

# Topic 4 Programming with Methods

ICT167 Principles of Computer Science



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## Objectives

- Understand the use of private helper methods hidden from the public interface of a class
- Know that the calling object can be omitted if it is the same as the calling object in the invoking method
- Know that a main program can appear in any class including the class which it uses
- Understand how to use static variables and static methods
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## Objectives

- Explain the uses of static variables and static methods
- Understand the meaning and use of the reserved word this in Java
- Be able to use the common static methods in the Math class
- Explain what a wrapper class is and why it is used
- Be able to wrap and unwrap primitive values



## Objectives

- Understand the automatic boxing and unboxing of wrapper classes in Java
- Make use of common methods in the wrapper classes
- Be able to design a Java program in a topdown manner
- Be able to test a complex program using driver programs and stubs

Reading – Savitch: Chapters 5.2, 6.2 – 6.3



The class SpeciesFourthTry discussed in Topic 3 has the following attributes and methods:

```
// Class from Topic 3 - skeleton only
// includes equals method
import java.util.Scanner;
public class SpeciesFourthTry {
    // Instance variables
    private String name;
    private int population;
    private double growthRate;
```



```
// Methods
public void readInput()
  // .... code for the method readInput
public void writeOutput()
  // .... code for the method writeOutput
public int predictPopulation(int years)
  // .... code for the method
```

```
// Accessor or Get methods
public String getName()
  return name;
public int getPopulation()
  return population;
public double getGrowthRate()
  return growthRate;
```







## Example UML Class Diagram

#### SpeciesFourthTry

- name: String
- population: int
- growthRate: double
- + readInput(): void
- + writeOutput(): void
- + predictPopulation(): int
- + setSpecies(String newName, int newPopulation,

double newGrowthRate): void

- + getName(): String
- + getPopulation(): int
- + getGrowthRate(): double
- + equals (SpeciesFourthTry otherObject): boolean



#### **Example Client**

```
import java.util.Scanner;
/** Client Program / Test program */
public class SpeciesFourthTryDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
   SpeciesFourthTry s1= new SpeciesFourthTry();
   SpeciesFourthTry s2 = new SpeciesFourthTry();
   int numberOfYears, futurePopulation;
   System.out.println("Enter number of years:");
   Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
   numberOfYears = keyboard.nextInt();
   s1.readInput();
   s1.writeOutput();
```



#### **Example Client**

```
futurePopulation = s1.predictPopulation(
                                      numberOfYears);
   s2.setSpecies("Klingon ox", 10, 15);
   s2.writeOutput();
   if (s1.equals(s2))
     System.out.println("Two species are same");
   else
     System.out.println("Two species not same");
  }// end main
}// end SpeciesFourthTryDemo
```



- A method in a class might involve a lengthy or complex calculation
- So break it down into smaller parts
  - Use helper methods to perform some of the parts
- Helper methods can be declared to be private
  - They are not part of the public interface of the class: they are part of the implementation
- Look at the following example (class Oracle) from Savitch to see how helper methods are invoked



```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Oracle {
  private String oldAnswer = "The answer is in your
   heart.";
  private String newAnswer;
  private String question;
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     Oracle delphi = new Oracle();
     delphi.chat();
  }// end main
  private void update() {
     oldAnswer = newAnswer;
```



```
public void chat() {
   System.out.println("I am the oracle.");
   System.out.println("I will answer questions.");
   Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
   String response;
   do {
      answer();
      System.out.println("Do you wish to ask
                                 another question?");
      response = keyboard.next();
   } while (response.equalsIgnoreCase("yes"));
   System.out.println("Oracle will now rest.");
```



```
private void answer() {
   System.out.println("What is your question?");
   Scanner keyboard = new Scanner (System.in);
   question = keyboard.nextLine();
   seekAdvice();
   System.out.println("You asked the question:");
   System.out.println(" " + question);
   System.out.println("Now, here is my answer:");
   System.out.println(oldAnswer);
   update();
```



```
private void seekAdvice() {
    System.out.println("I need some help on that.");
    System.out.println("Please give 1 line advice.");
    Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
    newAnswer = keyboard.nextLine();
    System.out.println("Thanks. That helped lots.");
}
// end class Oracle
```



- See how the calling object can be omitted (when calling the helper method) if it is the same as the calling object in the invoking method
- The calling object delphi invokes its own method chat() as

```
delphi.chat();
```

Within delphi.chat(), the helper method is invoked without using the name of the object and the dot notation, as follows:

```
public void chat () {
    .....
    answer();
    .....
}
```

answer() is a helper (private) method which calls its two helper methods as follows:

```
private void answer() {
    .....
    seekAdvice();
    .....
    update();
}
```



- Also notice (in the oracle class example) that the main() method has been placed inside the class which it uses
  - The main() method in this case acts like a client and is useful for testing purposes
- Note that within the main() method, you must create an object of the class before you can invoke any of the methods



Eg: to invoke the method chat() within main(), you need to create an object of type Oracle in the usual way:

```
Oracle delphi = new Oracle();
```

- And then invoke a method of this object as: delphi.chat();
- Since main() is a static method, it belongs to the class, and there will be only one main() method
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- When user executes the program, the JVM (Java Virtual Machine) looks for the main() method.
- The main() method starts running, creates an object delphi, invokes its chat() method (which uses a helper method which in turn uses two helper methods), and gets the stuff done



#### The reserved Word this

- The reserved word this in Java stands for the name of the current (calling) object
  - That is, it refers to the object that contains the reference
- Methods called in an object definition file do not need to reference itself (the object)
- You may either use "this.", or omit it, since it is presumed
- For example, if answer() is a method defined in the class Oracle:

#### The reserved Word this

```
public class Oracle {
 public void chat() {
    // One way to invoke the answer() method
    // defined in this file is:
    // this.answer ();
    // Another way is to omit "this."
    answer (); // "this." is presumed here
 // end class Oracle
```

## When an Object is Required

- Methods called *outside* the object definition require an object name to precede the method name
- For example:

```
Oracle delphi = new Oracle();

// delphi is not part of the

definition // code for Oracle

...

// chat is a method defined in Oracle

delphi.chat();

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```

## When an Object is Required

Similarly in another program, the call to method chat () may be

```
Oracle myObject = new Oracle();
myObject.chat();
```

And the call to method answer () in this case would mean

```
myObject.answer();
```



#### static Variables

- When a Java program is running, if something is static then there is only one copy of it, no matter how many objects are created
- Static variables are shared by all objects of a class
  - Variables declared static final are considered constants – their values cannot be changed. Eg:

```
public static final int UPPER_LIMIT = 999;
```

Variables declared static (without final) can be changed

private static int counter;

#### static Variables

- Only one instance of the static variable exists which can be accessed by all objects of the class
- Static variables can be public or private should normally be private and should be accessed or changed only by accessor and mutator methods
- Static variables are also called class variables
- Therefore, Java has three kinds of variables: local variables, instance variables, and static variables



## Local, instance, and static variables

local variables: declared in a method

 instance variables: declared in a class definition outside any method – belong to an object

static variables: class variables - every object shares the one and only one



- Some methods may have no relation to any type of object
  - Eg: a method to compute the maximum of two numbers or a method to find the square root of a number
- In such cases a method can be declared to be static



#### Eg:

```
public class MyClass {
    ...
    public static boolean isPositive(int n) {
       return (n>0);
    }
    ...
} // end MyClass
```



- The static method must still belong to a class
- It does not need a calling object the class name is normally used instead during its invocation. Eg:

```
if (MyClass.isPositive(x))
System.out.println("Positive");
```

static methods are also called *class*methods



- Note that it is possible to create an object of MyClass and use it to invoke the isPositive() method, but doing so can be confusing to people reading your code
- Note that all other methods (non-static) must be part of an object, so an object must exist before they can be invoked
- Since a static method does not need a calling object, it cannot refer to a (nonstatic) instance variable of the class



- Likewise, a static method cannot call a non-static method of the class (unless it creates an object of the class to use as a calling object)
- Use static methods:
  - For methods which do not involve an object
  - Small private helper methods in a class
  - Generally useful methods to do with numbers or Strings or input/output
    - Eg: finding the maximum of two numbers, computing a square root, generating a random number



- Static methods are commonly used to provide libraries of useful and related methods
- Examples:
  - The main method in any class
  - The Math class
    - Automatically provided with Java
    - Methods include pow, sqrt, max, min, and many more methods



#### **Example Class**

```
// File: CircleCalculator.java
/** Class with static methods to perform calculations
  on circles. */
public class CircleCalculator {
  // constant
  public static final double PI = 3.14159;
  public static double getArea(double radius) {
     return (PI*radius*radius);
  public static double getCircumference(double radius)
     return (PI*(radius + radius));
  // end class CircleCalculator
```

### **Example Client**

```
// File: CircleCalculatorDemo.java
import java.util.Scanner;
public class CircleCalculatorDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     double radius;
     System.out.println("Enter the radius of a "
                                + "circle in inches:");
     Scanner kb = new Scanner(System.in);
     radius = kb.nextDouble();
     System.out.println("A circle of radius " +
                                   radius + " inches");
```



### **Example Client**



- The predefined class Math is automatically provided as part of the Java language, and contains a number of the standard mathematical methods
- All these methods are static and are called by using the class name Math in place of a calling object



#### Eg:

```
System.out.println("The maximum of 5 and
                     7 \text{ is} = " +
Math.max(5,7));
Powers: Math.pow(2.0, 3.0) returns 8.0
Absolute value: Math.abs(-4) returns 4
                   Math.abs(5) returns 5
                 Math.abs(-5.1) returns 5.1
Maximum:
          Math.max(5, 6) returns 6
Minimum: Math.min(5.9, 6.5) returns 5.9
```



Eg:

```
Rounding: Math.round(6.8) returns 7
Math.round(6.49) returns 6
Ceiling: Math.ceil(3.2) returns 4.0
```

- returns a whole number of type double
- need to cast if you want an int. Eg:

```
int j = (int)Math.ceil(3.2);
Floor: Math.floor(3.2) returns 3.0
```

this too returns a whole number of type double, and need to type cast if you want an int



#### Eg:

```
Square root: Math.sqrt(4.0) returns 2.0
Random: Math.random() returns a random
number greater than or equal to
0.0 and less than 1.0
```

- See the on-line documentation for many more
- Note the Math class also contains some static constants such as Math.PI which is a double with value approximately equal to  $\pi$ .



#### NOTE: main method

#### You can put a main method in any class

- See class Oracle above in these slides
- Usually main is by itself in a class definition
- Sometimes it makes sense to have a main method in a regular class definition
- When the class is used to create objects, the main method is ignored
- Adding a diagnostic main method to a class makes it easier to test the class's methods



#### NOTE: main method

#### You can put a main method in any class

- Because main must be static, you cannot invoke non-static methods of the class in main unless you create an object of the class
- Normally you would not put a main method in a class that is used to create objects unless it is for test purposes



- As we know, Java treats primitive types and class types differently
  - Eg: the variables (arguments) of primitive types are passed to other methods using call-by-value whereas object variables are passed using callby-reference
  - Similarly, the assignment operator == behaves differently for primitive types and for class types
- Occasionally we need to be able to make things uniform, and treat a primitive type as an object

- Java has one special class associated with each primitive type - called wrapper classes
   they "wrap up" the primitive data types as objects
  - Eg: there is an Integer class corresponding to int
  - Other wrapper classes include Double, Long, Character and Boolean corresponding to the primitive types double, long, char and boolean, respectively
  - All primitive types have an equivalent class



- Why?
  - Some data structures which contain many things are designed to contain Objects only
  - The Wrapper classes have various useful methods, including ones to convert back to primitive types



Primitive	Class type	Method to convert back
type		to primitive type
int	Integer	intValue()
long	Long	longValue()
float	Float	floatValue()
double	Double	doubleValue()
char	Character	charValue()



Converting a primitive to a wrapper object, for example:

```
Integer n = new Integer (78);
```

- declares an instance n of the Integer wrapper class with the value 78
- The object n is just an Object version of the number 78
- The int 78 is wrapped up as an Object belonging to the Class Integer
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Unwrapping, for example:

```
int i = n.intValue();
```

- the method intValue in the Class Integer returns the int which is wrapped up inside the wrapper object
- Similarly:

```
Double D = new Double(4.5);
double d = D.doubleValue();
```



# Automatic Boxing and Unboxing

- Wrapping (converting/type casting) a value of a primitive to an object of its corresponding wrapper class is called boxing
- Starting with Java 5.0, boxing is done automatically. Eg:

```
Integer n = 78;
```

is equivalent to writing:

```
Integer n = new Integer (78);
```



# Automatic Boxing and Unboxing

 Similarly, an object of a wrapper class can be converted to a value of a corresponding primitive type automatically (called automatic unboxing)

```
int i = n;
```

is equivalent to:

```
int i = n.intValue();
```



# Automatic Boxing and Unboxing

- Note that automatic boxing and unboxing also apply to parameters
  - A primitive argument can be provided for a corresponding formal parameter of the associated wrapper class
  - A wrapper class argument can be provided for a corresponding formal parameter of the associated primitive type



# Useful Constants and static Methods in Wrapper Classes

- Integer.MAX\_VALUE returns the largest value allowed in type int
- Also, Integer.MIN\_VALUE,
  Double.MAX\_VALUE, Double.MIN\_VALUE,
  etc.
- Static methods in the wrapper classes can be used to convert a string to the corresponding number of type int, long, float, or double

# Useful Constants and static Methods in Wrapper Classes

Eg:

```
String str = "499.95";
double d = Double.parseDouble(str);
```

or use:

```
Double.parseDouble(str.trim());
```

if the string has leading or trailing whitespaces



# Useful Constants and static Methods in Wrapper Classes

Similarly:

```
String numString = "727";
int i = Integer.parseInt(numString);
long l = Long.parseLong(numString);
float r = Float.parseFloat("499.95");
```

Methods for converting strings to the corresponding numbers are also available.

```
Eg: Integer.toString(78),
Long.toString(78),
Float.toString(499.95), and
Double.toString(499.95)
```



### Character Class static Methods

The Character class wraps a char. Use:

```
Character c = new Character('a');
```

- to wrap a char
- Checks if c1 and c2 wrap the same char

```
c1.equals(c2);
// returns 'A'
Character.toUpperCase('a');
```



## Character Class static Methods

#### Eg:

```
char firstChar = 'a';
char secondChar =
 Character.toUpperCase(firstChar);
Character.toLowerCase('A')// returns 'a'
Character.isUpperCase('A')// returns
true
Character.isLowerCase('A')//returns
false
// returns false
Character.isWhitespace('A')
```

## Character Class static Methods

#### Eg:

```
// returns true if response is a digit
// character in the range 0 to 9 and
// false otherwise
Character.isDigit (response)
Character.isLetter('A') // returns true
Character.isLetter('?')// returns false
// returns the String "a"
Character.toString('a')
```



- stepwise refinement = divide and conquer
   breaking the problem down into smaller
   steps
- In pseudo-code, write a list of sub-tasks that the method must do
- If you can easily write Java statements for a sub-task, you are finished with that sub-task
- If you cannot easily write Java statements for a sub-task, treat it as a new problem and break it up into a list of sub-tasks

- Eventually, all of the sub-tasks will be small enough to easily design and code
- Solutions to sub-tasks might be implemented as private helper methods
- Top-down design is also known as divideand-conquer or stepwise refinement



- Here is an example problem:
  - The user is given a list of items of various nett prices
  - Some items are 0% rated for the GST, call these category Z
  - The other items are rated at 10% for the GST, call these category G



- The user should enter the category of each item and then the price in cents
- The program should display the nett price, tax, and total cost of each item, and display a running total of tax and total cost
- The user can enter category 'Q' to finish
- Display all amounts in dollars and cents



#### Top-Level Pseudo-code

```
total = 0
totalTax = 0
cat = 'A' //anything but 'Q'
while (cat != 'Q') {
 cat = get category letter from user
 if (cat !='Q') {
    price = get cents from user
    tax = taxOn( cat, price)
    cost = price + tax
    total = total + cost
    totalTax = totalTax + tax
```

### Top-Level Pseudo-code

```
//all values in cents
DisplayInDollars("net price", price)
DisplayInDollars("item tax", tax)
DisplayInDollars("item cost", cost)
DisplayInDollars("total tax", totalTax)
DisplayInDollars("total cost", total)
}//end if
}//end while
say goodbye
```

In order to complete the description of the program we then need to consider the procedures which are used here

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### Tips for Writing Methods

- Apply the principle of encapsulation and detail hiding by using the public and private modifiers judiciously
  - If the user will need the method, make it part of the interface by declaring it public
  - If the method is used only within the class definition (a helper method, then declare it private)



### Tips for Writing Methods

- Create a main method with diagnostic (test) code within a class's definition
  - Run just the class to execute the test/diagnostic program
  - When the class is used by another program the class's main method is ignored



### Program Testing: Test Methods Separately

- Carefully test each method individually so you are (quite) sure that each method works correctly
  - Test programs are sometimes called *driver* programs
  - A driver program is usually a main program (main method) designed only to test that a method works
  - Keep it simple: test only one new method at a time
    - Driver program should have only one untested method UNIVERSITY

### Program Testing: Test Methods Separately

- If method A calls method B, then we think of method A being above method B. There are two approaches to testing:
- Top down testing
  - Also called testing using stubs: test method A first and use a stub for method B
  - •A *stub* is a method that stands in for the final version and does little actual work. It usually does something as trivial as printing a message or returning a fixed value. The idea is to have it so simple that you are nearly certain it will work



### Program Testing: Test Methods Separately

#### Bottom up testing

- Test method B fully (eg, using a driver program) before testing method A
- Bottom-up testing means being sure that method B works before testing method A
- Eg: check the procedure for getting a category letter from the user before checking the overall program



### Example

 Here is a program including the category procedure and a driver program

```
import java.util.*;
public class CatTest {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     // driver method for test purposes only
     char cat = 'a';
     while (true) {
        cat = getCat();
        System.out.println("Your category was " +cat);
     } //end of while
} //end of main
```



```
private static char getCat() {
   char c;
   Scanner kb = new Scanner(System.in);
   do {
      System.out.println("Enter a category Z, G or Q");
      c = kb.next().charAt(0);
      c = Character.toUpperCase(c);
      if ((c != 'Z')&&(c != 'G')&&(c != 'Q'))
         System.out.println("*Error-invalid category");
   \} while ((c !='Z')&&(c!='G')&&(c!='Q'));
   return c;
} //end of getCat
//end of class
```



## Testing via Stubs

- Sometimes you want to test a large method before testing all the smaller methods which it calls
- For example, just to make sure that the overall approach looks promising
- Use a stub = a simplified version of a method for testing purposes
- Then just include a stub for any small methods which you have not developed or checked yet

### Testing via Stubs

Eg: here is a stub for DisplayInDollars()

- At some later stage you can tidy this up
- So here is a half completed version of the whole program...



```
import java.util.*;
public class GST {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
   int total = 0, totalTax = 0;
   char cat = 'A'; //anything but 'Q'
   while (cat != 'Q') {
     cat = getCat();
     if (cat !='Q') {
        int price = getPrice();
        int tax = taxOn( cat, price);
        int cost = price + tax;
        total = total + cost;
        totalTax= totalTax+ tax;
```



```
//all values in cents
     DisplayInDollars("nett price", price);
     DisplayInDollars("item tax", tax);
     DisplayInDollars ("item cost", cost);
     DisplayInDollars("total tax", totalTax);
     DisplayInDollars("total cost", total);
  }//end if
}//end while
System.out.println("good bye");
}//end main
```



```
private static char getCat() {
  char c = 'A';
  Scanner kb = new Scanner(System.in);
  do {
     System.out.println("Enter a category - Z, G or
Q:");
     c = kb.next().charAt(0);
     c = Character.toUpperCase(c);
     if ((c != 'Z')&&(c != 'G')&&(c != 'Q'))
        System.out.println("*Error-invalid category");
  return c;
}//end of getCat
```



```
private static int getPrice() {
   System.out.println("** getPrice Stub **");
   System.out.println("Enter price in cents");
   Scanner kb = new Scanner (System.in);
   int cents = kb.nextInt();
   return cents;
}//end of getPrice
private static int taxOn(char cat, int price) {
   if (cat == 'G') return price/10;
   else return 0;
}//end of taxon
```





And here is a complete version of the method DisplayInDollars:



### GST UML Class Diagram

#### **GST**

- category: char
- priceInCents: int
- taxInCents: int
- costInCents: int
- + readCategory(): void
- + readPrice(): void
- + calculateTax(): void
- + calculateCost(): void
- + getCategory(): char
- + getPrice(): int
- + getTax(): int
- + getCost(): int
- + DisplayInDollarsInputData(): void
- + DisplayInDollars (String, int): void



#### Here is a complete working version

```
// ICT167 Topic 4 Case Study in Program Design
// Object-oriented Version GSTv2 class
// P S Dhillon
import java.util.*;
public class GSTv2 {
  // instance variables
  private char category;
  private int priceInCents;
  private int taxInCents;
  private int costInCents;
```



```
// input methods readCategory() and readPrice()
public void readCategory() {
   char c = 'A';
   Scanner kb = new Scanner(System.in);
   do {
      System.out.println("Enter a category-Z,G or Q:");
      c = kb.next().charAt(0);
      c = Character.toUpperCase(c);
      if ((c != 'Z') \&\& (c != 'G') \&\& (c != 'Q'))
         System.out.println("*Error-invalid category");
   } while ((c != 'Z') && (c != 'G') && (c != 'Q'));
   category = c;
}//end of getCat
```



```
public void readPrice() {
    System.out.println("Enter price in cents");
    Scanner kb = new Scanner(System.in);
    priceInCents = kb.nextInt();
}//end of getPrice
```



```
// calculate tax and cost methods
public void calculateTax() {
   if (category == 'G')
     taxInCents = priceInCents/10;
   else taxInCents = 0;
}//end calculateTax

public void calculateCost() {
   costInCents = priceInCents + taxInCents;
}// end calculateCost
```



```
// get methods
public char getCategory() {
   return category;
public int getPrice() {
   return priceInCents;
public int getTax() {
   return taxInCents;
public int getCost() {
   return costInCents;
```



```
// output methods
public void DisplayInDollarsInputData() {
    DisplayInDollars("nett price ", priceInCents);
    DisplayInDollars("item tax ", taxInCents);
    DisplayInDollars("item cost ", costInCents);
}
```



```
public void DisplayInDollars (String msg, int
   cents) {
     String text;
     int dollars = cents / 100;
     cents = cents % 100;
     text = msg + " = $" + dollars + ".";
     if (cents < 10) text = text + "0" + cents;
     else text = text + cents;
     System.out.println(text);
  }//end of DisplayInDollars
}//end class GSTv2
```



### **GST Client**

```
// File: GSTv2Demo
public class GSTv2Demo {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
        // create a new object, call it: calculator
        GSTv2 calculator = new GSTv2();
        int totalCost = 0;
        int totalTax = 0;
        calculator.readCategory();
```



#### **GST Client**

```
while (calculator.getCategory() != 'Q') {
   calculator.readPrice();
   calculator.calculateTax();
   calculator.calculateCost();

  totalCost = totalCost+calculator.getCost();
  totalTax = totalTax+calculator.getTax();
```



### **GST Client**

```
// all values are in cents
        calculator.DisplayInDollarsInputData();
        calculator.DisplayInDollars("total tax ",
                                              totalTax);
        calculator.DisplayInDollars("total cost ",
                                            totalCost);
        calculator.readCategory();
     }//end while
     System.out.println("Good bye");
  }//end main
}//end GSTv2Demo class
```



# End of Topic 4

