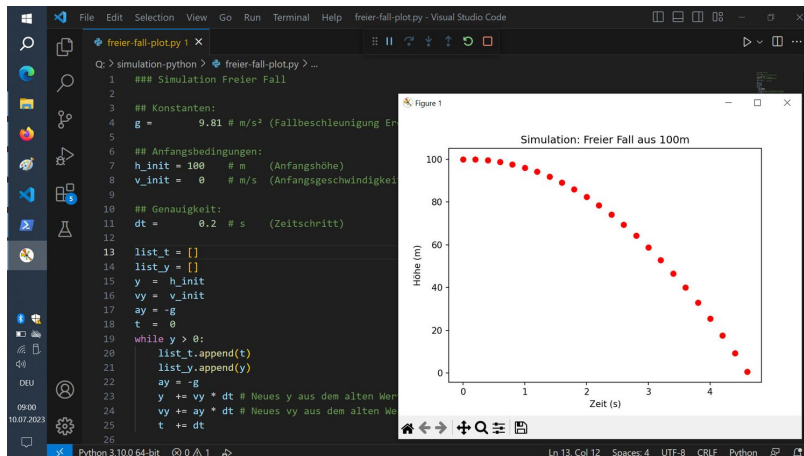


Using Objects and Methods

AP Computer Science A

Introduction to Algorithms, Programming, and Compilers



Source code on a workstation — programs are written, compiled, and run as precise instructions

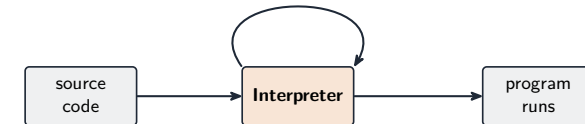
An **algorithm** 算法 is a finite, step-by-step procedure that solves a problem. A **program** 程序 expresses an algorithm in a language a computer can run. Java is **compiled** 编译: the **compiler** 编译器 translates your source code into **bytecode**, which the **Java Virtual Machine (JVM)** runs. A **syntax error** 语法错误 (breaking the grammar) is caught by the compiler; a **logic error** 逻辑错误 (wrong result) is not — the program runs but misbehaves.

Compiler — translate the whole program once



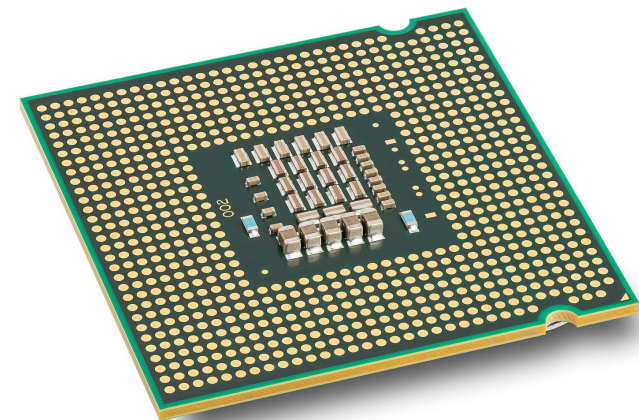
translated once; the machine code then runs many times

Interpreter — one line at a time



reads, translates and runs one line at a time (every run); stops at the first error

A compiler translates the whole program at once; an interpreter runs it line by line



Your Java program is compiled to instructions a CPU like one of these actually runs

Variables and Data Types

A **variable** 变量 is a named box that stores a value of a fixed **type** 类型. Java's main **primitive types** 基本类型 are **int** (whole numbers), **double** (decimals), and **boolean** (true/false). Declare with the type first:

type	stores	example
int	whole number	7
double	decimal number	3.5
char	one character	'A'
String	text (a sequence of chars)	"hello"
boolean	true or false	true

primitives: int, double, char, boolean · String is an object

Java's basic data types, each storing a different kind of value

```
int score = 90;
double price = 4.99;
boolean passed = true;
```

Expressions and Output

An **expression** 表达式 combines values and **operators** to compute a result: + - * / and % (**modulus** 取模, the remainder). **Integer division** truncates: 7 / 2 is 3, while 7 % 2 is 1. **Operator precedence** follows math (*, /, % before +, -). Print with:

```
System.out.print("no newline");
System.out.println("with newline");
```

Dividing an integer by the integer 0 (like 7 / 0) is not allowed and crashes at run time with an **ArithmeticException**. Inside a string, a backslash marks an **escape sequence** 转义序列: \" prints a double quote, \\ a single backslash, and \n starts a new line – so System.out.println("She said \"hi\""); prints She said "hi".

Assignment Statements and Input

An **assignment** 赋值 `x = expr;` evaluates the right side and stores it in the left variable. Read input with a **Scanner**:

```
Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in);
int age = in.nextInt();
String name = in.next();
```

Casting and Range of Variables

Each type has a fixed range; an **int** overflows past about 2.1 billion. **Casting** 类型转换 converts between types. Widening (int to double) is automatic; narrowing needs an explicit cast, which **truncates** (does not round):

```
double avg = (double) total / count; // force real division
int whole = (int) 3.9; // 3, truncated
```

Exam skill: watch for integer division producing a truncated result when a decimal was expected – cast one operand to **double** first.

Worked example. Trace each expression:

- 7 / 2 → 3 (both int, so division **truncates**);
- 7.0 / 2 → 3.5 (one double forces real division);
- 7 % 2 → 1 (the remainder);
- (double) 7 / 2 → 3.5 (the cast binds tighter than /, so it is 7.0 / 2);
- (double) (7 / 2) → 3.0 (the parentheses compute 7 / 2 = 3 in int **first**, then widen).

The last two look alike but differ – the position of the cast decides whether the truncation happens.

Compound Assignment Operators

Shorthands combine an operation with assignment: `x += 5` means `x = x + 5`; likewise `-=`, `*=`, `/=`, `%=`. The **increment** and **decrement** operators `x++` and `x--` add or subtract one.

Application Program Interface (API) and Libraries

An **API** (Application Programming Interface) 应用程序接口 is the published list of classes and methods you may use. A **library** 库 is a collection of ready-made classes (like `Math`, `String`, `Scanner`). You read the API documentation to learn what a method needs (its parameters) and returns, without seeing its inner code – an example of **abstraction** 抽象.

Documentation with Comments

Comments 注释 are ignored by the compiler but explain code to humans: `//` for a single line, `/* ... */` for a block, and `/** ... */` for a **Javadoc** comment that documents a method's purpose, parameters, and return value. Precise **preconditions** and **postconditions** are written here.

Method Signatures

A **method signature** 方法签名 is a method's name plus its parameter types, e.g. `nextInt()` or `substring(int, int)`. To call a method you must supply **arguments** 实参 that match the parameters in number, type, and order. The method header (the full declaration) also states the **return type** – the type of value the method gives back (`void` if none) – but the return type is *not* part of the signature, which is why two methods cannot differ by return type alone.

Calling Class Methods

A **class (static) method** 类方法 belongs to the class itself, so you call it on the **class name**: `ClassName.method(args)`. No object is needed.

Math Class

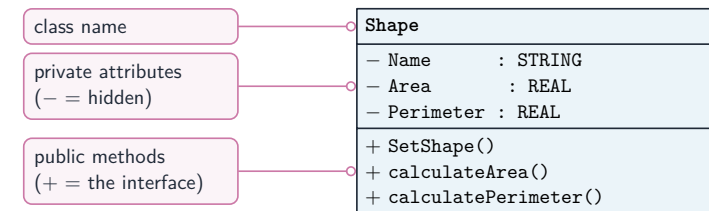
The `Math` class provides static math methods: `Math.abs(x)`, `Math.pow(base, exp)`, `Math.sqrt(x)`, and `Math.random()` (a `double` in `[0, 1)`). To get a random integer from 0 to `n-1`: `(int)(Math.random() * n)`.

Objects: Instances of Classes

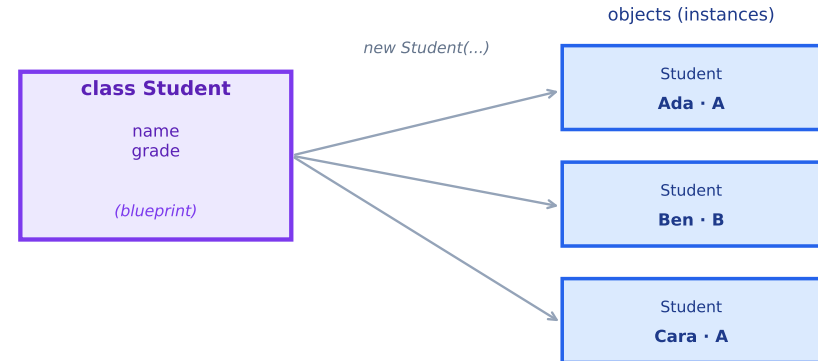
A **class** 类 is a blueprint; an **object** 对象 is a concrete **instance** 实例 built from it. A class bundles **data** (fields) with **behavior** (methods) – the heart of **object-oriented**

programming 面向对象编程. `String`, `Scanner`, and `ArrayList` are all classes you instantiate.

Classes can be organised into a hierarchy. A **superclass** 父类 holds attributes and behaviors shared by several **subclasses** 子类 that **extend** it – an **inheritance relationship** 继承关系. Every class in Java is ultimately a subclass of the built-in `Object` class, which is why every object already has a `toString` method; writing a subclass method with the same signature as a superclass one is **method overriding** 方法重写. (Designing your own inheritance is beyond this course, but you are expected to recognise this vocabulary.)



A class diagram: private attributes and public methods



class = blueprint (type) · object = instance with its own field values

A class is a blueprint; each object is one instance built from it

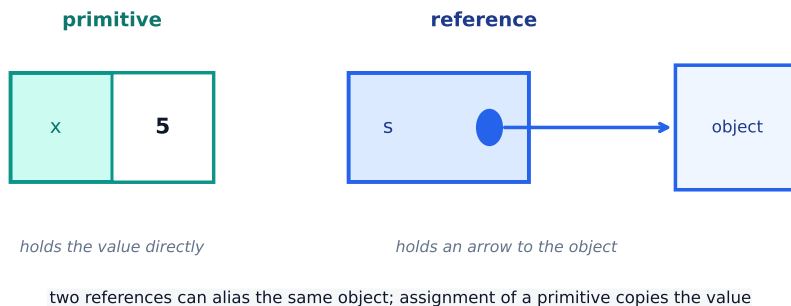
Object Creation and Storage (Instantiation)

Instantiation 实例化 creates an object with the **new** keyword, which calls a **constructor** 构造函数:

```
Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in);
String s = new String("hi"); // or just "hi"
```

The variable holds a **reference** 引用 (the object's address), not the object itself. Two references can point to the **same** object; comparing them with `==` compares addresses, not contents.

A reference can also point to nothing: the special value **null** 空值 means "not attached to any object". Calling a method on a null reference crashes at run time with a `NullPointerException`. Guard against it by testing with `==/!=` and checking null *first*, so `&&` short-circuits before the method runs: `if (s != null && s.length() > 0)`.



A primitive variable holds its value directly, a reference holds an arrow to the object

Calling Instance Methods

An **instance method** 实例方法 acts on a specific object, so you call it on the **object reference**: `object.method(args)`. Example: `in.nextInt()`, `word.length()`.

String Manipulation

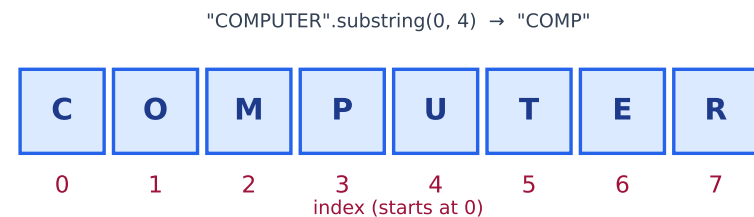
String objects are **immutable** 不可变 – methods return a **new** string rather than changing the original. Key methods (all indices start at 0):

```
s.length();           // number of characters
s.substring(2, 5);     // chars at index 2,3,4 (5 excluded)
s.indexOf("ab");       // first position, or -1
s.equals(other);       // content comparison (never use == for Strings)
s.compareTo(other);    // <0, 0, >0 by dictionary order
```

Exam skill: `substring(a, b)` includes index **a** but **excludes** **b**, and **String** comparison must use `.equals`, not `==` – two of the most-tested **String** pitfalls.

Worked example. Let `String s = "COMPUTER"`; (indices 0–7). Then `s.length()` is 8; `s.substring(0, 4)` is "COMP" (indices 0,1,2,3 – index 4 excluded); `s.substring(4)` is "UTER" (from index 4 to the end); `s.indexOf("PU")` is 3; and `s.indexOf("X")` is -1 (not found). Counting the excluded endpoint of `substring` is the single most common slip.

Asking for an index outside 0 to `length()-1` (a bad `substring` or `charAt` argument, e.g. `s.substring(0, 20)` here) crashes with a `StringIndexOutOfBoundsException` – the **String** cousin of the array-index error.



valid indices: `0 ... s.length() - 1` · `s.charAt(i)` is the char at *i*

String indices start at 0

Exam tips

- Trace code by hand line by line, tracking each variable's value in a table — the exam rewards careful tracing over guessing.
- Know Java's primitive types and that integer division truncates (7/2 gives 3); use a cast or a double for real division.

- Distinguish **compile-time** errors (syntax, types) from **run-time** errors – know the named ones: `ArithmeticException` (`int ÷ 0`), `NullPointerException` (method on a null reference), `StringIndexOutOfBoundsException` / `ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException` – and **logic** errors (wrong output).
- Follow operator precedence and initialise every variable before you use it.
- On the free-response, write **complete, compilable** Java — return the right type and match the method header exactly.