Inheritance

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Quick Review of Last Lecture

Passing Arguments

- Another important issue related to method design involves parameter passing
- Parameters in a Java method are passed by value
- A copy of the actual parameter (the value passed in) is stored into the formal parameter (in the method header)
- Therefore passing parameters is similar to an assignment statement

Example: PassByValue.java

Variable Assignment Revisited

- The act of assignment takes a copy of a value and stores it in a variable
- For primitive types:

```
Before: num1 = 38
        num2 = 96

num2 = num1;

After:  num1 = 38
        num2 = 38
```
Parameter Passing (primitive types)

- The act of passing an argument takes a copy of a value and stores it in a local variable accessible only to the method which is being called.

```
int num1=38;
void myMethod(int num2) {
    num2 =50;
}
myMethod(num1);
```

Before: num1 38
After: num1 38

Objects and Reference Variables

```
acct1 acctNumber 72354
    balance: 102.56
    name: "Ted Murphy"
acct2 acctNumber 69713
    balance: 40.00
    name: "Jane Smith"
```

References

- Note that a primitive variable contains the value itself, but an object variable contains the address of the object.
- An object reference can be thought of as a pointer to the location of the object.
- Rather than dealing with arbitrary addresses, we often depict a reference graphically.

```
num1 38
name1 "Steve Jobs"
```

Reference Assignment

- For object references, assignment copies the address.

```
name1 "Steve Jobs"
name2 = name1;
```

Aliases

- Two or more references that refer to the same object are called aliases of each other.
- That creates an interesting situation: one object can be accessed using multiple reference variables.
- Aliases can be useful, but should be managed carefully.
- Changing an object through one reference changes it for all of its aliases, because there is really only one object.

```
void myMethod(int[] b) {
    b[0]=5;
}
myMethod(a);
```

Parameter Passing (objects)

- Objects (in this case arrays) are also passed by value. In this case, however, the value is the address of the object pointed to by the reference variable.

```
int[] a={5, 7};
void myMethod(int[] b) {
    b[0]=5;
}
myMethod(a);
```
In the previous example there is only one array and two references to it.

The array can be modified through either reference.

Figure 6.5

Objects as Parameters

- When an object is passed to a method, the actual parameter and the formal parameter become aliases of each other

Passing Objects to Methods

- What a method does with a parameter may or may not have a permanent effect (outside the method)
- See ParameterTester.java (page 327)
- See ParameterModifier.java (page 329)
- See Num.java (page 330)
- Note the difference between changing the internal state of an object versus changing which object a reference points to

Method Overloading

- Method overloading is the process of giving a single method name multiple definitions
- If a method is overloaded, the method name is not sufficient to determine which method is being called
- The signature of each overloaded method must be unique
- The signature includes the number, type, and order of the parameters
Method Overloading

- The compiler determines which method is being invoked by analyzing the parameters

```java
float tryMe(int x)
{
    return x + .375;
}

float tryMe(int x, float y)
{
    return x*y;
}
```

Invocation

```java
result = tryMe(25, 4.32)
```

Method Overloading

- The `println` method is overloaded:
  ```java
  println (String s)
  println (int i)
  println (double d)
  ```
  and so on...

- The following lines invoke different versions of the `println` method:
  ```java
  System.out.println ("The total is:");
  System.out.println (total);
  ```

Overloading Methods

- The return type of the method is not part of the signature
- That is, overloaded methods cannot differ only by their return type
- Constructors can be overloaded
- Overloaded constructors provide multiple ways to initialize a new object

Inheritance

- Inheritance is a fundamental object-oriented design technique used to create and organize reusable classes
- Chapter 8 focuses on:
  - deriving new classes from existing classes
  - the `protected` modifier
  - creating class hierarchies
  - abstract classes
  - indirect visibility of inherited members
  - designing for inheritance
  - the GUI component class hierarchy
  - extending listener adapter classes
  - the `Timer` class

Chapter 8
Section 8.1
Inheritance

- Inheritance allows a software developer to derive a new class from an existing one
- The existing class is called the parent class, or superclass, or base class
- The derived class is called the child class or subclass
- As the name implies, the child inherits characteristics of the parent
- That is, the child class inherits the methods and data defined by the parent class
Inheritance

- A programmer can tailor a derived class as needed by adding new variables or methods, or by modifying the inherited ones
- Software reuse is a fundamental benefit of inheritance
- By using existing software components to create new ones, we capitalize on all the effort that went into the design, implementation, and testing of the existing software

Deriving Subclasses

- In Java, we use the reserved word extends to establish an inheritance relationship

```java
class Car extends Vehicle
{
    // class contents
}
```

- See Words.java (page 440)
- See Book.java (page 441)
- See Dictionary.java (page 442)

Class Diagram for Words

THE END