

I Semester 2008-09

#### Lecture 25

### **Object Oriented programming**

- Static and non-static members of a class : Revision
- Arrays

**Note :** Arrays **WILL NOT** be part of the second mid semester exam. But whatever we discussed today on arrays will be required in the lab assignment in the week following the mid-semester break. So feel relaxed ... :-).



### **Static and non-static methods**

 A static method is invoked on behalf of an entire class, not on a specific object. A static method might perform some general task (not specific to an object of the class), whereas, a non-static method is used for accessing, manipulating a specific object.

### **Revisit Point class**

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

double y;

```
public Point(double x1, double y1)
{    x = x1;
    y = y1;
}
```

```
public double distance_from_origin()
{    double dist;
    dist = Math.sqrt(x*x + y*y);
    return dist;
}
```

Suppose we want to add more functionality to Point class :

- Center(Point P,Point Q,Point R) : Computing center of three points P,Q,R.
- x\_MirrorImage(??): Update the current point such that it becomes the mirror image (with x-axis) of its existing position. For example, (4,5) becomes (4,-5) and (2,-45) becomes (2,45).

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**Question** : Should these methods be static methods or non-static ?

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Question : Should these methods be static methods or non-static ?Hint : ponder over slide 3.

• Center() should be static method.

For the reason, read carefully the description of method Center(). If it were designed as a non-static method then **P.Center(A,B,C)** has got nothing to do with the point P as such. So there is no reason we should invoke it as P.Center(A,B,C). If you do so, it would not be an error but it is a very bad programing practice.

However if I had intended Center(Point A, Point B) to be a method which returns the center of the current point and the points A and B, then it should be defined as a non-static method.

• x\_MirrorImage() should be non-static method.

Look at the description of the method **x\_MirrorImage**. It is clear from its description that it manipulate the current point. For example, **P.x\_MirrorImage()** would change the point on which it is called. So it is advisable if we declare it as a non-static method.

Hence :

1. Center() should be static method.

#### 2. x\_MirrorImage() should be non-static method.

So whenever you design a method in Point class, first ask yourself whether the method if invoked as P.method() involves the current point P in any way. If yes, design it as non-static, otherwise design it as a static method.

```
public class Point
   double x;
    double y;
    // constructors and the existing method
    // for Point are not shown here due to limited space
    public void x_MirrorImage()
       y = -y;
    public static Point Center(Point P, Point O)
      Point mid = new Point((P.x+Q.x)/2, (P.y+Q.y)/2);
    {
        return mid;
    public static Point Center(Point P, Point Q, Point R)
        Point mid = new Point((P.x+O.x+R.x)/3, (P.y+O.y+R.y)/3);
        return mid;
```

## How to invoke a static method, say *method1*?

- Within its own class : you may invoke it in a method directly by calling *method1* and passing arguments if any.
- Outside its class : you may invoke it by *class\_name.method1*, where *class\_name* is the class in which *method1* is defined.

**Note :** Though you may invoke a static method as *refer.method1* where refer is a reference to an object of the same class (whose member is *method1*), but it is considered a bad programming practice.

## **Example implementation**

The files **program1.java** and **Geometry** package with altered **Point** class are on the course webpage. Try it out.

## **Example2 of Static methods**

Suppose you want to create a library of fundamental functions which canbe used in your programs, so design a library of static methods.

```
public class My_math
{
    public static long GCD(long i, long g)
        {// write the statements of this method here
    }
    public static boolean IsPrime(long i, long g)
        {// write the statements of this method here
    }
    .
    . // add more functions here
}
```

It is meaningless to declare the above methods as non-static.

## **Example1 of Static attributes**

Recall the example of Bank\_account class where we had to assign different account number to each customer. We could achieve it using static attribute **NextN**. Please refer to the lecture held on Friday 26th September for its significance and implementation details. This example highlights the power of static attributes,

## **Example2 of Static attributes**

You might like to create a class which has all the constants of math and physics.

```
public class Constants
  private static double pi = 3.1426;
  private static double e = 2.31;
  private static double G = 9.8;
  . . .
  public static double get_pi()
     return pi;
                }
  public static double get_e()
     return e;
```

You may use them as Constants.get\_pi(), Constants.get\_e(), ...



What if you have a large collection of identical data items which you want to process.

### Examples :

- Sort *n* numbers.
- Compute the diameter of a set of 100 points in 2-D space.
- Compute the smallest enclosing sphere for a set of 10000 points in 3-D space.

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We need an easy way to identify and manipulate large number of variables

## **Arrays offers a solution**

Array : An Object which is an ordered collection of data items. These data items could be

- primitive types.
- references to objects of a class.







## Manipulating the contents of array ${\cal A}$

- A has four variables of type  $\operatorname{int}$
- A[0] represent the first variable, A[1] the second variable, ..., A[3] the last variable.
- Each A[i], for  $0 \le i \le 3$ , can be treated as a single independent variable.













## More on arrays

- 1. the number of elements in an array is called **length** of an array.
- 2. array\_name.length returns the length of the array array\_name.
- 3. For example, A.length will be equal to 3.
- 4. Length of an array object once created can never be altered.

# A nice problem to work during vacations

## **Design a class My\_integers**

which could be used for storing all integers in the range of **long** and could support the following arithmetic operations **without worrying about overflow**.

- Addition of My\_integers
- Multiplication of My\_integers
- Subtraction of My\_integers.
- Computing  $\mathbf{m}^t$  where  $\mathbf{m}$  is a My\_integer number and  $\mathbf{t}$  is an integer of type byte.