Deep and Shallow Copies and Arrays of Objects

This lecture will

- Introduce **deep** and **shallow copies**
- Teach you about using the **current date**
- Look at **object composition**
- Demonstrate how **arrays can be objects** as well as contain pointers to objects
- Introduce **automatic documentation** of java classes

The ADate class

```
public class ADate {
     private int day;
     private Month month;
     private int year;

     public ADate(int day, Month m, int year) {…}
     public ADate(int day, int month, int year) {…}
     public ADate(int day, String month, int year) {…}

     public int getDay() {    return day;  }
     public Month getMonth() { return month; }
     public int getYear() { return year;  }

     public String toString() {
        if  (  month == null ) return day+"/???/"+year;
        else  return day+"/"+month.toNumber()+"/"+year;
     }
}
```

Don't use '/'

The Month class

```
public enum Month {
     JANUARY,         FEBRUARY,      MARCH,         APRIL,
     MAY,             JUNE,          JULY,          AUGUST,
     SEPTEMBER,       OCTOBER,       NOVEMBER,      DECEMBER;

     public int toNumber() {  return ordinal()+1;    }

     public String toString() {…}

     public static Month valueOf(int m) {
        switch(m) {
           case 1 : return JANUARY;
           case 2 : return FEBRUARY;
        …
        }
        return null;
     }

}
```

Another method available for any **enum**. Counts the constants from zero

Copying Objects

```
public class TestADate {

   public static void main (String[] args) {
     ADate date1 =
              new ADate(30, Month.NOVEMBER, 2015);
     ADate date2 = date1;
     System.out.println("date1: " + date1);
     System.out.println("date2: " + date2);
     System.out.println("Statement: "+
                                  "date2.setDay(3);");
     date2.setDay(3);
     System.out.println("date1: " + date1);
     System.out.println("date2: " + date2);
  }
}
```

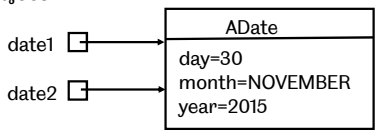
```
date1: 30/11/2015
date2: 30/11/2015
Statement: date2.setDay(3);
date1: 3/11/2015
date2: 3/11/2015
```

Shallow copies

- The statement

```
ADate date2 = date1;
```

only copies a **reference**, giving multiple references to the same object.



- Hence, when **`date2`** is changed, so is **`date1`**. We say that **`date2`** is a **shallow copy** of **`date1`**.

Deep copies

- To make a **deep copy**, a new object is created with the same contents as the original.
- We add a method called **`copy`** to the **`ADate`** class:

```
public class ADate {
   private int day;
   private Month month;
   private int year;

   public ADate(int d, Month m, int y) {
      day = d;   month = m;     year = y;
   }
……
   public ADate copy() {
      return new ADate(day, month, year);
   }
}
```

Copying Objects

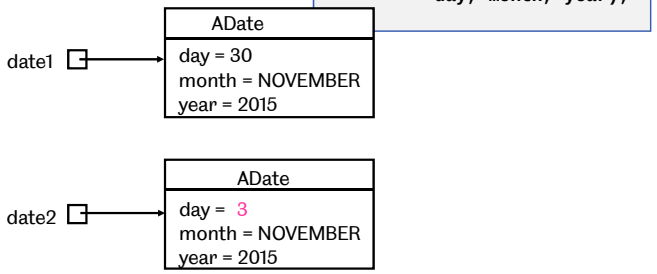
```
public class TestADate2 {
  public static void main (String[] args) {
     ADate date1 =
             new ADate(30, Month.NOVEMBER, 2015);
     ADate date2 = date1.copy();
     System.out.println("date1: " + date1);
     System.out.println("date2: " + date2);
     System.out.println("Statement: "+
                    "date2.setDay(3);");
     date2.setDay(3);
     System.out.println("date1: " + date1);
     System.out.println("date2: " + date2);
  }
}
```

```
date1: 30/11/2015
date2: 30/11/2015
Statement: date2.setDay(3);
date1: 30/11/2015
date2: 3/11/2015
```

Memory during `TestADate3`

```
ADate date1 = new ADate(30, Month.NOVEMBER, 2015);
ADate date2 = date1.copy();
……
date2.setDay(3);
```

```
public ADate copy() {
     return new ADate(
           day, month, year);
```

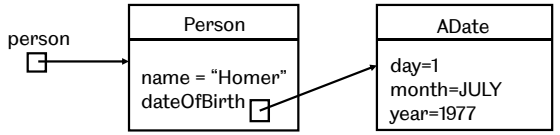


Objects as instance variables

- Classes can use and call other classes. We have already seen this in the **`TestADate`**s which uses **`ADate`** in its main method
- The instance variables of one class can be references to objects of another class
- We have seen this with **`ADate`** which uses **`Month`** and **`Meal`** which uses **`Diet`**
- We have also seen it in programming robots
- This is known as **composition**; we use objects as instance variables of other objects.

Composition in the real world

- Composition arises naturally in the modelling of real-world entities.
- Here, we use the following example: a **`Person`** class that uses the **`ADate`** class to store the date of birth.



The `Person` class

```
public class Person {
   private static final String NO_NAME = "NONAME";

   private String name;
   private ADate dateOfBirth;

   public Person(String n, ADate d) {
      name = n;
      dateOfBirth = d;
   }
   public Person() { this ( NO_NAME, null );   }

   public void setName(String n) { name = n; }
   public String getName() { return name; }
   public void setDateOfBirth(ADate d) { …… }
   public ADate getDateOfBirth() {return dateOfBirth;}

   public String toString () {
      return name + "(" + dateOfBirth + ")";
   }
}
```

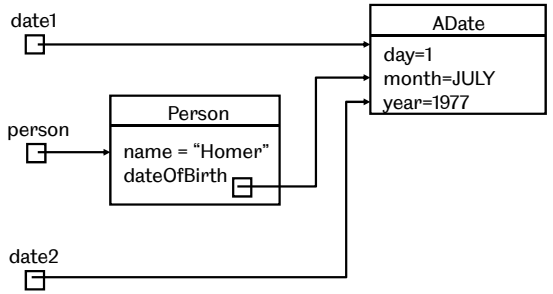
Testing Objects within objects

```
public static void main (String[] args) {
   ADate date1 = new ADate(1, Month.JULY, 1964);
   Person person = new Person("Homer", date1);
   System.out.println("person: " + person);
   ADate date2 = person.getDateOfBirth();
   System.out.println("date2: " + date2);
}
```

```
person: Homer (1/7/1977)
date2: 1/7/1977
```

Memory during the main method

```
ADate date1 = new ADate(1, Month.July, 1964);
Person person = new Person("Homer", date1);
ADate date2 = person.getDateOfBirth();
```



Deep copies in the Person class

- The **Person** constructor makes a **shallow** copy of the **ADate** instance that is passed to it:

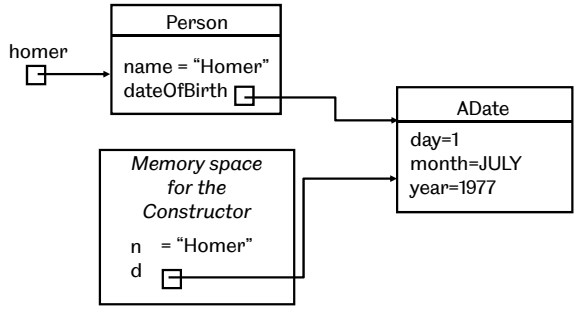
```
public Person(String n, ADate d) {
    name = n;
    dateOfBirth = d;
}
```

This approach is prone to error.

- We were left with three references to the same object; changes to **date1** and **date2** will affect Homer's **dateOfBirth.**
- We can reduce this problem by using an **anonymous reference**

Anonymous References

```
Person homer = new Person("Homer",
                  new ADate(1,Month.JULY,1977));
```



Program defensively with deep copies

- Better still, we could use **deep** copies in the relevant methods:

```
public ADate getDateOfBirth() {
   return dateOfBirth.copy();
}
public Person(String n, ADate d) {
   name = n;
   dateOfBirth = d.copy();
}
public void setDateOfBirth(ADate d) {
   dateOfBirth = d.copy();
}
```

Be careful in accessors; it can cause new problems

Always a good idea

Always a good idea

- **Program defensively**; in general, deep copies are preferred over shallow copies.

Information hiding

- We could hide the **ADate** class within the **Person** class by providing methods in **Person** that take parameters for both classes.

Person class with concealed ADate

```
private String name;
private int age;
private ADate dateOfBirth;

public Person(String n, int d, Month m, int y) {
    name = n; dateOfBirth = new ADate(d,m,y);
}
public void setDateOfBirth(int d, Month m, int y) {
    dateOfBirth = new ADate(d,m,y);
}
public int getDayDateOfBirth() {
    return dateOfBirth.getDay();
}
public Month getMonthDateOfBirth() {
    return dateOfBirth.getMonth();
}
public int getYearDateOfBirth() {
    return dateOfBirth.getYear();
}
```

Better information hiding

- We could also hide the **ADate** class within the **Person** class by providing methods in **Person** that take parameters for both classes.

  Advantage:

- The class user is unaware that object composition is used because the **ADate** class does not appear in the signature of any methods of the **Person** class.

  Disadvantage:

- Overhead on method calls when using the class.

Ages

- It might be useful if the **Person** class had a **getAge()** method but for that we need today's date
- Java has a class called **Calendar** which has some similarities to our date and has a static method **getInstance()** that can be used to create an object which represents the current date when the program is run
- The **Calendar** class is only accessible if you start your program with
  import java.util.*;
  If you also use
  import sheffield.*;
  the order of **import** statements is irrelevant

Turning a date into an age

```
import java.util.*;

public int getAge() {
   Calendar today = Calendar.getInstance();
```

The date and time at which the program is run

Turning a date into an age

```
import java.util.*;

public int getAge() {
   Calendar today = Calendar.getInstance();
   int age =
       today.get(Calendar.YEAR)-dateOfBirth.getYear();
```

The year (as an integer) of the variable **today**

Turning a date into an age

```
import java.util.*;

public int getAge() {
   Calendar today = Calendar.getInstance();
   int age = today.get(Calendar.YEAR)-
                   dateOfBirth.getYear();
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.MONTH) >
            dateOfBirth.getMonth().toNumber()-1  )
       return age;
```

The month (as an integer between 0 and 11) of the variable **today**

Turning a date into an age

```
import java.util.*;

public int getAge() {
   Calendar today = Calendar.getInstance();
   int age = today.get(Calendar.YEAR)-
                   dateOfBirth.getYear();
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.MONTH) >
            dateOfBirth.getMonth().toNumber()-1  )
       return age;
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.MONTH) <
            dateOfBirth.getMonth().toNumber()-1  )
       return age-1;
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.DAY_OF_MONTH) <
                          dateOfBirth.getDay()  )
       return age-1;
   else
       return age;
}
```

The day(as an integer between 1 and 31) of the variable **today**

Turning a date into an age

```
import java.util.*;
```

```
public int getAge() {
   Calendar today = Calendar.getInstance();
   int age = today.get(Calendar.YEAR)-
                    dateOfBirth.getYear();
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.MONTH) >
             dateOfBirth.getMonth().toNumber()-1  )
       return age;
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.MONTH) <
            dateOfBirth.getMonth().toNumber()-1  )
       return age-1;
   if  (  today.get(Calendar.DAY_OF_MONTH) <
                          dateOfBirth.getDay()  )
       return age-1;
   else
       return age;
}
```

Using the Age

```
Homer (38) whose birthday is 1st July
```

```
public String toString () {
   if  (  dateOfBirth == null  )
      return name + " whose date of birth is unknown";
   else
      return name + " ("+getAge()+
            ") whose birthday is "+dateOfBirth.asDay();
}
```

```
public String asDay() {
   switch(day) {
      case 1:    case 21:   case 31:
         return day+"st "+month;
      case 2:    case 22:
         return day+"nd "+month;
      case 3:    case 23:
         return day+"rd "+month;
      default:
         return day+"th "+month;
   }
}
```

Arrays as Objects

- You create objects with the key word `new`

```
Person homer = new Person();
```

- You create arrays with the key word `new`

```
int [] myArray = new int[5];
```

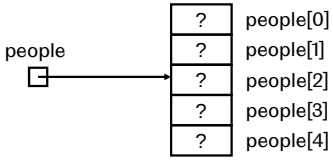
- Because arrays are a special kind of object
- Objects can contain arrays and arrays can contain objects

Arrays of objects

- We can declare an array of 5 people as follows:

```
Person[] people = new Person[5];
```

- This states that a variable of type **`Person[]`** (an array of **`Person`**) refers to a block of 5 elements of type **`Person`**.
- Initially **`people`** contains an array of `null` references.



Initialising arrays of objects

- The declaration of **people**

```
Person[] people = new Person[5];
```

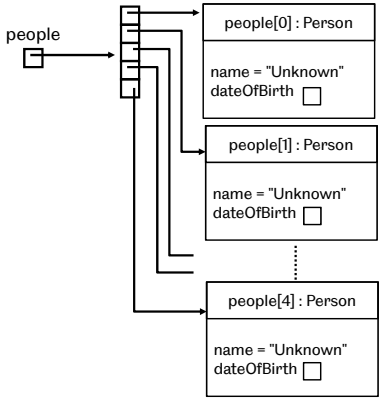
invokes the constructor for the array, but doesn't create any **Person** instances (since no constructor for **Person** has been called)

Initialising arrays of objects

- Before the array of objects can be used, each element must be initialised:

```
for (int i=0; i<people.length; i++)
   people[i] = new Person();
```

An initialised array of objects



Manipulating an array of objects

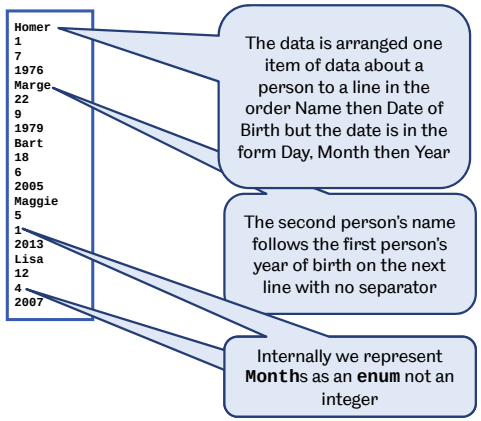
- We can manipulate individual attributes of array elements (**Person** objects) by using an array subscript and the methods of the **Person** class:

```
people[0].setName("Homer");
people[0].setDateOfBirth(
            new ADate(1, Month.JULY, 1977));
System.out.println(people[0]);
```

Reading an array of objects from a file

- We can create a simple database in the form of a text file, then read these values into an array of objects for processing (e.g., searching and sorting).
- First, we declare an array that is large enough to store a typical file of data.
- A variable is used to record the number of items **actually** read from the file.
- We recognise the end of the file using the **`eof`** method of **`EasyReader`**

Contents of the file `simpsons.txt`



Reading an array of objects from file

```
import sheffield.*;
public class TestReadPersons {
   public static final int MAX_PERSONS = 20;
   public static void main (String[] args) {
      EasyReader file =
            new EasyReader("simpsons.txt");
      Person [] personTable = new Person[MAX_PERSONS];
      // read each person from the file ....
      // display the contents of the array .....
   }
}
```

Reading in a Person

```
// read each person from the file
int numPersons = 0;
while (!file.eof()&&(numPersons<MAX_PERSONS)) {
   String name = file.readString();
   int day = file.readInt();
   int monthNo = file.readInt
   Month month = Month.valueOf(monthNo);
   int year = file.readInt();
   personTable[numPersons]= new Person(name, day,
           month, year);
   numPersons++;
}
```

```
Homer
1
7
1976
Marge
22
9
1979
Bart
18
6
2005
Maggie
5
1
2013
Lisa
12
4
2007
```

Reading in a person – alternative version

```
// read each person from the file
int numPersons = 0;
while (!file.eof()&&(numPersons<MAX_PERSONS)) {
   personTable[numPersons]= new Person(
       file.readString(),                //Name
       file.readInt(),                   //Day of mont
       Month.valueOf(file.readInt()),    //Month numbe
       file.readInt()                    //Year
   );
   numPersons++;
}
```

```
Homer
1
7
1976
Marge
22
9
1979
Bart
18
6
2005
Maggie
5
1
2013
Lisa
12
4
2007
```

Reading an array of objects from file – the end

```
// display the contents of the array
for (int i=0; i<numPersons; i++)
    System.out.println(personTable[i]);
```

Note we can't use an enhanced **for** loop here because we are not going through every element of the array

Array Copy

- Creating an array larger than we think we need and partially filling it is a common situation
- Once we have added all the elements we need we can tidy things up by creating a new array of exactly the right size and transferring the data using **arraycopy**

```
//After reading in the data
Person [] people = new Person[numPersons];
System.arraycopy(personTable,0,people,0,numPersons);
```

Array to copy from

Index of first value to copy

Array to copy to

Index of first position to copy to

Number of elements to copy

Array Copy

```
//After reading in the data
Person [] people = new Person[numPersons];
System.arraycopy(personTable,0,people,0,numPersons);
// display the contents of the array
for (Person p : people) System.out.println(p);
```

- Best not done in the **main** method. **Why not?**

Arrays as objects – returned by a method

```
public class TestReadPersons {
   public static final int MAX_PERSONS = 20;
   public static Person[] peopleFromFile(String fName){
      EasyReader file = new EasyReader(fName);
      Person [] personTable = new Person[MAX_PERSONS];
      int numPersons = 0;
      // read each person from the file ....
      Person [] result = new Person[numPersons];
      System.arraycopy(personTable,0,result,0,
                                        numPersons);
      return result;
   }
   public static void main (String[] args) {
      Person [] people = peopleFromFile("simpsons.txt");
      // display the contents of the array ....
    }
}
```

Must be static

Arrays as objects – returned by a method

```
public static Person[] peopleFromFile (String fName)
   EasyReader file = new EasyReader(fName);
   Person [] personTable = new Person[MAX_PERSONS];

   // read each person from the file ....
   int numPersons = 0;
   ……

   Person [] result = new Person[numPersons];
   System.arraycopy(personTable,0,result,0,numPersons);
   return result;
}
public static void main (String[] args) {
     Person [] people = peopleFromFile("simpsons.txt");
     // display the contents of the array ....
}
```

Nothing points to this when the method finishes

Something points to this

Linear search in an array of objects

- To search the array for a person with a particular name, we provide methods for the **Person** class to do the matching of the **name** attribute and supplied name:

```
public boolean matchName(String n) {
   return name.equals(n);
}

public boolean matchNameIgnoreCase(String n) {
   return name.equalsIgnoreCase(n);
}
```

- We can write methods that match the elements of the **Person** table or other attributes in a similar way.

Linear searching

- Find all **Person** objects in the array with the same name as a given name:

```
String search =
     keyboard.readString("Enter name: ");

for (Person p : people)
  if (  p.matchNameIgnoreCase(search)  )
     System.out.println(p);
```

Arrays as arguments

- Recall that **arrays are objects**; so when we pass an array as a parameter to a method, we pass by reference.

```
public static void displayTable(Person[] table){
   for (Person p : table)
      System.out.println(p);
}
```

Passing arrays by reference

```
import sheffield.*;
public class ReadPerson2{
   public static final int MAX_PERSONS = 20;

   public static Person[]peopleFromFile(String fName){..}

   public static void displayTable(Person[] table){
      for (Person p : table) System.out.println(p);
   }
   public static void main (String[] args) {
      Person[] peopleTable = peopleFromFile("simpsons.txt");
      displayTable(peopleTable);
   }

}
```

Note how the use of methods improves readability

Documenting with `javadoc`

- Classes keep their workings private but they are meant to be usable without knowing how they work.
- Having written a class, we need to document it properly.
- Java provides a tool called **`javadoc`**, which creates HTML documentation from comments.
- Documentation comments begin with **`/**`** and end with **`*/`**. Within these symbols, formatting tags can be placed.
- The most useful tags are:

```
@author
@param
@return
```

Documenting with `javadoc`

The tag

- `@author` is followed by the author's name obviously. It can be used either for a class or a method
- `@param` is used to document a public method and is followed by a parameter's name, then its type and finally what it is there for. There should be one of these for each parameter arranged in the same order as the formal parameters are declared
- `@return` is again used to document public methods. It is only used for methods with a return type which is not void and the tag is followed by the type of whatever is returned and then an explanation of what it represents

Documenting Person

```
/**
* Mutator, changes the person's name
* @param   n      String     The new name
*/
public void setName(String n) { name = n; }
```

```
/**
* Accessor, returns the person's name
* @return    String      The name
*/
public String getName() { return name; }
```

Generating the documentation

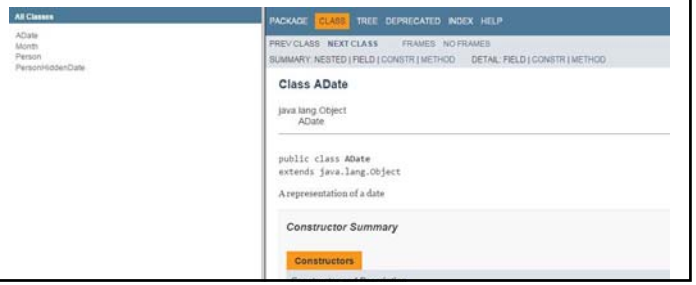
- To generate the documentation, use the **javadoc** tool:

```
H:\MyJava>javadoc Person.java
```

Generating the documentation

- You can also generate documentation for every Java class in a directory

```
H:\MyJava>javadoc java9\*.java
```



Documenting a package

- You can generate **javadoc** documentation by invoking the following from the **parent** directory:

```
H:\myjava>javadoc packagename
```

Summary of key points

- Objects may contain references to other objects.
- Shallow copies are very different to deep copies.
- Objects can be hidden within other objects
- Java knows the current date and the **`Calendar`** class can be used to access it
- Arrays are objects and we can have arrays of objects.
- We can copy arrays
- Java classes can and should be documented with **`Javadoc`**