Adder.add(11,11));//ambiguity
8. }}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
Compile Time Error: method add(int,int) is already defined in class Adder
```

System.out.println(Adder.add(11,11)); //Here, how can java determine which sum() method should be called?

> Note: Compile Time Error is better than Run Time Error. So, java compiler renders compiler time error if you declare the same method having same parameters.

Can we overload java main() method?

Yes, by method overloading. You can have any number of main methods in a class by method overloading. But JVM calls main() method which receives string array as arguments only. Let's see the simple example:

```
1. class TestOverloading4{
2. public static void main(String[] args){System.out.println("main with String[]");}
3. public static void main(String args){System.out.println("main with String");}
4. public static void main(){System.out.println("main without args");}
5. }
```

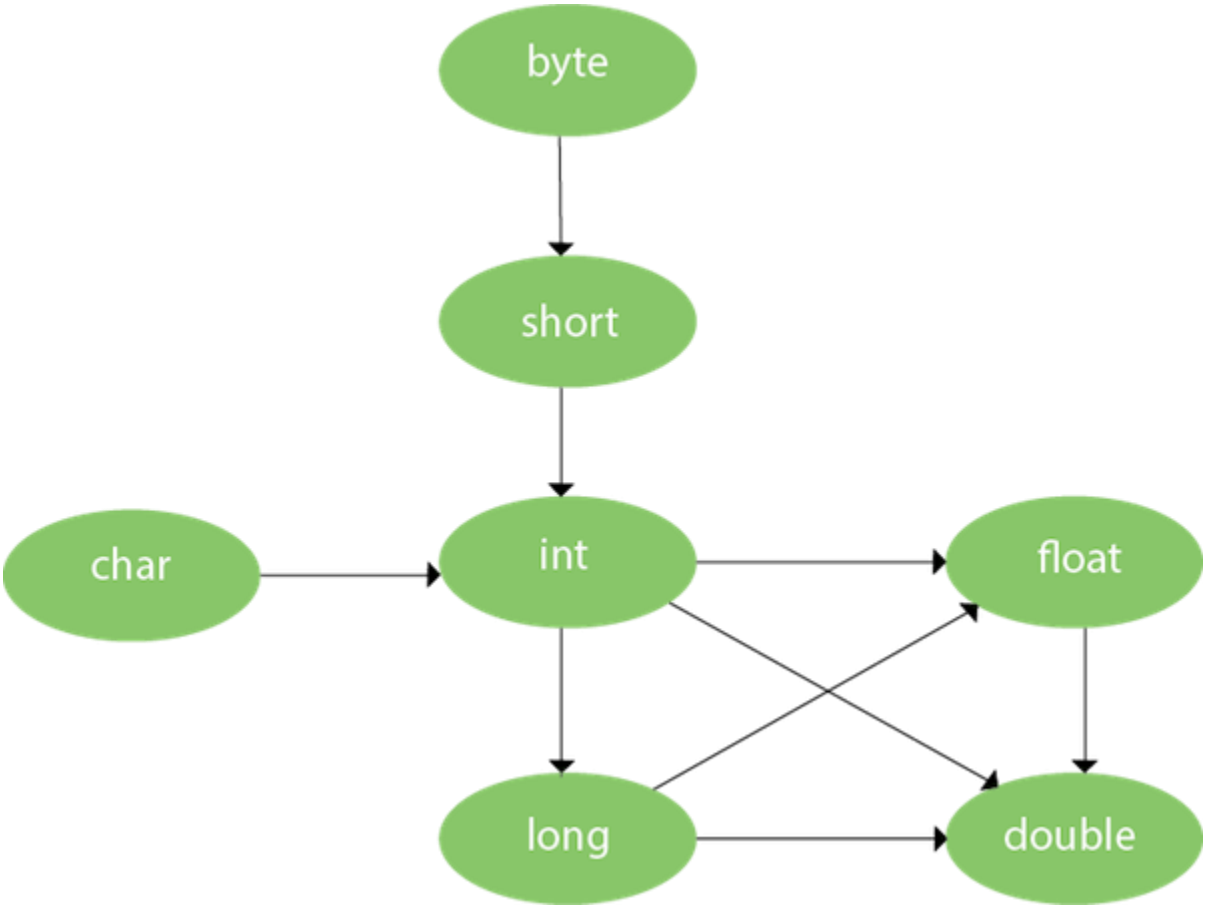
Test it Now

Output:

```
main with String[]
```

Method Overloading and Type Promotion

One type is promoted to another implicitly if no matching datatype is found. Let's understand the concept by the figure given below:



As displayed in the above diagram, byte can be promoted to short, int, long, float or double. The short datatype can be promoted to int,long,float or double. The char datatype can be promoted to int,long,float or double and so on.

Example of Method Overloading with TypePromotion

```
1. class OverloadingCalculation1{
2.   void sum(int a,long b){System.out.println(a+b);}
3.   void sum(int a,int b,int c){System.out.println(a+b+c);}
4.
5.   public static void main(String args[]){
6.   OverloadingCalculation1 obj=new OverloadingCalculation1();
7.   obj.sum(20,20);//now second int literal will be promoted to long
8.   obj.sum(20,20,20);
9.
10.  }
11.}
```