Special Topic 3.1

Calling One Constructor from Another

Consider the BankAccount class. It has two constructors: a constructor without parameters to initialize the balance with zero, and another constructor to supply an initial balance. Rather than explicitly setting the balance to zero, one constructor can call another constructor of the same class instead. There is a shorthand notation to achieve this result:

```
public class BankAccount
{
    public BankAccount (double initialBalance)
    {
        balance = initialBalance;
    }

    public BankAccount()
    {
        this(0);
    }
    . . .
}
```

The command this(0); means "Call another constructor of this class and supply the value 0". Such a call to another constructor can occur only as the *first line in a constructor.*

This syntax is a minor convenience. We will not use it in this book. Actually, the use of the reserved word this is a little confusing. Normally, this denotes a reference to the implicit parameter, but if this is followed by parentheses, it denotes a call to another constructor of this class.