Lecture 2 Classes and Objects in Java

Zonghua Gu (based on Jianchen Shan)

Department of Computer Science

Hofstra University

Lecture Goals

- Write classes, create objects, and call methods on them.
- Describe what member variables, methods and constructors are.
- Describe what the keywords public and private mean and their effect on where variables can be accessed
- Explain what getters and setters are and write them in your classes
- Explain how to overload methods in Java and why overloading methods is useful
- Draw memory models with variable scope for reasoning about variable values for object type data.

Object Oriented Programming (OOP)

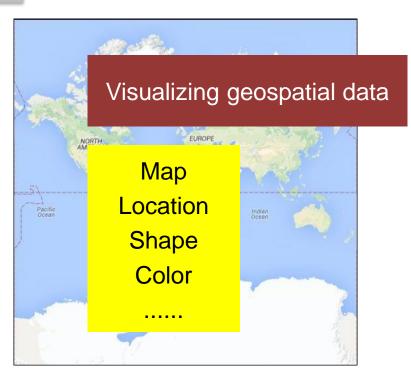
Computer science -- is the science of using and processing large amounts of information to automate useful tasks and learn about the world around us using a computer.

OOP -- organizes the information based on real-world objects

such that program can be:

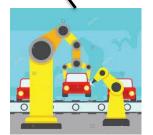
easy to match the problem

- easy to write
- easy to maintain
- easy to debug

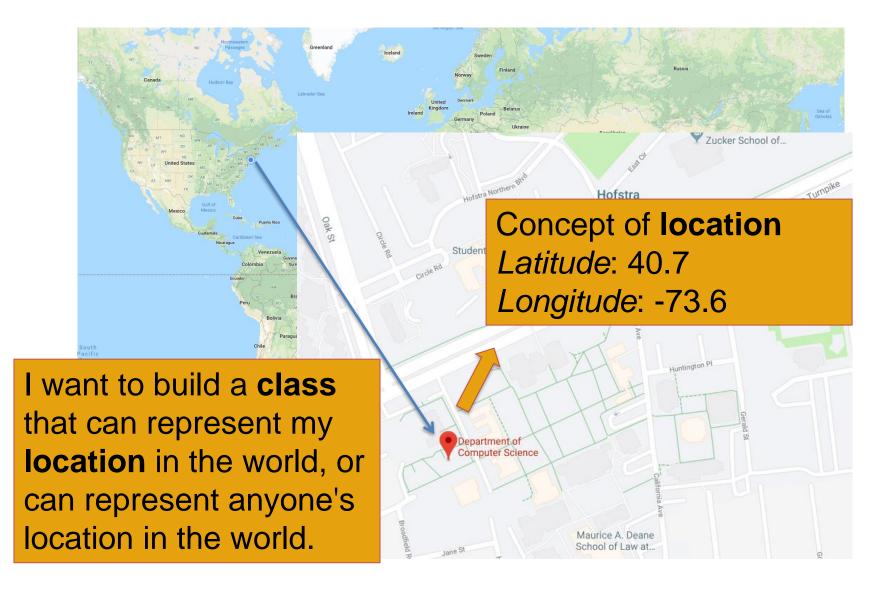


Definitions of Class and Object

- A *class* is a **type** of data
 - a template defined by the programmer
 - like a factory and can produce pieces of data with the template
- An *object* is one **such piece of data**
 - made out of the factory
 - with associated functionality
- A class can be used to produce multiple objects
- Each individual object can be customized and changed without affecting others



An Example of Class and Object



```
Defining a Class
                                                    Must be in file
                                                     Location.java
public class Location
                                    Member variables:
 public double latitude;
                                    data the objects need to store
 public double longitude;
 public Location(double lat, double lon)
        this.latitude = lat;
        this.longitude = lon;
 public double distance(Location other) {
                                      Constructor:
        // body not shown
                                      Method to create a new object
        Methods:
        The things this class can do
```

Creating and Using Objects

```
In file
public class LocationTester
                                                               LocationTester.java
      public static void main(String[] args)
            Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
      Location oxford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
      System.out.println(hof.distance(oxford));
               public class Location
                                                           In file
                                                           Location.java
                public double latitude;
                public double longitude;
                public Location(double lat, double lon)
                           this.lat tude = lat;
                                                           "this" is the calling object
                            this.longitude = lon;
                 public double distance(Location other) {
                           // body not shown
```

Creating and Using Objects (Contd.)

```
In file
public class LocationTester
                                                                 LocationTester.java
      public static void main(String[] args)
            Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
      Location oxford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
      System.out.println(hof.distance(oxford));
                                                                                      $ javac *.java
                                                                                        java LocationTester
                                                                                      3397.26
               public class Location
                                                             In file
                                                             Location.java
                 public double latitude;
                 public double longitude;
                 public Location(double lat, double lon)
                            this.latitude = lat;
                                                             "this" is the calling object hof
                            this.longitude = lon;
                  public double distance(Location other) {
                            return getD st(this.latitude, this.longitude,
                      other.latitude, other.longitude);
```

The Main Method in Java

Java begins execution with the first line of a "main" method
 public static void main(String[] args)

This method can be defined in any class, usually *public*.

When a class has one class with m

The keyword st simply means the class, but not for method.

There is no "call methods from m methods on those directly.

```
is only
public class Location
 public double latitude;
  public double longitude;
                                                                                                       iable,
  public Location(double lat, double lon)
                   this.latitude = lat;
                                                                                                       the
                   this.longitude = lon;
                                                                                                        eral
   public double distance(Location other) {
                  return getDist(this.latitude, this.longitude,
         other.latitude, other.longitude);
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                                                                       e
                   Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
                   Location exford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
                                                                                                       nce
                  this.distance(hof);
                  hof.distance(oxford);
                                                                                                       bds
```

Overloading Methods

```
public class Location
                                                       In file
                                                       Location.java
  public double latitude;
  public double longitude;
  public Location(double lat, double lon)
          this.latitude = lat;
          this.longitude = lon;
   public double distance(Location other) {
          // body not shown
```

What if the user wants to create Location objects without passing in any parameters?

Overloading Methods (Contd.)

```
public class Location
                                                 In file
                                                 Location.java
    public double latitude;
    public double longitude;
                                               Constructor without
    public Location() {
                                                   parameters
         this.latitude = 40.7;
         this.longitude = -73.6;
                                          Default constructor
    public Location(double lat, double lon) {
         this.latitude = lat;
      Overloading
                                             Parameter constructor
```

Overloading Methods (Contd.)

```
public class Location
                                                    In file
                                                    Location.java
     // Code omitted here
     public double distance(Location other)
         // body not shown
     public double distance(double otherLat, double otherLon)
         // body not shown
```

What is the advantage? We don't have to create and remember different names for functions doing the same thing. For example, in our code, if overloading was not supported by Java, we would have to create method names like distance1 and distance2.

A Real-world Example of Overloading

ArrayList in Java API: overloaded constructors and add method

Constructor and Description ArrayList() Constructs an empty list with an initial capacity of ten. ArrayList(Collection<? extends E> c) Constructs a list containing the elements of the specified collection, in the order they are returned by the ArrayList int initialCapacity) Constructs an empty list with the specified initial capacity.

Wethous	
Modifier and Type	Method and Description
boolean	add E e) Appends the specified element to the end of this list.
void	add int index, E element) Inserts the specified element at the specified position in this list.

CAUTION

```
public class Location
                                                   In file
                                                   Location.java
    // Code omitted here
    public double distance(Location other)
         // body not shown
                                            Parameter must be different
    public int distance(Location other)
         // body not shown
```

At compile time, the compiler decides which version of the overloaded method you're actually trying to call by using the parameter list. It can't do that by using the return type alone.

Public vs. Private: Protect Data and Method

```
public class Location
                                          In file
                                          Location.java
       public double latitude;
       public double longitude;
       public Location(double lat, double lon) {
             this.latitude = lat;
             this.longitude = lon;
       public double distance(Location other) {
             // body not shown
public class LocationTester
      public static void main(String[] args)
            Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
      Location oxford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
            hof.latitude = 35.2;
      System.out.println(hof.distance(oxford));
```

public means can access from any class

In file
LocationTester.java



Public vs. Private: Protect Data and Method

```
public class Location
                                       In file
                                       Location.java
      private double latitude;
                                                     private means can access only from
      private double longitude;
                                                     Location
      public Location(double lat, double lon) {
            this.latitude = lat;
            this.longitude = lon;
                                                  allowed
      public double distance(Location other) {
            // body not shown
public class LocationTester
                                                                    In file
                                                                    LocationTester.java
     public static void main(String[] args)
           Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
            Location oxford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
                                                                     ERROR
           hof.latitude = 35.2;
           System.out.println(hof.distance(oxford));
```

Basic Class Design Rules

Rule of thumb: Make member variables private (and methods either public or private)

Methods

Private: helper methods

Public: for world use

Members

Private: use getters and setters



giving right level of access

An Example of Getter

```
public class Location

{

    private double latitude;
    private double longitude;
    // code omitted here

    public double getLatitude()
    {
        return this.latitude;
    }
}
```

getter

Can the user change the value?

```
public class LocationTester
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
        System.out.println(hof.latitude);
        System.out.println(hof.getLatitude());
    }
}
```

In file

LocationTester.java





An Example of Setter

why don't we just make that member variable public? If we're exposing the ability to change and read it?

setter

```
public class LocationTester
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
        hof.latitude = 35.2;
        hof.setLatitude(35.2);
    }
}
allowed
```

In file

LocationTester.java

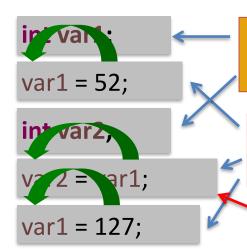
Another Example of Setter

```
public void setLatitude(double lat)
{
    if (lat < -180 || lat > 180)
    {
        System.out.println("Illegal value for latitude");
    } else {
        this.latitude = lat;
    }
}
```

getters and setters give us more control

Trace Your Code: Drawing Memory Model

what does this code print?



Variable declaration: draw a box and label it with the variable's name

<u>Variable assignment</u>: put the value of the right hand side into the box for the variable on the left hand side

NOT connected and just copy the value

System.out.println("var1 is " + var1 +

", var2 is " + var2);

var1

127

var2

52

\$ var1 is 127, var2 is 52

Primitive type data: int,double, float, short, long, char, boolean, byte

Drawing Memory Model with Objects

```
In file
public class Location
                                            Location.java
  private double latitude;
     // Code omitted here
     public static void main(String[] args)
                                            variable declaration and same as primitives
                int var1 = 52;
                   ation ho
                                                                 assignment statement
                hof = new Locat Jn(40.7, -73.5);
 memory
                Location oxford = new Location(51.7, -1.2);
reference
                hof.latitude = 35.2;
                                            // in main method and can access private var
                                                       Java Heap
                                                     Location Object
          var1
                       52
                                                    Latitude
                                                                 35.2
                                                                                   reference
                                                                -73.6
                                                   Longitude
            hof
                      @20
                                                     Location Object
       oxford
                      @30
                                                    Latitude
                                                                 51.7
                                                                                   reference
                                                   Longitude
                                                                 -1.2
```

More Examples

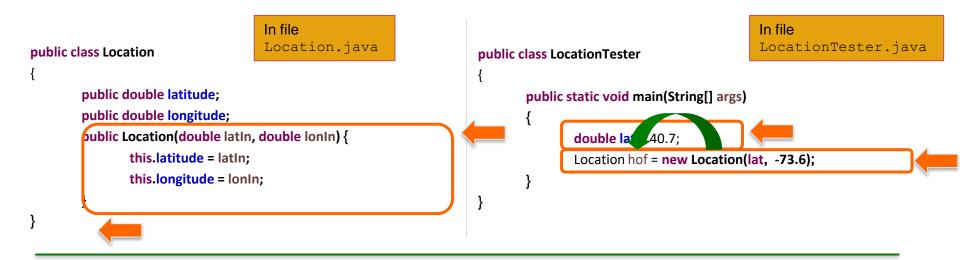
```
public class Location
     // Code omitted here
     public static void main(String[] args)
                 Location loc1 = new Location(40.7, -73.6);
                   cation 2 = new Location(51.7 , -1.2);
                 loc1 = loc2;
                 loc1.latitude = 35.2;
                 System.out.println(loc2.latitute + ", " + loc2.longitude);
                                                   Location Object
                                                  Latitude
                                                               40.7
                                                                            @1
          loc1
                       @2
                                                  Longitude
                                                               -73.6
                                                                                    $ 35.2, -1.2
                                                   Location Object
          loc2
                       @2
                                                  Latitude
                                                               35.2
                                                                            @2
                                                  Longitude
                                                               -1.2
```

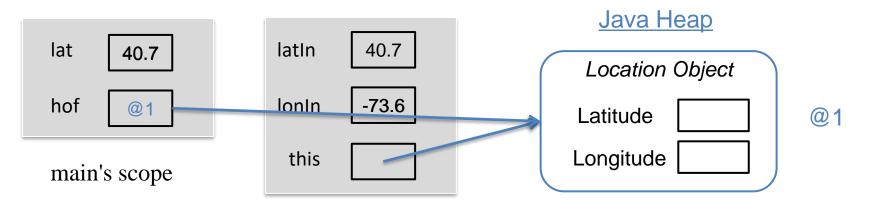
Reason Your Code with Scope

```
In file
                                     Location.java
public class Location
      private double latitude:
                                          Member variables are declared outside any method
      private double longitude;
      public Location(double lat, double lon) {
           this.latitude = lat;
                                          Parameters behave like local variables
           this.longitude = lon;
public class LocationTester
                                                                 In file
                                                                 LocationTester.java
     public static void main(String[] args)
           Location hof = new Location(40.7, -73.6 Local variables are declared inside a method
           hof.latitude = 2.5;
                                        ERROR. Variable not defined here
```

The scope of a variable is the area where it is defined to have a value

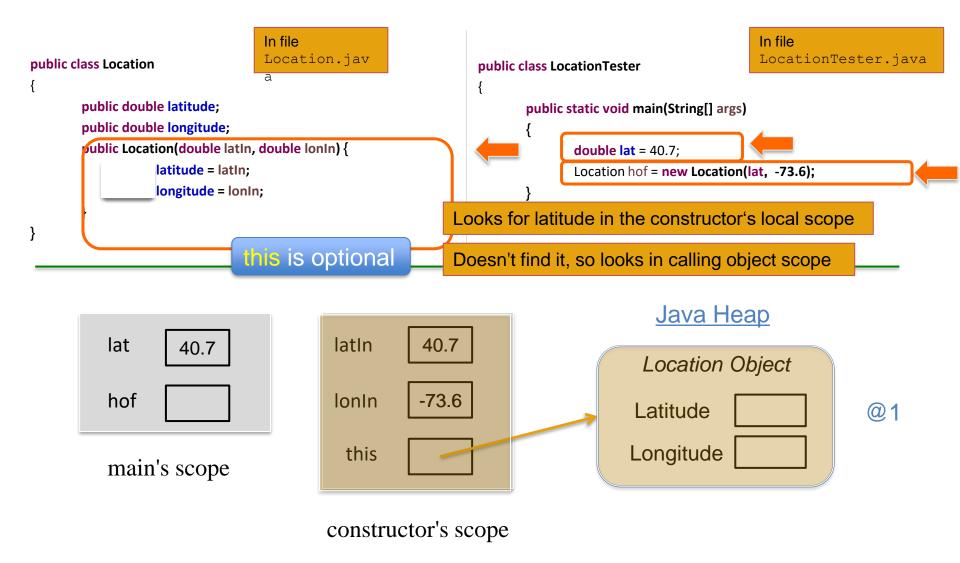
An Example





constructor's scope

An Example (Contd.)



Another Example

```
public class ArrayLocation
                                                                                  In file
       private double coords[];
                                                                                  ArrayLocation.java
       public ArrayLocation(double[] coords) {
             this.coords = coords;
       public static void main(String[] args)
             double[] coords = {5.0, ...,0};
             ArrayLocation hof = new ArrayLocation(coords);
             coords[0] = 40.7;
             coords[1] = -73.6;
                                                                                   $ 40.7
             System.out.println(hof.coords[0]);
                                                                                      Java Heap
                     coords
  main's scope
                                                                                                -73.6
                                                                                       40.7
                        hof
                                                                                 ArrayLocation Object
constructor's scope
                                                                                    coords
                            coords
                                                  this
```