

BBM 102 – Introduction to Programming II

Spring 2018

Classes & Objects, Encapsulation in Java

Today

■ Classes & Objects

- Defining Classes, Objects and Methods
- Accessor and Mutator Methods
- Constructors
- Static Members
- Wrapper Classes
- Parameter Passing
- Delegation

■ Encapsulation

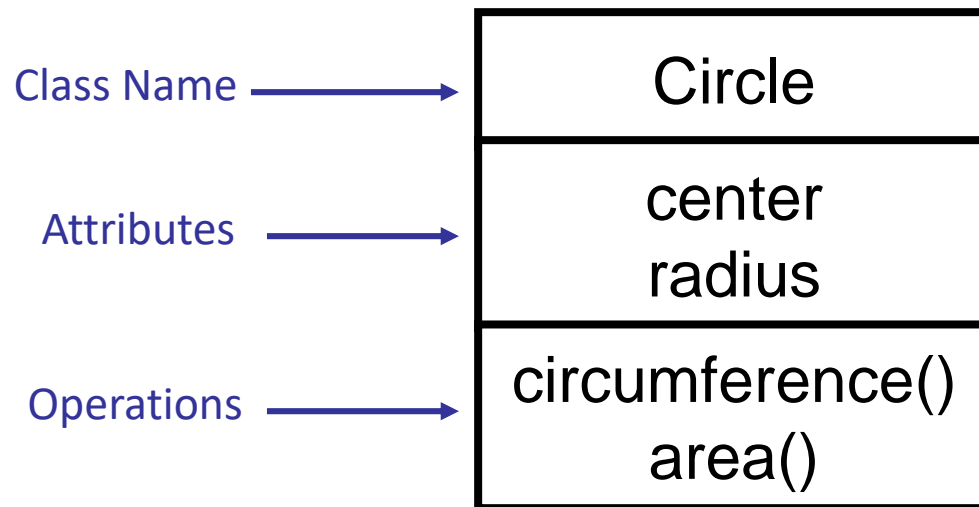
- Information Hiding
- Encapsulation
- The public and private Modifiers
- UML Class Diagrams
- Overloading
- Packages

Class and Method Definitions

- Java program consists of objects
 - Objects of class types
 - Objects that interact with one another
- Program objects can represent
 - Objects in real world
 - Abstractions
 - Software components

Java Classes

- A class is a collection of fields (data) and methods (procedure or function) that operate on that data.



Defining a Java Class

■ Syntax:

```
class  ClassName{  
    [fields declaration]  
    [methods declaration]  
}
```

■ Bare bone class definition:

```
/* This is my first java class.  
It is not complete yet. */  
class Circle {  
    // fields will come here  
    // methods will come here  
}
```

Adding Fields to Class Circle

- Add fields

```
class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center coordinates  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
}
```

- The fields are also called the *instance variables*.
 - Each object, or instance of the class has its own copy of these instance variables
- Do not worry about what *public* means at the moment.
 - Access modifiers (public, private and protected will be covered later)

Adding Methods to a Class

- A class with only data fields has no life.
 - Objects created by such a class **cannot respond to any message**.
- **Methods** are declared inside the body of the class.
- The general form of a method declaration is:

```
type MethodName (parameter-list)
{
    Method-body;
}
```

- methodName(parameter-list) part of the declaration is also known as the method signature.
 - Method signatures in a class must be unique!

Adding Methods to Class Circle

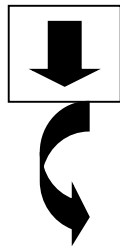
```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    // Method to return circumference  
    public double circumference() {  
        return 2 * 3.14 * r;  
    }  
  
    // Method to return area  
    public double area() {  
        return 3.14 * r * r;  
    }  
}
```


Defining Reference Variables of a Class

- A class can be thought as a type
- A variable (reference) can be defined as of that type (class)

```
Circle circleA, circleB;
```

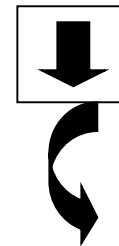
circleA



null

Points to nothing (Null Reference)

circleB



null

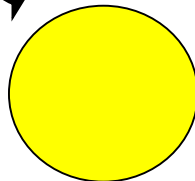
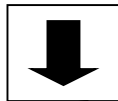
Points to nothing (Null Reference)

Creating Objects of a Class

- Objects are created by using the **new** keyword

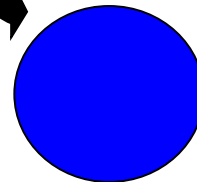
```
Circle circleA;  
circleA = new Circle();  
  
Circle circleB = new Circle();
```

circleA



Two different
circle objects!

circleB

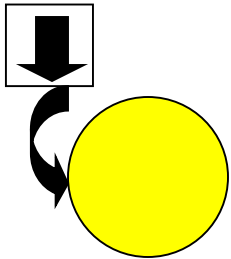


Creating Objects of a Class

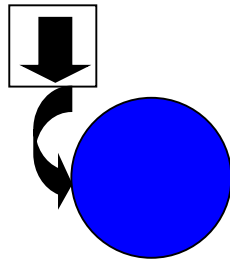
```
circleA = new Circle();  
circleB = new Circle();  
circleB = circleA;
```

Before Assignment

circleA

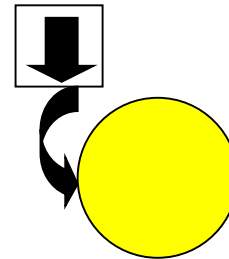


circleB

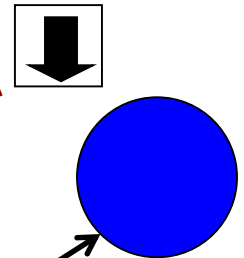


After Assignment

circleA



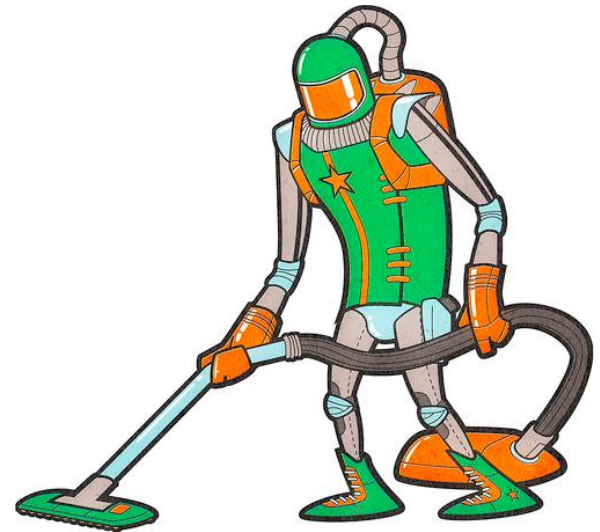
circleB



This object does not have a
reference anymore: **inaccessible!**

Garbage Collection

- The object which does not have a reference cannot be used anymore.
- Such objects become a candidate for automatic garbage collection.
- Java collects garbage periodically and releases the memory occupied by such objects to be used in the future.



Using Objects

- Object's data is accessed by using the dot notation

```
Circle circleA = new Circle();  
  
circleA.x = 25.0;  
circleA.y = 25.0;  
circleA.r = 3.0;
```

- Object's methods are invoked by same (dot) notation.

```
double area = circleA.area();
```

A Complete Circle Class

```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    // Methods to return circumference and area  
    public double circumference() {  
        return 2 * 3.14 * r;  
    }  
    public double area() {  
        return 3.14 * r * r;  
    }  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Circle circleA = new Circle();  
        circleA.x = 25.0;  
        circleA.y = 25.0;  
        circleA.r = 3.0;  
  
        double area = circleA.area();  
        System.out.println("Area of the circle is " + area);  
    }  
}
```

Class Files and Separate Compilation

- Each Java class definition is usually written in a file by itself
 - File begins with the name of the class
 - Ends with `.java`
- Class can be compiled separately

```
public class Dog {
    public String name;    // Instance variables
    public String breed;
    public int age;

    // Method that returns nothing: void method
    public void writeOutput() {
        System.out.println("Name: " + name);
        System.out.println("Breed: " + breed);
        System.out.println("Age in calendar years: " + age);
        System.out.println("Age in human years: " +
                               getAgeInHumanYears());
    }

    // Method that returns a value
    public int getAgeInHumanYears() {
        int humanAge = 0;
        if (age <= 2) {
            humanAge = age * 11;
        } else {
            humanAge = 22 + ((age - 2) * 5);
        }
        return humanAge;
    }
}
```

Dog
+ name: String + breed: String + age : int
+ writeOutput(): void + getAgeInHumanYears(): int

How Old Is My Dog in Human Years?

Size of Dog	Small Miniature Pinscher  20 lbs. or less	Medium 50 lbs. or less  21 - 50 lbs.
	Age of Dog	Age in Human Years
	1 Year	15
	2	24
	3	28
	4	32
	5	36
	6	40
	7	44
	8	48

Example Dog Class


```

public class DogDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Dog balto = new Dog();
        balto.name = "Balto";
        balto.age = 8;
        balto.breed = "Siberian Husky";
        balto.writeOutput();

        Dog scooby = new Dog();
        scooby.name = "Scooby";
        scooby.age = 42;
        scooby.breed = "Great Dane";
        System.out.println(scooby.name + " is a " + scooby.breed + ".");
        System.out.print("He is " + scooby.age + " years old, or ");

        int humanYears = scooby.getAgeInHumanYears();
        System.out.println(humanYears + " in human years.");
    }
}

```

DogDemo class contains only a main method.

<u>balto:Dog</u>
name = "Balto" breed = "Siberian Husky" age = 8

<u>scooby:Dog</u>
name = "Scooby" breed = "Great Dane" age = 42

Name: Balto
 Breed: Siberian Husky
 Age in calendar years: 8
 Age in human years: 52

Program's output

Scooby is a Great Dane.
 He is 42 years old, or 222 in human years.

Accessor and Mutator Methods

- A public method that returns data from a private instance variable is called an accessor method, a get method, or a getter.
 - The names of accessor methods typically begin with **get**.
- A public method that changes the data stored in one or more private instance variables is called a mutator method, a set method, or a setter.
 - The names of mutator methods typically begin with **set**.

Circle Class with Getters/Setters

```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    public double getX() { return x; }  
    public void setX(double centerX) { x = centerX; }  
    public double getY() { return y; }  
    public void setY(double centerY) { y = centerY; }  
    public double getR() { return r; }  
    public void setR(double radius) { r = radius; }  
  
    // Methods to return circumference and area  
    ...  
}
```

Constructors

- A constructor is a special method that gets invoked “automatically” at the time of object creation.
- Constructors are normally used for initializing objects with default values unless different values are supplied.
- Constructors **have the same name as the class name**.
- Constructors cannot return values.
- A class can have more than one constructor as long as they have different signatures (i.e., different input arguments syntax).

Circle Class with Constructor

```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    // Constructor  
    public Circle(double centerX, double centerY, double radius) {  
        x = centerX;  
        y = centerY;  
        r = radius;  
    }  
  
    // Methods to return circumference and area  
    ...  
}
```

```
Circle aCircle = new Circle(10.0, 20.0, 5.0);
```

Multiple Constructors

- Sometimes we may want to initialize in a number of different ways, depending on the circumstance.
- This can be supported by having multiple constructors having different input arguments (signatures).

Circle Class with Multiple Constructors

```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    // Constructor  
    public Circle(double centerX, double centerY, double radius) {  
        x = centerX;  
        y = centerY;  
        r = radius;  
    }  
  
    public Circle(double radius) {  
        x = 0; y = 0; r = radius;  
    }  
  
    public Circle() {  
        x = 0; y = 0; r = 1.0;  
    }  
  
    // Methods to return circumference and area  
    ...  
}
```

```
Circle aCircle = new Circle(10.0, 20.0, 5.0);  
Circle bCircle = new Circle(5.0);  
Circle cCircle = new Circle();
```

Default and No-Argument Constructors

- Every class must have at least one constructor
 - If no constructors are declared, the compiler will create a default constructor
 - Takes no arguments and initializes instance variables to their initial values specified in their declaration or to their default values
 - Default values are **zero** for primitive numeric types, **false** for **boolean** values and **null** for references

Common Programming Error

- If a class has constructors, but none of the `public` constructors are no-argument constructors, and a program attempts to call a no-argument constructor to initialize an object of the class, a compilation error occurs.
- A constructor can be called with no arguments only if the class does not have any constructors (in which case the default constructor is called) or if the class has a `public` no-argument constructor.

The Keyword **this**

- **this** keyword can be used to refer to the object itself.
- It is generally used for accessing class members (from its own methods) when they have the same name as those passed as arguments.

```
public class Circle {  
    public double x, y; // center of the circle  
    public double r;    // radius of the circle  
  
    public double getX() { return x; }  
    public void setX(double x) { this.x = x; }  
    public double getY() { return y; }  
    public void setY(double y) { this.y = y; }  
    public double getR() { return r; }  
    public void setR(double r) { this.r = r; }  
  
    // Methods to return circumference and area  
    ...  
}
```

Static Variables

- Java supports definition of variables that can be accessed without creating objects of a class.
 - Such members are called Static members.
- This feature is useful when we want to create a variable common to all instances of a class.
- One of the most common example is to have a variable that could keep a count of how many objects of a class have been created.
- Java creates only one copy for a static variable which can be used even if the class is never instantiated.

Using Static Variables

- Define the variable by using the **static** keyword

```
public class Circle {  
    // Class variable, one for the Circle class.  
    // To keep number of objects created.  
    public static int numCircles = 0;  
  
    // Instance variables, one for each instance  
    // of the Circle class.  
    public double x,y,r;  
  
    // Constructor  
    Circle (double x, double y, double r){  
        this.x = x;  
        this.y = y;  
        this.r = r;  
        numCircles++;  
    }  
}
```

```
Circle circleA = new Circle(10, 12, 20);  
// numCircles = 1  
Circle circleB = new Circle(5, 3, 10);  
// numCircles = 2
```

Instance vs. Static Variables

- *Instance variables*: One copy per object. Every object has its own instance variables.
 - e.g. `x, y, r` (center and radius of the circle)
- *Static variables*: One copy per class.
 - e.g. `numCircles` (total number of circle objects created)

Static Methods

- A class can have methods that are defined as **static**.
- Static methods can be accessed without using objects. So, there is **NO** need to create objects.
- Static methods are generally used to group related library functions that don't depend on data members of its class.
 - e.g., Math library functions.

Using Static Methods

```
class Comparator {  
    public static int max(int a, int b) {  
        if (a > b)  
            return a;  
        else  
            return b;  
    }  
  
    public static String max(String a, String b) {  
        if (a.compareTo(b) > 0)  
            return a;  
        else  
            return b;  
    }  
}
```

```
// Max methods are directly accessed using ClassName.  
// NO Objects created.  
System.out.println(Comparator.max(5, 10));  
System.out.println(Comparator.max("ANKARA", "SAMSUN"));
```

More Static Methods: The **Math** Class

- It is like including libraries in C language
- It contains standard mathematical methods
 - They are all static
 - `Java.lang.Math`

```
Math.pow(2.0, 3.0)    // 8  
Math.max(5, 6)        // 6  
Math.round(6.2)       // 6  
Math.sqrt(4.0)        // 2.0
```


Object Cleanup

- Recall: Memory deallocation is automatic in Java
 - No dangling pointers and no memory leak problem.
- Java allows to define **finalize** method, which is invoked (if defined) just before the object destruction.
- This presents an opportunity to perform record maintenance operation or clean up any special allocations made by the user.
- The finalize method will be called by the Garbage Collector, but when this will happen is not deterministic. **Try to avoid finalize.**

```
protected void finalize() throws IOException {  
    Circle.numCircles = Circle.numCircles--;  
    System.out.println("Number of circles:" + Circle.num_circles);  
}
```

Wrapper Classes

- Each of Java's primitive data types has a class dedicated to it.
 - Boolean, Byte, Character, Integer, Float, Double, Long, Short
 - These are known as wrapper classes, because they "wrap" the primitive data type into an object of that class.
 - They contain useful predefined constants and methods
 - The wrapper classes are part of the `java.lang` package, which is imported by default into all Java programs.
 - Since Java 5.0 we have autoboxing and unboxing.

```
// Defining objects of wrapper class
Integer x = new Integer(33);
Integer y = 33; // Autoboxing
int yInt = y; // Unboxing

// Convert string to an integer
String s = "123";
int i = Integer.parseInt(s);

//Converting from hexadecimal to decimal
Integer hex2Int = Integer.valueOf("D", 16);
```

Parameter Passing

- Java works as «Call by Value» for parameter-passing.
 - Copy of the primitive types
 - Copy of the reference of the Class types.
- Copy of the reference to the object is passed into the method, original value unchanged, but you may change the attributes of the objects.

```

public class ReferenceTest {

    public static void main (String[] args){
        Circle c1 = new Circle(5, 5, 20);
        Circle c2 = new Circle(1, 1, 10);
        System.out.println ( "c1 Radius = " + c1.getRadius());
        System.out.println ( "c2 Radius = " + c2.getRadius());

        parameterTester(c1, c2);

        System.out.println ( "c1 Radius = " + c1.getRadius());
        System.out.println ( "c2 Radius = " + c2.getRadius());
    }

    public static void parameterTester(Circle circleA, Circle circleB){
        circleA.setRadius(15);
        circleB = new Circle(0, 0, 100);

        System.out.println ( "circleA Radius = " + circleA.getRadius());
        System.out.println ( "circleB Radius = " + circleB.getRadius());
    }

}

```

```

c1 Radius = 20.0
c2 Radius = 10.0
circleA Radius = 15.0
circleB Radius = 100.0
c1 Radius = 15.0
c2 Radius = 10.0

```

Delegation

- Ability for a class to delegate its responsibilities to another class.
- A way of making an object invoking services of other objects through containership.

Using Delegation

```
public class Point {  
    private double xCoord;  
    private double yCoord;  
  
    public double getXCoord() {  
        return xCoord;  
    }  
    public double getYCoord() {  
        return yCoord;  
    }  
}
```

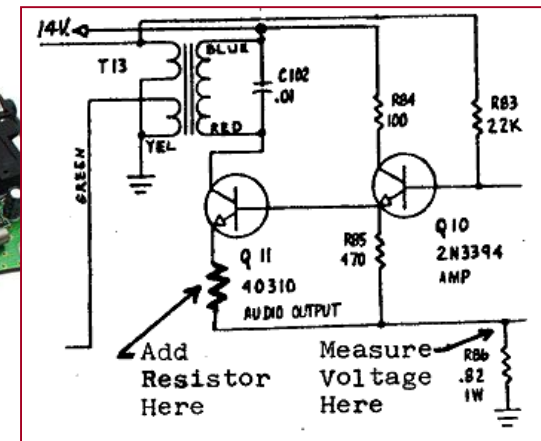
```
public class Circle {  
    private Point center;  
    public double getCenterX() {  
        return center.getXCoord();           // Delegation  
    }  
    public double getCenterY() {  
        return center.getYCoord();           // Delegation  
    }  
}
```

Information Hiding

- Programmer using a class method need not know details of implementation
 - Only needs to know what the method does
- **Information hiding:**
 - Designing a method so it can be used without knowing details
- Also referred to as ***encapsulation***
- Method design should separate *what* from *how*

Encapsulation

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



Visibility Modifiers

- All parts of a *class* have **visibility modifiers**
 - Java keywords
 - **public**, protected, **private**
 - do not use these modifiers on local (method) variables (syntax error)
- **public** means that constructor, method, or field may be accessed outside of the class.
 - part of the interface
 - constructors and methods are generally public
- **private** means that part of the class is hidden and inaccessible by code outside of the class
 - part of the implementation
 - data fields are generally private

The `public` and `private` Modifiers

- Type specified as `public`
 - Any other class can directly access that object by name
- Classes are generally specified as `public`
- Instance variables are usually not `public`
 - Instead specify as `private`

Private fields

- A field can be declared *private*.
 - No code outside the class can access or change it.

```
private type name;
```

- Examples:

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

- Client code sees an error when accessing private fields:

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

Accessing private state

- We can provide methods to get and/or set a field's value:

```
// 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: (" + p1.getX() + ", " + p1.getY() + ")");
p1.setX(14);
```

Programming Example

```
public class Rectangle
{
    private int width;
    private int height;
    private int area;

    public void setDimensions (int newWidth, int newHeight)
    {
        width = newWidth;
        height = newHeight;
        area = width * height;
    }
    public int getArea ()
    {
        return area;
    }
}
```

Note `setDimensions` method :
This is the only way the `width`
and `height` may be altered
outside the class

- Statement such as
`box.width = 6;`
is illegal since width is `private`
- Keeps remaining elements of the class consistent

// 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 double distanceFromOrigin() {  
        return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);  
    }  
  
    public int getX() {  
        return x;  
    }  
  
    public int getY() {  
        return y;  
    }  
  
    public void setLocation(int newX, int newY) {  
        x = newX;  
        y = newY;  
    }  
  
    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {  
        x = x + dx;  
        y = y + dy;  
    }  
}
```

Point class

Client code

```
public class PointMain4 {  
    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.getX() + ", " + p1.getY() + ")");  
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.getX() + ", " + p2.getY() + ")");  
  
        // move p2 and then print it again  
        p2.translate(2, 4);  
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.getX() + ", " + p2.getY() + ")");  
    }  
}
```

OUTPUT :

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

Encapsulation

- Consider example of driving a car
 - We see and use break pedal, accelerator pedal, steering wheel – know what they do
 - We do not see mechanical details of how they do their jobs
- Encapsulation divides class definition into
 - *Class interface*
 - *Class implementation*

Encapsulation

■ *Class interface*

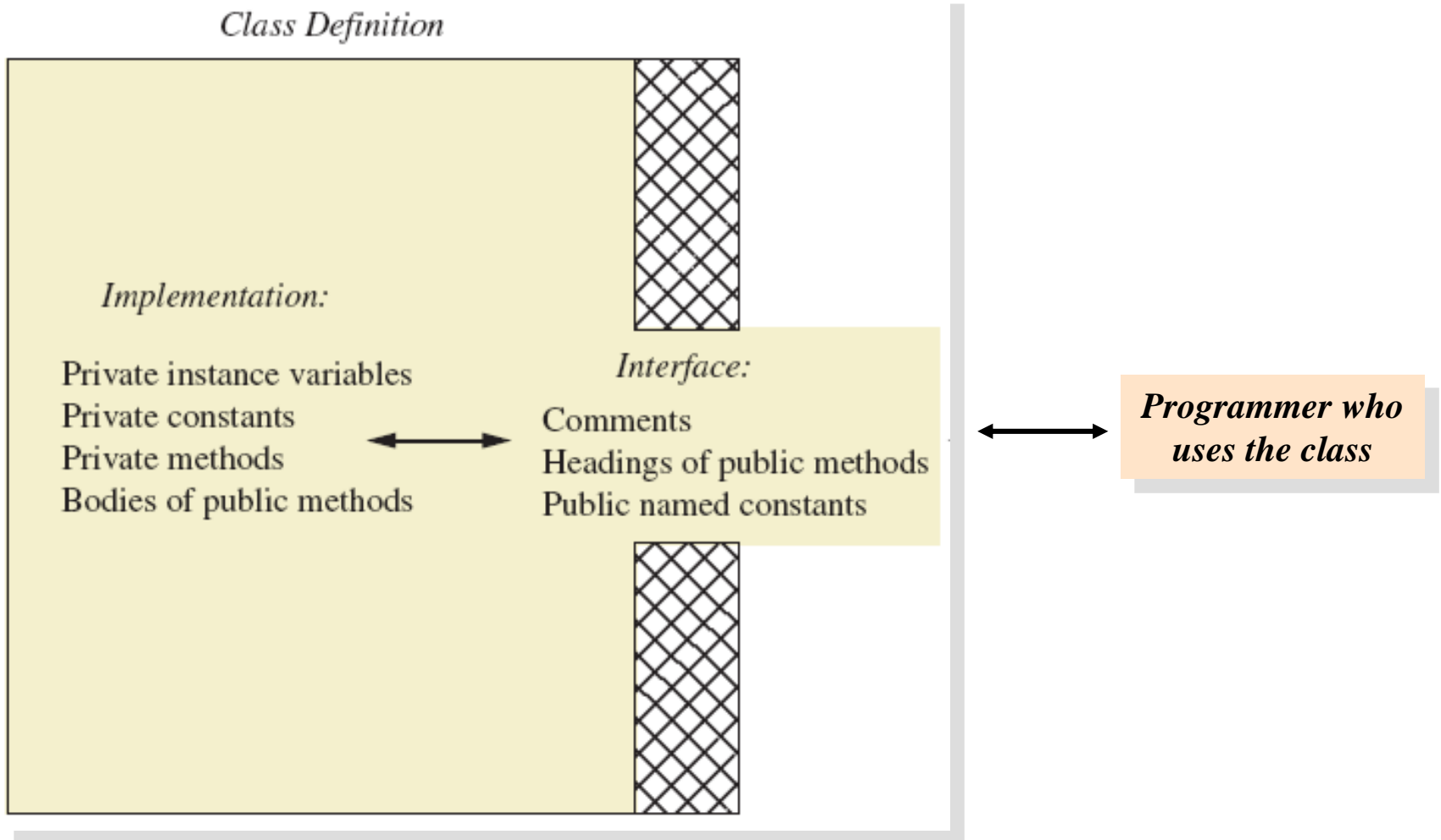
- Tells what the class does
- Gives headings for public methods and comments about them

■ *Class implementation*

- Contains private variables
- Includes implementations of public and private methods

Encapsulation

- A well encapsulated class definition

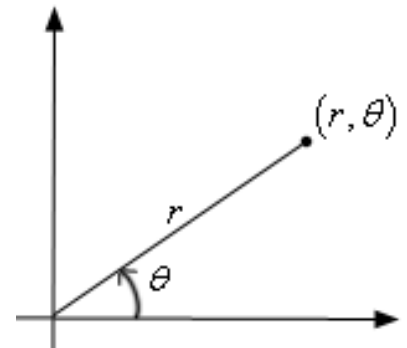


Encapsulation – Best Practices

- Preface class definition with comment on how to use class
- Declare all instance variables in the class as private.
- Provide public accessor methods to retrieve data and provide public methods to manipulate data
 - Such methods could include public mutator methods.
- Place a comment before each public method heading that fully specifies how to use the method.
- Make any helping methods private.
- Write comments within class definition to describe implementation details.

Benefits of encapsulation

- Provides **abstraction** between an object and its clients.
- Protects an object from unwanted access by clients.
 - A bank app forbids a client to change an `Account`'s balance.
- Allows you to change the class implementation.
 - `Point` could be rewritten to use polar coordinates (radius r , angle ϑ), but with the same methods.
- Allows you to constrain objects' state (**invariants**).
 - Example: Only allow `Points` with non-negative coordinates.



Outline

Time1.java

(1 of 2)

```
1 // Fig. 8.1: Time1.java
2 // Time1 class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format.
3
4 public class Time1
5 {
6     private int hour; // 0 - 23
7     private int minute; // 0 - 59
8     private int second; // 0 - 59
9
10    // set a new time value using universal time; ensure that
11    // the data remains consistent by setting invalid values to zero
12    public void setTime( int h, int m, int s )
13
14        hour = ( ( h >= 0 && h < 24 ) ? h : 0 ); // validate hour
15        minute = ( ( m >= 0 && m < 60 ) ? m : 0 ); // validate minute
16        second = ( ( s >= 0 && s < 60 ) ? s : 0 ); // validate second
17    } // end method setTime
18
```

private instance variables

Declare **public** method **setTime**

Validate parameter values before setting
instance variables

Outline

Time1.java (2 of 2)

```
19 // convert to String in universal-time format (HH:MM:SS)
20 public String toUniversalString()
21 {
22     return String.format( "%02d:%02d:%02d", hour, minute, second );
23 } // end method toUniversalString
24
25 // convert to String in standard-time format (H:MM:SS AM or PM)
26 public String toString()
27 {
28     return String.format( "%d:%02d:%02d %s",
29         ( ( hour == 0 || hour == 12 ) ? 12 : hour % 12 ),
30         minute, second, ( hour < 12 ? "AM" : "PM" ) );
31 } // end method toString
32 } // end class Time1
```

format strings



Outline

Time1Test.java (1 of 2)

```
1 // Fig. 8.2: Time1Test.java
2 // Time1 object used in an application.
3
4 public class Time1Test
5 {
6     public static void main( String args[] )
7     {
8         // create and initialize a Time1 object
9         Time1 time = new Time1(); // invokes Time1 constructor
10
11        // output string representations of the time
12        System.out.print( "The initial universal time is: " );
13        System.out.println( time.toUniversalString() );
14        System.out.print( "The initial standard time is: " );
15        System.out.println( time.toString() );
16        System.out.println(); // output a blank line
17    }
```

Create a **Time1** object

Call **toUniversalString** method

Call **toString** method

Outline

Time1Test.java

(2 of 2)

```
18 // change time and output updated time
19 time.setTime( 13, 27, 6 ); ← Call setTime method
20 System.out.print( "Universal time after setTime is: " );
21 System.out.println( time.toUniversalString() );
22 System.out.print( "Standard time after setTime is: " );
23 System.out.println( time.toString() );
24 System.out.println(); // output a blank line
25
26 // set time with invalid values; output updated time
27 time.setTime( 99, 99, 99 ); ← Call setTime method
28 System.out.println( "After attempting invalid settings:" );
29 System.out.print( "Universal time: " );
30 System.out.println( time.toUniversalString() );
31 System.out.print( "Standard time: " );
32 System.out.println( time.toString() );
33 } // end main
34 } // end class Time1Test
```

Call **setTime** method
with invalid values

The initial universal time is: 00:00:00
The initial standard time is: 12:00:00 AM

Universal time after setTime is: 13:27:06
Standard time after setTime is: 1:27:06 PM

After attempting invalid settings:
Universal time: 00:00:00
Standard time: 12:00:00 AM

Software Development Observations & Tips

- When one object of a class has a reference to another object of the same class, the first object can access all the second object's data and methods (including those that are private).
- When implementing a method of a class, use the class's *set* and *get* methods to access the class's private data. This simplifies code maintenance and reduces the likelihood of errors.
- This architecture helps hide the implementation of a class from its clients, which improves **program modifiability**

`final` Instance Variables

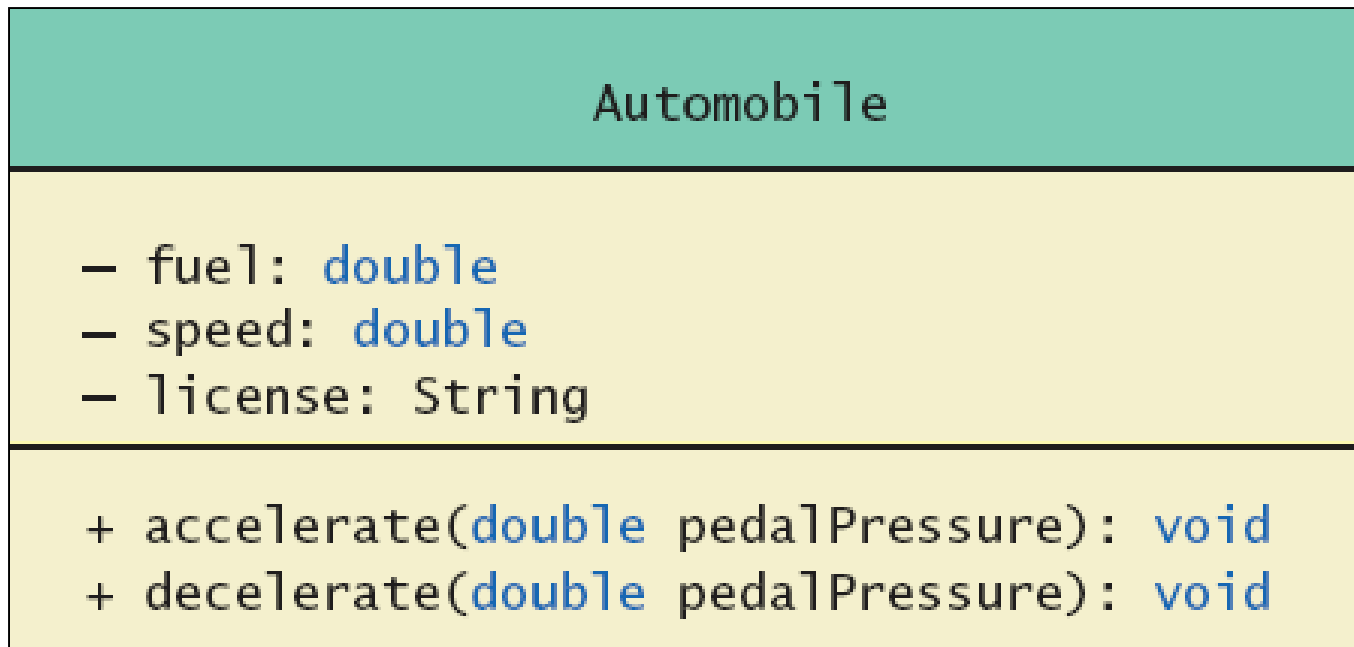
- `final` instance variables
 - Keyword `final`
 - Specifies that a variable is not modifiable (is a constant)
 - `final` instance variables can be initialized at their declaration
 - If they are not initialized in their declarations, they must be initialized in all constructors
- If an instance variable should not be modified, declare it to be `final` to prevent any erroneous modification.

`static final` Instance Variables

- A `final` field should also be declared `static` if it is initialized in its declaration.
- Once a `final` field is initialized in its declaration, its value can never change.
- Therefore, it is not necessary to have a separate copy of the field for every object of the class.
- Making the field `static` enables all objects of the class to share the `final` field.
- Example: `public static final double PI = 3.141592;`

UML Class Diagrams

- An automobile class outline as a UML class diagram

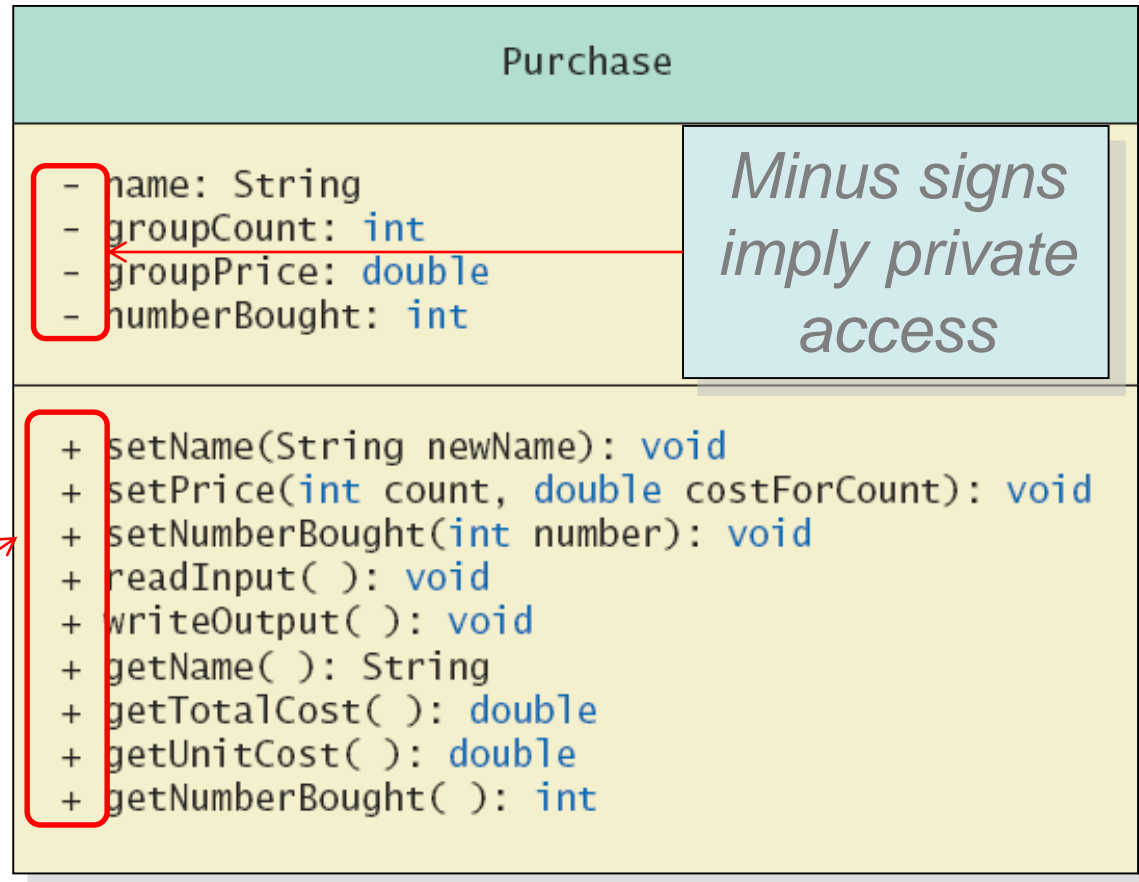


UML Class Diagrams

■ Example:

Purchase

class



*Plus signs
imply public
access*

*Minus signs
imply private
access*

UML Class Diagrams

- Contains more than interface, less than full implementation
- Usually written *before* class is defined
- Used by the programmer defining the class
 - Corresponds to the *interface* used by programmer who uses the class

How to Import a Library

- Import the reusable class into a program
 - Single-type-import declaration
 - Imports a single class
 - Example: `import java.util.Random;`
 - Type-import-on-demand declaration
 - Imports all classes in a package
 - Example: `import java.util.*;`

Overloading Basics

- When two or more methods have same name within the same class
- Java distinguishes the methods by number and types of parameters
 - If it cannot match a call with a definition, it attempts to do type conversions
- A method's name and number and type of parameters is called the *signature*

Programming Example

```
/** This class illustrates overloading. */
public class Overload {

    public static void main (String [] args) {
        double average1 = Overload.getAverage (40.0, 50.0);
        double average2 = Overload.getAverage (1.0, 2.0, 3.0);
        char average3 = Overload.getAverage ('a', 'c');
        System.out.println ("average1 = " + average1);
        System.out.println ("average2 = " + average2);
        System.out.println ("average3 = " + average3); }

    public static double getAverage (double first, double second) {
        return (first + second) / 2.0; }

    public static double getAverage (double first, double second,
        double third) { return (first + second + third) / 3.0; }

    public static char getAverage (char first, char second) {
        return (char) (((int) first + (int) second) / 2); }
}
```

average1= 45.0

average2= 2.0

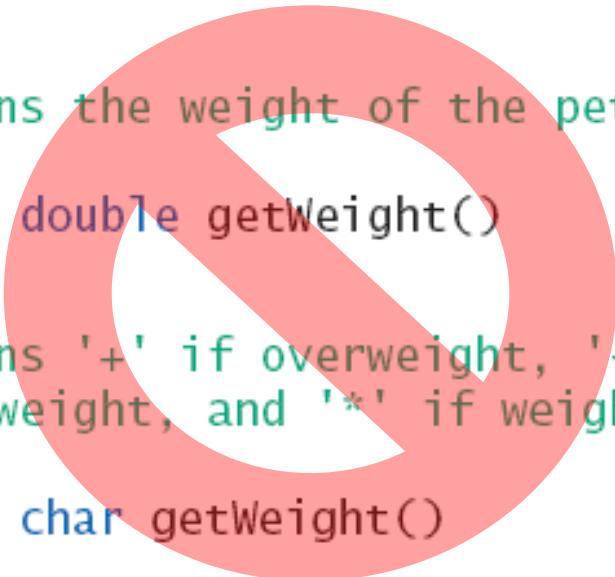
average3 = b

Overloading and Type Conversion

- Overloading and automatic type conversion can conflict
- Remember the compiler attempts to overload before it does type conversion
- Use descriptive method names, avoid overloading when possible

Overloading and Return Type

- You can not overload a method where the only difference is the type of value returned



```
/**  
 Returns the weight of the pet.  
*/  
public double getWeight()  
  
/**  
 Returns '+' if overweight, '-' if  
 underweight, and '*' if weight is OK.  
*/  
public char getWeight()
```

Summary

- Classes, objects, and methods are the basic components used in Java programming.
- Constructors allow seamless initialization of objects.
- Classes can have static members, which serve as global members of all objects of a class.
- Objects can be passed as parameters and they can be used for exchanging messages.

Summary

- Usage of visibility modifiers for encapsulation
- Separation of interface and implementation is important
- Class designers use UML notation to describe classes
- Use packages for software reusability
- Overloading must be done with care