# **Chapter 5: Methods**

TAO Yida

taoyd@sustech.edu.cn

### So Far...



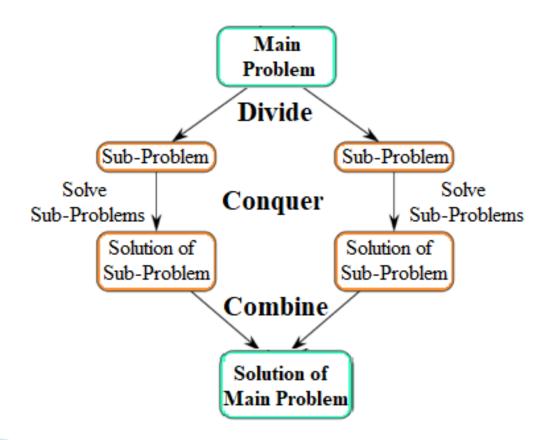
- The programs we have written so far solve simple problems
- They are short and everything fits well in a main method

What if you are asked to solve complex problems?

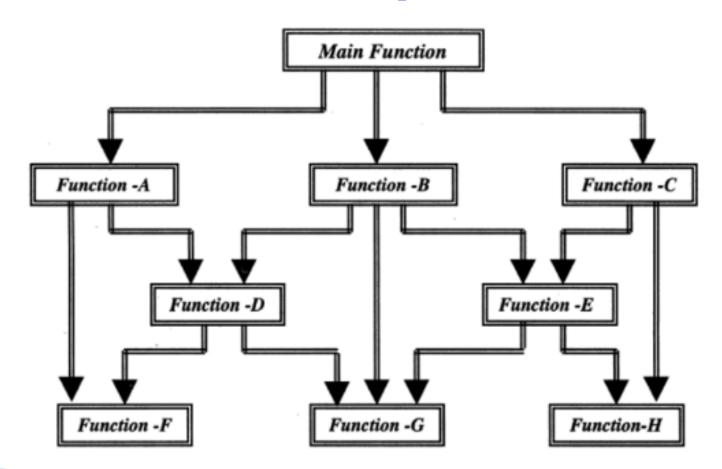
Write a giant main method?

## Divide and Conquer (分而治之)

Decompose a big/complex task into smaller one and solve each of them



## Divide and Conquer (分而治之)



## Methods we've used so far?

## **Objectives**

- Method declaration and invocation
- Passing arguments
- Method call stack
- Method overloading
- Command-line arguments

## **Using Methods**

```
public class MaximumFinder {
                                     The class defines two methods
  public static double maximum(double x, double y, double z) {
    double max = x;
    if(y > max) max = y;
                                      Find the largest of 3 double values
    if(z > max) max = z;
    return max;
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    double result1 = maximum(3.1, 3.2, 3.0);
    double result2 = maximum(70, 90, 10);
    double result3 = maximum(45, 10.1, 1);
    System.out.printf("%.1f %.1f %.1f", result1, result2, result3);
```

## **Declaring a Method**

```
修饰符

Modifiers + Return type + Method name + Parameters

public static double maximum( double x, double y, double z ) {

double max = x;
    if(y > max) max = y;
    if(z > max) max = z;
    return max;
}

Method body contains one or more statements that perform the method's task
}
```

## **Return Type of Methods**

Return type: the type of data the method returns to its caller (e.g., main method).

```
public static double maximum(double x, double y, double z) {
    double max = x;
    if(y > max) max = y;
    if(z > max) max = z;
    return max;
}
```

#### A method may return

- Nothing (void) void println()
   Primitive values (e.g., an integer) int nextInt()
- References to objects, arrays

## **Return Type of Methods**

Return type: the type of data the method returns to its caller (e.g., main method).

```
public static double maximum(double x, double y, double z) {
    double max = x;
    if(y > max) max = y;
    if(z > max) max = z;
    return max;
}
```

We can also return an expression:

```
return number1 + number2 + number3;
```

### **Method Parameters**

A comma-separated list of parameters, meaning that the method requires additional information from the caller to perform its task.

```
public static double maximum( double x, double y, double z ) {
   double max = x;
   if(y > max) max = y;
   if(z > max) max = z;
   return max;
}
```

A method can have 0, 1, or more parameters

Empty parentheses (0 parameter): the method does
not need additional information to perform its task

### **Method Parameters**

Each parameter must specify a type and an identifier

```
public static double maximum( double x, double y, double z ) {
   double max = x;
   if(y > max) max = y;
   if(z > max) max = z;
   return max;
}
```

[Scope] A method's parameters are local variables of that method and can be used only in that method's body

## Calling a Method

- In a method definition, you define what the method does.
- ▶ To execute the method, you have to call or invoke (调用) it

```
Arguments (实际参数/实参)

double result = maximum(1.0, 2.0, 3.0);

public static double maximum( double x, double y, double z ) {
    ...
}

The number, order and type of arguments (实参) and parameters (形参) must be consistent.
```

## Calling a Method

- In a method definition, you define what the method does.
- ▶ To execute the method, you have to call or invoke (调用) it

```
Arguments (实际参数/实参)

double result = maximum(1.0, 2.0, 3);

public static double maximum( double x, double y, double z ) {
    ...

Argument promotion: maximum() expects to receives a double argument, but it is ok to pass an int 3. Java converts the int value 3 to the double value 3.0
```

## Calling a Method

- Before any method can be called, its arguments must be evaluated to determine their values
- If an argument is a method call, the method call must be performed to determine its return value

```
System.out.println(maximum(1.0, 2.0, 3.0));
Math.pow( Math.pow(x2-x1, 2) + Math.pow(y2-y1, 2) , 0.5 );
```

## **Objectives**

- Method declaration and invocation
- Passing arguments
- Method overloading
- Method call stack
- Command-line arguments

## **Passing Arguments in Method Calls**

- In Java, all arguments are passed by value (按值传递), meaning that the method gets a copy of all parameter values
- A method call can pass two types of values to the called method:
  - Primitive types: passing copies of primitive values
  - Reference types: passing copies of references to objects.

## **Passing Primitive Type**

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                   Before: 3
    int a = 3;
                                                   After: 3
    System.out.println("Before: " + a);
    triple(a);
    System.out.println("After: " + a);
}
public static void triple(int x) {
                                             a
    x *= 3;
                                                          Copying value
                                            X
                                               x becomes 9 after method call
```

a remains unchanged

## Passing Reference Type

```
Before: [1, 2, 3]
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                 After: [3, 6, 9]
    int[] a = {1, 2, 3};
    System.out.println("Before: " + Arrays.toString(a));
    triple(a);
    System.out.println("After: " + Arrays.toString(a));
}
public static void triple(int[] x) {
                                            a
    for(int i = 0; i < x.length; i++)
        x[i] *= 3;
                                            X
```

Copying value again. Difference is that the value is a memory address.

## Passing Reference Type

```
Before: [1, 2, 3]
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                 After: [1, 2, 3]
    int[] a = {1, 2, 3};
    System.out.println("Before: " + Arrays.toString(a));
    triple(a);
    System.out.println("After: " + Arrays.toString(a));
}
public static void triple(int[] x) {
    x = new int[]{4,5,6};
                                     4
}
                                     6
```

x refers to a new array

## Q1: What is arr?

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int[] arr = {1, 2, 3};
    triple(arr[0]);

    // what is arr now?
}

public static void triple(int x) {
    x *= 3;
}
```

## Q2: What is arr?

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int[][] arr = {{1, 2, 3}, {4, 5}};
    triple(arr[0], 2);
    triple(arr[1], 1);
   // what is arr now?
public static void triple(int[] x, int i) {
   x[i] = x[i-1] * 3;
```

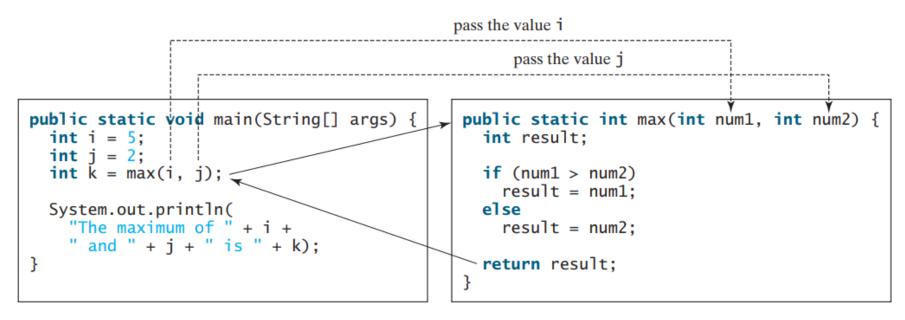
## **Objectives**

- Method declaration and invocation
- Passing arguments
- Method call stack
- Method overloading
- Command-line arguments

#### What's the control flow of method invocations?

```
public class TestMax {
Define/invoke max method
                             /** Main method */
                              public static void main(String[] args) {
main method
                                int i = 5;
                                int j = 2;
invoke max
                         6
                                int k = max(i, j);
                                System.out.println("The maximum of " + i +
                         8
                                  " and " + i + i + i + k);
                         9
                        10
                              /** Return the max of two numbers */
                        11
                       12
define method
                              public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
                                int result;
                        13
                        14
                        15
                                if (num1 > num2)
                        16
                                  result = num1;
                        17
                                else
                                  result = num2;
                        18
                        19
                                return result;
                        20
                        21
                        22
```

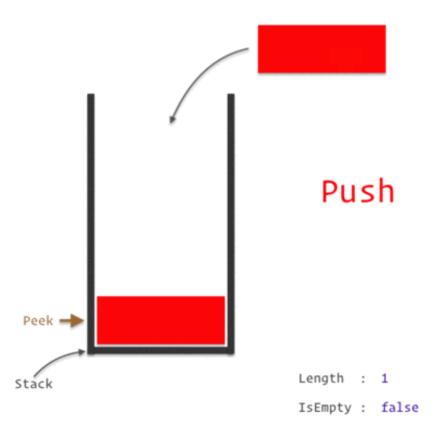
### Control flow for method calls



**FIGURE 6.2** When the max method is invoked, the flow of control transfers to it. Once the max method is finished, it returns control back to the caller.

Each time a method is invoked, the system creates an activation record (激活记录) that stores parameters and variables for the method and places the activation record in an area of memory known as a call stack (方法调用栈)

- When a method calls another method, the caller's activation record is kept intact, and a new activation record is created for the new method called and pushed to the stack.
- When a method finishes its work and returns to its caller, its activation record is popped from the call stack.
- A call stack stores the activation records in a last-in, first-out fashion: The activation record for the method that is invoked last is removed first from the stack.



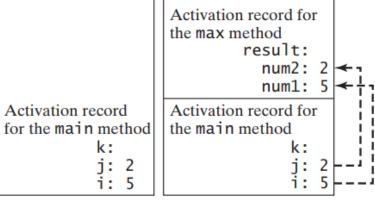
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum of " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;
  return result;
}
```

```
Activation record for the main method k: j: 2 i: 5
```

(a) The main method is invoked.

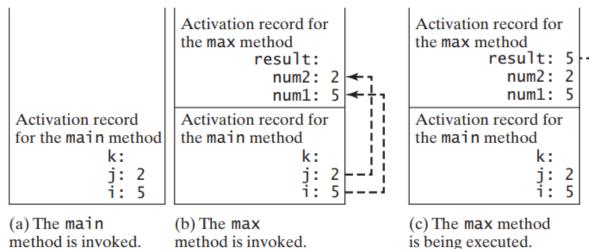
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);
  System.out.println(
    "The maximum of " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;
  return result;
}
```



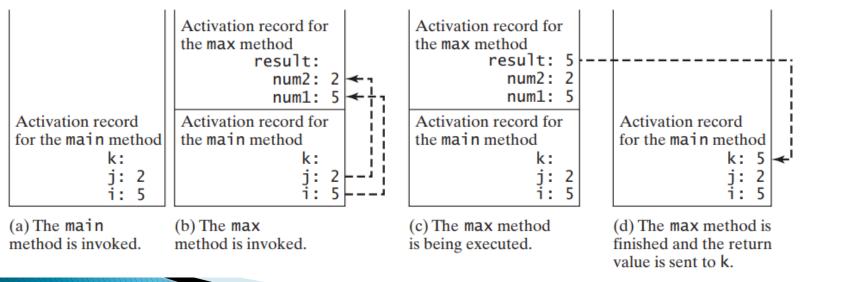
(a) The main method is invoked.

(b) The max method is invoked.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);
  System.out.println(
    "The maximum of " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;
  return result;
}
```

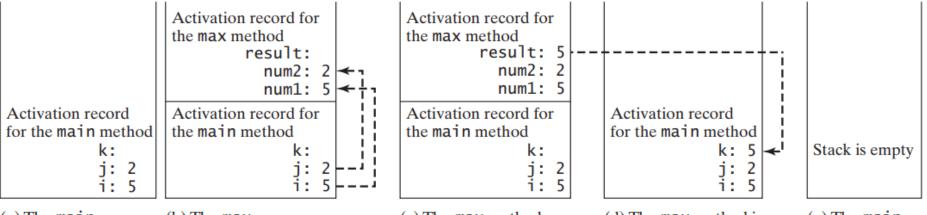


```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);
  System.out.println(
    "The maximum of " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;
  return result;
}
```



```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);
  System.out.println(
    "The maximum of " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;
}
return result;
}
```

Same as argument passing, returning a primitive type copies the value, returning a reference type copies the reference.



- (a) The main method is invoked.
- (b) The max method is invoked.

- (c) The max method is being executed.
- (d) The max method is finished and the return value is sent to k.
- (e) The main method is finished.

#### Return to the Caller

A return statement is not needed for a void method

```
public class TestVoidMethod {
      public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.print("The grade is ");
 4
        printGrade(78.5);
 5
 6
        System.out.print("The grade is ");
 7
        printGrade(59.5);
 8
 9
      public static void printGrade(double score) {
10
        if (score >= 90.0) {
11
12
          System.out.println('A');
13
14
        else if (score >= 80.0) {
15
          System.out.println('B');
16
        else if (score >= 70.0) {
17
18
          System.out.println('C');
19
20
        else if (score >= 60.0) {
21
          System.out.println('D');
22
23
        else {
24
          System.out.println('F');
25
26
27 }
```

The grade is C The grade is F But return can be used for terminating the method and returning to the method's caller

```
public static void printGrade(double score) {
   if (score < 0 || score > 100) {
      System.out.println("Invalid score");
      return;
   }

   if (score >= 90.0) {
      System.out.println('A');
   }
   else if (score >= 80.0) {
      System.out.println('B');
   }
   else if (score >= 70.0) {
      System.out.println('C');
   }
   else if (score >= 60.0) {
      System.out.println('D');
   }
   else {
      System.out.println('F');
   }
}
```

#### **Method Call Chain**

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

Console output

main

#### **Method Call Chain**

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

#### Console output

enter main

main

#### **Method Call Chain**

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

#### Console output

enter main



```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

### Console output

enter main



```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

### Console output

enter main
enter caller1



```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1



```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

### Console output

enter main
enter caller1

caller2
caller1
main

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2

caller2
caller1
main

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

# caller3 caller2 caller1 main

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

caller3
caller2
caller1
main

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack



#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack



#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

# caller2 caller1 main

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

# caller2 caller1 main

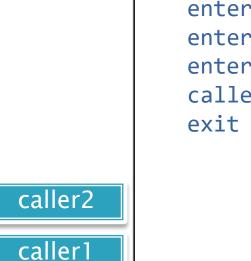
#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed
exit caller2

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

main



#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed
exit caller2

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

### enter main enter caller1 enter caller2

Console output

caller3 executed exit caller2

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

# enter main enter caller1 enter caller2 caller3 executed exit caller2 exit caller1

Console output



```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed
exit caller2
exit caller1

main

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

# enter main enter caller1 enter caller2 caller3 executed exit caller2 exit caller1

exit main

Console output

main

```
public class CallChainDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("enter main");
        caller1();
        System.out.println("exit main");
    public static void caller1() {
        System.out.println("enter caller1");
        caller2();
        System.out.println("exit caller1");
    public static void caller2() {
        System.out.println("enter caller2");
        caller3();
        System.out.println("exit caller2");
    public static void caller3() {
        System.out.println("caller3 executed");
```

#### Call stack

#### Console output

enter main
enter caller1
enter caller2
caller3 executed
exit caller2
exit caller1
exit main

# **Objectives**

- Method declaration and invocation
- Passing arguments
- Method call stack
- Method overloading
- Command-line arguments

# Method Overloading (方法重载)

Overloaded methods are methods in the same class that:

- Have the same method name (perform similar tasks)
- Have different type and number of parameters

```
/** Return the max of two int values */
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
   if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
   else
      return num2;
}

/** Find the max of two double values */
public static double max(double num1, double num2) {
   if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
   else
      return num2;
}

/** Return the max of three double values */
public static double max(double num1, double num2, double num3) {
   return max(max(num1, num2), num3);
}
```

# Method Overloading (方法重载)

Java compiler selects the appropriate method to call by examining the number and types of the arguments in the call

```
/** Return the max of two int values */
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
   if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
   else
      return num2;
}

/** Find the max of two double values */
public static double max(double num1, double num2) {
   if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
   else
      return num2;
}

/** Return the max of three double values */
public static double max(double num1, double num2, double num3) {
   return max(max(num1, num2), num3);
}
```

# Method Overloading (方法重载)

Method calls cannot be distinguished by return type. If you have overloaded methods only with different return types:

```
int square(int a)double square(int a)
```

and you called the method as follows

```
square(2); X
```

the compiler will be confused on which methods to call, hence having compilation errors.

# Method Overloading in Java

System.out.println are overloaded

```
println()
Terminates the current line by writing the line separator string.
println(boolean x)
Prints a boolean and then terminate the line.
println(char x)
Prints a character and then terminate the line
println(char[] x)
Prints an array of characters and then terminate the line.
println(double x)
Prints a double and then terminate the line.
println(float x)
Prints a float and then terminate the line.
println(int x)
Prints an integer and then terminate the line.
println(long x)
Prints a long and then terminate the line.
println(Object x)
Prints an Object and then terminate the line.
println(String x)
Prints a String and then terminate the line.
```

# **Method Overloading in Java**

min(long a, long b)

Returns the smaller of two long values.

Math.max, Math.min are overloaded

```
max(double a, double b)
Returns the greater of two double values.
max(float a, float b)
Returns the greater of two float values.
max(int a, int b)
Returns the greater of two int values.
max(long a, long b)
Returns the greater of two long values.
min(double a, double b)
Returns the smaller of two double values.
min(float a, float b)
Returns the smaller of two float values.
min(int a, int b)
Returns the smaller of two int values.
```

# Variable-Length Argument Lists

- ▶ With variable-length argument lists (可变长参数列表), you can create methods that receive an unspecified number of arguments.
- A type followed by an ellipsis (...) in a method's parameter list indicates that the method receives a variable number of arguments of that particular type.

public static double average(double... numbers)

# Variable-Length Argument Lists

Java treats the variable-length argument list as an array of the specified type.

```
public class VarArgsDemo {
                               public static double average(double... numbers) {
                                   double total = 0.0;
                                   for(double d : numbers) total += d;
                                   return total / numbers.length;
                               public static void main(String[] args) {
                                   double d1 = 10.0, d2 = 20.0, d3 = 30.0;
                                   double avg1 = average(d1); // 10.0
           Same as average([10.0])
                                   double avg2 = average(d1, d2); // 15.0
     Same as average([10.0, 20.0])
                                   double avg3 = average(d1, d2, d3); // 20.0
Same as average([10.0, 20.0, 30.0])
               Same as average([])
                                   double avg0 = average(); // NaN
```

# Variable-Length Argument Lists

Can occur only once in a parameter list, and the ellipsis, together with its type, must be placed at the end of the parameter list.

```
void average(int a, double... numbers){} \sqrt{}
```

```
void average(double... numbers, int a){} X
```

Vararg parameter must be the last in the list

# **Objectives**

- Method declaration and invocation
- Passing arguments
- Method call stack
- Method overloading
- Command-line arguments

# **Passing Command-Line Arguments**

We can pass arguments from the command line to an application by including a parameter of type String[] in the parameter list of main.

public static void main(String[] args)

- By convention, this parameter is named args.
- When an application is executed using the java command, Java passes the command-line arguments that appear after the class name in the java command to the main method as Strings in the array args.

# Ex: Initialize an array by specifying its size, first element, and interval

C:\Users\Yida\Documents\CS109\JavaA\_Lectures\src> javac lecture5/InitArray.java



```
// Fig. 6.15: InitArray.java
    // Initializing an array using command-line arguments.
 3
    public class InitArray
       public static void main( String[] args )
          // check number of command-line arguments
 8
          if ( args.length != 3 )
 9
10
             System.out.println(
                 "Error: Please re-enter the entire command, including\n" +
11
                "an array size, initial value and increment." );
12
13
          else
14
          {
15
             // get array size from first command-line argument
16
             int arrayLength = Integer.parseInt( args[ 0 ] );
             int[] array = new int[ arrayLength ]; // create array
17
18
             // get initial value and increment from command-line arguments
19
             int initialValue = Integer.parseInt( args[ 1 ] );
20
21
             int increment = Integer.parseInt( args[ 2 ] );
22
```

**Fig. 6.15** Initializing an array using command-line arguments. (Part 1 of 3.)

```
// calculate value for each array element
23
24
              for ( int counter = 0; counter < array.length; counter++ )</pre>
                 array[ counter ] = initialValue + increment * counter;
25
26
              System.out.printf( "%s%8s\n", "Index", "Value" );
27
28
29
             // display array index and value
             for ( int counter = 0; counter < array.length; counter++ )</pre>
30
                 System.out.printf( "%5d%8d\n", counter, array[ counter ] );
31
          } // end else
32
       } // end main
33
    } // end class InitArray
java InitArray
Error: Please re-enter the entire command, including
an array size, initial value and increment.
```

**Fig. 6.15** Initializing an array using command-line arguments. (Part 2 of 3.)