

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

# Programming and Algorithms

Personal Documentation

Ervin Mazlagic

Horw, autumn 2013

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Preface</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Objects and classes</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Summary exercises . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Understanding class definitions</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Start with Eclipse . . . . .	4
3.2	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	5
3.3	Selfstudy-Questions OOP2 . . . . .	6
3.4	Team Exercise 1-4 . . . . .	10
3.5	Team Exercise 5 . . . . .	13
3.6	Summary exercises . . . . .	14

## 1 Preface

This is a personal documentation and notebook for the first course in programming at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The goal of this document is to collect useful informations and nice snippets of code out of the course.

This document shall not be provided as a official or unofficial cheatsheet for the course exam or similar.

## 2 Objects and classes

### 2.1 Summary exercises

#### Exercise 1.31

*What are the types of the following values?*

0	short, char, byte, int, long
"hello"	String
101	short, char, byte, int, long
-1	int, char, byte, int, long
true	boolean
"33"	String
3.1415	float, double

#### Exercise 1.32

*What would you have to do to add a new filed, for example one called name, to a circle object?*

```
private String name;
```

#### Exercise 1.33

*Write the signature of a method named send that has one parameter of type String, and does not return a value.*

```
public void send(String foo)
```

#### Exercise 1.34

*Write a signature for a method named average that has two parameters, both of type int, and returns an int value.*

```
public int average(int foo, int bar)
```

#### Exercise 1.35

*Look at the book you are reading right now. Is it an object or class? If it is a class, name some objects. If it is an object, name its class.*

The book is definitely an object, because it's a specific thing and in no way generic. The class could have a name like SchoolBook, CodingBook or just Book.

#### Exercise 1.36

*Can an object have several different classes? Discuss.*

No it can't.

## 3 Understanding class definitions

### 3.1 Start with Eclipse

In the first chapter we've worked with the BlueJ IDE but now I want to check Java-Coding with a common and popular Java-IDE like Eclipse To get the BlueJ-Projects work with Eclipse there are some things that have to be done.

1. Create a new project in Eclipse.
2. Import the source (BlueJ example-code).
3. Add a package-name to the source.
4. Create a main (replaces all interaction which were invoked by hand).

Listing 1: TicketMachine

```
1 package foobar;
2
3
4 public class TicketMachine
5 {
6     // The price of a ticket from this machine.
7     private int price;
8     // The amount of money entered by a customer so far.
9     private int balance;
```

Listing 2: Main (TicketMachine)

```
1 package foobar;
2
3 public class Main
4 {
5     public static void main(String[] args)
6     {
7         TicketMachine tml;
8         tml = new TicketMachine(300);
9
10        tml.insertMoney(200);
11
12        System.out.println("Balance: "+tml.getBalance());
13
14        tml.insertMoney(100);
15
16        tml.printTicket();
17    }
18 }
```

### 3.2 Chapter Exercises

#### Exercise 2.21

*Suppose that the class `Pet` has a field called `name` that is of type `String`. Write an assignment statement in the body of the following constructor so that the `name` field will be initialized with the value of the constructor's parameter.*

```
1 public Pet(String petsName)
2 {
3     name = petsName;
4 }
```

#### Exercise 2.22 (challenge)

*The following object creation will result in the constructor of the `Date` class being called. Can you write the constructor's header?*

```
new Date("March", 23, 1861)
```

*Try to give meaningful names to the parameters.*

```
1 public Date(String month, int day, int year)
2 {
3     ...
4 }
```

### 3.3 Selfstudy-Questions OOP2

#### Exercise 4

*A class is build by three essential components. What are they?*

- Instance variables (member variables, attributes)
- constructor
- methods

#### Exercise 5

*What is the order of the three components?*

The order doesn't matter technically but there is a common convention:

1. instance variables
2. constructor
3. methods

#### Exercise 6

*What's their purpose?*

**instance variables** are holding data of an object. All of this data together builds the object's state.

**constructor** is a special method that initializes objects.

**methods** are sequences which are defining the object's behaviour and characteristics.

#### Exercise 8

*What is a variable?*

A variable (or field) is a data storage inside an object that can be used for persistent data storage (limited by the lifetime of the object).

#### Exercise 9

*What are the synonyms to instance variables?*

- member variable
- attribute
- filed
- variable

#### Exercise 10

*What do you think where the term instance variable comes from?*

An instance is a realisation of an class by an object. The expression variable is well defined an known in computer science and if a variable explicitly belongs to an object, so it's clear that this is a variable of an instance or instance variable.

### Exercise 11

*How can you put comments into a Java-Code?*

There are different ways to add comments in a Java source file without having trouble with the compiler.

- Use the single line comment by double slash.

```
1 // this method return the speed
2 private void getSpeed()
```

- Use the multiline comment by slash-dot

```
1 /**
2  * This is a method that will return the
3  * actual speed of the monstetruck that
4  * is driven by the crazy clown IT .
5  */
6 private void getSpeed()
```

### Exercise 12 (important)

*With which access-modification do you declare instance variables usually? Is it **private** or **public**? Do you have a reason for your answer?*

Usually we declare instance variables as private. The reason for this is a common pattern that is used to get or set these data from outside the objects by so called accessor and mutator methods (getSpeed, setSpeed, changeSpeed).

### Exercise 13

*Explain the relation between a constructor and the state of an object.*

The constructor is creating (initializing) an object and has nothing to do with the state of the object once it's set up.

### Exercise 14

*How do we name constructors?*

Constructors are usually named after the class they are used for.

### Exercise 15

*What's the lifetime of instance variables, how long are they reachable/accessable?*

The lifetime of variables is coupled to the lifetime of their objects. As long as the object is alive the variables are also alive.



### Exercise 16

*Why should you (if possible) initialise instance variables explicit?*

If we don't initialize variables explicit the compiler will use default values for the initialization. By explicit initialisation we don't have any disadvantage and it serves well to document what is actually happening.

### Exercise 17

*What's the default value which is given to a `int` variable by its initialisation?*

The default value for an `int` is zero.

### Exercise 19

*What's the use of parameters?*

Parameters provide additional information to a method or object. This is useful in many ways.

### Exercise 20

*What's the difference between a formal and a actual parameter?*

A formal parameter is a parameter that is defined as parameter but has no actual value corresponding. A actual parameter is a parameter with a specific value.

### Exercise 21

*Is the following statement correct; "formal parameters are special variables"?*

Parameters are temporary and restricted variables because their space is allocated by a call to the method or object and as soon as a value is transmitted to it. Once that call has completed its task, the formal parameter disappears and the values in it are lost.

### Exercise 22

*What's about the accessibility of formal parameters?*

The accessibility of parameters are limited to the lifetime of the task which is creating them (method). Also parameter are only reachable from inside the box that they are used in (like a local variable).

### Exercise 23

*In which way this differs from instance variables?*

Instance variables have a lifetime that is identical with the lifetime of their objects. Also parameters are only reachable from inside the block, instance variables are reachable from everywhere inside the class.

### Exercise 24

*How do the lifecycles of formal parameters and instance variables differ?*

Instance variables are persistent (limited by lifetime of the object) and the lifetime of formal parameters is not really defined in runtime.

### Exercise 26

*How would you translate the expressions "assignment" and "expression" in german?*

- assignment = Zuweisung
- expression = Ausdruck

### Exercise 27

*How does an assignment-instruction work exactly? What's about to be aware of in relation to data types?*

An assignment can be done with the operator "=". For example:

```
1 // create a instance variable for speed
2 private int speed;
3
4 // set the speed
5 public void setSpeed(int newSpeed)
6 {
7     speed = newSpeed;
8 }
```

By assigning data you have to be aware of data types. For example you can't assign a **int** to a **float** and so on. There are some strategies to "cast" or "parse" data between different data types but that's not our topic now.

### 3.4 Team Exercise 1-4

Create a Balloon-Class and create some objects and interact with them.

../workspace/balloon/src/flight/Balloon.java

```
1 package flight;
2
3 /**
4  * Balloon models a simple abstraction of a physical balloon.
5  */
6
7 public class Balloon
8 {
9     // size of the balloon. The balloon is abstracted a perfect
10    // bowl defined by its diameter.
11    private float diameter;
12
13    // horizontal position of the balloon
14    private int posHorizontal;
15
16    // altitude (vertical position) of the balloon
17    private int posVertical;
18
19    // color of the balloon
20    private String color;
21
22    // number of the ballon
23    private int number;
24
25    // simple constructor
26    public Balloon()
27    {
28        diameter = 300f;
29        posHorizontal = 300;
30        posVertical = 300;
31        color = "red";
32    }
33
34    // more detailed constructor
35    public Balloon(String newColor)
36    {
37        color = newColor;
38    }
39
40    public void setPosition(int newHorizontal, int newVertical)
41    {
42        posHorizontal = newHorizontal;
43        posVertical = newVertical;
44    }
45
46    public void setDiameter(float newDiameter)
47    {
48        diameter = newDiameter;
49    }
50
```

```

51     public void setColor(String newColor)
52     {
53         color = newColor;
54     }
55
56     public void setNumber(int newNumber)
57     {
58         number = newNumber;
59     }
60
61     public int getHorizontal()
62     {
63         return posHorizontal;
64     }
65
66     public int getVertical()
67     {
68         return posVertical;
69     }
70
71     public float getDiameter()
72     {
73         return diameter;
74     }
75
76     public String getColor()
77     {
78         return color;
79     }
80
81     public int getNumber()
82     {
83         return number;
84     }
85 }

```

../workspace/balloon/src/flight/Main.java

```

1 package flight;
2
3 public class Main
4 {
5     public static void main(String[] args)
6     {
7         // create a new balloon (with the simple constructor)
8         Balloon b1 = new Balloon();
9         // get the current horizontal position
10        System.out.println("Horizontal: " + b1.getHorizontal());
11        // set a new horizontal position
12        b1.setPosition(400, 400);
13        // get the current horizontal position
14        System.out.println("Horizontal: " + b1.getHorizontal());
15
16        // create a new balloon with the detailed constructor
17        Balloon b2 = new Balloon("yellow");

```

```
18      // get the color of the new ballon
19      System.out.println("Color: " + b2.getColor());
20  }
21 }
```

### 3.5 Team Exercise 5

You want to write records, so you have to write a class `Book` for this. This class shall have the following four attributes:

- Title (String)
- Author (String)
- Price (float)
- Year on buy (int)

The class shall also have two constructors.

- Title and author are parameters. The books is not bought yet and this is why the price is 0.0 and the "year of buy" is -1.
- All attributes are initialized by parameters.

The class shall have the following methods.

- Two methods to get the title and author.
- A method to get and to set the year of buy.
- A method to get and to set the price.

../workspace/Book/src/library/Book.java

```
1 package library;
2
3 public class Book
4 {
5     // title of the book
6     private String title;
7
8     // author of the book
9     private String author;
10
11    // price of the book
12    private float price;
13
14    // year of buy
15    private int year;
16
17    /**
18     * Create a new book with all attributes.
19     */
20    public Book(String newTitle, String newAuthor, float newPrice, int
        newYear)
21    {
22        title = newTitle;
23        author = newAuthor;
24        price = newPrice;
25        year = newYear;
26    }
27
28 }
```

../workspace/Book/src/library/Main.java

```
1 package library;
```

### 3.6 Summary exercises

## Glossary

### A

#### accessor

A accessor or accessor method is a method that provides access to information about an object's state (get-methods). 15

### C

#### class

A class describes the kind of an object. This is done by giving instance variables and methods. The objects represents individual instantiations of the class. 15

#### constructor

A constructor is a special method in a class which is responsible to initialize objects properly. In difference to usual methods it has no return value and is only used once. 15

### F

#### field

Fields store data for an object to use. Fields are also known as instance variables.. 15

### I

#### instance

An instance is a realisation of a class to a real object, so instance is a synonym to object. 15

### M

#### method

A method is a action (function) of a specific class that can be invoked on an object of the

given class. Objects usually do something when a method is invoked, so a good keyword to it would be *what*, as most methods are named by a verb. The methods give the objects their own particular and characteristic behavior. 15

### O

#### object

An object is a instance of a class. 15

### P

#### parameter

Addition information (data) given to a method or object is called parameter. 15

### S

#### signature

The signature of a method is the part that identifies it to the compiler. For example the signature of `public setSpeed(int newSpeed, int newTolerance)` is not the whole head of the method but the name `setSpeed` and the list of parameter-types `int ... , int ....` 15

#### state

A object or its status is represented by his state. The state is represented by the values in the fields (instance variables). 15

### T

#### type

The type defines the kind of data or value (for example to a parameter, return value (see data types) or a variable. 15