Building Java Programs
Chapter 8

Classes & Objects

Classes

Reading

- Building Java Programs, Ch. 8

Learning Outcomes

- Object Oriented programming
- Java class definition
- Class constructors
- Class fields
- Class methods

Summary

- A ‘class’ is an abstract template for an object
- Classes allow for encapsulation of re-usable logic and model real-world objects
- Programs can create a concrete ‘instance’ of a class
- Each instance is unique & has it’s own distinct ‘state’
- A class can define attributes (nouns) & methods (verbs)
- Methods can be public (visible outside the class) or private
- A ‘constructor’ method initializes a new instance of the class
- Attributes usually accessed via a method to control behavior
- ‘accessor` (get) methods access object state
- ‘mutator’ (set) methods modify object state

Classes and objects

- **class**: An abstract template for a program entity. (e.g. a 'car' class) that defines state and behavior.
  - Note - in Java, a class can encapsulate a 'module'
- **object**: A specific instance of a class. (e.g. my Ford Escort is specific instance of a car)
- **object-oriented programming (OOP)**: Programs that use objects to **encapsulate** behavior.

Benefits of encapsulation

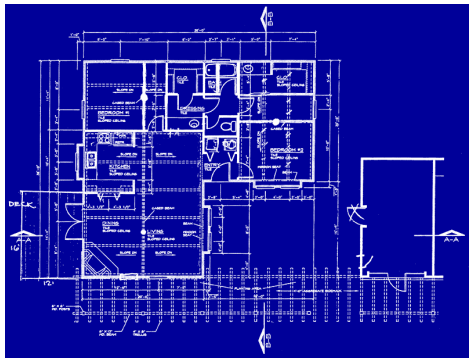
- Abstraction between object and clients
- Protects objects from unwanted access
- Allows changing a class implementation without affecting clients that depend on the class
- Can constrain objects' state using **invariants**
  - Example: Only allow `Account`s with non-negative balance.
  - Example: Only allow `Date`s with a month from 1-12.

Blueprint analogy

iPod blueprint

state:
- current song
- volume
- battery life

behavior:
- power on/off
- change station/song
- change volume
- choose random song



creates

iPod #1

state:
- song = "1,000,000 Miles"
- volume = 17
- battery life = 2.5 hrs

behavior:
- power on/off
- change station/song
- change volume
- choose random song

iPod #2

state:
- song = "Letting You"
- volume = 9
- battery life = 3.41 hrs

behavior:
- power on/off
- change station/song
- change volume
- choose random song

iPod #3

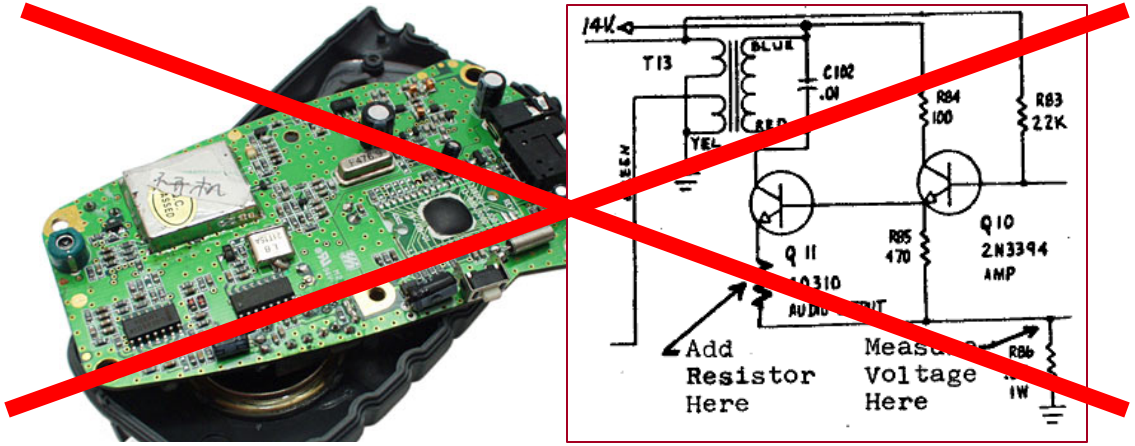
state:
- song = "Discipline"
- volume = 24
- battery life = 1.8 hrs

behavior:
- power on/off
- change station/song
- change volume
- choose random song

Abstraction

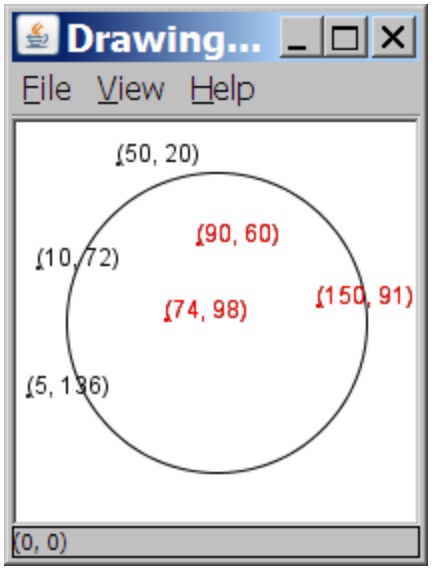
- **abstraction**: A distancing between ideas and details.
  - We can use objects without knowing how they work.

- abstraction in an iPod:
  - You understand its external behavior (buttons, screen).
  - You don't understand its inner details, and you don't need to.



Observations

- The data in this problem is a set of points.
- It would be better stored as `Point` objects.
  - A `Point` would store a city's x/y data.
  - We could compare distances between `Point`s to see whether the bomb hit a given city.
  - Each `Point` would know how to draw itself.
  - The overall program would be shorter and cleaner.



Our task

- In the following slides, we will implement a `Point` class as a way of learning about defining classes.
  - We will define a type of objects named `Point`.
  - Each `Point` object will contain x/y data called **fields**.
  - Each `Point` object will contain behavior called **methods**.
  - **Client programs** will use the `Point` objects.

`Point` objects (desired)

```
Point p1 = new Point(5, -2);
Point p2 = new Point();          // origin, (0, 0)
```

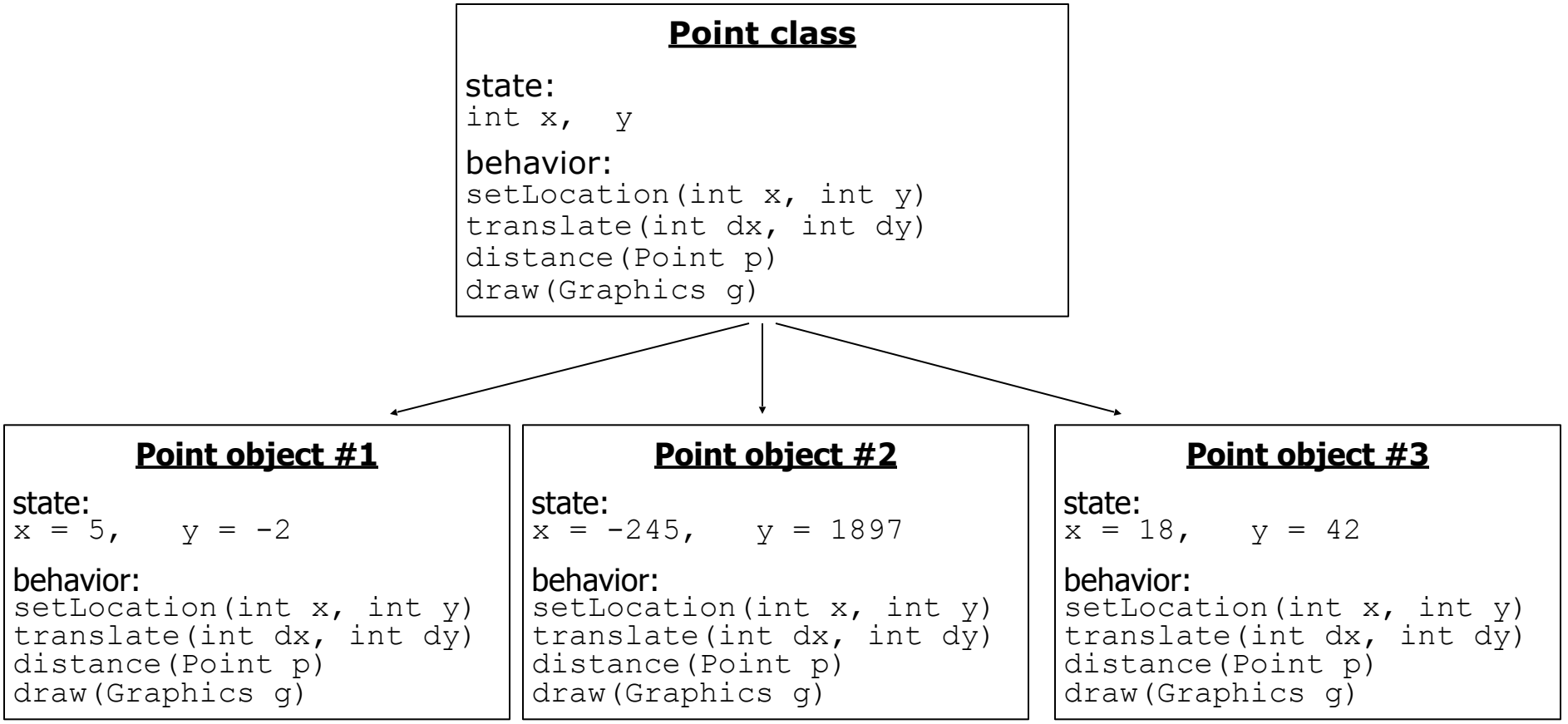
- Data in each `Point` object:

Field name	Description
`x`	the point's x-coordinate
`y`	the point's y-coordinate

- Methods in each `Point` object:

Method name	Description
`setLocation(`**x**`, `**y**`)`	sets the point's x and y to the given values
`translate(`**dx**`, `**dy**`)`	adjusts the point's x and y by the given amounts
`distance(`**p**`)`	how far away the point is from point p
`draw(`**g**`)`	displays the point on a drawing panel

`Point` class as blueprint



- The class (blueprint) will describe how to create objects.
- Each object will contain its own data and methods.

Object state: Fields

Point class, version 1

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
```

- Save this code into a file named `Point.java`.

- The above code creates a new type named `Point`.
  - Each `Point` object contains two pieces of data:
    - an `int` named `x`, and
    - an `int` named `y`.
  - `Point` objects do not contain any behavior (yet).

Fields

- **field**: A variable inside an object that is part of its state.
  - Each object has its own copy of each field.

- Declaration syntax:

```
type name;
```

  - Example:

```
public class Student {
    String name;     // each Student object has a
    double gpa;      // name and gpa field
}
```

Accessing fields

- Other classes can access/modify an object's fields.
  - access: **variable.field**
  - modify: **variable.field** = **value**;

- Example:

```
Point p1 = new Point();
Point p2 = new Point();
System.out.println("the x-coord is " + p1.x);    // access
p2.y = 13;                                       // modify
```

A class and its client

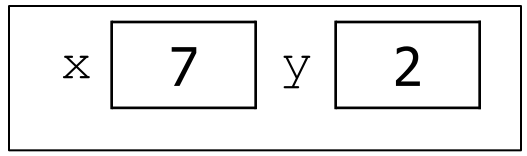
- `Point.java` is not, by itself, a runnable program.
  - A class can be used by **client** programs.

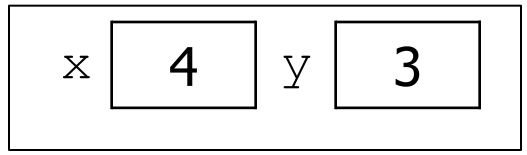
`PointMain.java` (client program)

```
public class PointMain {
  main(String args) {
    Point p1 = new Point();
    p1.x = 7;
    p1.y = 2;

    Point p2 = new Point();
    p2.x = 4;
    p2.y = 3;
    ...
  }
}
```

`Point.java` (class of objects)

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
```





PointMain client example

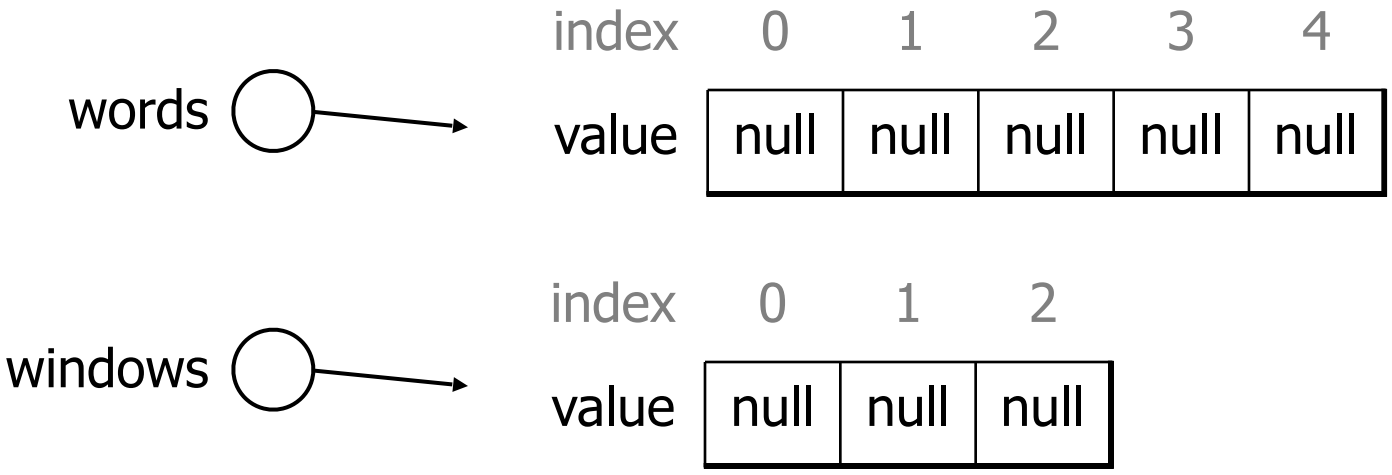
```
public class PointMain {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // create two Point objects
        Point p1 = new Point();
        p1.y = 2;
        Point p2 = new Point();
        p2.x = 4;

        System.out.println(p1.x + ", " + p1.y);   // 0, 2

        // move p2 and then print it
        p2.x += 2;
        p2.y++;
        System.out.println(p2.x + ", " + p2.y);   // 6, 1
    }
}
```

- Exercise: Modify the `Bomb` program to use `Point` objects.

Arrays of objects

- **`null`** : A value that does not refer to any object.
  - The elements of an array of objects are initialized to `null`.

```
String[] words = new String[5];
DrawingPanel[] windows = new DrawingPanel[3];
```



Things you can do w/ `null`

- store `null` in a variable or an array element

```
String s = null;
words[2] = null;
```

- print a `null` reference

```
System.out.println(s);        // null
```

- ask whether a variable or array element is `null`

```
if (words[2] == null) { ...
```

- pass `null` as a parameter to a method

```
System.out.println(null);     // null
```

- return `null` from a method (often to indicate failure)

```
return null;
```

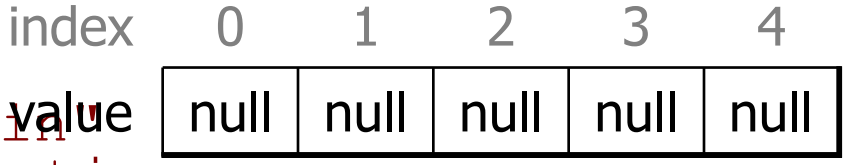
Null pointer exception

- **dereference**: To access data or methods of an object with the dot notation, such as `s.length()` .
  - It is illegal to dereference `null` (causes an exception).
  - `null` is not any object, so it has no methods or data.

```
String[] words = new String[5];
System.out.println("word is: " + words[0]);
words[0] = words[0].toUpperCase();   // ERROR
```

Output:

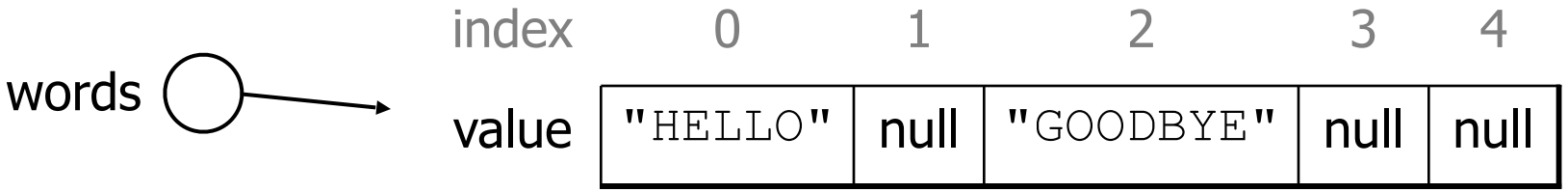
```
word is: null
Exception in thread "main"
java.lang.NullPointerException
        at Example.main(Example.java:8)
```



Looking before you leap

- You can check for `null` before calling an object's methods.

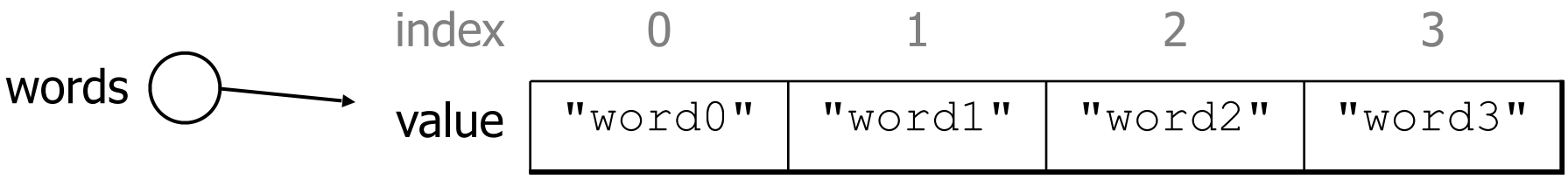
```
String[] words = new String[5];
words[0] = "hello";
words[2] = "goodbye";    // words[1], [3], [4] are null

for (int i = 0; i < words.length; i++) {
    if (words[i] != null) {
        words[i] = words[i].toUpperCase();
    }
}
```



Two-phase initialization

1) initialize the array itself (each element is initially `null`)
2) initialize each element of the array to be a new object

```
String[] words = new String[4];              // phase 1
for (int i = 0; i < words.length; i++) {
    coords[i] = "word" + i;                  // phase 2
}
```



Object behavior: Methods

Client code redundancy

- Our client program wants to draw `Point` objects:

```
// draw each city
g.fillOval(cities[i].x, cities[i].y, 3, 3);
g.drawString("(" + cities[i].x + ", " + cities[i].y + ")",
             cities[i].x, cities[i].y);
```

- To draw them in other places, the code must be repeated.
  - We can remove this redundancy using a method.

Eliminating redundancy, v1

- We can eliminate the redundancy with a static method:

```
// Draws the given point on the DrawingPanel.
public static void draw(Point p, Graphics g) {
    g.fillOval(p.x, p.y, 3, 3);
    g.drawString("(" + p.x + ", " + p.y + ")", p.x, p.y);
}
```

- `main` would call the method as follows:

```
// draw each city
draw(cities[i], g);
```

Problem with static method

- We are missing a major benefit of objects: code reuse.
  - Every program that draws `Point`s would need a `draw` method.

- The syntax doesn't match how we're used to using objects.

```
draw(cities[i], g);    // static (bad)
```

- The point of classes is to combine state and behavior.
  - The `draw` behavior is closely related to a `Point`'s data.
  - The method belongs inside each `Point` object.

```
cities[i].draw(g);     // inside object (better)
```

Instance methods

- **instance method** (or **object method**): Exists inside each object of a class and gives behavior to each object.

```
public type name(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

  – same syntax as static methods, but without `static` keyword

Example:

```
public void shout() {
    System.out.println("HELLO THERE!");
}
```

Instance method example

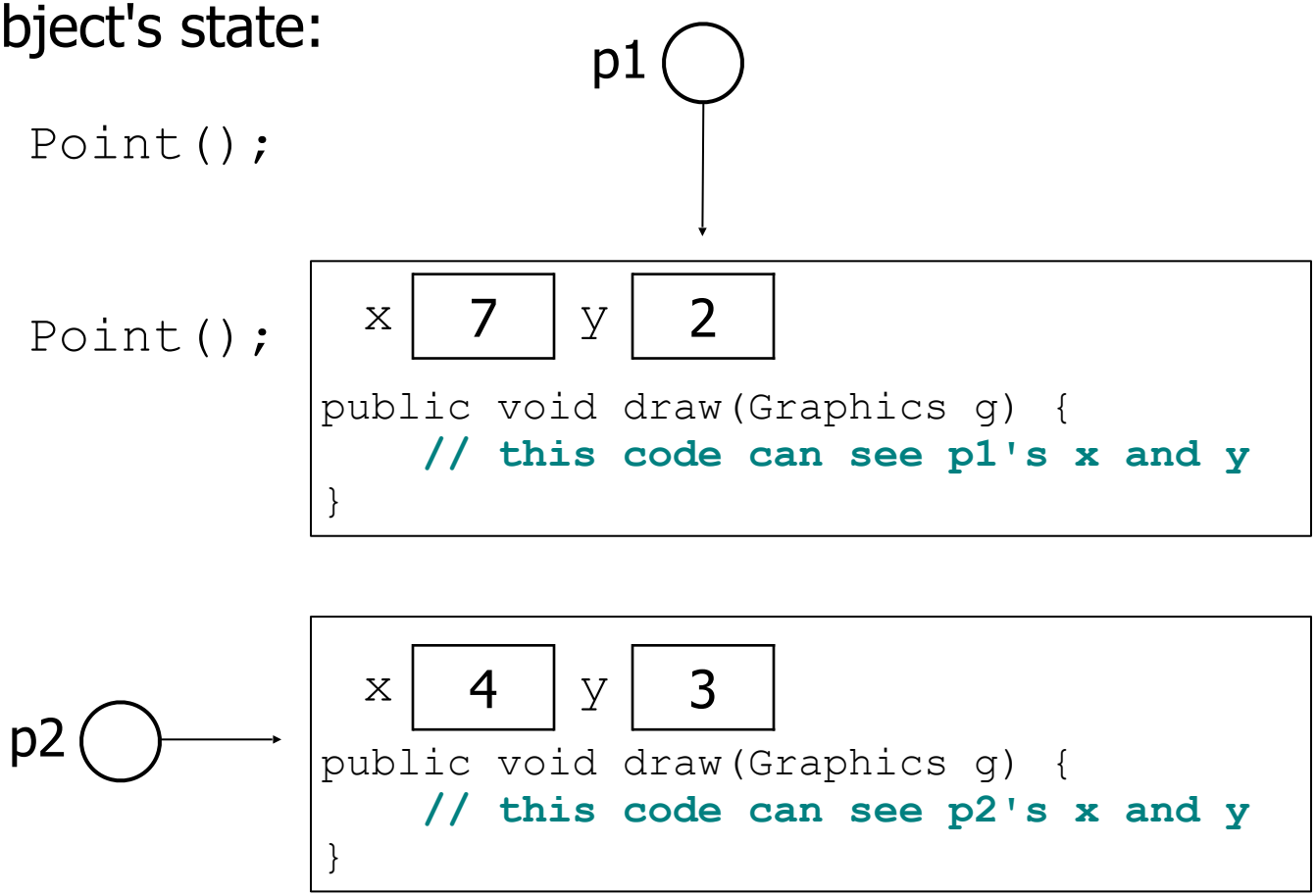
```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    // Draws this Point object with the given pen.
    public void draw(Graphics g) {
        ...
    }
}
```

- The `draw` method no longer has a `Point p` parameter.
- How will the method know which point to draw?
  - How will the method access that point's x/y data?

`Point` objects w/ method

- Each `Point` object has its own copy of the `draw` method, which operates on that object's state:

```
Point p1 = new Point();
p1.x = 7;
p1.y = 2;

Point p2 = new Point();
p2.x = 4;
p2.y = 3;

p1.draw(g);
p2.draw(g);
```



The implicit parameter

- **implicit parameter**:
  The object on which an instance method is called.
  - During the call `p1.draw(g);`
    the object referred to by `p1` is the implicit parameter.
  - During the call `p2.draw(g);`
    the object referred to by `p2` is the implicit parameter.
  - The instance method can refer to that object's fields.
    - We say that it executes in the context of a particular object.
    - `draw` can refer to the `x` and `y` of the object it was called on.

`Point` class, version 2

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    // Changes the location of this Point object.
    public void draw(Graphics g) {
        g.fillOval(x, y, 3, 3);
        g.drawString("(" + x + ", " + y + ")", x, y);
    }
}
```

– Each `Point` object contains a `draw` method that draws that point at its current `x`/`y` position.

Kinds of methods

- **accessor**: A method that lets clients examine object state.
  - Examples: `distance`, `distanceFromOrigin`
  - often has a non-`void` return type

- **mutator**: A method that modifies an object's state.
  - Examples: `setLocation`, `translate`

Mutator method questions

- Write a method `setLocation` that changes a `Point`'s location to the (x, y) values passed.

- Write a method `translate` that changes a `Point`'s location by a given dx, dy amount.
  - Modify the `Point` and client code to use these methods.

Mutator method answers

```
public void setLocation(int newX, int newY) {
    x = newX;
    y = newY;
}


public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
    x = x + dx;
    y = y + dy;
}

// alternative solution that utilizes setLocation
public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
    setLocation(x + dx, y + dy);
}
```

Accessor method questions

- Write a method `distance` that computes the distance between a `Point` and another `Point` parameter.

  Use the formula: $\sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$

- Write a method `distanceFromOrigin` that returns the distance between a `Point` and the origin, (0, 0).

  - Modify the client code to use these methods.

Accessor method answers

```
public double distance(Point other) {
    int dx = x - other.x;
    int dy = y - other.y;
    return Math.sqrt(dx * dx + dy * dy);
}


public double distanceFromOrigin() {
    return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);
}

// alternative solution that uses distance
public double distanceFromOrigin() {
    Point origin = new Point();
    return distance(origin);
}
```

Printing objects

- By default, Java doesn't know how to print objects:

```
Point p = new Point();
p.x = 10;
p.y = 7;
System.out.println("p is " + p);  // p is Point@9e8c34


// better, but cumbersome;              p is (10, 7)
System.out.println("p is (" + p.x + ", " + p.y + ")");


// desired behavior
System.out.println("p is " + p);  // p is (10, 7)
```

The `toString` method

tells Java how to convert an object into a *`String`*

```
Point p1 = new Point(7, 2);
System.out.println("p1: " + p1);

// the above code is really calling the following:
System.out.println("p1: " + p1.toString());
```

- Every class has a `toString`, even if it isn't in your code.
  - Default: class's name `@` object's memory address (base 16)

```
Point@9e8c34
```

`toString` syntax

```
public String toString() {
    code that returns a String representing this object;
}
```

- Method name, return, and parameters must match exactly.

- Example:

```
// Returns a String representing this Point.
public String toString() {
    return "(" + x + ", " + y + ")";
}
```

Object initialization: constructors

Initializing objects

- Currently it takes 3 lines to create a `Point` and initialize it:

```
Point p = new Point();
p.x = 3;
p.y = 8;                          // tedious
```

- We'd rather specify the fields' initial values at the start:

```
Point p = new Point(3, 8);    // better!
```

  - We are able to this with most types of objects in Java.

Constructors

- **constructor**: Initializes the state of new objects.

```
public type(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

  - runs when the client uses the `new` keyword
  - no return type is specified;
    it implicitly "returns" the new object being created

  - If a class has no constructor, Java gives it a default constructor with no parameters that sets all fields to 0.

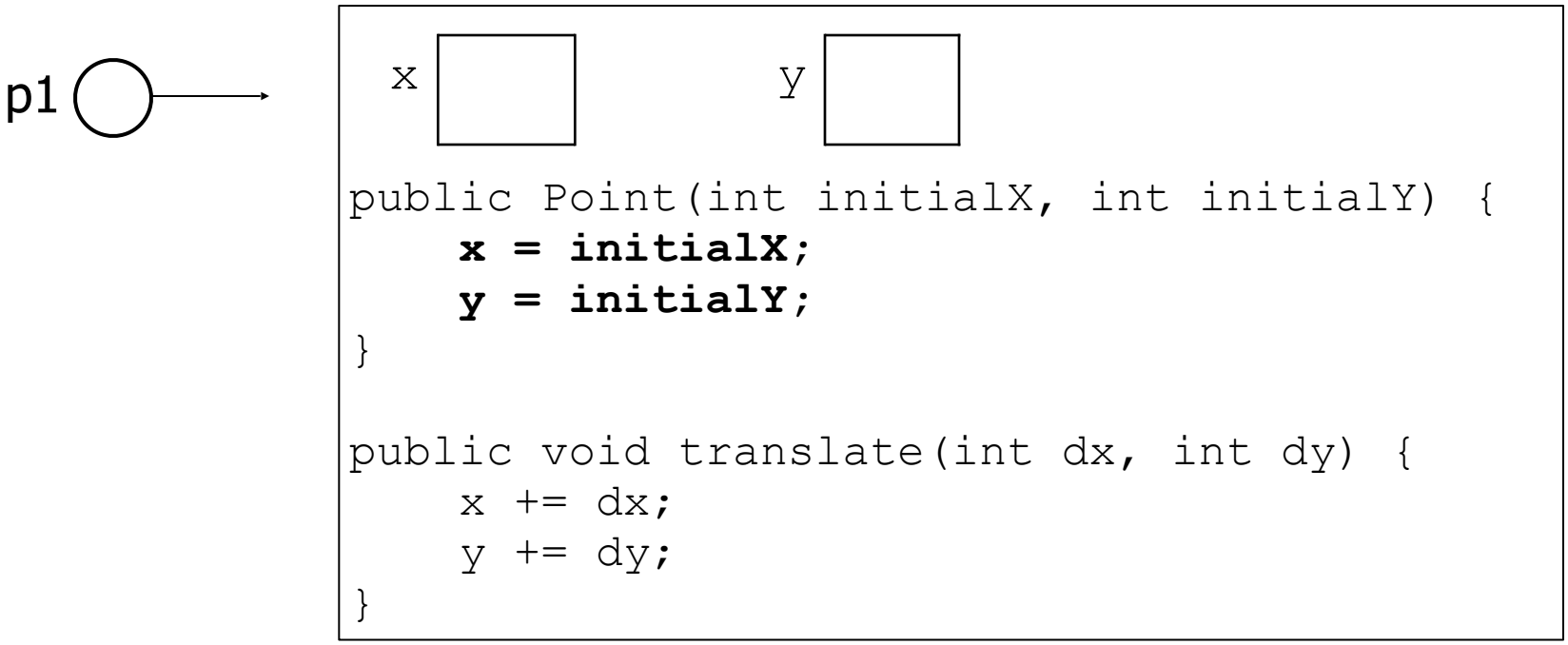
Constructor example

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    // Constructs a Point at the given x/y location.
    public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
        x = initialX;
        y = initialY;
    }


    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
        x = x + dx;
        y = y + dy;
    }

    ...
}
```

Tracing a constructor call

- What happens when the following call is made?

```
Point p1 = new Point(7, 2);
```



Client code, version 3

```
public class PointMain3 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // create two Point objects
        Point p1 = new Point(5, 2);
        Point p2 = new Point(4, 3);

        // print each point
        System.out.println("p1: (" + p1.x + ", " + p1.y + ")");
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.x + ", " + p2.y + ")");

        // move p2 and then print it again
        p2.translate(2, 4);
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.x + ", " + p2.y + ")");
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
p1: (5, 2)
p2: (4, 3)
p2: (6, 7)
```

Multiple constructors

- A class can have multiple constructors.
  - Each one must accept a unique set of parameters.

- Exercise: Write a `Point` constructor with no parameters that initializes the point to (0, 0).

```
// Constructs a new point at (0, 0).
public Point() {
    x = 0;
    y = 0;
}
```

Common constructor bugs

1. Re-declaring fields as local variables ("shadowing"):

```
public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
    int x = initialX;
    int y = initialY;
}
```

   - This declares local variables with the same name as the fields, rather than storing values into the fields. The fields remain 0.

2. Accidentally giving the constructor a return type:

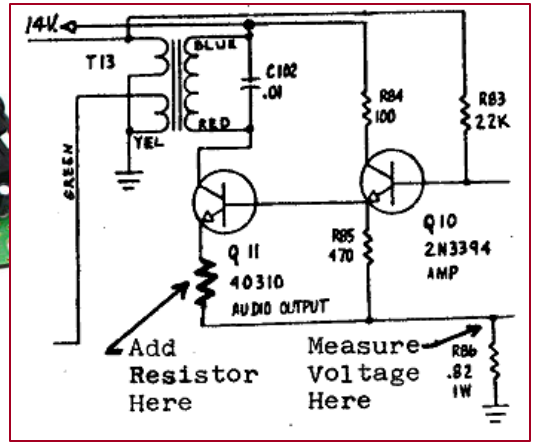
```
public void Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
    x = initialX;
    y = initialY;
}
```

   - This is actually not a constructor, but a method named `Point`

Encapsulation

Encapsulation

- **encapsulation**: Hiding implementation details from clients.
  - Encapsulation forces abstraction.
    - separates external view (behavior) from internal view (state)
    - protects the integrity of an object's data



Private fields

A field that cannot be accessed from outside the class

```
private type name;
```

– Examples:

```
private int id;
private String name;
```

- Client code won't compile if it accesses private fields:

```
PointMain.java:11: x has private access in Point
System.out.println(p1.x);
                   ^
```

Accessing private state

```
// A "read-only" access to the x field ("accessor")
public int getX() {
    return x;
}

// Allows clients to change the x field ("mutator")
public void setX(int newX) {
    x = newX;
}
```

– Client code will look more like this:

```
System.out.println(p1.getX());
p1.setX(14);
```

Point class, version 4

```
// A Point object represents an (x, y) location.
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;

    public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
        x = initialX;
        y = initialY;
    }

    public int getX() {
        return x;
    }

    public int getY() {
        return y;
    }

    public double distanceFromOrigin() {
        return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);
    }

    public void setLocation(int newX, int newY) {
        x = newX;
        y = newY;
    }

    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
        setLocation(x + dx, y + dy);
    }
}
```

The `this` keyword

- **`this`** : Refers to the implicit parameter inside your class.
  (a variable that stores the object on which a method is called)

  - Refer to a field: `this.`**`field`**
  - Call a method: `this.`**`method`**`(`**`parameters`**`);`
  - One constructor can call another: `this(`**`parameters`**`);`

Variable shadowing

- **shadowing**: 2 variables with same name in same scope.
  - Normally illegal, except when one variable is a field.

```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;

    ...
    // this is legal
    public void setLocation(int x, int y) {
        ...
    }
```

  - In most of the class, `x` and `y` refer to the fields.
  - In `setLocation`, `x` and `y` refer to the method's parameters.

Fixing shadowing

```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;

    ...

    public void setLocation(int x, int
y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }
}
```

- Inside `setLocation`,
  - To refer to the data field `x`, say `this.x`
  - To refer to the parameter `x`, say `x`

Calling another constructor

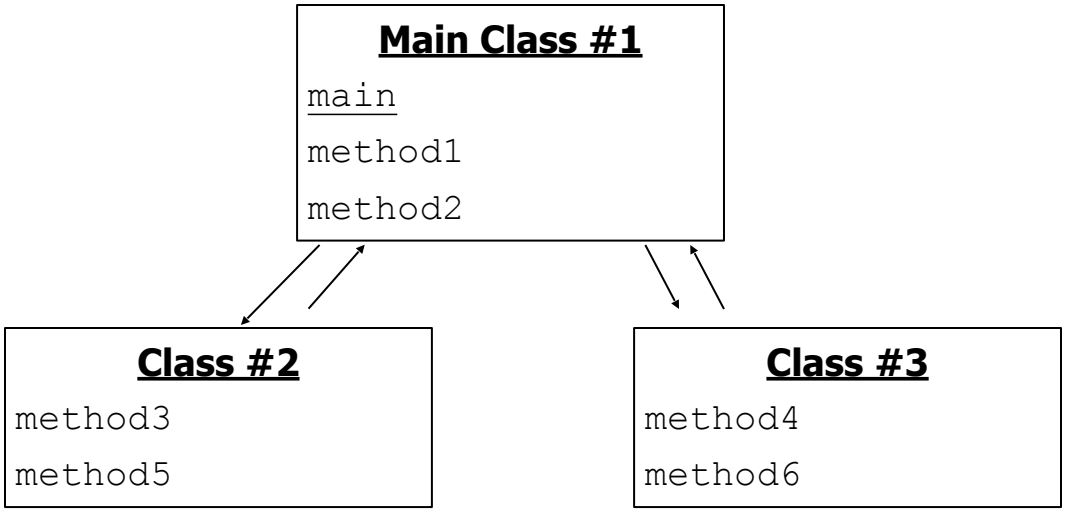
```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;

    public Point() {
        this(0, 0);     // calls (x, y) constructor
    }

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

    ...
}
```

- Avoids redundancy between constructors
- Only a constructor (not a method) can call another constructor

Static methods/fields

Multi-class systems

- Most large software systems consist of many classes.
  - One main class runs and calls methods of the others.
- Advantages:
  - code reuse
  - splits up the program logic into manageable chunks



Redundant program 1

```
// This program sees whether some interesting numbers are prime.
public class Primes1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int[] nums = {1234517, 859501, 53, 142};
        for (int i = 0; i < nums.length; i++) {
            if (isPrime(nums[i])) {
                System.out.println(nums[i] + " is prime");
            }
        }
    }

    // Returns the number of factors of the given integer.
    public static int countFactors(int number) {
        int count = 0;
        for (int i = 1; i <= number; i++) {
            if (number % i == 0) {
                count++;   // i is a factor of the number
            }
        }
        return count;
    }

    // Returns true if the given number is prime.
    public static boolean isPrime(int number) {
        return countFactors(number) == 2;
    }
}
```

Redundant program 2

```
// This program prints all prime numbers up to a maximum.
public class Primes2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
        System.out.print("Max number? ");
        int max = console.nextInt();
        for (int i = 2; i <= max; i++) {
            if (isPrime(i)) {
                System.out.print(i + " ");
        }   }
        System.out.println();
    }
    // Returns true if the given number is prime.
    public static boolean isPrime(int number) {
        return countFactors(number) == 2;
    }
    // Returns the number of factors of the given integer.
    public static int countFactors(int number) {
        int count = 0;
        for (int i = 1; i <= number; i++) {
            if (number % i == 0) {
                count++;   // i is a factor of the number
        }   }
        return count;
    }
}
```

Classes as modules

- **module**: A reusable piece of software, stored as a class.
  - Example module classes: `Math`, `Arrays`, `System`

```
// This class is a module that contains useful methods
// related to factors and prime numbers.
public class Factors {
    // Returns the number of factors of the given integer.
    public static int countFactors(int number) {
        int count = 0;
        for (int i = 1; i <= number; i++) {
            if (number % i == 0) {
                count++;   // i is a factor of the number
            }
        }
        return count;
    }
    // Returns true if the given number is prime.
    public static boolean isPrime(int number) {
        return countFactors(number) == 2;
    }
}
```

More about modules

- A module is a partial program, not a complete program.
  - It does not have a `main`. You don't run it directly.
  - Modules are meant to be utilized by other client classes.

- Syntax:

  class.**method**(**parameters**);

- Example:

```
int factorsOf24 = Factors.countFactors(24);
```

Using a module

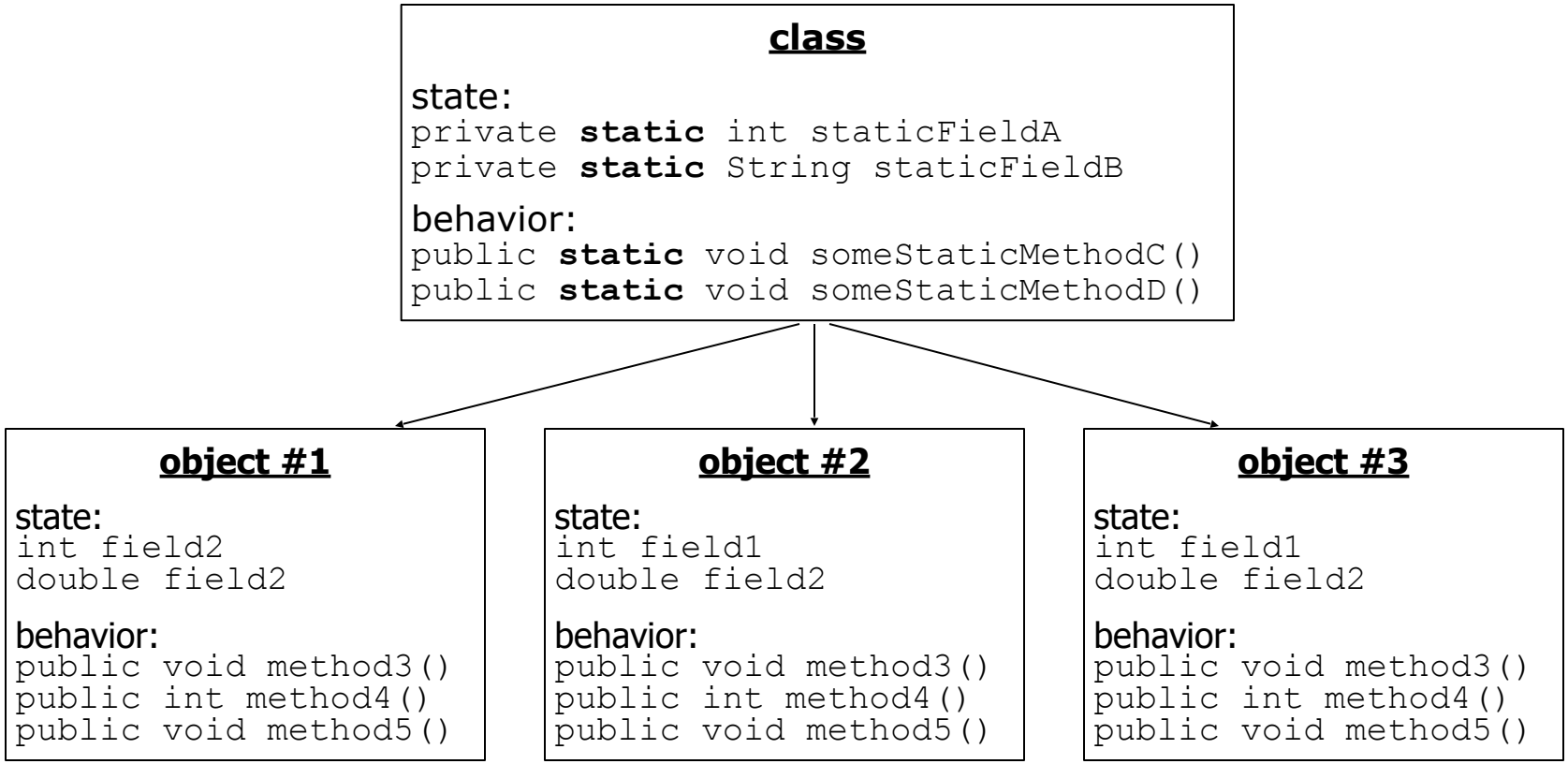
```
// This program sees whether some interesting numbers are prime.
public class Primes {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int[] nums = {1234517, 859501, 53, 142};
        for (int i = 0; i < nums.length; i++) {
            if (Factors.isPrime(nums[i])) {
                System.out.println(nums[i] + " is prime");
            }
        }
    }
}

// This program prints all prime numbers up to a given maximum.
public class Primes2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
        System.out.print("Max number? ");
        int max = console.nextInt();
        for (int i = 2; i <= max; i++) {
            if (Factors.isPrime(i)) {
                System.out.print(i + " ");
        }   }
        System.out.println();
    }
}
```

Modules in Java libraries

```
// Java's built in Math class is a module
public class Math {
    public static final double PI = 3.14159265358979323846;

    ...

    public static int abs(int a) {
        if (a >= 0) {
            return a;
        } else {
            return -a;
        }
    }

    public static double toDegrees(double radians) {
        return radians * 180 / PI;
    }
}
```

Static members

- **static**: Part of a class, rather than part of an object.
  - Object classes can have static methods and fields.
  - Not copied into each object; shared by all objects of that class.



Static fields

```
private static type name;
```

or,

```
private static type name = value;
```

- Example:

```
private static int theAnswer = 42;
```

- **static field**: Stored in the class instead of each object.
  - A "shared" global field that all objects can access and modify.
  - Like a class constant, except that its value can be changed.

Accessing static fields

- From inside the class where the field was declared:

```
fieldName                          // get the value
fieldName = value;                 // set the value
```

- From another class (if the field is `public`):

```
ClassName.fieldName                // get the value
ClassName.fieldName = value;       // set the value
```

  - generally static fields are not `public` unless they are `final`

- Exercise: Modify the `BankAccount` class shown previously so that each account is automatically given a unique ID.
- Exercise: Write the working version of `FratGuy`.

BankAccount solution

```
public class BankAccount {
    // static count of how many accounts are created
    // (only one count shared for the whole class)
    private static int objectCount = 0;

    // fields (replicated for each object)
    private String name;
    private int id;

    public BankAccount() {
        objectCount++;      // advance the id, and
        id = objectCount;   // give number to account
    }

    ...
    public int getID() {    // return this account's id
        return id;
    }
}
```

Static methods

```
// the same syntax you've already used for methods
public static type name(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

- **static method**: Stored in a class, not in an object.
  - Shared by all objects of the class, not replicated.
  - Does not have any implicit parameter, `this`; therefore, cannot access any particular object's fields.

- Exercise: Make it so that clients can find out how many total `BankAccount` objects have ever been created.

BankAccount solution

```
public class BankAccount {
    // static count of how many accounts are created
    // (only one count shared for the whole class)
    private static int objectCount = 0;

    // clients can call this to find out # accounts created
    public static int getNumAccounts() {
        return objectCount;
    }

    // fields (replicated for each object)
    private String name;
    private int id;

    public BankAccount() {
        objectCount++;      // advance the id, and
        id = objectCount;   // give number to account
    }
    ...
    public int getID() {    // return this account's id
        return id;
    }
}
```

Summary of Java classes

- A class is used for any of the following in a large program:
  - a program : Has a main and perhaps other static methods.
    - example: `GuessingGame`, `Birthday`, `MadLibs`, `CritterMain`
    - does not usually declare any static fields (except `final`)
  - an object class : Defines a new type of objects.
    - example: `Point`, `BankAccount`, `Date`, `Critter`, `FratGuy`
    - declares object fields, constructor(s), and methods
    - might declare static fields or methods, but these are less of a focus
    - should be encapsulated (all fields and static fields `private`)
  - a module : Utility code implemented as static methods.
    - example: `Math`