

PT821: Object-Oriented Programming

Lecture 3: Classes and Objects in Java

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Lecture 3

Outline

- 1 Review of OOD Concepts
- 2 Understanding Classes
- 3 Attributes (Instance Variables)
- 4 Constructors
- 5 Creating and Using Objects
- 6 Methods
- 7 Access Modifiers
- 8 Practical Example: Complete Class
- 9 Common Mistakes to Avoid
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Quick Recap: From Design to Implementation

What We Learned in OOD:

- Identifying objects from problem statements
- Noun identification technique
- CRC Cards (Class-Responsibility-Collaboration)
- Relationships: Association, Composition, Aggregation, Inheritance

Today's Focus:

- Implementing classes in Java
- Creating and using objects
- Constructors
- Methods and parameters
- Access modifiers

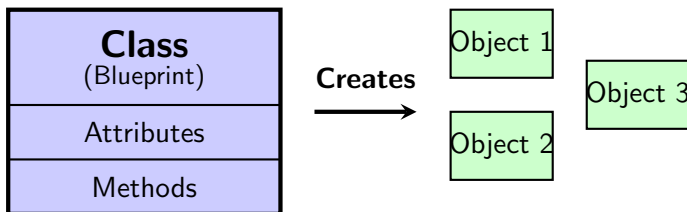
From Design to Code

Today we translate our OOD blueprints into working Java code!

What is a Class?

Definition

A **class** is a blueprint or template that defines the structure and behavior of objects. It specifies what data (attributes) and what operations (methods) objects of that type will have.



Real-World Analogy: Class vs Object

Class = Blueprint



- Defines structure
- Not a real house
- Template for building
- One plan, many houses

Object = Actual Instance



- Real, tangible
- Has actual values
- Occupies memory
- Each is unique

Example

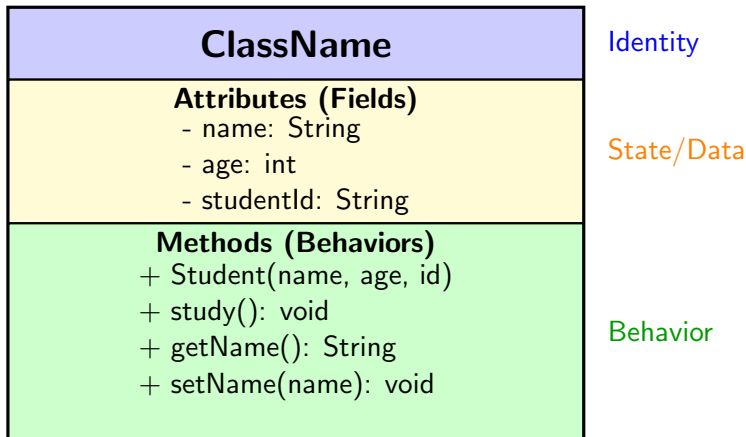
Class: Student (defines name, age, study())

Objects: Ali (name="Ali", age=20), Fatma (name="Fatma", age=21)

Anatomy of a Java Class

```
public class Student {  
    // 1. ATTRIBUTES (Instance Variables/Fields)  
    private String name;  
    private int age;  
    private String studentId;  
  
    // 2. CONSTRUCTOR(S)  
    public Student(String name, int age, String  
        studentId) {  
        this.name = name;  
        this.age = age;  
        this.studentId = studentId;  
    }  
  
    // 3. METHODS (Behaviors)  
    public void study() {  
        System.out.println(name + " is studying.");  
    }  
}
```

Components of a Class



What are Attributes?

Definition

Attributes (also called instance variables or fields) are variables declared inside a class but outside any method. They represent the state or data of an object.

Characteristics:

- Declared at class level
- Each object has its own copy
- Can have different values per object
- Should be private (encapsulation)
- Accessed via getters/setters

Common Data Types:

- int, double, boolean
- String
- char
- Arrays
- Other objects (composition)

Declaring Attributes

```
public class BankAccount {  
    // Attributes with different data types  
    private String accountNumber;    // Text  
    private String ownerName;        // Text  
    private double balance;          // Decimal number  
    private boolean isActive;        // True/False  
    private int transactionCount;     // Whole number  
  
    // Default values if not initialized:  
    // String -> null  
    // int -> 0  
    // double -> 0.0  
    // boolean -> false  
}
```

Best Practice

Always declare attributes as private and provide public getter/setter methods to access them. This is called **encapsulation**.

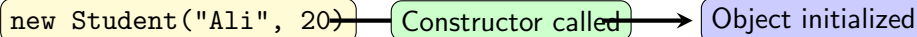
What is a Constructor?

Definition

A **constructor** is a special method that is called automatically when an object is created. It initializes the object's attributes with initial values.

Key Characteristics:

- Same name as the class
- No return type (not even void)
- Called automatically with `new` keyword
- Can be overloaded (multiple constructors)
- If not defined, Java provides a default constructor



Types of Constructors

```
public class Student {  
    private String name;  
    private int age;  
  
    // 1. DEFAULT CONSTRUCTOR (no parameters)  
    public Student() {  
        name = "Unknown";  
        age = 0;  
    }  
  
    // 2. PARAMETERIZED CONSTRUCTOR  
    public Student(String name, int age) {  
        this.name = name; // 'this' refers to current  
                           object  
        this.age = age;  
    }  
  
    // 3. COPY CONSTRUCTOR (creates copy of another  
                           object)
```

The 'this' Keyword

Definition

The `this` keyword refers to the **current object** - the object whose method or constructor is being called.

```
public class Student {  
    private String name;  
  
    public Student(String name) {  
        // 'this.name' = attribute of this object  
        // 'name' = parameter passed to constructor  
        this.name = name;  
    }  
  
    public void setName(String name) {  
        this.name = name;    // Distinguish attribute  
                             from parameter  
    }  
}
```

Constructor Overloading

Multiple constructors with different parameters:

```
public class Book {
    private String title;
    private String author;
    private int pages;

    // Constructor 1: All parameters
    public Book(String title, String author, int pages
        ) {
        this.title = title;
        this.author = author;
        this.pages = pages;
    }

    // Constructor 2: Title and author only
    public Book(String title, String author) {
        this(title, author, 0); // Calls constructor
                                1
    }
}
```

Creating Objects

Syntax: `ClassName objectName = new ClassName(arguments);`

```
public class Main {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        // Creating objects using different  
        // constructors  
        Student student1 = new Student(); // Default  
        // constructor  
        Student student2 = new Student("Ali", 20); //  
        // Parameterized  
        Student student3 = new Student(student2); //  
        // Copy constructor  
  
        // Each object is independent  
        // Changes to student2 don't affect student3  
    }  
}
```

student1

student2

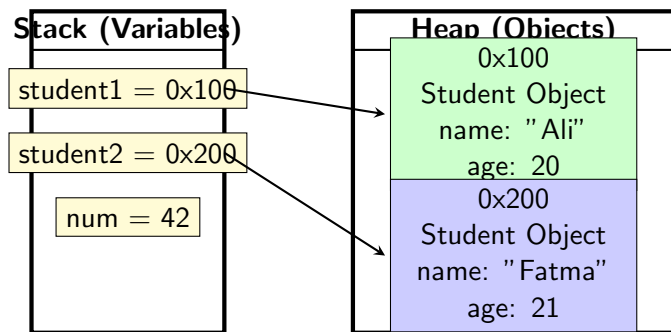
student3

Accessing Object Members

Using the dot (.) operator:

```
public class Main {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Student student = new Student("Fatma", 21);  
  
        // Calling methods on the object  
        student.study();           // Fatma is  
                                   studying.  
  
        String name = student.getName(); // Get name  
        System.out.println(name);       // Fatma  
  
        student.setAge(22);           // Set new age  
  
        // Multiple objects  
        Student s1 = new Student("Ali", 20);  
        Student s2 = new Student("Hassan", 19);  
  
        s1.study(); // Ali is studying.
```

Object Memory Model



- **Stack:** Stores references (addresses) to objects
- **Heap:** Stores actual object data
- Primitive types (int, double, etc.) are stored directly in stack

What are Methods?

Definition

Methods define the behaviors or actions that objects of a class can perform. They are functions defined inside a class.

Method Signature:

`accessModifier returnType methodName(parameters)`

Types of Methods:

- Instance methods
- Static methods
- Getter methods
- Setter methods
- Constructor methods

Return Types:

- `void` - returns nothing
- `int`, `double`, etc. - primitives
- `String` - returns text
- `ClassName` - returns object
- `boolean` - returns `true/false`

Defining Methods

```
public class Calculator {  
    // Method with no parameters, no return  
    public void displayWelcome() {  
        System.out.println("Welcome to Calculator!");  
    }  
  
    // Method with parameters and return value  
    public int add(int a, int b) {  
        return a + b;  
    }  
  
    // Method with multiple parameters  
    public double calculateAverage(double[] numbers) {  
        double sum = 0;  
        for (double num : numbers) {  
            sum += num;  
        }  
        return sum / numbers.length;  
    }  
}
```

Getters and Setters

Purpose: Control access to private attributes (encapsulation)

```
public class Person {  
    private String name;  
    private int age;  
  
    // GETTER - retrieves the value  
    public String getName() {  
        return name;  
    }  
  
    // SETTER - modifies the value (with validation)  
    public void setName(String name) {  
        if (name != null && !name.isEmpty()) {  
            this.name = name;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public int getAge() {  
        return age;  
    }  
}
```

Method Overloading

Definition

Method Overloading: Multiple methods with the same name but different parameters (different number, type, or order of parameters).

```
public class Printer {  
    // Overloaded print methods  
    public void print(String message) {  
        System.out.println("String: " + message);  
    }  
  
    public void print(int number) {  
        System.out.println("Integer: " + number);  
    }  
  
    public void print(String message, int times) {  
        for (int i = 0; i < times; i++) {  
            System.out.println(message);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Access Modifiers Overview

Definition

Access modifiers control the visibility and accessibility of classes, attributes, and methods.

| Modifier | Class | Package | Subclass | World |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| public | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| protected | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| <i>default</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| private | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

Rule of Thumb

- Make attributes private
- Make getters/setters public
- Make helper methods private

Access Modifiers in Practice

```
public class BankAccount {  
    // Private - only this class can access  
    private double balance;  
    private String pin;  
  
    // Public - anyone can access  
    public String accountNumber;  
  
    // Protected - this class and subclasses  
    protected String ownerName;  
  
    // Default (no modifier) - same package only  
    int transactionCount;  
  
    // Private helper method  
    private boolean validatePin(String inputPin) {  
        return this.pin.equals(inputPin);  
    }  
}
```

Complete Example: Student Class (Part 1)

```
public class Student {  
    // Attributes (private for encapsulation)  
    private String studentId;  
    private String name;  
    private String email;  
    private int age;  
    private double gpa;  
  
    // Default Constructor  
    public Student() {  
        this.studentId = "UNKNOWN";  
        this.name = "Unknown Student";  
        this.email = "";  
        this.age = 0;  
        this.gpa = 0.0;  
    }  
  
    // Parameterized Constructor  
    public Student(String studentId, String name, int
```

Complete Example: Student Class (Part 2)

```
// Getters
public String getStudentId() { return studentId; }
public String getName() { return name; }
public int getAge() { return age; }
public double getGpa() { return gpa; }

// Setters with validation
public void setName(String name) {
    if (name != null && name.length() > 0) {
        this.name = name;
    }
}

public void setAge(int age) {
    if (age >= 16 && age <= 100) {
        this.age = age;
    }
}
```


Complete Example: Student Class (Part 3)

```
// Behavior Methods
public void study(String subject) {
    System.out.println(name + " is studying " +
        subject);
}

public void attendClass(String courseName) {
    System.out.println(name + " is attending " +
        courseName);
}

// Method to display student info
public void displayInfo() {
    System.out.println("=== Student Information
        ===");
    System.out.println("ID: " + studentId);
    System.out.println("Name: " + name);
    System.out.println("Age: " + age);
    System.out.println("GPA: " + gpa);
}
```

Using the Student Class

```
public class StudentDemo {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        // Create students  
        Student s1 = new Student("BITA001", "Ali  
            Hassan", 20);  
        Student s2 = new Student("BITA002", "Fatma  
            Said", 21);  
        Student s3 = new Student(); // Default  
            constructor  
  
        // Set additional information  
        s1.setGpa(3.5);  
        s2.setGpa(3.8);  
  
        // Call methods  
        s1.study("Object-Oriented Programming");  
        s2.attendClass("PT821");  
  
        // Display information
```

Common Mistakes

Mistake 1: Public Attributes

```
// BAD
public class Student {
    public String name;
    public int age;
}
// Anyone can set invalid values:
student.age = -50;
```

Correct

```
// GOOD
public class Student {
    private int age;

    public void setAge(int age) {
        if (age > 0) {
            this.age = age;
        }
    }
}
```

Mistake 2: Forgetting 'this'

```
// BAD
public Student(String name) {
    name = name; // Does nothing!
}
```

Correct

```
// GOOD
public Student(String name) {
    this.name = name;
}
```

Mistake 3: No Constructor

```
// Forgetting to initialize
Student s = new Student();
s.getName(); // Returns null!
```

Lab Exercise: Create a Book Class

Task: Create a complete Book class with the following requirements:

Attributes:

- ISBN (String)
- Title (String)
- Author (String)
- Price (double)
- Pages (int)
- Available (boolean)

Requirements:

- 1 Create default and parameterized constructors
- 2 Add getters and setters with validation:
 - Price must be positive
 - Pages must be greater than 0
- 3 Add methods: `borrow()`, `returnBook()`, `displayInfo()`
- 4 Create a BookDemo class to test your Book class

Time: 20 minutes

Work individually or in pairs. Ask questions if stuck!

Lab Exercise: Sample Solution Structure

```
public class Book {
    private String isbn;
    private String title;
    private String author;
    private double price;
    private int pages;
    private boolean available;

    // TODO: Add constructors

    // TODO: Add getters and setters

    public void borrow() {
        if (available) {
            available = false;
            System.out.println(title + " has been
                               borrowed.");
        } else {
            System.out.println("Sorry, " + title + "
```

Key Takeaways

Classes:

- Blueprint for objects
- Contains attributes and methods
- Defines structure and behavior

Objects:

- Instances of classes
- Created using `new`
- Have unique state

Constructors:

- Initialize objects
- Same name as class
- Can be overloaded

Access Modifiers:

- `private`: class only
- `public`: everywhere
- `protected`: inheritance
- Use encapsulation!

Next Lecture

Inheritance and Polymorphism - Creating class hierarchies and achieving code reuse.

Homework Assignment

Create a BankAccount Management System:

Design and implement the following classes:

① **BankAccount** class with:

- Attributes: accountNumber, ownerName, balance, accountType
- Constructors (default and parameterized)
- Methods: deposit(), withdraw(), getBalance(), transfer()

② **Customer** class with:

- Attributes: customerId, name, email, phone
- A BankAccount object (composition)

③ **BankDemo** class to test your implementation

Bonus: Add validation to prevent negative balances and invalid withdrawals.

Due: Before Next Class

Submit your .java files via the course LMS.

Any Questions?

Topics Covered:

- Classes and Objects
- Attributes and Methods
- Constructors and Overloading
- Access Modifiers
- Encapsulation

"In OOP, we don't just write code, we model the world."

Thank You!

Next Class: Inheritance and Polymorphism

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