

## Classes and Objects



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

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## Optional: Tutorial Videos to Help You Review



- **Link to Tutorial Series:**

<https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/tutorials/index.html#java from scratch w21>

- **Week 1: Eclipse** work environment
- **Week 2c, 2d, 2e: Debugger** in Eclipse
- **Weeks 2, 3:** Programming/Debugging **Conditionals**
- **Weeks 4, 5:** Programming/Debugging **Arrays and Loops**
- **Weeks 6, 7, 8: Classes and Objects**

- **iPad Notes:** <https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/tutorials/notes/EECS1022%20Tutorial%20on%20Java.pdf>

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## Required: Review Tutorials on OOP in Java



Current slides are cross-referenced throughout this review tutorials on Java OOP:

<https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/tutorials/index.html#refurbished store>

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## Required: Written Notes to Review



- **Inferring Classes/Methods from JUnit Tests:**

[https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030\\_F25\\_Inferring Classes from JUnit.pdf](https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030_F25_Inferring Classes from JUnit.pdf)

- **Declaring and Manipulating Reference-Typed, Multi-Valued Attributes:**

[https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030\\_F25\\_Tracing PointCollectorTester.pdf](https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030_F25_Tracing PointCollectorTester.pdf)

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## Learning Outcomes

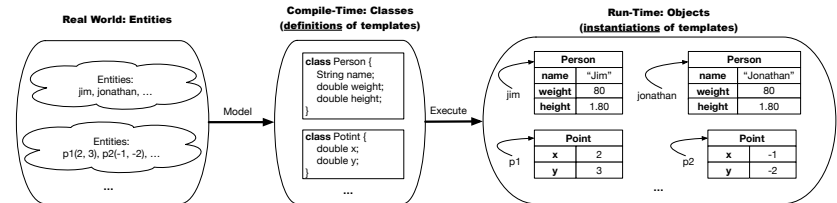


Understand:

- Object Orientation
- Classes as Templates:
  - attributes, constructors, (accessor and mutator) methods
  - use of `this`
- Objects as Instances:
  - use of `new`
  - the dot notation, method invocations
  - reference aliasing
- Reference-Typed Attributes: Single-Valued vs. Multi-Valued
- Non-Static vs. Static Variables
- Helper Methods

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## Object Orientation: Observe, Model, and Execute



- Study [this tutorial video](#) that walks you through the idea of **object orientation**.
- We **observe** how real-world **entities** behave.
- We **model** the common **attributes** and **behaviour** of a set of entities in a single **class**.
- We **execute** the program by creating **instances** of classes, which interact in a way analogous to that of real-world **entities**.

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## Separation of Concerns: App/Tester vs. Model



- In EECS1022/EECS1021:
    - **Model Component**: One or More Java Classes  
e.g., `Person` vs. `SMS`, `Student`, `CourseRecord`
    - Another Java class that “manipulates” the model class(es)
      - **Controller** (e.g., `BMIActivity`, `LEDController`). Effects?  
Visualized at a connected physical device (e.g., tablet, LED lightbulbs)
      - **Tester** (e.g., `PersonTester`, `BankTester`). Effects?  
Seen (as textual outputs) at console  
Asserting **expected** vs. **actual** Values in JUnit tests
  - In Java:
    - We may define more than one **classes**.
    - Each class may contain more than one **methods**.
- Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)** in Java:
- Use **classes** to define templates
  - Use **objects** to instantiate classes
  - At **runtime**, **create** objects and **call** methods on objects, to **simulate interactions** between real-life entities.

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## Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)



- In real life, lots of **entities** exist and interact with each other.  
e.g., **People** gain/lose weight, marry/divorce, or get older.  
e.g., **Cars** move from one point to another.  
e.g., **Clients** initiate transactions with banks.
- Entities:
  - Possess **attributes**;
  - Exhibit **behaviour**; and
  - Interact with each other.
- Goals: Solve problems **programmatically** by
  - **Classifying** entities of interest  
Entities in the same class share **common** attributes and behaviour.
  - **Manipulating** data that represent these entities  
Each entity is represented by **specific** values.

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## OO Thinking: Templates vs. Instances (1.1)



Points on a two-dimensional plane are identified by their signed distances from the X- and Y-axes. A point may move arbitrarily towards any direction on the plane. Given two points, we are often interested in knowing the distance between them.

- A template called `Point` defines the common
  - **attributes** (e.g., `x`, `y`) [≈ nouns]
  - **behaviour** (e.g., `move up`, `get distance from`) [≈ verbs]

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## OO Thinking: Templates vs. Instances (2.1)



A person is a being, such as a human, that has certain attributes and behaviour constituting personhood: a person ages and grows on their heights and weights.

- A template called `Person` defines the common
  - **attributes** (e.g., `age`, `weight`, `height`) [≈ nouns]
  - **behaviour** (e.g., `get older`, `gain weight`) [≈ verbs]

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## OO Thinking: Templates vs. Instances (1.2)



- A **template** (e.g., class `Point`) defines what's **shared** by a set of related entities (i.e., 2-D points).
  - Common **attributes** (`x`, `y`)
  - Common **behaviour** (`move left`, `move up`)
- Each template may be **instantiated** as multiple instances, each with **instance-specific** values for attributes `x` and `y`:
  - `Point` instance `p1` is located at (3,4)
  - `Point` instance `p2` is located at (-4,-2)
- Instances of the same template may exhibit **distinct behaviour**.
  - When `p1` moves up for 1 unit, it will end up being at (3,5)
  - When `p2` moves up for 1 unit, it will end up being at (-4,-2)
  - Then, `p1`'s distance from origin:  $[\sqrt{3^2 + 5^2}]$
  - Then, `p2`'s distance from origin:  $[\sqrt{(-4)^2 + (-2)^2}]$

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## OO Thinking: Templates vs. Instances (2.2)



- A **template** (e.g., class `Person`) defines what's **shared** by a set of related entities (i.e., persons).
  - Common **attributes** (`age`, `weight`, `height`)
  - Common **behaviour** (`get older`, `lose weight`, `grow taller`)
- Each template may be **instantiated** as multiple instances, each with **instance-specific** values for attributes `age`, `weight`, and `height`.
  - `Person` instance `jim` is  
50-years old, 1.8-meters tall and 80-kg heavy
  - `Person` instance `jonathan` is  
65-years old, 1.73-meters tall and 90-kg heavy
- Instances of the same template may exhibit **distinct behaviour**.
  - When `jim` gets older, he becomes 51
  - When `jonathan` gets older, he becomes 66.
  - `jim`'s BMI is based on his own height and weight  $[\frac{80}{1.8^2}]$
  - `jonathan`'s BMI is based on his own height and weight  $[\frac{90}{1.73^2}]$

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## OOP: Classes $\approx$ Templates



In Java, you use a **class** to define a **template** that enumerates **attributes** that are common to a set of **entities** of interest.

```
public class Person {  
    private int age;  
    private String nationality;  
    private double weight;  
    private double height;  
}
```

```
public class Point {  
    private double x;  
    private double y;  
}
```

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## Java Data Types (1)



A (data) type denotes a set of related **runtime values**.

### 1. **Primitive Types**

- Integer Type
  - int [set of 32-bit integers]
  - long [set of 64-bit integers]
- Floating-Point Number Type
  - double [set of 64-bit FP numbers]
- Character Type
  - char [set of single characters]
- Boolean Type
  - boolean [set of true and false]

### 2. **Reference Type**: **Complex Type with Attributes and Methods**

- String [set of references to character sequences]
- Person [set of references to Person objects]
- Point [set of references to Point objects]
- Scanner [set of references to Scanner objects]

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## Java Data Types (2)



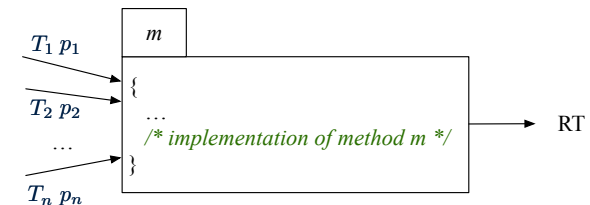
- A variable that is declared with a **type** but **uninitialized** is implicitly assigned with its **default value**.
  - Primitive Type**
    - int i; [0 is implicitly assigned to i]
    - double d; [0.0 is implicitly assigned to d]
    - boolean b; [false is implicitly assigned to b]
  - Reference Type**
    - String s; [null is implicitly assigned to s]
    - Person jim; [null is implicitly assigned to jim]
    - Point p1; [null is implicitly assigned to p1]
    - Scanner input; [null is implicitly assigned to input]
- You **can** use a **primitive** variable that is **uninitialized**. Make sure the **default value** is what you want!
- Calling a method on a **uninitialized** **reference** variable crashes your program. [NullPointerException]  
Always initialize **reference** variables!

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## OOP: Methods (1.1)



- A **method** is a named block of code, **reusable** via its name.



- The **Header** of a method consists of:
  - Return type [RT (which can be void)]
  - Name of method [m]
  - Zero or more **parameter names** [p1, p2, ..., pn]
  - The corresponding **parameter types** [T1, T2, ..., Tn]
- A call to method **m** has the form: **m**(a1, a2, ..., an)  
Types of **argument values** a1, a2, ..., an must match the the corresponding parameter types T1, T2, ..., Tn.

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## OOP: Methods (1.2)

- In the body of the method, you may
  - Declare new *local variables* (whose **scope** is within that method).
  - Use or change values of *attributes*.
  - Use values of *parameters*, if any.

```
public class Person {
    private String nationality;
    public void changeNationality(String newNationality) {
        nationality = newNationality; } }
```

- Call a *method*, with a **context object**, by passing *arguments*.

```
public class PersonTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Person jim = new Person(50, "British");
        Person jonathan = new Person(60, "Canadian");
        jim.changeNationality("Korean");
        jonathan.changeNationality("Korean"); } }
```

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## OOP: Methods (2)

- Each **class** *C* defines a list of methods.
  - A **method** *m* is a named block of code.
- We *reuse* the code of method *m* by calling it on an **object** *obj* of class *C*.
  - For each **method call** *obj.m(...)*:
    - obj* is the **context object** of type *C*
    - m* is a method defined in class *C*
    - We intend to apply the *code effect of method* *m* to object *obj*.  
e.g., *jim.getOlder()* vs. *jonathan.getOlder()*  
e.g., *p1.moveUp(3)* vs. *p2.moveUp(3)*
- All objects of class *C* share *the same definition* of method *m*.
- However:
  - ∴ Each object may have *distinct attribute values*.
  - ∴ Applying *the same definition* of method *m* has *distinct effects*.

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## OOP: Methods (3)

- Constructor**
  - Same name as the class. No return type. *Initializes* attributes.
  - Called with the **new** keyword.
  - e.g., *Person jim = new Person(50, "British");*
- Mutator**
  - Changes* (re-assigns) attributes
  - void return type
  - Cannot be used when a value is expected
  - e.g., *double h = jim.setHeight(78.5)* is illegal!
- Accessor**
  - Uses* attributes for computations (without changing their values)
  - Any return type other than void
  - An explicit *return statement* (typically at the end of the method) returns the computation result to where the method is being used.  
e.g., *double bmi = jim.getBMI();*  
e.g., *println(p1.getDistanceFromOrigin());*

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## OOP: Class Constructors (1.1)

- The purpose of defining a *class* is to be able to create *instances* out of it.
- To *instantiate* a class, we use one of its **constructors**.
- A constructor
  - declares input *parameters*
  - uses input parameters to *initialize* **some or all** of its *attributes*

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## OOP: Class Constructors (1.2)



For each *class*, you may define *one or more* **constructors**:

- Names of all constructors must match the class name.
- No return types need to be specified for constructors.
- Overloaded constructors have *distinct* lists of *parameter types*.
  - Person(String n), Person(String n, int age) ✓
  - Person(String n, int age), Person(int age, String n) ✓
  - Person(String fN, int age), Person(String lN, int id) ✗
- Each *parameter* that is used to initialize an attribute must have a *matching type*.
- The *body* of each constructor specifies how *some or all* *attributes* may be *initialized*.

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## OOP: Class Constructors (2.2)



```
public class Person {
    private int age;
    private String nationality;
    private double weight;
    private double height;
    public Person(int initAge, String initNat) {
        age = initAge;
        nationality = initNat;
    }
    public Person(double initW, double initH) {
        weight = initW;
        height = initH;
    }
    public Person(int initAge, String initNat,
        double initW, double initH) {
        ... /* initialize all attributes using the parameters */
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Class Constructors (2.1)



```
public class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;

    public Point(double initX, double initY) {
        x = initX;
        y = initY;
    }

    public Point(char axis, double distance) {
        if (axis == 'x') { x = distance; }
        else if (axis == 'y') { y = distance; }
        else { /* Error: invalid axis */ }
    }
}
```

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## Visualizing Objects at Runtime (1)



- To trace a program with sophisticated manipulations of objects, it's critical for you to visualize how objects are:
  - Created using *constructors*  
Person jim = new Person(50, "British", 80, 1.8);
  - Inquired using *accessor methods*  
double bmi = jim.getBMI();
  - Modified using *mutator methods*  
jim.gainWeightBy(10);
- To visualize an object:
  - Draw a **rectangle box** to represent **contents** of that object:
    - Title** indicates the *name of class* from which the object is instantiated.
    - Left column** enumerates *names of attributes* of the instantiated class.
    - Right column** fills in *values* of the corresponding attributes.
  - Draw **arrow(s)** for *variable(s)* that store the object's **address**.

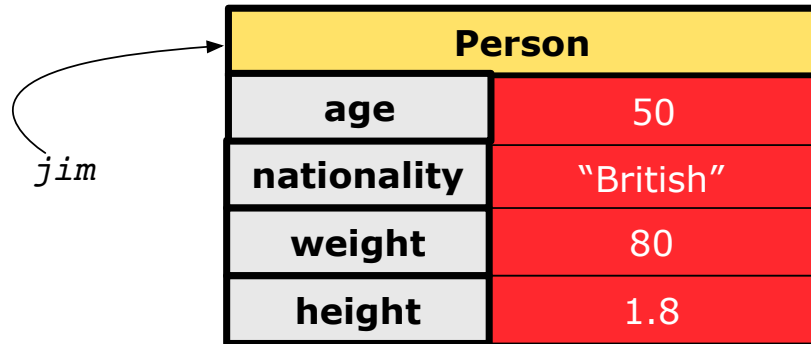
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## Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.1)



After calling a *constructor* to create an object:

```
Person jim = new Person(50, "British", 80, 1.8);
```



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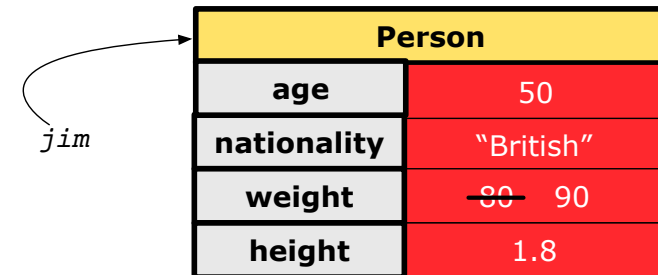
## Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.3)



After calling a *mutator* to modify the state of context object jim:

```
jim.gainWeightBy(10);
```

- *Contents* of the object pointed to by jim change.
- *Address* of the object remains unchanged.  
⇒ jim points to the same object!



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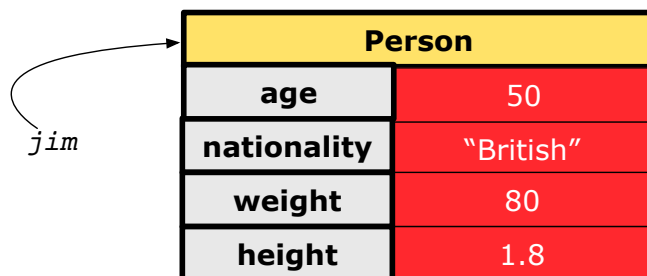
## Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.2)



After calling an *accessor* to inquire about context object jim:

```
double bmi = jim.getBMI();
```

- Contents of the object pointed to by jim remain intact.
- Returned value  $\frac{80}{(1.8)^2}$  of jim.getBMI() stored in variable bmi.



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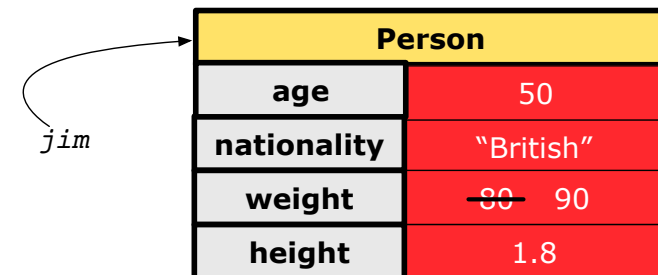
## Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.4)



After calling the same *accessor* to inquire the *modified* state of context object jim:

```
bmi = jim.getBMI();
```

- Contents of the object pointed to by jim remain intact.
- Returned value  $\frac{90}{(1.8)^2}$  of jim.getBMI() stored in variable bmi.



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## Object Creation (1.1)



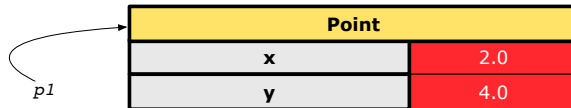
```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);
```

1. **RHS (Source) of Assignment:** `new Point(2, 4)` creates a new *Point object* in memory.

Point	
x	2.0
y	4.0

2. **LHS (Target) of Assignment:** `Point p1` declares a *variable* that is meant to store the *address of some Point object*.

3. **Assignment:** Executing `=` stores new object's address in `p1`.



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## Object Creation (2)



```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);  
System.out.println(p1);
```

```
Point@677327b6
```

By default, the address stored in `p1` gets printed.

Instead, print out attributes separately:

```
System.out.println("(" + p1.getX() + ", " + p1.getY() + ")");
```

```
(2.0, 4.0)
```

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## Object Creation (1.2)



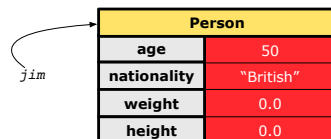
```
Person jim = new Person(50, "British");
```

1. **RHS (Source) of Assignment:** `new Person(50, "British")` creates a new *Person object* in memory.

Person	
age	50
nationality	"British"
weight	0.0
height	0.0

2. **LHS (Target) of Assignment:** `Person jim` declares a *variable* that is meant to store the *address of some Person object*.

3. **Assignment:** Executing `=` stores new object's address in `jim`.



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## OOP: Object Creation (3.1.1)

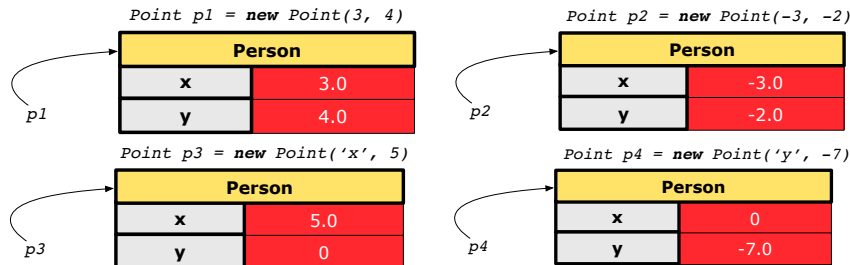


A constructor may only *initialize* some attributes and leave others *uninitialized*.

```
public class PointTester {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Point p1 = new Point(3, 4);  
        Point p2 = new Point(-3 -2);  
        Point p3 = new Point('x', 5);  
        Point p4 = new Point('y', -7);  
    }  
}
```

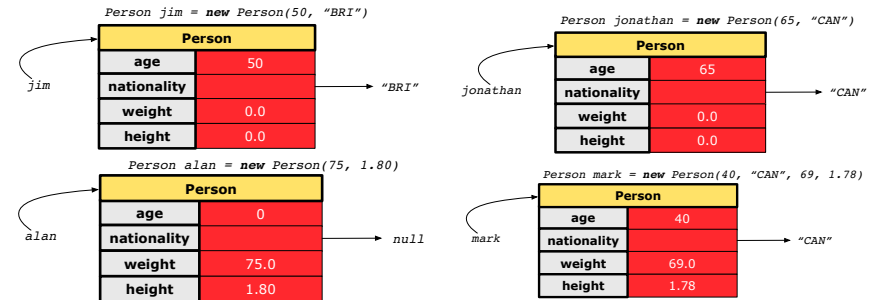
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## OOP: Object Creation (3.1.2)



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## OOP: Object Creation (3.2.2)



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## OOP: Object Creation (3.2.1)



A constructor may only *initialize* some attributes and leave others *uninitialized*.

```
public class PersonTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        /* initialize age and nationality only */
        Person jim = new Person(50, "BRI");
        /* initialize age and nationality only */
        Person jonathan = new Person(65, "CAN");
        /* initialize weight and height only */
        Person alan = new Person(75, 1.80);
        /* initialize all attributes of a person */
        Person mark = new Person(40, "CAN", 69, 1.78);
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Object Creation (4)



- When using the constructor, pass **valid argument values**:
  - The type of each argument value must match the corresponding parameter type.
  - e.g., `Person(50, "BRI")` matches `Person(int initAge, String initNationality)`
  - e.g., `Point(3, 4)` matches `Point(double initX, double initY)`
- When creating an instance, *uninitialized* attributes implicitly get assigned the **default values**.
  - Set *uninitialized* attributes properly later using **mutator** methods

```
Person jim = new Person(50, "British");
jim.setWeight(85);
jim.setHeight(1.81);
```

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## OOP: The Dot Notation (1)

- A binary operator:
  - **LHS** an object
  - **RHS** an attribute or a method
- Given a **variable** of some **reference type** that is **not null**:
  - We use a dot to retrieve any of its **attributes**.  
Analogous to 's in English  
e.g., jim.nationality means jim's nationality
  - We use a dot to invoke any of its **mutator methods**, in order to **change** values of its attributes.  
e.g., jim.changeNationality("CAN") changes the nationality attribute of jim
  - We use a dot to invoke any of its **accessor methods**, in order to **use** the result of some computation on its attribute values.  
e.g., jim.getBMI() computes and returns the BMI calculated based on jim's weight and height
  - Return value of an **accessor method** must be stored in a variable.  
e.g., double jimBMI = jim.getBMI()

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## The this Reference (2)

- In the **method** definition, each **attribute** has an **implicit this** which refers to the **context object** in a call to that method.

```
public class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    public Point(double newX, double newY) {
        this.x = newX;
        this.y = newY;
    }
    public void moveUp(double units) {
        this.y = this.y + units;
    }
}
```

- Each time when the **class** definition is used to create a new **Point object**, the **this** reference is substituted by the name of the new object.

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## The this Reference (1)

- Each **class** may be instantiated to multiple **objects** at runtime.

```
public class Point {
    private double x; private double y;
    public void moveUp(double units) { y += units; }
}
```

- Each time when we call a method of some class, using the dot notation, there is a specific **target/context** object.

```
1 Point p1 = new Point(2, 3);
2 Point p2 = new Point(4, 6);
3 p1.moveUp(3.5);
4 p2.moveUp(4.7);
```

- p1 and p2 are called the **call targets** or **context objects**.
- **Lines 3 and 4** apply the same definition of the **moveUp** method.
- But how does Java distinguish the change to **p1.y** versus the change to **p2.y**?

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## The this Reference (3)

- After we create p1 as an instance of **Point**

```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 3);
```

- When invoking **p1.moveUp(3.5)**, a version of **moveUp** that is specific to **p1** will be used:

```
public class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    public Point(double newX, double newY) {
        p1.x = newX;
        p1.y = newY;
    }
    public void moveUp(double units) {
        p1.y = p1.y + units;
    }
}
```

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## The this Reference (4)

- After we create p2 as an instance of Point

```
Point p2 = new Point(4, 6);
```

- When invoking p2.moveUp(4.7), a version of moveUp that is specific to p2 will be used:

```
public class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    public Point(double newX, double newY) {
        p2.x = newX;
        p2.y = newY;
    }
    public void moveUp(double units) {
        p2.y = p2.y + units;
    }
}
```

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## The this Reference (6.1): Common Error

The following code fragment compiles but is problematic:

```
1 public class Person {
2     private String name;
3     private int age;
4     public Person(String name, int age) {
5         name = name;
6         age = age;
7     }
8     public void setAge(int age) {
9         age = age;
10    }
11 }
```

- Why? [ variable **shadowing** ]  
Target (LHS) of the assignment (L5) refers to parameter name (L4).
- Fix?

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## The this Reference (5)

The this reference can be used to **disambiguate** when the names of **input parameters** clash with the names of **class attributes**.

```
public class Point {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    public Point(double x, double y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }
    public void setX(double x) {
        this.x = x;
    }
    public void setY(double y) {
        this.y = y;
    }
}
```

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## The this Reference (6.2): Common Error

Always remember to use this when **input parameter** names clash with **class attribute** names.

```
public class Person {
    private String name;
    private int age;
    public Person(String name, int age) {
        this.name = name;
        this.age = age;
    }
    public void setAge(int age) {
        this.age = age;
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Mutator Methods

- These methods *change* values of attributes.
- We call such methods **mutators** (with void return type).

```
public class Person {
    ...
    public void gainWeight(double units) {
        this.weight = this.weight + units;
    }
}
```

```
public class Point {
    ...
    public void moveUp() {
        this.y = this.y + 1;
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Method Calls

```
1 Point p1 = new Point (3, 4);
2 Point p2 = new Point (-4, -3);
3 System.out.println(p1. getDistanceFromOrigin() );
4 System.out.println(p2. getDistanceFromOrigin() );
5 p1. moveUp (1) ;
6 p2. moveUp (1) ;
7 System.out.println(p1. getDistanceFromOrigin() );
8 System.out.println(p2. getDistanceFromOrigin() );
```

- Lines 1 and 2** create two different instances of Point
- Lines 3 and 4:** invoking the same accessor method on two different instances returns *distinct* values
- Lines 5 and 6:** invoking the same mutator method on two different instances results in *independent* changes
- Lines 3 and 7:** invoking the same accessor method on the same instance *may* return *distinct* values, why?

Line 5

See the lecture recording on tracing the above program [here](#).

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## OOP: Accessor Methods

- These methods *return* the result of computation based on attribute values.
- We call such methods **accessors** (with non-void return type).

```
public class Person {
    ...
    public double getBMI() {
        double bmi = this.height / (this.weight * this.weight);
        return bmi;
    }
}
```

```
public class Point {
    ...
    public double getDistanceFromOrigin() {
        double dist =
            Math.sqrt(this.x * this.x + this.y * this.y);
        return dist;
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Use of Mutator vs. Accessor Methods

- Calls to **mutator methods** *cannot* be used as values.
  - e.g., System.out.println(jim.setWeight (78.5)); ✗
  - e.g., double w = jim.setWeight (78.5); ✗
  - e.g., jim.setWeight (78.5); ✓
- Calls to **accessor methods** *should* be used as values.
  - e.g., jim.getBMI (); ✗
  - e.g., System.out.println(jim.getBMI ()); ✓
  - e.g., double w = jim.getBMI (); ✓

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## OOP: Method Parameters

- **Principle 1:** A **constructor** needs an *input parameter* for every attribute that you wish to initialize.  
e.g., `Person(double w, double h)` vs.  
`Person(String fName, String lName)`
- **Principle 2:** A **mutator** method needs an *input parameter* for every attribute that you wish to modify.  
e.g., `In Point, void moveToXAxis()` vs.  
`void moveUp(double unit)`
- **Principle 3:** An **accessor method** needs *input parameters* if the attributes alone are not sufficient for the intended computation to complete.  
e.g., `In Point, double getDistFromOrigin()` vs.  
`double getDistFrom(Point other)`

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## OOP: Reference Aliasing (2.1)

**Problem:** Consider assignments to *primitive* variables:

```

1  int i1 = 1;
2  int i2 = 2;
3  int i3 = 3;
4  int[] numbers1 = {i1, i2, i3};
5  int[] numbers2 = new int[numbers1.length];
6  for(int i = 0; i < numbers1.length; i++) {
7      numbers2[i] = numbers1[i];
8  }
9  numbers1[0] = 4;
10 System.out.println(numbers1[0]);
11 System.out.println(numbers2[0]);

```

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## OOP: Reference Aliasing (1)

```

1  int i = 3;
2  int j = i; System.out.println(i == j); /*true*/
3  int k = 3; System.out.println(k == i && k == j); /*true*/

```

- **Line 2** copies the number stored in `i` to `j`.
- After **Line 4**, `i`, `j`, `k` refer to three separate integer placeholder, which happen to store the same value 3.

```

1  Point p1 = new Point(2, 3);
2  Point p2 = p1; System.out.println(p1 == p2); /*true*/
3  Point p3 = new Point(2, 3);
4  System.out.println(p3 == p1 || p3 == p2); /*false*/
5  System.out.println(p3.x == p1.x && p3.y == p1.y); /*true*/
6  System.out.println(p3.x == p2.x && p3.y == p2.y); /*true*/

```

- **Line 2** copies the *address* stored in `p1` to `p2`.
- Both `p1` and `p2` refer to the same object in memory!
- `p3`, whose *contents* are same as `p1` and `p2`, refer to a different object in memory.

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## OOP: Reference Aliasing (2.2)

**Exercise:** Consider assignments to *reference* variables:

```

1  Person alan = new Person("Alan");
2  Person mark = new Person("Mark");
3  Person tom = new Person("Tom");
4  Person jim = new Person("Jim");
5  Person[] persons1 = {alan, mark, tom};
6  Person[] persons2 = new Person[persons1.length];
7  for(int i = 0; i < persons1.length; i++) {
8      persons2[i] = persons1[i]; }
9  persons1[0].setAge(70);
10 System.out.println(jim.getAge());
11 System.out.println(alan.getAge());
12 System.out.println(persons2[0].getAge());
13 persons1[0] = jim;
14 persons1[0].setAge(75);
15 System.out.println(jim.getAge());
16 System.out.println(alan.getAge());
17 System.out.println(persons2[0].getAge());

```

See the lecture recording on tracing the above program [here](#).

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## Java Data Types (3.1)

- An **attribute** may store the reference to another object.

```
public class Person { private Person spouse; }
```

- Methods may take as **parameters** references to other objects.

```
public class Person {
    public void marry(Person other) { ... } }
```

- Return values** from methods may be references to objects.

```
public class Point {
    public void moveUp(double i) { this.y = this.y + i; }
    Point movedUpBy(double i) {
        Point np = new Point(this.x, this.y);
        np.moveUp(i);
        return np;
    }
}
```

See the lecture recording on tracing the above program [here](#)

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## Java Data Types (3.2.2)

```
1 public class PointCollectorTester {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         PointCollector pc = new PointCollector();
4         System.out.println(pc.getNumberOfPoints()); /* 0 */
5         pc.addPoint(3, 4);
6         System.out.println(pc.getNumberOfPoints()); /* 1 */
7         pc.addPoint(-3, 4);
8         System.out.println(pc.getNumberOfPoints()); /* 2 */
9         pc.addPoint(-3, -4);
10        System.out.println(pc.getNumberOfPoints()); /* 3 */
11        pc.addPoint(3, -4);
12        System.out.println(pc.getNumberOfPoints()); /* 4 */
13        Point[] ps = pc.getPointsInQuadrantI();
14        System.out.println(ps.length); /* 1 */
15        System.out.println("(" +
16            ps[0].getX() + ", " + ps[0].getY() + ")"); /* (3, 4) */
17    }
18 }
```

See the lecture recording on tracing the above program [here](#)

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## Java Data Types (3.2.1)

An attribute may be **multi-valued**, **reference**-typed  
e.g., of type **Point[]**, storing references to Point objects.

```
1 public class PointCollector {
2     private Point[] points; private int nop; /* number of points */
3     public PointCollector() { this.points = new Point[100]; }
4     public void addPoint(double x, double y) {
5         this.points[this.nop] = new Point(x, y); this.nop++; }
6     public Point[] getPointsInQuadrantI() {
7         Point[] ps = new Point[this.nop];
8         int count = 0; /* number of points in Quadrant I */
9         for(int i = 0; i < this.nop; i++) {
10             Point p = this.points[i];
11             if(p.getX() > 0 && p.getY() > 0) { ps[count] = p; count++; } }
12         Point[] q1Points = new Point[count];
13         /* ps contains null if count < nop */
14         for(int i = 0; i < count; i++) { q1Points[i] = ps[i] }
15         return q1Points;
16     } }
```

**Required Reading:** Point and PointCollector

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## Anonymous Objects (1)

- What's the difference between these two fragments of code?

<pre>1 double square(double x) { 2     double sqr = x * x; 3     return sqr; }</pre>	<pre>1 double square(double x) { 2     return x * x; }</pre>
--	--

After L2, the result of  $x * x$ :

- LHS: it can be reused (without recalculating) via the name `sqr`.
- RHS: it is not stored anywhere and returned right away.

- Same principles applies to objects:

<pre>1 Person getP(String n) { 2     Person p = new Person(n); 3     return p; }</pre>	<pre>1 Person getP(String n) { 2     return new Person(n); }</pre>
--	--

**new Person(n)** is an object whose address is not stored in a variable.

- LHS: L2 stores the address of this anonymous object in `p`.
- RHS: L2 returns the address of this anonymous object directly.

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## Anonymous Objects (2.1)

Anonymous objects can also be used as *assignment sources* or *argument values*:

```
class Member {
    private Order[] orders;
    private int noo;
    /* constructor omitted */
    public void addOrder(Order o) {
        this.orders[this.noo] = o;
        this.noo++;
    }
    public void addOrder(String n, double p, double q) {
        this.addOrder(new Order(n, p, q));
        /* Equivalent implementation:
        * this.orders[this.noo] = new Order(n, p, q); noo ++;
        */
    }
}
```

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## The this Reference (7.1): Exercise

Consider the Person class

```
public class Person {
    private String name;
    private Person spouse;
    public Person(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }
}
```

How do you implement a mutator method marry which marries the current Person object to an input Person object?

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## Anonymous Objects (2.2)

One more example on using anonymous objects:

```
public class MemberTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Member m = new Member("Alan");
        Order o = new Order("Americano", 4.7, 3);
        m.addOrder(o);
        m.addOrder(new Order("Cafe Latte", 5.1, 4));
    }
}
```

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## The this Reference (7.2): Exercise

```
public void marry(Person other) {
    if(this.spouse != null || other.spouse != null) {
        /* Error: both must be single */
    }
    else { this.spouse = other; other.spouse = this; }
}
```

When we call jim.marry(elsa): this is substituted by the *context object* jim, and other by the *argument* elsa.

```
public void marry(Person other elsa) {
    ...
    jim.spouse = elsa;
    elsa.spouse = jim;
    ...
}
```

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## OOP: The Dot Notation (2)



- LHS of dot *can be more complicated than a variable*:

- It can be a *path* that brings you to an object

```
public class Person {  
    private String name; /* public accessor: name() */  
    private Person spouse; /* public accessor: spouse() */  
}
```

- Say we have `Person jim = new Person("Jim Davies")`
- Inquire about jim's name? `[jim.name()]`
- Inquire about jim's spouse's name? `[jim.spouse().name()]`
- But what if jim is single (i.e., `jim.spouse() == null`)?  
Calling `jim.spouse().name()` will cause *NullPointerException*!!
- **Question.** Assuming that:
  - jim is not single. `[jim.spouse() != null]`
  - The marriage is mutual. `[jim.spouse().spouse() == jim]`What does `jim.spouse().spouse().name()` mean?

**Answer.** `jim.name()`

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (2.1)



```
public class PersonCollector {  
    private Person[] ps;  
    private final int MAX = 100; /* max # of persons to store */  
    private int nop; /* number of persons */  
    public PersonCollector() {  
        this.ps = new Person[MAX];  
    }  
    public void addPerson(Person p) {  
        this.ps[this.nop] = p;  
        this.nop++;  
    }  
    /* Tasks:  
    * 1. An accessor: boolean personExists(String n)  
    * 2. A mutator: void changeWeightOf(String n, double w)  
    * 3. A mutator: void changeHeightOf(String n, double h)  
    */  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper Methods (1)



- After you complete and test your program, feeling confident that it is *correct*, you may find that there are lots of *repetitions*.
- When similar fragments of code appear in your program, we say that your code "*smells*"!
- We may eliminate *repetitions* of your code by:
  - *Factoring out* recurring code fragments into a new method.
  - This new method is called a *helper method*:
    - You can replace every occurrence of the recurring code fragment by a *call* to this helper method, with appropriate argument values.
    - That is, we *reuse* the body implementation, rather than repeating it over and over again, of this helper method via calls to it.
- This process is called *refactoring* of your code:

Modify the code structure **without** compromising *correctness*.

See the lecture recording on helper methods [here](#).

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (2.2.1)



```
public class PersonCollector {  
    /* ps, MAX, nop, PersonCollector(), addPerson */  
    public boolean personExists(String n) {  
        boolean found = false;  
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {  
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { found = true; } }  
        return found;  
    }  
    public void changeWeightOf(String n, double w) {  
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {  
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { ps[i].setWeight(w); } }  
    }  
    public void changeHeightOf(String n, double h) {  
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {  
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { ps[i].setHeight(h); } }  
    }  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (2.2.2)



```
public class PersonCollector { /* code smells: repetitions! */
    /* ps, MAX, nop, PersonCollector(), addPerson */
    public boolean personExists(String n) {
        boolean found = false;
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { found = true; } }
        return found;
    }
    public void changeWeightOf(String n, double w) {
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { ps[i].setWeight(w); } }
    }
    public void changeHeightOf(String n, double h) {
        for(int i = 0; i < nop; i++) {
            if(ps[i].getName().equals(n)) { ps[i].setHeight(h); } }
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (3.1)



### Problems:

- A Point class with x and y coordinate values.
- Accessor double `getDistanceFromOrigin()`.  
p.getDistanceFromOrigin() returns the distance between p and (0, 0).
- Accessor double `getDistancesTo(Point p1, Point p2)`.  
p.getDistancesTo(p1, p2) returns the sum of distances between p and p1, and between p and p2.
- Accessor double `getTriDistances(Point p1, Point p2)`.  
p.getDistancesTo(p1, p2) returns the sum of distances between p and p1, between p and p2, and between p1 and p2.

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (2.3)



```
public class PersonCollector { /* Code Smell Eliminated */
    /* ps, MAX, nop, PersonCollector(), addPerson */
    private int indexOf(String n) { /* Helper Methods */
        int i = -1;
        for(int j = 0; j < nop; j++) {
            if(ps[j].getName().equals(n)) { i = j; }
        }
        return i; /* -1 if not found; >= 0 if found. */
    }
    public boolean personExists(String n) {
        return this.indexOf(n) >= 0;
    }
    public void changeWeightOf(String n, double w) {
        int i = indexOf(n); if(i >= 0) { ps[i].setWeight(w); }
    }
    public void changeHeightOf(String n, double h) {
        int i = indexOf(n); if(i >= 0) { ps[i].setHeight(h); }
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (3.2)



```
class Point { /* code smells: repetitions! */
    double x; double y;

    double getDistanceFromOrigin() {
        return Math.sqrt(Math.pow(this.x - 0, 2) + Math.pow(this.y - 0, 2));
    }

    double getDistancesTo(Point p1, Point p2) {
        return
            Math.sqrt(Math.pow(this.x - p1.x, 2) + Math.pow(y - p1.y, 2))
            +
            Math.sqrt(Math.pow(this.x - p2.x, 2) + Math.pow(y - p2.y, 2));
    }

    double getTriDistances(Point p1, Point p2) {
        return
            Math.sqrt(Math.pow(this.x - p1.x, 2) + Math.pow(y - p1.y, 2))
            +
            Math.sqrt(Math.pow(this.x - p2.x, 2) + Math.pow(y - p2.y, 2))
            +
            Math.sqrt(Math.pow(p1.x - p2.x, 2) + Math.pow(p1.y - p2.y, 2));
    }
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (3.3)



- The code pattern

```
Math.sqrt(Math.pow(... - ..., 2) + Math.pow(... - ..., 2))
```

is written down explicitly every time we need to use it.

- Create a **helper method** out of it, with the right *parameter* and *return* types:

```
double getDistanceFrom(double otherX, double otherY) {  
    return Math.sqrt(  
        Math.pow(otherX - this.x, 2)  
        +  
        Math.pow(otherY - this.y, 2));  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Mutator) Methods (4.1)



```
public class Student {  
    private String name;  
    private double balance;  
    public Student(String n, double b) {  
        name = n;  
        balance = b;  
    }  
  
    /* Tasks:  
    * 1. A mutator void receiveScholarship(double val)  
    * 2. A mutator void payLibraryOverdue(double val)  
    * 3. A mutator void payCafeCoupons(double val)  
    * 4. A mutator void transfer(Student other, double val)  
    */  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (3.4)



```
public class Point { /* Code Smell Eliminated */  
    private double x; private double y;  
    double getDistanceFrom(double otherX, double otherY) {  
        return Math.sqrt(Math.pow(otherX - this.x, 2) +  
            Math.pow(otherY - this.y, 2));  
    }  
    double getDistanceFromOrigin() {  
        return this.getDistanceFrom(0, 0);  
    }  
    double getDistancesTo(Point p1, Point p2) {  
        return this.getDistanceFrom(p1.x, p1.y) +  
            this.getDistanceFrom(p2.x, p2.y);  
    }  
    double getTriDistances(Point p1, Point p2) {  
        return this.getDistanceFrom(p1.x, p1.y) +  
            this.getDistanceFrom(p2.x, p2.y) +  
            p1.getDistanceFrom(p2.x, p2.y);  
    }  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Mutator) Methods (4.2.1)



```
public class Student {  
    /* name, balance, Student(String n, double b) */  
    public void receiveScholarship(double val) {  
        balance = balance + val;  
    }  
    public void payLibraryOverdue(double val) {  
        balance = balance - val;  
    }  
    public void payCafeCoupons(double val) {  
        balance = balance - val;  
    }  
    public void transfer(Student other, double val) {  
        balance = balance - val;  
        other.balance = other.balance + val;  
    }  
}
```

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## OOP: Helper (Mutator) Methods (4.2.2)



```
public class Student { /* code smells:repetitions! */
    /* name, balance, Student(String n, double b) */
    public void receiveScholarship(double val) {
        balance = balance + val;
    }
    public void payLibraryOverdue(double val) {
        balance = balance - val;
    }
    public void payCafeCoupons(double val) {
        balance = balance - val;
    }
    public void transfer(Student other, double val) {
        balance = balance - val;
        balance = other.balance + val;
    }
}
```

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## Static Variables (1)



```
public class Account {
    private int id;
    private String owner;
    public int getID() { return this.id; }
    public Account(int id, String owner) {
        this.id = id;
        this.owner = owner;
    }
}
```

```
class AccountTester {
    Account acc1 = new Account(1, "Jim");
    Account acc2 = new Account(2, "Jeremy");
    System.out.println(acc1.getID() != acc2.getID());
}
```

But, managing the unique id's *manually* is **error-prone** !

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## OOP: Helper (Mutator) Methods (4.3)



```
public class Student { /* Code Smell Eliminated */
    /* name, balance, Student(String n, double b) */
    public void deposit(double val) { /* Helper Method */
        balance = balance + val;
    }
    public void withdraw(double val) { /* Helper Method */
        balance = balance - val;
    }
    public void receiveScholarship(double val) { this.deposit(val); }
    public void payLibraryOverdue(double val) { this.withdraw(val); }
    public void payCafeCoupons(double val) { this.withdraw(val); }
    public void transfer(Student other, double val) {
        this.withdraw(val);
        other.deposit(val);
    }
}
```

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## Static Variables (2)



```
class Account {
    private static int globalCounter = 1;
    private int id; String owner;
    public Account(String owner) {
        this.id = globalCounter;
        globalCounter++;
        this.owner = owner; } }
}
```

```
class AccountTester {
    Account acc1 = new Account("Jim");
    Account acc2 = new Account("Jeremy");
    System.out.println(acc1.getID() != acc2.getID());
}
```

- Each instance of a class (e.g., acc1, acc2) has a *local* copy of each attribute or instance variable (e.g., id).
  - Changing acc1.id does not affect acc2.id.
- A *static* variable (e.g., globalCounter) belongs to the class.
  - All instances of the class share a *single* copy of the *static* variable.
  - Change to globalCounter via acc1 is also visible to acc2.

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## Static Variables (3)

```
public class Account {
    private static int globalCounter = 1;
    private int id; private String owner;
    public Account(String owner) {
        this.id = globalCounter;
        globalCounter++;
        this.owner = owner;
    }
}
```

- **Static** variable `globalCounter` is not instance-specific like **instance** variable (i.e., attribute) `id` is.
- To access a **static** variable:
  - **No** context object is needed.
  - Use of the class name suffices, e.g., `Account.globalCounter`.
- Each time `Account`'s constructor is called to create a new instance, the increment effect is **visible to all existing objects** of `Account`.

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## Static Variables (4.2): Common Error

- Attribute `numberOfAccounts` should **not** be declared as **static** as its value should be specific to the client object.
- If it were declared as **static**, then every time the `addAccount` method is called, although on different objects, the increment effect of `numberOfAccounts` will be visible to all `Client` objects.
- Here is the correct version:

```
public class Client {
    private Account[] accounts;
    private int numberOfAccounts;
    public void addAccount(Account acc) {
        accounts[this.numberOfAccounts] = acc;
        this.numberOfAccounts++;
    }
}
```

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## Static Variables (4.1): Common Error

```
public class Client {
    private Account[] accounts;
    private static int numberOfAccounts = 0;
    public void addAccount(Account acc) {
        accounts[this.numberOfAccounts] = acc;
        this.numberOfAccounts++;
    }
}
```

```
public class ClientTester {
    Client bill = new Client("Bill");
    Client steve = new Client("Steve");
    Account acc1 = new Account();
    Account acc2 = new Account();
    bill.addAccount(acc1);
    /* correctly added to bill.getAccounts()[0] */
    steve.addAccount(acc2);
    /* mistakenly added to steve.getAccounts()[1]! */
}
```

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## Static Variables (5.1): Common Error

```
1 public class Bank {
2     private string branchName;
3     public String getBrachName() { return this.branchName; }
4     private static int nextAccountNumber = 0;
5     public static String getInfo() {
6         nextAccountNumber++;
7         return this.branchName + nextAccountNumber;
8     }
9 }
```

- **Non-static method cannot be referenced from a static context**
- **Line 5** declares that we **can** call the method `getInfo` without instantiating an object of the class `Bank`.
- However, in **Line 7**, the **static** method references a **non-static** attribute, for which we **must** instantiate a `Bank` object.

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## Static Variables (5.2): Common Error



```
1 public class Bank {  
2     private String branchName;  
3     public String getBrachName() { return this.branchName; }  
4     private static int nextAccountNumber = 0;  
5     public static String getInfo() {  
6         nextAccountNumber++;  
7         return this.branchName + nextAccountNumber;  
8     }  
9 }
```

- To call `getInfo()`, no instances of `Bank` are required:

```
Bank.getInfo();
```

- Contradictorily**, to access `branchName`, a *context object* is required:

```
Bank b = new Bank(); b.setBranch("Songdo IBK");  
System.out.println(b.getBranchName());
```

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## Static Variables (5.3): Common Error



There are two possible ways to fix:

- Remove all uses of *non-static* variables (i.e., `branchName`) in the *static* method (i.e., `getInfo`).
- Declare `branchName` as a *static* variable.
  - This does not make sense.  
 $\therefore$  `branchName` should be a value specific to each `Bank` instance.

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## Index (1)



Required: Review Tutorials on OOP in Java

Optional: Tutorial Videos to Help You Review

Required: Written Notes to Review

Learning Outcomes

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Object Orientation:

Observe, Model, and Execute

Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)

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OO Thinking: Templates vs. Instances (1.2)

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OOP: Methods (1.2)

OOP: Methods (2)

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**Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.1)**  
**Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.2)**  
**Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.3)**  
**Visualizing Objects at Runtime (2.4)**  
**Object Creation (1.1)**  
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**OOP: Object Creation (3.2.2)**  
**OOP: Object Creation (4)**  
**OOP: The Dot Notation (1)**  
**The this Reference (1)**  
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**OOP: Use of Mutator vs. Accessor Methods**  
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OOP: Helper (Accessor) Methods (3.3)

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OOP: Helper (Mutator) Methods (4.2.1)

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Static Variables (1)

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Static Variables (4.1): Common Error

Static Variables (4.2): Common Error

Static Variables (5.1): Common Error

Static Variables (5.2): Common Error

Static Variables (5.3): Common Error

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## Exceptions



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG

## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you learn about:

- Caller vs. Callee in a Method Invocation
- **Error Handling** via Console Message
- The **Catch**-or-**Specify** Requirement
- Example: To Handle or Not to Handle?
- **Error Handling** via Exceptions
- What to Do When an Exception is Thrown at Runtime
- More Examples on Exception Handling

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## Caller vs. Callee



- Within the body implementation of a method ({...}), we may call other methods.

```
1 class C1 {  
2     void m1() {  
3         C2 o = new C2();  
4         o.m2(); /* static type of o is C2 */  
5     }  
6 }
```

- From Line 4, we say:
  - Method **C1.m1** (i.e., method m1 from class C1) is the **caller** of method **C2.m2**.
  - Method **C2.m2** is the **callee** of method **C1.m1**.

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## Stack of Method Calls



- Execution of a Java project *starts* from the **main method** of some class (e.g., CircleTester, BankApplication).
- Each line of **method call** involves the execution of that method's **body implementation**
  - That method's body implementation may also involve **method calls**, which may in turn involve more **method calls**, and etc.
  - It is typical that we end up with **a chain of method calls**!
  - We visualize this chain of method calls as a **call stack**. For example:
    - Account.withdraw [top of stack; latest called]
    - Bank.withdrawFrom
    - BankApplication.main [bottom of stack; earliest called]
  - The closer a method is to the **top** of the call stack, the **later** its call was made.

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## Error Reporting via Consoles: Circles (1)



```
1 class Circle {  
2     double radius;  
3     Circle() { /* radius defaults to 0 */ }  
4     void setRadius(double r) {  
5         if (r < 0) { System.out.println("Invalid radius."); }  
6         else { radius = r; }  
7     }  
8     double getArea() { return radius * radius * 3.14; }  
9 }
```

- A negative radius is considered as an **invalid input value** to method setRadius.
- What if the **caller** of Circle.setRadius passes a negative value for r?
  - An error message is **printed to the console** (Line 5) to warn the **caller** of setRadius.
  - However, printing an error message to the console **does not force** the **caller** of setRadius to stop and handle invalid values of r.

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## Error Reporting via Consoles: Circles (2)



```
1 class CircleCalculator {  
2     public static void main(String[] args) {  
3         Circle c = new Circle();  
4         c.setRadius(-10);  
5         double area = c.getArea();  
6         System.out.println("Area: " + area);  
7     }  
8 }
```

- L4:** CircleCalculator.main is **caller** of Circle.setRadius
- A negative radius is passed to setRadius in Line 4.
- The execution **always flows smoothly** from Lines 4 to Line 5, **even when there was an error** message printed from Line 4.
- It is not feasible to check if there is any kind of error message printed to the console right after the execution of Line 4.
- Solution:** A way to force CircleCalculator.main, **caller** of Circle.setRadius, to realize that things might go wrong.  
⇒ When things do go wrong, immediate actions are needed.

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## Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (1)



```
class Account {
    int id; double balance;
    Account(int id) { this.id = id; /* balance defaults to 0 */ }
    void deposit(double a) {
        if (a < 0) { System.out.println("Invalid deposit."); }
        else { balance += a; }
    }
    void withdraw(double a) {
        if (a < 0 || balance - a < 0) {
            System.out.println("Invalid withdraw."); }
        else { balance -= a; }
    }
}
```

- A negative deposit or withdraw amount is *invalid*.
- When an *error* occurs, a message is *printed to the console*.
- However, printing error messages does not *force* the *caller* of `Account.deposit` or `Account.withdraw` to stop and handle invalid values of `a`.

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## Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (3)



```
1 class BankApplication {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
4         Bank b = new Bank(); Account acc1 = new Account(23);
5         b.addAccount(acc1);
6         double a = input.nextDouble();
7         b.withdrawFrom(23, a);
8         System.out.println("Transaction Completed.");
9     }
}
```

- There is a chain of method calls:
  - `BankApplication.main` calls `Bank.withdrawFrom`
  - `Bank.withdrawFrom` calls `Account.withdraw`.
- The actual update of balance occurs at the `Account` class.
  - What if in **Line 7** the value of `a` is negative?  
`Invalid withdraw` printed from `Bank.withdrawFrom`, originated from `Account.withdraw` to console.
  - However, impossible to *stop* `BankApplication.main` from continuing to execute **Line 8**, printing `Transaction Completed`.
- **Solution:** Define error checking only once and let it *propagate*.

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## Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (2)



```
1 class Bank {
2     Account[] accounts; int numberOfAccounts;
3     Bank(int id) { ... }
4     void withdrawFrom(int id, double a) {
5         for(int i = 0; i < numberOfAccounts; i++) {
6             if(accounts[i].id == id) {
7                 accounts[i].withdraw(a);
8             }
9         } /* end for */
10    } /* end withdraw */
11 }
```

- **L7:** `Bank.withdrawFrom` is *caller* of `Account.withdraw`
- What if in **Line 7** the value of `a` is negative?  
Error message `Invalid withdraw` printed from method `Account.withdraw` to console.
- Impossible to *force* `Bank.withdrawFrom`, the *caller* of `Account.withdraw`, to stop and handle invalid values of `a`.

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## What is an Exception?



- An *exception* is an *event*, which
  - occurs during the *execution of a program*
  - *disrupts the normal flow* of the program's instructions
- When an error occurs within a method:
  - the method throws an exception:
    - first creates an *exception object*
    - then hands it over to the *runtime system*
  - the exception object contains information about the error:
    - type [e.g., `NegativeRadiusException`]
    - the state of the program when the error occurred

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## What to Do When an Exception Is Thrown? (1)



- After a method *throws an exception*, the *runtime system* searches the corresponding **call stack** for a method that contains a block of code to *handle* the exception.
  - This block of code is called an **exception handler**.
    - An exception handler is **appropriate** if the *type* of the *exception object thrown* matches the *type* that can be handled by the handler.
    - The exception handler chosen is said to *catch* the exception.
  - The search goes from the *top* to the *bottom* of the call stack:
    - The method in which the *error* occurred is searched first.
    - The *exception handler* is not found in the current method being searched  $\Rightarrow$  Search the method that calls the current method, and *etc.*
    - When an appropriate *handler* is found, the *runtime system* passes the exception to the handler.
  - The *runtime system* searches all the methods on the **call stack** without finding an **appropriate exception handler**  
 $\Rightarrow$  The program terminates and the exception object is directly “thrown” to the console!

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## The Catch or Specify Requirement (1)



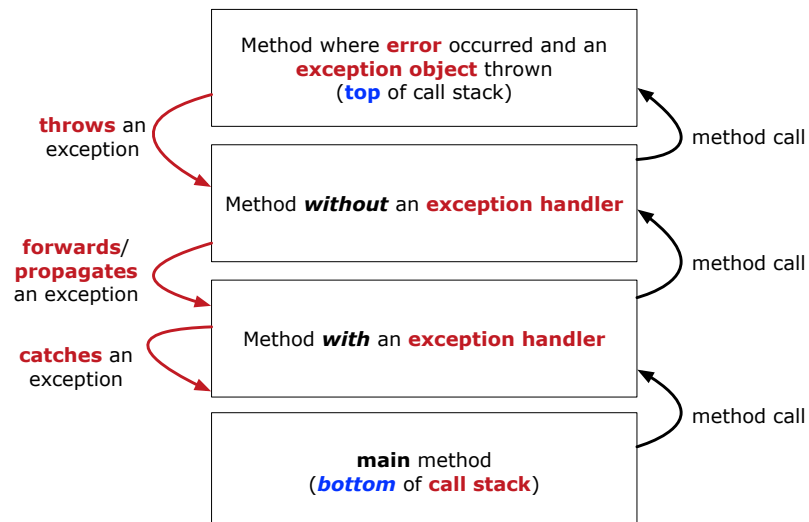
Code (e.g., a method call) that might throw certain exceptions must be enclosed by one of the two ways:

- The “Catch” Solution:** A `try` statement that *catches* and *handles* the *exception* (without propagating that exception to the method's *caller*).

```
main(...) {  
    Circle c = new Circle();  
    try {  
        c.setRadius(-10);  
    }  
    catch (NegativeRadiusException e) {  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

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## What to Do When an Exception Is Thrown? (2)



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## The Catch or Specify Requirement (2)



Code (e.g., a method call) that might throw certain exceptions must be enclosed by one of the two ways:

- The “Specify” Solution:** A method that specifies as part of its **header** that it may (or may not) *throw* the *exception* (which will be thrown to the method's *caller* for handling).

```
class Bank {  
    Account[] accounts; /* attribute */  
    void withdraw (double amount)  
        throws InvalidTransactionException {  
        ...  
        accounts[i].withdraw(amount);  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (1.1)



Consider the following three classes:

```
class A {
    ma(int i) {
        if(i < 0) { /* Error */ }
        else { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

```
class B {
    mb(int i) {
        A oa = new A();
        oa.ma(i); /* Error occurs if i < 0 */
    }
}
```

```
class Tester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int i = input.nextInt();
        B ob = new B();
        ob.mb(i); /* Where can the error be handled? */
    }
}
```

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (2.1)



Version 1: Handle the exception in B.mb.

```
class A {
    ma(int i) throws NegValException {
        if(i < 0) { throw new NegValException("Error."); }
        else { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

```
class B {
    mb(int i) {
        A oa = new A();
        try { oa.ma(i); }
        catch(NegValException nve) { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

```
class Tester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int i = input.nextInt();
        B ob = new B();
        ob.mb(i); /* Error, if any, would have been handled in B.mb. */
    }
}
```

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (1.2)



- We assume the following kind of error for negative values:

```
class NegValException extends Exception {
    NegValException(String s) { super(s); }
}
```

- The above kind of exception may be thrown by calling A.ma.
- We will see three kinds of possibilities of handling this exception:

**Version 1:**

Handle it in B.mb

**Version 2:**

Pass it from B.mb and handle it in Tester.main

**Version 3:**

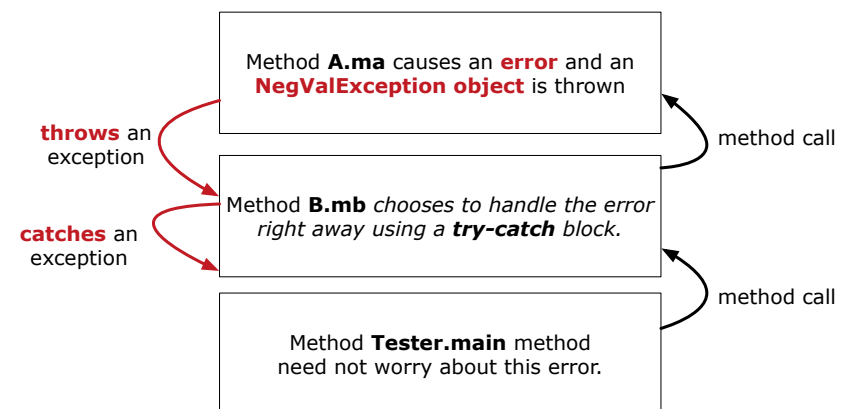
Pass it from B.mb, then from Tester.main, then throw it to the console.

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (2.2)



Version 1: Handle the exception in B.mb.



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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (3.1)



Version 2: Handle the exception in `Tester.main`.

```
class A {
    ma(int i) throws NegValException {
        if(i < 0) { throw new NegValException("Error."); }
        else { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

```
class B {
    mb(int i) throws NegValException {
        A oa = new A();
        oa.ma(i);
    }
}
```

```
class Tester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int i = input.nextInt();
        B ob = new B();
        try { ob.mb(i); }
        catch(NegValException nve) { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (4.1)



Version 3: Handle in neither of the classes.

```
class A {
    ma(int i) throws NegValException {
        if(i < 0) { throw new NegValException("Error."); }
        else { /* Do something. */ }
    }
}
```

```
class B {
    mb(int i) throws NegValException {
        A oa = new A();
        oa.ma(i);
    }
}
```

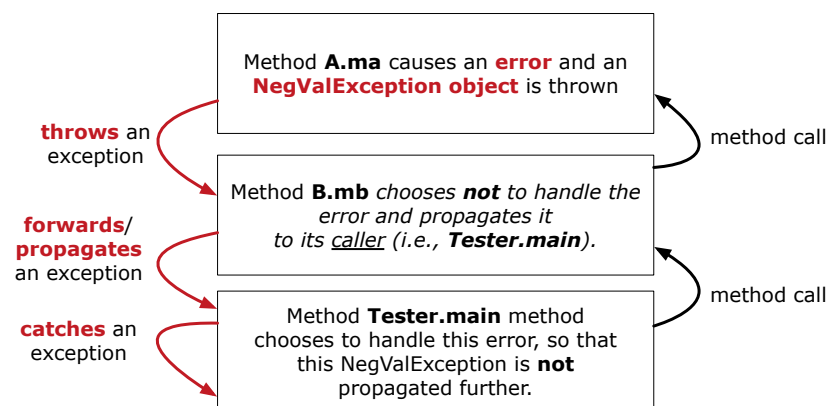
```
class Tester {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws NegValException {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int i = input.nextInt();
        B ob = new B();
        ob.mb(i);
    }
}
```

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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (3.2)



Version 2: Handle the exception in `Tester.main`.

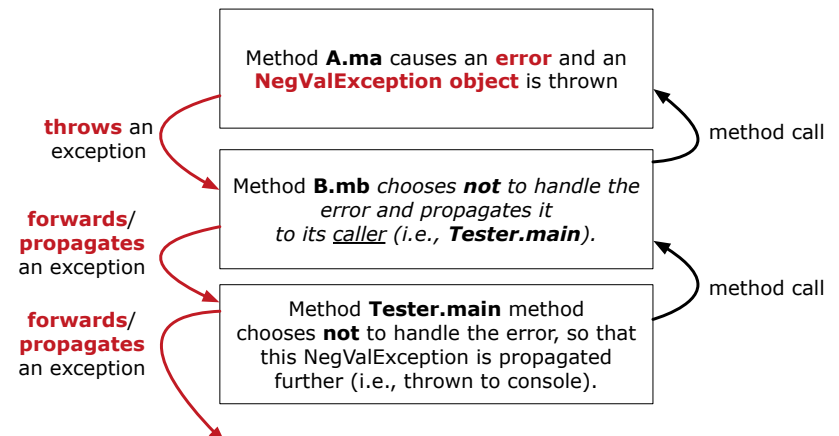


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## Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (4.2)



Version 3: Handle in neither of the classes.



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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Circles (1)



```
public class InvalidRadiusException extends Exception {
    public InvalidRadiusException(String s) {
        super(s);
    }
}
```

- A new kind of Exception: InvalidRadiusException
- For any method that can have this kind of error, we declare at that method's *header* that it may *throw* an InvalidRadiusException object.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Circles (2)



```
class Circle {
    double radius;
    Circle() { /* radius defaults to 0 */ }
    void setRadius(double r) throws InvalidRadiusException {
        if (r < 0) {
            throw new InvalidRadiusException("Negative radius.");
        }
        else { radius = r; }
    }
    double getArea() { return radius * radius * 3.14; }
}
```

- As part of the *header* of setRadius, we declare that it may *throw* an InvalidRadiusException object at runtime.
- Any method that calls setRadius will be forced to *deal with this potential error*.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Circles (3)



```
1 class CircleCalculator1 {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         Circle c = new Circle();
4         try {
5             c.setRadius(-10);
6             double area = c.getArea();
7             System.out.println("Area: " + area);
8         }
9         catch(InvalidRadiusException e) {
10             System.out.println(e);
11         }
12     }
}
```

- **Line 5** is forced to be wrapped within a *try-catch* block, since it may *throw* an InvalidRadiusException object.
- If an InvalidRadiusException object is thrown from **Line 6**, then the normal flow of execution is *interrupted* and we go to the catch block starting from **Line 9**.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Circles (4)



**Exercise:** Extend CircleCalculator1: repeatedly prompt for a new radius value until a valid one is entered (i.e., the InvalidRadiusException does not occur).

Enter a radius:

**-5**

Radius -5.0 is invalid, try again!

Enter a radius:

**-1**

Radius -1.0 is invalid, try again!

Enter a radius:

**5**

Circle with radius 5.0 has area: 78.5

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Circles (5)



```
1 public class CircleCalculator2 {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
4         boolean inputRadiusIsValid = false;
5         while (!inputRadiusIsValid) {
6             System.out.println("Enter a radius:");
7             double r = input.nextDouble();
8             Circle c = new Circle();
9             try { c.setRadius(r);
10                 inputRadiusIsValid = true;
11                 System.out.print("Circle with radius " + r);
12                 System.out.println(" has area: " + c.getArea()); }
13             catch (InvalidRadiusException e) { print("Try again!"); }
14         } }
```

- At L7, if the user's input value is:
  - Non-Negative: L8 – L12. [inputRadiusIsValid set **true**]
  - Negative: L8, L9, L13. [inputRadiusIsValid remains **false**]

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Bank (1)



```
public class InvalidTransactionException extends Exception {
    public InvalidTransactionException(String s) {
        super(s);
    }
}
```

- A new kind of Exception:  
InvalidTransactionException
- For any method that can have this kind of error, we declare at that method's **header** that it may **throw** an InvalidTransactionException object.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Bank (2)



```
class Account {
    int id; double balance;
    Account() { /* balance defaults to 0 */ }
    void withdraw(double a) throws InvalidTransactionException {
        if (a < 0 || balance - a < 0) {
            throw new InvalidTransactionException("Invalid withdraw."); }
        else { balance -= a; }
    }
}
```

- As part of the **header** of withdraw, we declare that it may **throw** an InvalidTransactionException object at runtime.
- Any method that calls withdraw will be forced to **deal with this potential error**.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Bank (3)



```
class Bank {
    Account[] accounts; int numberOfAccounts;
    Account(int id) { ... }
    void withdraw(int id, double a)
        throws InvalidTransactionException {
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfAccounts; i++) {
            if(accounts[i].id == id) {
                accounts[i].withdraw(a);
            }
        } /* end for */ } /* end withdraw */
}
```

- As part of the **header** of withdraw, we declare that it may **throw** an InvalidTransactionException object.
- Any method that calls withdraw will be forced to **deal with this potential error**.
- We are **propagating** the potential error for the right party (i.e., BankApplication) to handle.

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## Error Reporting via Exceptions: Bank (4)

```

1 class BankApplication {
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         Bank b = new Bank();
4         Account acc1 = new Account(23);
5         b.addAccount(acc1);
6         Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
7         double a = input.nextDouble();
8         try {
9             b.withdraw(23, a);
10            System.out.println(acc1.balance);
11        } catch (InvalidTransactionException e) {
12            System.out.println(e);
13        }
14    }
15 }

```

- Lines 9 is forced to be wrapped within a **try-catch** block, since it may **throw** an InvalidTransactionException object.
- If an InvalidTransactionException object is thrown from Line 9, then the normal flow of execution is interrupted and we go to the catch block starting from Line 11.

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## More Examples (1)

```

double r = ...;
double a = ...;
try{
    Bank b = new Bank();
    b.addAccount(new Account(34));
    b.deposit(34, 100);
    b.withdraw(34, a);
    Circle c = new Circle();
    c.setRadius(r);
    System.out.println(r.getArea());
}
catch (NegativeRadiusException e) {
    System.out.println(r + " is not a valid radius value.");
    e.printStackTrace();
}
catch (InvalidTransactionException e) {
    System.out.println(r + " is not a valid transaction value.");
    e.printStackTrace();
}
}

```

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## More Example (2.1)

The Integer class supports a method for parsing Strings:

```

public static int parseInt(String s)
    throws NumberFormatException

```

e.g., Integer.parseInt("23") returns 23

e.g., Integer.parseInt("twenty-three") throws a NumberFormatException

Write a fragment of code that prompts the user to enter a string (using nextLine from Scanner) that represents an integer.

If the user input is not a valid integer, then prompt them to enter again.

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## More Example (2.2)

```

Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
boolean validInteger = false;
while (!validInteger) {
    System.out.println("Enter an integer:");
    String userInput = input.nextLine();
    try {
        int userInteger = Integer.parseInt(userInput);
        validInteger = true;
    }
    catch (NumberFormatException e) {
        System.out.println(userInput + " is not a valid integer.");
        /* validInteger remains false */
    }
}

```

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## Beyond this lecture...



- Practice creating a new **exception** class upon a method throwing it in the body of implementation (e.g., `InvalidRadiusException`, `InvalidTransactionException`).
  - Play with the source code:
    - `ExceptionsCircleAndBank.zip`
    - `ExceptionsToHandleOrNotToHandle.zip`
- Tip.** Change input values so as to explore, in Eclipse *debugger*, possible (**normal** vs. **abnormal**) **execution paths**.

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**Stack of Method Calls**

**Error Reporting via Consoles: Circles (1)**

**Error Reporting via Consoles: Circles (2)**

**Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (1)**

**Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (2)**

**Error Reporting via Consoles: Bank (3)**

**What is an Exception?**

**What to Do When an Exception Is Thrown? (1)**

**What to Do When an Exception Is Thrown? (2)**

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**The Catch or Specify Requirement (2)**

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**Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (3.1)**

**Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (3.2)**

**Example: to Handle or Not to Handle? (4.1)**

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Beyond this lecture...



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## Test-Driven Development (TDD) with JUnit



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG

## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you learn about:

- **Testing** the Solution to a Bounded Counter Problem
- Deriving **Test Cases** for a Bounded Variable
- Application of **Normal** vs. **Disrupted Execution Flows**
- **Intention** of a Test: **Exceptions Expected** vs. **Not Expected**
- **Test Driven Development (TDD)** via **Regression Testing**

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## Motivating Example: Two Types of Errors (1)



Consider two kinds of exceptions for a counter:

```
public class ValueTooLargeException extends Exception {  
    ValueTooLargeException(String s) { super(s); }  
}  
public class ValueTooSmallException extends Exception {  
    ValueTooSmallException(String s) { super(s); }  
}
```

Any thrown object instantiated from these two exception classes must be handled (**catch-or-specify requirement**):

- Either **specify** `throws ...` in the method header/API (i.e., **propagate** it to the immediate **caller** in the **call stack**)
- Or **handle** it in a `try-catch` block

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## Motivating Example: Two Types of Errors (2)



**Approach 1 – Specify:** Indicate in the method header/API that a specific exception might be thrown.

**Example 1:** Method that throws the exception

```
class C1 {
    void m1(int x) throws ValueTooSmallException {
        if(x < 0) {
            throw new ValueTooSmallException("val " + x);
        }
    }
}
```

**Example 2:** Method that calls another which throws the exception

```
class C2 {
    C1 c1;
    void m2(int x) throws ValueTooSmallException {
        c1.m1(x);
    }
}
```

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## Motivating Example: Two Types of Errors (3)



**Approach 2 – Catch:** Handle the thrown exception(s) in a try-catch block.

```
class C3 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int x = input.nextInt();
        C2 c2 = new C2();
        try {
            c2.m2(x);
        }
        catch(ValueTooSmallException e) { ... }
    }
}
```

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## A Simple Counter (1)



Consider a class for keeping track of an integer counter value:

```
public class Counter {
    public final static int MAX_VALUE = 3;
    public final static int MIN_VALUE = 0;
    private int value;
    public Counter() {
        this.value = Counter.MIN_VALUE;
    }
    public int getValue() {
        return value;
    }
    ... /* more later! */
}
```

- Access **private** attribute `value` using **public** accessor `getValue`.
- Two class-wide (i.e., static) constants (i.e., final) for lower and upper bounds of the counter value.
- Initialize the counter value to its lower bound.
- **Requirement** :

The counter value must be within its lower and upper bounds.

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## Exceptional Scenarios



- **Sound** Software Engineering Practice:  
Design a **test strategy** even **before** code is completed.
- **Q:** Possible exceptional scenarios for such a counter?
  - An attempt to increment **above** the counter's upper bound.
  - An attempt to decrement **below** the counter's lower bound.

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## A Simple Counter (2)



```
/* class Counter */
public void increment() throws ValueTooLargeException {
    if(value == Counter.MAX_VALUE) {
        throw new ValueTooLargeException("value is " + value);
    }
    else { value++; }
}

public void decrement() throws ValueTooSmallException {
    if(value == Counter.MIN_VALUE) {
        throw new ValueTooSmallException("value is " + value);
    }
    else { value--; }
}
```

- Change the counter value via two mutator methods.
- Changes on the counter value may **trigger an exception**:
  - Attempt to **increment** when counter already reaches its **maximum**.
  - Attempt to **decrement** when counter already reaches its **minimum**.

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## Components of a Test



- Manipulate the relevant object(s).  
e.g., **Initialize a counter object c, then call c.increment().**  
e.g., **Initialize a counter object c, then call c.decrement().**
- What do you **expect to happen**?  
e.g., **value of counter is such that Counter.MIN\_VALUE + 1**  
e.g., **ValueTooSmallException is thrown**
- What does your program **actually produce**?  
e.g., **call c.getValue() to find out.**  
e.g., **Use a try-catch block to find out** (to be discussed!).
- A test:
  - **Passes** if **expected outcome** occurs.
  - **Fails** if **expected outcome** does **not** occur.

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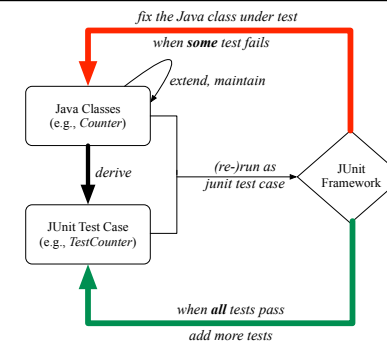
## Why JUnit?



- **Automate** the **testing of correctness** of your Java classes.
- **Derive** the list of tests. **Transform** it into a **JUnit Test Class**.
- JUnit tests are **callers/clients** of your classes. Each **test** may:
  - Either attempt to use a method in a **legal** way (i.e., **satisfying** its precondition), and report:
    - **Success** if the result is as expected
    - **Failure** if the result is **not** as expected
  - Or attempt to use a method in an **illegal** way (i.e., **not satisfying** its precondition), and report:
    - **Success** if the expected exception (e.g., ValueTooSmallException) occurs.
    - **Failure** if the expected exception does **not** occur.
- **Regression Testing**: Any **change** introduced to your software **must not compromise** its established **correctness**.

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## Test-Driven Development (TDD)



Maintain a collection of tests which define the **correctness** of your Java class under development (CUD):

- Derive and run tests as soon as your CUD is **testable**.  
i.e., A Java class is testable when defined with method signatures.
- **Red** bar reported: Fix the class under test (CUT) until **green** bar.
- **Green** bar reported: Add more tests and Fix CUT when necessary.

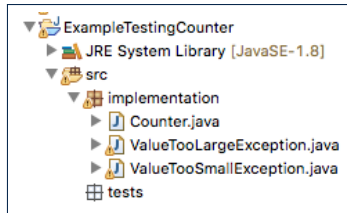
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## How to Use JUnit: Packages



### Step 1:

- In Eclipse, create a Java project `ExampleTestingCounter`
- **Separation of concerns**:
  - Group classes for **implementation** (i.e., `Counter`) into package `implementation`.
  - Group classes for **testing** (to be created) into package `tests`.

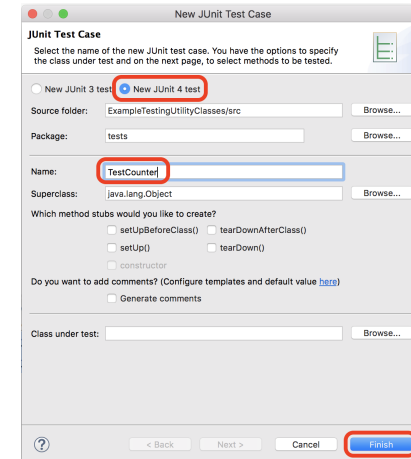


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## How to Use JUnit: New JUnit Test Case (2)



**Step 3:** Select the version of JUnit (JUnit 4); Enter the name of test case (`TestCounter`); Finish creating the new test case.

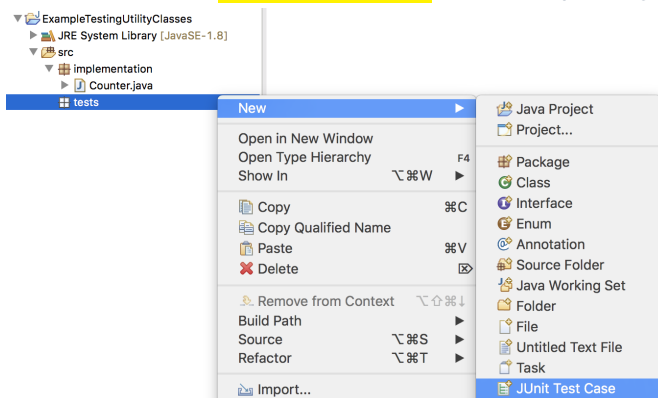


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## How to Use JUnit: New JUnit Test Case (1)



**Step 2:** Create a new **JUnit Test Case** in `tests` package.



Create one JUnit Test Case to test one Java class only.

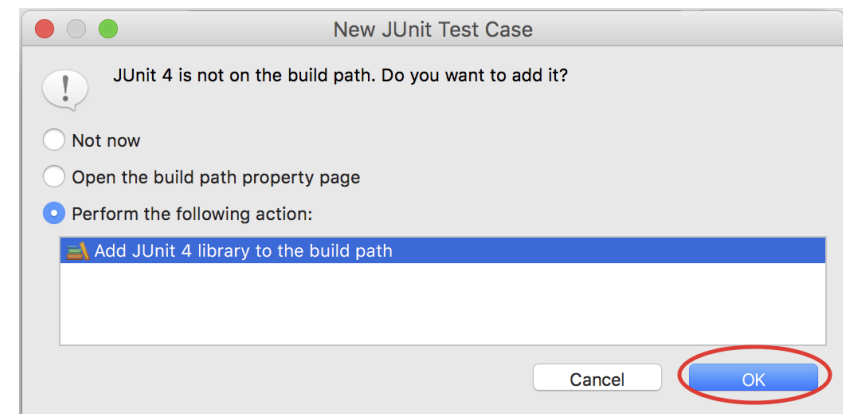
⇒ If you have *n Java classes to test*, create *n JUnit test cases*.

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## How to Use JUnit: Adding JUnit Library



Upon creating the very first test case, you will be prompted to add the JUnit library to your project's build path.



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## How to Use JUnit: Generated Test Case



```
TestCounter.java
1 package tests;
2 import static org.junit.Assert.*;
3 import org.junit.Test;
4 public class TestCounter {
5     @Test
6     public void test() {
7         fail("Not yet implemented");
8     }
9 }
```

- Lines 6 – 8: test is just an **ordinary mutator method** that has a one-line implementation body.
- Line 5 is critical: Prepend the tag **@Test** verbatim, requiring that **the method is to be treated as a JUnit test**.
  - ⇒ When TestCounter is run as a JUnit Test Case, only **those methods prepended by the @Test tags** will be run and reported.
- Line 7: By default, we deliberately fail the test with a message "Not yet implemented".

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## How to Use JUnit: Generating Test Report



A **report** is generated after running all tests (i.e., methods prepended with **@Test**) in TestCounter.

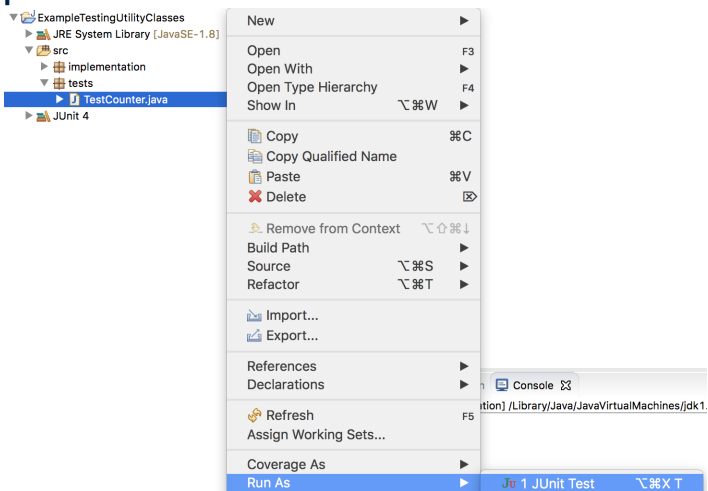


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## How to Use JUnit: Running Test Case



Step 4: Run the TestCounter class as a JUnit Test.



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## How to Use JUnit: Interpreting Test Report



- A **test** is a method prepended with the **@Test** tag.
- The result of running a test is considered:
  - **Failure** if either
    - an **assertion failure** (e.g., caused by **fail**, **assertTrue**, **assertEquals**) occurs
    - an **unexpected exception** (e.g., **NullPointerException**, **ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException**) thrown
  - **Success** if **neither assertion failures nor** (unexpected) **exceptions** occur.
- After running all tests:
  - A **green** bar means that **all** tests succeed.
    - ⇒ Keep challenging yourself if **more tests** may be added.
  - A **red** bar means that **at least one** test fails.
    - ⇒ Keep fixing the class under test and re-running all tests, until you receive a **green** bar.
- **Question:** What is the easiest way to making test a **success**?  
**Answer:** Delete the call `fail("Not yet implemented")`.

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## How to Use JUnit: Revising Test Case



```
TestCounter.java
1 package tests;
2 import static org.junit.Assert.*;
3 import org.junit.Test;
4 public class TestCounter {
5     @Test
6     public void test() {
7         // fail("Not yet implemented");
8     }
9 }
```

Now, the body of `test` simply does nothing.

⇒ Neither assertion failures nor exceptions will occur.

⇒ The execution of `test` will be considered as a **success**.

∴ There is currently only one test in `TestCounter`.

∴ We will receive a **green** bar!

**Caution:** test which passes at the moment is **not useful** at all!

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## How to Use JUnit: Common Assertions



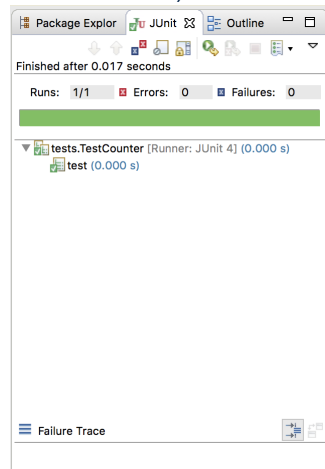
- `void assertNull(Object o)`
- `void assertEquals(int expected, int actual)`
- `void assertEquals(double exp, double act, double epsilon)`
- `void assertEquals(expected, actuals)`
- `void assertTrue(boolean condition)`
- `void fail(String message)`

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## How to Use JUnit: Re-Running Test Case



A new report is generated after re-running all tests (i.e., methods prepended with `@Test`) in `TestCounter`.



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## JUnit Assertions: Examples (1)



Consider the following class:

```
public class Point {
    private int x; private int y;
    public Point(int x, int y) { this.x = x; this.y = y; }
    public int getX() { return this.x; }
    public int getY() { return this.y; }
}
```

Then consider these assertions. Do they **pass** or **fail**?

```
Point p;
assertNull(p); ✓
assertTrue(p == null); ✓
assertFalse(p != null); ✓
assertEquals(3, p.getX()); ✗ /* NullPointerException */
p = new Point(3, 4);
assertNull(p); ✗
assertTrue(p == null); ✗
assertFalse(p != null); ✗
assertEquals(3, p.getX()); ✓
assertTrue(p.getX() == 3 && p.getY() == 4); ✓
```

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## JUnit Assertions: Examples (2)



- Consider the following class:

```
public class Circle {
    private double radius;
    public Circle(double radius) { this.radius = radius; }
    public int getArea() { return 3.14 * radius * radius; }
}
```

- How do we test `c.getArea()` ?
  - Mathematically:  $3.4 \times 3.4 \times 3.14 = 36.2984$
  - However, base-10 numbers **cannot** be represented perfectly in the binary format.
  - When comparing fractional numbers, allow some **tolerance** :

$$36.2984 - 0.01 \leq c.getArea() \leq 36.2984 + 0.01$$

- Then consider these assertions. Do they **pass** or **fail**?

```
Circle c = new Circle(3.4);
assertEquals(36.2984, c.getArea(), 0.01); ✓
```

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## More JUnit Assertion Methods



method name / parameters	description
<code>assertTrue(test)</code> <code>assertTrue("message", test)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given boolean test is not true.
<code>assertFalse(test)</code> <code>assertFalse("message", test)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given boolean test is not false.
<code>assertEquals(expectedValue, value)</code> <code>assertEquals("message", expectedValue, value)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given two values are not equal to each other. (For objects, it uses the <code>equals</code> method to compare them.) The first of the two values is considered to be the result that you expect; the second is the actual result produced by the class under test.
<code>assertNotEquals(value1, value2)</code> <code>assertNotEquals("message", value1, value2)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given two values are equal to each other. (For objects, it uses the <code>equals</code> method to compare them.)
<code>assertNull(value)</code> <code>assertNull("message", value)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given value is not null.
<code>assertNotNull(value)</code> <code>assertNotNull("message", value)</code>	Causes this test method to fail if the given value is null.
<code>assertSame(expectedValue, value)</code> <code>assertSame("message", expectedValue, value)</code> <code>assertNotSame(value1, value2)</code> <code>assertNotSame("message", value1, value2)</code>	Identical to <code>assertEquals</code> and <code>assertNotEquals</code> respectively, except that for objects, it uses the <code>==</code> operator rather than the <code>equals</code> method to compare them. (The difference is that two objects that have the same state might be <code>equals</code> to each other, but not <code>==</code> to each other. An object is only <code>==</code> to itself.)
<code>fail()</code> <code>fail("message")</code>	Causes this test method to fail.

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## Testing Strategy



- What is the complete list of cases for testing `Counter`?

c.getValue()	c.increment()	c.decrement()
0	1	ValueTooSmall
1	2	0
2	3	1
3	ValueTooLarge	2

- Let's turn the two cases in the 1st row into two JUnit tests:
  - Test for the **green** cell **succeeds** if:
    - No failures and exceptions occur; and
    - The new counter value is 1.
  - Tests for **red** cells **succeed** if the **expected exceptions** occur (`ValueTooSmallException` & `ValueTooLargeException`).

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## Testing: Correct vs. Incorrect Imp.



- The real value of a **test** is:
  - Not only to **reaffirm** when your implementation is **correct**,
  - But also to **reject** when your implementation is **incorrect**.
- What if the method `decrement` was implemented **incorrectly**?

```
class Counter {
    ...
    public void decrement() throws ValueTooSmallException {
        if (value < Counter.MIN_VALUE) {
            throw new ValueTooSmallException("value is " + value);
        }
        else { value --; }
    }
}
```

- A "good" test should **reject** such an **incorrect** implementation.

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## Test Case 1: Increment from Min (1)

```

1  @Test
2  public void testIncAfterCreation() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      assertEquals(Counter.MIN_VALUE, c.getValue());
5      try {
6          c.increment();
7          assertEquals(1, c.getValue());
8      }
9      catch(ValueTooLargeException e) {
10         /* Exception is not expected to be thrown. */
11         fail("ValueTooLargeException is not expected.");
12     }
13 }

```

- L3 sets `c.value` to 0.
- Line 6 requires a try-catch block ∴ potential `ValueTooLargeException`
- Lines 4, 7 11 are all assertions:
  - Lines 4 & 7 assert that `c.getValue()` returns the expected values.
  - Line 11: an **assertion failure** ∴ unexpected `ValueTooLargeException`
- Line 7 can be rewritten as `assertTrue(1 == c.getValue())`.

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## Test Case 2: Decrement from Min (1)

```

1  @Test
2  public void testDecFromMinValue() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      assertEquals(Counter.MIN_VALUE, c.getValue());
5      try {
6          c.decrement();
7          fail("ValueTooSmallException is expected.");
8      }
9      catch(ValueTooSmallException e) {
10         /* Exception is expected to be thrown. */
11     }
12 }

```

- L3 sets `c.value` to 0.
- Line 6 requires a try-catch block ∴ potential `ValueTooSmallException`
- Lines 4 & 7 are both assertions:
  - Lines 4 asserts that `c.getValue()` returns the expected value (i.e., `Counter.MIN_VALUE`).
  - Line 7: an **assertion failure** ∴ expected `ValueTooSmallException` not thrown

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## Test Case 1: Increment from Min (2)

```

1  @Test
2  public void testIncAfterCreation() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      assertEquals(Counter.MIN_VALUE, c.getValue());
5      try {
6          c.increment();
7          assertEquals(1, c.getValue());
8      }
9      catch(ValueTooLargeException e) {
10         /* Exception is not expected to be thrown. */
11         fail("ValueTooLargeException is not expected.");
12     }
13 }

```

At L6, if method `decrement` is implemented:

- **Correctly** ⇒ a `ValueTooLargeException` does not occur.  
⇒ Execution continues to L7, L8, L13, then the program terminates.
- **Incorrectly** ⇒ an unexpected `ValueTooLargeException` occurs.  
⇒ Execution jumps to L9, L10 – L11, then the test program terminates.

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## Test Case 2: Decrement from Min (2)

```

1  @Test
2  public void testDecFromMinValue() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      assertEquals(Counter.MIN_VALUE, c.getValue());
5      try {
6          c.decrement();
7          fail("ValueTooSmallException is expected.");
8      }
9      catch(ValueTooSmallException e) {
10         /* Exception is expected to be thrown. */
11     }
12 }

```

At L6, if method `decrement` is implemented:

- **Correctly** ⇒ a `ValueTooLargeException` occurs.  
⇒ Execution jumps to L9, L10 – L12, then the program terminates.
- **Incorrectly** ⇒ expected `ValueTooLargeException` does **not** occur.  
⇒ Execution continues to L7, then the test program terminates.

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## Test Case 3: Increment from Max

```

1  @Test
2  public void testIncFromMaxValue() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      try {
5          c.increment(); c.increment(); c.increment();
6      }
7      catch (ValueTooLargeException e) {
8          fail("ValueTooLargeException was thrown unexpectedly.");
9      }
10     assertEquals(Counter.MAX_VALUE, c.getValue());
11     try {
12         c.increment();
13         fail("ValueTooLargeException was NOT thrown as expected.");
14     }
15     catch (ValueTooLargeException e) {
16         /* Do nothing: ValueTooLargeException thrown as expected. */
17     }
18 }

```

- o L4 – L9: a VTLE **is not** expected; L11 – 17: a VTLE **is** expected.

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## Exercise: Combining catch Blocks?

Q: Can we rewrite testIncFromMaxValue to:

```

1  @Test
2  public void testIncFromMaxValue() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      try {
5          c.increment();
6          c.increment();
7          c.increment();
8          assertEquals(Counter.MAX_VALUE, c.getValue());
9          c.increment();
10         fail("ValueTooLargeException was NOT thrown as expected.");
11     }
12     catch (ValueTooLargeException e) { }
13 }

```

No!

At Line 12, we would not know which line throws the VTLE:

- o If it was any of the calls in L5 – L7, then it's **not right**.
- o If it was L9, then it's **right**.

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## Exercise: Console Tester vs. JUnit Test

Q. Can this **console tester** work like the **JUnit test** testIncFromMaxValue does?

```

1  public class CounterTester {
2      public static void main(String[] args) {
3          Counter c = new Counter();
4          println("Current val: " + c.getValue());
5          try {
6              c.increment(); c.increment(); c.increment();
7              println("Current val: " + c.getValue());
8          }
9          catch (ValueTooLargeException e) {
10             println("Error: ValueTooLargeException thrown unexpectedly.");
11         }
12         try {
13             c.increment();
14             println("Error: ValueTooLargeException NOT thrown.");
15         } /* end of inner try */
16         catch (ValueTooLargeException e) {
17             println("Success: ValueTooLargeException thrown.");
18         }
19     } /* end of main method */
20 } /* end of CounterTester class */

```

A. Say one of the first 3 c.increment() **mistakenly** throws VTLE.

- After L10 is executed, flow of execution **still continues** to L12.
- This allows the 4th c.increment to be executed!

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## Using Loops in JUnit Test Cases

Loops can make it effective on generating test cases:

```

1  @Test
2  public void testIncDecFromMiddleValues() {
3      Counter c = new Counter();
4      try {
5          for(int i = Counter.MIN_VALUE; i < Counter.MAX_VALUE; i++) {
6              int currentValue = c.getValue();
7              c.increment();
8              assertEquals(currentValue + 1, c.getValue());
9          }
10         for(int i = Counter.MAX_VALUE; i > Counter.MIN_VALUE; i--) {
11             int currentValue = c.getValue();
12             c.decrement();
13             assertEquals(currentValue - 1, c.getValue());
14         }
15     }
16     catch (ValueTooLargeException e) {
17         fail("ValueTooLargeException is thrown unexpectedly");
18     }
19     catch (ValueTooSmallException e) {
20         fail("ValueTooSmallException is thrown unexpectedly");
21     }
22 }

```

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## Exercises



1. Run all 8 tests and make sure you receive a *green* bar.
2. Now, introduction an error to the implementation: Change the line `value ++` in `Counter.increment` to `--`.
  - Re-run all 8 tests and you should receive a *red* bar. [ Why? ]
  - Undo *error injections* & Re-Run all 8 tests. [ What happens? ]

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## Resources



- Official Site of JUnit 4:

<http://junit.org/junit4/>

- API of JUnit assertions:

<http://junit.sourceforge.net/javadoc/org/junit/Assert.html>

- Another JUnit Tutorial example:

<https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse143/11wi/>

<eclipse-tutorial/junit.shtml>

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## Beyond this lecture...



Play with the source code `ExampleTestingCounter.zip`

**Tip.** Change input values so as to explore, in Eclipse *debugger*, possible (*normal* vs. *abnormal*) *execution paths*.

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## Object Equality

## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you learn about:

- **Call by Value**: Primitive vs. Reference Argument Values
- **Object equality**: To **Override** or **Not** to Override
- Asserting **Object Equality**: `assertSame` VS. `assertEquals`
- Short-Circuit Effect (SCE): `&&` vs. `||`
- Equality for Array-, Reference-Typed Attributes

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## Call by Value (1)



- Consider the general form of a call to some **mutator method** `m`, with **context object** `co` and **argument value** `arg`:

```
co.m(arg)
```

- Argument variable **arg** is **not** passed directly to the method call.
- Instead, argument variable **arg** is passed **indirectly**: a **copy** of the value stored in **arg** is made and passed to the method call.
- What can be the type of variable **arg**? [ Primitive or Reference ]
  - **arg** is primitive type (e.g., `int`, `char`, `boolean`, etc.):  
**Call by Value**: Copy of **arg**'s **stored value** (e.g., `2`, `'j'`, `true`) is made and passed.
  - **arg** is reference type (e.g., `String`, `Point`, `Person`, etc.):  
**Call by Value**: Copy of **arg**'s **stored reference/address** (e.g., `Point@5cb0d902`) is made and passed.

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## Call by Value (2.1)



For illustration, let's assume the following variant of the `Point` class:

```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;
    public Point(int x, int y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }
    public int getX() { return this.x; }
    public int getY() { return this.y; }
    public void moveVertically(int y) { this.y += y; }
    public void moveHorizontally(int x) { this.x += x; }
}
```

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## Call by Value (2.2.1)



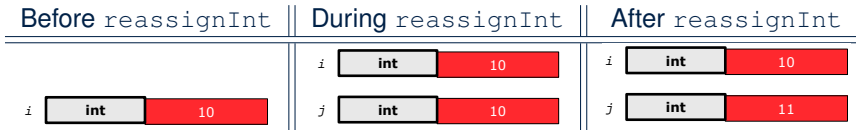
```
public class Util {
    void reassignInt(int j) {
        j = j + 1; }
    void reassignRef(Point q) {
        Point np = new Point(6, 8);
        q = np; }
    void changeViaRef(Point q) {
        q.moveHorizontally(3);
        q.moveVertically(4); } }
```

```
1 @Test
2 public void testCallByVal() {
3     Util u = new Util();
4     int i = 10;
5     assertTrue(i == 10);
6     u.reassignInt(i);
7     assertTrue(i == 10);
8 }
```

- **Before** the mutator call at L6, **primitive** variable `i` stores 10.
- **When** executing the mutator call at L6, due to **call by value**, a copy of variable `i` is made.  
⇒ The assignment `i = i + 1` is only effective on this copy, not the original variable `i` itself.
- ∴ **After** the mutator call at L6, variable `i` still stores 10.

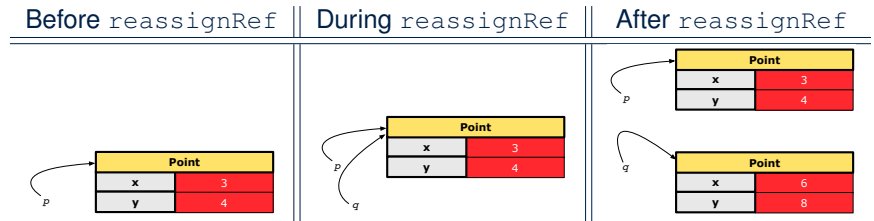
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## Call by Value (2.2.2)



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## Call by Value (2.3.2)



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## Call by Value (2.3.1)



```

1  @Test
2  public void testCallByRef_1() {
3      Util u = new Util();
4      Point p = new Point(3, 4);
5      Point refOfPBefore = p;
6      u.reassignRef(p);
7      assertTrue(p == refOfPBefore);
8      assertTrue(p.getX() == 3);
9      assertTrue(p.getY() == 4);
10 }
    
```

```

public class Util {
    void reassignInt(int j) {
        j = j + 1;
    }
    void reassignRef(Point q) {
        Point np = new Point(6, 8);
        q = np;
    }
    void changeViaRef(Point q) {
        q.moveHorizontally(3);
        q.moveVertically(4);
    }
}
    
```

- **Before** the mutator call at L6, **reference** variable `p` stores the **address** of some `Point` object (whose `x` is 3 and `y` is 4).
- **When** executing the mutator call at L6, due to **call by value**, a **copy of address** stored in `p` is made.  
 ⇒ The assignment `p = np` is only effective on this copy, not the original variable `p` itself.
- ∴ **After** the mutator call at L6, variable `p` still stores the original address (i.e., same as `refOfPBefore`).

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## Call by Value (2.4.1)



```

1  @Test
2  public void testCallByRef_2() {
3      Util u = new Util();
4      Point p = new Point(3, 4);
5      Point refOfPBefore = p;
6      u.changeViaRef(p);
7      assertTrue(p == refOfPBefore);
8      assertTrue(p.getX() == 6);
9      assertTrue(p.getY() == 8);
10 }
    
```

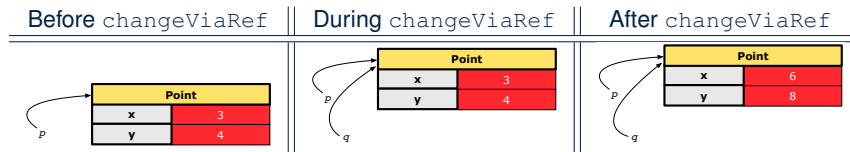
```

public class Util {
    void reassignInt(int j) {
        j = j + 1;
    }
    void reassignRef(Point q) {
        Point np = new Point(6, 8);
        q = np;
    }
    void changeViaRef(Point q) {
        q.moveHorizontally(3);
        q.moveVertically(4);
    }
}
    
```

- **Before** the mutator call at L6, **reference** variable `p` stores the **address** of some `Point` object (whose `x` is 3 and `y` is 4).
- **When** executing the mutator call at L6, due to **call by value**, a **copy of address** stored in `p` is made. [**Alias**: `p` and `q` store same address.]  
 ⇒ `q.moveHorizontally` impacts the **same object** referenced by `p` and `q`.
- ∴ **After** the mutator call at L6, variable `p` still stores the original address (i.e., same as `refOfPBefore`), but its `x` and `y` values have been modified via `q`.

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## Call by Value (2.4.2)



100 Ki

## Equality (1)



- Recall that
  - A **primitive** variable stores a primitive **value**.  
e.g., `double d1 = 7.5; double d2 = 7.5;`
  - A **reference** variable stores the **address** to some object (rather than storing the object itself).  
e.g., `Point p1 = new Point(2, 3)` assigns to `p1` the address of the new `Point` object  
e.g., `Point p2 = new Point(2, 3)` assigns to `p2` the address of another new `Point` object
- The binary operator `==` may be applied to compare:
  - Primitive** variables: their **values** are compared  
e.g., `d1 == d2` evaluates to **true**
  - Reference** variables: the **addresses** they store are compared (**rather than** comparing contents of the objects they refer to)  
e.g., `p1 == p2` evaluates to **false** because `p1` and `p2` are addresses of different objects, even if their contents are identical.

100 Ki

## Equality (2.1)



- Implicitly:
  - Every class is a **child/sub** class of the `Object` class.
  - The `Object` class is the **parent/super** class of every class.
- There is a useful accessor method that every class **inherits** from the `Object` class:
  - `public boolean equals(Object obj)`
    - Indicates whether some other object `obj` is “equal to” this one.
    - The default definition inherited from `Object`:

```
public boolean equals(Object obj) {  
    return (this == obj);  
}
```

e.g., Say `p1` and `p2` are of type `Point` **v1** in which the `equals` method is not **redefined/overridden**, then `p1.equals(p2)` boils down to `(p1 == p2)`.
    - Very often when you define new classes, you want to **redefine/override** the inherited definition of `equals`.

100 Ki

## Equality (2.2): Common Error



```
int i = 10;  
int j = 12;  
boolean sameValue = i.equals(j);
```

### Compilation Error

The `equals` method is only applicable to reference types.

### Fix

Write `i == j` instead.

100 Ki



## Equality (3)

```
public class PointV1 {
    private int x; private int y;
    public PointV1(int x, int y) { this.x = x; this.y = y; }
}
```

```
1 String s = "(2, 3)";
2 PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(2, 3);
3 PointV1 p2 = new PointV1(2, 3);
4 PointV1 p3 = new PointV1(4, 6);
5 System.out.println(p1 == p2); /* false */
6 System.out.println(p2 == p3); /* false */
7 System.out.println(p1.equals(p1)); /* true */
8 System.out.println(p1.equals(null)); /* false */
9 System.out.println(p1.equals(s)); /* false */
10 System.out.println(p1.equals(p2)); /* false */
11 System.out.println(p2.equals(p3)); /* false */
```

- The equals method is not explicitly redefined/overridden in class `PointV1` ⇒ The default version inherited from class `Object` is called. e.g., Executing `p1.equals(null)` boils down to `(p1 == null)`.
- To compare contents of `PointV1` objects, **redefine/override** equals.

150K1



## Equality (4.1)

To compare **contents** rather than addresses, override equals.

```
public class PointV2 {
    private int x; private int y;
    public boolean equals(Object obj) {
        if(this == obj) { return true; }
        if(obj == null) { return false; }
        if(this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
        PointV2 other = (PointV2) obj;
        return this.x == other.x && this.y == other.y;
    }
}
```

```
1 String s = "(2, 3)";
2 PointV2 p1 = new PointV2(2, 3);
3 PointV2 p2 = new PointV2(2, 3);
4 PointV2 p3 = new PointV2(4, 6);
5 System.out.println(p1 == p2); /* false */
6 System.out.println(p2 == p3); /* false */
7 System.out.println(p1.equals(p1)); /* true */
8 System.out.println(p1.equals(null)); /* false */
9 System.out.println(p1.equals(s)); /* false */
10 System.out.println(p1.equals(p2)); /* true */
11 System.out.println(p2.equals(p3)); /* false */
```

150K1



## Equality (4.2)

- When making a method call `p.equals(o)`:
  - Say variable `p` is declared of type `PointV2`
  - Variable `o` can be declared of any type (e.g., `PointV2`, `String`)
- We define `p` and `o` as **equal** if:
  - Either `p` and `o` refer to the same object;
  - Or:
    - `o` does **not** store the `null` address.
    - `p` and `o` at runtime point to objects of the same type.
    - The `x` and `y` coordinates are the same.
- Q:** In the equals method of `Point`, why is there no such a line:

```
class PointV2 {
    public boolean equals(Object obj) {
        if(this == null) { return false; }
    }
}
```

**A:** If `this` was `null`, a **`NullPointerException`** would have occurred, preventing the body of `equals` from being executed.

150K1



## Equality (4.3)

```
1 public class PointV2 {
2     public boolean equals(Object obj) {
3         ...
4         if(this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
5         PointV2 other = (PointV2) obj;
6         return this.x == other.x && this.y == other.y;
7     }
8 }
```

- `Object obj` at L2 declares a parameter `obj` of type `Object`.
- `PointV2 other` at L5 declares a variable `p` of type `PointV2`. We call such types declared at **compile time** as **static type**.
- Applicable attributes/methods callable upon a variable depends on its **static type**. e.g., We may only call the small list of methods defined in `Object` class on `obj`, which does not include `x` and `y` (specific to `PointV2`).
- If we are **certain** that an object's "actual" type is different from its **static type**, then we can **cast** it. e.g., Given that `this.getClass() == obj.getClass()`, we are sure that `obj` is also a `Point`, so we can cast it to `PointV2`.
- The **cast** `(PointV2) obj` creates an **alias** of `obj`, upon which (or upon its alias such as `other`) more methods can be invoked.

150K1



## Equality (5)

Two notions of **equality** for variables of **reference** types:

- **Reference Equality**: use `==` to compare **addresses**
- **Object Equality**: define `equals` method to compare **contents**

```
1 PointV2 p1 = new PointV2(3, 4);
2 PointV2 p2 = new PointV2(3, 4);
3 PointV2 p3 = new PointV2(4, 5);
4 System.out.println(p1 == p1); /* true */
5 System.out.println(p1.equals(p1)); /* true */
6 System.out.println(p1 == p2); /* false */
7 System.out.println(p1.equals(p2)); /* true */
8 System.out.println(p2 == p3); /* false */
9 System.out.println(p2.equals(p3)); /* false */
```

- Being **reference**-equal implies being **object**-equal.
- Being **object**-equal does **not** imply being **reference**-equal.

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## Requirements of equals

Given that **reference variables** `x`, `y`, `z` are not null:

- $\neg x.equals(\text{null})$
- **Reflexive**:  
$$x.equals(x)$$
- **Symmetric**  
$$x.equals(y) \iff y.equals(x)$$
- **Transitive**  
$$x.equals(y) \wedge y.equals(z) \Rightarrow x.equals(z)$$

API of equals

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## Equality in JUnit (1.1)

- **assertSame**(exp1, exp2)
  - Passes if exp1 and exp2 are references to the same object  
 $\approx \text{assertTrue}(\text{exp1} == \text{exp2})$   
 $\approx \text{assertFalse}(\text{exp1} != \text{exp2})$

```
PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV1 p2 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV1 p3 = p1;
assertSame(p1, p3); ✓
assertSame(p2, p3); ✗
```

- **assertEquals**(exp1, exp2)
  - `exp1 == exp2` if exp1 and exp2 are **primitive type**

```
int i = 10;
int j = 20;
assertEquals(i, j); ✗
```

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## Equality in JUnit (1.2)

- **assertEquals**(exp1, exp2)
  - $\approx \text{exp1.equals}(\text{exp2})$  if exp1 and exp2 are **reference type**  
**Case 1:** If `equals` is **not** explicitly overridden in exp1's dynamic type  
 $\approx \text{assertSame}(\text{exp1}, \text{exp2})$

```
PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV1 p2 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV2 p3 = new PointV2(3, 4);
assertEquals(p1, p2); ✗ /* ∴ different PointV1 objects */
assertEquals(p2, p3); ✗ /* ∴ different object addresses */
```

**Case 2:** If `equals` is explicitly **overridden** in exp1's dynamic type  
 $\approx \text{exp1.equals}(\text{exp2})$

```
PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV1 p2 = new PointV1(3, 4);
PointV2 p3 = new PointV2(3, 4);
assertEquals(p1, p2); ✗ /* ∴ p1.equals(p2) ∴ p1 == p2 */
assertEquals(p2, p3); ✗ /* ∴ p2.equals(p3) ∴ p2 == p3 */
assertEquals(p3, p2); ✗ /* ∴ p3.equals(p2) ∴ p3.getClass() == p2.getClass() */
```

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## Equality in JUnit (2)

```
@Test
public void testEqualityOfPointV1() {
    PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(3, 4); PointV1 p2 = new PointV1(3, 4);
    assertFalse(p1 == p2); assertFalse(p2 == p1);
    /* assertEquals(p1, p2); assertEquals(p2, p1); */ /* both fail */
    assertEquals(p1.equals(p2)); assertEquals(p2.equals(p1));
    assertTrue(p1.getX() == p2.getX() && p1.getY() == p2.getY());
}

@Test
public void testEqualityOfPointV2() {
    PointV2 p3 = new PointV2(3, 4); PointV2 p4 = new PointV2(3, 4);
    assertFalse(p3 == p4); assertFalse(p4 == p3);
    /* assertEquals(p3, p4); assertEquals(p4, p3); */ /* both fail */
    assertEquals(p3.equals(p4)); assertEquals(p4.equals(p3));
    assertEquals(p3, p4); assertEquals(p4, p3);
}

@Test
public void testEqualityOfPointV1andPointV2() {
    PointV1 p1 = new PointV1(3, 4); PointV2 p2 = new PointV2(3, 4);
    /* These two assertions do not compile because p1 and p2 are of different types. */
    /* assertEquals(p1, p2); assertEquals(p2, p1); */
    /* assertEquals can take objects of different types and fail. */
    /* assertEquals(p1, p2); */ /* compiles, but fails */
    /* assertEquals(p2, p1); */ /* compiles, but fails */
    /* version of equals from Object is called */
    assertFalse(p1.equals(p2));
    /* version of equals from PointP2 is called */
    assertFalse(p2.equals(p1));
}
```

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## Equality (6.1)

Exercise: Persons are *equal* if names and measures are equal.

```
1 public class Person {
2     private String firstName; private String lastName;
3     private double weight; private double height;
4     public boolean equals(Object obj) {
5         if(this == obj) { return true; }
6         if(obj == null || this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
7         Person other = (Person) obj;
8         return
9             this.weight == other.weight
10            && this.height == other.height
11            && this.firstName.equals(other.firstName)
12            && this.lastName.equals(other.lastName);
13     }
14 }
```

Q: At L6, will we get a *NullPointerException* if obj is null?

A: **No** ∴ Short-Circuit Effect of ||

obj is null, then obj == null evaluates to **true**

⇒ no need to evaluate the RHS

The left operand obj == null acts as a **guard constraint** for the right operand this.getClass() != obj.getClass().

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## Equality (6.2)

Exercise: Persons are *equal* if names and measures are equal.

```
1 public class Person {
2     private String firstName; private String lastName;
3     private double weight; private double height;
4     public boolean equals(Object obj) {
5         if(this == obj) { return true; }
6         if(obj == null || this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
7         Person other = (Person) obj;
8         return
9             this.weight == other.weight
10            && this.height == other.height
11            && this.firstName.equals(other.firstName)
12            && this.lastName.equals(other.lastName);
13     }
14 }
```

Q: At L6, if swapping the order of two operands of disjunction:

this.getClass() != obj.getClass() || obj == null

Will we get a *NullPointerException* if obj is null?

A: **Yes** ∴ Evaluation of operands is from left to right.

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## Equality (6.3)

Exercise: Persons are *equal* if names and measures are equal.

```
1 public class Person {
2     private String firstName; private String lastName;
3     private double weight; private double height;
4     public boolean equals(Object obj) {
5         if(this == obj) { return true; }
6         if(obj == null || this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
7         Person other = (Person) obj;
8         return
9             this.weight == other.weight
10            && this.height == other.height
11            && this.firstName.equals(other.firstName)
12            && this.lastName.equals(other.lastName);
13     }
14 }
```

Q: At L11 & L12, where is the equals method defined?

A: The equals method **overridden** in the String class.

When implementing the equals method for your own class, **reuse** the equals methods **overridden** in other classes wherever possible.

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## Equality (6.4)

Person collectors are equal if containing equal lists of persons.

```
class PersonCollector {
    private Person[] persons;
    private int nop; /* number of persons */
    public PersonCollector() { ... }
    public void addPerson(Person p) { ... }
    public int getNop() { return this.nop; }
    public Person[] getPersons() { ... }
}
```

**Redefine/Override** the equals method in PersonCollector.

```
1 public boolean equals(Object obj) {
2     if(this == obj) { return true; }
3     if(obj == null || this.getClass() != obj.getClass()) { return false; }
4     PersonCollector other = (PersonCollector) obj;
5     boolean equal = false;
6     if(this.nop == other.nop) {
7         equal = true;
8         for(int i = 0; equal && i < this.nop; i++) {
9             equal = this.persons[i].equals(other.persons[i]);
10        }
11    }
12    return equal;
13 }
```

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## Beyond this lecture...

- Play with the source code

ExampleEqualityPointsPersons.zip

**Tip.** Use the debugger to step into executing the various versions of equals method.

- Go back to your Review Tutorial: Extend the Product, Entry, and RefurbishedStore classes by **overridden** versions of the equals method.

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## Equality in JUnit (3)

```
@Test
public void testPersonCollector() {
    Person p1 = new Person("A", "a", 180, 1.8);
    Person p2 = new Person("A", "a", 180, 1.8);
    Person p3 = new Person("B", "b", 200, 2.1);
    Person p4 = p3;
    assertFalse(p1 == p2); assertTrue(p1.equals(p2));
    assertTrue(p3 == p4); assertTrue(p3.equals(p4));
    PersonCollector pc1 = new PersonCollector();
    PersonCollector pc2 = new PersonCollector();
    assertFalse(pc1 == pc2); assertTrue(pc1.equals(pc2));
    pc1.addPerson(p1);
    assertFalse(pc1.equals(pc2));
    pc2.addPerson(p2);
    assertFalse(pc1.getPersons()[0] == pc2.getPersons()[0]);
    assertTrue(pc1.getPersons()[0].equals(pc2.getPersons()[0]));
    assertTrue(pc1.equals(pc2));
    pc1.addPerson(p3);
    pc2.addPerson(p4);
    assertTrue(pc1.getPersons()[1] == pc2.getPersons()[1]);
    assertTrue(pc1.getPersons()[1].equals(pc2.getPersons()[1]));
    assertTrue(pc1.equals(pc2));
    pc1.addPerson(new Person("A", "a", 175, 1.75));
    pc2.addPerson(new Person("A", "a", 165, 1.55));
    assertFalse(pc1.getPersons()[2] == pc2.getPersons()[2]);
    assertFalse(pc1.getPersons()[2].equals(pc2.getPersons()[2]));
    assertFalse(pc1.equals(pc2));
}
```

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#### Call by Value (2.1)

#### Call by Value (2.2.1)

#### Call by Value (2.2.2)

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#### Call by Value (2.4.1)

#### Call by Value (2.4.2)

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#### Equality (2.1)

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Equality (6.4)

Equality in JUnit (3)

Beyond this lecture...

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## Inheritance



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG

## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you learn about:

- Alternative designs to **inheritance**
- Using **inheritance** for code reuse
- **Static Types**, Expectations, **Dynamic Types**
- **Polymorphism**  
(variable assignments, method arguments & return values)
- **Dynamic Binding**
- **Type Casting**

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## Why Inheritance: A Motivating Example



**Problem:** A student management system stores data about students. There are two kinds of university students: resident students and non-resident students. Both kinds of students have a name and a list of registered courses. Both kinds of students are restricted to register for no more than 10 courses. When calculating the tuition for a student, a base amount is first determined from the list of courses they are currently registered (each course has an associated fee). For a non-resident student, there is a discount rate applied to the base amount to waive the fee for on-campus accommodation. For a resident student, there is a premium rate applied to the base amount to account for the fee for on-campus accommodation and meals.

**Tasks:** Write Java classes that satisfy the above problem statement. At runtime, each type of student must be able to register a course and calculate their tuition fee.

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## No Inheritance: ResidentStudent Class



```
public class ResidentStudent {
    private String name;
    private Course[] courses; private int noc;
    private double premiumRate; /* assume a mutator for this */
    public ResidentStudent (String name) {
        this.name = name;
        this.courses = new Course[10];
    }
    public void register(Course c) {
        this.courses[this.noc] = c;
        this.noc ++;
    }
    public double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < this.noc; i++) {
            tuition += this.courses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition * this.premiumRate;
    }
}
```

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## Why Inheritance: A Motivating Example



**Problem:** A *student management system* stores data about students. There are two kinds of university students: *resident* students and *non-resident* students. Both kinds of students have a *name* and a list of *registered courses*. Both kinds of students are restricted to *register* for no more than 10 courses. When *calculating the tuition* for a student, a base amount is first determined from the list of courses they are currently registered (each course has an associated fee). For a non-resident student, there is a *discount rate* applied to the base amount to waive the fee for on-campus accommodation. For a resident student, there is a *premium rate* applied to the base amount to account for the fee for on-campus accommodation and meals.

**Tasks:** Write Java classes that satisfy the above problem statement. At runtime, each type of student must be able to register a course and calculate their tuition fee.

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## No Inheritance: NonResidentStudent Class



```
public class NonResidentStudent {
    private String name;
    private Course[] courses; private int noc;
    private double discountRate; /* assume a mutator for this */
    public NonResidentStudent (String name) {
        this.name = name;
        this.courses = new Course[10];
    }
    public void register(Course c) {
        this.courses[this.noc] = c;
        this.noc ++;
    }
    public double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < this.noc; i++) {
            tuition += this.courses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition * this.discountRate;
    }
}
```

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## No Inheritance: Testing Student Classes



```
public class Course {
    private String title; private double fee;
    public Course(String title, double fee) {
        this.title = title; this.fee = fee;
    }
}

public class StudentTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Course c1 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        Course c2 = new Course("EECS3311", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        ResidentStudent jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim.setPremiumRate(1.25);
        jim.register(c1); jim.register(c2);
        NonResidentStudent jeremy = new NonResidentStudent("J. Gibbons");
        jeremy.setDiscountRate(0.75);
        jeremy.register(c1); jeremy.register(c2);
        System.out.println("Jim pays " + jim.getTuition());
        System.out.println("Jeremy pays " + jeremy.getTuition());
    }
}
```

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## No Inheritance: Issues with the Student Classes



- Implementations for the two student classes seem to work.  
But can you see any potential problems with it?  
**Hint.** Maintenance of code
- The code of the two student classes share a lot in common.
  - **Duplicates of code make it hard to maintain your software!**
  - This means that when there is a change of policy on the common part, we need modify **more than one places**.
  - This violates the so-called **single-choice design principle**.

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## No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (1)



What if the way for registering a course changes?

e.g.,

```
public void register(Course c) throws TooManyCoursesException {
    if (this.noc >= MAX_ALLOWANCE) {
        throw new TooManyCoursesException("Too many courses");
    }
    else {
        this.courses[this.noc] = c;
        this.noc++;
    }
}
```

Changes needed for register method in **both** student classes!

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## No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (2)



What if the way for calculating the base tuition changes?

e.g.,

```
public double getTuition() {
    double tuition = 0;
    for(int i = 0; i < this.noc; i++) {
        tuition += this.courses[i].fee;
    }
    /* ... can be premiumRate or discountRate */
    return tuition * inflationRate * ...;
}
```

Changes needed for getTuition method in **both** student classes!

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## No Inheritance: A Collection of Various Kinds of Students

How can we define a class `StudentManagementSystem` that contains a list of *resident* and *non-resident* students?

```
public class StudentManagementSystem {
    private ResidentStudent[] rss;
    private NonResidentStudent[] nrss;
    private int nors; /* number of resident students */
    private int nonrs; /* number of non-resident students */
    public void addRS(ResidentStudent rs) { rss[nors]=rs; nors++; }
    public void addNRS(NonResidentStudent nrs) { nrss[nonrs]=nrs; nonrs++; }
    public void registerAll(Course c) {
        for(int i = 0; i < nors; i++) { rss[i].register(c); }
        for(int i = 0; i < nonrs; i++) { nrss[i].register(c); }
    }
}
```

But what if we later on introduce *more kinds of students*?

Very *inconvenient* to handle each list of students *separately*!

a polymorphic collection of students

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## Visibility of Classes

- Only one modifier for declaring visibility of classes: *public*.

- Use of *private* is forbidden for declaring a class.

e.g., `private class Chair` is **not** allowed!!

- Visibility** of a class may be declared using a modifier, indicating that it is accessible:

- Across classes within its residing package [ no modifier ]

e.g., Declare `class Chair { ... }`

- Across packages

e.g., Declare `public class Chair { ... }` [ *public* ]

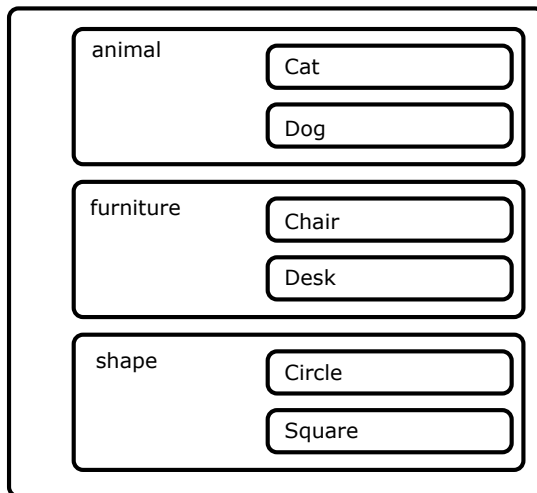
- Consider class `Chair` which resides in:

- package `furniture`
- project `CollectionOfStuffs`

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## Visibility: Project, Packages, Classes

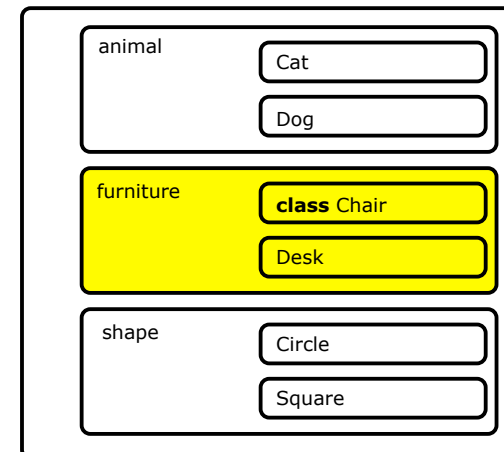
CollectionOfStuffs



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## Visibility of Classes: Across All Classes Within the Resident Package (no modifier)

CollectionOfStuffs

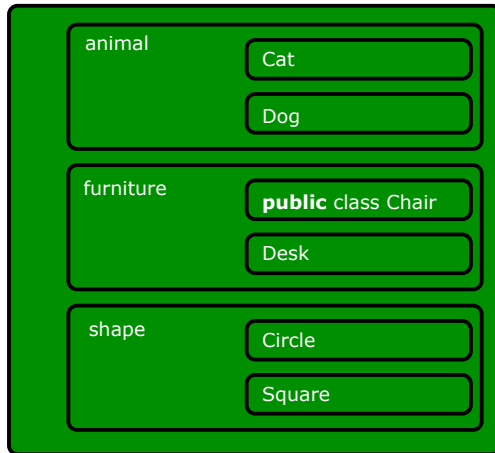


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## Visibility of Classes: Across All Classes Within the Resident Package (no modifier)



CollectionOfStuffs

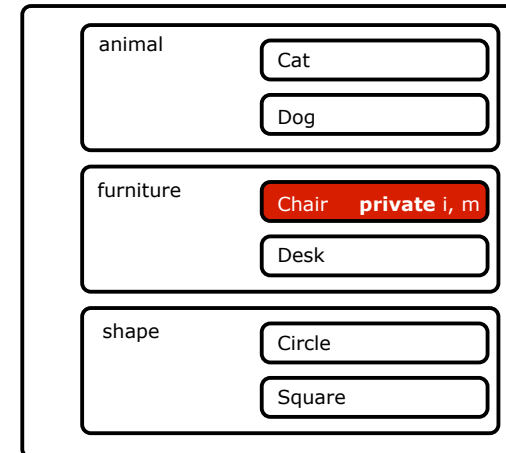


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## Visibility of Attr./Meth.: Across All Methods Within the Resident Class (private)



CollectionOfStuffs



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## Visibility of Attributes/Methods: Using Modifiers to Define Scopes



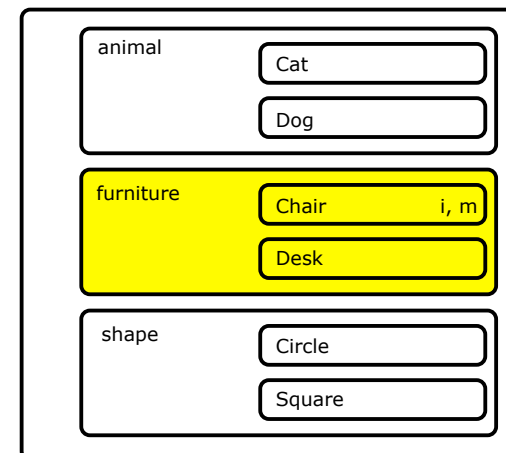
- Two modifiers for declaring visibility of attributes/methods: **public** and **private**
- Visibility** of an attribute or a method may be declared using a modifier, indicating that it is accessible:
  - Within its residing class (**most** restrictive) [ **private** ]  
 e.g., Declare attribute `private int i;`  
 e.g., Declare method `private void m() {};`
  - Across classes within its residing package [ no modifier ]  
 e.g., Declare attribute `int i;`  
 e.g., Declare method `void m() {};`
  - Across packages (**least** restrictive) [ **public** ]  
 e.g., Declare attribute `public int i;`  
 e.g., Declare method `public void m() {};`
- Consider attributes `i` and `m` residing in:  
 Class `Chair`; Package `furniture`; Project `CollectionOfStuffs`.

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## Visibility of Attr./Meth.: Across All Classes Within the Resident Package (no modifier)



CollectionOfStuffs

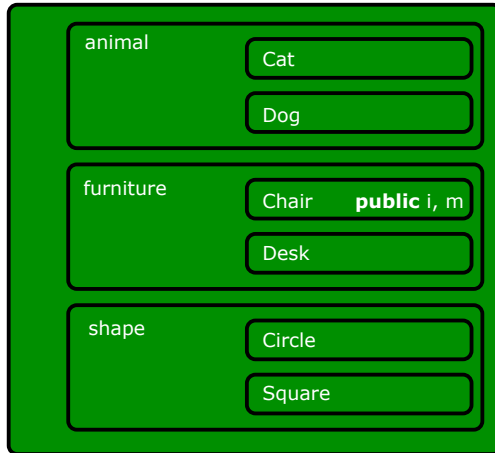


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## Visibility of Attr./Meth.: Across All Packages Within the Resident Project (**public**)



CollectionOfStuffs

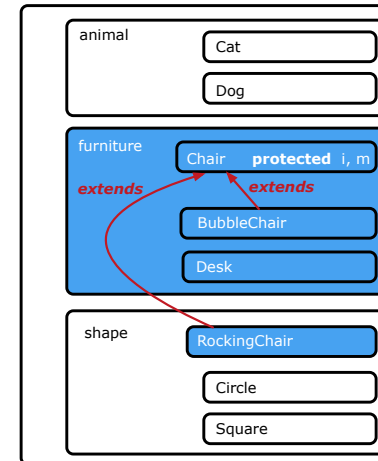


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## Visibility of Attr./Meth.: Across All Methods Same Package and Sub-Classes (**protected**)



CollectionOfStuffs



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## Use of the **protected** Modifier



- **private** attributes are not inherited to subclasses.
- package-level attributes (i.e., with **no modifier**) and project-level attributes (i.e., **public**) are inherited.
- What if we want attributes to be:
  - **visible** to sub-classes outside the current package, but still
  - **invisible** to other non-sub-classes outside the current package?
 Use **protected**!

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## Visibility of Attributes/Methods



modifier \ scope	CLASS	PACKAGE	SUBCLASS (same pkg)	SUBCLASS (different pkg)	NON-SUBCLASS (across Project)
public	green	green	green	green	green
protected	green	green	green	green	red
no modifier	green	green	green	red	red
private	green	red	red	red	red

For the rest of this lecture, for simplicity, we assume that:

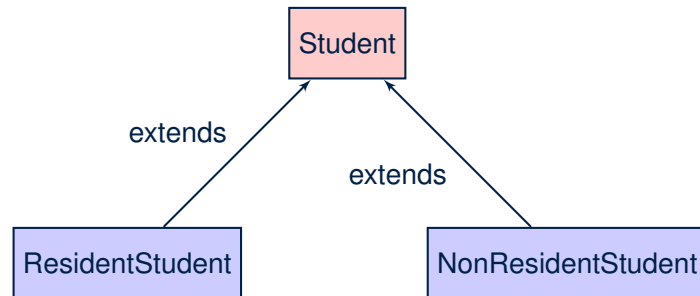
**All relevant parent/child classes are in the same package.**

⇒ Attributes with **no modifiers** (**package**-level visibility) suffice.

⇒ Methods with **no modifiers** (**package**-level visibility) suffice.

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## Inheritance Architecture



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## Inheritance: The ResidentStudent Child/Sub Class



```
1 class ResidentStudent extends Student {
2     double premiumRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
3     ResidentStudent(String name) { super(name); }
4     /* register method is inherited */
5     double getTuition() {
6         double base = super.getTuition();
7         return base * premiumRate;
8     }
9 }
```

- L1 declares that ResidentStudent inherits all attributes and methods (except constructors) from Student.
- There is no need to repeat the register method
- Use of *super* in L3 is as if calling Student(name)
- Use of *super* in L6 returns what getTuition() in Student returns.
- Use *super* to refer to attributes/methods defined in the super class:

`super.name`, `super.register(c)`

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## Inheritance: The Student Parent/Super Class



```
class Student {
    String name;
    Course[] courses; int noc;
    Student(String name) {
        this.name = name;
        this.courses = new Course[10];
    }
    void register(Course c) {
        this.courses[this.noc] = c;
        this.noc++;
    }
    double getTuition() {
        double tuition = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < this.noc; i++) {
            tuition += this.courses[i].fee;
        }
        return tuition; /* base amount only */
    }
}
```

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## Inheritance: The NonResidentStudent Child/Sub Class



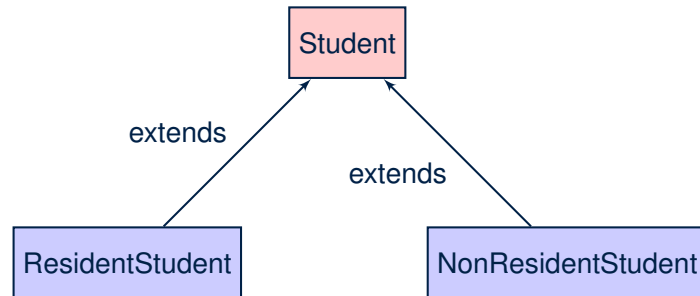
```
1 class NonResidentStudent extends Student {
2     double discountRate; /* there's a mutator method for this */
3     NonResidentStudent(String name) { super(name); }
4     /* register method is inherited */
5     double getTuition() {
6         double base = super.getTuition();
7         return base * discountRate;
8     }
9 }
```

- L1 declares that NonResidentStudent inherits all attributes and methods (except constructors) from Student.
- There is no need to repeat the register method
- Use of *super* in L3 is as if calling Student(name)
- Use of *super* in L6 returns what getTuition() in Student returns.
- Use *super* to refer to attributes/methods defined in the super class:

`super.name`, `super.register(c)`

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## Inheritance Architecture Revisited



- The class that defines the common attributes and methods is called the **parent** or **super** class.
- Each “extended” class is called a **child** or **sub** class.

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## Visualizing Parent/Child Objects (1)



- A child class inherits **all** non-private attributes from its parent class.  
 ⇒ A child instance has **at least as many** attributes as an instance of its parent class.

Consider the following instantiations:

```

Student s = new Student("Stella");
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
  
```

- How will these initial objects look like?

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## Using Inheritance for Code Reuse

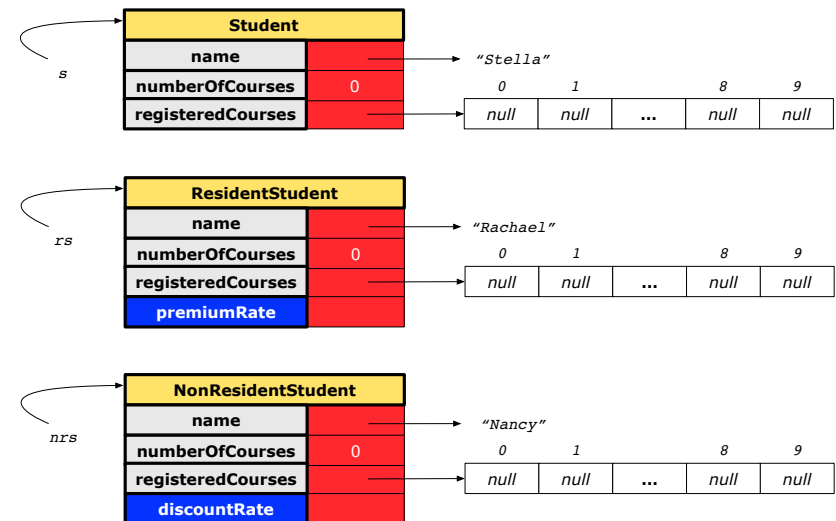


**Inheritance** in Java allows you to:

- Define **common attributes and methods** in a separate class.  
 e.g., the `Student` class
- Define an “extended” version of the class which:
  - inherits** definitions of all attributes and methods  
 e.g., `name`, `courses`, `noc`  
 e.g., `register`  
 e.g., base amount calculation in `getTuition`  
*This means code reuse and elimination of code duplicates!*
  - defines new** attributes and methods if necessary  
 e.g., `setPremiumRate` for `ResidentStudent`  
 e.g., `setDiscountRate` for `NonResidentStudent`
  - redefines/overrides** methods if necessary  
 e.g., compounded tuition for `ResidentStudent`  
 e.g., discounted tuition for `NonResidentStudent`

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## Visualizing Parent/Child Objects (2)



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## Testing the Two Student Sub-Classes

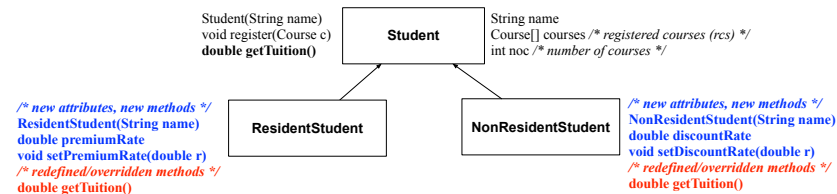


```
public class StudentTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Course c1 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        Course c2 = new Course("EECS3311", 500.00); /* title and fee */
        ResidentStudent jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim.setPremiumRate(1.25);
        jim.register(c1); jim.register(c2);
        NonResidentStudent jeremy = new NonResidentStudent("J. Gibbons");
        jeremy.setDiscountRate(0.75);
        jeremy.register(c1); jeremy.register(c2);
        System.out.println("Jim pays " + jim.getTuition());
        System.out.println("Jeremy pays " + jeremy.getTuition());
    }
}
```

- The software can be used in the exact same way as before (because we did not modify **method headers**).
- But now the internal structure of code has been made **maintainable** using **inheritance**.

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## Inheritance Architecture: Static Types & Expectations



```
Student s = new Student("Stella");
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
```

	name	rcs	noc	reg	getT	pr	setPR	dr	setDR
s.		✓						×	
rs.		✓				✓			×
nrs.		✓				×			✓

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## Polymorphism: Intuition (1)



```
1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */
```

- Which one of L4 and L5 is **valid**? Which one is **invalid**?
- Hints:
  - L1: What **kind** of address can **s** store? [ Student ]  
∴ The context object **s** is **expected** to be used as:
    - s.register(eecs2030)** and **s.getTuition()**
  - L2: What **kind** of address can **rs** store? [ ResidentStudent ]  
∴ The context object **rs** is **expected** to be used as:
    - rs.register(eecs2030)** and **rs.getTuition()**
    - rs.setPremiumRate(1.50)** [increase premium rate]

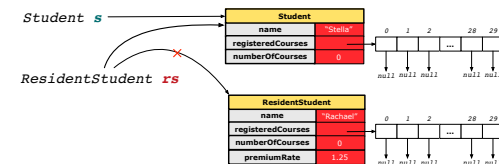
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## Polymorphism: Intuition (2)



```
1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */
```

- rs = s (L5) should be invalid:**



- Since **rs** is declared of type ResidentStudent, a subsequent call **rs.setPremiumRate(1.50)** can be expected.
- rs** is now pointing to a Student object.
- Then, what would happen to **rs.setPremiumRate(1.50)**?  
**CRASH** ∴ **rs.premiumRate** is **undefined**!!

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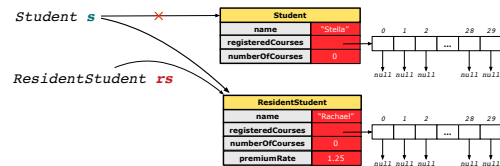
## Polymorphism: Intuition (3)

```

1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25);
4 s = rs; /* Is this valid? */
5 rs = s; /* Is this valid? */

```

- **s = rs (L4)** should be **valid**:



- Since **s** is declared of type **Student**, a subsequent call **s.setPremiumRate(1.50)** is **never** expected.
- **s** is now pointing to a **ResidentStudent** object.
- Then, what would happen to **s.getTuition()**?

**OK**

∴ **s.premiumRate** is **never directly used**!!

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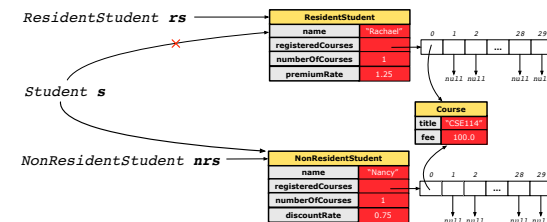
## Dynamic Binding: Intuition (2)

```

1 Course eecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 100.0);
2 Student s;
3 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25); rs.register(eecs2030);
6 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.75); nrs.register(eecs2030);
7 s = rs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* 125.0 */
8 s = nrs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* 75.0 */

```

After **s = nrs (L8)**, **s** points to a **NonResidentStudent** object.  
 ⇒ Calling **s.getTuition()** applies the **discountRate**.



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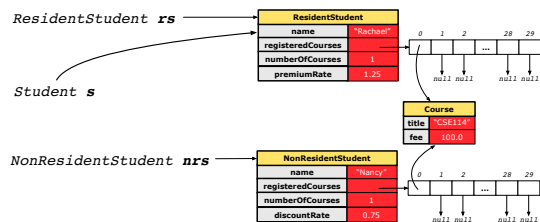
## Dynamic Binding: Intuition (1)

```

1 Course eecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 100.0);
2 Student s;
3 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 rs.setPremiumRate(1.25); rs.register(eecs2030);
6 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.75); nrs.register(eecs2030);
7 s = rs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* 125.0 */
8 s = nrs; System.out.println(s.getTuition()); /* 75.0 */

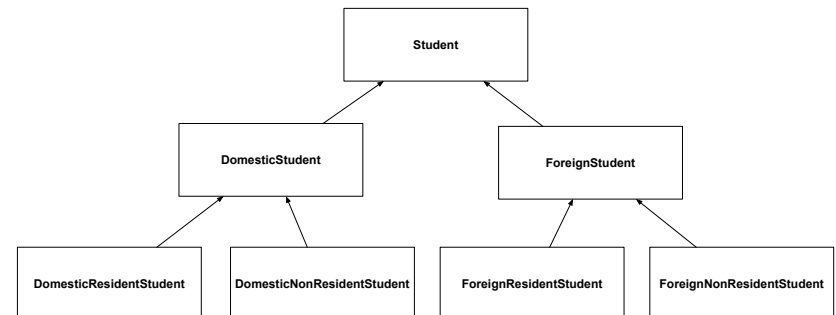
```

After **s = rs (L7)**, **s** points to a **ResidentStudent** object.  
 ⇒ Calling **s.getTuition()** applies the **premiumRate**.



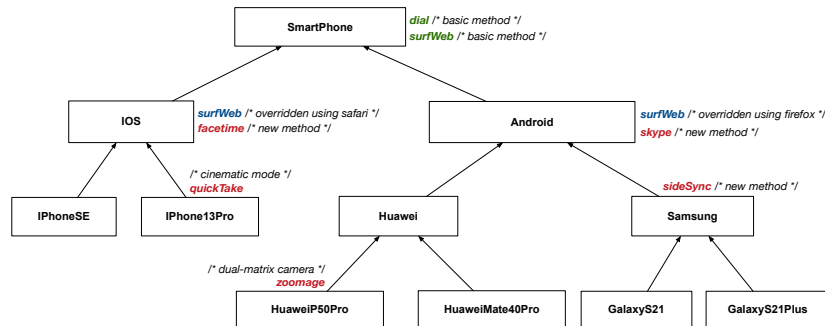
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## Multi-Level Inheritance Architecture



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## Multi-Level Inheritance Hierarchy: Smart Phones



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## Inheritance Accumulates Code for Reuse



- The **lower** a class is in the type hierarchy, the **more code** it accumulates from its **ancestor classes**:
  - A **descendant class** inherits all code from its **ancestor classes**.
  - A **descendant class** may also:
    - Declare new attributes
    - Define new methods
    - Redefine / Override** inherited methods
- Consequently:
  - When being used as **context objects**, instances of a class' **descendant classes** have a **wider range of expected usages** (i.e., attributes and methods).
  - Given a **reference variable**, expected to store the address of an object of a particular class, we may **substitute** it with (**re-assign** it to) an object of any of its **descendant classes**.
  - e.g., When expecting a **SmartPhone** object, we may substitute it with either a **iPhone13Pro** or a **Samsung** object.
  - Justification**: A **descendant class** contains **at least as many** methods as defined in its **ancestor classes** (but not vice versa!).

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## Inheritance Forms a Type Hierarchy



- A (data) **type** denotes a set of related **runtime values**.
  - Every **class** can be used as a type: the set of runtime **objects**.
- Use of **inheritance** creates a **hierarchy** of classes:
  - (Implicit) Root of the hierarchy is **Object**.
  - Each **extends** declaration corresponds to an upward arrow.
  - The **extends** relationship is **transitive**: when A extends B and B extends C, we say A **indirectly** extends C.  
e.g., Every class implicitly **extends** the **Object** class.
- Ancestor** vs. **Descendant** classes:
  - The **ancestor classes** of a class A are: A itself and all classes that A **directly**, or **indirectly**, extends.
    - A **inherits** all code (attributes and methods) from its **ancestor classes**.  
∴ A's instances have a **wider range of expected usages** (i.e., attributes and methods) than instances of its **ancestor classes**.
  - The **descendant classes** of a class A are: A itself and all classes that **directly**, or **indirectly**, extends A.
    - Code defined in A is **inherited** to all its **descendant classes**.

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## Static Types Determine Expectations

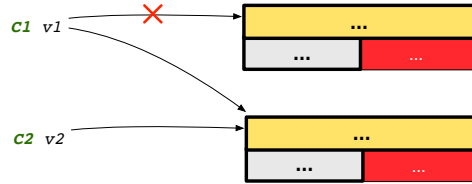


- A reference variable's **static type** is what we declare it to be.
  - `Student jim` declares jim's ST as **Student**.
  - `SmartPhone myPhone` declares myPhone's ST as **SmartPhone**.
  - The **static type** of a reference variable **never changes**.
- For a reference variable v, its **static type** **C** defines the **expected usages of v as a context object**.
- A method call `v.m(...)` is **compilable** if **m** is defined in **C**.
  - e.g., After declaring `Student jim`, we
    - may** call `register` and `getTuition` on jim
    - may not** call `setPremiumRate` (specific to a resident student) or `setDiscountRate` (specific to a non-resident student) on jim
  - e.g., After declaring `SmartPhone myPhone`, we
    - may** call `dial` and `surfWeb` on myPhone
    - may not** call `facetime` (specific to an IOS phone) or `skype` (specific to an Android phone) on myPhone

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## Substitutions via Assignments

- By declaring **C1**  $v_1$ , **reference variable**  $v_1$  will store the **address** of an object “of class C1” at runtime.
- By declaring **C2**  $v_2$ , **reference variable**  $v_2$  will store the **address** of an object “of class C2” at runtime.
- Assignment  $v_1 = v_2$  **copies address** stored in  $v_2$  into  $v_1$ .
  - $v_1$  will instead point to wherever  $v_2$  is pointing to. [ **object alias** ]



- In such assignment  $v_1 = v_2$ , we say that we **substitute** an object of (**static**) type C1 **by** an object of (**static**) type C2.
- Substitutions** are subject to **rules**!

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## Reference Variable: Dynamic Type

A **reference variable**'s **dynamic type** is the type of object that it is currently pointing to at **runtime**.

- The **dynamic type** of a reference variable **may change** whenever we **re-assign** that variable to a different object.
- There are two ways to re-assigning a reference variable.

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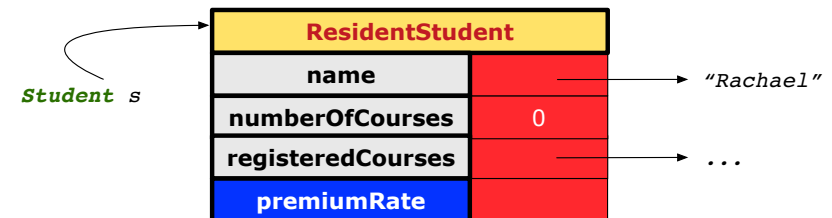
## Rules of Substitution

When expecting an object of **static type** A:

- It is **safe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is any of the **descendant class** of A (including A).
  - $\therefore$  Each **descendant class** of A, being the new substitute, is guaranteed to contain all (non-private) attributes/methods defined in A.
  - e.g., When expecting an IOS phone, you **can** substitute it with either an iPhoneSE or iPhone13Pro.
- It is **unsafe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is any of the **ancestor classes of A's parent** (excluding A).
  - $\therefore$  Class A may have defined new methods that do not exist in any of its **parent's ancestor classes**.
  - e.g., When expecting IOS phone, **unsafe** to substitute it with a SmartPhone  $\therefore$  facetime not supported in Android phone.
- It is also **unsafe** to **substitute** it with an object whose **static type** is **neither an ancestor nor a descendant** of A.
  - e.g., When expecting IOS phone, **unsafe** to substitute it with a HuaweiP50Pro  $\therefore$  facetime not supported in Android phone.

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## Visualizing Static Type vs. Dynamic Type



- Each segmented box denotes a **runtime** object.
- Arrow denotes a variable (e.g.,  $s$ ) storing the object's address. Usually, when the context is clear, we leave the variable's **static type** implicit (**Student**).
- Title of box indicates type of runtime object, which denotes the **dynamic type** of the variable (**ResidentStudent**).

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## Reference Variable: Changing Dynamic Type (1)

Re-assigning a reference variable to a newly-created object:

- **Substitution Principle**: the new object's class must be a **descendant class** of the reference variable's **static type**.
- e.g., `Student jim = new ResidentStudent(...)` changes the **dynamic type** of jim to ResidentStudent.
- e.g., `jim = new NonResidentStudent(...)` changes the **dynamic type** of jim to NonResidentStudent.
- e.g., `ResidentStudent jeremy = new Student(...)` is illegal because Student is **not** a **descendant class** of the **static type** of jeremy (i.e., ResidentStudent).

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## Reference Variable: Changing Dynamic Type (2)

Re-assigning a reference variable v to an existing object that is referenced by another variable other (i.e., `v = other`):

- **Substitution Principle**: the static type of other must be a **descendant class** of v's **static type**.
- e.g., Say we declare

```
Student jim = new Student(...);
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent(...);
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent(...);
```

- `jim = rs` ✓  
changes the **dynamic type** of jim to the dynamic type of rs
- `jim = nrs` ✓  
changes the **dynamic type** of jim to the dynamic type of nrs
- `rs = jim` ✗
- `nrs = jim` ✗

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (1)

- **Polymorphism**: An object variable may have "**multiple possible shapes**" (i.e., allowable **dynamic types**).
  - Consequently, there are **multiple possible versions** of each method that may be called.
    - e.g., A **Student** variable may have the **dynamic type** of **Student**, **ResidentStudent**, or **NonResidentStudent**.
    - This means that there are **three possible versions** of the `getTuition()` that may be called.
- **Dynamic binding**: When a method m is called on an object variable, the version of m corresponding to its "**current shape**" (i.e., one defined in the **dynamic type** of m) will be called.

```
Student jim = new ResidentStudent(...);
jim.getTuition(); /* version in ResidentStudent */
jim = new NonResidentStudent(...);
jim.getTuition(); /* version in NonResidentStudent */
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (2.1)

```
class Student {...}
class ResidentStudent extends Student {...}
class NonResidentStudent extends Student {...}
```

```
class StudentTester1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Student jim = new Student("J. Davis");
        ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim = rs; /* legal */
        rs = jim; /* illegal */

        NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        jim = nrs; /* legal */
        nrs = jim; /* illegal */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (2.2)



```
class Student {...}
class ResidentStudent extends Student {...}
class NonResidentStudent extends Student {...}
```

```
class StudentTester2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Course eecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
        Student jim = new Student("J. Davis");
        ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
        jim = rs;
        System.out.println(jim.getTuition()); /* 750.0 */
        NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
        nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5);
        jim = nrs;
        System.out.println(jim.getTuition()); /* 250.0 */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.2)

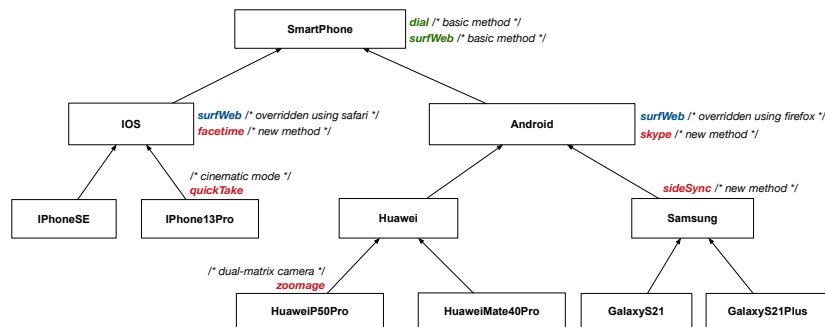


```
class SmartPhoneTest1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SmartPhone myPhone;
        IOS ip = new iPhoneSE();
        Samsung ss = new GalaxyS21Plus();
        myPhone = ip; /* legal */
        myPhone = ss; /* legal */

        IOS presentForHeeyeon;
        presentForHeeyeon = ip; /* legal */
        presentForHeeyeon = ss; /* illegal */
    }
}
```

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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.1)



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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding (3.3)



```
class SmartPhoneTest2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SmartPhone myPhone;
        IOS ip = new iPhone13Pro();
        myPhone = ip;
        myPhone.surfWeb(); /* version of surfWeb in iPhone13Pro */

        Samsung ss = new GalaxyS21();
        myPhone = ss;
        myPhone.surfWeb(); /* version of surfWeb in GalaxyS21 */
    }
}
```

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (1.1)



```
1 Student jim = new ResidentStudent("J. Davis");
2 ResidentStudent rs = jim;
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
```

- L1 is **legal**: ResidentStudent is a descendant class of the **static type** of jim (i.e., Student).
- L2 is **illegal**: jim's **ST** (i.e., Student) is **not** a descendant class of rs's **ST** (i.e., ResidentStudent).

Java compiler is **unable to infer** that jim's **dynamic type** in L2 is ResidentStudent!

- Force the Java compiler to believe so via a cast in L2:

```
ResidentStudent rs = (ResidentStudent) jim;
```

- The cast `(ResidentStudent) jim` creates for jim **a temporary alias** whose **ST** corresponds to the **cast type** (`ResidentStudent`).
- Alias rs of **ST** ResidentStudent is then created via an assignment.  
**Note.** jim's **ST** always remains Student.
- **dynamic binding**: After the **cast**, L3 will execute the correct version of `setPremiumRate` ( $\therefore$  **DT** of rs is **ResidentStudent**).

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (2.1)



```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone13Pro();
2 iPhone13Pro forHeeyeon = aPhone;
3 forHeeyeon.facetime(1.5);
```

- L1 is **legal**: iPhone13Pro is a descendant class of the **static type** of aPhone (i.e., SmartPhone).
- L2 is **illegal**: aPhone's **ST** (i.e., SmartPhone) is **not** a descendant class of forHeeyeon's **ST** (i.e., iPhone13Pro).

Java compiler is **unable to infer** that aPhone's **dynamic type** in L2 is iPhone13Pro!

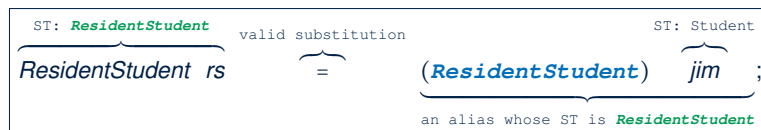
- Force the Java compiler to believe so via a cast in L2:

```
iPhone13Pro forHeeyeon = (iPhone13Pro) aPhone;
```

- The cast `(iPhone13Pro) aPhone` creates for aPhone **a temporary alias** whose **ST** corresponds to the **cast type** (`iPhone13Pro`).
- Alias forHeeyeon of **ST** iPhone13Pro is then created via an assignment.  
**Note.** aPhone's **ST** always remains SmartPhone.
- **dynamic binding**: After the **cast**, L3 will execute the correct version of `facetime` ( $\therefore$  **DT** of forHeeyeon is **iPhone13Pro**).

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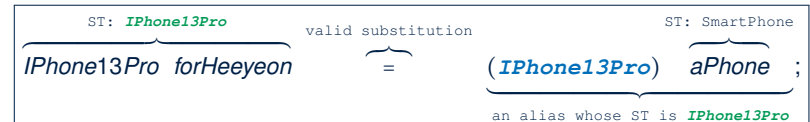
## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (1.2)



- Variable rs is declared of **static type (ST)** ResidentStudent.
- Variable jim is declared of **ST** Student.
- The cast `(ResidentStudent) jim` creates for jim **a temporary alias**, whose **ST** corresponds to the **cast type** (`ResidentStudent`).  
 $\Rightarrow$  Such a cast makes the assignment **valid**.  
 $\therefore$  RHS's **ST** (`ResidentStudent`) is a **descendant** of LHS's **ST** (`ResidentStudent`).  
 $\Rightarrow$  The assignment creates an **alias** rs with **ST** ResidentStudent.
- **No new object is created.**  
 Only an **alias** rs with a different **ST** (`ResidentStudent`) is created.
- After the assignment, jim's **ST remains** Student.

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## Reference Type Casting: Motivation (2.2)



- Variable forHeeyeon is declared of **static type (ST)** iPhone13Pro.
- Variable aPhone is declared of **ST** SmartPhone.
- The cast `(iPhone13Pro) aPhone` creates for aPhone **a temporary alias**, whose **ST** corresponds to the **cast type** (`iPhone13Pro`).  
 $\Rightarrow$  Such a cast makes the assignment **valid**.  
 $\therefore$  RHS's **ST** (`iPhone13Pro`) is a **descendant** of LHS's **ST** (`iPhone13Pro`).  
 $\Rightarrow$  The assignment creates an **alias** forHeeyeon with **ST** iPhone13Pro.
- **No new object is created.**  
 Only an **alias** forHeeyeon with a different **ST** (`iPhone13Pro`) is created.
- After the assignment, aPhone's **ST remains** SmartPhone.

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## Type Cast: Named or Anonymous

**Named Cast:** Use intermediate variable to store the cast result.

```
SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone13Pro();
IOS forHeeyeon = (iPhone13Pro) aPhone;
forHeeyeon.facetime();
```

**Anonymous Cast:** Use the cast result directly.

```
SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone13Pro();
((iPhone13Pro) aPhone).facetime();
```

**Common Mistake:**

```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new iPhone13Pro();
2 (iPhone13Pro) aPhone.facetime();
```

**L2**  $\equiv$  `(iPhone13Pro) (aPhone.facetime())`: Call, then cast.  
 $\Rightarrow$  This does **not** compile  $\because$  `facetime()` is **not** declared in the **static type** of `aPhone` (`SmartPhone`).

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## Notes on Type Cast (1)

- Given variable **v** of **static type**  $ST_v$ , it is **compilable** to cast **v** to **C**, as long as **C** is an **ancestor** or **descendant** of  $ST_v$ .
- Without cast, we can **only** call methods defined in  $ST_v$  on **v**.
- Casting **v** to **C** creates for **v** an alias with **ST C**.  
 $\Rightarrow$  All methods that are defined in **C** can be called.

```
Android myPhone = new GalaxyS21Plus();
/* can call methods declared in Android on myPhone
 * dial, surfweb, skype ✓ sideSync ✗ */
SmartPhone sp = (SmartPhone) myPhone;
/* Compiles OK  $\because$  SmartPhone is an ancestor class of Android
 * expectations on sp narrowed to methods in SmartPhone
 * sp.dial, sp.surfweb ✓ sp.skype, sp.sideSync ✗ */
GalaxyS21Plus ga = (GalaxyS21Plus) myPhone;
/* Compiles OK  $\because$  GalaxyS21Plus is a descendant class of Android
 * expectations on ga widened to methods in GalaxyS21Plus
 * ga.dial, ga.surfweb, ga.skype, ga.sideSync ✓ */
```

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## Reference Type Casting: Danger (1)

```
1 Student jim = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
2 ResidentStudent rs = (ResidentStudent) jim;
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
```

- L1** is **legal**: `NonResidentStudent` is a **descendant** of the static type of `jim` (`Student`).
- L2** is **legal** (where the cast type is `ResidentStudent`):
  - cast type is **descendant** of `jim`'s ST (`Student`).
  - cast type is **descendant** of `rs`'s ST (`ResidentStudent`).
- L3** is **legal**  $\because$  `setPremiumRate` is in `rs`' **ST** `ResidentStudent`.
- Java compiler is **unable to infer** that `jim`'s **dynamic type** in **L2** is actually `NonResidentStudent`.
- Executing **L2** will result in a **ClassCastException**.  
 $\because$  Attribute `premiumRate` (expected from a **ResidentStudent**) is **undefined** on the **NonResidentStudent** object being cast.

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## Reference Type Casting: Danger (2)

```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new GalaxyS21Plus();
2 iPhone13Pro forHeeyeon = (iPhone13Pro) aPhone;
3 forHeeyeon.quickTake();
```

- L1** is **legal**: `GalaxyS21Plus` is a **descendant** of the static type of `aPhone` (`SmartPhone`).
- L2** is **legal** (where the cast type is `iPhone6sPlus`):
  - cast type is **descendant** of `aPhone`'s ST (`SmartPhone`).
  - cast type is **descendant** of `forHeeyeon`'s ST (`iPhone13Pro`).
- L3** is **legal**  $\because$  `quickTake` is in `forHeeyeon`' **ST** `iPhone13Pro`.
- Java compiler is **unable to infer** that `aPhone`'s **dynamic type** in **L2** is actually `GalaxyS21Plus`.
- Executing **L2** will result in a **ClassCastException**.  
 $\because$  Methods `facetime`, `quickTake` (expected from an **iPhone13Pro**) is **undefined** on the **GalaxyS21Plus** object being cast.

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.1)



Given a variable  $v$  of static type  $ST_v$  and dynamic type  $DT_v$ :

- $(C) \ v$  is **compilable** if  $C$  is  $ST_v$ 's **ancestor** or **descendant**.
- Casting  $v$  to  $C$ 's **ancestor/descendant** **narrows/widens** expectations.
- However, being **compilable** does not guarantee **runtime-error-free**!

```
1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 GalaxyS21Plus ga = (GalaxyS21Plus) myPhone;
4 /* Compiles OK ∴ GalaxyS21Plus is a descendant class of SmartPhone
5  * can now call methods declared in GalaxyS21Plus on ga
6  * ga.dial, ga.surfweb, ga.skype, ga.sideSync ✓ */
```

- Type cast in L3 is **compilable**.
- Executing L3 will cause **ClassCastException**.

**L3:** myPhone's **DT** Samsung cannot meet expectations of the temporary **ST** GalaxyS21Plus (e.g., sideSync).

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.2)



Given a variable  $v$  of static type  $ST_v$  and dynamic type  $DT_v$ :

- $(C) \ v$  is **compilable** if  $C$  is  $ST_v$ 's **ancestor** or **descendant**.
- Casting  $v$  to  $C$ 's **ancestor/descendant** **narrows/widens** expectations.
- However, being **compilable** does not guarantee **runtime-error-free**!

```
1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 iPhone13Pro ip = (iPhone13Pro) myPhone;
4 /* Compiles OK ∴ iPhone13Pro is a descendant class of SmartPhone
5  * can now call methods declared in iPhone13Pro on ip
6  * ip.dial, ip.surfweb, ip.facetime, ip.quickTake ✓ */
```

- Type cast in L3 is **compilable**.
- Executing L3 will cause **ClassCastException**.

**L3:** myPhone's **DT** Samsung cannot meet expectations of the temporary **ST** iPhone13Pro (e.g., quickTake).

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## Notes on Type Cast (2.3)



A cast  $(C) \ v$  is **compilable** and **runtime-error-free** if  $C$  is located along the **ancestor path** of  $DT_v$ .

e.g., Given **Android** myPhone = new **Samsung**();

- Cast myPhone to a class along the **ancestor path** of its **DT Samsung**.
- Casting myPhone to a class with more expectations than its **DT Samsung** (e.g., GalaxyS21Plus) will cause **ClassCastException**.
- Casting myPhone to a class irrelevant to its **DT Samsung** (e.g., HuaweiMate40Pro) will cause **ClassCastException**.

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## Required Reading: Static Types, Dynamic Types, Casts



[https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030\\_F25\\_Notes\\_Static\\_Types\\_Cast.pdf](https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030_F25_Notes_Static_Types_Cast.pdf)

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## Compilable Cast vs. Exception-Free Cast



```
class A { }
class B extends A { }
class C extends B { }
class D extends A { }
```

```
1 B b = new C();
2 D d = (D) b;
```

- After L1:
  - **ST** of b is B
  - **DT** of b is C
- Does L2 compile? [ No ]  
∴ cast type D is neither an ancestor nor a descendant of b's **ST** B
- Would `D d = (D) ((A) b)` fix L2? [ YES ]  
∴ cast type D is an ancestor of b's cast, temporary **ST** A
- ClassCastException when executing this fixed L2? [ YES ]  
∴ cast type D is not an ancestor of b's **DT** C

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## Reference Type Casting: Runtime Check (2)



```
1 SmartPhone aPhone = new GalaxyS21Plus();
2 if (aPhone instanceof iPhone13Pro) {
3     IOS forHeeyeon = (iPhone13Pro) aPhone;
4     forHeeyeon facetime();
5 }
```

- L1 is **legal**: GalaxyS21Plus is a **descendant class** of the static type of aPhone (i.e., SmartPhone).
- L2 checks if aPhone's **DT** is a **descendant** of iPhone13Pro.  
**FALSE** ∴ aPhone's **dynamic type** is GalaxyS21Plus!
- L3 is **legal**: aPhone's cast type (i.e., iPhone13Pro) is a **descendant class** of forHeeyeon's **static type** (i.e., IOS).
- L3 will not be executed at runtime, hence no ClassCastException, thanks to the check in L2!

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## Reference Type Casting: Runtime Check (1)



```
1 Student jim = new NonResidentStudent("J. Davis");
2 if (jim instanceof ResidentStudent) {
3     ResidentStudent rs = (ResidentStudent) jim;
4     rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
5 }
```

- L1 is **legal**: NonResidentStudent is a **descendant class** of the **static type** of jim (i.e., Student).
- L2 checks if jim's **DT** is a **descendant** of ResidentStudent.  
**FALSE** ∴ jim's **dynamic type** is NonResidentStudent!
- L3 is **legal**: jim's cast type (i.e., ResidentStudent) is a **descendant class** of rs's **ST** (i.e., ResidentStudent).
- L3 will not be executed at runtime, hence no ClassCastException, thanks to the check in L2!

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## Notes on the instanceof Operator (1)



Given a reference variable  $v$  and a class  $C$ , you write

`v instanceof C`

to check if the **dynamic type** of  $v$ , at the moment of being checked, is a **descendant class** of  $C$  (so that `(C) v` is **safe**).

```
SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
println(myPhone instanceof Android);
/* true ∴ Samsung is a descendant of Android */
println(myPhone instanceof Samsung);
/* true ∴ Samsung is a descendant of Samsung */
println(myPhone instanceof GalaxyS21);
/* false ∴ Samsung is not a descendant of GalaxyS21 */
println(myPhone instanceof IOS);
/* false ∴ Samsung is not a descendant of IOS */
println(myPhone instanceof iPhone13Pro);
/* false ∴ Samsung is not a descendant of iPhone13Pro */
```

⇒ **Samsung** is the most specific type which myPhone can be **safely** cast to.

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## Notes on the instanceof Operator (2)



Given a reference variable  $v$  and a class  $C$ ,

`v instanceof C` checks if the **dynamic type** of  $v$ , at the moment of being checked, is a descendant class of  $C$ .

```
1 SmartPhone myPhone = new Samsung();
2 /* ST of myPhone is SmartPhone; DT of myPhone is Samsung */
3 if(myPhone instanceof Samsung) {
4     Samsung samsung = (Samsung) myPhone;
5 }
6 if(myPhone instanceof GalaxyS21Plus) {
7     GalaxyS21Plus galaxy = (GalaxyS21Plus) myPhone;
8 }
9 if(myPhone instanceof HuaweiMate40Pro) {
10    Huawei hw = (HuaweiMate40Pro) myPhone;
11 }
```

- **L3** evaluates to **true**. [safe to cast]
  - **L6** and **L9** evaluate to **false**. [unsafe to cast]
- This prevents **L7** and **L10**, causing `ClassCastException` if executed, from being executed.

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## Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (1.2)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone13Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 IOS ip = new iPhone13Pro(); ✓
2 ip.dial(); ✓
3 ip.facetime(); ✓
4 ip.quickTake(); ✗
```

**Static type** of  $ip$  is `IOS`

⇒ can only call methods defined in `IOS` on  $ip$

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## Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (1.1)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone13Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 SmartPhone sp = new iPhone13Pro(); ✓
2 sp.dial(); ✓
3 sp.facetime(); ✗
4 sp.quickTake(); ✗
```

**Static type** of  $sp$  is `SmartPhone`

⇒ can only call methods defined in `SmartPhone` on  $sp$

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## Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (1.3)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone13Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 iPhone13Pro ip6sp = new iPhone13Pro(); ✓
2 ip6sp.dial(); ✓
3 ip6sp.facetime(); ✓
4 ip6sp.quickTake(); ✓
```

**Static type** of  $ip6sp$  is `iPhone13Pro`

⇒ can call all methods defined in `iPhone13Pro` on  $ip6sp$

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## Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (1.4)



```
class SmartPhone {
    void dial() { ... }
}
class IOS extends SmartPhone {
    void facetime() { ... }
}
class iPhone13Pro extends IOS {
    void quickTake() { ... }
}
```

```
1 SmartPhone sp = new iPhone13Pro(); ✓
2 ((iPhone13Pro) sp).dial(); ✓
3 ((iPhone13Pro) sp).facetime(); ✓
4 ((iPhone13Pro) sp).quickTake(); ✓
```

L4 is equivalent to the following two lines:

```
iPhone13Pro ip6sp = (iPhone13Pro) sp;
ip6sp.quickTake();
```

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (1)



```
1 class StudentManagementSystem {
2     Student[] ss; /* ss[i] has static type Student */ int c;
3     void addRS(ResidentStudent rs) { ss[c] = rs; c++; }
4     void addNRS(NonResidentStudent nrs) { ss[c] = nrs; c++; }
5     void addStudent(Student s) { ss[c] = s; c++; }
```

- L3: `ss[c] = rs` is valid.  $\therefore$  RHS's ST `ResidentStudent` is a *descendant class* of LHS's ST `Student`.
- Say we have a `StudentManagementSystem` object `sms`:
  - `sms.addRS(o)` attempts the following assignment (recall call by value), which replaces parameter `rs` by a copy of argument `o`:

```
rs = o;
```

    - Whether this argument passing is valid depends on `o`'s *static type*.
  - In the signature of a method `m`, if the type of a parameter is class `C`, then we may call method `m` by passing objects whose *static types* are `C`'s *descendants*.

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## Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (2)



Given a reference variable declaration

```
C v;
```

- *Static type* of reference variable `v` is class `C`
- A method call `v.m` is valid if `m` is a method **defined** in class `C`.
- Despite the *dynamic type* of `v`, you are only allowed to call methods that are defined in the *static type* `C` on `v`.
- If you are certain that `v`'s *dynamic type* can be expected **more** than its *static type*, then you may use an `instanceof` check and a cast.

```
Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
Student s = new ResidentStudent("Jim");
s.register(eecs2030);
if (s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    ((ResidentStudent) s).setPremiumRate(1.75);
    System.out.println(((ResidentStudent) s).getTuition());
}
```

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (2.1)



In the `StudentManagementSystemTester`:

```
Student s1 = new Student();
Student s2 = new ResidentStudent();
Student s3 = new NonResidentStudent();
ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent();
NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent();
StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
sms.addRS(s1); ✗
sms.addRS(s2); ✗
sms.addRS(s3); ✗
sms.addRS(rs); ✓
sms.addRS(nrs); ✗
sms.addStudent(s1); ✓
sms.addStudent(s2); ✓
sms.addStudent(s3); ✓
sms.addStudent(rs); ✓
sms.addStudent(nrs); ✓
```

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (2.2)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new Student("Stella");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: Student */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ✗
```

- L4 **compiles** with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - **Valid** cast: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' **ST**.
  - **Valid** call: s' temporary **ST** (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' **ST** (ResidentStudent).
- But, there will be a **ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' **DT** (Student) is **not** a descendant of ResidentStudent.
- We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The **instanceof** expression will evaluate to **false**, meaning it is **unsafe** to cast, thus preventing ClassCastException.

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (2.4)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: ResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ✗
```

- L4 **compiles** with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - **Valid** cast: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' **ST**.
  - **Valid** call: s' temporary **ST** (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' **ST** (ResidentStudent).
- And, there will be **no ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' **DT** (ResidentStudent) is descendant of ResidentStudent.
- We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The **instanceof** expression will evaluate to **true**, meaning it is **safe** to cast.

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (2.3)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 Student s = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
2 /* s' ST: Student; s' DT: NonResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(s); ✗
```

- L4 **compiles** with a cast: `sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s)`
  - **Valid** cast: (ResidentStudent) is a descendant of s' **ST**.
  - **Valid** call: s' temporary **ST** (ResidentStudent) is now a descendant class of addRS's parameter rs' **ST** (ResidentStudent).
- But, there will be a **ClassCastException** at runtime!  
∴ s' **DT** (NonResidentStudent) **not** descendant of ResidentStudent.
- We should have written:

```
if(s instanceof ResidentStudent) {
    sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) s);
}
```

The **instanceof** expression will evaluate to **false**, meaning it is **unsafe** to cast, thus preventing ClassCastException.

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## Polymorphism: Method Parameters (2.5)



In the StudentManagementSystemTester:

```
1 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent();
2 /* ST: NonResidentStudent; DT: NonResidentStudent */
3 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
4 sms.addRS(nrs); ✗
```

Will L4 with a cast compile?

```
sms.addRS((ResidentStudent) nrs)
```

**NO** ∴ (ResidentStudent) is **not** a descendant of nrs's **ST** (NonResidentStudent).

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## Why Inheritance: A Polymorphic Collection of Students

How do you define a class `StudentManagementSystem` that contains a list of *resident* and *non-resident* students?

```
class StudentManagementSystem {
    Student[] students;
    int numOfStudents;

    void addStudent(Student s) {
        students[numOfStudents] = s;
        numOfStudents++;
    }

    void registerAll (Course c) {
        for(int i = 0; i < numberOfStudents; i++) {
            students[i].register(c)
        }
    }
}
```

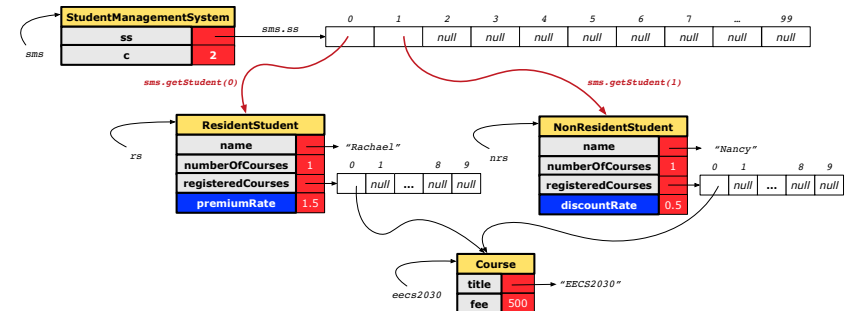
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a collection of students without inheritance

## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding: A Polymorphic Collection of Students (2)

At runtime, attribute `sms.ss` is a **polymorphic** array:

- **Static type** of each item is as declared: **Student**
- **Dynamic type** of each item is a **descendant** of **Student**:  
**ResidentStudent**, **NonResidentStudent**



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## Polymorphism and Dynamic Binding: A Polymorphic Collection of Students (1)

```
1 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
2 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5);
3 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
4 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5);
5 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
6 sms.addStudent(rs); /* polymorphism */
7 sms.addStudent(nrs); /* polymorphism */
8 Course eeecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500.0);
9 sms.registerAll(eeecs2030);
10 for(int i = 0; i < sms.numberOfStudents; i++) {
11     /* Dynamic Binding:
12      * Right version of getTuition will be called */
13     System.out.println(sms.students[i].getTuition());
14 }
```

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## Polymorphism: Return Types (1)

```
1 class StudentManagementSystem {
2     Student[] ss; int c;
3     void addStudent(Student s) { ss[c] = s; c++; }
4     Student getStudent(int i) {
5         Student s = null;
6         if(i < 0 || i >= c) {
7             throw new InvalidStudentIndexException("Invalid index.");
8         }
9         else {
10            s = ss[i];
11        }
12        return s;
13    }
}
```

L4: Student is **static type** of `getStudent`'s return value.

L10: `ss[i]`'s ST (Student) is **descendant** of `s`' ST (Student).

**Question:** What can be the **dynamic type** of `s` after L10?

**Answer:** All descendant classes of Student.

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## Polymorphism: Return Types (2)

```

1 Course eecs2030 = new Course("EECS2030", 500);
2 ResidentStudent rs = new ResidentStudent("Rachael");
3 rs.setPremiumRate(1.5); rs.register(eecs2030);
4 NonResidentStudent nrs = new NonResidentStudent("Nancy");
5 nrs.setDiscountRate(0.5); nrs.register(eecs2030);
6 StudentManagementSystem sms = new StudentManagementSystem();
7 sms.addStudent(rs); sms.addStudent(nrs);
8 Student s = sms.getStudent(0); /* dynamic type of s? */

    static return type: Student
9 print(s instanceof Student && s instanceof ResidentStudent); /*true*/
10 print(s instanceof NonResidentStudent); /* false */
11 print(s.getTuition()); /*Version in ResidentStudent called:750*/
12 ResidentStudent rs2 = sms.getStudent(0); x
13 s = sms.getStudent(1); /* dynamic type of s? */

    static return type: Student
14 print(s instanceof Student && s instanceof NonResidentStudent); /*true*/
15 print(s instanceof ResidentStudent); /* false */
16 print(s.getTuition()); /*Version in NonResidentStudent called:250*/
17 NonResidentStudent nrs2 = sms.getStudent(1); x

```

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## Static Type vs. Dynamic Type: When to consider which?

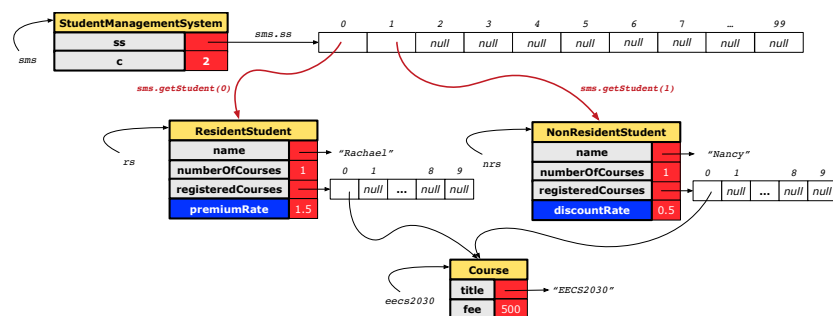
- Whether or not Java code compiles depends only on the **static types** of relevant variables.  
 $\therefore$  Inferring the **dynamic type** statically is an **undecidable** problem that is inherently impossible to solve.
- The behaviour of Java code being executed at runtime (e.g., which version of method is called due to dynamic binding, whether or not a `ClassCastException` will occur, etc.) depends on the **dynamic types** of relevant variables.  
 $\Rightarrow$  Best practice is to visualize how objects are created (by drawing boxes) and variables are re-assigned (by drawing arrows).

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## Polymorphism: Return Types (3)

At runtime, attribute `sms.ss` is a **polymorphic** array:

- Static type** of each item is as declared: **Student**
- Dynamic type** of each item is a descendant of **Student**: **ResidentStudent**, **NonResidentStudent**



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## Summary: Type Checking Rules

CODE	CONDITION TO BE TYPE CORRECT
<code>x = y</code>	Is y's <b>ST</b> a descendant of x's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x.m(y)</code>	Is method m defined in x's <b>ST</b> ? Is y's <b>ST</b> a descendant of m's parameter's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>z = x.m(y)</code>	Is method m defined in x's <b>ST</b> ? Is y's <b>ST</b> a descendant of m's parameter's <b>ST</b> ? Is <b>ST</b> of m's return value a descendant of z's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>(C) y</code>	Is C an ancestor or a descendant of y's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x = (C) y</code>	Is C an ancestor or a descendant of y's <b>ST</b> ? Is C a descendant of x's <b>ST</b> ?
<code>x.m((C) y)</code>	Is C an ancestor or a descendant of y's <b>ST</b> ? Is method m defined in x's <b>ST</b> ? Is C a descendant of m's parameter's <b>ST</b> ?

Even if `(C) y` compiles OK, there will be a runtime `ClassCastException` if C is not an **ancestor** of y's **DT**!

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## Root of the Java Class Hierarchy

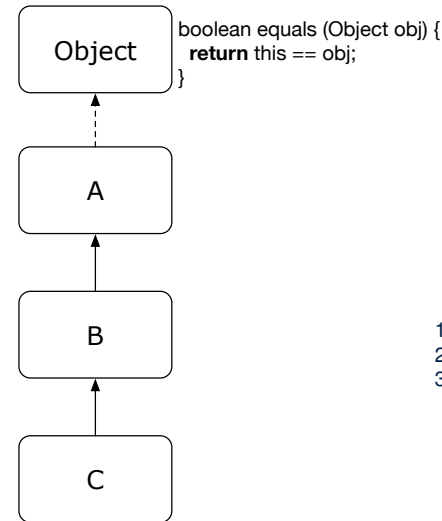


- Implicitly:
  - Every class is a *child/sub* class of the **Object** class.
  - The **Object** class is the *parent/super* class of every class.
- There are two useful *accessor methods* that every class *inherits* from the **Object** class:
  - `boolean equals(Object other)`
    - Indicates whether some other object is "equal to" this one.
    - The default definition inherited from **Object**:

```
boolean equals(Object other) {  
    return (this == other);  
}
```
  - `String toString()`
    - Returns a string representation of the object.
- Very often when you define new classes, you want to *redefine/override* the inherited definitions of `equals` and `toString`.

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.1)



```
class A {  
    /*equals not overridden*/  
}  
class B extends A {  
    /*equals not overridden*/  
}  
class C extends B {  
    /*equals not overridden*/  
}
```

```
1 Object c1 = new C();  
2 Object c2 = new C();  
3 println(c1.equals(c2));
```

L3 calls which version of `equals`? [Object]

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (1)

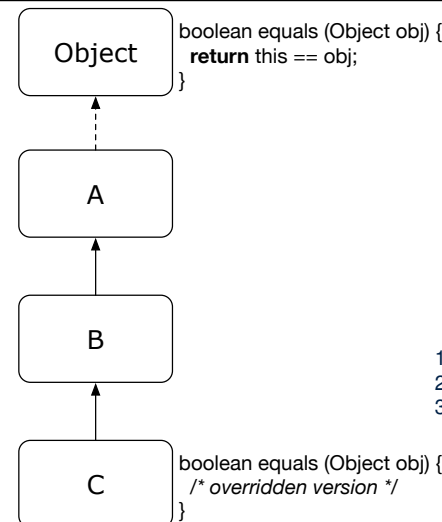


**Object** is the common parent/super class of every class.

- Every class inherits the *default version* of `equals`
- Say a reference variable *v* has *dynamic type D*:
  - Case 1** *D overrides* `equals`
    - ⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes the *overridden version* in *D*
  - Case 2** *D does not override* `equals`
    - Case 2.1** At least one ancestor classes of *D* *override* `equals`
      - ⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes the *overridden version* in the *closest ancestor class*
    - Case 2.2** No ancestor classes of *D* *override* `equals`
      - ⇒ `v.equals(...)` invokes *default version* inherited from **Object**.
- Same principle applies to the `toString` method, and all overridden methods in general.

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.2)



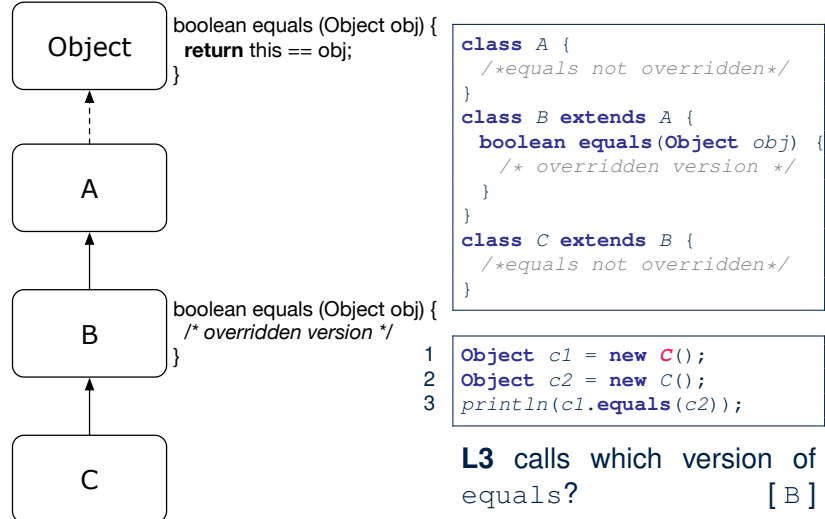
```
class A {  
    /*equals not overridden*/  
}  
class B extends A {  
    /*equals not overridden*/  
}  
class C extends B {  
    boolean equals (Object obj) {  
        /* overridden version */  
    }  
}
```

```
1 Object c1 = new C();  
2 Object c2 = new C();  
3 println(c1.equals(c2));
```

L3 calls which version of `equals`? [C]

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## Overriding and Dynamic Binding (2.3)



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## Behaviour of Inherited `toString` Method (2)



```
class Point {
    double x;
    double y;
    public String toString() {
        return "(" + this.x + ", " + this.y + ")";
    }
}
```

After redefining/overriding the `toString` method:

```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);
System.out.println(p1);
```

(2, 4)

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## Behaviour of Inherited `toString` Method (1)



```
Point p1 = new Point(2, 4);
System.out.println(p1);
```

Point@677327b6

- Implicitly, the `toString` method is called inside the `println` method.
- By default, the address stored in `p1` gets printed.
- We need to **redefine / override** the `toString` method, inherited from the `Object` class, in the `Point` class.

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## Behaviour of Inherited `toString` Method (3)



**Exercise:** Override the `equals` and `toString` methods for the `ResidentStudent` and `NonResidentStudent` classes.

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## Beyond this lecture...



- Implement the *inheritance hierarchy* of **Students** and reproduce all lecture examples.
- Implement the *inheritance hierarchy* of **Smart Phones** and reproduce all lecture examples.  
**Hints.** Pay attention to:
  - *Valid? Compiles?*
  - *ClassCastException?*
- Study the `ExampleTypeCasts` example: draw the *inheritance hierarchy* and experiment with the various substitutions and casts.

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### Learning Outcomes

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Why Inheritance: A Motivating Example

No Inheritance: `ResidentStudent` Class

No Inheritance: `NonResidentClass`

No Inheritance: Testing Student Classes

No Inheritance:

Issues with the Student Classes

No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (1)

No Inheritance: Maintainability of Code (2)

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A Collection of Various Kinds of Students

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Visibility of Classes

Visibility of Classes: Across All Classes

Within the Resident Package (no modifier)

Visibility of Classes: Across All Classes

Within the Resident Package (no modifier)

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Visibility of Attr./Meth.: Across All Packages

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Reference Type Casting: Motivation (1.2)

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Reference Type Casting: Motivation (2.2)

Type Cast: Named or Anonymous

Notes on Type Cast (1)

Reference Type Casting: Danger (1)

Reference Type Casting: Danger (2)

Notes on Type Cast (2.1)

Notes on Type Cast (2.2)

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Notes on Type Cast (2.3)

Required Reading:

Static Types, Dynamic Types, Casts

Compilable Cast vs. Exception-Free Cast

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Notes on the instanceof Operator (1)

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Static Types, Casts, Polymorphism (1.3)

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Behaviour of Inherited toString Method (3)

Beyond this lecture...

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# Recursion



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG



## Beyond this lecture ...

- Fantastic resources for sharpening your recursive skills for the exam:

<http://codingbat.com/java/Recursion-1>

<http://codingbat.com/java/Recursion-2>

- The **best** approach to learning about recursion is via a functional programming language:

Haskell Tutorial: <https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/>

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## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you learn about:

- How to solve problems **recursively**
- Example **recursions** on string and arrays
- Some more advanced example (if time permitted)

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## Recursion: Principle



- Recursion** is useful in expressing solutions to problems that can be **recursively** defined:
  - Base Cases:** Small problem instances immediately solvable.
  - Recursive Cases:**
    - Large problem instances *not immediately solvable*.
    - Solve by reusing *solution(s) to strictly smaller problem instances*.
- Similar idea learnt in high school: [ **mathematical induction** ]
- Recursion can be easily expressed programmatically in Java:

```
m(i) {  
    if(i == ...) { /* base case: do something directly */ }  
    else {  
        m(j); /* recursive call with strictly smaller value */  
    }  
}
```

- In the body of a method  $m$ , there might be *a call or calls to  $m$  itself*.
- Each such self-call is said to be a **recursive call**.
- Inside the execution of  $m(i)$ , a recursive call  $m(j)$  must be that  $j < i$ .

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## Tracing Method Calls via a Stack



- When a method is called, it is **activated** (and becomes **active**) and **pushed** onto the stack.
- When the body of a method makes a (helper) method call, that (helper) method is **activated** (and becomes **active**) and **pushed** onto the stack.
  - ⇒ The stack contains activation records of all **active** methods.
  - **Top** of stack denotes the **current point of execution**.
  - Remaining parts of stack are (temporarily) **suspended**.
- When entire body of a method is executed, stack is **popped**.
  - ⇒ The **current point of execution** is returned to the new **top** of stack (which was **suspended** and just became **active**).
- Execution terminates when the stack becomes **empty**.

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## Recursion: Factorial (1)



- Recall the formal definition of calculating the  $n$  factorial:

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot \dots \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 & \text{if } n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

- How do you define the same problem **recursively**?

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \cdot (n-1)! & \text{if } n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

- To solve  $n!$ , we combine  $n$  and the solution to  $(n-1)!$ .

```
int factorial(int n) {  
    int result;  
    if(n == 0) { /* base case */ result = 1; }  
    else { /* recursive case */  
        result = n * factorial(n - 1);  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

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## Common Errors of Recursive Methods



- Missing Base Case(s).

```
int factorial(int n) {  
    return n * factorial(n - 1);  
}
```

**Base case(s)** are meant as points of stopping growing the runtime stack.

- Recursive Calls on Non-Smaller Problem Instances.

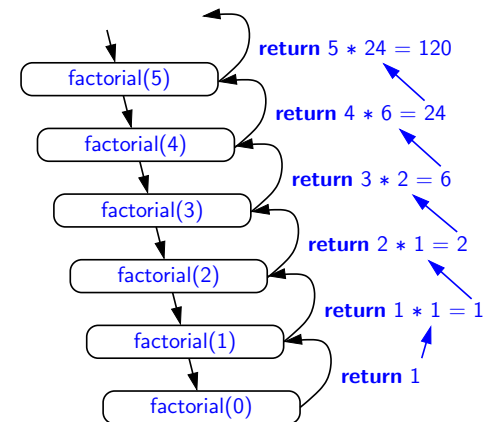
```
int factorial(int n) {  
    if(n == 0) { /* base case */ return 1; }  
    else { /* recursive case */ return n * factorial(n); }  
}
```

Recursive calls on **strictly smaller** problem instances are meant for moving gradually towards the base case(s).

- In both cases, a `StackOverflowException` will be thrown.

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## Recursion: Factorial (2)



5.0137



## Recursion: Factorial (3)

- When running *factorial(5)*, a *recursive call factorial(4)* is made. Call to *factorial(5)* suspended until *factorial(4)* returns a value.
- When running *factorial(4)*, a *recursive call factorial(3)* is made. Call to *factorial(4)* suspended until *factorial(3)* returns a value.
- ...
- factorial(0)* returns 1 back to *suspended call factorial(1)*.
- factorial(1)* receives 1 from *factorial(0)*, multiplies 1 to it, and returns 1 back to the *suspended call factorial(2)*.
- factorial(2)* receives 1 from *factorial(1)*, multiplies 2 to it, and returns 2 back to the *suspended call factorial(3)*.
- factorial(3)* receives 2 from *factorial(2)*, multiplies 3 to it, and returns 6 back to the *suspended call factorial(4)*.
- factorial(4)* receives 6 from *factorial(3)*, multiplies 4 to it, and returns 24 back to the *suspended call factorial(5)*.
- factorial(5)* receives 24 from *factorial(4)*, multiplies 5 to it, and returns 120 as the result.

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## Recursion: Factorial (4)

- When the execution of a method (e.g., *factorial(5)*) leads to a nested method call (e.g., *factorial(4)*):
  - The execution of the current method (i.e., *factorial(5)*) is *suspended*, and a structure known as an *activation record* or *activation frame* is created to store information about the progress of that method (e.g., values of parameters and local variables).
  - The nested methods (e.g., *factorial(4)*) may call other nested methods (*factorial(3)*).
  - When all nested methods complete, the activation frame of the *latest suspended* method is re-activated, then continue its execution.
- What kind of data structure does this activation-suspension process correspond to? [ LIFO Stack ]

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## Recursion: Fibonacci Sequence (1)

- Can you identify the pattern of a Fibonacci sequence?

$F = 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, \dots$

- Here is the formal, *recursive* definition of calculating the  $n_{th}$  number in a Fibonacci sequence (denoted as  $F_n$ ):

$$F_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 2 \\ F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} & \text{if } n > 2 \end{cases}$$

```
int fib(int n) {
    int result;
    if(n == 1) { /* base case */ result = 1; }
    else if(n == 2) { /* base case */ result = 1; }
    else { /* recursive case */
        result = fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2);
    }
    return result;
}
```

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## Recursion: Fibonacci Sequence (2)

```
fib(5)
= { fib(5) = fib(4) + fib(3); push(fib(5)); suspended: {fib(5)}; active: fib(4) }
fib(4) + fib(3)
= { fib(4) = fib(3) + fib(2); suspended: {fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(3) }
  ( fib(3) + fib(2) ) + fib(3)
= { fib(3) = fib(2) + fib(1); suspended: {fib(3), fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(2) }
  (( fib(2) + fib(1) ) + fib(2) ) + fib(3)
= { fib(2) returns 1; suspended: {fib(3), fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(1) }
  (( (1 + fib(1) ) + fib(2) ) + fib(3) )
= { fib(1) returns 1; suspended: {fib(3), fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(3) }
  (( (1 + 1) + fib(2) ) + fib(3) )
= { fib(3) returns 1 + 1; pop(); suspended: {fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(2) }
  (2 + fib(2) ) + fib(3)
= { fib(2) returns 1; suspended: {fib(4), fib(5)}; active: fib(4) }
  (2 + 1) + fib(3)
= { fib(4) returns 2 + 1; pop(); suspended: {fib(5)}; active: fib(3) }
  3 + fib(3)
= { fib(3) = fib(2) + fib(1); suspended: {fib(3), fib(5)}; active: fib(2) }
  3 + ( fib(2) + fib(1) )
= { fib(2) returns 1; suspended: {fib(3), fib(5)}; active: fib(1) }
  3 + (1 + fib(1) )
= { fib(1) returns 1; suspended: {fib(3), fib(5)}; active: fib(3) }
  3 + (1 + 1)
= { fib(3) returns 1 + 1; pop(); suspended: {fib(5)}; active: fib(5) }
  3 + 2
  fib(5) returns 3 + 2; suspended: {} }
```

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## Java Library: String



```
public class StringTester {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String s = "abcd";
        System.out.println(s.isEmpty()); /* false */
        /* Characters in index range [0, 0) */
        String t0 = s.substring(0, 0);
        System.out.println(t0); /* "" */
        /* Characters in index range [0, 4) */
        String t1 = s.substring(0, 4);
        System.out.println(t1); /* "abcd" */
        /* Characters in index range [1, 3) */
        String t2 = s.substring(1, 3);
        System.out.println(t2); /* "bc" */
        String t3 = s.substring(0, 2) + s.substring(2, 4);
        System.out.println(s.equals(t3)); /* true */
        for(int i = 0; i < s.length(); i++) {
            System.out.print(s.charAt(i));
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
}
```

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## Recursion: Palindrome (2)



```
boolean isPalindrome(String word) {
    if(word.length() == 0 || word.length() == 1) {
        /* base case */
        return true;
    }
    else {
        /* recursive case */
        char firstChar = word.charAt(0);
        char lastChar = word.charAt(word.length() - 1);
        String middle = word.substring(1, word.length() - 1);
        return
            firstChar == lastChar
            /* See the API of java.lang.String.substring. */
            && isPalindrome(middle);
    }
}
```

150/37

## Recursion: Palindrome (1)



**Problem:** A palindrome is a word that reads the same forwards and backwards. Write a method that takes a string and determines whether or not it is a palindrome.

```
System.out.println(isPalindrome("")); true
System.out.println(isPalindrome("a")); true
System.out.println(isPalindrome("madam")); true
System.out.println(isPalindrome("racecar")); true
System.out.println(isPalindrome("man")); false
```

**Base Case 1:** Empty string → Return *true* immediately.

**Base Case 2:** String of length 1 → Return *true* immediately.

**Recursive Case:** String of length  $\geq 2$  →

- 1st and last characters match, **and**
- the rest (i.e., middle) of the string is a palindrome*.

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## Recursion: Reverse of String (1)



**Problem:** The reverse of a string is written backwards. Write a method that takes a string and returns its reverse.

```
System.out.println(reverseOf("")); /* "" */
System.out.println(reverseOf("a")); "a"
System.out.println(reverseOf("ab")); "ba"
System.out.println(reverseOf("abc")); "cba"
System.out.println(reverseOf("abcd")); "dcba"
```

**Base Case 1:** Empty string → Return *empty string*.

**Base Case 2:** String of length 1 → Return *that string*.

**Recursive Case:** String of length  $\geq 2$  →

- 1) Head of string (i.e., first character)
- 2) Reverse of the tail of string (i.e., all but the first character)

Return the concatenation of **2)** and **1)**.

150/37

## Recursion: Reverse of a String (2)



```
String reverseOf (String s) {
    if(s.isEmpty()) { /* base case 1 */
        return "";
    }
    else if(s.length() == 1) { /* base case 2 */
        return s;
    }
    else { /* recursive case */
        String tail = s.substring(1, s.length());
        String reverseOfTail = reverseOf (tail);
        char head = s.charAt(0);
        return reverseOfTail + head;
    }
}
```

17/03/22

## Recursion: Number of Occurrences (2)



```
int occurrencesOf (String s, char c) {
    if(s.isEmpty()) {
        /* Base Case */
        return 0;
    }
    else {
        /* Recursive Case */
        char head = s.charAt(0);
        String tail = s.substring(1, s.length());
        if(head == c) {
            return 1 + occurrencesOf (tail, c);
        }
        else {
            return 0 + occurrencesOf (tail, c);
        }
    }
}
```

17/03/22

## Recursion: Number of Occurrences (1)



**Problem:** Write a method that takes a string *s* and a character *c*, then count the number of occurrences of *c* in *s*.

```
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("", 'a')); /* 0 */
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("a", 'a')); /* 1 */
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("b", 'a')); /* 0 */
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("baaba", 'a')); /* 3 */
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("baaba", 'b')); /* 2 */
System.out.println(occurrencesOf("baaba", 'c')); /* 0 */
```

**Base Case:** Empty string → Return 0.

**Recursive Case:** String of length ≥ 1 →

- 1) Head of *s* (i.e., first character)
- 2) Number of occurrences of *c* in the tail of *s* (i.e., all but the first character)

If head is equal to *c*, return 1 + 2).

If head is not equal to *c*, return 0 + 2).

18/03/22

## Making Recursive Calls on an Array



- Recursive calls denote solutions to *smaller* sub-problems.
- *Naively*, explicitly create a new, smaller array:

```
void m(int[] a) {
    if(a.length == 0) { /* base case */ }
    else if(a.length == 1) { /* base case */ }
    else {
        int[] sub = new int[a.length - 1];
        for(int i = 1; i < a.length; i++) { sub[i - 1] = a[i]; }
        m(sub) } }
}
```

- For *efficiency*, we pass the *reference* of the same array and specify the *range of indices* to be considered:

```
void m(int[] a, int from, int to) {
    if(from > to) { /* base case */ }
    else if(from == to) { /* base case */ }
    else { m(a, from + 1, to) } }
}
```

- *m(a, 0, a.length - 1)* [Initial call; entire array]
- *m(a, 1, a.length - 1)* [1st r.c. on array of size *a.length - 1*]
- *m(a, a.length-1, a.length-1)* [Last r.c. on array of size 1]

20/03/22



## Recursion: All Positive (1)

**Problem:** Determine if an array of integers are all positive.

```
System.out.println(allPositive({})); /* true */
System.out.println(allPositive({1, 2, 3, 4, 5})); /* true */
System.out.println(allPositive({1, 2, -3, 4, 5})); /* false */
```

**Base Case:** Empty array → Return *true* immediately.

The base case is *true* ∵ we can *not* find a counter-example (i.e., a number *not* positive) from an empty array.

**Recursive Case:** Non-Empty array →

- 1st element positive, **and**
- *the rest of the array is all positive*.

**Exercise:** Write a method `boolean somePositive(int[]`

`a)` which *recursively* returns *true* if there is some positive number in `a`, and *false* if there are no positive numbers in `a`.

**Hint:** What to return in the base case of an empty array? [*false*]

∵ No witness (i.e., a positive number) from an empty array

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## Recursion: Is an Array Sorted? (1)

**Problem:** Determine if an array of integers are sorted in a non-descending order.

```
System.out.println(isSorted({})); true
System.out.println(isSorted({1, 2, 2, 3, 4})); true
System.out.println(isSorted({1, 2, 2, 1, 3})); false
```

**Base Case:** Empty array → Return *true* immediately.

The base case is *true* ∵ we can *not* find a counter-example (i.e., a pair of adjacent numbers that are *not* sorted in a non-descending order) from an empty array.

**Recursive Case:** Non-Empty array →

- 1st and 2nd elements are sorted in a non-descending order, **and**
- *the rest of the array, starting from the 2nd element, are sorted in a non-descending order*.

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## Recursion: All Positive (2)

```
boolean allPositive(int[] a) {
    return allPositiveHelper(a, 0, a.length - 1);
}

boolean allPositiveHelper(int[] a, int from, int to) {
    if (from > to) { /* base case 1: empty range */
        return true;
    }
    else if (from == to) { /* base case 2: range of one element */
        return a[from] > 0;
    }
    else { /* recursive case */
        return a[from] > 0 && allPositiveHelper(a, from + 1, to);
    }
}
```

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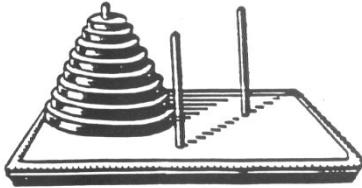
## Recursion: Is an Array Sorted? (2)

```
boolean isSorted(int[] a) {
    return isSortedHelper(a, 0, a.length - 1);
}

boolean isSortedHelper(int[] a, int from, int to) {
    if (from > to) { /* base case 1: empty range */
        return true;
    }
    else if (from == to) { /* base case 2: range of one element */
        return true;
    }
    else {
        return a[from] <= a[from + 1]
            && isSortedHelper(a, from + 1, to);
    }
}
```

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## Tower of Hanoi: Specification



- **Given:** A tower of 8 disks, initially stacked in decreasing size on one of 3 pegs
- **Rules:**
  - Move only one disk at a time.
  - Never move a larger disk onto a smaller one.
- **Problem:** Transfer the entire tower to one of the other pegs.

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## Tower of Hanoi: A Recursive Solution

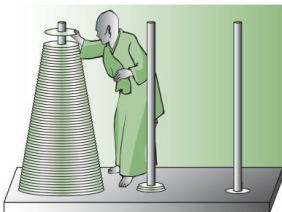


The general, a recursive solution requires 3 steps:

1. Transfer the **n - 1 smallest** disks to a **second** peg.
2. Move the **largest** disk to the **third** peg (free of disks).
3. Transfer the **n - 1 smallest** disks back onto the **largest** disk.

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## Tower of Hanoi: Legend



*Brahmins at a temple in Benares, India have been carrying out movement of "Sacred Tower of Brahma", consisting of **sixty-four** golden disks, according to the same rules as in the Tower of Hanoi game, and that the completion of the tower would lead to the end of the world.*

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## Tower of Hanoi in Java (1)



```
void towerOfHanoi(String[] disks) {  
    tohHelper(disks, 0, disks.length - 1, 1, 3);  
}  
void tohHelper(String[] disks, int from, int to, int ori, int des) {  
    if (from > to) { }  
    else if (from == to) {  
        print("move " + disks[to] + " from " + ori + " to " + des);  
    }  
    else {  
        int intermediate = 6 - ori - des;  
        tohHelper(disks, from, to - 1, ori, intermediate);  
        print("move " + disks[to] + " from " + ori + " to " + des);  
        tohHelper(disks, from, to - 1, intermediate, des);  
    }  
}
```

- `tohHelper(disks, from, to, ori, des)` moves disks `{ disks[from], disks[from + 1], ..., disks[to] }` from peg `ori` to peg `des`.
- Peg id's are 1, 2, and 3  $\Rightarrow$  The intermediate one is  $6 - ori - des$ .

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## Tower of Hanoi in Java (2)



Say  $ds$  (disks) is  $\{A, B, C\}$ , where  $A < B < C$ .

$$tohH(ds, \underbrace{0, 2}_{\{A, B, C\}}, p1, p3) = \begin{cases} tohH(ds, \underbrace{0, 1}_{\{A, B\}}, p1, p2) = \begin{cases} tohH(ds, 0, 0, p1, p3) = \{ \text{Move A: } p1 \text{ to } p3 \} \\ \{A\} \\ \text{Move B: } p1 \text{ to } p2 \\ tohH(ds, 0, 0, p3, p2) = \{ \text{Move A: } p3 \text{ to } p2 \} \\ \{A\} \end{cases} \\ \text{Move C: } p1 \text{ to } p3 \\ tohH(ds, \underbrace{0, 1}_{\{A, B\}}, p2, p3) = \begin{cases} tohH(ds, 0, 0, p2, p1) = \{ \text{Move A: } p2 \text{ to } p1 \} \\ \{A\} \\ \text{Move B: } p2 \text{ to } p3 \\ tohH(ds, 0, 0, p1, p3) = \{ \text{Move A: } p1 \text{ to } p3 \} \\ \{A\} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

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## Running Time: Tower of Hanoi (1)



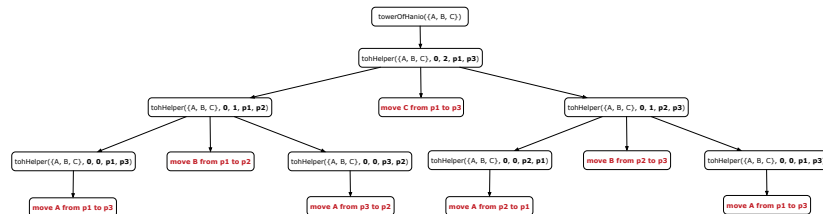
- Generalize the problem by considering  $n$  disks.
- Let  $T(n)$  denote the number of moves required to transfer  $n$  disks from one to another under the rules.
- Recall the general solution pattern:
  - Transfer the  $n - 1$  **smallest** disks to a **second** peg.
  - Move the **largest** disk to the **third** peg (free of disks).
  - Transfer the  $n - 1$  **smallest** disks back onto the **largest** disk.
- We end up with the following recurrence relation that allows us to compute  $T(n)$  for any  $n$  we like:

$$\begin{cases} T(1) = 1 \\ T(n) = 2 \cdot T(n-1) + 1 \quad \text{where } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

- To solve this recurrence relation, we study the pattern of  $T(n)$  and observe how it reaches the **base case(s)**.

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## Tower of Hanoi in Java (3)



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## Running Time: Tower of Hanoi (2)

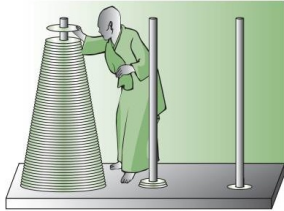


$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= \underbrace{2}_{1 \text{ term}} \times T(n-1) + \underbrace{1}_{1 \text{ term}} \\ &= \underbrace{2 \times (2 \times T(n-2) + 1)}_{2 \text{ terms}} + \underbrace{1}_{1 \text{ term}} \\ &= \underbrace{2 \times (2 \times (2 \times T(n-3) + 1) + 1)}_{3 \text{ terms}} + \underbrace{1}_{1 \text{ term}} \\ &= \dots \\ &= \underbrace{2 \times (2 \times (2 \times (\dots \times (2 \times T(1) + 1) + 1) + 1) + 1)}_{n-1 \text{ terms}} + \underbrace{1}_{n-1 \text{ terms}} \\ &= 2^{n-1} + (n-1) \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore T(n)$  is  $O(2^n)$

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## Tower of Hanoi: Legend



*Brahmins at a temple in Benares, India have been carrying out movement of "Sacred Tower of Brahma", consisting of **sixty-four** golden disks, according to the same rules as in the Tower of Hanoi game, and that the completion of the tower would lead to the end of the world.*

Say one disk can be moved in one second.

**Q.** How long does it take to finish moving 64 disks ( $n = 64$ )?

**A.**  $2^{64}$  seconds  $\approx$  585 billion years ( $>>$  5 billion centuries)!

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## Beyond this lecture ...



- Recursions on Arrays: Lab Exercise from EECS2030-F19
- Notes on Recursion:  
[http://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030\\_F25\\_Notes\\_Recursion.pdf](http://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/2025/F/EECS2030/notes/EECS2030_F25_Notes_Recursion.pdf)
- API for String:  
<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/String.html>
- Fantastic resources for sharpening your recursive skills for the exam:  
<http://codingbat.com/java/Recursion-1>  
<http://codingbat.com/java/Recursion-2>
- The **best** approach to learning about recursion is via a functional programming language:  
Haskell Tutorial: <https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/>

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## Index (1)



**Learning Outcomes**

**Beyond this lecture ...**

**Recursion: Principle**

**Tracing Method Calls via a Stack**

**Recursion: Factorial (1)**

**Common Errors of Recursive Methods**

**Recursion: Factorial (2)**

**Recursion: Factorial (3)**

**Recursion: Factorial (4)**

**Recursion: Fibonacci Sequence (1)**

**Recursion: Fibonacci Sequence (2)**

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## Index (2)



**Java Library: String**

**Recursion: Palindrome (1)**

**Recursion: Palindrome (2)**

**Recursion: Reverse of a String (1)**

**Recursion: Reverse of a String (2)**

**Recursion: Number of Occurrences (1)**

**Recursion: Number of Occurrences (2)**

**Making Recursive Calls on an Array**

**Recursion: All Positive (1)**

**Recursion: All Positive (2)**

**Recursion: Is an Array Sorted? (1)**

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## Index (3)

[Recursion: Is an Array Sorted? \(2\)](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi: Specification](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi: Legend](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi: A Recursive Solution](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi in Java \(1\)](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi in Java \(2\)](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi in Java \(3\)](#)  
[Running Time: Tower of Hanoi \(1\)](#)  
[Running Time: Tower of Hanoi \(2\)](#)  
[Tower of Hanoi: Legend](#)  
[Beyond this lecture ...](#)

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## Wrap-Up



EECS2030 B & G: Advanced  
Object Oriented Programming  
Fall 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG



## What You Learned (1)

- *Procedural Programming in Java*
  - Exceptions
  - Recursion (thinking, implementation, tracing)
- *Data Structures*
  - Arrays

2 of 8



## What You Learned (2)

- *Object-Oriented Programming in Java*
  - classes, attributes, objects, reference data types
  - methods: constructors, accessors, mutators, helpers
  - dot notation, context objects
  - aliasing
  - inheritance:
    - code reuse, single-choice principle, cohesion
    - expectations
    - rules of substitutions
    - static vs. dynamic types
    - polymorphism, dynamic binding
    - polymorphic method parameters
    - polymorphic collections
    - polymorphic method return types
    - compilable casts, `ClassCastException`, `instanceof` checks
    - method overriding and dynamic binding: e.g., `equals`

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## What You Learned (3)



- **Integrated Development Environment (IDE): Eclipse**
  - Break Point and Debugger
  - Unit Testing using JUnit
  - Test Driven Development (TDD), Regression Testing

30%

## Optional Topics



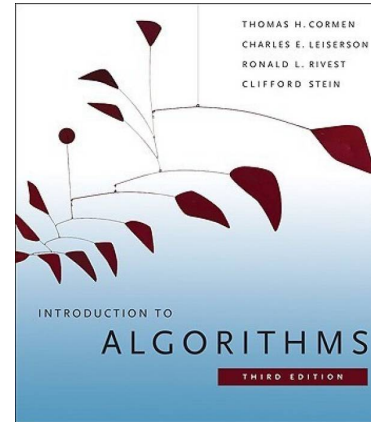
[https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/index.html#EECS2030\\_F21](https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/~jackie/teaching/lectures/index.html#EECS2030_F21)

- **Generics**

[ Week 10 & 11 ]

30%

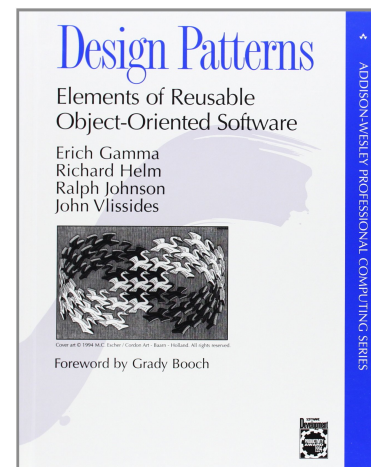
## Beyond this course... (1)



- *Introduction to Algorithms (3rd Ed.)* by Cormen, etc.
- DS by DS, Algo. by Algo.:
  - **Understand** math analysis
  - **Read** pseudo code
  - **Translate** into Java code
  - **Write and pass** JUnit tests

30%

## Beyond this course... (2)



- *Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software* by Gamma, etc.
- Pattern by Pattern:
  - **Understand** the problem
  - **Read** the solution (not in Java)
  - **Translate** into Java code
  - **Write and pass** JUnit tests

30%

## Wish You All the Best



- What you have learned will be **assumed** in EECS2101.
- Logic is your friend: Learn/Review EECS1019/EECS1090.
- Do **not** abandon Java during the break!!
- Feel free to get in touch and let me know how you're doing :D