



Object-Oriented Analysis & Java

Lecture 2

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Classes



Classes and objects

- Programs are composed of *classes*
- Classes are “a blueprint for objects”
 - It defines a new type in the language
 - It defines the state and behaviour of this class’ objects
- An object is an instance of a class
 - It has attributes (state), methods (behaviour) and is unique



Attributes and methods

- Attributes are variables specific to a class
 - Also called *fields*
- Methods are functions/procedures



Methods in Java

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

↑
Access
modifier

↑
Method
modifier

↑
Return
type

↑
Method
name

↑
Parameters



Access modifiers

- **public**: Anyone can access it
- **protected**: Can be accessed by the subclasses and classes from the same package
- **package-private**: Classes from the same package can access it (default access level)
- **private**: Only the class itself can access it



Static methods

- Also called *class methods*
- Called on the class itself
- Don't need a specific instance to be called
 - Cannot use `this`

Example: `Math.sqrt(36.0);`



Static attributes

- Also called *class variables*
- Used to represent a value that is not linked to a specific instance
- Can be accessed the same way as static methods

Example: `System.out`



Keyword `this`

- Inside a class, this keyword is a reference to the current instance
- Implicitly used when calling an attribute or a method inside a class method
 - `speed = sp; // Same as this.speed = sp`



Constructors

- Special methods to create a new instance of a class
- Same name as the class
- Can take parameters
- Don't return anything (`void`)
- All classes must have at least one constructor



Constructors

```
public class Car {  
    private double speed;  
  
    public Car(double sp) {  
        this.speed = sp;  
    }  
}
```



Getters and setters

- Getters (or accessors) are methods used to get the value of an attribute
- Setters (or mutators) are methods used to set the value of an attribute



Getters and setters

```
public class Car {  
    private double speed;  
  
    public double getSpeed() {  
        return this.speed;  
    }  
  
    public void setSpeed(double sp) {  
        this.speed = sp;  
    }  
}
```



Using an object

- Create a new object:
 - `Car myCar = new Car(30.0);`
- Use methods on an object:
 - `myCar.getSpeed();`



Method toString

- Automatically called when an object has to be converted to a string
- By default, all classes have a toString method inherited from the Object class
- Make it a habit to redefine it

```
@Override
public String toString() {
    return "Car with a speed of " + getSpeed();
}
```



Equality

- For primitive types, == compares their value
- For reference types, == compares the reference itself (i.e., if they reference the same object)

```
Car c1 = new Car(10.0);  
Car c2 = new Car(10.0);  
Car c3 = c1;
```

- Use the method equals to test the equality of two objects semantically



Method equals

- Return true if obj “equals to” this
- By default, all classes have an equals method with the same behaviour as ==
- Make it a habit to redefine it

```
@Override  
public boolean equals(Object obj) {  
    return ...;  
}
```



Does the equality make sense?

- Reflexivity: `a.equals(a)` must be true
- Symmetry: `a.equals(b)` must be equivalent to `b.equals(a)`
- Transitivity: If `a.equals(b)` is true and `b.equals(c)` is true, then `a.equals(c)` must be true
- Nullability: `a.equals(null)` must be false



Method equals

```
@Override
```

```
public boolean equals(Object obj) {  
    if (obj instanceof Car) {  
        Car c = (Car) obj;  
        return c.getSpeed() == this.getSpeed();  
    }  
  
    return false;  
}
```



Arrays



Creating an array

- In Java, arrays are objects
- Declaration: `String[] names;`
- Initialization:
 - `String[] names = new String[10];`
 - `String[] names = {"Frank", "John", "Paul"};`



Arrays of arrays

```
int[][] matrix = new int[20][50];
```

```
int[][] reducedMatrix = {{1, 2, 3}, {4, 5}, null};
```



Copying an array

Use the method `clone` to duplicate an array:

```
int[] nums = new int[33];  
int[] numsCopy = (int[]) nums.clone();
```

Be careful: the method won't copy the objects or the sub-arrays!