

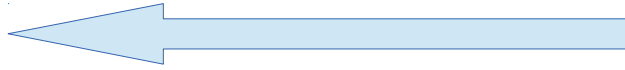
Let's see how data is created
in the computer's memory
as code is executes

```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

STACK

HEAP

```
class Point {  
    int x;  
    int y;  
}  
// This method increments the int by 1 and  
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void increment(Point point, int n) {  
    n = n + 1;  
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```



HEAD

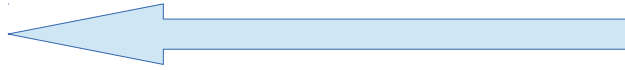
The first line in this program is the beginning of a class definition. No data is created on memory yet. The computer just knows that we are creating a new complex type.

STACK

```

class Point {
    int x;
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```



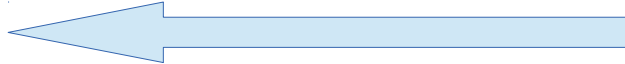
Second, third, and fourth line just complete the definition of class Point. No data is created in memory until an object (an instance) of class Point is declared and initialised.

STACK

```

class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
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void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
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increment(myPoint, myInt);
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println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;

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Second, third, and fourth line just complete the definition of class Point. No data is created in memory until an object (an instance) of class Point is declared and initialised.

STACK

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class Point {
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increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

Second, third, and fourth line just complete the definition of class Point. No data is created in memory until an object (an instance) of class Point is declared and initialised.

STACK

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class Point {
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increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
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```

HEAP

Comments are just ignored.

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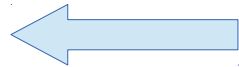
Here we start defining a new method to use it later. No code is executed (and no data created) yet.

In order to execute the code inside a method, we need to call it.

```
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STACK


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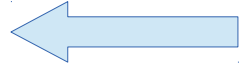


All this code is defined now, but
Is not executed at the moment.

HEAP

STACK

```
class Point {
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}
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HEAP

STACK

HEAP

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increment(myPoint, myInt);
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println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
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STACK

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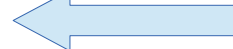
All this code is defined now, but
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```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
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STACK

HEAP

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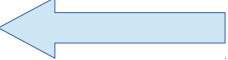
```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
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STACK

HEAP

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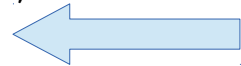
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STACK

HEAP

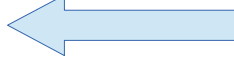
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STACK

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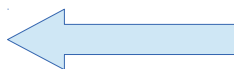


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The execution of the program
starts here

STACK


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HEAP

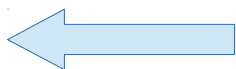
First of all, a variable of type (class)
Point is declared...

STACK

Point

myPoint

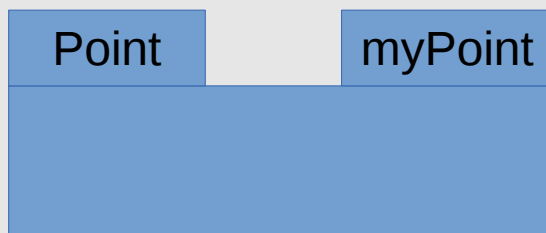
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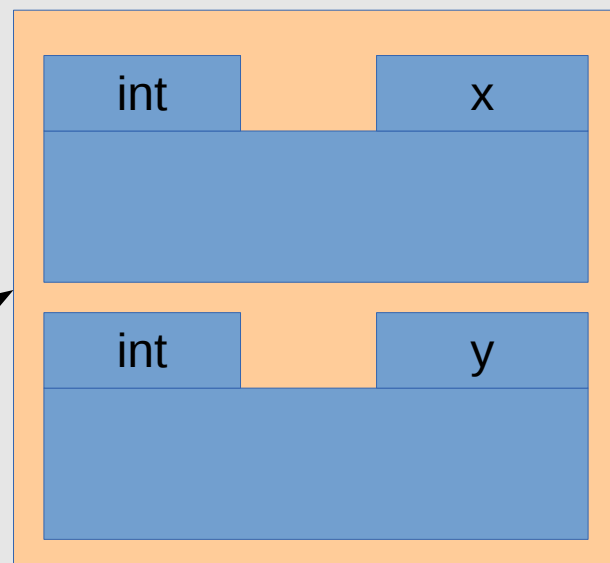
...and its value is set to a new object of type Point (using keyword **new**).

Declaration and initialisation can happen in two different lines or just in one as in this example,

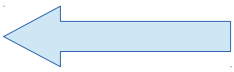
STACK



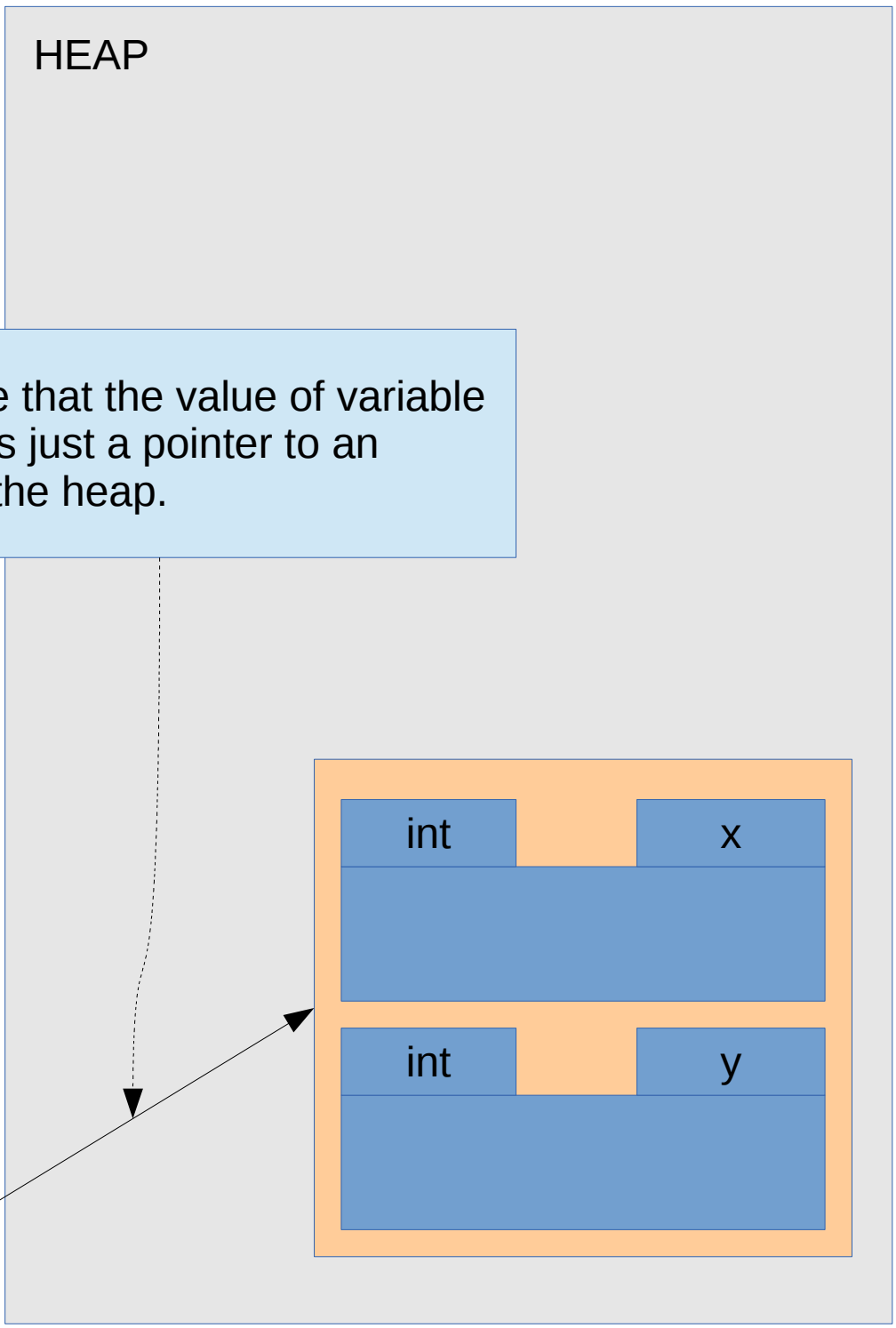
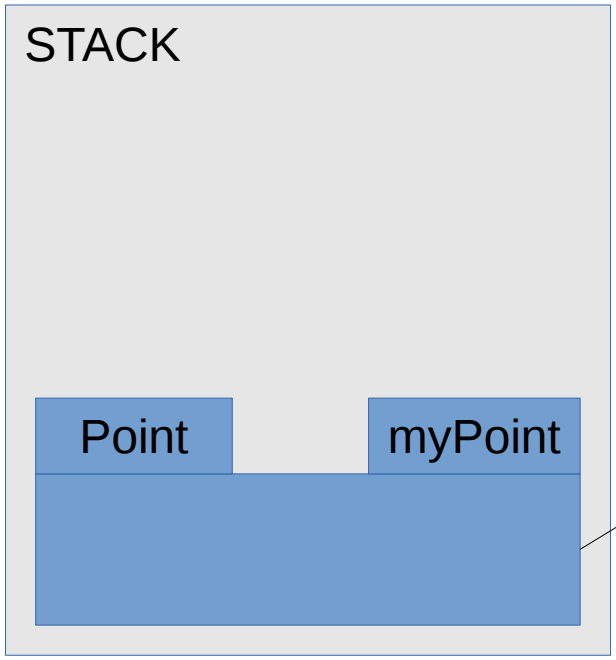
HEAP



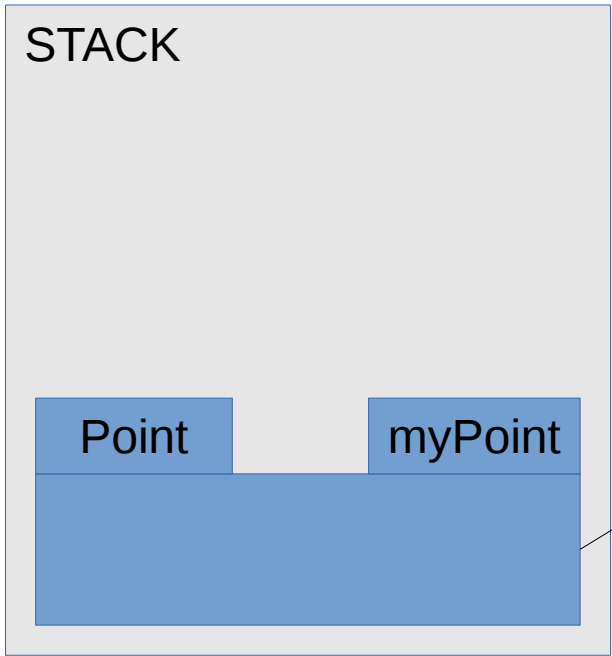
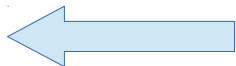
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First, note that the value of variable *myPoint* is just a pointer to an object in the heap.

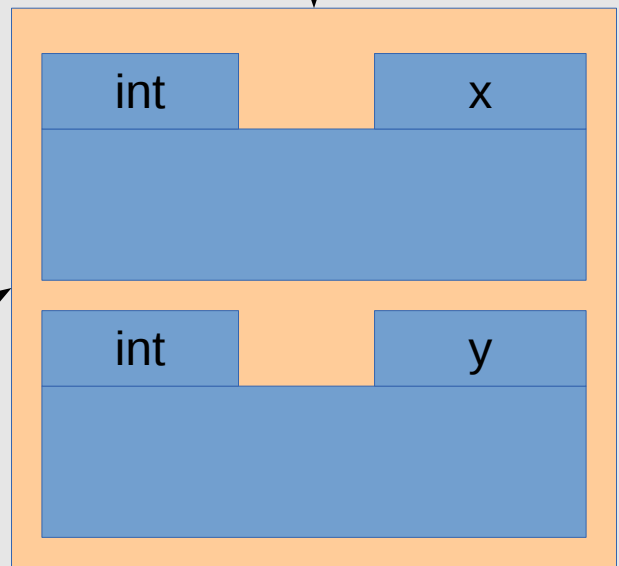


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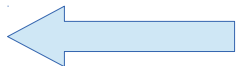


HEAP

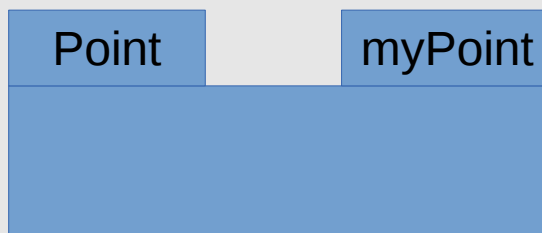
Second, note that the computer knows that the object contains two fields (an **int** called **x**, and another called **y**) because this was defined at the beginning of the program.



```
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    int x;
    int y;
}
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void increment(Point point, int n) {
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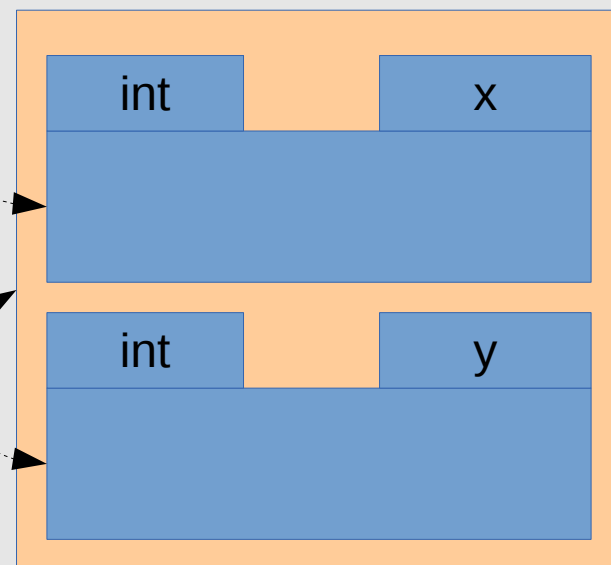


STACK

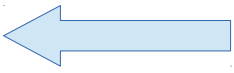


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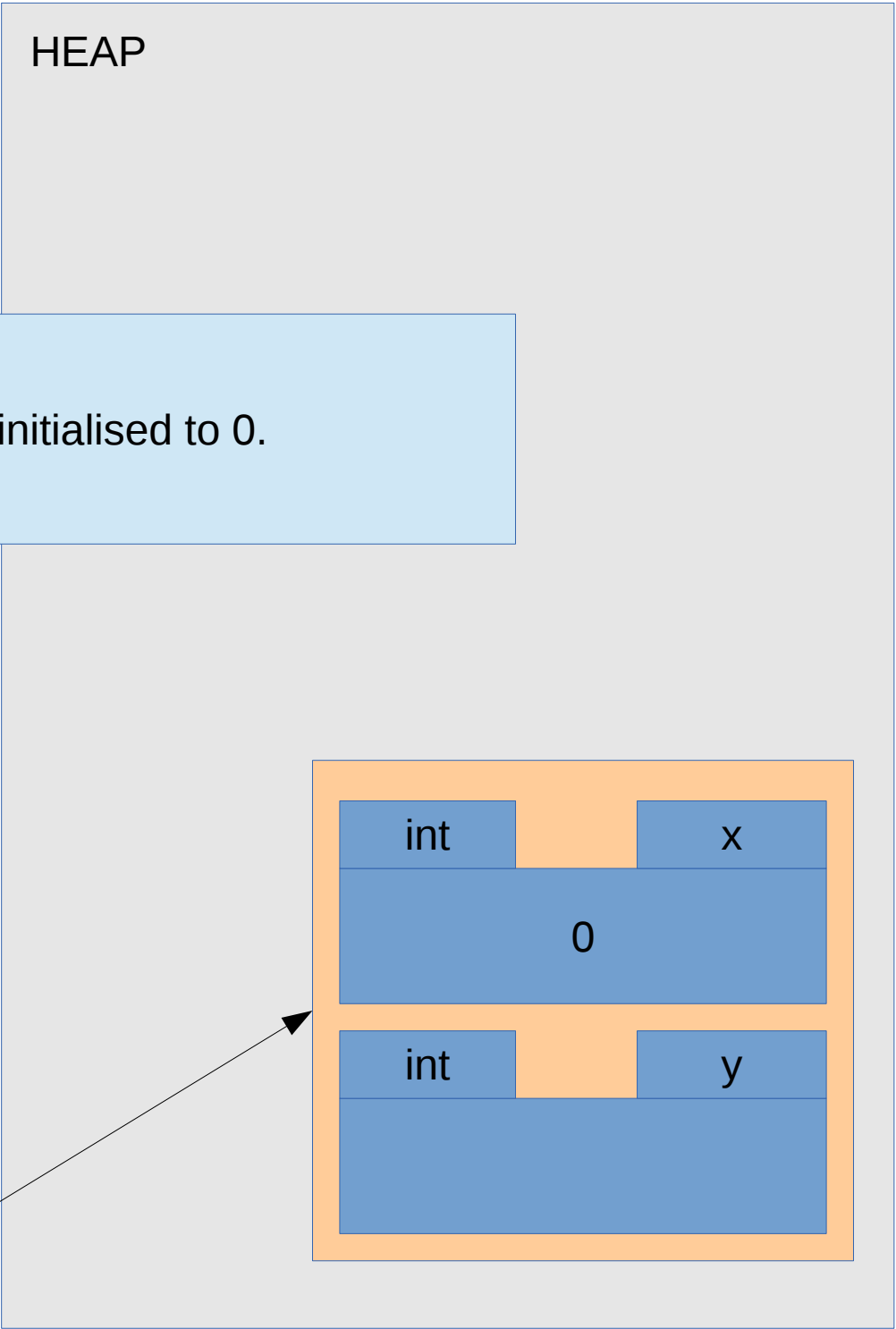
Third, note that the fields do not have any value in them (until they are initialised).



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    int x;
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}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
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myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```



Field x is initialised to 0.

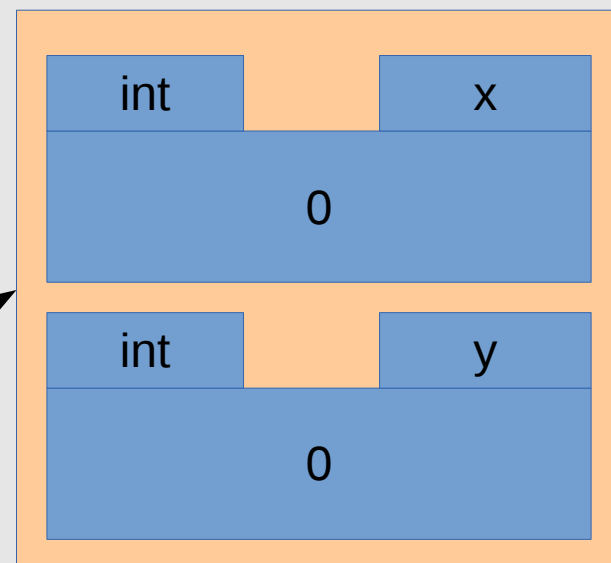
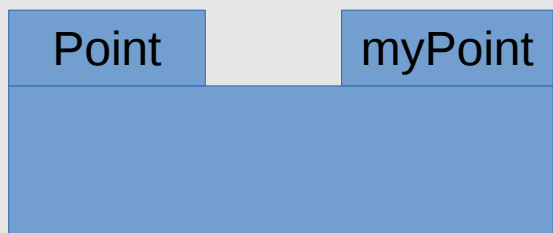


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

Field y is initialised to 0.

STACK

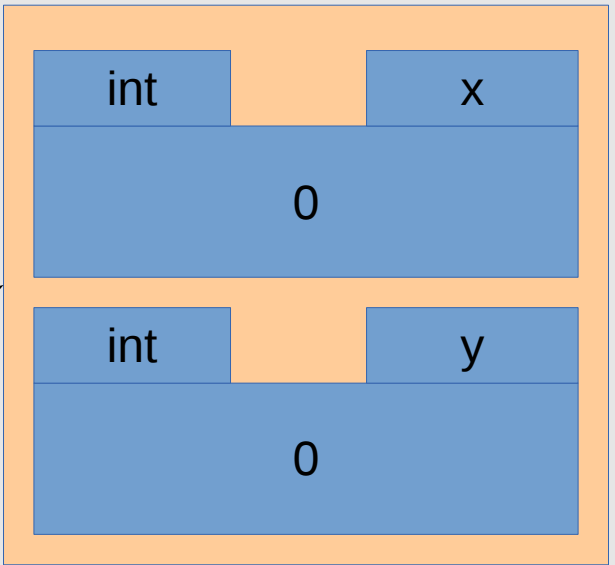
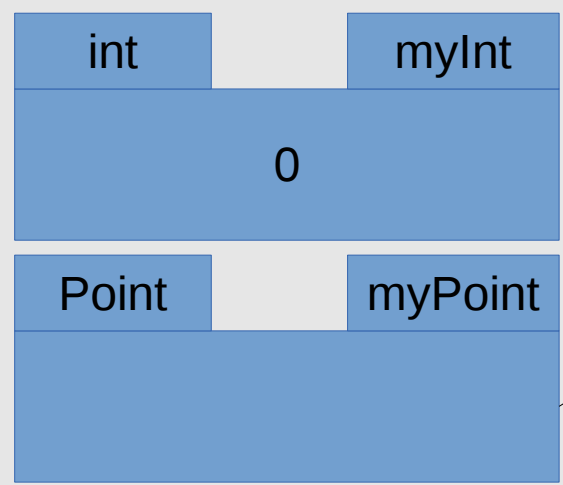


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

An `int` is declared with name *myInt* and initialised to 0

STACK

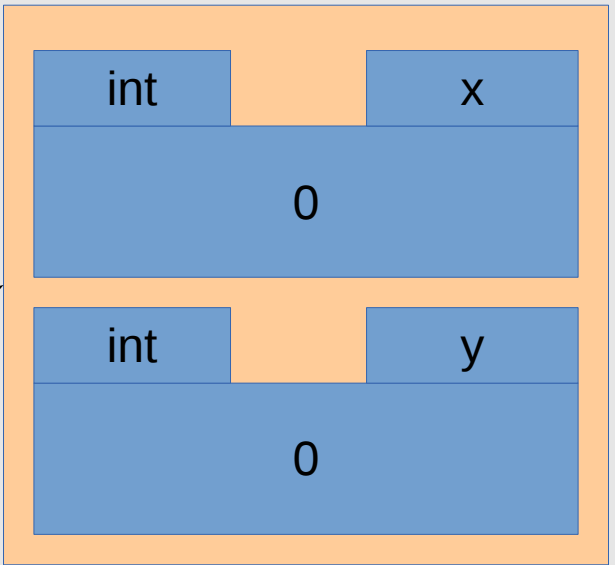
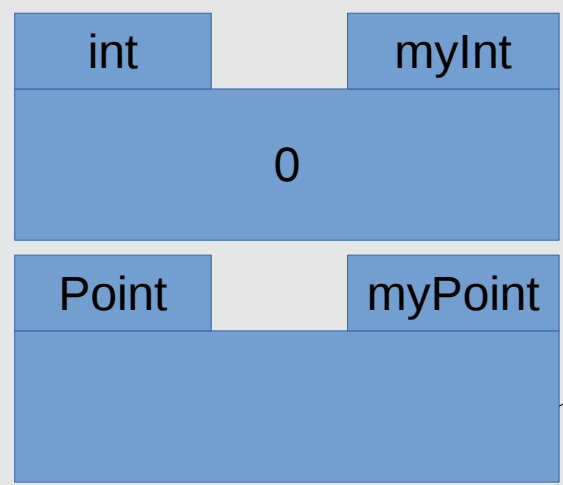



```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

Then we print several things

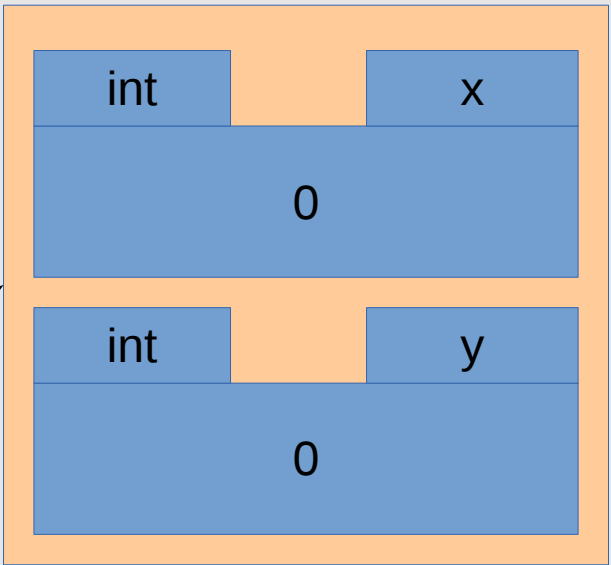
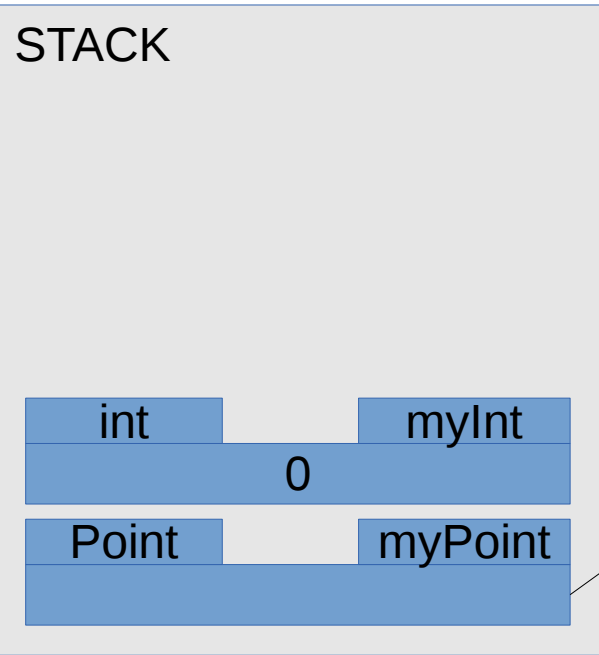
STACK



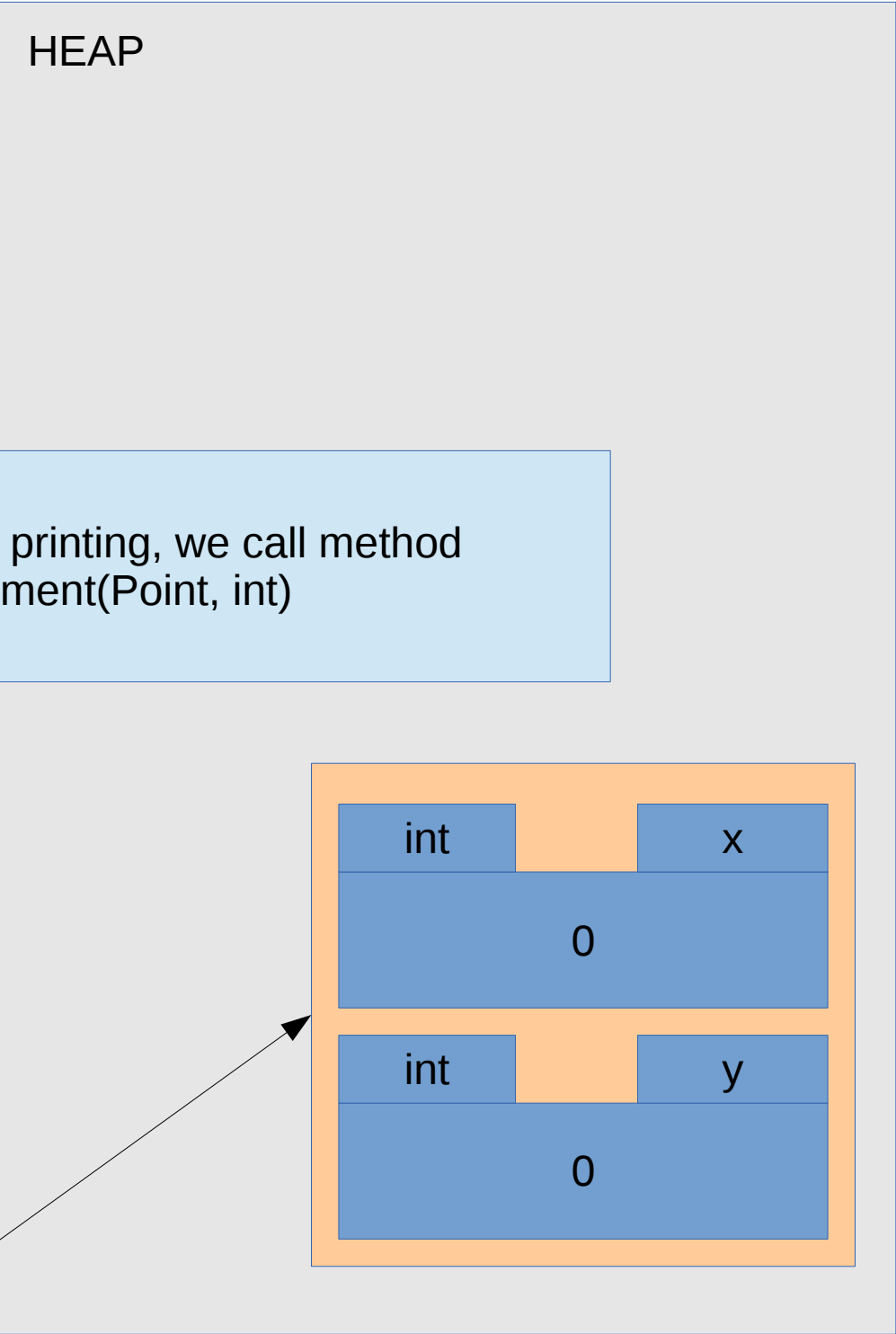
```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

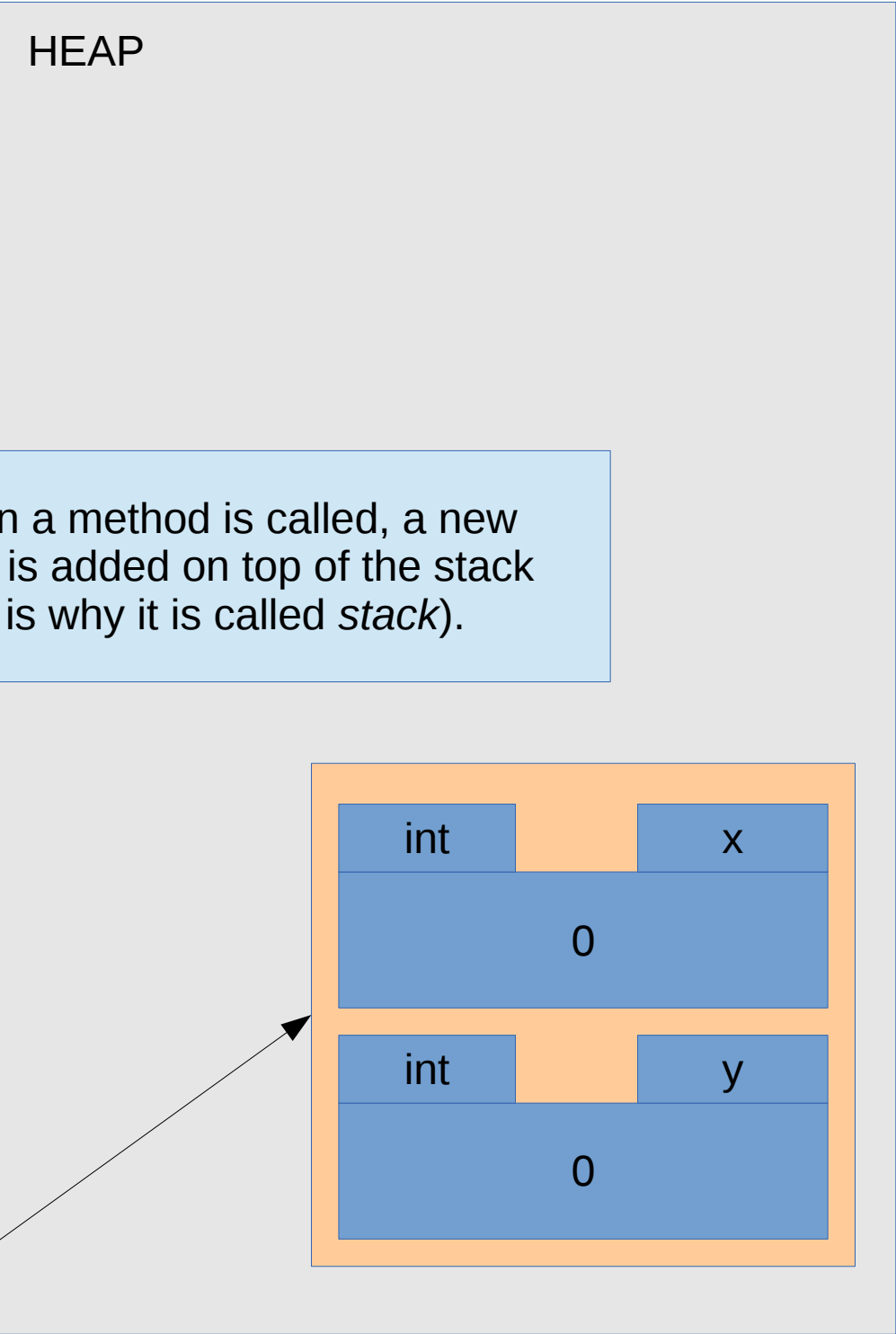
(Before we continue, I will make more room by packing this down a bit)



```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "  At the end of the method..."
    println "  The integer is " + n;
    println "  The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

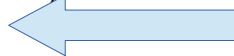


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```



When a method is called, a new level is added on top of the stack (that is why it is called *stack*).

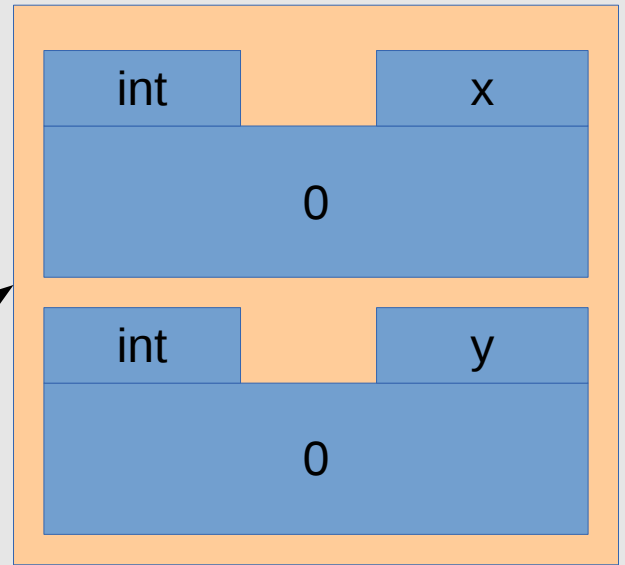
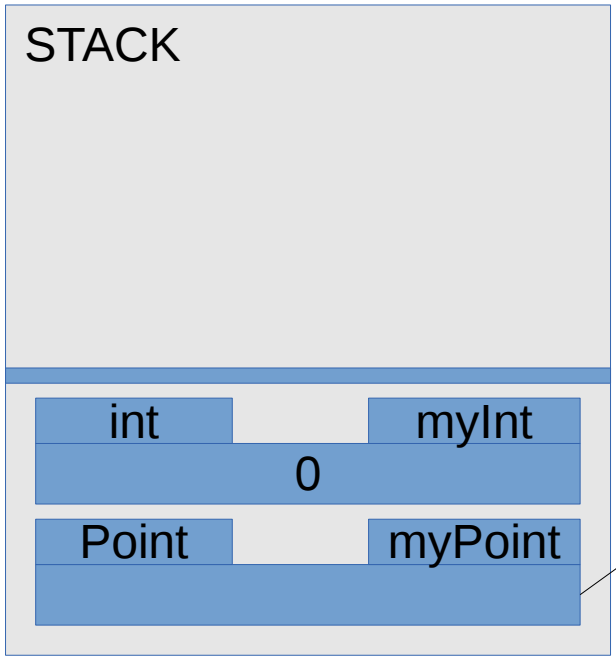
```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```



HEAP

Then the method parameters are copied to the new level.

STACK

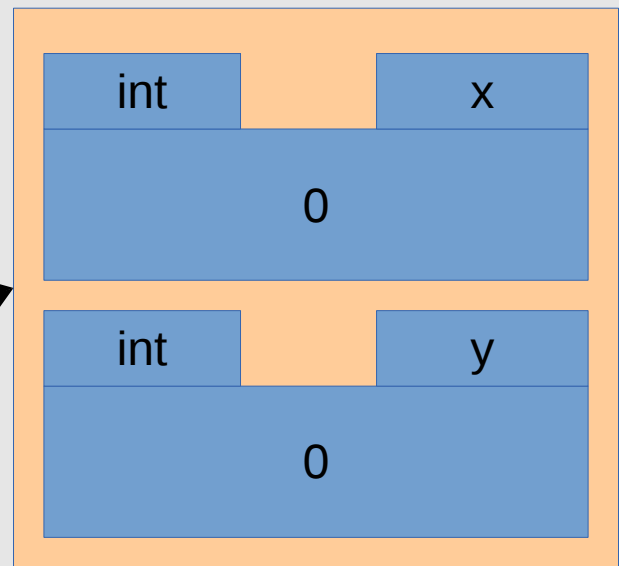
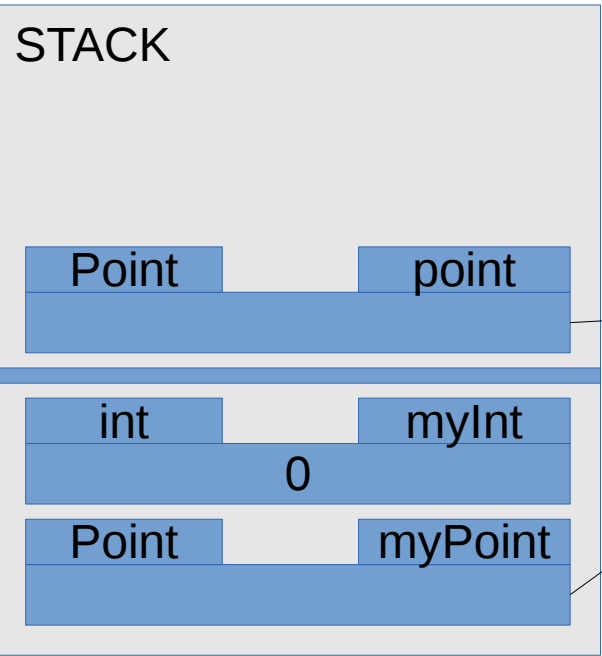


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

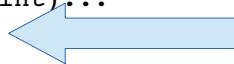


HEAP

In this case, we need to copy the value of *myPoint* into *point*...

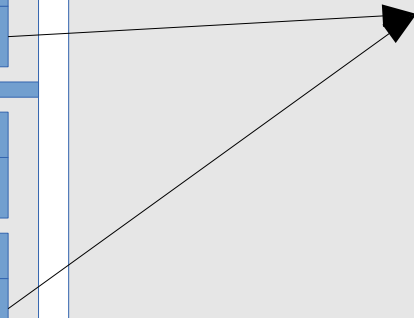
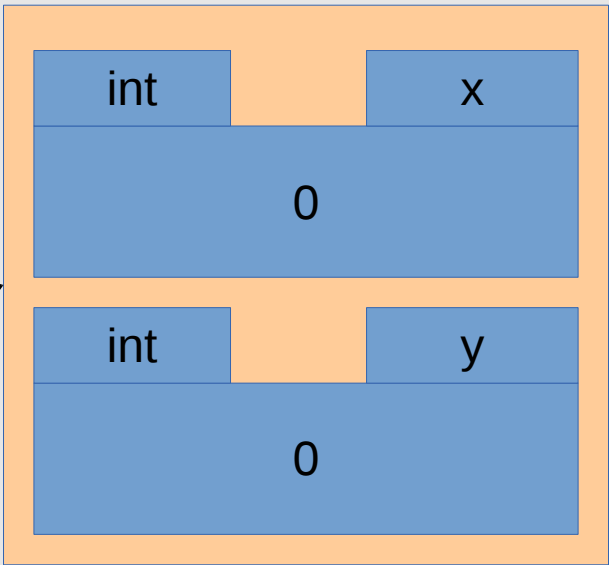
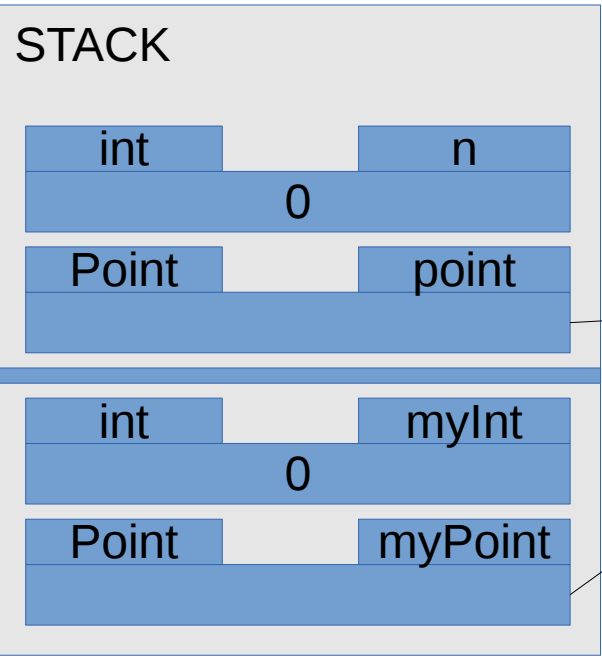


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```



HEAP

...and the value of *myInt* into *n*.

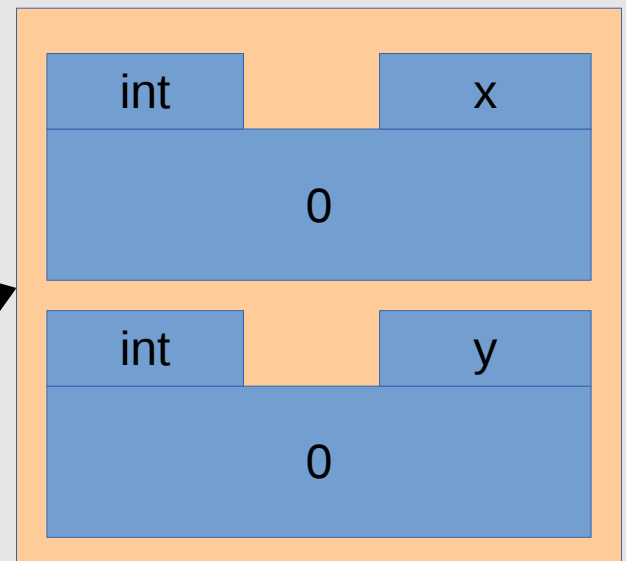
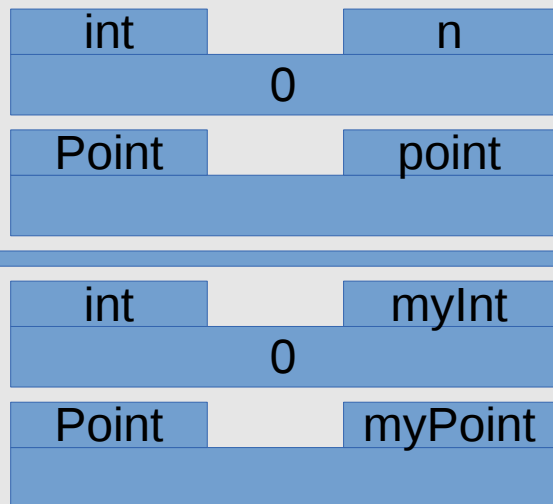


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

Once the parameters are initialised,
the execution of the program
continues normally the method.

STACK

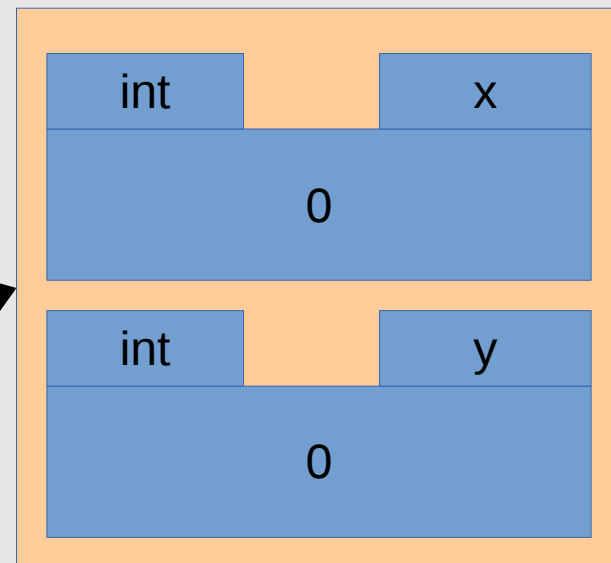
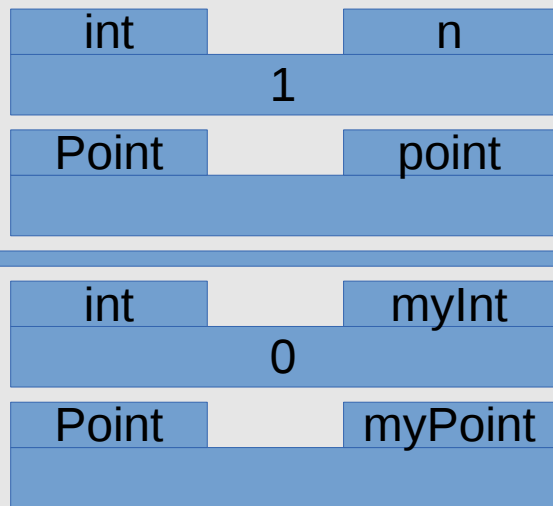



```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

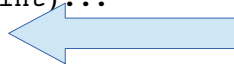
HEAP

We increment n by 1...

STACK

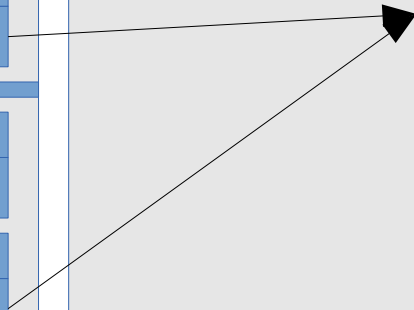
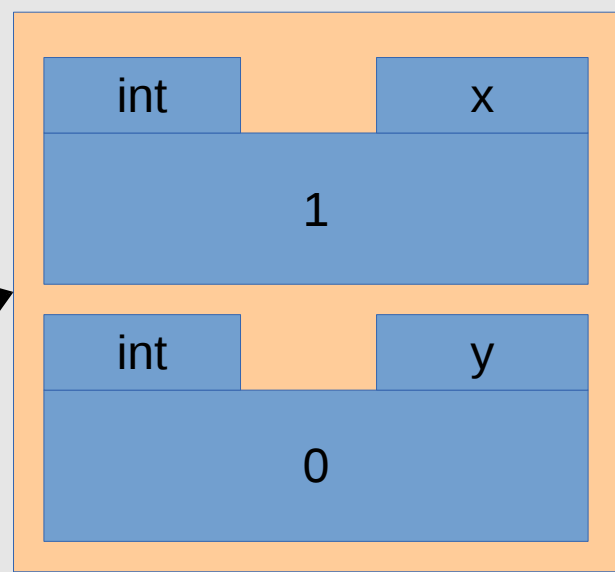
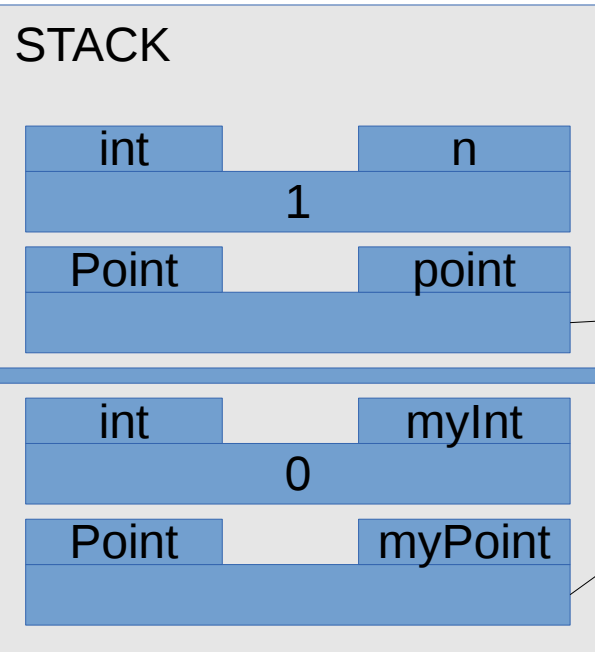


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```



HEAP

We increment point.x by 1, that is,
variable x inside (variable) object *point*

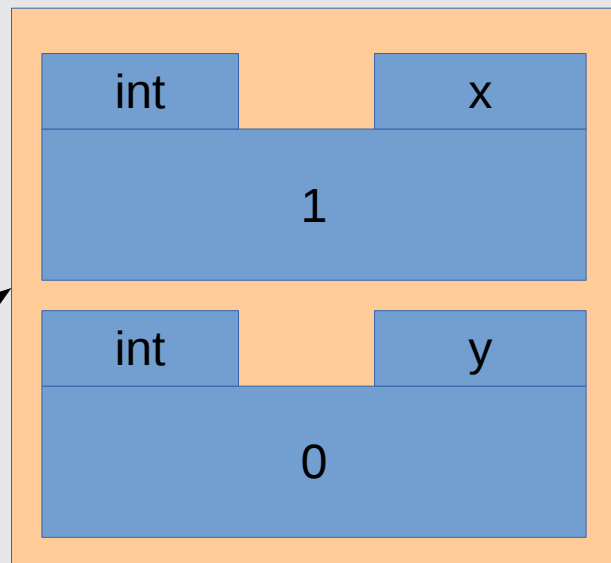
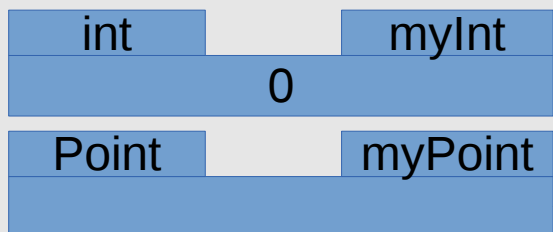
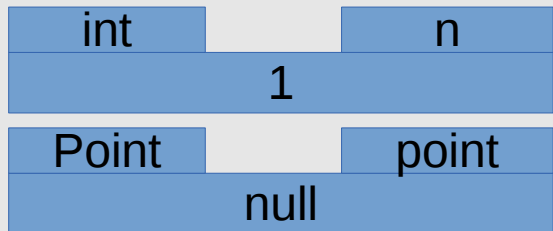


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

We set point to null

STACK

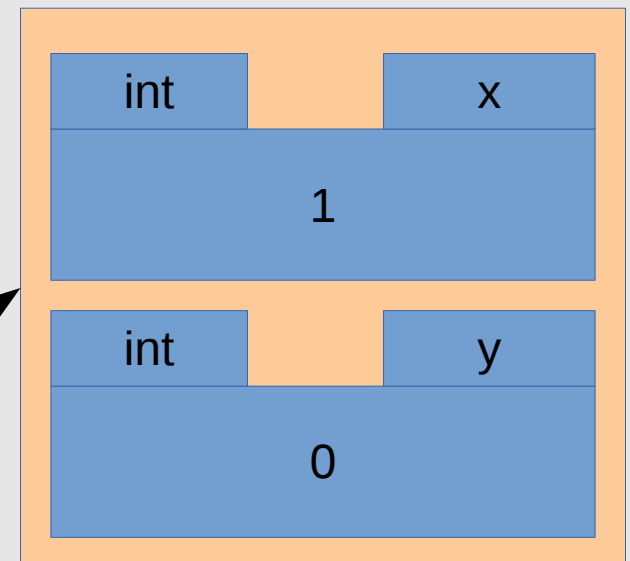
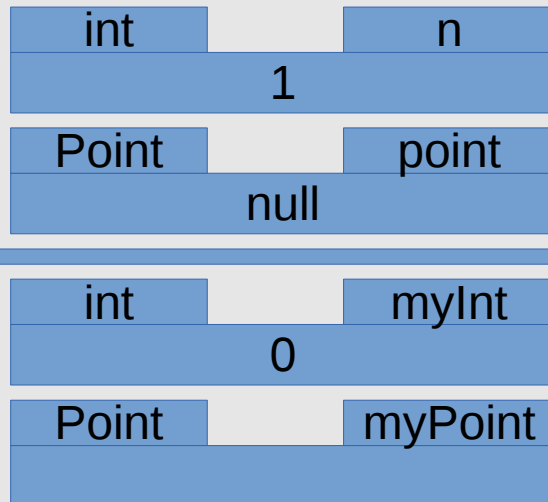


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

We print some things on screen and finish the method

STACK

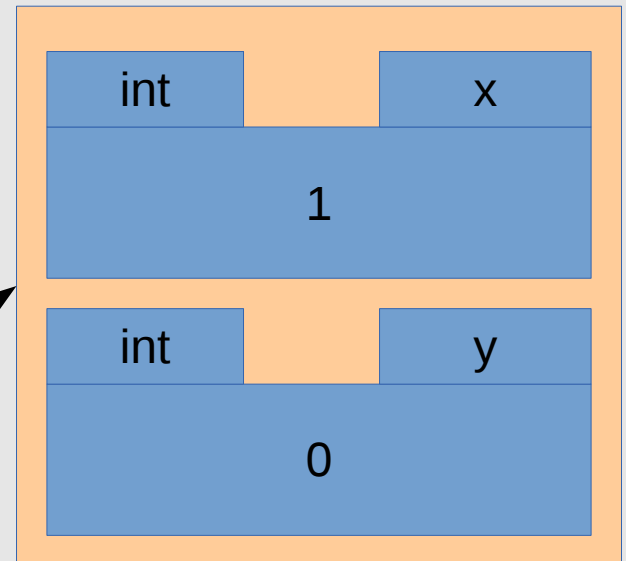
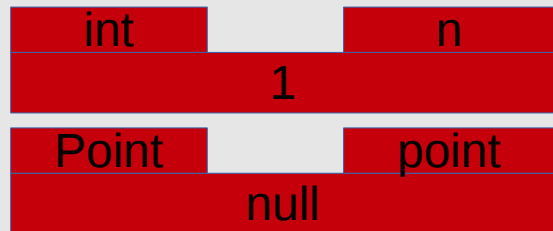


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

When we end a method, we erase that level in the stack (i.e. all that data is lost)...

STACK

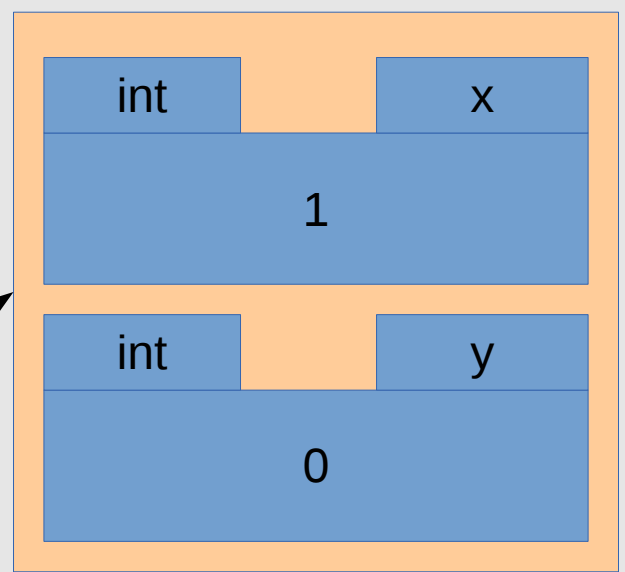
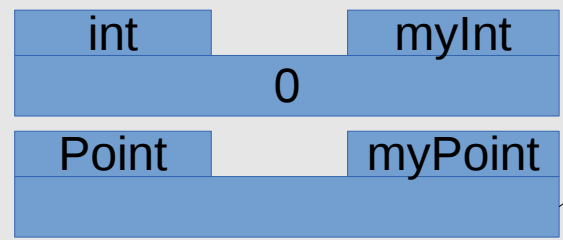


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

When we end a method, we erase that level in the stack (i.e. all that data is lost)...

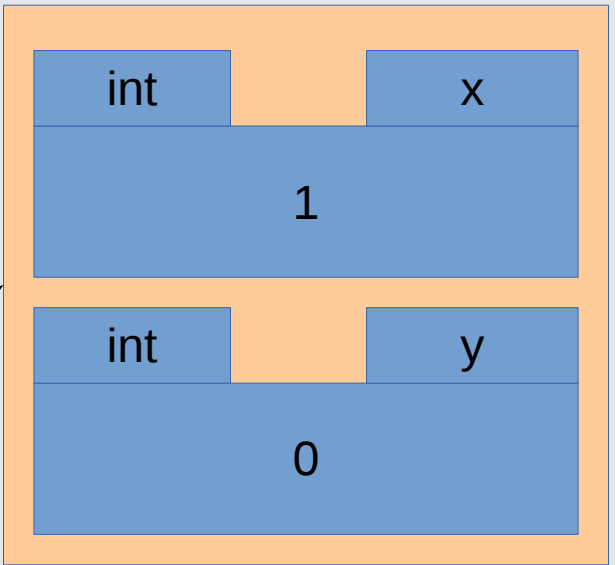
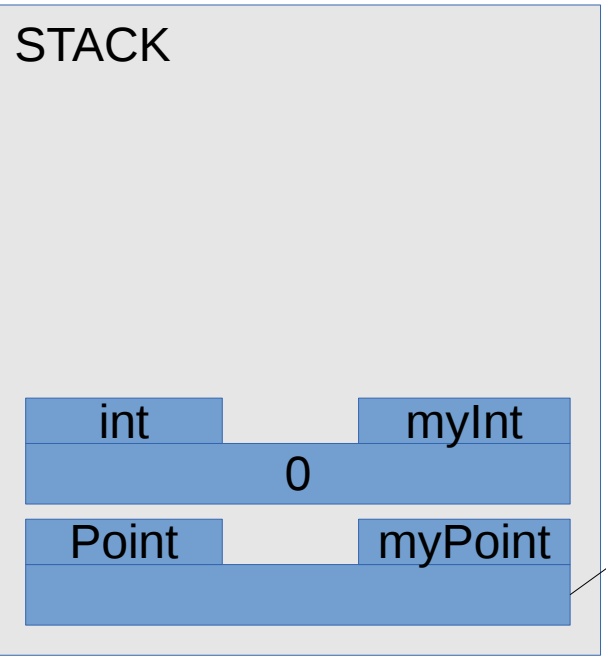
STACK



```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "  At the end of the method..."
    println "  The integer is " + n;
    println "  The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

...and the execution of the program continues from the point where the method was called.

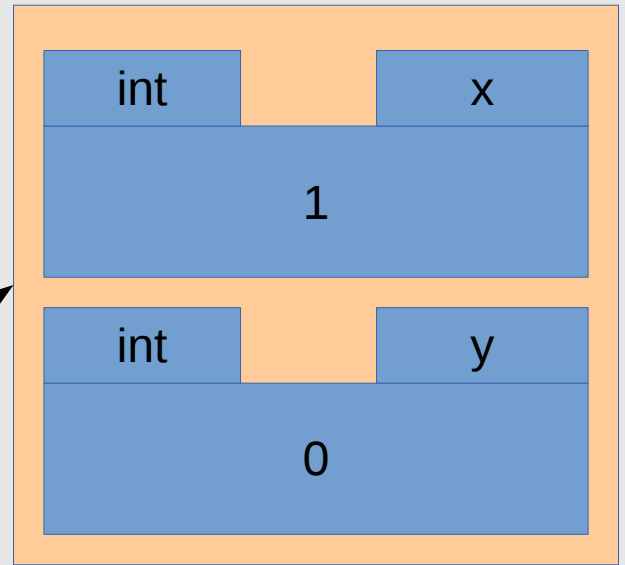
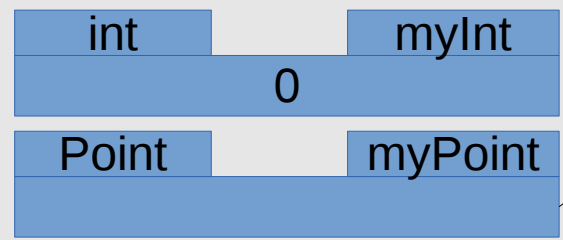


```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

In this case, we just print some values on the screen and finish.

STACK

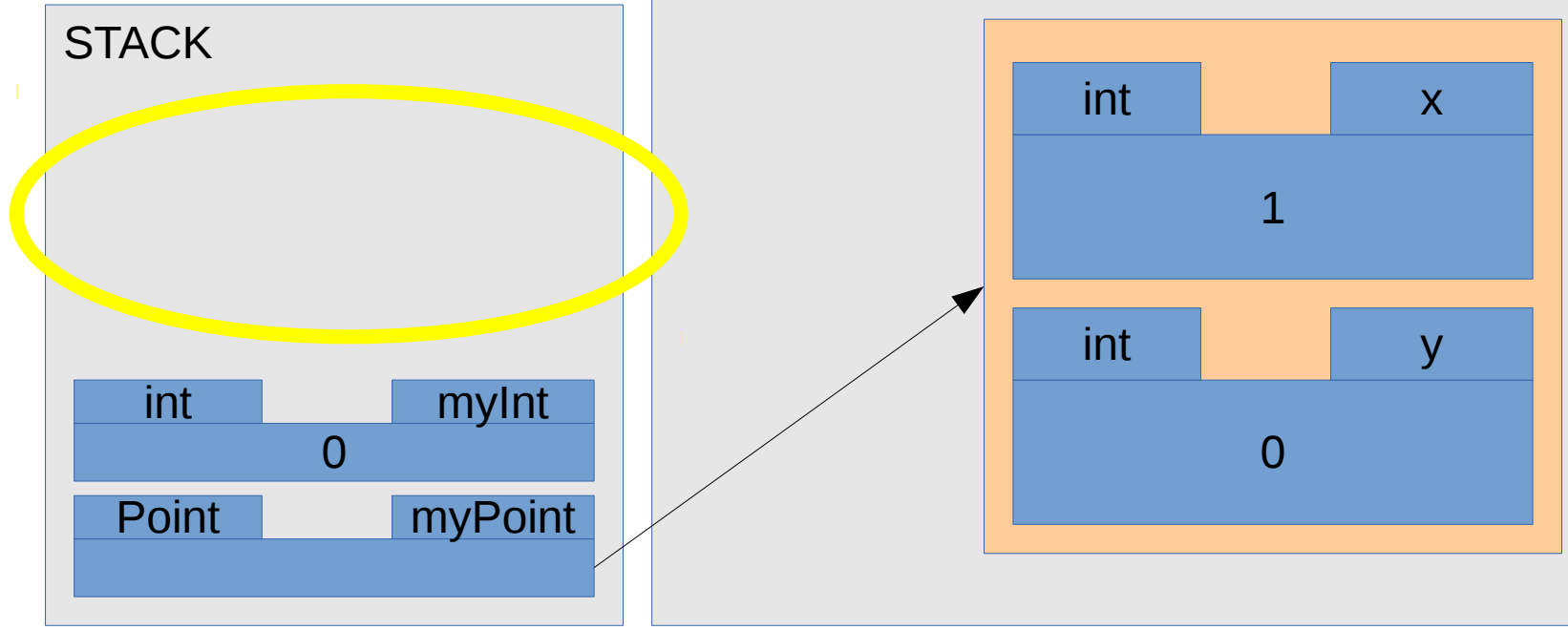



```
class Point {
    int x;
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}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "    At the end of the method..."
    println "    The integer is " + n;
    println "    The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

See how the changes made to the **int** inside the method were lost...

STACK



```
class Point {
    int x;
    int y;
}
// This method increments the int by 1 and
// moves the point to the right
void increment(Point point, int n) {
    n = n + 1;
    point.x = point.x + 1;
    point = null;
    println "  At the end of the method..."
    println "  The integer is " + n;
    println "  The point is " + point;
}
// Program execution starts here
Point myPoint = new Point();
myPoint.x = 0;
myPoint.y = 0;
int myInt = 0;
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
println "Calling method increment(Point, int)..."
increment(myPoint, myInt);
println "The integer is now " + myInt;
println "The point is now " + myPoint.x + "," + myPoint.y;
```

HEAP

...but the changes made to complex types, to objects, remain.

