Building Java Programs

Chapter 8

Lecture 8-2: Constructors and Encapsulation

reading: 8.3 - 8.4

Object initialization: constructors

reading: 8.4

self-check: #10-12

exercises: #9, 11, 14, 16

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 pass the fields' initial values as parameters:

```
Point p = new Point(3, 8);    // better!
```

  - 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
  - does not specify a return type;
    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 += dx;
        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;
}
```

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)
```

Common constructor bugs

- Accidentally writing a return type such as `void`:

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

  - This is not a constructor at all, but a method!

- Storing into local variables instead of fields ("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.

Multiple constructors

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

- Write a constructor for Point objects that accepts no parameters and initializes the point to the origin, (0, 0).

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

Encapsulation

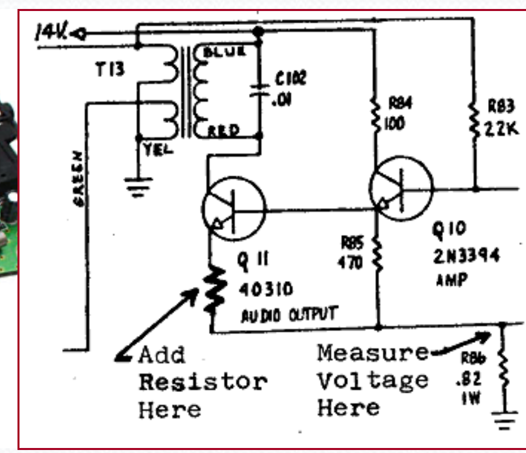
reading: 8.5 - 8.6

self-check: #13-17

exercises: #5

Encapsulation

- **encapsulation**: Hiding implementation details of an object from its clients.
  - Encapsulation provides *abstraction*.
    - separates external view (behavior) from internal view (state)
  - Encapsulation protects the integrity of an object's data.



Private fields

- A field can be declared *private*.
  - No code outside the class can access or change it.

```
private type name;
```

  - Examples:

```
private int id;
private String name;
```

- Client code sees an error when accessing private fields:

```
PointMain.java:11: x has private access in Point
System.out.println("p1 is (" + p1.x + ", " + p1.y + ")");
                                 ^
```

Accessing private state

- We can provide methods to get and/or set a field's value:

```
// A "read-only" access to the x field ("accessor")
public int getX() {
    return x;
}

// Allows clients to change the x field ("mutator")
public void setX(int newX) {
    x = newX;
}
```

  - Client code will look more like this:

```
System.out.println("p1: (" + p1.getX() + ", " + p1.getY() + ")");
p1.setX(14);
```

Point class, version 4

```
// A Point object represents an (x, y) location.
public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;

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

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

    public int getX() {
        return x;
    }

    public int getY() {
        return y;
    }

    public void setLocation(int newX, int newY) {
        x = newX;
        y = newY;
    }

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

Client code, version 4

```
public class PointMain4 {
    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.getX() + ", " + p1.getY() + ")");
        System.out.println("p2: (" + p2.getX() + ", " + p2.getY() + ")");

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

OUTPUT:

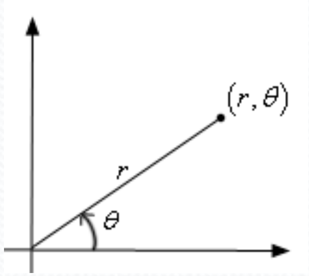
```
p1 is (5, 2)
p2 is (4, 3)
p2 is (6, 7)
```

Benefits of encapsulation

- Provides abstraction between an object and its clients.

- Protects an object from unwanted access by clients.
  - A bank app forbids a client to change an `Account`'s balance.

- Allows you to change the class implementation.
  - `Point` could be rewritten to use polar coordinates (radius *r*, angle *θ*), but with the same methods.



- Allows you to constrain objects' state (**invariants**).
  - Example: Only allow `Point`s with non-negative coordinates.