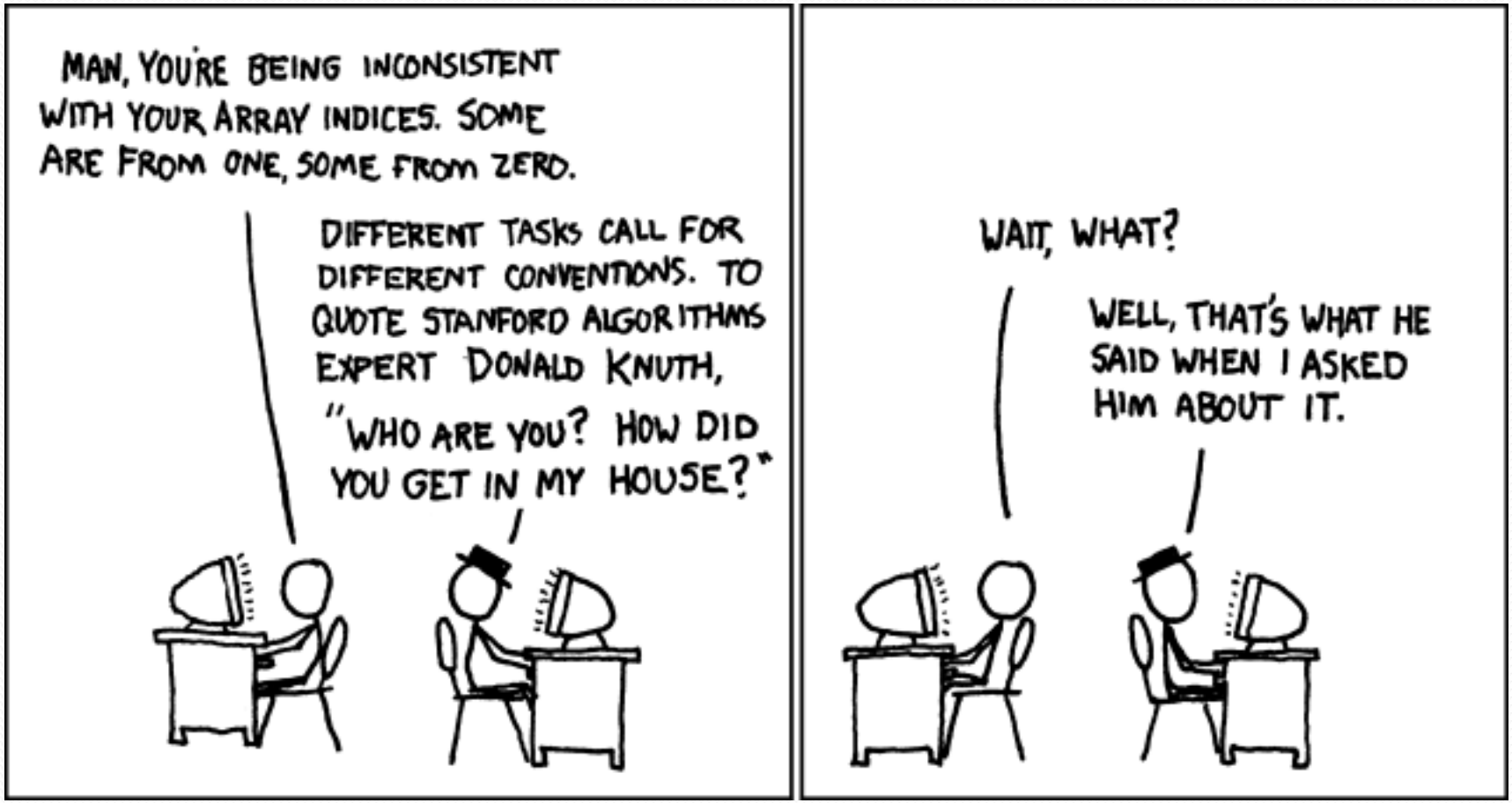
CSE 142, Spring 2013

Chapter 8

Lecture 8-2: Object Behavior (Methods) and Constructors

reading: 8.2 - 8.3



Why objects?

- Primitive types don't model complex concepts well
  - Cost is a double. What's a person?
  - Classes are a way to define new types
  - Many objects can be made from those types

- Values of the same type often are used in similar ways
  - Promote code reuse through instance methods

Client code redundancy

- Suppose our client program wants to draw `Point` objects:

```
// draw each city
Point p1 = new Point();
p1.x = 15;
p1.y = 37;
g.fillOval(p1.x, p1.y, 3, 3);
g.drawString("(" + p1.x + ", " + p1.y + ")", p1.x, p1.y);
```

- To draw other points, the same code must be repeated.
  - We can remove this redundancy using a method.

Eliminating redundancy, v1

- We can eliminate the redundancy with a static method:

```
// Draws the given point on the DrawingPanel.
public static void draw(Point p, Graphics g) {
    g.fillOval(p.x, p.y, 3, 3);
    g.drawString("(" + p.x + ", " + p.y + ")", p.x, p.y);
}
```

- `main` would call the method as follows:

```
draw(p1, g);
```

Problems with static solution

- We are missing a major benefit of objects: code reuse.
  - Every program that draws `Point`s would need a `draw` method.

- The syntax doesn't match how we're used to using objects.

```
draw(p1, g);     // static (bad)
```

- The point of classes is to combine state and behavior.
  - The `draw` behavior is closely related to a `Point`'s data.
  - The method belongs *inside* each `Point` object.

```
p1.draw(g);      // inside the object (better)
```

Instance methods

- **instance method** (or **object method**): Exists inside each object of a class and gives behavior to each object.

```
public type name(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

  - same syntax as static methods, but without `static` keyword

Example:

```
public void shout() {
    System.out.println("HELLO THERE!");
}
```

The implicit parameter

- **implicit parameter**:
  The object on which an instance method is called.
  - During the call `p1.draw(g);`
    the object referred to by `p1` is the implicit parameter.
  - During the call `p2.draw(g);`
    the object referred to by `p2` is the implicit parameter.
  - The instance method can refer to that object's fields.
    - We say that it executes in the *context* of a particular object.
    - `draw` can refer to the `x` and `y` of the object it was called on.

`Point` class, version 2

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    // Changes the location of this Point object.
    public void draw(Graphics g) {
        g.fillOval(x, y, 3, 3);
        g.drawString("(" + x + ", " + y + ")", x, y);
    }
}
```

- Each `Point` object contains a `draw` method that draws that point at its current `x`/`y` position.

Class method questions

- Write a method `translate` that changes a `Point`'s location by a given *dx*, *dy* amount.

- Write a method `distanceFromOrigin` that returns the distance between a `Point` and the origin, (0, 0).

  Use the formula: $\sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$

  - Modify the `Point` and client code to use these methods.

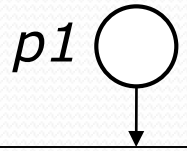
Class method answers

```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
        x = x + dx;
        y = y + dy;
    }

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

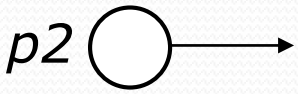
`Point` objects w/ method

- Each `Point` object has its own copy of the `distanceFromOrigin` method, which operates on that object's state:

```
Point p1 = new Point();
p1.x = 7;
p1.y = 2;

Point p2 = new Point();
p2.x = 4;
p2.y = 3;

p1.distanceFromOrigin();
p2.distanceFromOrigin();
```




```
x 7  y 2

public double distanceFromOrigin() {
    // this code can see p1's x and y
    return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);
}
```




```
x 4  y 3

public double distanceFromOrigin() {
    // this code can see p2's x and y
    return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);
}
```

Kinds of methods

- **accessor**: A method that lets clients examine object state.
  - Examples: `distance`, `distanceFromOrigin`
  - often has a non-`void` return type

- **mutator**: A method that modifies an object's state.
  - Examples: `setLocation`, `translate`

Initializing objects

- Currently it takes 3 lines to create a `Point` and initialize it:

```
Point p = new Point();
p.x = 3;
p.y = 8;                          // tedious
```

- We'd rather specify the fields' initial values at the start:

```
Point p = new Point(3, 8);    // desired; doesn't work (yet)
```

  - We are able to this with most types of objects in Java.

Constructors

- **constructor**: Initializes the state of new objects.

```
public type(parameters) {
    statements;
}
```

  - runs when the client uses the `new` keyword
  - no return type is specified;
    it implicitly "returns" the new object being created

  - If a class has no constructor, Java gives it a *default constructor* with no parameters that sets all fields to 0.

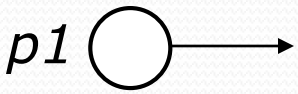
Constructor example

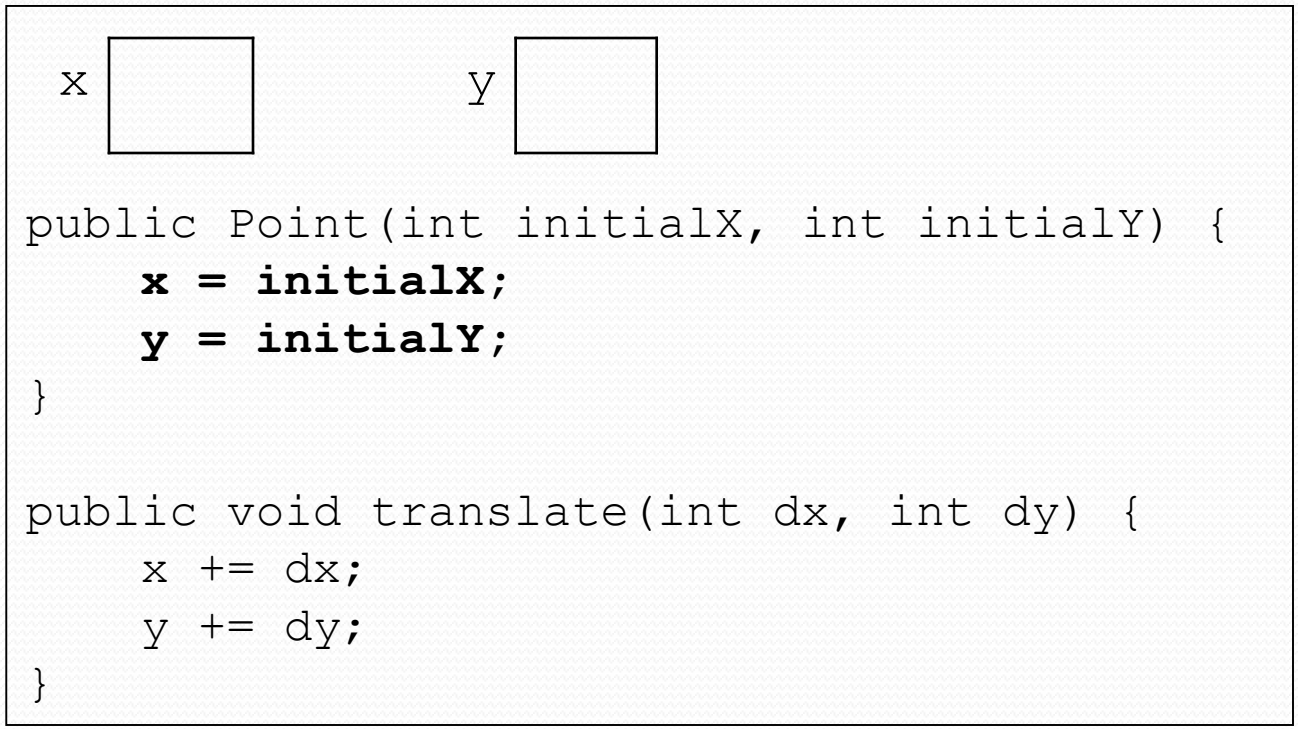
```
public class Point {
    int x;
    int y;

    // Constructs a Point at the given x/y location.
    public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
        x = initialX;
        y = initialY;
    }


    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
        x = x + dx;
        y = y + dy;
    }

    ...
}
```

Tracing a constructor call

- What happens when the following call is made?

```
Point p1 = new Point(7, 2);
```






```
public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
    x = initialX;
    y = initialY;
}

public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
    x += dx;
    y += dy;
}
```

Common constructor bugs

1. Re-declaring fields as local variables ("shadowing"):

```
public Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
    int x = initialX;
    int y = initialY;
}
```

- This declares local variables with the same name as the fields, rather than storing values into the fields. The fields remain 0.

2. Accidentally giving the constructor a return type:

```
public void Point(int initialX, int initialY) {
    x = initialX;
    y = initialY;
}
```

- This is actually not a constructor, but a method named `Point`

Client code, version 3

```
public class PointMain3 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // create two Point objects
        Point p1 = new Point(5, 2);
        Point p2 = new Point(4, 3);

        // print each point
        System.out.println("p1: (" + p1.x + ", " + p1.y + ")");
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.x + ", " + p2.y + ")");

        // move p2 and then print it again
        p2.translate(2, 4);
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.x + ", " + p2.y + ")");
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
p1: (5, 2)
p2: (4, 3)
p2: (6, 7)
```

Multiple constructors

- A class can have multiple constructors.
  - Each one must accept a unique set of parameters.

- *Exercise:* Write a `Point` constructor with no parameters that initializes the point to (0, 0).

```
// Constructs a new point at (0, 0).
public Point() {
    x = 0;
    y = 0;
}
```

Printing objects

- By default, Java doesn't know how to print objects:

```
Point p = new Point();
p.x = 10;
p.y = 7;
System.out.println("p is " + p);  // p is Point@9e8c34


// better, but cumbersome;              p is (10, 7)
System.out.println("p is (" + p.x + ", " + p.y + ")");


// desired behavior
System.out.println("p is " + p);  // p is (10, 7)
```

The `toString` method

tells Java how to convert an object into a `String`

```
Point p1 = new Point(7, 2);
System.out.println("p1: " + p1);

// the above code is really calling the following:
System.out.println("p1: " + p1.toString());
```

- Every class has a `toString`, even if it isn't in your code.
  - Default: class's name `@` object's memory address (base 16)

```
Point@9e8c34
```

`toString` syntax

```
public String toString() {
    code that returns a String representing this object;
}
```

- Method name, return, and parameters must match exactly.
- Example:

```
// Returns a String representing this Point.
public String toString() {
    return "(" + x + ", " + y + ")";
}
```