

Programming Design and Implementation

Lecture 6: Model Classes

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Discipline of Computing

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Outline

Objects

Modularity

Class Design

Accessors

Mutators

Other Methods

Exceptions

“Zero” Marks

- ▶ A student who does any of the following in a submitted, assessable answer will receive heavy penalties, up to and including **zero** marks for that question:
 - ▶ Uses **continue**
 - ▶ Uses **break** in any other place than a **switch** statement
 - ▶ Uses **goto**
 - ▶ Has more than one **return** statement in a method
 - ▶ Has a **return** statement in a method anywhere but the last statement of the method
 - ▶ Uses **System.exit()** anywhere but the last statement of the **main()** method
 - ▶ Uses global variables for anything other than class fields
 - ▶ Uses a ternary operator
- ▶ Note: similar efforts in pseudo code will also receive zero marks

Introduction to Objects

- ▶ What is the purpose of an Object?
- ▶ What are the properties of Classes and Objects?
- ▶ What is a Class?
- ▶ What is an Object?

What is the Purpose of an Object?

- ▶ The goals are achieved via:
 - ▶ Encapsulation
 - ▶ Data Hiding
 - ▶ Generic Code
 - ▶ Method Overloading
 - ▶ Polymorphism (Covered in DSA COMP1002)
 - ▶ Association (Covered in DSA COMP1002)
 - ▶ Inheritance (Covered in DSA COMP1002)

Clumsy Code Example

- ▶ Program for printing some Engine information

```
int engine1NumCylinders = 8;
double engine1HorsePower = 450.0;
String engine1FuelType = "98RON";

...

System.out.println("Engine has " + engine1NumCylinders + "cyls");
System.out.println("Engine has " + engine1HorsePower + "HP");
System.out.println("Engine uses " + engine1FuelType + "fuel");
```

- ▶ Imagine if we had lots more values **steel** or **alloyHead**, **overheadCam**, **fuelInjected** or **carb**, etc.
- ▶ Even worse still, multiple Engines

Objects Solution to Clumsy Code

```
Engine eng1 = new Engine(8, 450.0, "98RON");  
  
System.out.println(eng1);
```

- ▶ We have bundled all of the engine information into a container (our own composite data type)
 - ▶ i.e., Encapsulation
- ▶ That container can now be passed to other submodules easily, and the information used as required

Class

- ▶ A class specifies the state and behaviour that an Object can have
 - ▶ **State** - What the Object is
 - ▶ Classfields
 - ▶ Member fields
 - ▶ Class members
 - ▶ Class attributes
 - ▶ **Behaviour** - What the Object does
 - ▶ Methods
 - ▶ Submodules
 - ▶ Functions

Encapsulation

- ▶ A (an object of a) class makes use of the information hiding principle
 - ▶ Communication with the rest of the software system is clearly defined
 - ▶ Its obligations to the software system are clearly defined
 - ▶ All details of implementation should be inaccessible to the parts of the software system outside the class

Classes and Objects

- ▶ A class specifies:
 - ▶ The communication with the rest of the software system
 - ▶ The exact data representation required
 - ▶ Exactly how the required functionality is to be achieved
- ▶ An object is an instance of a class
- ▶ In other words the class definition provides the template for the object and the object provides the details for a particular instance
 - ▶ This type of a class is called a **model** class
 - ▶ i.e., A model of a "real world thing"
- ▶ A class can also be used as a collection of related constants and methods which are available to users of the class
 - ▶ This is called a **static** class
 - ▶ This type of class will never have an object instance
 - ▶ An example of this type of class is the Java Math class

What Makes Up A Class?

- ▶ Each class which will be used to create objects will contain:
- ▶ A set of publicly accessible sub modules
- ▶ A set of private (or hidden) sub modules
- ▶ A set of variables, known as class fields, which:
 - ▶ Are hidden from the outside world
 - ▶ Are globally accessible anywhere in the class
 - ▶ Will contain the information required for objects of the class to perform the desired role
- ▶ The public sub modules will, for the most part, be concerned with initialising, accessing or modifying the class fields
- ▶ Every class is designed with a specific role in mind
 - ▶ In other words the total set of functional requirements for a software system is broken down into a set of tasks, collections of tasks are grouped together and mapped to roles and roles are mapped to specific classes

Class Responsibility

- ▶ Each class has a designated role (responsibility) which it must fulfil when the rest of the software system demands it
- ▶ The class will be composed of:
 - ▶ The data required to perform the role:
 - ▶ These are known as the **classfields**
 - ▶ The methods required to perform the role
 - ▶ The methods that the rest of the software system will invoke are declared as **public**:
 - ▶ They can be seen and invoked from outside the class
 - ▶ The methods that the public methods call when executing their algorithms will be declared as **private**:
 - ▶ They should not be accessible from outside the class

Class Responsibility (2)

- ▶ Take the requirements for a software application and:
 - ▶ Identify the class required
 - ▶ Assign specific Responsibilities to each class
 - ▶ Determine relationships between classes (see DSA COMP1002)
 - ▶ Repeat the above steps until the design is correct
 - ▶ Each responsibility should be handled by that class and no other
 - ▶ Example: If a responsibility for keeping track of a person's name is assigned to a class called **Person** then:
 - ▶ No other class should have this information (except as an object of **Person**)
 - ▶ Other classes which need this information should refer to this class when the information is required

Classes vs. Objects

- ▶ A class describes what is to be placed in an object
- ▶ An object is a thing which is created from the class specifications and placed in memory
- ▶ A class has no state information, an object does (in the form of the values stored in the class fields)
 - ▶ e.g. A class for **Date** will specify class fields for **day**, **month** and **year** but each date object will have their own specific values for **day**, **month** and **year**
- ▶ An analogy would be:
 - ▶ A set of construction plans for a House are the equivalent of a class
 - ▶ From these plans as many houses as required can be constructed
 - ▶ Each house will conform to the plans in exactly the same way
 - ▶ Each house will be built in a different location
 - ▶ Each house is equivalent to an object

Comparing Classes to Non-Object Algorithms

- ▶ In the past, we designed an algorithm by starting with a main module and using step wise refinement to determine the processing steps and the data types/structures made to fit these steps
- ▶ Some of these steps get refined into sub modules and the process repeats until the design is refined and tested well enough to code
- ▶ Under Object Orientation this all changes, before the algorithm is designed:
 - ▶ The classes are identified
 - ▶ Each class is assigned role(s) or responsibilities
 - ▶ The required sub modules are designed (i.e., Constructors, accessors, etc)
 - ▶ Each Class is thoroughly tested via a test harness
- ▶ Finally, the main algorithm (and any required submodules) making use of the previously designed classes in the process

Nouns and Verbs

- ▶ Like algorithm design, the determination of what classes should be used is still, by and large, an art form
- ▶ One shallow technique is the nouns and verb approach:
 - ▶ Nouns are mapped to classes
 - ▶ Verbs are mapped to sub modules within classes
 - ▶ Result is that:
 - ▶ sub module names should always describe an action (i.e., **getName()**)
 - ▶ Class names should always describe a thing (e.g., **Person**)
- ▶ It is important to note that the set of classes proposed will change over the time the software is being designed
- ▶ This is exactly the same principle as the steps in algorithms changing as the algorithm is being refined

Object Communication

- ▶ Sometimes referred to as message passing:
- ▶ When an object of one class calls an object of another class it is passing a message (i.e., A request to the object to perform some task)
- ▶ The public methods must provide the functionality required for the class to fulfill its role
- ▶ There are five categories of methods in a class:
 - ▶ The Constructors
 - ▶ The Accessor Methods (aka Interrogative Methods)
 - ▶ The Mutator Methods (aka Informative Methods)
 - ▶ Doing Methods (aka Imperative Methods)
 - ▶ Private methods

Java and Class Files

- ▶ The Java compiler creates a **.class** file for each class defined in the Java code (now the **.class** extension makes sense)
- ▶ Hence, each class should be entered into its own **.java** file whose name is the same as the class
- ▶ Many classes that you design and implement in Java could be useful across a number of different applications
- ▶ These general purpose classes should be grouped together in a library which is accessible to all of your applications
- ▶ In Java we call such a library a **package**
 - ▶ You have been using `import java.util.*;` for weeks

Classes in Java

- ▶ Each class in its own **.java** file
- ▶ Put the main method in a class by itself, the name for that class will be the name of the application
- ▶ All variables are **private**
- ▶ Methods are categorised as public or private and declared as such
- ▶ Order your Java code consistently. For PDI we will declare the components of each class in the following order:
 - ▶ Declarations for class constants.
 - ▶ Declarations for classfields
 - ▶ variables which are global to the class
 - ▶ Declarations for the Constructors
 - ▶ Accessor methods
 - ▶ Mutator methods
 - ▶ Doing methods (**public**)
 - ▶ Internal methods (**private**)

Classfields

- ▶ A class field is a variable which is accessible to all methods in the class (i.e., It is global to the class)
- ▶ Good class design means that class fields should not be visible outside the object
 - ▶ In Java, this means declaring class fields as **private**
 - ▶ Information hiding principle
- ▶ The class fields will contain the information required so that objects can fulfil their purpose
 - ▶ e.g. A class for administering an engine will have classfields to represent number of cylinders, horsepower and fuel type
- ▶ Constructors will initialise class fields, accessors will refer to the values stored in class fields and mutators will modify class fields

Object State

- ▶ When an object of a class is created (i.e., constructed):
- ▶ Memory is allocated to variables corresponding to the class fields specified in the class
- ▶ The values contained in these variables is the object state
- ▶ For example, a class whose role is to maintain information about engines:
 - ▶ The class field definitions would describe the variables required to describe an engine
 - ▶ Each engine object created would have its own copy of these variables
 - ▶ The values of the variables are usually different for each object
 - ▶ One class means one definition of what the variables should be
 - ▶ As many objects as are required can be made from that one class, each object having its own copy of the class field variables
 - ▶ State is only the same if it is a copy

Example

- ▶ Object **engine1**
 - ▶ Number of cylinders: 8
 - ▶ Horsepower: 450.0
 - ▶ Fuel type: 98RON
- ▶ Object **engine2**
 - ▶ Number of cylinders: 6
 - ▶ Horsepower: 163.0
 - ▶ Fuel type: Diesel
- ▶ Object **engine3**
 - ▶ Number of cylinders: 4
 - ▶ Horsepower: 36.5
 - ▶ Fuel type: ULP

Java: private

- ▶ Declaring a variable or method as **private** means that the variable can only be accessed in the block in which it is declared
- ▶ For methods this means the method is local to the class
- ▶ For **private** variables this means that if:
 - ▶ the variable is global to the class then it can be referred to anywhere within the class but is hidden from the outside world
 - ▶ the variable is local to a method then it can only be referred to within the method in which it is declared
- ▶ You should always explicitly state whether each method is **public** or **private**
- ▶ Variables declared within a method block will be **private** by default
- ▶ Variables declared as global to a class should always be explicitly declared as **private** (penalties apply if not)

Class - Pseudocode

```
CLASS Engine
  CLASS CONSTANTS:
    MAX_CYLINDERS := 16
  CLASSFIELDS:
    numCylinders (Integer)
    horsepower (Real)
    fuelType (String)
    hoses (ARRAY OF String)

    . . .
```


Class - Java

```

/*****
 * Author:
 * Date:
 * Purpose:
 *****/
import java.anythingRequired.*;

public class Engine
{
    public static final int MAX_CYLINDERS = 16;

    private int numCylinders;
    private double horsepower;
    private String fuelType;
    private String[] hoses;

    ...

} // End Engine
```

Constructors

- ▶ Constructors are the methods used to create an object (i.e., to create an instance of a class)
- ▶ The role of a constructor is to ensure that the state of the object being created is correctly initialised
- ▶ There may be several constructors available
 - ▶ The difference between each of them is the IMPORT information used to initialise the state of the object being created
- ▶ There are three main categories of constructor:
 - ▶ **Default**
 - ▶ **Alternate** - IMPORT data used to initialise classfields
 - ▶ **Copy** - IMPORT another object of the same class i.e., new object will have a copy of the state from the IMPORT object

Constructors (2)

- ▶ Not all categories are required for every class
 - ▶ However, they are for this unit!
- ▶ All constructors must guarantee:
 - ▶ Classfields is initialised to VALID or special values

Default Constructor

- ▶ No **IMPORT**
- ▶ Initialises object state to defaults
- ▶ Defaults should be valid

Default Constructor - Pseudocode

DEFAULT CONSTRUCTOR

IMPORT: none

EXPORT: none // Constructors never export

ASSERTION: Will create a Default state of an object

ALGORITHM:

 numCylinders := 1

 horsePower := 1.0

 fuelType := "ULP"

 hoses := NEW ARRAY OF EMPTY Strings

Default Constructor - Java

```
public Engine()  
{  
    numCylinders = 1;  
    horsepower = 1.0;  
    fuelType = "ULP";  
    hoses = new String[MAX_STRING];  
    for(int ii = 0; ii < hoses.length; ii++)  
    {  
        hoses[ii] = "";  
    }  
}
```

Alternate Constructor

- ▶ IMPORT values which are used to initialise class fields
- ▶ IMPORT should be validated (if possible)
 - ▶ If valid used to initialise class fields
 - ▶ If invalid then fail, or throw an exception (error)
- ▶ IMPORT information may be a direct reflection of class fields (e.g., **DateClass** -> **inDay**, **inMonth**, **inYear** to initialise class fields **day**, **month** and **year**).
- ▶ IMPORT information which is used to calculate, or otherwise obtain, values for class fields. For example:
 - ▶ A picture class which can be constructed:
 - ▶ As a blank image (number of rows and columns supplied as IMPORT to the constructor)
 - ▶ Read from a file (file name supplied as IMPORT to the constructor)

Alternate Constructor - Pseudocode

```

ALTERNATE CONSTRUCTOR
IMPORT: inNumCylinders (Integer), inHorsePower (Real),
       inFuelType (String), inHoses (ARRAY OF Strings)
EXPORT: none // Constructors never export
ASSERTION: Will create an Alternate state of an object
ALGORITHM:
    IF NOT (1 < inNumCylinders < MAX_CYLINDERS) THEN
        FAIL
    IF inHorsePower < 1.0 THEN
        FAIL
    IF NOT validFuel <- inFuelType THEN
        FAIL
    IF inHoses = NULL THEN
        FAIL
    numCylinders := inNumCylinders
    horsepower := inHorsePower
    fuelType := inFuelType
    hoses := inHoses
    
```


Alternate Constructor - Java

```
public Engine(int inNumCylinders, double inHorsePower,
              String inFuelType, String[] inHoses)
{
    if(!(1 <= inNumCylinders && inNumCylinders <= MAX_CYLINDERS))
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Cylinders");
    if(inHorsePower < 1.0)
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Horsepower");
    if(!validFuel(inFuelType))
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Fuel");
    if(inHoses == null)
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Hoses");
    numCylinders = inNumCylinders;
    horsepower = inHorsePower;
    fuelType = inFuelType;
    hoses = inHoses    // You will need to make a copy
}
```

- **Note:** Exceptions are covered at the end

Copy Constructor

- ▶ IMPORT's an object of the same class
- ▶ Extracts the state information from the IMPORT object and uses that information to initialise the class fields for the new object
- ▶ The end result is that the new object will have a copy of the state information from the IMPORT object
- ▶ We have copied the IMPORT object

Copy Constructor - Pseudocode

COPY CONSTRUCTOR

IMPORT: inEngine (Engine)

EXPORT: none // Constructors never export

ASSERTION: Will create a Copy state of an object

ALGORITHM:

numCylinders := inEngine.getNumCylinders <- none

horsePower := inEngine.getHorsePower <- none

fuelType := inEngine.getFuelType <- none

hoses := inEngine.getHoses <- none

Copy Constructor - Java

```
public Engine(Engine inEngine)
{
    numCylinders = inEngine.getNumCylinders();
    horsepower = inEngine.getHorsePower();
    fuelType = inEngine.getFuelType();
    hoses = inEngine.getHoses();
}
```

Accessor Methods

- ▶ AKA "Getters"
- ▶ Accessor methods are used to retrieve information from the object
- ▶ Accessor methods clearly define the data types of the information to be retrieved from the object
- ▶ Each Accessor method should retrieve exactly one piece of data
- ▶ Any public method which EXPORT's information which is either a copy of, or is calculated from, state information is, by definition, an accessor

Accessor Methods - Pseudocode

```
ACCESSOR: getNumCylinders
IMPORT: none
EXPORT: numCylinders (Integer)
ASSERTION: Will return the number of cylinders
ALGORITHM:
    EXPORT COPY OF numCylinders
```

- Note: `getHorsePower()`, `getFuelType()` and `getHoses()` are done in the same way

Accessor Methods - Java

```
public int getNumCylinders()
{
    return numCylinders;
}
public double getHorsePower()
{
    return horsePower;
}
public String getFuelType()
{
    return fuelType;
}
public String[] getHoses()
{
    String[] hoseCopy;
    hoseCopy = new String[hoses.length];
    for(int ii = 0; ii < hoses.length; ii++)    // Remember to add your
        hoseCopy[ii] = new String(hoses[ii]);    // blocks { ... }
    return hoseCopy;
}
```

Other Accessors

- ▶ A convention is that all classes should have additional two accessors:
 - ▶ **equals()**
 - ▶ Tests the equality of two objects
 - ▶ **toString()**
 - ▶ Generates a String representation of the state information
 - ▶ Various possibilities exist

equals - Pseudocode

```

ACCESSOR: equals
IMPORT: inObject (Object)
EXPORT: isEqual (Boolean)
ASSERTION: Will return true if the two objects are equivalent
    isEqual := FALSE
    IF inObject IS AN Engine THEN
        TRANSFORM inObject TO Engine NAMED inEngine
        IF numCylinders EQUALS inEngine.getNumCylinders <- none THEN
            IF horsepower EQUALS inEngine.getHorsePower <- none THEN
                IF fuelType EQUALS inEngine.getFuelType <- none THEN
                    IF hoses EQUALS inEngine.getHoses <- none THEN
                        isEqual := TRUE
    
```

equals - Java

```
public boolean equals(Object inObject)
{
    boolean isEqual = false;
    Engine inEngine = null;
    if(inObject instanceof Engine)
    {
        inEngine = (Engine)inObject;
        if(numCylinders == inEngine.getNumCylinders())
            if(typeSame(horsePower, inEngine.getHorsePower()))
                if(fuelType.equals(inEngine.getFuelType()))
                    if(typeSame(hoses, inEngine.getHoses()))
                        isEqual = true;
    }
    return isEqual;
}
```

toString - Pseudocode

```
ACCESSOR: toString
IMPORT: none
EXPORT: engineString (String)
ASSERTION: Will return a String representation of the object
    engineString := "This engine has " + numCylinders +
                    " with " + horsepower +
                    " and uses " + fuelType
```

toString - Java

```
public String toString()
{
    String engineString;
    engineString = "This engine has " + numCylinders +
                  " with " + horsepower +
                  " and uses " + fuelType);
    return engineString;
}
```

Back To Introduction

- ▶ Remember at the beginning:

```
Engine eng1 = new Engine(8, 450.0, "98RON");  
  
System.out.println(eng1);
```

- ▶ `System.out.println()` calls `String.valueOf()` which in turn will call the appropriate `toString()` method if it exists
- ▶ It is sort of doing this:

```
System.out.println(eng1.toString());
```

- ▶ Is it starting to make sense yet?

Mutator Methods

- ▶ AKA "Setters"
- ▶ Mutator methods are used to send information into the object which is used to modify the values of classfields
- ▶ In other words, this new information *mutates* (changes) the object state
- ▶ Mutator methods clearly define the data types of the information to be passed into the object
- ▶ There will usually be a mutator method for each classfield
 - ▶ Except for when it doesn't make sense
- ▶ The actual representation of the information within the object is hidden and may not be the same as the IMPORT:
 - ▶ The data which is supplied to the method may be a direct reflection of variables in the object but this does not have to be the case

Mutators and IMPORT Validation

- ▶ If possible, the IMPORT used must be validated
 - ▶ If it is valid, then it is to be used to update the object state
 - ▶ If it is invalid then it is not used
 - ▶ The mutation is not allowed to occur
 - ▶ Throw an exception (covered at the end)
- ▶ If the validation of the IMPORT is done, then the rest of the software system can always assume that every object of that class has a valid state
- ▶ Of course, sometimes validation is not possible:
 - ▶ Person's name
 - ▶ Title of a book
 - ▶ A numeric value which has no upper or lower bounds on validity
- ▶ Generally we check **null** for Strings

Mutator Methods - Pseudocode

```
MUTATOR: setNumCylinders
IMPORT: inNumCylinders (Integer)
EXPORT: none
ASSERTION: Will update the state information of numCylinders if valid
ALGORITHM:
    IF NOT (1 < inNumCylinders < MAX_CYLINDERS) THEN
        FAIL
    numCylinders := inNumCylinders
```


Mutator Methods - Java

```
public void setNumCylinders(int inNumCylinders)
{
    if(!(1 <= inNumCylinders && inNumCylinders <= MAX_CYLINDERS))
    {
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Cylinders");
    }
    numCylinders = inNumCylinders;
}
```

Mutator Methods - Pseudocode (2)

```
MUTATOR: setHorsePower
IMPORT: inHorsePower (Real)
EXPORT: none
ASSERTION: Will update the state information of horsePower if valid
ALGORITHM:
    IF NOT (inHorsePower < 1.0) THEN
        FAIL
    horsePower := inHorsePower
```

Mutator Methods - Java (2)

```
public void setHorsePower(double inHorsePower)
{
    if(inHorsePower < 1.0)
    {
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Horse Power");
    }
    horsePower = inHorsePower;
}
```

Mutator Methods - Pseudocode (3)

```
MUTATOR: setFuelType
IMPORT: inFuelType (String)
EXPORT: none
ASSERTION: Will update the state information of fuelType if valid
ALGORITHM:
    IF NOT (validFuel <- inFuelType) THEN
        FAIL
    fuelType := inFuelType
```

Mutator Methods - Java (3)

```
public void setFuelType(String inFuelType)
{
    if(!validFuel(inFuelType))
    {
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid Fuel Type");
    }
    fuelType = inFuelType;
}
```

One Mutator

- ▶ In certain circumstances, it doesn't make sense to have a mutator for each classfield
 - ▶ e.g., **Date**
 - ▶ Call `someDate.setDay(31);`
 - ▶ Then call `someDate.setMonth(4);` (April)
- ▶ In these cases, create one mutator for all fields.

Doing Methods

- ▶ The methods are used for performing some required task
- ▶ For example, a method which performs some calculation based on *more than* the state of the object, would be classified as a doing method

Private Methods

- ▶ These are the methods that are used within the object, but are never seen by the outside world
- ▶ They are hidden so that they can be modified or even replaced without causing problems in any other part of the software
- ▶ To perform a complex task, it is often easier to break the task down into a series of sub-tasks and then refine each sub task independently of the others
- ▶ i.e., The normal process of step-wise refinement still applies

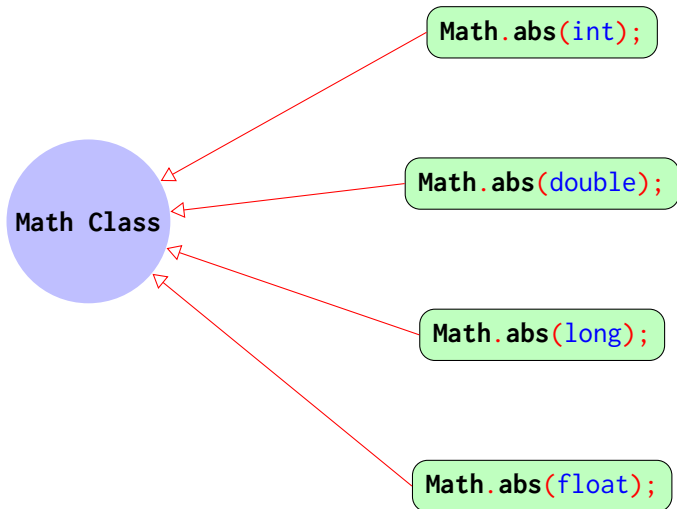
Private Methods - validFuel

```
PRIVATE: validFuel
IMPORT: inFuelType (String)
EXPORT: isValid (Boolean)
ASSERTION: Will return if inFuelType is valid
ALGORITHM:
    ... // You can complete this in your own time
        // think about how you might validate a String
```

Method Overloading

- ▶ Method Overloading is the mechanism used to provide a variety of different possibilities within the same class
 - ▶ The method name and the arguments are known as the **Method Signature**
 - ▶ In Java it is implemented by matching the signature of the method call with the various possible signatures for the method

Method Overloading (2)



Method Overloading - typeSame

- Remember the method **typeSame()** from earlier?

```
private boolean typeSame(double a, double b)
{
    boolean same = false;
    if(Math.abs(a - b) < TOLERANCE) // Block braces omitted
        same = true;
    return same;
}

private boolean typeSame(String[] a, String[] b)
{
    int ii = 0;
    boolean same = true;
    if(a.length != b.length) // Block braces omitted
        same = false;
    else {
        while(a[ii].equals(b[ii]) && i < a.length) // Omitted
            ii++;
        if(ii < a.length) // Block braces omitted
            same = false;
    }
    return same;
}
```

Using a Class In a Program

- Somewhere else in the program, i.e., A different class

```
Engine eng1;  
Engine eng2;  
Engine eng3 = new Engine(4, 36.5, "ULP");  
  
eng1 = new Engine(6, 46.0, "Diesel");  
eng2 = new Engine(eng1);  
  
if(eng1.equals(eng2))  
{  
    doSomething();  
}  
System.out.println(eng1.toString());  
  
eng1 = new Engine(0, 123.4, ""); // What will happen?
```

Error

```
System.out.println(eng1.toString());  
  
eng1 = new Engine(0, 123.4, ""); // What will happen?
```

- ▶ An exception will be thrown and the program will crash

Exceptions

- ▶ Error handling is a necessary task, but how do you do it elegantly?
 - ▶ Errors aren't "normal", you don't make a system that *expects* errors
 - ▶ But you **must** handle error situations
 - ▶ One solution: return an error code (see UCP COMP1000)
- ▶ Object-Oriented languages (such as Java) solve error handling with **exceptions**
 - ▶ An independent "return path" designed specifically for notifying the caller of an exceptional situation (error)
 - ▶ On an error, a method "throws" an exception
 - ▶ The calling method can "catch" the exception
 - ▶ If the caller doesn't catch it, the exception is thrown to the next highest caller
 - ▶ If no one catches it, the exception causes the program to crash

Exceptions (2)

- ▶ Java only lets objects of type **Exception** or its descendants to be thrown
 - ▶ Java has a range of classes descending (inheriting, extends) from **Exception**
 - ▶ e.g., **IllegalArgumentException** and **ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException**
 - ▶ You may define your own **Exception** class, as long as it inherits from **Exception** (or one of its subclasses)
 - ▶ This will be covered in DSA (COMP1002)

Catching Exceptions

- ▶ Exceptions from different methods in different objects are often all caught at the one place in the calling method
- ▶ Somewhere close to **main**
 - ▶ Convenient: all error handling happens in one place
- ▶ Most languages use **try**, **catch()**, **finally** blocks
 - ▶ **try**: Define the set of statements whose exceptions will all be handled by the catch block associated with this try
 - ▶ **catch()**: Processing to do if an exception is thrown in the try
 - ▶ **finally**: Processing to always do, regardless of whether an exception occurs or not
 - ▶ Good for cleanup, e.g., closing files
 - ▶ This block is optional and executed *after* the try and catch blocks

Catching Exceptions - Example

```
Engine eng1;  
Engine eng2;  
try  
{  
    Engine eng3 = new Engine(4, 36.5, "ULP");  
    eng1 = new Engine(6, 46.0, "Diesel");  
    eng2 = new Engine(eng1);  
    if(eng1.equals(eng2))  
    {  
        doSomething();  
    }  
    System.out.println(eng1.toString());  
    eng1 = new Engine(0, 123.4, "");  
    // Code continues  
}  
catch(IllegalArgumentException e)  
{  
    // Do some fancy error handling here  
}
```

Java Qualifiers

- ▶ **public**
- ▶ **private**
- ▶ **protected**
- ▶ **static**
- ▶ **final**

Next Week

- ▶ Next Lecture slot is your test. An announcement will be made shortly
- ▶ The next Lecture will address the following:
 - ▶ File I/O