Method Types and Properties

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ADAP B01

Agenda

1. Method types
    a. Query methods
    b. Mutation methods
    c. Helper methods
2. Method properties
    a. Implementation properties
    b. Inheritance properties
    c. Convenience methods
3. Design guidelines

Professional Language

To become a proficient developer, you need to learn the language

- Not just a programming language, but how developers talk about code
- Some of it can be found in textbooks, some cannot
- It is always evolving so stay current

1. Method Types

Method Types

A method type classifies a method into a particular type

- The method type is indicative of the main purpose
- A method may have only one type, not many

(Also: A method should have one purpose)

Main Categories of Method Types

Query methods are

- Methods that return information about the object but don’t change its state

Mutation methods are

- Methods that change the object’s state but don’t provide information back

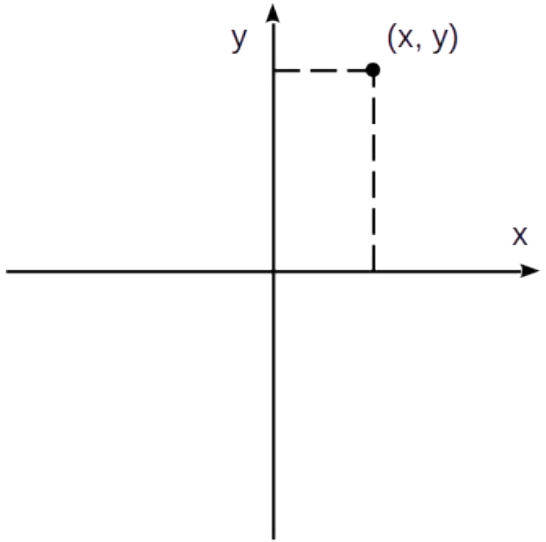
Helper methods are

- Methods that perform some utility function independent of the object

Classification of Method Types

Query methods	Mutation methods	Helper methods
Get method (getter)	Set method (setter)	Factory method
Boolean query method	Command method	Cloning method
Comparison method	Initialization method	Assertion method
Conversion method	Finalization method	Logging method
...	...	...

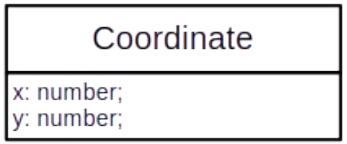
Cartesian Coordinates



A Simple Class for Cartesian Coordinates

```
export class Coordinate {

    private x: number = 0;
    private y: number = 0;

    constructor(x?: number, y?: number) { ... }

    public isEqual(other: Coordinate): boolean { ... }

    public getX(): number { ... }
    public setX(x: number): void { ... }
    public getY(): number { ... }
    public setY(y: number): void { ... }

    public calcStraightLineDistance(other: Coordinate): number { ... }

    ...
}
```

Class Model of Cartesian Coordinate



2. Query Methods

Get Method (a.k.a. Getter)

A get method is

- A query method that returns a logical field of the queried object

Example

- getX(): number

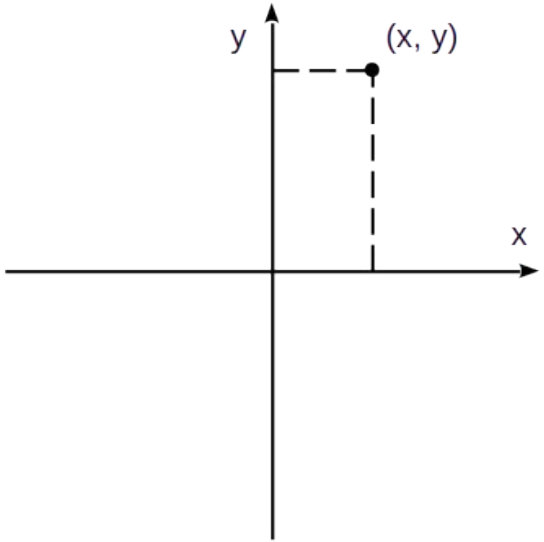
Prefixes

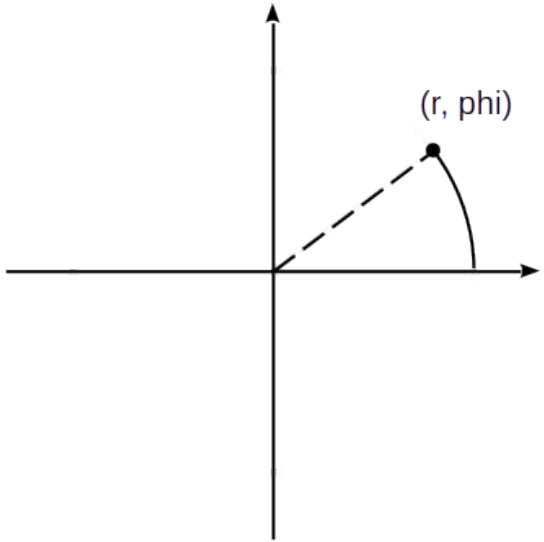
- get

Naming

- Prefix + the name of the logical field

Cartesian and Polar Coordinates





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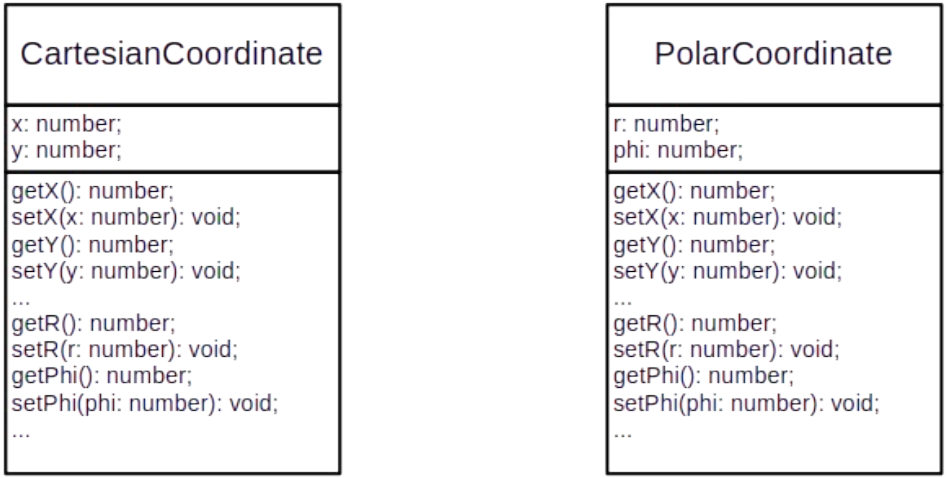
Cartesian and Polar Coordinate Classes



Logical vs. Technical State

Logical state (fields / attributes) is visible in the interface

Technical [1] (“implementation”) state is the actual fields in memory

[1] Also sometimes called physical

Get Method Examples

```
public getX(): number {
    return this.x;
}

public getY(): number {
    return this.y;
}

public getR(): number {
    return Math.hypot(this.getX(), this.getY());
}

public getPhi(): number {
    return Math.atan2(this.getY(), this.getX());
}
```

Boolean Query Method

A boolean query method is

- A query method that returns boolean state about the queried object

Example

- isEqual(): boolean

Prefixes

- is

Naming

- Prefix + the name of the state

Boolean Query Method Examples

```
public isEqual(other: Coordinate): boolean {
    return (this.getX() == other.getX()) && (this.getY() == other.getY());
}
```

Equality

```
export interface Equality {
   isEqual(other: any): boolean;
   getHashCode(): number;
}
```

Equality Contract

Two equal objects must have the same hashcode

Equality Implementation

```
public isEqual(other: Coordinate): boolean {
    return (this.getX() == other.getX()) && (this.getY() == other.getY());
}

public getHashCode(): number {
    let hashCode: number = 0;
    const s: string = this.asDataString();
    for (let i = 0; i < s.length; i++) {
        let c = s.charCodeAt(i);
        hashCode = (hashCode << 5) - hashCode + c;
        hashCode |= 0;
    }
    return hashCode;
}

public asDataString(): string {
    return this.getX() + "#" + this.getY();
}
```

Comparison Method

A comparison method is

- A query method that compares to objects on an ordinal scale

Example

- compareDistance(other: Coordinate): number // to origin

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- Prefix + what is being compared

Comparison Method Example

```
public compareDistance(other: Coordinate): number {
    let thisR = Math.hypot(this.getX(), this.getY());
    let otherR = Math.hypot(this.getX(), this.getY());
    if (thisR == otherR) {
        return 0;
    } else if (thisR < otherR) {
        return -1;
    } else {
        return 1;
    }
}
```

Conversion Method [1]

A conversion method is

- A query method that returns a different representation of the object

Example

- asDataString(): string

Prefixes

- as, to

Naming

- Prefix + target type

[1] Better, but less common: Interpretation Method

Conversion Method Example

```
public toString(): string {
    return this.asDataString();
}

public asDataString(): string {
    return this.getX() + "#" + this.getY();
}
```

The Ambiguous Semantics of toString(): string

Is it made for

- Users (= human-readable representation of object) or
- Machines (= machine-readable representation of object)?

Is it used in an end-user UI, in a database, or a debugger?

Our interpretation is that toString() is for developers and machines, not users

3. Mutation Methods

Set Method

A set method is

- A mutation method that changes a logical field of the object

Example

- setX(x: number): void

Prefixes

- set

Naming

- Prefix + name of logical field

Set Method Examples

```
public setX(x: number): void {
    this.x = x;
}

public setY(y: number): void {
    this.y = y;
}

public setR(r: number): void {
    let phi: number = Math.atan2(this.getY(), this.getX());
    this.setX(r * Math.cos(phi));
    this.setY(r * Math.sin(phi));
}

public setPhi(phi: number): void {
    let r: number = Math.hypot(this.getX(), this.getY());
    this.setX(r * Math.cos(phi));
    this.setY(r * Math.sin(phi));
}
```

Command Method

A command method is

- A mutation method that makes a complex change to an object's state

Example

- multiplyWith(other: Coordinate): void

Prefixes

- make, handle, execute, perform, ...

Naming

- Prefix + descriptive term about the action

Command Method Examples

```
public multiplyWith(other: Coordinate): void {
    let newR = this.getR() * other.getR();
    let newPhi = this.getPhi() + other.getPhi();
    this.setR(newR);
    this.setPhi(newPhi);
}
```

Remove vs. Delete

A remove command

- Removes an element from its context, but does not delete it

A delete command

- Deletes the element, invalidating any other references

Initialization Method

An initialization method is

- A mutation method that sets some or all of the state of an object at once

Example

- initialize(x: number, y: number): void

Prefixes

- init, initialize

Naming

- Prefix + the part of the object being initialized

Initialization Method Example

```
public initialize(x?: number, y?: number): void {
    if (x != undefined) {
        this.x = x;
    }

    if (y != undefined) {
        this.y = y;
    }
}
```

4. Helper Methods

Object Creation Methods

An object creation method is

- A helper method that creates an object and returns it

A factory method is

- An object creation method that creates an object by naming the class

A cloning method is

- An object creation method that creates an object by cloning an object

A trader (also: trading) method is

- An object creation method that creates an object from a specification

Factory Method

An factory method method is

- An object creation method that creates an object by naming the class

Example

- createCoordinate(x: number, y: number): Coordinate

Prefixes

- create (also: new, make)

Naming

- Prefix + some identification for the new object

Factory Method Example

```
public createOrigin(): Coordinate {
    return new Coordinate(0, 0);
}
```

Create vs. Ensure

A **create** command guarantees a new object

- createLocationCoordinate(): Coordinate;

An **ensure** command guarantees a specific cardinality of the requested object

- ensureLocationCoordinate(): Coordinate;

Create creates, ensure may or may not create a new object

Cloning Method Example

```
export interface Cloneable {
    clone(): Object;
}

public clone(): Coordinate {
    return { ...this };
}
```

Shallow vs. Deep Cloning

A shallow clone of an object is a clone with

- All attribute values being identical between original and clone
- All object references pointing to the originally referenced objects

A deep clone of an object is a clone with

- All attribute values being identical between original and clone
- All referenced but not owned objects pointing to their originals
- All owned / composed objects being deep clones of the originals

Assertion Method

An assertion method is

- A helper method that asserts a condition holds or throws an exception

Example

- assertIsValidPhi(phi: number): void

Prefixes

- assert

Naming

- Prefix + condition being asserted

Assertion Method Example

```
public setPhi(phi: number): void {
    this.assertIsNotNullOrUndefined(phi);
    this.assertIsValidPhi(phi);
    this.phi = phi;
}

protected assertIsValidPhi(phi: number): void {
    if ((phi < 0) || (phi >= 2*Math.PI)) {
        throw new RangeError("Invalid phi value");
    }
}

protected assertIsNotNullOrUndefined(other: Object): void {
    if ((other == null) || (other == undefined)) {
       throw new RangeError("Value is null or undefined");
    }
}
```

5. Method Properties

Method Properties

A method property describes a particular property of a method

Method properties fall into different method property categories

A method may only have one property from any one category

Like method types, method properties have naming conventions

Main Categories of Method Properties

Method implementation properties

- Are properties of a method implementation

Inheritance interface properties

- Are properties of the inheritance interface

Convenience method properties

- Are about making programming easier

Method meta-level properties

- Are about the method level (class, instance)

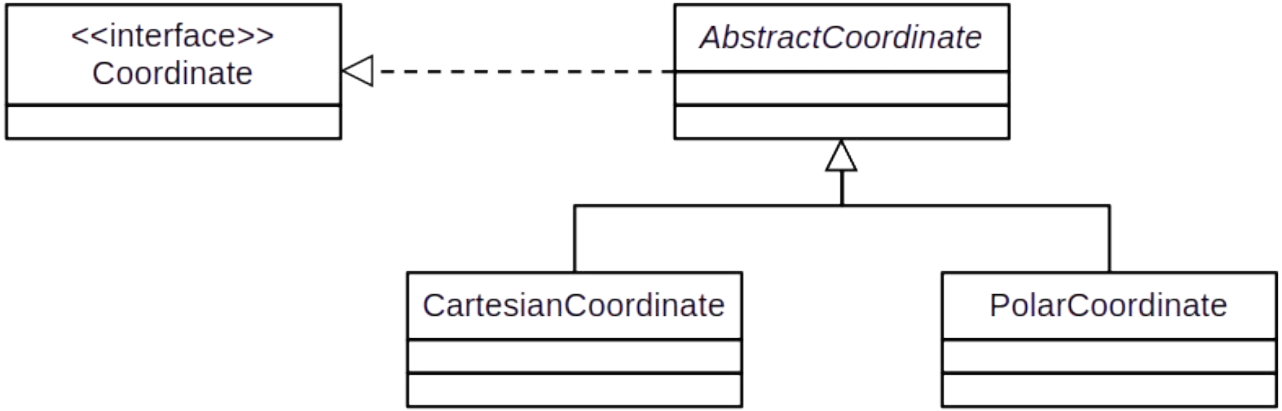
Method visibility properties

- Are about visibility (public, protected, ...)

Classification of Method Properties

Method implementation	Inheritance interface	Convenience
Regular	Regular	General
Composing	Template	Constructor
Primitive	Hook	Default value
Null	Abstract	Finalizer
...	...	...

Extended Coordinate Example



Coordinate Interface

```
import { Equality } from "./Equality";
import { Cloneable } from "./Cloneable";

export interface Coordinate extends Equality, Cloneable {
   reset(): void;

   getX(): number;
   setX(x: number): void;
   getY(): number;
   setY(y: number): void;

   calcStraightLineDistance(other: Coordinate): number;

   getR(): number;
   setR(r: number): void;
   getPhi(): number;
   setPhi(phi: number): void;

   calcGreatCircleDistance(other: Coordinate): number;
}
```

6. Method Implementation

Regular Method

A regular method is (just)

- A method that performs some task, for which it usually relies on further methods

Examples

- initialize(x?: number, y?: number): void

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- None specifically

Regular Method Examples

```
public isEqual(other: Coordinate): boolean {
    return (this.getX() == other.getX()) && (this.getY() == other.getY());
}

public calcStraightLineDistance(other: Coordinate): number {
    let deltaX: number = Math.abs(other.getX() - this.getX());
    let deltaY: number = Math.abs(other.getY() - this.getY());
    return Math.hypot(deltaX, deltaY);
}
```

Composing Method

A composing method is

- A method that organizes a task into several subtasks as a linear succession of method calls to other regular or primitive methods

Examples

- initialize(x?: number, y?: number): void

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- Adapted from Beck (1997)

Composing Method Example

```
public initialize(x?: number, y?: number): void {
    if (x != undefined) {
        this.setX(x);
    }

    if (y != undefined) {
        this.setY(y);
    }
}
```

Primitive Method

A primitive method is

- A method that carries out one specific task, usually by directly engaging the object's implementation state; it does not use any non-primitive methods

Examples

- doSetX(x: number): void

Prefixes

- do, basic

Naming

- Prefix + name of the logical or implementation state

Primitive Method Example

```
public setX(x: number): void {
    this.assertIsNotNullOrUndefined(x);
    this.doSetX(x);
}

protected doSetX(x: number): void {
    this.x = x;
}

public setPhi(phi: number): void {
    this.assertIsNotNullOrUndefined(phi);
    this.assertIsValidPhi(phi);

    let r: number = Math.hypot(this.getX(), this.getY());
    let x: number = r * Math.cos(phi);
    let y: number = r * Math.sin(phi);

    this.doSetX(x);
    this.doSetY(y);
}
```

Null Method

A null method is

- A method with an empty implementation

Examples

- See Template Method example

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- None specifically

7. Inheritance Properties

Template Method

A template method is

- A method that defines an algorithmic skeleton by breaking a task into subtasks the implementation of which is delegated to subclasses

Examples

- Main.run()

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- Taken from Gamma et al. (1995)

Template Method Example

```
export class Main {

   public run(args: string[]): void {
       this.parseArgs(args);
       this.initialize();
       this.execute();
       this.finalize();
   };

   protected parseArgs(args: string[]): void {
       // do nothing
   }

   protected initialize(): void {
       // do nothing
   }

   protected execute(): void {
       // do nothing
   }

   protected finalize(): void {
       // do nothing
   }

}
```

Hook Method

A hook method is

- A method that declares a well-defined task for overriding through subclasses

Examples

- Main.parseArgs / initialize / execute / finalize

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- None specifically

8. Convenience Methods

Convenience Method

A convenience method is

- A method that simplifies the use of another, more complicated method by providing a simpler signature and by using default arguments

Examples

- reset(): void

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- None specifically

Convenience Method Example

```
public reset(): void {
    this.initialize(0, 0);
}
```

Default-Value Method

A default-value method is

- A default-value method is a method that returns a single predefined value

Examples

- static getOrigin(): Coordinate

Prefixes

- None specifically

Naming

- None specifically, but typically also a getter

Default-Value Method Example

```
public static getOrigin(): Coordinate {
    return new Coordinate(0, 0);
}
```

9. Design Guidelines

Single Method Purpose Rule

Single method purpose rule

- A method should have one purpose only

Benefits of single-purpose rule

- Makes methods easier to understand
- Makes overriding methods easier

Exceptions to Single Purpose Rule

Well-known idioms

- Increment and return value (iteration)

Technical requirements

- Test and set value (critical sections)

Lazy initialization

Documenting Method Types and Properties

Use annotations

Summary

1. Method types
   a. Query methods
   b. Mutation methods
   c. Helper methods
2. Method properties
   a. Implementation related
   b. Inheritance related
   c. Convenience methods
3. Design guidelines

Thank you! Any questions?

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