

Java classes

Savitch, ch 5

Outline

- Objects, classes, and object-oriented programming
 - relationship between classes and objects
 - abstraction
- Anatomy of a class
 - instance variables
 - instance methods
 - constructors

2

Objects and classes

- **object**: An entity that combines state and behavior.
 - **object-oriented programming (OOP)**: Writing programs that perform most of their behavior as interactions between objects.
- **class**: 1. A program. or,
 2. **A blueprint of an object.**
 - classes you may have used so far:
String, Scanner, File
- We will write classes to define new types of objects.

3

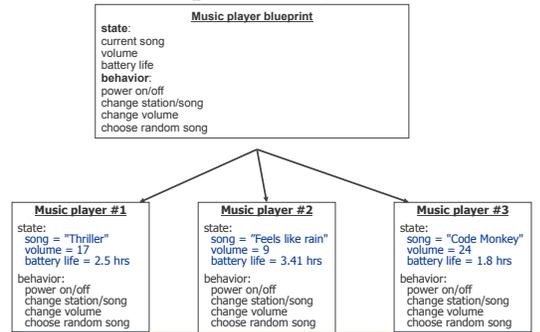
Abstraction

- **abstraction**: A distancing between ideas and details.
 - Objects in Java provide abstraction:
We can use them without knowing how they work.
- You use abstraction every day.
 - Example: Your portable music player.
 - You understand its external behavior (buttons, screen, etc.)
 - You don't understand its inner details (and you don't need to).



4

Class = blueprint, Object = instance



How often would you expect to get snake eyes?

If you're unsure on how to compute the probability then you write a program that simulates the process



6

Snake Eyes

```

public class SnakeEyes {
    public static void main(String [] args){
        int ROLLS = 100000;
        int count = 0;
        Die die1 = new Die();
        Die die2 = new Die();
        for (int i = 0; i < ROLLS; i++){
            if (die1.roll() == 1 && die2.roll() == 1){
                count++;
            }
        }
        System.out.println("snake eyes probability: " +
            count / ROLLS);
    }
}
  
```

Need to write the Die class!



7

Die object

State (data) of a Die object:

Instance variable	Description
numFaces	the number of faces for a die
faceValue	the current value produced by rolling the die

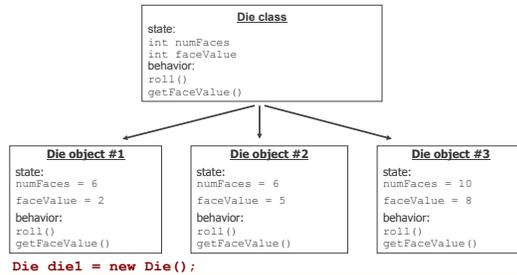
Behavior (methods) of a Die object:

Method name	Description
roll ()	roll the die
getFaceValue ()	retrieve the value of the last roll

8

The Die class

- The class (blueprint) knows how to create objects.



9

Object state: instance variables

Die class

- The following code creates a new class named Die.


```

public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
}
      
```

declared outside of any method
- Save this code into a file named Die.java.
- Each Die object contains two pieces of data:
 - an int named numFaces,
 - an int named faceValue
- No behavior (yet).

11

Instance variables

- instance variable:** A variable inside an object that holds part of its state.
 - Each object has *its own copy*.
- Declaring an instance variable:


```

<type> <name> ;
      
```

```

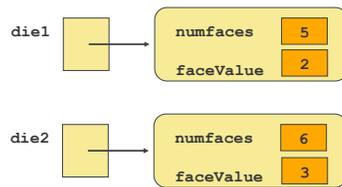
public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
}
  
```

12

Instance variables

Each `Die` object maintains its own `numFaces` and `faceValue` variable, and thus its own state

```
Die die1 = new Die();
Die die2 = new Die();
```



13

Accessing instance variables

- Code in other classes can access your object's instance variables.

- Accessing an instance variable: **dot operator**

<variable name> . <instance variable>

- Modifying an instance variable:

<variable name> . <instance variable> = <value> ;

- Examples:

```
System.out.println("you rolled " + die.faceValue);
die.faceValue = 2;
```

14

Client code

- `Die.java` can be made executable by giving it a main ...
 - We will almost always do this.... **WHY?**
 - To test the class `Die` before it is used by other classes
- or can be used by other programs stored in separate `.java` files.
 - client code:** Code that uses a class

`Roll.java (client code)`

```
main(String[] args) {
    Die die1 = new Die();
    die1.numFaces = 6;
    die1.faceValue = 5;

    Die die2 = new Die();
    die2.numFaces = 10;
    die2.faceValue = 3;
    ...
}
```



```
Die.java
public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
}
```

15

Object behavior: methods

OO Instance methods

- Classes combine **state** and **behavior**.
- instance variables:** define state
- instance methods:** define behavior for each object of a class. methods are the way objects communicate with each other and with users
- instance method declaration, general syntax:

```
public <type> <name> ( <parameter(s)> ) {
    <statement(s)> ;
}
```

17

Rolling the dice: instance methods

```
public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
    public int roll () {
        faceValue = (int) (Math.random() * numFaces) + 1;
        return faceValue;
    }
}
```

```
Die die1 = new Die();
die1.numFaces = 6;
int value1 = die1.roll();
Die die2 = new Die();
die2.numFaces = 10;
int value2 = die2.roll();
```

Think of each `Die` object as having its own copy of the `roll` method, which operates on that object's state

18

Object initialization: constructors

Initializing objects

- When we create a new object, we can assign values to all, or some of, its instance variables:

```
Die die1 = new Die(6);
Die die2 = new Die();
```

20

Die constructor

```
public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
    Die die1 = new Die(6);

    public Die (int faces) {
        numFaces = faces;
        faceValue = 1;
    }
    public Die (int faceVal) {
        numFaces = 6;
        faceValue = faceVal;
    }
    public int roll () {
        faceValue = (int) (Math.random() * numFaces) + 1;
        return faceValue;
    }
}
```

21

Constructors

- **constructor**: creates and initializes a new object

```
public <type> ( <parameter(s)> ) {
    <statement(s)> ;
}
```

- For a constructor the <type> is the **name of the class**
- A constructor runs when the client uses the `new` keyword.
- A constructor implicitly returns the newly created and initialized object.
- If a class has no constructor, Java gives it a *default constructor* with no parameters that sets all the object's fields to 0 or null.
 - we did this in Recap.java

22

Multiple constructors are possible

```
public class Die {
    int numFaces;
    int faceValue;
    Die die1 = new Die(5);
    Die die2 = new Die();

    public Die () {
        numFaces = 6;
        faceValue = 1;
    }

    public Die (int faces) {
        numFaces = faces;
        faceValue = 1;
    }
}
```

23

Encapsulation

Encapsulation

- **encapsulation:**
Hiding implementation details of an object from clients.
- Encapsulation provides *abstraction*; we can use objects without knowing how they work.
The object has:
 - an **external view** (its behavior)
 - an **internal view** (the state and methods that accomplish the behavior)

25

Implementing encapsulation

- Instance variables can be declared *private* to indicate that no code outside their own class can access or change them.
 - Declaring a private instance variable:
`private <type> <name> ;`
 - Examples:

```
private int faceValue;
private String name;
```
- Once instance variables are private, client code cannot access them:

```
Roll.java:11: faceValue has private access in Die
System.out.println("faceValue is " + die.faceValue);
                                     ^
```

26

Instance variables, encapsulation and access

- In our previous implementation of the Die class we used the public access modifier:

```
public class Die {
    public int numFaces;
    public int faceValue;
}
```
- We can encapsulate the instance variables using private:

```
public class Die {
    private int numFaces;
    private int faceValue;
}
```


But how does a client class now get to these?

27

Accessors and mutators

- We provide accessor methods to examine their values:

```
public int getFaceValue() {
    return faceValue;
}
```

 - This gives clients read-only access to the object's fields.
 - Client code will look like this:

```
System.out.println("faceValue is " + die.getFaceValue());
```
- **If required**, we can also provide mutator methods:

```
public void setFaceValue(int value) {
    faceValue = value;
}
```


Often not needed. Do we need a mutator method in this case?

28

Benefits of encapsulation

- Protects an object from unwanted access by clients.
 - Example: If we write a program to manage users' bank accounts, we don't want a malicious client program to be able to arbitrarily change a `BankAccount` object's balance.
- Allows you to change the class implementation later.
- As a general rule, all instance data should be modified only by the object, i.e. **instance variables should be declared private**

29

Access Protection: Summary

Access protection has three main benefits:

- It allows you to enforce constraints on an object's state.
- It provides a simpler client interface. Client programmers don't need to know everything that's in the class, only the public parts.
- It separates interface from implementation, allowing them to vary independently.

30

General guidelines

As a rule of thumb:

- Classes are public.
- Instance variables are private.
- Constructors are public.
- Getter and setter/mutator methods are public
- Other methods must be decided on a case-by-case basis.

31

Printing Objects

- We would like to be able to print a Java object like this:

```
Student student = new Student(...);
System.out.println("student: " + student);
```

- Would like this provide output that is more useful than what Java provides by default.
 - Need to provide a `toString()` method

32

The toString() method

- tells Java how to convert an object into a String
- called when an object is printed or concatenated to a String:


```
Point p = new Point(7, 2);
System.out.println("p: " + p);
```
- Same as:


```
System.out.println("p: " + p.toString());
```
- Every class has a toString(), even if it isn't in your code.
 - The default is the class's name and a hex (base-16) hash-code:


```
Point@9e8c34
```

33

toString() implementation

```
public String toString() {
    code that returns a suitable String;
}
```

- Example: toString() method for our Student class:

```
public String toString(){
    return "name: " + name+ "\n"
        + "id: " + id + "\n"
        + "average: " + average;
}
```

34

Variable shadowing

- An instance method parameter can have the same name as one of the object's instance variables:

```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;
    ...
    // this is legal
    public void setLocation(int x, int y) {
        // when using x and y you get the parameters
    }
}
```

- Instance variables *x* and *y* are *shadowed* by parameters with same names.

35

Avoiding variable shadowing

```
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;
    ...
    public void setLocation(int x_value, int y_value) {
        x = x_value;
        y = y_value;
    }
}
```

36

Avoiding shadowing using this

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

- Inside the setLocation method,
 - When this.x is seen, the *instance variable* x is used.
 - When x is seen, the *parameter* x is used.

37

Multiple constructors

- It is legal to have more than one constructor in a class.
 - The constructors must accept different parameters.

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

    public Point() {
        x = 0;
        y = 0;
    }

    public Point(int x, int y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }
}
```

38

Constructors and this

- One constructor can call another using this:

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

    public Point() {
        this(0, 0); //calls the (x, y) constructor
    }

    public Point(int x, int y) {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }

    ...
}
```

39

Summary of this

- **this**: A reference to the current instance of a given class
- using this:
 - To refer to an instance variable:
 - this.variable
 - To call a method:
 - this.method(parameters);
 - To call a constructor from another constructor:
 - this(parameters);

40

Example of using this

```
public class MyThisTest {
    private int a;
    public MyThisTest() {
        this(42);
    }
    public MyThisTest(int a) {
        this.a = a;
    }
    public void someSomething() {
        int a = 1;
        System.out.println(a);
        System.out.println(this.a);
        System.out.println(this);
    }
    public String toString() {
        return "MyThisTest a=" + a; // refers to the instance variable a
    }
}
```

41

The implicit parameter

- During the call `die.roll()`, the object referred to by `die` is the implicit parameter to the method.
- The method `int roll()` is really `int roll(Die this)`
- The call `die.roll()` is translated to `roll(die)`

42

Method overloading

- Can you write different methods that have the same name?
- Yes!

```
System.out.println("I can handle strings");
System.out.println(2 + 2);
System.out.println(3.14);
System.out.println(object);
Math.max(10, 15); // returns integer
Math.max(10.0, 15.0); // returns double
```

Useful when you need to perform the same operation on different kinds of data.

43

Method overloading

```
public int sum(int num1, int num2){
    return num1 + num2;
}
public int sum(int num1, int num2, int num3){
    return num1 + num2 + num3;
}
```

- A method's name + number, type, and order of its parameters: **method signature**
- The compiler uses a method's signature to **bind** a method invocation to the appropriate definition

44

The return value is not part of the signature

- You **cannot** overload on the basis of the return type (because it can be ignored)

Example of invalid overloading:

```
public int convert(int value) {
    return 2 * value;
}

public double convert(int value) {
    return 2.54 * value;
}
```

45

Example

- Consider the class Pet

```
class Pet {
    private String name;
    private int age;
    private double weight;

    ...
}
```

46

Example (cont)

```
public Pet()
public Pet(String name, int age, double weight)
public Pet(int age)
public Pet(double weight)
```

Suppose you have a horse that weights 750 pounds then you use:

```
Pet myHorse = new Pet(750.0);
```

but what happens if you do:

```
Pet myHorse = new Pet(750); ?
```

47

Primitive Equality

- Suppose we have two integers *i* and *j*
- How does the statement `i==j` behave?
- `i==j` if *i* and *j* contain the same value

48

Object Equality

- Suppose we have two pet instances `pet1` and `pet2`
- How does the statement `pet1==pet2` behave?

49

Object Equality

- Suppose we have two pet instances `pet1` and `pet2`
- How does the statement `pet1==pet2` behave?
- `pet1==pet2` is true if ***both*** refer to the ***same*** object
- The `==` operator checks if the ***addresses*** of the two objects are equal
- May not be what we want!

50

Object Equality - extended

- If you want a different notion of equality define your own `.equals()` method.
- Do `pet1.equals(pet2)` instead of `pet1==pet2`
- The default definition of `.equals()` is the value of `==`
but for Strings the contents are compared

51

.equals for the Pet class

```
public boolean equals (Object other) {
    if (!other instanceof Pet) {
        return false;
    }
    Pet otherPet = (Pet) other;
    return ((this.age == otherPet.age)
        &&(Math.abs(this.weight - otherPet.weight) < 1e-8)
        &&(this.name.equals(otherPet.name)));
}
```

This is not explained correctly in the book (section 5.3)!!

52

Naming things

- Computer programs are written to be read by humans and only incidentally by computers.
- **Use names that convey meaning**
- Loop indices are often a single character (i, j, k), but others should be more informative.
- Importance of a name depends on its scope: Names with a “short life” need not be as informative as those with a “long life”
- Read code and see how others do it

53