CSE 142, Spring 2013

Chapter 2 Lecture 2-3: Loop Figures and Constants

reading: 2.4 - 2.5

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Drawing complex figures

- Use nested for loops to produce the following output.
- Why draw ASCII art?
 - Real graphics require a lot of finesse
 - ASCII art has complex patterns
 - Can focus on the algorithms



Development strategy

- Recommendations for managing complexity:
 - 1. Design the program (think about steps or methods needed).
 - write an English description of steps required
 - use this description to decide the methods
 - 2. Create a table of patterns of characters
 - use table to write your for loops



1. Pseudo-code

- **pseudo-code**: An English description of an algorithm.
- Example: Drawing a 12 wide by 7 tall box of stars

print 12 stars. for (each of 5 lines) { print a star. ******* print 10 spaces. * * * * print a star. * * } * * print 12 stars. * * *******

2. Tables

- A table for the top half:
 - Compute spaces and dots expressions from line number

line	spaces	line * -2 + 8	dots	4 * line - 4	
1	6	6	0	0	#======================================
2	4	4	4	4	<><> <><>
3	2	2	8	8	<><>
4	0	0	12	12	
					<> <> <><>><> <><>><>

Scaling the mirror

- Let's modify our Mirror program so that it can scale.
 - The current mirror (left) is at size 4; the right is at size 3.
- We'd like to structure the code so we can scale the figure by changing the code in just one place.



Limitations of variables

- Idea: Make a variable to represent the size.
 - Use the variable's value in the methods.
- Problem: A variable in one method can't be seen in others.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int size = 4;
    topHalf();
   printBottom();
public static void topHalf() {
    for (int i = 1; i <= size; i++) { // ERROR: size not found
public static void bottomHalf() {
    for (int i = size; i >= 1; i--) { // ERROR: size not found
        . . .
```

Class constants

• **class constant**: A fixed value visible to the whole program.

- value can be set only at declaration; cannot be reassigned
- Syntax:

public static final type name = value;

- name is usually in ALL_UPPER_CASE
- Examples: public static final int DAYS_IN_WEEK = 7; public static final double INTEREST_RATE = 3.5; public static final int SSN = 658234569;

Observations about constant

The constant can change the "intercept" in an expression.
Usually the "slope" is unchanged.

```
public static final int SIZE = 4;
for (int space = 1; space <= (line * -2 + (2 * SIZE)); space++) {
    System.out.print(" ");
}
```

It doesn't replace every occurrence of the original value.

```
for (int dot = 1; dot <= (line * 4 - 4); dot++) {
    System.out.print(".");
}</pre>
```