

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

Programming and Algorithms

Personal Documentation

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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
2 package foobar;
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).

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 their used for.

Exercise 15

How long are the variables of an object alive (reachable)?

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).

Exercise 23

In which way this differs from instance variables?

Instance variables have a lifetime that is identical with the lifetime of their objects.

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 limited by a call (method).

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 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). 10

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. 10

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. 10

F

field

Fields store data for an object to use. Fields are also known as instance variables.. 10

I

instance

An instance is a realisation of a class to a real object, so instance is a synonym to object. 10

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. 10

O

object

An object is a instance of a class. 10

P

parameter

Addition information (data) given to a method or object is called parameter. 10

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` 10

state

A object or its status is represented by his state. The state is represented by the values in the fields (instance variables). 10

T

type

The type defines the kind of data or value (for example to a parameter, return value (see data types) or a variable. 10