




Chapter 14

JavaFX Basics

Motivations

- JavaFX is a new framework for developing Java GUI programs. The JavaFX API is an excellent example of how the object-oriented principle is applied.
 - This chapter serves two purposes. First, it presents the basics of JavaFX programming. Second, it uses JavaFX to demonstrate OOP.
 - Specifically, this chapter introduces the framework of JavaFX and discusses JavaFX GUI components and their relationships.
- 

Objectives(1)

- To distinguish between JavaFX, Swing, and AWT (§14.2).
- To write a simple JavaFX program and understand the relationship among stages, scenes, and nodes (§14.3).
- To create user interfaces using panes, groups, UI controls, and shapes (§14.4).
- To update property values automatically through property binding (§14.5).
- To use the common properties style and rotate for nodes (§14.6).
- To create colors using the Color class (§14.7).

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Objectives(2)

- To create fonts using the Font class (§14.8).
- To create images using the Image class and to create image views using the ImageView class (§14.9).
- To layout nodes using Pane, StackPane, FlowPane, GridPane, BorderPane, HBox, and VBox (§14.10).
- To display text using the Text class and create shapes using Line, Circle, Rectangle, Ellipse, Arc, Polygon, and Polyline (§14.11).
- To develop the reusable GUI components ClockPane for displaying an analog clock (§14.12).

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14.2 JavaFX vs Swing and AWT

- Swing and AWT are replaced by the JavaFX platform for developing rich Internet applications.
- When Java was introduced, the GUI classes were bundled in a library known as the Abstract Windows Toolkit (AWT). AWT is fine for developing simple graphical user interfaces, but not for developing comprehensive GUI projects. In addition, AWT is prone to platform-specific bugs.
- The AWT user-interface components were replaced by a more robust, versatile, and flexible library known as Swing components. Swing components are painted directly on canvases using Java code. Swing components depend less on the target platform and use less of the native GUI resource.
- With the release of Java 8, Swing is replaced by a completely new GUI platform known as JavaFX.

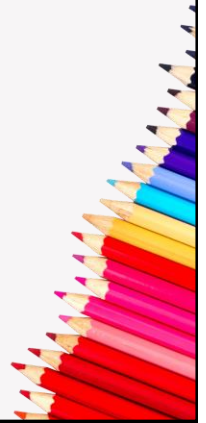
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JavaFX

- JavaFX incorporates modern GUI technologies to enable you to develop rich Internet applications. A rich Internet application (RIA) is a Web application designed to deliver the same features and functions normally associated with desktop applications.
- A JavaFX application can run seamlessly on a desktop and from a Web browser.
- Additionally, JavaFX provides a multi-touch support for touch-enabled devices such as tablets and smart phones.
- JavaFX has a built-in 2D, 3D, animation support, video and audio playback, and runs as a stand-alone application or from a browser.

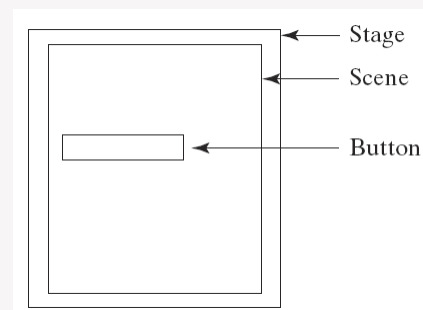
Why JavaFX?

- This book teaches Java GUI programming using JavaFX for 3 reasons.
 - First, JavaFX is much simpler to learn and use for new Java programmers.
 - Second, JavaFX is a better pedagogical tool for demonstrating object-oriented programming than Swing.
 - Third, Swing is essentially dead, because it will not receive any further enhancement.
- JavaFX is the new GUI tool for developing cross-platform-rich Internet applications on desktop computers, on hand-held devices, and on the Web.



14.3 The Basic Structure of a JavaFX Program

- *The abstract **`javafx.application.Application`** class defines the essential framework for writing JavaFX programs.*
- Application
- Override the **`start(Stage)`** method
- Stage, Scene, and Nodes
 - Stage is a window for displaying a scene that contains nodes.



MyJavaFX

Run

MultipleStageDemo

Run

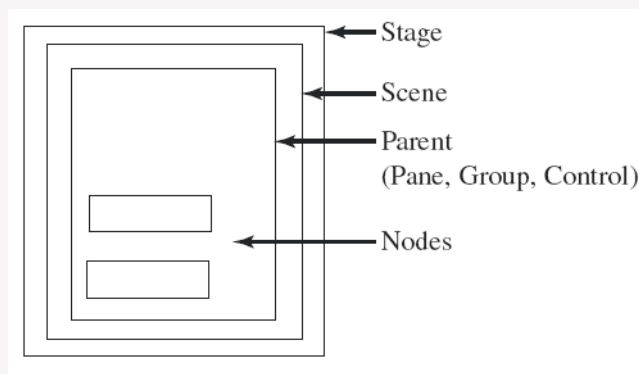
14.4 Panes, Groups, UI Controls, and Shapes

- A **pane** is a container used to hold nodes.
- A **node** is a visual component such as a shape, an image view, a UI control, or a pane.
- A **shape** refers to a text, line, circle, ellipse, rectangle, arc, polygon, polyline, etc.
- A **UI control** refers to a label, button, check box, radio button, text field, text area, etc.
- A **group** is a container that groups a collection of nodes. You can apply transformations or effects to a group, which automatically apply to all the children in the group.
- A **scene** can be displayed in a **stage**. You place nodes inside a pane and then place the pane into a scene.

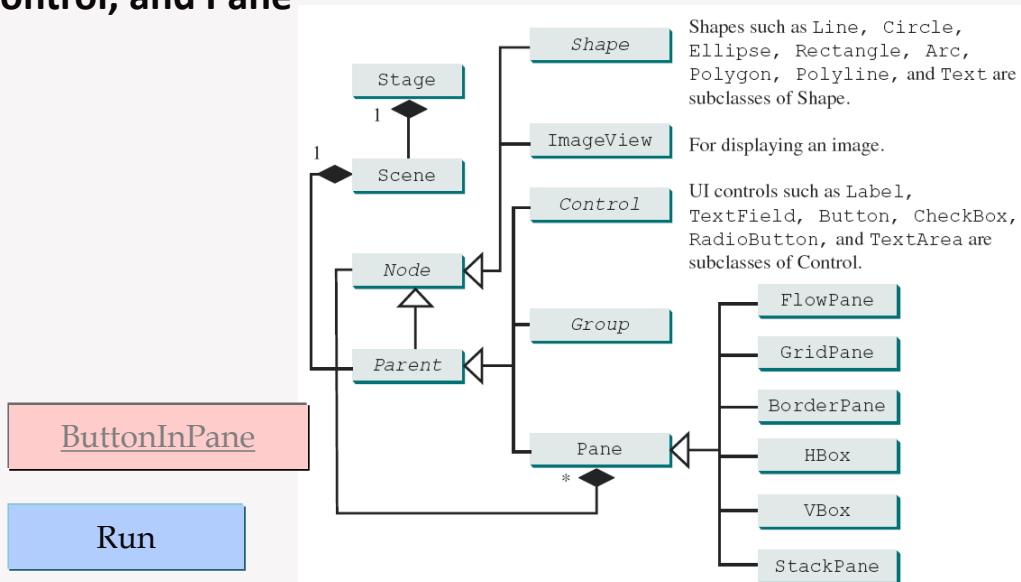
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Panes, Groups, UI Controls, and Shapes

- Panes and groups are used to hold nodes
- Nodes can be shapes, image views, UI controls, groups, and panes.

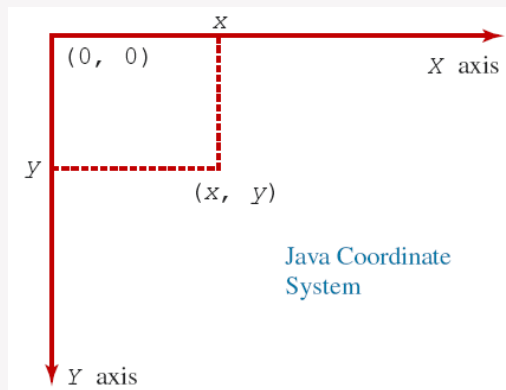


The Relationship among Stage, Scene, Node, Control, and Pane



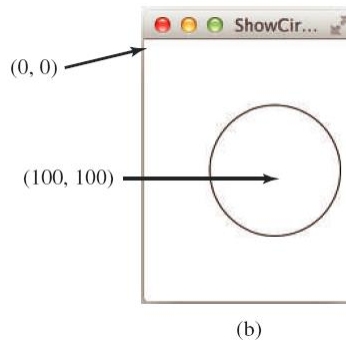
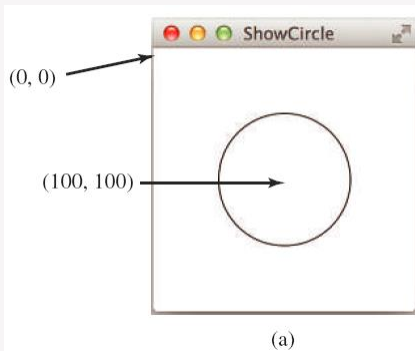
Display a Shape

- The Java coordinate system is measured in *pixels*, with **(0, 0)** at its upper-left corner.



Display a Shape

- This example displays a circle in the center of the pane.
- A circle is displayed in the center of the scene.
- The circle is not centered after the window is resized.



ShowCircle

Run

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14.5 Property Binding

- JavaFX introduces a new concept called **property binding** that enables a target object to be bound to a source object.
- If the value in the source object changes, the target object is also changed automatically.
- The target object is called a *binding object* or a **binding property** and the source object is called a **bindable object** or **observable object**.

ShowCircleCentered

Run

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Binding Properties

- The bind method is defined in the **javafx.beans.property.Property** interface. A target binds with a source using the **bind** method as follows:

```
target.bind(source) ;
```
- A binding property is an instance of **javafx.beans.property.Property**.
- A source object is an instance of the **javafx.beans.value.ObservableValue** interface. An **ObservableValue** is an entity that wraps a value and allows to observe the value for changes.
- JavaFX defines binding properties for primitive types and strings.
 - DoubleProperty/FloatProperty/LongProperty/IntegerProperty/BooleanProperty/StringProperty

Binding Property: getter, setter, and property getter

- By convention, each binding property in a JavaFX class has a getter and setter method for returning and setting the property's value. It also has a getter method for returning the property itself. The naming convention for this method is the property name followed by the word Property.
- We call the getCenterX() method as the **value getter** method, the setCenterX(double) method as the **value setter** method, and centerXProperty() as the **property getter** method.
 - Note that getCenterX() returns a double value and centerXProperty() returns an object of the DoubleProperty type.

Binding Property: getter, setter, and property getter

```
public class SomeClassName {
    private PropertyType x;

    /** Value getter method */
    public PropertyValue getX() { ... }

    /** Value setter method */
    public void setX(PropertyValueType value) { ... }

    /** Property getter method */
    public PropertyType
    xProperty() { ... }
}
```

(a) x is a binding property

```
public class Circle {
    private DoubleProperty centerX;

    /** Value getter method */
    public double getCenterX() { ... }

    /** Value setter method */
    public void setCenterX(double value) { ... }

    /** Property getter method */
    public DoubleProperty centerXProperty() { ... }
}
```

(b) centerX is binding property

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Unidirectional Binding

```
1 import javafx.beans.property.DoubleProperty;
2 import javafx.beans.property.SimpleDoubleProperty;
3
4 public class BindingDemo {
5     public static void main(String[] args) {
6         DoubleProperty d1 = new SimpleDoubleProperty(1);
7         DoubleProperty d2 = new SimpleDoubleProperty(2);
8         d1.bind(d2);
9         System.out.println("d1 is " + d1.getValue()
10             + " and d2 is " + d2.getValue());
11         d2.setValue(70.2);
12         System.out.println("d1 is " + d1.getValue()
13             + " and d2 is " + d2.getValue());
14     }
15 }
```

BindingDemo

Run

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Bidirectional Binding

- Occasionally, it is useful to synchronize two properties so that a change in one property is reflected in another object, and vice versa. This is called a *bidirectional binding*.
- If the target and source are both binding properties and observable properties, they can be bound bidirectionally using the **bindBidirectional** method.

[BidirectionalBindingDemo](#)

Run

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14.6 Common Properties and Methods for Nodes

- JavaFX style properties are called *JavaFX CSS*. In JavaFX, a style property is defined with a prefix **-fx-**.

<http://docs.oracle.com/javafx/2/api/javafx/scene/doc-files/cssref.html>

- The abstract **Node** class defines many properties and methods that are common to all nodes.
- style**: set a JavaFX CSS style
 - The syntax for setting a style is **styleName:value**. Multiple style properties for a node can be set together separated by semicolon (;).
- rotate**: Rotate a node

[NodeStyleRotateDemo](#)

Run

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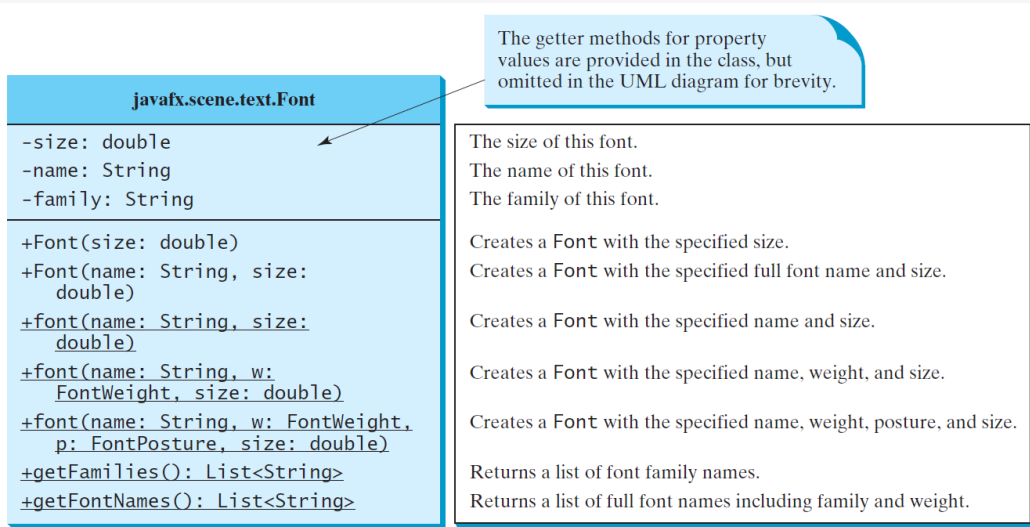
14.7 The Color Class

javafx.scene.paint.Color	
<pre> - red: double - green: double - blue: double - opacity: double + Color(r: double, g: double, b: double, opacity: double) + brighter(): Color + darker(): Color + color(r: double, g: double, b: double): Color + color(r: double, g: double, b: double, opacity: double): Color + rgb(r: int, g: int, b: int): Color + rgb(r: int, g: int, b: int, opacity: double): Color </pre>	<p>The getter methods for property values are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.</p> <p>The red value of this Color (between 0.0 and 1.0). The green value of this Color (between 0.0 and 1.0). The blue value of this Color (between 0.0 and 1.0). The opacity of this Color (between 0.0 and 1.0).</p> <p>Creates a Color with the specified red, green, blue, and opacity values.</p> <p>Creates a Color that is a brighter version of this Color.</p> <p>Creates a Color that is a darker version of this Color.</p> <p>Creates an opaque Color with the specified red, green, and blue values.</p> <p>Creates a Color with the specified red, green, blue, and opacity values.</p> <p>Creates a Color with the specified red, green, and blue values in the range from 0 to 255.</p> <p>Creates a Color with the specified red, green, and blue values in the range from 0 to 255 and a given opacity.</p>

The Color Class

- JavaFX defines the abstract **Paint** class for painting a node. The **javafx.scene.paint.Color** is a concrete subclass of **Paint**, which is used to encapsulate colors. *The **Color** class can be used to create colors.*
- **RGBA** model: **RGBA** stands for red, green, blue, and alpha.
 - *r*, *g*, and *b* specify a color by its red, green, and blue components with values in the range from 0.0 (darkest shade) to 1.0 (lightest shade).
 - The alpha value indicates the opacity. It defines the transparency of a color within the range from 0.0 (completely transparent) to 1.0 (completely opaque).
- Many standard colors are defined as constants in the **Color** class. e.g. **Color.RED**

14.8 The Font Class



14.8 The Font Class

- A **Font** describes font name, weight, and size.
- You can set fonts for rendering the text. The **javafx.scene.text.Font** class is used to create fonts.
- A **Font** is defined by its name, weight, posture, and size.
 - The font postures are two constants: **FontPosture.ITALIC** and **FontPosture.REGULAR**.
- A **Font** instance can be constructed using its constructors or using its static methods.

[FontDemo](#)

Run

14.9 The Image and ImageView Classes

- The **javafx.scene.image.Image** class represents a graphical image and is used for loading an image from a specified filename or a URL.

```
new Image("image/china.gif")
```

```
new Image("http://www.cs.armstrong.edu/liang/image/china.gif")
```

- The **javafx.scene.image.ImageView** is a node for displaying an image. An **ImageView** can be created from an **Image** object, a file or a URL.

```
Image image = new Image("image/china.gif");
```

```
ImageView imageView = new ImageView(image);
```

```
ImageView imageView = new ImageView("image/china.gif");
```

The Image Class

javafx.scene.image.Image

```
-error: ReadOnlyBooleanProperty
-height: ReadOnlyBooleanProperty
-width: ReadOnlyBooleanProperty
-progress: ReadOnlyBooleanProperty

+Image(filenameOrURL: String)
```

The getter methods for property values are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

Indicates whether the image is loaded correctly?
The height of the image.
The width of the image.
The approximate percentage of image's loading that is completed.
Creates an **Image** with contents loaded from a file or a URL.

The ImageView Class

javafx.scene.image.ImageView

-fitHeight: DoubleProperty
 -fitWidth: DoubleProperty
 -x: DoubleProperty
 -y: DoubleProperty
 -image: ObjectProperty<Image>

+ImageView()
 +ImageView(image: Image)
 +ImageView(filenameOrURL: String)

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

The height of the bounding box within which the image is resized to fit.
 The width of the bounding box within which the image is resized to fit.
 The x-coordinate of the ImageView origin.
 The y-coordinate of the ImageView origin.
 The image to be displayed in the image view.

Creates an ImageView.
 Creates an ImageView with the specified image.
 Creates an ImageView with image loaded from the specified file or URL.

ShowImage

Run

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Note

- Note that you must place the image file in **the same directory as the class file**.
 - Eclipse: project\bin\
- If you use the URL to locate the image file, the URL protocol **http://** must be present.

```
new Image("http://liveexample.pearsoncmg.com/book/image/us.gif");
```

Directory

ShowImage.class

image

us.gif

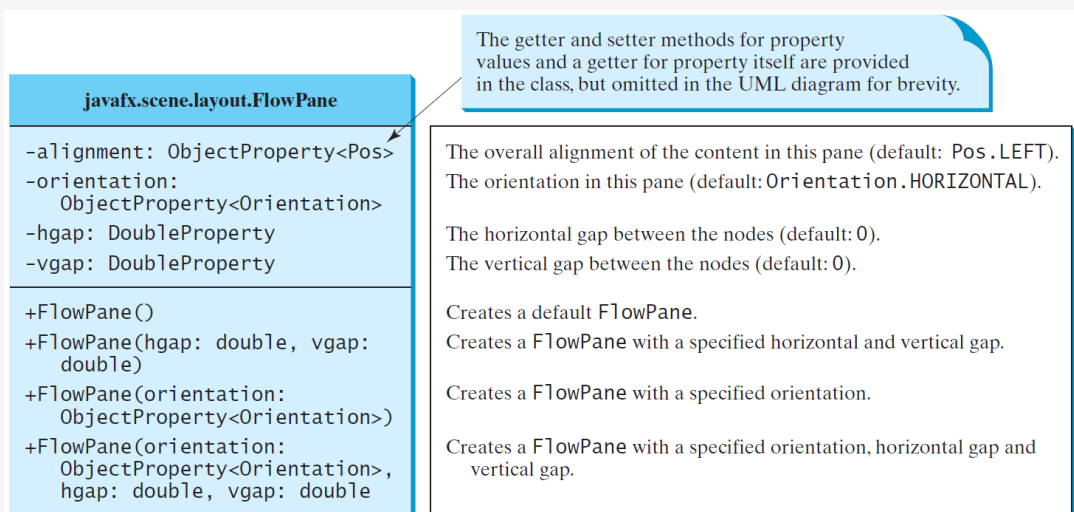
14.10 Layout Panes and Groups

- Panes and groups are the containers for holding nodes.
- The **Group** class is often used to group nodes and to perform transformation and scale as a group. Panes and UI control objects are resizable, but group, shape, and text objects are not resizable.
- JavaFX provides many types of panes for organizing nodes in a container.

Class	Description
Pane	Base class for layout panes. It contains the <code>getChildren()</code> method for returning a list of nodes in the pane.
StackPane	Places the nodes on top of each other in the center of the pane.
FlowPane	Places the nodes row-by-row horizontally or column-by-column vertically.
GridPane	Places the nodes in the cells in a two-dimensional grid.
BorderPane	Places the nodes in the top, right, bottom, left, and center regions.
HBox	Places the nodes in a single row.
VBox	Places the nodes in a single column.

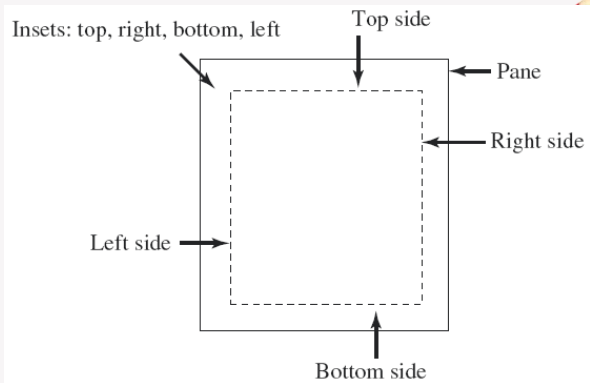
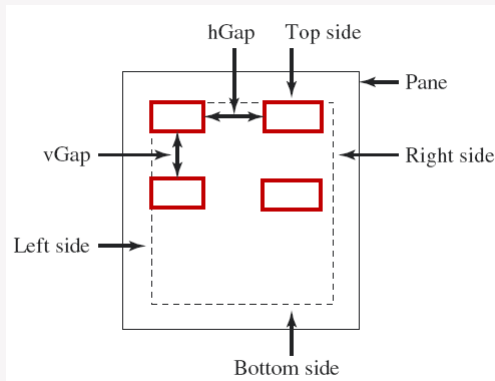
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FlowPane



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FlowPane



ShowFlowPane

Run

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GridPane

javafx.scene.layout.GridPane

```
-alignment: ObjectProperty<Pos>
-gridLinesVisible: BooleanProperty
-hgap: DoubleProperty
-vgap: DoubleProperty
```

```
+GridPane()
+add(child: Node, columnIndex: int, rowIndex: int): void
+addColumn(columnIndex: int, children: Node...): void
+addRow(rowIndex: int, children: Node...): void
+getColumnIndex(child: Node): int
+setColumnIndex(child: Node, columnIndex: int): void
+getRowIndex(child: Node): int
+setRowIndex(child: Node, rowIndex: int): void
+setHalignment(child: Node, value: HPos): void
+setValignment(child: Node, value: VPos): void
```

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

The overall alignment of the content in this pane (default: Pos.LEFT).
Is the grid line visible? (default: false)

The horizontal gap between the nodes (default: 0).
The vertical gap between the nodes (default: 0).

Creates a GridPane.

Adds a node to the specified column and row.

Adds multiple nodes to the specified column.

Adds multiple nodes to the specified row.

Returns the column index for the specified node.

Sets a node to a new column. This method repositions the node.

Returns the row index for the specified node.

Sets a node to a new row. This method repositions the node.

Sets the horizontal alignment for the child in the cell.

Sets the vertical alignment for the child in the cell.

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BorderPane

javafx.scene.layout.BorderPane

```

-top: ObjectProperty<Node>
-right: ObjectProperty<Node>
-bottom: ObjectProperty<Node>
-left: ObjectProperty<Node>
-center: ObjectProperty<Node>

+BorderPane()
+setAlignment(child: Node, pos: Pos)

```

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

The node placed in the top region (default: null).
 The node placed in the right region (default: null).
 The node placed in the bottom region (default: null).
 The node placed in the left region (default: null).
 The node placed in the center region (default: null).

Creates a **BorderPane**.

Sets the alignment of the node in the **BorderPane**.

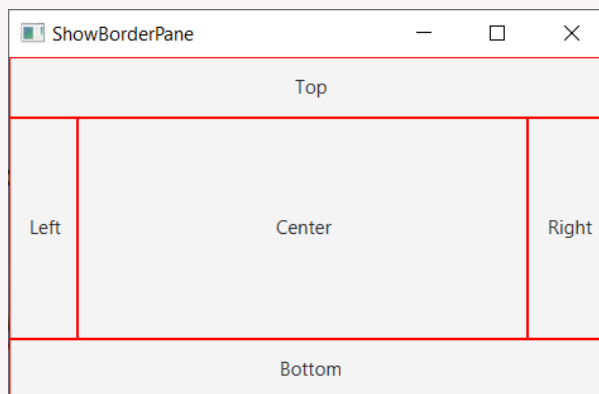
ShowBorderPane

Run

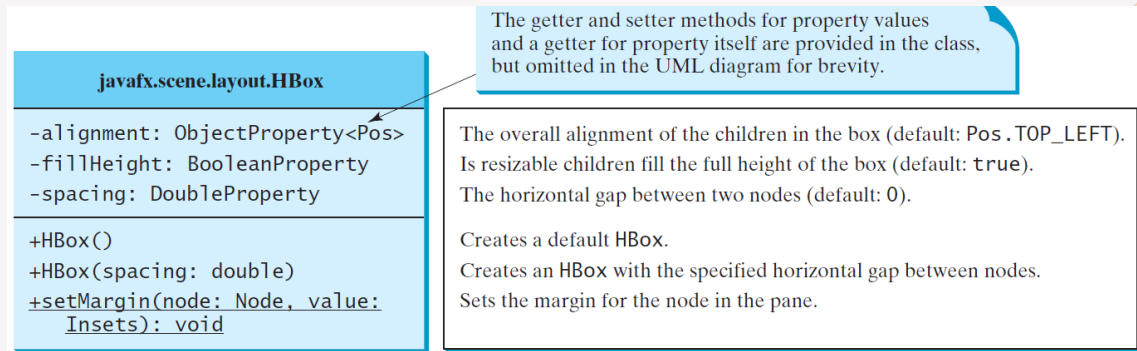
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BorderPane

- The **BorderPane** places the nodes in five regions of the pane.

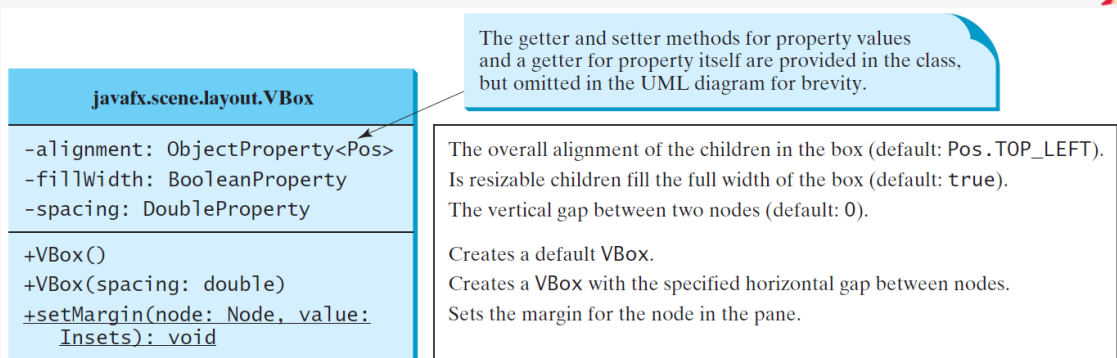


HBox



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VBox

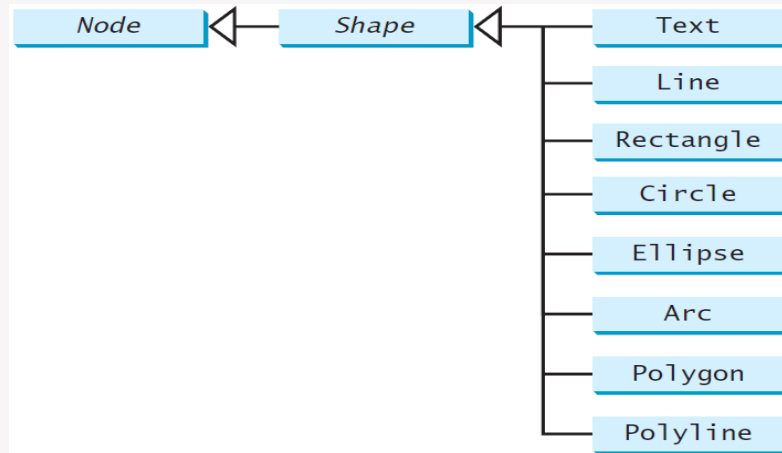

[ShowHBoxVBox](#)

Run

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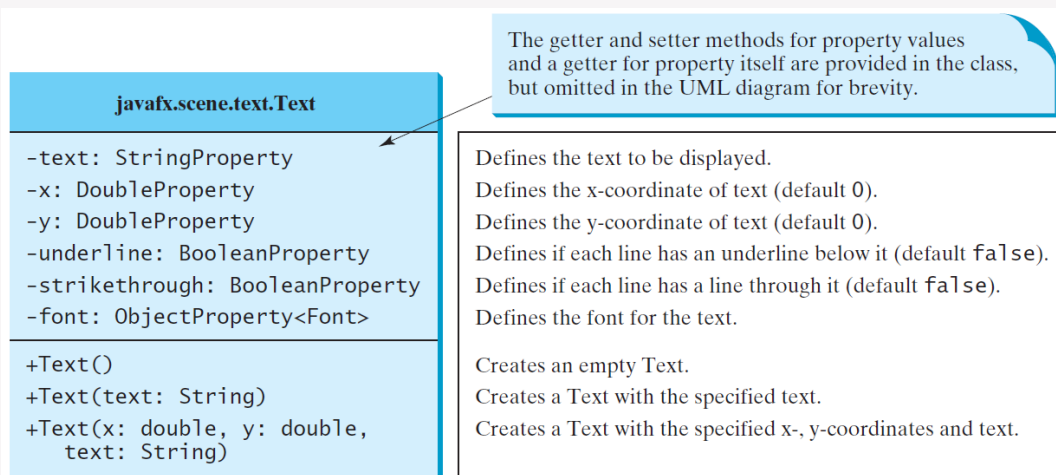
14.11 Shapes

- JavaFX provides many shape classes for drawing texts, lines, circles, rectangles, ellipses, arcs, polygons, and polylines.



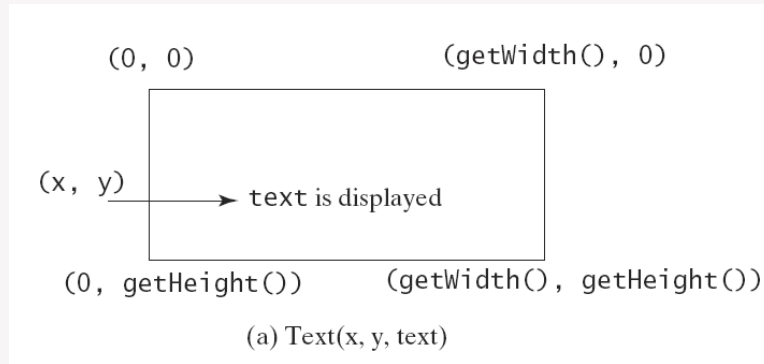
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Text



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Text Example

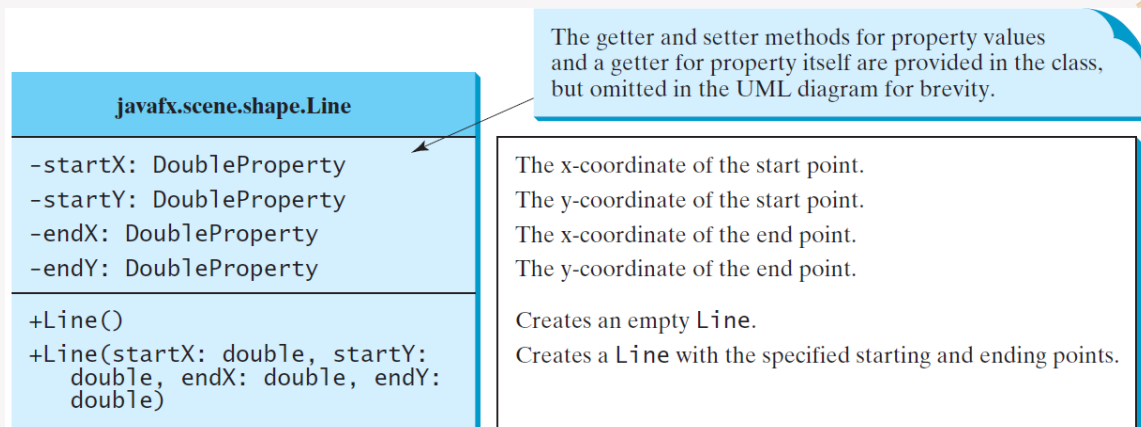


ShowText

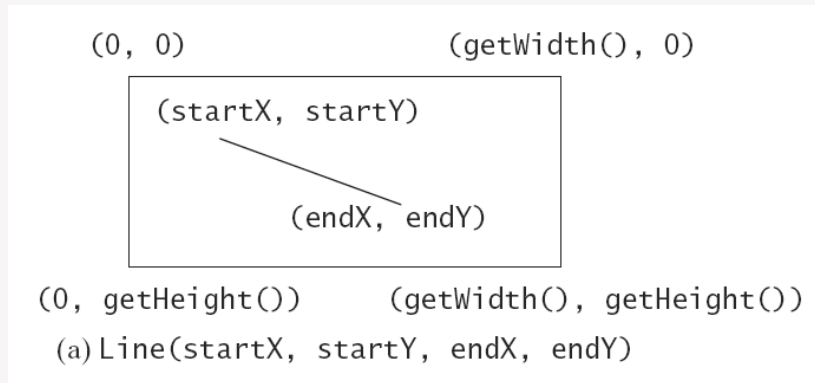
Run

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Line



Line Example

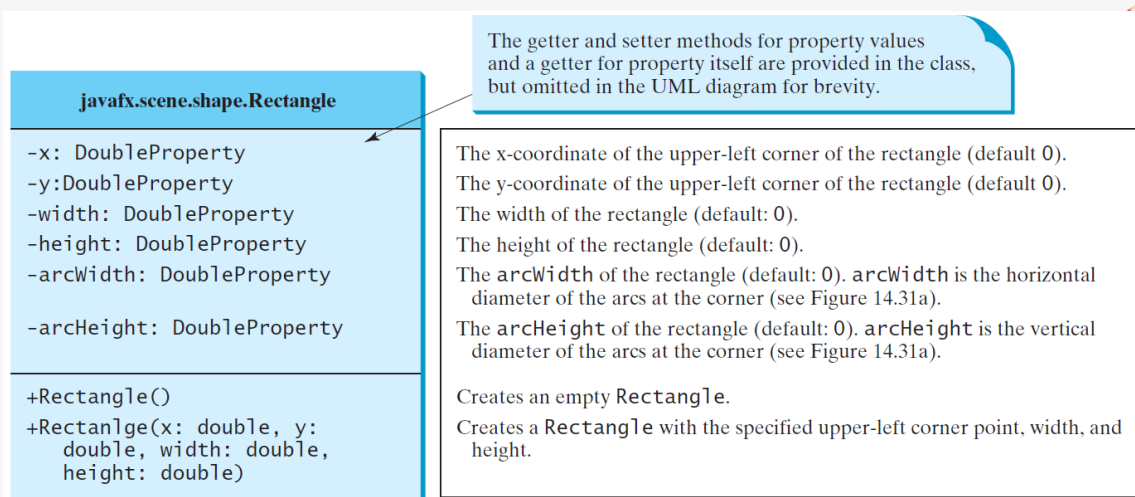


ShowLine

Run

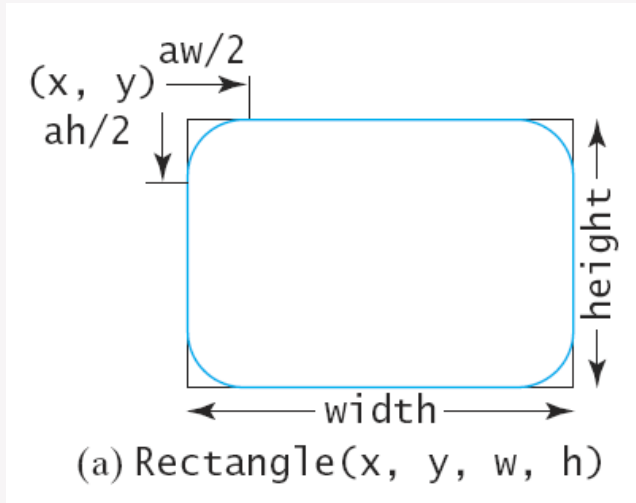
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Rectangle



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Rectangle Example



ShowRectangle

Run

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Circle

`javafx.scene.shape.Circle`

-centerX: DoubleProperty
-centerY: DoubleProperty
-radius: DoubleProperty

+Circle()
+Circle(x: double, y: double)
+Circle(x: double, y: double,
radius: double)

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

The x-coordinate of the center of the circle (default 0).
The y-coordinate of the center of the circle (default 0).
The radius of the circle (default: 0).

Creates an empty `Circle`.

Creates a `Circle` with the specified center.

Creates a `Circle` with the specified center and radius.

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Ellipse

javafx.scene.shape.Ellipse

```

- centerX: DoubleProperty
- centerY: DoubleProperty
- radiusX: DoubleProperty
- radiusY: DoubleProperty

+ Ellipse()
+ Ellipse(x: double, y: double)
+ Ellipse(x: double, y: double,
  radiusX: double, radiusY:
  double)

```

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

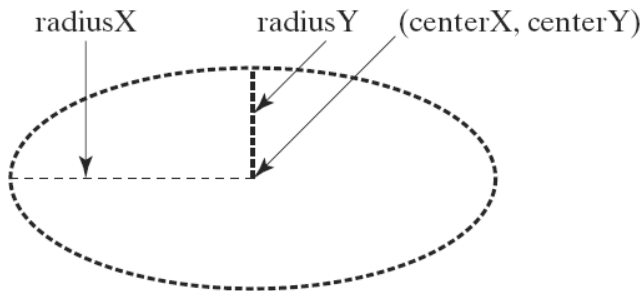
The x-coordinate of the center of the ellipse (default 0).
 The y-coordinate of the center of the ellipse (default 0).
 The horizontal radius of the ellipse (default: 0).
 The vertical radius of the ellipse (default: 0).

Creates an empty `Ellipse`.

Creates an `Ellipse` with the specified center.

Creates an `Ellipse` with the specified center and radiuses.

Ellipse

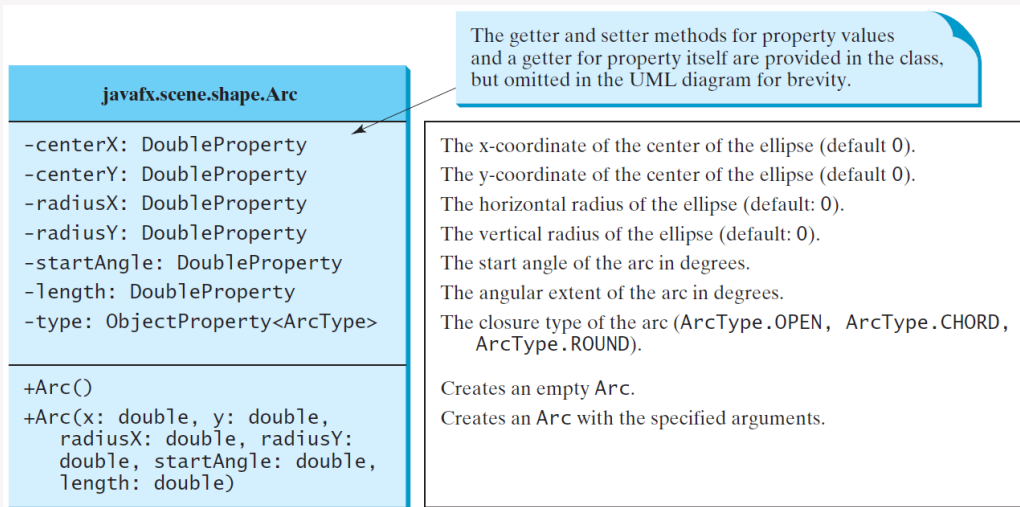


(a) `Ellipse(centerX, centerY, radiusX, radiusY)`

[ShowEllipse](#)

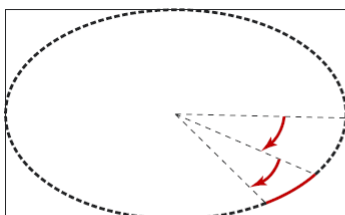
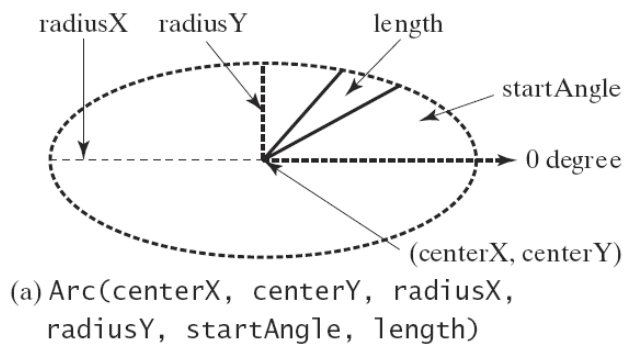
Run

Arc

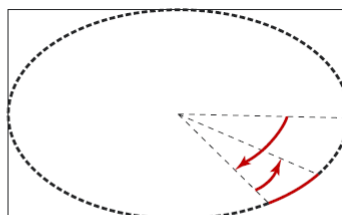


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Arc Examples



(a) Negative starting angle -30° and negative spanning angle -20°



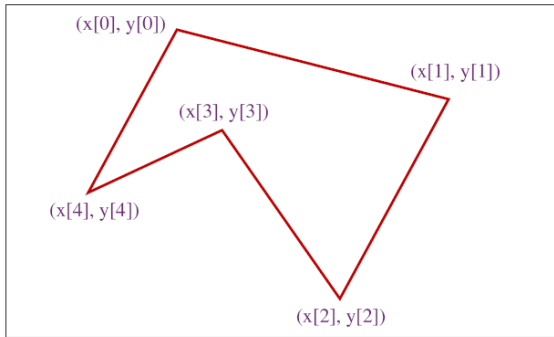
(b) Negative starting angle -50° and positive spanning angle 20°

[ShowArc](#)

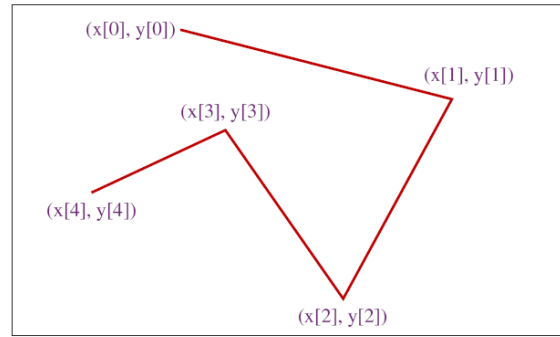
Run

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Polygon and Polyline



(a) Polygon



(b) Polyline

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Polygon

`javafx.scene.shape. Polygon`

```
+Polygon()
+Polygon(double... points)
+getPoints():
  ObservableList<Double>
```

The getter and setter methods for property values and a getter for property itself are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

Creates an empty Polygon.

Creates a Polygon with the given points.

Returns a list of double values as x-and y-coordinates of the points.

ShowPolygon

Run

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Case Study: The ClockPane Class

`javafx.scene.layout.Pane`

ClockPane

-hour: int
-minute: int
-second: int
-w: double
-h: double

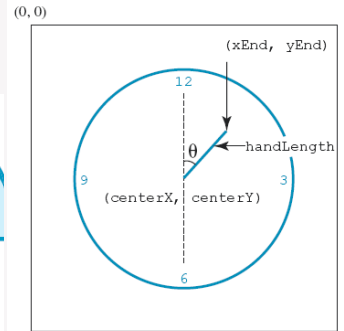
+ClockPane()
+ClockPane(hour: int, minute: int, second: int)
+setCurrentTime(): void

The getter and setter methods for these data fields are provided in the class, but omitted in the UML diagram for brevity.

The hour in the clock.
The minute in the clock.
The second in the clock.
The width of the pane that contains the clock.
The height of the pane that contains the clock.

Constructs a default clock for the current time.
Constructs a clock with the specified time.

Sets hour, minute, and second to current time.



ClockPane

DisplayClock

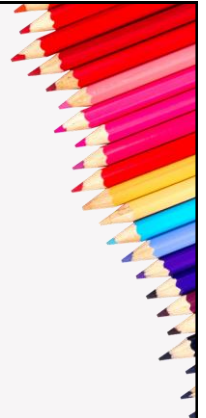
Run

51

Chapter Summary

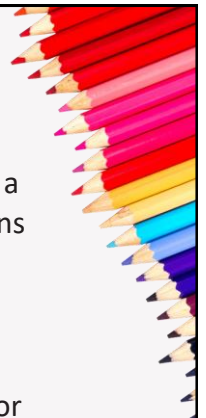
Chapter Summary

- JavaFX is the new framework for developing rich Internet applications. JavaFX completely replaces Swing and AWT.
- A main JavaFX class must extend ***javafx.application.Application*** and implement the ***start*** method. The primary stage is automatically created by the JVM and passed to the start method.
- A stage is a window for displaying a scene. You can add nodes to a scene. Panes, controls, and shapes are nodes. Panes can be used as the containers for nodes.
- The **Node** class defines many properties that are common to all nodes. You can apply these properties to panes, controls, and shapes.



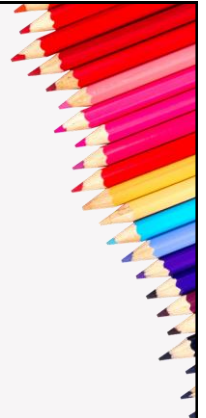
Chapter Summary

- JavaFX provides many types of panes for automatically laying out nodes in a desired location and size. The **Pane** is the base class for all panes. It contains the ***getChildren()*** method to return an ***ObservableList***. You can use ***ObservableList's add(node)*** and ***addAll(node1, node2, ...)*** methods for adding nodes into a pane.
- A **FlowPane** arranges the nodes in the pane horizontally from left to right or vertically from top to bottom in the order in which they were added. A **GridPane** arranges nodes in a grid (matrix) formation. The nodes are placed in the specified column and row indices. A **BorderPane** can place nodes in five regions: top, bottom, left, right, and center. An **HBox** lays out its children in a single horizontal row. A **VBox** lays out its children in a single vertical column.



Chapter Summary

- You can create a **Color** object with the specified red, green, blue components, and opacity value.
- You can create a **Font** object and set its name, size, weight, and posture.
- The **`javafx.scene.image.Image`** class can be used to load an image and this image can be displayed in an **`ImageView`** object.
- JavaFX provides many shape classes for drawing texts, lines, circles, rectangles, ellipses, arcs, polygons, and polylines.



Programming Exercises

1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 18, 20, 26, 27

