Topic 28
classes and objects, part 2

Encapsulation

- **encapsulation**: Hiding implementation details from clients.

  - Encapsulation forces *abstraction*.
    - separates external view (behavior) from internal view (state)
    - protects the integrity of an object’s data

Private fields

A field that cannot be accessed from outside the class

```java
private type name;
```

- Examples:
  ```java
  private int id;
  private String name;
  ```

- Client code won't compile if it accesses private fields:
  ```java
  PointMain.java:11: x has private access in Point
  System.out.println(p1.x);
  ```

Accessing private state

```java
// 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:
  ```java
  System.out.println(p1.getX());
  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 int getX() {
        return x;
    }
    public int getY() {
        return y;
    }
    public double distanceFromOrigin() {
        return Math.sqrt(x * x + y * y);
    }
    public void setLocation(int newX, int newY) {
        x = newX;
        y = newY;
    }
    public void translate(int dx, int dy) {
        setLocation(x + dx, y + dy);
    }
}

Benefits of encapsulation

- Abstraction between object and clients
- Protects object from unwanted access
  - Example: Can’t fraudulently increase an Account’s balance.
- Can change the class implementation later
  - Example: Point could be rewritten in polar coordinates (r, θ) with the same methods.
- Can constrain objects' state (invariants)
  - Example: Only allow Accounts with non-negative balance.
  - Example: Only allow Dates with a month from 1-12.

The this keyword

- this: Refers to the implicit parameter inside your class.
  (a variable that stores the object on which a method is called)
  - Refer to a field: this.field
  - Call a method: this.method(parameters);
  - One constructor can call another:
Variable shadowing

- **shadowing**: 2 variables with same name in same scope.
  - Normally illegal, except when one variable is a field.

  ```java
  public class Point {
    private int x;
    private int y;
    ...
    // this is legal
    public void setLocation(int x, int y) {
      this.x = x;
      this.y = y;
    }
  }
  ``

  - In most of the class, x and y refer to the fields.
  - In setLocation, x and y refer to the method's parameters.

Fixing shadowing

```java
public class Point {
  private int x;
  private int y;
  ...
  public void setLocation(int x, int y) {
    this.x = x;
    this.y = y;
  }
}
```

- Inside setLocation,
  - To refer to the data field x, say `this.x`
  - To refer to the parameter x, say x

Calling another constructor

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

  public Point() {
    this(0, 0); // calls (x, y) constructor
  }

  public Point(int x, int y) {
    this.x = x;
    this.y = y;
  }
  ...
}
```

- Avoids redundancy between constructors
- Only a constructor (not a method) can call another constructor