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AP CS Unit 4: Classes and Objects

Notes

An object is something that contains both data and methods. What data and what methods depend on its class. A class is generally used as a “blueprint” to create objects. In technical terms, a class models/defines the data and behavior associated with some entity.

Example:

Server	the class	Client	the program to run a class
	public class Square { private int side; public Square(int x) { side = x; } public int area() { int a = side*side; return a; } public void set(int x){ side = x; }		public class Runner { public static void main(String[] args) { <u>constructor</u> <u>accessor method</u> <u>mutator method - an instance variable is changed.</u> }

A class consists of:

Instance variables: for square this is side only, notice it is private.
we will always do this!

Constructors `Square(int v)` has parameter

Keep in mind that constructors can be numerous!
(may have different parameters as well)

An object is an instance of a class. A constructor is used to construct/instantiate an object.

Methods `area()` this method returns an integer value

Visibility Modifiers

public outside clients / programs can use these to perform a job on / with object
private only accessible within class itself

Methods have three parts: a type, modifier, and parameters.
 Here are the two methods of the Square class.

<code>public int area() { int a = side*side; return a; }</code>	<code>public void set(int x) { side = x; }</code>
---	---

A return statement causes the program to exit the method. Let's consider three examples:

If we call method1 and n equals 3, what does the method return? does not compile.

otherwise 12

If we call method1 and n equals -22, what does the method return?

dn c

otherwise 6

If we call method2 and the parameters are 3 and 5, what is displayed?

hey

Notice that this return statement (1) returns nothing and (2) causes the program to exit early.

method3 causes this compiler error:

unreachable statement

What does this mean?

$c = c + 3$ is never executed

`public double method1(int n) {`

`if (n < 0) {
 return 6;`

`int b = 4*n;
 return b;`

`}`

`public void method2(int a, int b) {`

`int c = a + b;`

`if (c % 2 == 0) {`

`System.out.println("hey");`

`return;`

`}`

`System.out.println("joe");`

`}`

`public int method3(int c) {`

`c = c + 2;`

`return c;`

`c = c + 3;`

`}`

In the context of a class, all variables fall into one of three categories:

- instance variables
- parameters
- local variables

Name any instance variables side

Name any parameters int x

Name any local variables int a in area()

Only one line generates the compiler error:

variable _____ might not have been initialized

Which line is it? 4

`public void method4(int h) {`

`int g = h + k;`

`}`

`public void method5(int n) { // 1`

`int a; // 2`

`System.out.println(n); // 3`

`System.out.println(a); // 4`

Two Common Terms. If a method changes the value of an instance variable, then it is called a modifier or mutation or instance method. If a method returns the value of an instance variable, then it is called an accessor or return method.

The Difference between Primitive and Object (aka Reference) Data Types

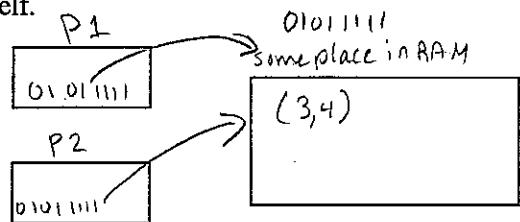
Types. First, remember the definition of a variable. A variable is a storage place. So, an obvious question is: what is stored in a particular variable? For primitive data types (e.g. int and double) the answer is easy. The variable stores the data.

```
int x = 78;
int y = x;
```

x
78
y
78

For object variables, the answer is more complicated. An object variable contains a reference to an object - not the object itself.

```
Point p1 = new Point( 3, 4 );
Point p2;
p2 = p1;
```



1. How many Point objects does this code create? <u>0</u>	Point x1; Point x2;
2. How many Point objects does this code create? <u>1</u>	Point x3 = new Point(17, -22); Point x4 = x3;

null is a special value that can be assigned to any object variable. This indicates that the variable no longer contains a reference to an object. For example: doesn't point to any space in memory

If an object is instantiated but at some later time no variable contains a reference to that object, the JVM will delete that object in a process called garbage collection. For example:

```
Point man = new Point( -1, 0 );
man = null; // point to nothing
```

If you attempt to call a method but the object variable does not contain a reference to an object, then you will get this runtime error: null pointer error. For example:

```
Point pt = null;
double d = pt.distance( 0, 5.5 );      // run time error
```

Another Data Type. So far we have used two types of primitive variables: ints and doubles.

Another data type is the boolean data type. Variables of type boolean have a value of true or false. Wherever you can use a boolean expression, you may also use a boolean variable.

Example 1. Here is one way a boolean variable may be used. In this context it is called a conditional or loop control because it signals when to keep playing and when to stop.

```
boolean game_on = true;           "state" of an object
while ( game_on ){               better.
    int n = (int) (7*Math.random()) + 2;
    System.out.println( n );
    if ( n == 4 )
        game_on = false;
}
```

booleans can show

Example 2. boolean is a common parameter type and return type for methods.

```
import java.util.Scanner;

public class Runner {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner in = new Scanner( System.in );
        System.out.print( "Enter a number: " );
        double n = in.nextDouble();

        Calculator c = new Calculator();
        c.set( true ); // turns calc on
        double x = c.squareIt( n );
        System.out.println( x );
    }
}
```

```
public class Calculator {
    private boolean on;

    public Calculator() {
        on = false;   ← when constructed
    }

    public double squareIt( double a ) {
        if ( on )
            return a*a;
        else
            return -1;
    }

    public void set( boolean b ) {
        on = b;
    }
}
```

The Not Operator. We have already covered the AND (`&&`) and OR (`||`) operators. A third logical operator is the NOT (`!`) operator. Here are some examples:

1. What is displayed?	<code>false</code>	<code>boolean boo = true; boo = !boo; System.out.println(boo);</code>
2. Will the code execute if $a = 4$, $b = 4$, and $c = 8$?	yes	<code>while (!(a == b && b == c)){ // code }</code>
3. Name values that will cause the loop to terminate.	$c = 4$ also	

$a = b = c$

primitives:

byte
short
int ← →
long
float
double ← →
char
boolean ← →

& java subset

char character not on java subset for AP CS

char 16 bits (unsigned) 2^{16} possibilities

the variable is holding a reference to the object

The String Class. A String object represents a sequence of one or more characters where a character could be a letter, digit, or punctuation mark. Each character in a string has a unique index starting at 0 ← very important

String s = "jump now"; // the u is at index 1, the n is at index 5

Commonly Used String Methods

Signature/Header	Example
int length()	int i = "mod 4/5".length(); System.out.println(i); prints 7

if not found, returns a -1

Signature/Header	Examples
int indexOf(String s)	String s1 = "bubbles"; int x = s1.indexOf("b"); 0 int y = s1.indexOf("bb"); 2 System.out.println(x + ", " + y); 2
int indexOf(String s, int i)	String s1 = "bubbles"; int x = s1.indexOf("b", 1); 2 int y = s1.indexOf("bb", 3); -1 System.out.println(x + ", " + y); 1

note: strings are immutable objects. notice below we create a new string to hold part of original string. immutable - unable to change

Signature/Header	Examples
String substring(int start)	String s1 = "phone"; String s2 = s1.substring(2); s2 = one System.out.println(s2);
String substring(int start, int end)	String s1 = "phone"; String s2 = s1.substring(0, 2); System.out.println(s2); pho
Comments	0 up to but not including 2, means position 0 to 1 so 2 characters are printed.

Signature/Header	Example
boolean equals(Object obj)	String s1 = "a"; String s2 = "A"; if (s1.equals(s2)) System.out.println("ok");

comes from Object class, a method.

`==` checks equality of primitive data types

if you use `==` w/ objects, you will merely be comparing the reference pointers. ie `s1 == s2` will see if ^{Page 5} `s1` and `s2` point to the same space in memory! ("referential equality")

in string class this means `s1.equals(s2)` if the strings are exactly the same including case. mention `equalsIgnoreCase()`

Signature/Header	Example
String toLowerCase()	String s1 = "4 SALE!"; s1 = s1.toLowerCase(); System.out.println(s1);

The above example prints 4 sale!

This method did not change s1. It returned a reference to a new string that was assigned to s1.
bc strings are immutable objects.

Signature/Header	Example
String toUpperCase()	String s1 = "What ?"; s1 = s1.toUpperCase(); System.out.println(s1);

The above example prints WHAT ?

This method did not change s1. It returned a reference to a new string that was assigned to s1.

Signature/Header	Example
String trim() removes leading and trailing pieces	String s1 = " a b "; System.out.println(s1.length()); s1 = s1.trim(); System.out.println(s1.length());

The above example prints 9 and then 3.

A Few Last Topics.

- (1) The term state refers to the data in an object. The state of a String object refers to the characters in the String. The String class has no mutator methods. Strings are immutable. For example, toUpperCase does NOT make all the letters in a String uppercase; toUpperCase stores the original string changed to uppercase characters in a new string! if you use the same name as in the last example*, the original string is overwritten!
- (2) String literals are String objects. For example:

```
int n = "hi".length();
```

- (3) The primitive type *char* represents a single character. It is not on the AP exam but can be useful. For example:

```
char letter = 'a';  
String word1 = letter + "ok"; // this compiles  
String word2 = letter + letter; // this does not compile
```

note, you use single quotes. concatenation

- (4) Some useful escape characters are: \n new line, \t tab, \' prints "
over
(indent)
- ```
String s = "Say\n\"bye\"";
System.out.println(s);
System.out.println(s.length());
```