



CS 11 java track: lecture 3

- This week:
 - documentation (javadoc)
 - exception handling
 - more on object-oriented programming (OOP)
 - inheritance and polymorphism
 - abstract classes and interfaces
 - graphical user interfaces (GUIs)



javadoc (1)

- three ways to write comments:

```
// this way (to end of line)
```

```
/* this way (to closing star-slash) */
```

```
/**
```

```
 * this way (javadoc style)
```

```
 */
```



javadoc (2)

```
/**
 * This is a javadoc comment for a method. Note
 * the two asterisks after the starting "/".
 *
 * @param foo This is a comment for the argument "foo".
 * @return This describes the return value.
 */
public int myMethod(double foo) {
    // code goes here
}
```



javadoc (3)

- Javadoc comment tags:
 - @param – describes an argument
 - @return – describes the return value
 - @throws – describes an exception that can be thrown
- Can use the "javadoc" tool to generate HTML documentation from classes this way
 - but we won't (you can try if you want)



Exception handling

- Purpose of exceptions
 - deal with "exceptional situations"
 - errors (*e.g.* divide by zero)
 - rare occurrences (*e.g.* end of file when reading)
 - normal flow of control won't work
 - don't want to clutter the code with lots of tests



Syntax

- syntax of exceptions

```
try {  
    // some code that might throw an exception  
} catch (IOException e) {  
    // code to handle IO exceptions  
} catch (Exception e) {  
    // code to handle all other exceptions  
} finally {  
    // Do this whether or not an exception  
    // was thrown.  
}
```



More about exception syntax

- can have
 - **try** and one **catch**
 - **try** and several **catches**
 - **try** and **finally**
 - **try, catch, finally**
 - **try, several catches, finally**
- most of the code will be in the **try** block



try/catch/finally

- meaning of **try/catch/finally**:
 - try to execute the code in this block
 - if an exception is thrown, look at the **catch** blocks
 - if one of them identifies the type of the exception, execute that block; else go to the next block
 - type of exception == same class or a subclass
 - if there is a **finally** block, execute it after the **try** block and any **catch** blocks
 - even if a new exception is thrown



finally

- **finally** blocks are rare
- usually used to "clean up" before exiting a method
 - *e.g.* close a file that was opened in a **try** block
- even if a new exception gets thrown in the **try** block or in a **catch** block, **finally** block still gets executed



throw

- if you want to *generate* an exception you must **throw** it

```
if (something_bad_happens()) {  
    throw new Exception("BAD!");  
}
```

- exceptions are classes (need **new**)
- exception constructors can take arguments
 - usually just pass a string with a message



checked exceptions (1)

- most exceptions in java are *checked exceptions*
- this means that code that can throw an exception must either
 - be in a try/catch block
 - be in a method that declares that it throws that exception



checked exceptions (2)

- say your method can throw an IOException

```
public void myMethod() {  
    try {  
        // code that may throw IOException  
    }  
    catch (IOException e) {  
        // handle the exception  
    }  
}
```



checked exceptions (3)

- alternatively...

```
public void myMethod() throws IOException {  
    // code that may throw IOException  
}
```

- now don't need the try/catch blocks
- could just declare that all methods throw Exception (but that's lame)



RuntimeExceptions

- some exceptions are so unpredictable or can happen in so many places that having to check for them would be unbearably tedious
e.g.
 - divide by zero (`ArithmeticException`)
 - array bounds violations (`ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException`)
- these are `RuntimeExceptions`
 - don't have to be caught or declared
 - can still catch or declare if you want



catch-all exception handlers

- can catch ALL exceptions this way:

```
try {  
    // code that can throw exceptions  
} catch (Exception e) {  
    // handle all exceptions e.g.  
    System.out.println(e);  
}
```

- NOT good practice
- should catch specific exceptions; use catch-all exceptions only after catching specific exceptions if at all



back to OOP -- inheritance

- consider:

```
// base class
public class Vehicle {
    private double accel;
    protected int numberOfWheels;
    public Point2d getPosition() { /* ... */ }
    public float getVelocity() { /* ... */ }
}
```




inheritance (2)

```
// subclass
public class MotorVehicle extends Vehicle {
    private double fuel;
    public float getFuelRemaining() { /* ... */ }
    public String getLicensePlate() { /* ... */ }
    // override base class method:
    public float getVelocity() { /* ... */ }
}
```



inheritance (3)

- subclass has an "is-a" relationship to base class (also called "superclass")
- `MotorVehicle` "is-a" `Vehicle`
 - we say it "inherits from" `Vehicle`
- instance of `MotorVehicle` can call `getPosition()`, `getVelocity()` (superclass methods) – gets them "for free"
- can also call `getFuelRemaining()` or `getLicensePlate()` (new methods)



inheritance (4)

- can override superclass methods in subclass
 - *e.g.* new `getVelocity()` method in `MotorVehicle`
- can also add new fields or new methods
- **private** fields and methods not accessible to subclasses
- **protected** fields and methods are accessible to subclasses



polymorphism (1)

- the "big idea" in object-oriented programming
- basic idea: the appropriate method is chosen based on the object that the method is called on
- vague enough for you?
- example...



polymorphism (2)

```
Vehicle v = new Vehicle();
MotorVehicle mv = new MotorVehicle();
mv = v; // DOES NOT COMPILE!
        // Not all Vehicles are MotorVehicles!
v = mv; // OK: all MotorVehicles are Vehicles.
        // DOES NOT "convert" mv to a Vehicle.
System.out.println(v.getVelocity());
// Which getVelocity() method gets called?

// ANSWER: the MotorVehicle getVelocity() method.
// v is still a MotorVehicle.
```



abstract classes (1)

- a class with some methods unimplemented is an **abstract class**
- such a class cannot be instantiated
- can be used to make subclasses that can be instantiated ("concrete" subclasses)
- methods declared with the keyword **abstract** aren't defined
- class also has to have the **abstract** keyword



abstract classes (2)

```
abstract class Shape {  
    Point2d center;  
    abstract void draw();  
}  
  
class Circle extends Shape {  
    void draw() { /* draw a Circle */ }  
}  
  
class Rectangle extends Shape {  
    void draw() { /* draw a Rectangle */ }  
}
```



abstract classes (3)

```
Shape s = new Shape(); // COMPILE ERROR
```

```
Shape s = new Rectangle(); // OK
```

```
s.draw(); // draws a Rectangle
```




interfaces (1)

- an abstract class with no fields and *only* abstract methods can also be called an **interface**

```
interface Drawable {  
    public void draw();  
}
```



interfaces (2)

- why bother having interfaces?
- why not just have abstract classes?
- answer: a class can **extend** only one class (abstract or not), but can **implement** any number of interfaces
- this is how java handles what would require multiple inheritance in *e.g.* C++
- interfaces specify behavior **ONLY** – *not* implementation



interfaces (3)

- subtle point:
- if a class is a subclass of a class which implements an interface Foo, then the subclass also implements interface Foo (you don't have to re-declare it)



default constructors

- every class has a no-argument constructor
- if you don't explicitly supply one, one is created for you that does nothing
 - this is the "default constructor"



inheritance and constructors

- **super**(arg1, arg2, ...);
 - calls the superclass constructor with arguments arg1, arg2, etc.
 - can only be called inside a subclass constructor
 - if called, must be the first statement in the constructor
 - if not called, the default superclass constructor is automatically called
 - used to make initialization easier
 - only need to initialize new fields



graphical user interfaces (GUIs)

- GUIs are composed of buttons, frames, windows, menus, sliders, etc.
- usual way of interfacing with interactive programs
- in java, two main sets of libraries for GUIs:
 - AWT (Abstract Windowing Toolkit)
 - Swing (more advanced and nicer-looking)



GUI inheritance hierarchy

- long inheritance tree for GUI classes:

`java.lang.Object`

|

+--`java.awt.Component`

|

+--`java.awt.Container`

|

+--`javax.swing.JComponent`

|

+--`javax.swing.AbstractButton`

|

+--`javax.swing.JButton`



GUI objects

- first do this:

```
import javax.swing.*; // all of the Swing classes
import java.awt.*;    // fundamental GUI classes
```

- GUI objects:

- JFrame: a window
- Container: window, not incl. menus, titlebar, etc.
- JButton: a button
- and lots more...



next week

- arrays
- listener classes
- inner classes
- anonymous inner classes