

Chapter 6: Methods

CS1: Java Programming
Colorado State University

Original slides by Daniel Liang
Modified slides by Chris Wilcox



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

1

Opening Problem

Find the sum of integers from 1 to 10, from 20 to 30, and from 35 to 45, respectively.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

2

Problem

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 1; i <= 10; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 1 to 10 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 20; i <= 30; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 20 to 30 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 35; i <= 45; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 35 to 45 is " + sum);
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

3

Problem

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 1; i <= 10; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 1 to 10 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 20; i <= 30; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 20 to 30 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 35; i <= 45; i++)
    sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 35 to 45 is " + sum);
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

4

Solution

```
public static int sum(int i1, int i2) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = i1; i <= i2; i++)
        sum += i;
    return sum;
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println("Sum from 1 to 10 is " + sum(1, 10));
    System.out.println("Sum from 20 to 30 is " + sum(20, 30));
    System.out.println("Sum from 35 to 45 is " + sum(35, 45));
}
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

5

Objectives

- To define methods with formal parameters (§6.2).
- To invoke methods with actual parameters (i.e., arguments) (§6.2).
- To define methods with a return value (§6.3).
- To define methods without a return value (§6.4).
- To pass arguments by value (§6.5).
- To develop reusable code that is modular, easy to read, easy to debug, and easy to maintain (§6.6).
- To write a method that converts hexadecimal to decimals (§6.7).
- To use method overloading and understand ambiguous overloading (§6.8).
- To determine the scope of variables (§6.9).
- To apply the concept of method abstraction in software development (§6.10).
- To design and implement methods using stepwise refinement (§6.10).

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

6

Defining Methods

A method is a collection of statements that are grouped together to perform an operation.

Define a method

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```

Invoke a method

```
int z = max(x, y);
```

↑ ↑
actual parameters
(arguments)

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

7

Defining Methods

A method is a collection of statements that are grouped together to perform an operation.

Define a method

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```

Annotations: modifier (public static), return value type (int), method name (max), formal parameters (int num1, int num2), parameter list, method signature, return value.

Invoke a method

```
int z = max(x, y);
```

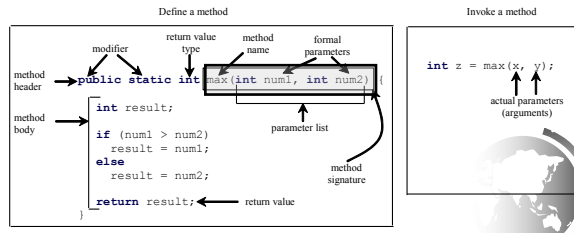
↑ ↑
actual parameters
(arguments)

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

8

Method Signature

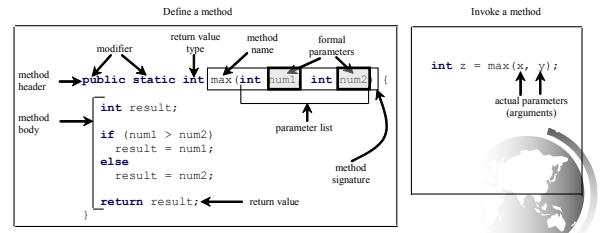
Method signature is the combination of the method name and the parameter list.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

Formal Parameters

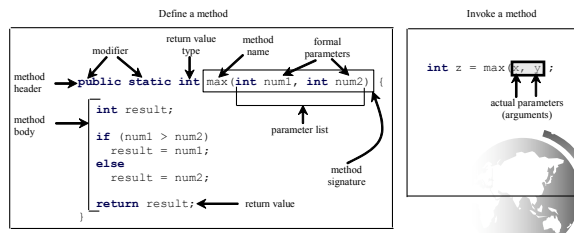
The variables defined in the method header are known as *formal parameters*.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

Actual Parameters

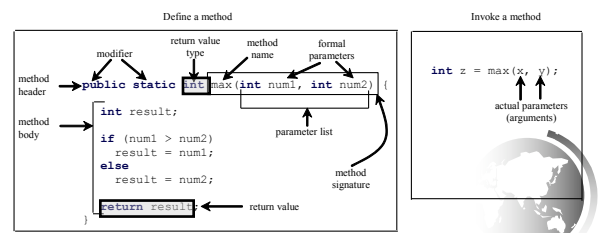
When a method is invoked, you pass a value to the parameter. This value is referred to as *actual parameter or argument*.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

Return Value Type

A method may return a value. The return Value Type is the data type of the value the method returns. If the method does not return a value, the return Value Type is the keyword `void`. For example, the return Value Type in the `main` method is `void`.




Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

Calling Methods

Testing the `max` method

This program demonstrates calling a method `max` to return the largest of the `int` values

TestMax
Run



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 13

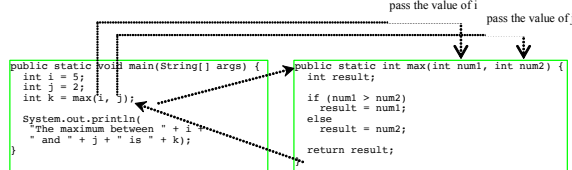
animation


Calling Methods, cont.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between
        " + i + " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```

pass the value of i pass the value of j





Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 14


animation

Trace Method Invocation

i is now 5

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 15


animation

Trace Method Invocation

j is now 2

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 16

animation

Trace Method Invocation


invoke max(i, j)

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
    
```

```

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 17

animation

Trace Method Invocation


invoke max(i, j)
Pass the value of i to num1
Pass the value of j to num2

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
    
```

```

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 18

animation

Trace Method Invocation


declare variable result

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
    
```

```

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 19

animation

Trace Method Invocation


(num1 > num2) is true since num1 is 5 and num2 is 2

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
    
```

```

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 20

animation

Trace Method Invocation

result is now 5

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 21

animation

Trace Method Invocation

return result, which is 5

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 22

animation

Trace Method Invocation

return max(i, j) and assign the return value to k

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 23

animation

Trace Method Invocation

Execute the print statement

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 24

CAUTION

A return statement is required for a value-returning method. The method shown below in (a) is logically correct, but it has a compilation error because the Java compiler thinks it possible that this method does not return any value.

```

public static int sign(int n) {
    if (n > 0)
        return 1;
    else if (n == 0)
        return 0;
    else if (n < 0)
        return -1;
}
    
```

Should be

```

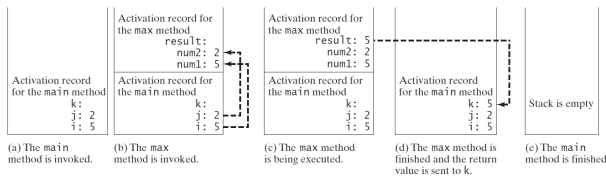
public static int sign(int n) {
    if (n > 0)
        return 1;
    else if (n == 0)
        return 0;
    else
        return -1;
}
    
```

To fix this problem, delete *if (n < 0)* in (a), so that the compiler will see a return statement to be reached regardless of how the if statement is evaluated.

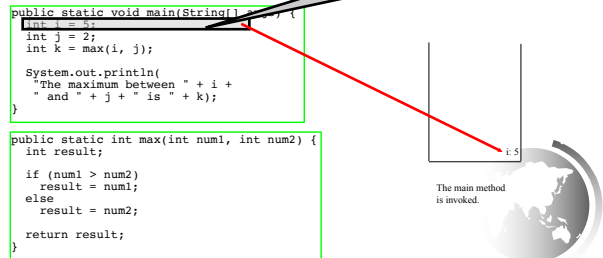
Reuse Methods from Other Classes

NOTE: One of the benefits of methods is for reuse. The max method can be invoked from any class besides TestMax. If you create a new class Test, you can invoke the max method using ClassName.methodName (e.g., TestMax.max).

Call Stacks



Trace Call Stack



animation

Trace Call Stack

j is declared and initialized

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

The main method is invoked.

k: j:2 i:5

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 29

animation

Trace Call Stack

Declare k

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the main method

k: j:2 i:5

The main method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 30

animation

Trace Call Stack

Invoke max(i, j)

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the main method

k: j:2 i:5

The main method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 31

animation

Trace Call Stack

pass the values of i and j to num1 and num2

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the main method

num2:2 num1:5 k: j:2 i:5

The max method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 32

animation

Trace Call Stack

Declare result

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the main method

Space required for the max method

The max method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 33

animation

Trace Call Stack

(num1 > num2) is true

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the main method

Space required for the max method

The max method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 34

animation

Trace Call Stack

Assign num1 to result

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the max method

Space required for the main method

The max method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 35

animation

Trace Call Stack

Return result and assign it to k

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
    
```

Space required for the max method

Space required for the main method

The max method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 36

animation

Trace Call Stack

Execute print statement

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);
    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}

public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;
    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;
    return result;
}
```

Space required for the main method
k:5
j:2
i:5

The main method is invoked.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 37

void Method Example

This type of method does not return a value. The method performs some actions.

TestVoidMethod Run

TestReturnGradeMethod Run

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 38

Passing Parameters

```
public static void nPrintln(String message, int n) {
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        System.out.println(message);
}
```

Suppose you invoke the method using
nPrintln("Welcome to Java", 5);
What is the output?

Suppose you invoke the method using
nPrintln("Computer Science", 15);
What is the output?

Can you invoke the method using
nPrintln(15, "Computer Science");

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 39

Pass by Value

This program demonstrates passing values to the methods.

Increment Run

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 40

Pass by Value

Testing Pass by value

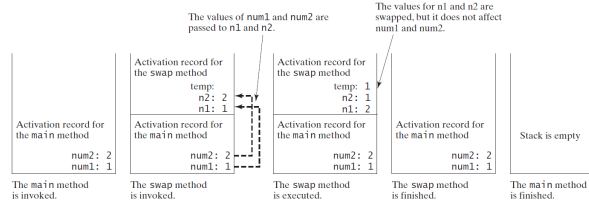
This program demonstrates passing values to the methods.

TestPassByValue

Run



Pass by Value, cont.



Modularizing Code

Methods can be used to reduce redundant coding and enable code reuse. Methods can also be used to modularize code and improve the quality of the program.

GreatestCommonDivisorMethod

Run

PrimeNumberMethod

Run



Case Study: Converting Hexadecimals to Decimals

Write a method that converts a hexadecimal number into a decimal number.

ABCD =>

$$A * 16^3 + B * 16^2 + C * 16^1 + D * 16^0$$

$$= ((A * 16 + B) * 16 + C) * 16 + D$$

$$= ((10 * 16 + 11) * 16 + 12) * 16 + 13 = ?$$

Hex2Dec

Run



Overloading Methods

Overloading the `max` Method

```
public static double max(double num1, double
num2) {
    if (num1 > num2)
        return num1;
    else
        return num2;
}
```

TestMethodOverloading

Run

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

45

Ambiguous Invocation

Sometimes there may be two or more possible matches for an invocation of a method, but the compiler cannot determine the most specific match. This is referred to as *ambiguous invocation*. Ambiguous invocation is a compile error.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

46

Ambiguous Invocation

```
public class AmbiguousOverloading {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println(max(1, 2));
    }

    public static double max(int num1, double num2) {
        if (num1 > num2)
            return num1;
        else
            return num2;
    }

    public static double max(double num1, int num2) {
        if (num1 > num2)
            return num1;
        else
            return num2;
    }
}
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

47

Scope of Local Variables

A local variable: a variable defined inside a method.

Scope: the part of the program where the variable can be referenced.

The scope of a local variable starts from its declaration and continues to the end of the block that contains the variable. A local variable must be declared before it can be used.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

48

Scope of Local Variables, cont.

You can declare a local variable with the same name multiple times in different non-nesting blocks in a method, but you cannot declare a local variable twice in nested blocks.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

49

Scope of Local Variables, cont.

A variable declared in the initial action part of a **for** loop header has its scope in the entire loop. But a variable declared inside a **for** loop body has its scope limited in the loop body from its declaration and to the end of the block that contains the variable.

```
public static void method1() {
    .
    .
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        .
        .
        int j;
        .
        .
    }
}
```

The scope of i →

The scope of j →



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

50

Scope of Local Variables, cont.

It is fine to declare i in two non-nesting blocks

```
public static void method1() {
    int x = 1;
    int y = 1;
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        x += i;
    }
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        y += i;
    }
}
```

It is wrong to declare i in two nesting blocks

```
public static void method2() {
    int i = 1;
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        sum += i;
    }
}
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

51

Scope of Local Variables, cont.

```
// Fine with no errors
public static void correctMethod() {
    int x = 1;
    int y = 1;
    // i is declared
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        x += i;
    }
    // i is declared again
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        y += i;
    }
}
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

52

Scope of Local Variables, cont.

```
// With errors
public static void incorrectMethod() {
    int x = 1;
    int y = 1;
    for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
        int x = 0;
        x += i;
    }
}
```

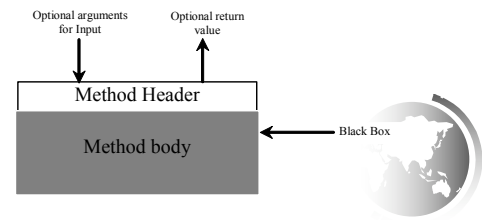


Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

53

Method Abstraction

You can think of the method body as a black box that contains the detailed implementation for the method.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

54

Benefits of Methods

- Write a method once and reuse it anywhere.
- Information hiding. Hide the implementation from the user.
- Reduce complexity.



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

55

Case Study: Generating Random Characters

Computer programs process numerical data and characters. You have seen many examples that involve numerical data. It is also important to understand characters and how to process them.

As introduced in Section 2.9, each character has a unique Unicode between 0 and FFFF in hexadecimal (65535 in decimal). To generate a random character is to generate a random integer between 0 and 65535 using the following expression: (note that since $0 \leq \text{Math.random()} < 1.0$, you have to add 1 to 65535.)

```
(int)(Math.random() * (65535 + 1))
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

56

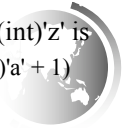
Case Study: Generating Random Characters, cont.

Now let us consider how to generate a random lowercase letter. The Unicode for lowercase letters are consecutive integers starting from the Unicode for 'a', then for 'b', 'c', ..., and 'z'. The Unicode for 'a' is

```
(int)'a'
```

So, a random integer between (int)'a' and (int)'z' is

```
(int)((int)'a' + Math.random() * ((int)'z' - (int)'a' + 1))
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

57

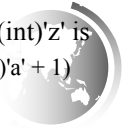
Case Study: Generating Random Characters, cont.

Now let us consider how to generate a random lowercase letter. The Unicode for lowercase letters are consecutive integers starting from the Unicode for 'a', then for 'b', 'c', ..., and 'z'. The Unicode for 'a' is

```
(int)'a'
```

So, a random integer between (int)'a' and (int)'z' is

```
(int)((int)'a' + Math.random() * ((int)'z' - (int)'a' + 1))
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

58

Case Study: Generating Random Characters, cont.

As discussed in Chapter 2., all numeric operators can be applied to the char operands. The char operand is cast into a number if the other operand is a number or a character. So, the preceding expression can be simplified as follows:

```
'a' + Math.random() * ('z' - 'a' + 1)
```

So a random lowercase letter is

```
(char)('a' + Math.random() * ('z' - 'a' + 1))
```



Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

59

Case Study: Generating Random Characters, cont.

To generalize the foregoing discussion, a random character between any two characters ch1 and ch2 with ch1 < ch2 can be generated as follows:

```
(char)(ch1 + Math.random() * (ch2 - ch1 + 1))
```

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.



60

The RandomCharacter Class

```
// RandomCharacter.java: Generate random characters
public class RandomCharacter {
    /** Generate a random character between ch1 and ch2 */
    public static char getRandomCharacter(char ch1, char ch2) {
        return (char) (ch1 + Math.random() * (ch2 - ch1 + 1));
    }


    /** Generate a random lowercase letter */
    public static char getRandomLowercaseLetter() {
        return getRandomCharacter('a', 'z');
    }

    /** Generate a random uppercase letter */
    public static char getRandomUppercaseLetter() {
        return getRandomCharacter('A', 'Z');
    }

    /** Generate a random digit character */
    public static char getRandomDigitCharacter() {
        return getRandomCharacter('0', '9');
    }

    /** Generate a random character */
    public static char getRandomCharacter() {
        return getRandomCharacter('\u0000', '\uFFFF');
    }
}
```

RandomCharacter
TestRandomCharacter
Run



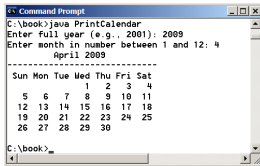
Stepwise Refinement (Optional)

The concept of method abstraction can be applied to the process of developing programs. When writing a large program, you can use the “divide and conquer” strategy, also known as *stepwise refinement*, to decompose it into subproblems. The subproblems can be further decomposed into smaller, more manageable problems.




PrintCalendar Case Study

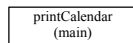
Let us use the PrintCalendar example to demonstrate the stepwise refinement approach.

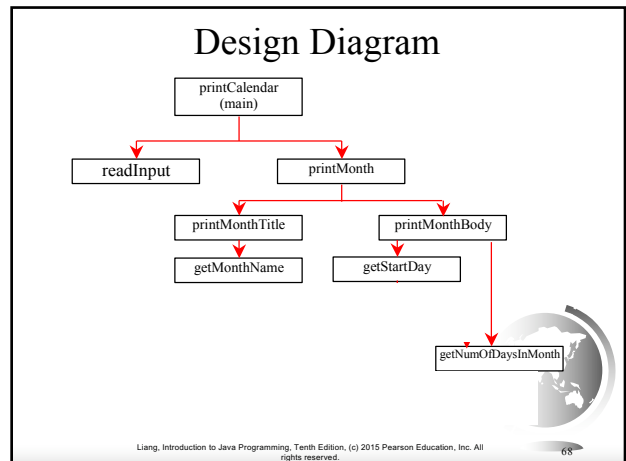
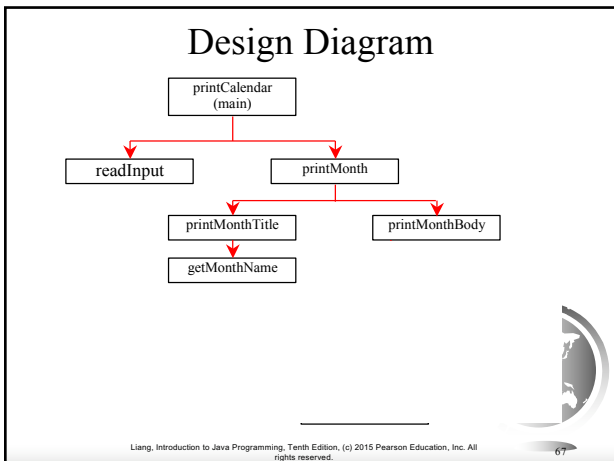
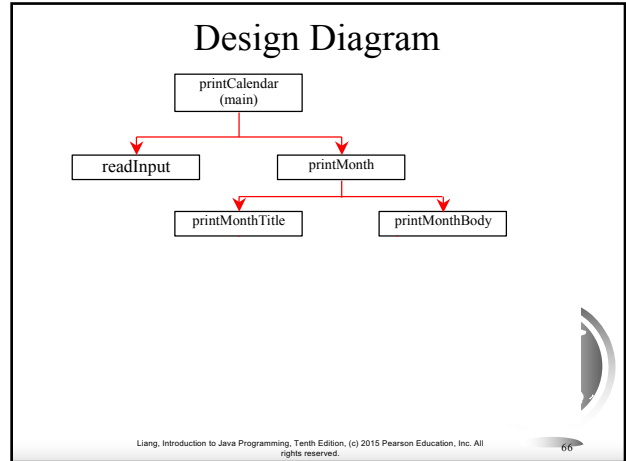
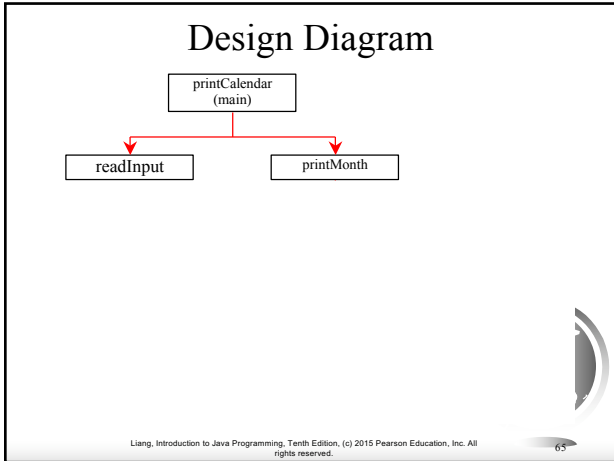


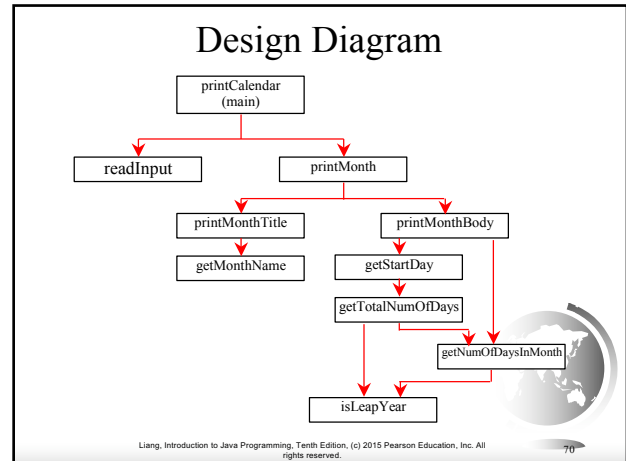
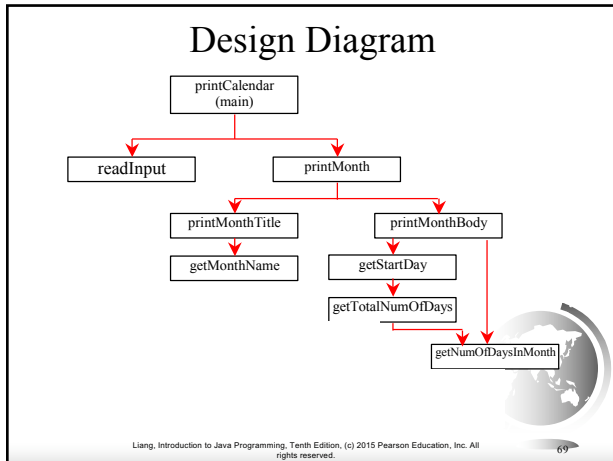
PrintCalendar Run



Design Diagram







Implementation: Top-Down

Top-down approach is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the top to the bottom. Stubs can be used for the methods waiting to be implemented. A stub is a simple but incomplete version of a method. The use of stubs enables you to test invoking the method from a caller. Implement the main method first and then use a stub for the printMonth method. For example, let printMonth display the year and the month in the stub. Thus, your program may begin like this:

A Skeleton for printCalendar

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 71

Implementation: Bottom-Up

Bottom-up approach is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the bottom to the top. For each method implemented, write a test program to test it. Both top-down and bottom-up methods are fine. Both approaches implement the methods incrementally and help to isolate programming errors and makes debugging easy. Sometimes, they can be used together.

Liang, Introduction to Java Programming, Tenth Edition, (c) 2015 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. 72

Benefits of Stepwise Refinement

Simpler Program

Reusing Methods

Easier Developing, Debugging, and Testing

Better Facilitating Teamwork

