Chapter 4 Defining Classes I

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introduction & class definition

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Introduction

- Classes are the most important language feature that makes *object-oriented programming (OOP)* possible
- Programming in Java consists of defining a number of classes
 - Every program is a class
 - All helping software consists of classes
 - All programmer-defined types are classes
- Classes are central to Java

Class Definitions

- You already know how to use classes and the objects created from them, and how to invoke their methods
 - For example, you have already been using the predefined
 String and Scanner classes
- Now you will learn how to define your own classes and their methods, and how to create your own objects from them

A Class Is a Type

- A class is a special kind of programmer-defined type, and variables can be declared of a class type
- A value of a class type is called an object or an instance of the class
 - If A is a class, then the phrases "bla is of type A," "bla is an object of the class A," and "bla is an instance of the class A" mean the same thing
- A class determines the types of data that an object can contain, as well as the actions it can perform

The Contents of a Class Definition

- A class definition specifies the <u>data items</u> and <u>methods</u> that all of its objects will have
 - Data items are called fields or instance variables
 - Methods are actions that an object can take
- These data items and methods are sometimes called members of the object
- Instance variable declarations and method definitions can be placed in any order within the class definition

Display 4.1 A Simple Class

```
Display 4.1 A Simple Class
                                            This class definition goes in a file named
    public class DateFirstTry
                                            DateFirstTry.java.
        public String month;
                                                       Later in this chapter, we will
        public int day; -
                                                       see that these three public
        public int year; //a four digit number.
                                                       modifiers should be replaced
                                                       with private.
        public void writeOutput()
             System.out.println(month + " " + day + ", " + year)
```

참고변수는 항시항당 나는 인이가가등적으 하는 이 마모르를 많이 갑니

```
This class definition (program)
                                                public class DateFirstTryDemo
                                                                                      DateFirstTryDemo.java.
                                                   public static void main(String[] args)
                                                        DateFirstTry date1, date2:
                                                        date1 = new DateFirstTry();
                                                        date2 = new DateFirstTry();
                                                        date1.month = "December";
                                                        date1.day = 31;
                                                        date1.year = 2007:
                                           11
                                                        System.out.println("date1:"):
                                           12
                                                        date1.writeOutput();
                                                        date2.month = "July";
                                           13
                                           14
                                                        date2.day = 4:
                                           15
                                                        date2.year = 1776:
                                           16
                                                        System.out.println("date2:");
                                                        date2.writeOutput();
                                           17
Copyright © 2010 Pearson Addison-Wesley, All 19 }
```

The **new** Operator

 An object of a class is named or declared by a variable of the class type:

```
ClassName classVar;
```

 The new operator must then be used to create the object and associate it with its variable name:

```
classVar = new ClassName();
```

These can be combined as follows:

```
ClassName classVar = new ClassName();
```

Instance Variables and Methods

 Instance variables can be defined as in the following two examples

```
- Note the public modifier (for now):
  public String instanceVar1;
  public int instanceVar2;
```

 In order to refer to a particular instance variable, preface it with its object name as follows:

```
objectName.instanceVar1
objectName.instanceVar2
```

Instance Variables and Methods

 Method definitions are divided into two parts: a heading and a method body:

```
public void myMethod()
{
   code to perform some action
   and/or compute a value
}
Heading
Body
```

 Methods are invoked using the name of the calling object and the method name as follows:

```
classVar.myMethod();
```

Invoking a method is equivalent to executing the method body

More About Methods

- There are two kinds of methods:
 - Methods that compute and return a value
 - Methods that perform an action
 - This type of method does not return a value, and is called a void method
- Each type of method differs slightly in how it is defined as well as how it is (usually) invoked

More About Methods

 A method that returns a value must specify the type of that value in its heading:

```
public typeReturned methodName(paramList)
```

 A void method uses the keyword void in its heading to show that it does not return a value:

```
public void methodName(paramList)
```

main is a void Method

- A program in Java is just a class that has a main method
- When you give a command to run a Java program, the run-time system invokes the method main
- Note that main is a void method, as indicated by its heading:

```
public static void main(String[] args)
```

local variables, blocks, parameters

Local Variables

- A variable declared within a method definition is called a *local variable*
 - All variables declared in the main method are local variables
 - All method parameters are local variables
- If two methods each have a local variable of the same name, they are still two entirely different variables

Global Variables

- Some programming languages include another kind of variable called a *global* variable
- The Java language does **not** have global variables

Blocks

- A block is another name for a compound statement, that is, a set of Java statements enclosed in braces, { }
- A variable declared within a block is local to that block, and cannot be used outside the block
- Once a variable has been declared within a block, its name cannot be used for anything else within the same method definition

Parameters of a Primitive Type

- When a method is invoked, the appropriate values must be passed to the method in the form of *arguments*
 - Arguments are also called actual parameters
- The number and order of the arguments must exactly match that of the (formal) parameter list
- The type of each argument must be compatible with the type of the corresponding parameter

```
int a=1,b=2,c=3;
double result = myMethod(a,b,c);
public double myMethod(int p1, int p2, double p3)
```

the "this" parameter

- All instance variables are understood to have <the calling object>. in front of them
- If an explicit name for the calling object is needed, the keyword this can be used
 - myInstanceVariable always means and is always interchangeable with this.myInstanceVariable

In Display 4.1

```
public class DateFirstTry
        public String month;
        public int day;
        public int year;
        public void writeOutput()
          System.out.println(month + " " + day + ", " + year);
public void writeOuput()
        System.out.println(<the calling object>.month + " " + <the calling object>.day + ", " + <the calling
        object>.year);
public void writeOuput()
        System.out.println(this.month + " " + this.day + ", " + this.year);
```

- this must be used if a parameter or other local variable with the same name is used in the method
 - Otherwise, all instances of the variable name will be interpreted as local

```
public void setDate(int month, int day, int year)
{
    this.month = month;
    this.day = day;
    this.year = year;
}
```

The methods equals and toString

- Java expects certain methods, such as equals and toString, to be in all, or almost all, classes
- The purpose of equals, a boolean valued method, is to compare two objects of the class to see if they satisfy the notion of "being equal"
 - Note: You cannot use == to compare objects public boolean equals (ClassName objectName)
- The purpose of the toString method is to return a String value that represents the data in the object public String toString()

Information Hiding & Encapsulation

Information Hiding and Encapsulation

- Information hiding is the practice of separating how to use a class from the details of its implementation
 - Abstraction is another term used to express the concept of discarding details in order to avoid information overload
- Encapsulation means that the data and methods of a class are combined into a single unit (i.e., a class object), which hides the implementation details
 - Knowing the details is unnecessary because interaction with the object occurs via a well-defined and simple interface
 - In Java, hiding details is done by marking them private

A Couple of Important Acronyms: API and ADT

- The API or application programming interface for a class is a description of how to use the class
 - A programmer need only read the
 API in order to use a well designed class
- An ADT or abstract data type is a data type that is written using good information-hiding techniques ለነቆንት አታይ

public and private Modifiers

- The modifier public means that there are no restrictions on where an instance variable or method can be used
- The modifier private means that an instance variable or method cannot be accessed by name outside of the class
- It is considered good programming practice to make all instance variables private
- Most methods are public, and thus provide controlled access to the object
- Usually, methods are private only if used as helping methods for other methods in the class

public and private Modifiers

 The following would produce a compiler error message if used with DateSecondTry() in Display 4.2

```
public static void main(String[] args)
     DateSecondTry date = new DateSecondTry();
     date.month = "January";
     date.day = 1;
     date.year = 2006;
                           Display 4.2 A Class with More Methods (part 1 of 2)
                                                                             The significance of the modifier private
                               import java.util.Scanner;
                                                                             is discussed in the subsection "public
                                                                             and private Modifiers" in Section 4.2 a
                               public class DateSecondTry
                                                                             bit later in this chapter.
                                    private String month;
                                    private int day;
                                    private int year; //a four digit number.
                                    public void writeOutput()
                                        System.out.println(month + " " + day + ", " + year);
```

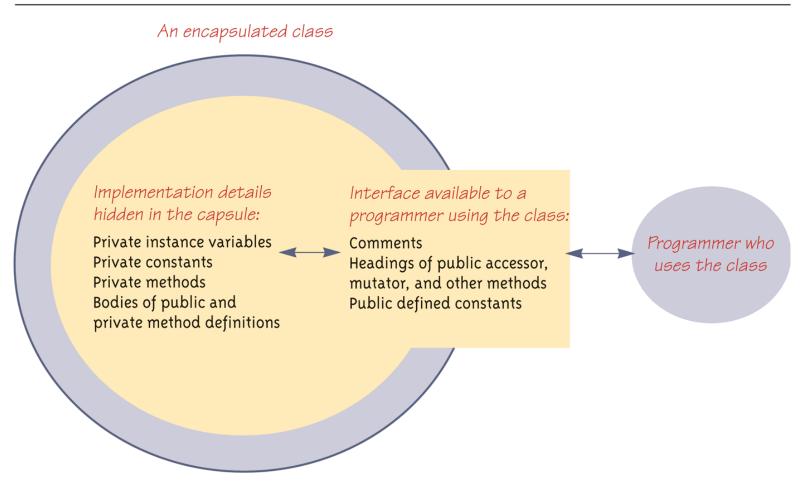
public class DemoOfDateSecondTry

Accessor and Mutator Methods

- Accessor methods allow the programmer to obtain the value of an object's instance variables
 - The data can be accessed but not changed
 - The name of an accessor method typically starts with the word get
- Mutator methods allow the programmer to change the value of an object's instance variables in a controlled manner
 - Incoming data is typically tested and/or filtered
 - The name of a mutator method typically starts with the word set

Encapsulation

Display 4.10 Encapsulation



A class definition should have no public instance variables.

A Class Has Access to Private Members of All Objects of the Class

 Within the definition of a class, private members of any object of the class can be accessed, not just private members of the calling object

```
public boolean equals(DateSecondTry otherDate)
{
    return ( (month.equalsIngoreCase(otherDate.month)
         && (day == otherDate.day) && (year == otherDate.year));
}
```

Overloading

Overloading

 Overloading is when two or more methods in the same class have the same method name

```
public void setDate(int month, int day, int year);
public void setDate(String month, int day, int year);
public void setDate(int year);
```

- To be valid, any two definitions of the method name must have different signatures
 - A signature consists of the name of a method together with its parameter list
 - Differing signatures must have different numbers and/or types of parameters

Overloading and Automatic Type Conversion

- If Java cannot find a method signature that exactly matches a method invocation, it will try to use automatic type conversion
- The interaction of overloading and automatic type conversion can have unintended results
- In some cases of overloading, because of automatic type conversion, a single method invocation can be resolved in multiple ways
 - Ambiguous method invocations will produce an error in Java

Pitfall: You Can Not Overload Based on the Type Returned

- The signature of a method only includes the method name and its parameter types
 - The signature does not include the type returned
- Java does not permit methods with the same name and different return types in the same class

Constructors

Constructors

 A constructor is a special kind of method that is designed to initialize the instance variables for an object:

public ClassName(anyParameters) {code}

- A constructor must have the same name as the class
- A constructor has no type returned, not even void
- Constructors are typically overloaded

Display 4.13 A Class with Constructor

```
This is our final definition of a class
Import java.util.Scanner;
                                                  whose objects are dates.
public class Date
    private String month;
    private int day;
    private int year; //a four digit number.
    public Date()
                                        No-argument constructor
        month = "January";
        day = 1;
        year = 1000;
    public Date(int monthInt, int day, int year)
                                                             You can invoke another
        setDate(monthInt, day, year);
                                                             method inside a
                                                             constructor definition.
    public Date(String monthString, int day, int year)
        setDate(monthString, day, year);
    public Date(int year)
                                                 A constructor usually initializes all
        setDate(1, 1, year);
                                                 instance variables, even if there is not a
                                                 corresponding parameter.
    public Date(Date aDate)
        if (aDate == null) //Not a real date.
                                                                  We will have more to
                                                                  say about this
             System.out.println("Fatal Error.");
                                                                  constructor in
              System.exit(0);
                                                                  Chapter 5. Although
                                                                  you have had enough
                                                                  material to use this
        month = aDate.month;
                                                                  constructor, you need
        day = aDate.day;
                                                                  not worry about it
        year = aDate.year;
                                                                  until Section 5.3 of
                                                                  Chapter 5.
```

Constructors

 A constructor is called when an object of the class is created using new

```
ClassName objectName = new ClassName(anyArgs);
```

- The name of the constructor and its parenthesized list of arguments (if any) must follow the new operator
- This is the **only** valid way to invoke a constructor: a constructor cannot be invoked like an ordinary method

You Can Invoke Another Method in a Constructor

- The first action taken by a constructor is to create an object with instance variables
- Therefore, it is legal to invoke another method within the definition of a constructor, since it has the newly created object as its calling object
 - For example, mutator methods can be used to set the values of the instance variables
 - It is even possible for one constructor to invoke another

Include a No-Argument Constructor

- If you do not include any constructors in your class, Java will automatically create a default or no-argument constructor that takes no arguments, performs no initializations, but allows the object to be created হুল্ফুন ফুড্ৰ ইন্টেন্স নামুক্তি ত
 - So, the following is legal:MyClass myObject = new MyClass();
- If you include even one constructor in your class, Java will not provide this default constructor
 - So, the following is illegal: YourClass yourObject = new YourClass();
- If you include any constructors in your class, be sure to provide your own no-argument constructor as well

Default Variable Initializations

- Instance variables are automatically initialized in Java
 - boolean types are initialized to false
 - Other primitives are initialized to the zero of their type
 - Class types are initialized to null
- However, it is a better practice to explicitly initialize instance variables in a constructor
- Note: Local variables are not automatically initialized



this Program

```
public class ThisTestClass {
             public int i;
             ThisTestClass(int i)
                          this.i = i;
             public void writeOutput(ThisTestClass that)
                          System.out.println("i is " + i + ", this i is " + this.i + ", and that i is " + that.i);
             public static void main(String[] args)
                          ThisTestClass a = new ThisTestClass(1);
                          ThisTestClass b = new ThisTestClass(10);
                          a.writeOutput(b);
                          b.writeOutput(a);
                                                        i is 1, this i is 1, and that i is 10
                                                        i is 10, this i is 10, and that i is 1
```