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## 3.3 DESIGNING DATA TYPES

---

- *encapsulation*
- *immutability*
- *static variables and methods*
- *exceptions*
- *special references*
- *spatial vectors*

# Objects

---

**Data type.** A set of values and a set of operations on those values.

**Java class.** Java’s mechanism for defining a new data type.

**Object.** An instance of a data type that has

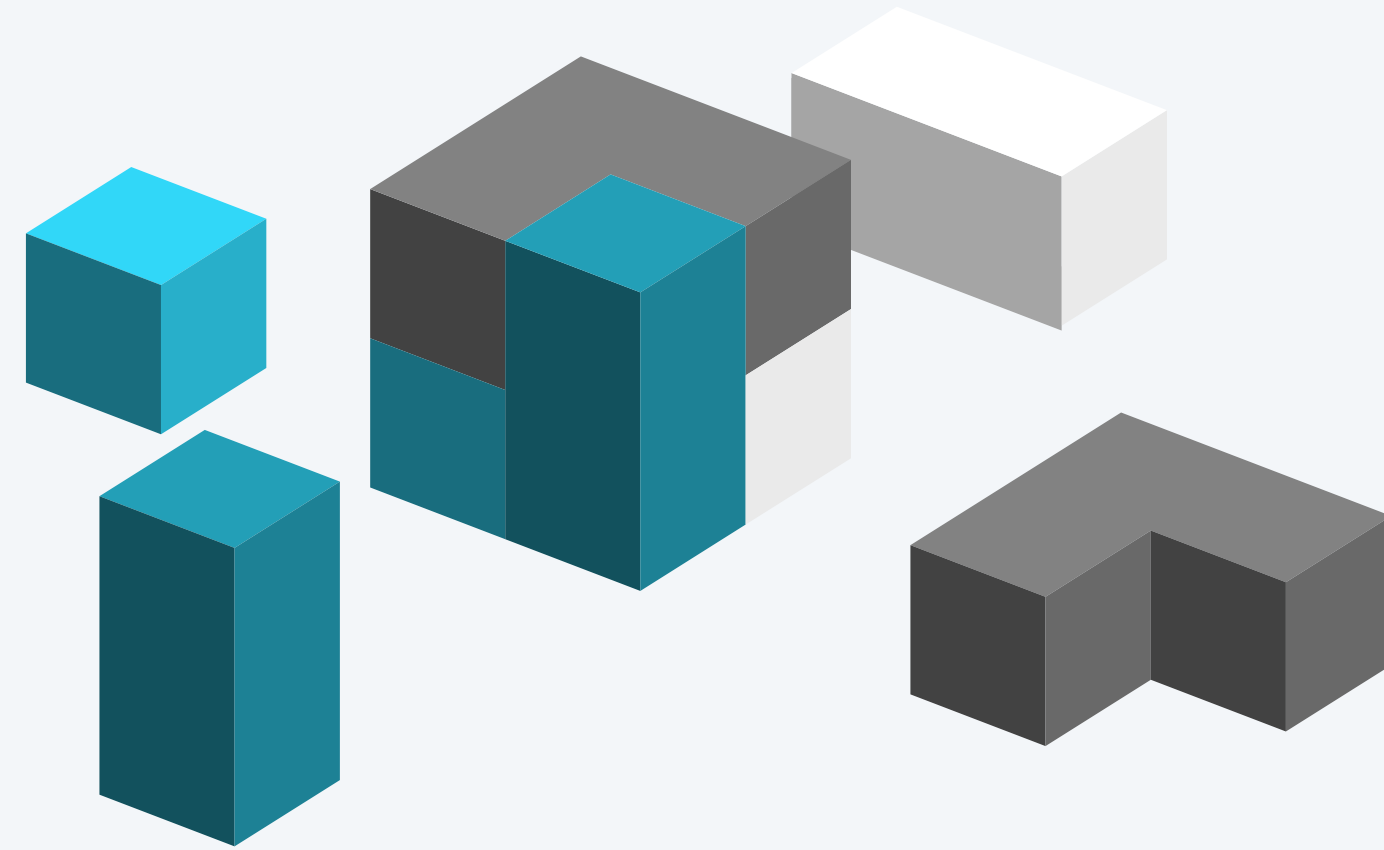
- **State:** value from its data type.
- **Behavior:** actions defined by the data type’s operations.
- **Identity:** unique identifier (e.g. memory address or object reference).

data type	set of values	example values	operations
String	<i>sequences of characters</i>	"Hello, World" "I ❤️ COS 126"	<i>length, concatenate, compare, i<sup>th</sup> character, substring,...</i>
Complex	<i>complex numbers</i>	$3 + 5i$ $-5 + 4i$	<i>add, multiply, magnitude, ...</i>

# Object-oriented programming (OOP)

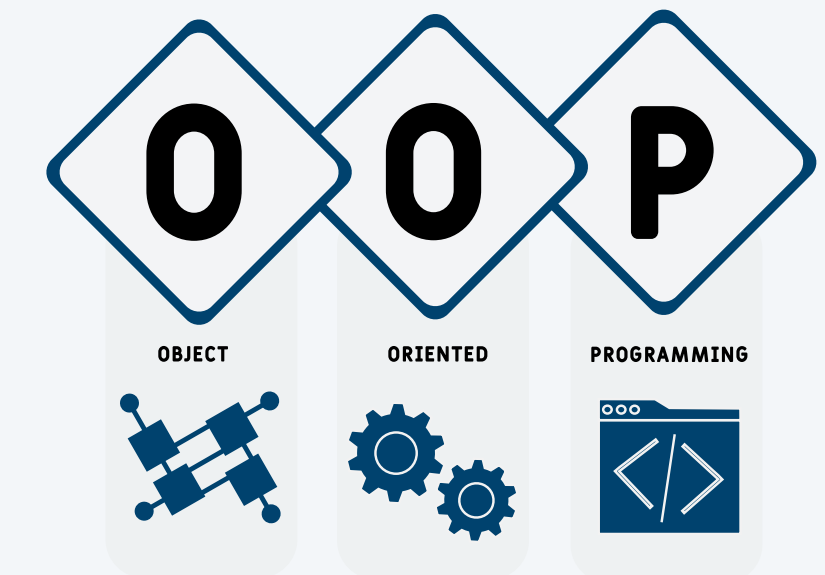
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**Decomposition.** Break up a complex programming problem into smaller functional parts.



**Procedural programming.** Implement as a collection of **functions**.

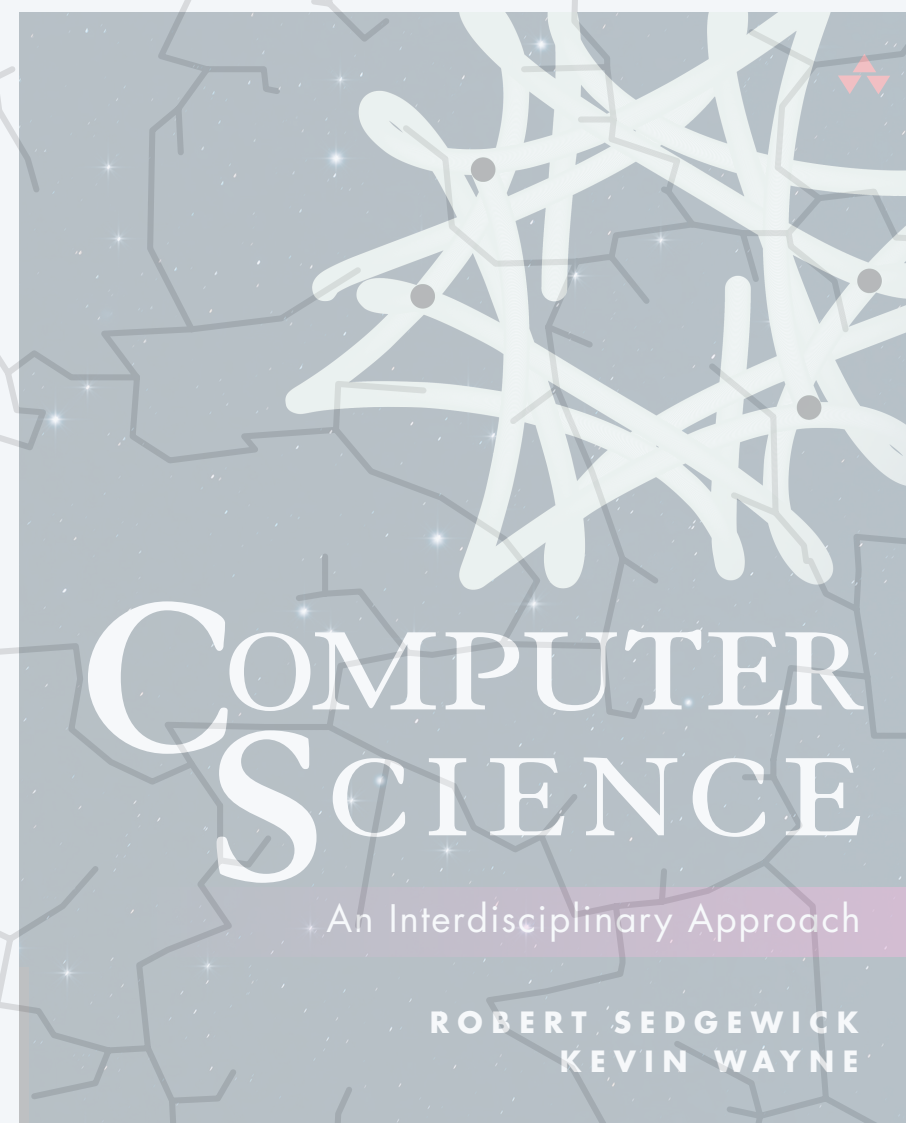
**Object-oriented programming.** Implement as a system of interacting **objects**.



**Benefits.** Supports the 3 Rs:

- Readability: understand and reason about code.
- Reliability: test, debug, and maintain code.
- Reusability: reuse and share code.





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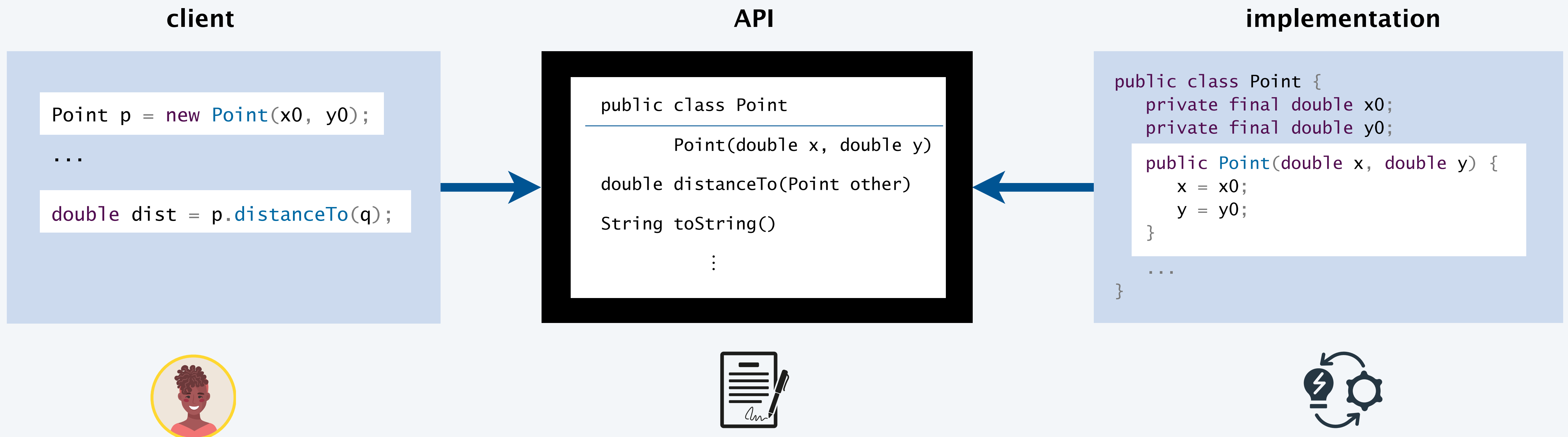
# Review: API, client, and implementation

**Application programming interface (API).** Specifies the set of operations for a data type.

**Implementation.** Program that implements a data type's operations.

**Client.** Program that uses a data type through its API.

*contract between  
client and implementation*



# Encapsulation

---

**Encapsulation.** Separating clients from implementation details by **hiding information**.

- Functions encapsulate code.
- Objects encapsulate data and code.

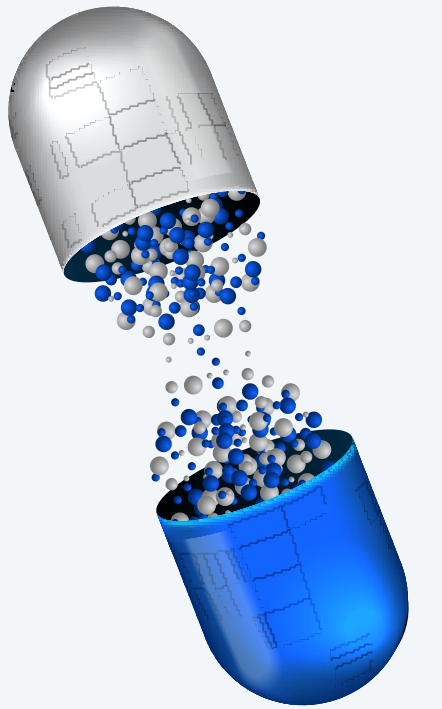
**Abstract data type.** A data type whose internal representation is hidden from clients.

**Principle.** A client does not need to know **how** a data type is implemented in order to use it.

**Benefits.**

- Can develop client code and implementation code independently.
- Can change implementation details without breaking clients.
- Easier to trace, debug, and reason about code.

*Java 11 changed internal String representation  
(to improve performance)*



# The *private* access modifier

## Private access modifier.


- Cannot directly access a *private* instance variable (or method) from another file.
- Compile-time error to attempt to do so.

### implementation

```
public class Counter {  
    private int count;  
  
    public Counter() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
  
    public void hit() {  
        count++;  
    }  
}
```

### rogue client

```
public class RogueClient {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Counter counter = new Counter();  
        counter.hit();  
        ...  
        counter.count = -16022;  
    }  
}
```



↑  
*Al Gore received -16,022 votes  
in Volusia County, Florida  
in 2000 presidential election*

### compile-time error

```
~/cos126/oop3> javac-introcs RogueClient.java  
RogueClient.java:5: error: count has  
private access in Counter  
        counter.count = -16022;  
                    ^  
1 error
```

**Main benefit.** Helps enforce encapsulation. ← *so that programmers (including you!) won't misuse the data type*

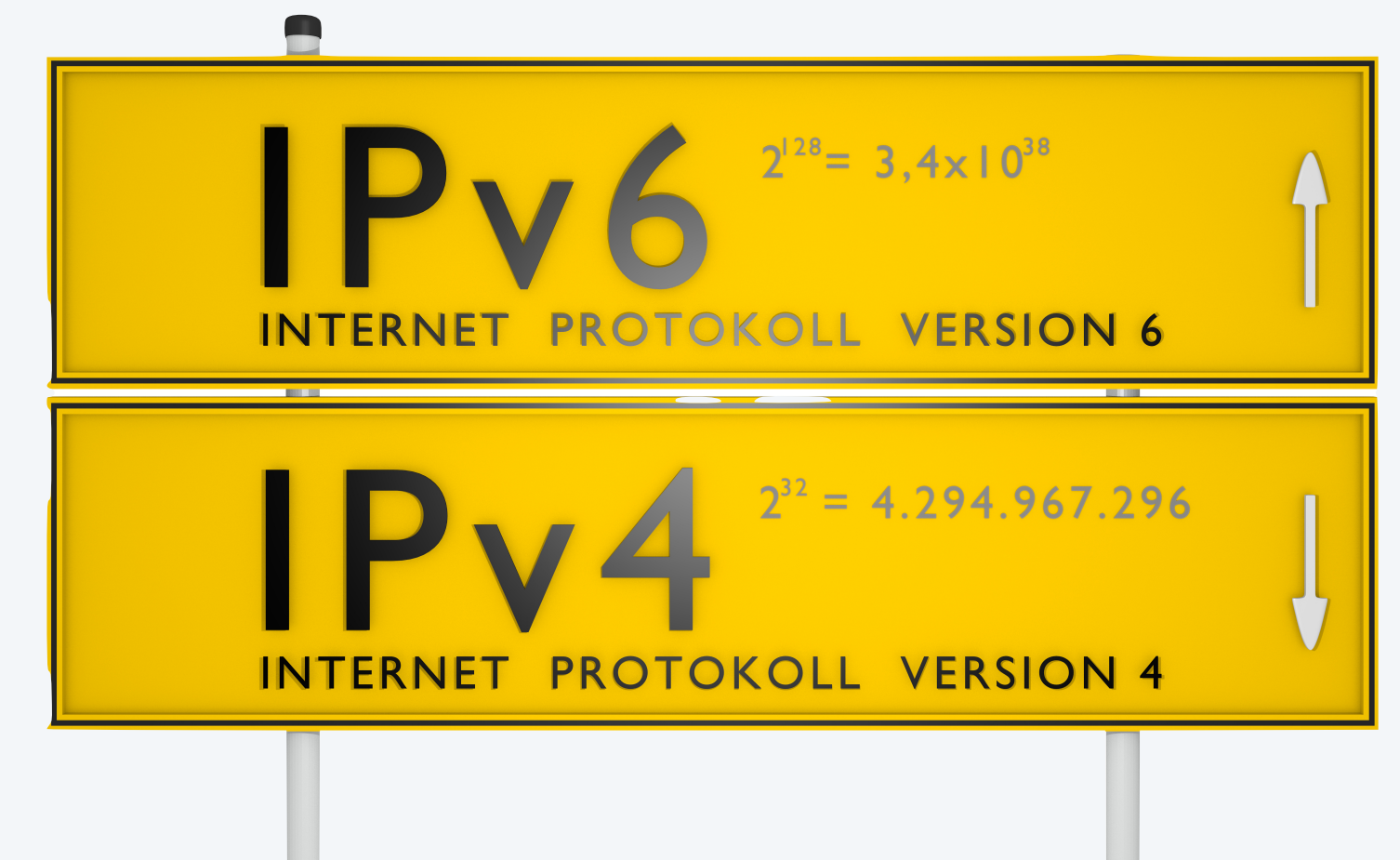
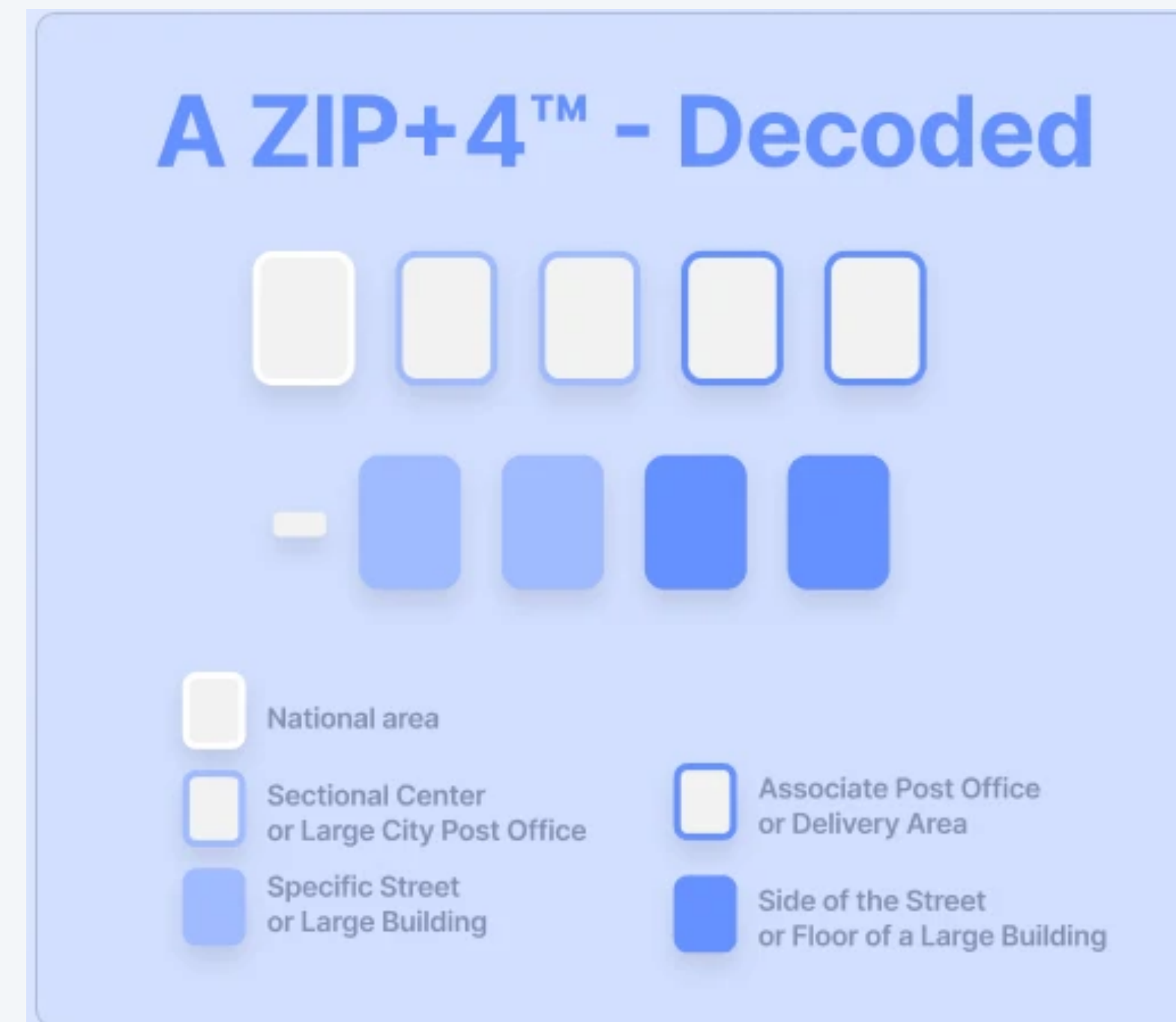
**Best practice.** Declare all instance variables as *private*. ← *requirement in this course*



# Encapsulation fail

## Famous encapsulation failures.

- Y2K bug.
- ZIP code vs. ZIP+4 code.
- IPv4 vs. IPv6.

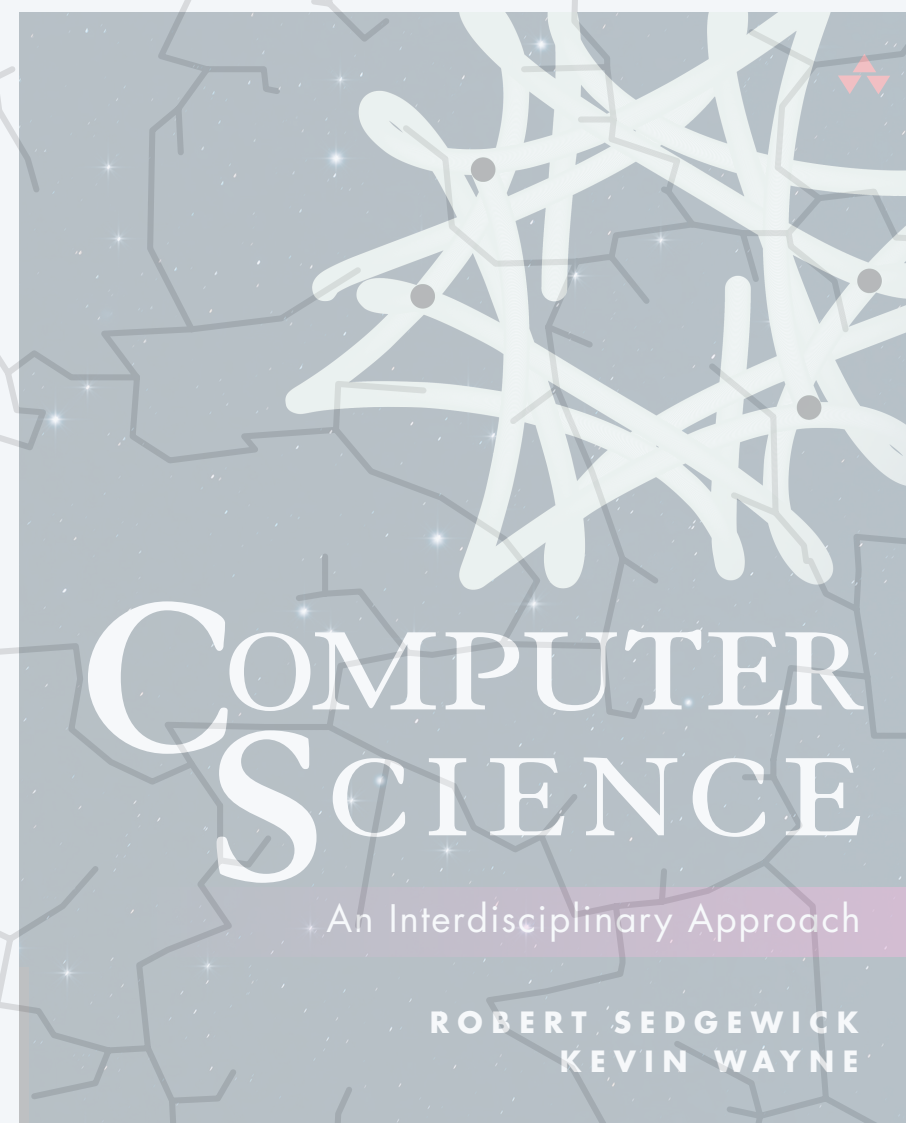




Which of the following instance variables should be declared as private ?

- A. The instance variables `center` and `radius` in `Circle`.
- B. The instance variables `hours` and `minutes` in `Clock`.
- C. The instance variables `re` and `im` in `Complex`.
- D. All of the above.





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# Immutability

---

**Immutability.** A data type is **immutable** if you can't change a data-type value once created.

immutable	mutable
String	Clock
Color	Picture
Point	Counter
Circle	int[]
⋮	⋮



# Immutability

---

**Immutability.** A data type is **immutable** if you can't change a data-type value once created.

## Advantages of immutability.

- Easier to trace, debug, and reason about code.
- Prevents aliasing bugs.
- Simplifies multi-threaded programs.

**Main disadvantage.** Overhead of constructing (and disposing of) extra objects.

← *would be wasteful to construct  
a new `Picture` object  
each time you changed a pixel*

## Best practices.

*“Classes should be immutable unless there's a very good reason to make them mutable.... If a class cannot be made immutable, you should still limit its mutability as much as possible.”*

*— Joshua Bloch (Java architect)*



# The *final* access modifier

The access modifier *final* prevents changes to a variable (after initialization).

**Ex.** Once a point  $(x, y)$  is created, cannot change  $x$  or  $y$ .

```
public class Point {  
    private final double x; // x-coordinate  
    private final double y; // y-coordinate  
  
    public Point(double x0, double y0) {  
        x = x0;  
        y = y0;  
    }  
  
    public void scaleX(double alpha) {  
        x = alpha * x;  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

*compile-time error  
(since x is final)*



*better design: create new  
Point object and return that*

```
~/cos126/oop3> javac-introcs Point.java  
Point.java:11: error: cannot assign  
a value to final variable x  
        x = alpha * x;  
        ^  
1 error
```



## The *final* access modifier

---

The access modifier *final* prevents changes to a variable (after initialization).

### Advantages.

- Helps enforce immutability.
- Documents that the value will not change.

**Best practice.** Declare instance variables as *final* (unless compelling reason not to).

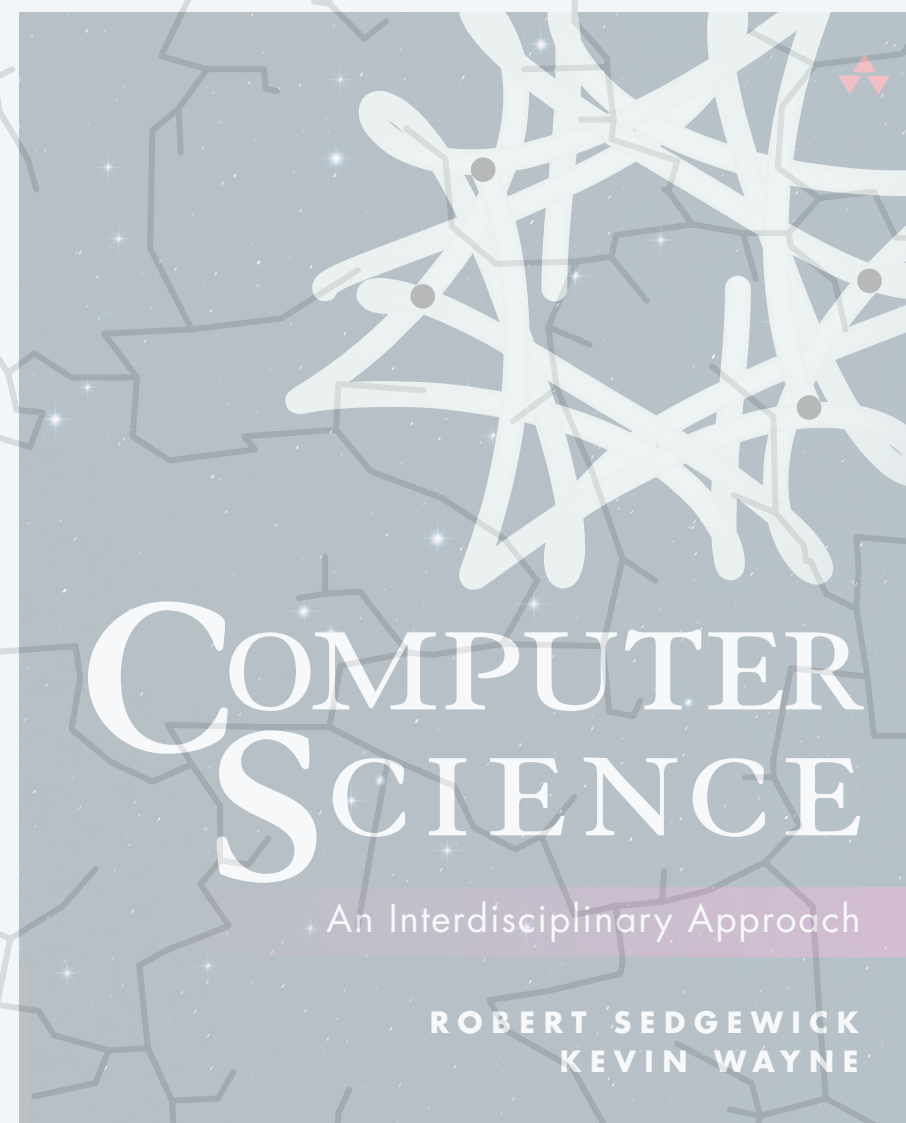




Which of the following methods will result in a compile-time error?

- A. methodA()
- B. methodB()
- C. methodC()
- D. All of the above.

```
public class Mystery {  
    private final Clock clock;  
    private final int[] a;  
  
    ...  
  
    public void methodA() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)  
            a[i] = -a[i];  
    }  
  
    public void methodB() {  
        clock.tic();  
    }  
  
    public void methodC(int n) {  
        clock = new Clock(14, 50);  
        a = new int[n];  
    }  
}
```



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- *spatial vectors*



# Static vs. instance variables

---

Instance variable. One variable per object.

Static variable. One variable per class.

Common use case. A global constant.

```
public class Clock {
```

```
    private static final int MINUTES_PER_HOUR = 60;  
    private static final int HOURS_PER_DAY = 24;
```

*one variable  
per class*

```
    private int hours;    // hours    (0 to 23)  
    private int minutes; // minutes  (0 to 59)
```

*one variable  
per object*

```
    ...
```

```
}
```

Java convention. Define static variables before instance variables.

# Static vs. instance methods

**Instance method.** Can refer to instance variables (or instance methods) of invoking object.

**Static method.** No invoking object. Can't refer to instance variables (or instance methods) without an underlying object.

```
public class Counter {  
    private int count;  
  
    public Counter() {  
        count = 0;  
    }
```

```
    public void hit() {  
        count++;  
    }
```

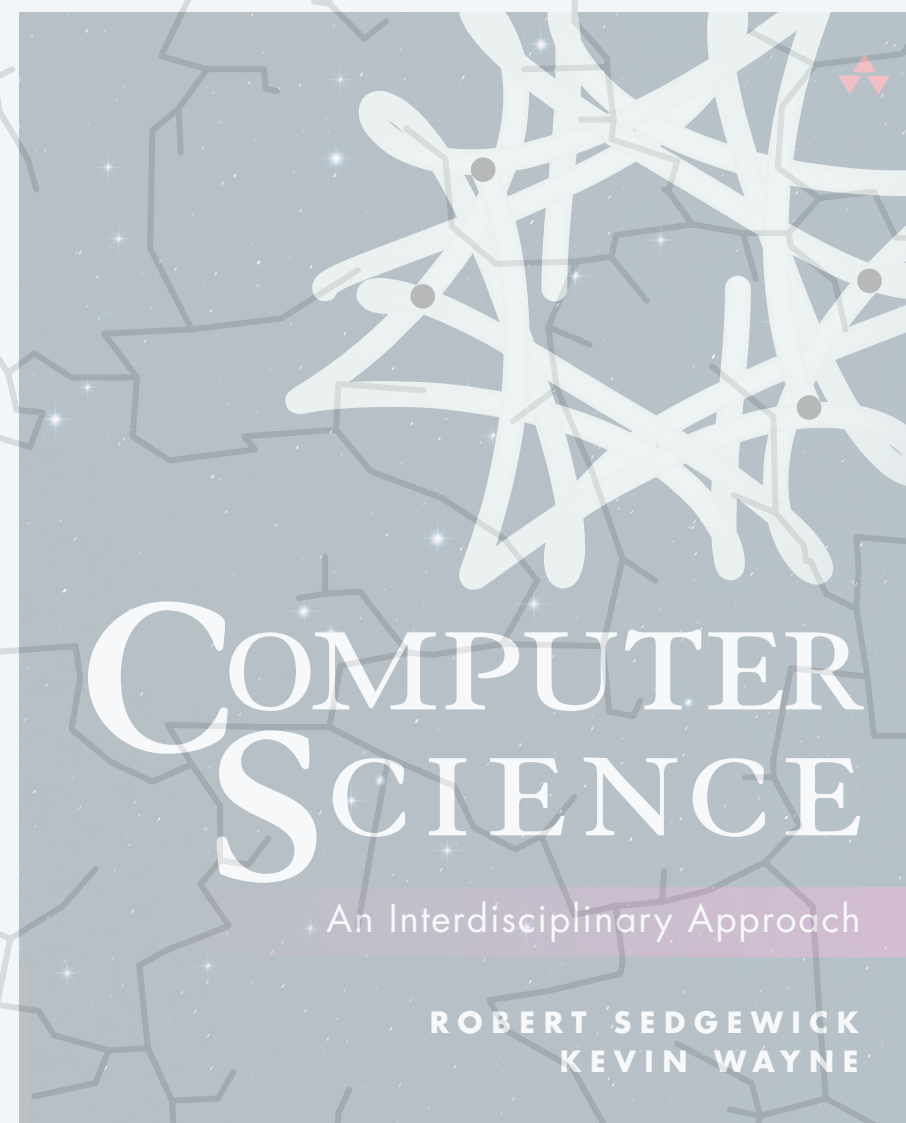
← *instance method*  
(associated with an object)

```
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        hit();  
        count++;  
    }
```

← *static method*  
(associated with the class,  
not a specific object)

```
}
```

```
~/cos126/oop3> javac-introcs Counter.java  
Counter.java:13: error: non-static method hit()  
cannot be referenced from a static context  
        hit();  
        ^  
Counter.java:14: error: non-static variable count  
cannot be referenced from a static context  
        count++;  
        ^  
2 errors
```



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# Exceptions

---

**Exception.** A disruptive event that occurs while a program is running, typically to signal an error.

exception	description	example
ArithmeticException	<i>performs invalid arithmetic operation</i>	1 / 0
IllegalArgumentException	<i>calls constructor/method with invalid argument</i>	StdAudio.play("readme.txt")
NumberFormatException	<i>converts string to numeric type</i>	Integer.parseInt("12X")
ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException	<i>accesses array with invalid index</i>	a[-4]
StringIndexOutOfBoundsException	<i>accesses string with invalid index</i>	s.charAt(s.length())
NullPointerException	<i>uses null when an object is required</i>	null.toString()
⋮	⋮	

# Validating arguments

**Best practice.** If any constructor/method argument is invalid; **throw an exception.**

```
public Clock(int h, int m) {  
  
    if (h < 0 || h >= HOURS_PER_DAY) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("invalid hours");  
    }  
    if (m < 0 || m >= MINUTES_PER_HOUR) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("invalid minutes");  
    }  
  
    hours = h;  
    minutes = m;  
}
```

*throw an exception  
if invalid argument*

```
Clock clock = new Clock(12, -1);
```



**constructor call  
(with invalid argument)**

```
~/cos126/oop3> java-introcs BadCallToClock  
Exception in thread "main" java.lang.IllegalArgumentException:  
invalid minutes  
    at Clock.<init>(Clock.java:6)  
    at BadCallToClock.main(BadCallToClock.java:4)
```



# Fail-fast principle

---

**Fail-fast principle.** Better to abort immediately and noisily (than eventually and silently).

**Ex 1.** Prefer compile-time error to run-time exception.

**Ex 2.** Prefer run-time exception to wrong answer.

**Cost to fix a bug.** Rises steeply over software development cycle.



**Silicon Valley meme.** “Fail fast, fail often.”

- Experiment freely and learn while trying to achieve objective.
- By quickly finding the failures, you can accelerate learning.





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# The *null* reference

---

**Null reference.** A value that indicates a reference does not refer to any valid object.

- The keyword `null` is a Java literal for the null reference.
- Can assign the value `null` to any variable of a reference type.

```
String s = null;  
Counter counter = null;
```

*invoke a method or  
access an instance variable*

**Q.** What happens if I attempt to manipulate a null reference?

**A.** Triggers a `NullPointerException`.

```
int len = s.length();  
counter.hit();
```



**Warning.** Null references often arise in practice because instance variables and array elements (of reference types) are auto-initialized to `null`.



Which of the following produces a NullPointerException ?

**A.** `Mystery x = new Mystery("Hello");  
StdOut.println(x.length());`

**B.** `Mystery x = new Mystery("Hello");  
StdOut.println(x.distanceToOrigin());`

**C.** Both A and B.

**D.** Neither A nor B.

```
public class Mystery {  
    private Point point;  
    private String name;  
  
    private Mystery(String s) {  
        String name = s;  
    }  
  
    public int length() {  
        return name.length();  
    }  
  
    public double distanceToOrigin() {  
        Point origin = new Point(0.0, 0.0);  
        return origin.distanceTo(point);  
    }  
}
```



# Tony Hoare quotes

---

## On null references:

*“ I call it my billion-dollar mistake. It was the invention of the null reference in 1965... This has led to innumerable errors, vulnerabilities, and system crashes, which have probably caused a billion dollars of pain and damage in the last forty years. ”*

## On software design:

*“ There are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult. ”*



**Tony Hoare**



# The *this* reference

The keyword **this** is a reference to the object whose instance method or constructor is being called.

```
public class Point {  
    private final double x; // x-coordinate  
    private final double y; // y-coordinate
```

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

*instance variables of  
object being constructed*

*“variable shadowing”*

```
    public double distanceTo(Point that) {  
        double dx = that.x - this.x;  
        double dy = that.y - this.y;  
        return Math.sqrt(dx*dx + dy*dy);  
    }
```

*instance variables of  
object used to invoke method*

client code in main()

a.distanceTo(b)

*↑  
invoking  
object*

*↑  
argument  
object*

within distanceTo(),  
this and a are aliases

that.x - this.x

*is equivalent to*

b.x - a.x

**Common use case.** Use same names for constructor arguments and instance variables.

**Best practice.** Programmers debate whether to always (or rarely) use *this*.



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- *spatial vectors*

# Crash course on spatial vectors

A **spatial vector** is an entity that has magnitude and a direction.

- Quintessential mathematical abstraction.
- Many applications in STEM: force, velocity, momentum, ...

## Operations on spatial vectors.

- Addition:  $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = (x_0 + y_0, x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_{n-1} + y_{n-1})$
- Scaling:  $\alpha \mathbf{x} = (\alpha x_0, \alpha x_1, \dots, \alpha x_{n-1})$
- Dot product:  $\mathbf{x} \bullet \mathbf{y} = (x_0 \cdot y_0 + x_1 \cdot y_1 + \dots + x_{n-1} \cdot y_{n-1})$
- Magnitude:  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{x} \bullet \mathbf{x}}$

operation	result
$(1, 2, 3) + (4, 5, 6)$	$(5, 7, 9)$
$2 (1, 2, 3)$	$(2, 4, 6)$
$(1, 2, 3) \bullet (4, 5, 6)$	$32$
$\  (1, 2, 3) \ $	$\sqrt{14}$

# Vector API

---

A **spatial vector** is an entity that has magnitude and a direction.

values	<b>vector</b>	
	<hr/>	
	(1, 2, 3)	
	(0, −1, 0.5, 0, 0.25)	
API	public class Vector	<b>description</b>
	<hr/>	
	Vector(double[] coords)	<i>create a new spatial vector</i>
	Vector plus(Vector that)	<i>sum of this vector and that</i>
	Vector scale(double alpha)	<i>scalar product of this vector and alpha</i>
	double dot(Vector that)	<i>dot product of this vector and that</i>
	double magnitude()	<i>magnitude of this vector</i>
	String toString()	<i>string representation</i>
	⋮	⋮

# Vector implementation: test client

**Best practice.** Begin by implementing a simple test client that tests all methods.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    double[] x = { 3.0, 4.0 };  
    double[] y = { -2.0, 3.0 };  
    Vector a = new Vector(x);  
    Vector b = new Vector(y);  
    StdOut.println("a      = " + a);  
    StdOut.println("b      = " + b);  
    StdOut.println("a + b = " + a.plus(b));  
    StdOut.println("2a      = " + a.scale(2.0));  
    StdOut.println("a • b = " + a.dot(b));  
    StdOut.println("|a|     = " + a.magnitude());  
}
```

instance variables

constructors

instance methods

**test client**

```
~/cos126/oop3> java-introcs Vector
```

```
a      = (3.0, 4.0)
```

```
b      = (-2.0, 3.0)
```

```
a + b = (1.0, 7.0)
```

```
2a     = (6.0, 8.0)
```

```
a • b = 6.0
```

```
|a|    = 5.0
```

← *what we expect, once the  
the implementation is done*



# Vector implementation: instance variables and constructor

**Instance variables.** Define data-type values.

**Internal representation.** Sequence of real numbers.

*each vector corresponds to its  
own sequence of real numbers  
(needs its own array instance variable)*

```
public class Vector {
```

```
    private final int n;  
    private final double[] coords;  
  
    ...
```

*convenient instance variable  
(optional)*

**instance variables**

**constructors**

**instance methods**

**test client**



## How to implement Vector constructor?

A.

```
public Vector(double[] a) {  
    n = a.length;  
    coords = a;  
}
```

B.

```
public Vector(double[] a) {  
    n = a.length;  
    double[] coords = a;  
}
```

C.

```
public Vector(double[] a) {  
    n = a.length;  
    for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)  
        coords[i] = a[i];  
}
```

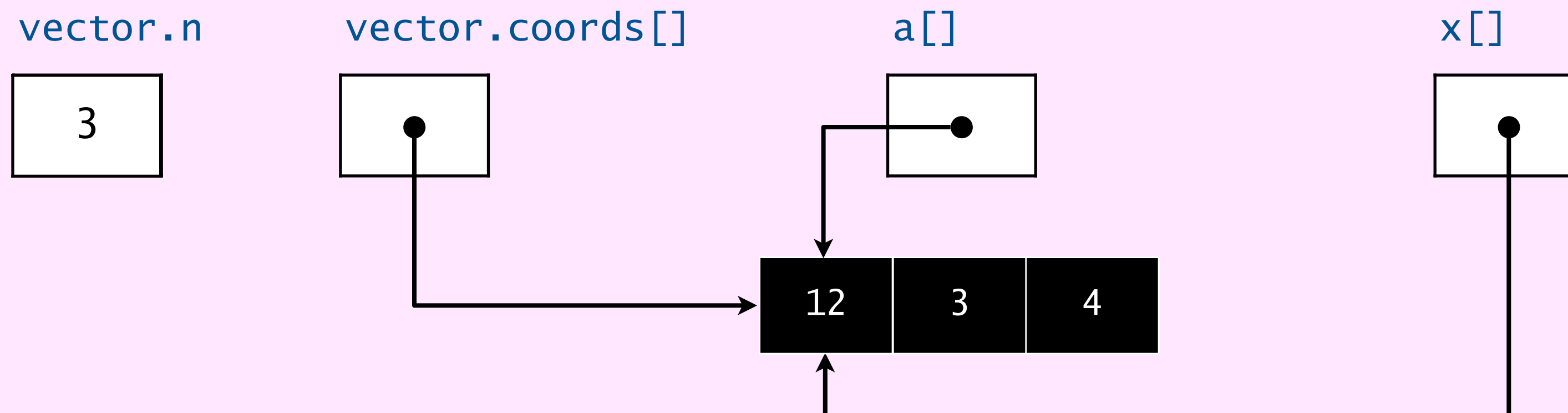
D. None of the above.



```
public class Vector {  
    private final int n;  
    private final double[] coords;  
  
    public Vector(double[] a) {  
        n = a.length;  
        coords = a;  
    }  
}
```

```
double[] x = { 0.0, 3.0, 4.0 };  
Vector vector = new Vector(x);  
x[0] = 12.0;  
StdOut.println(vector.magnitude());
```

$\sqrt{12^2 + 3^2 + 4^2} = 13$

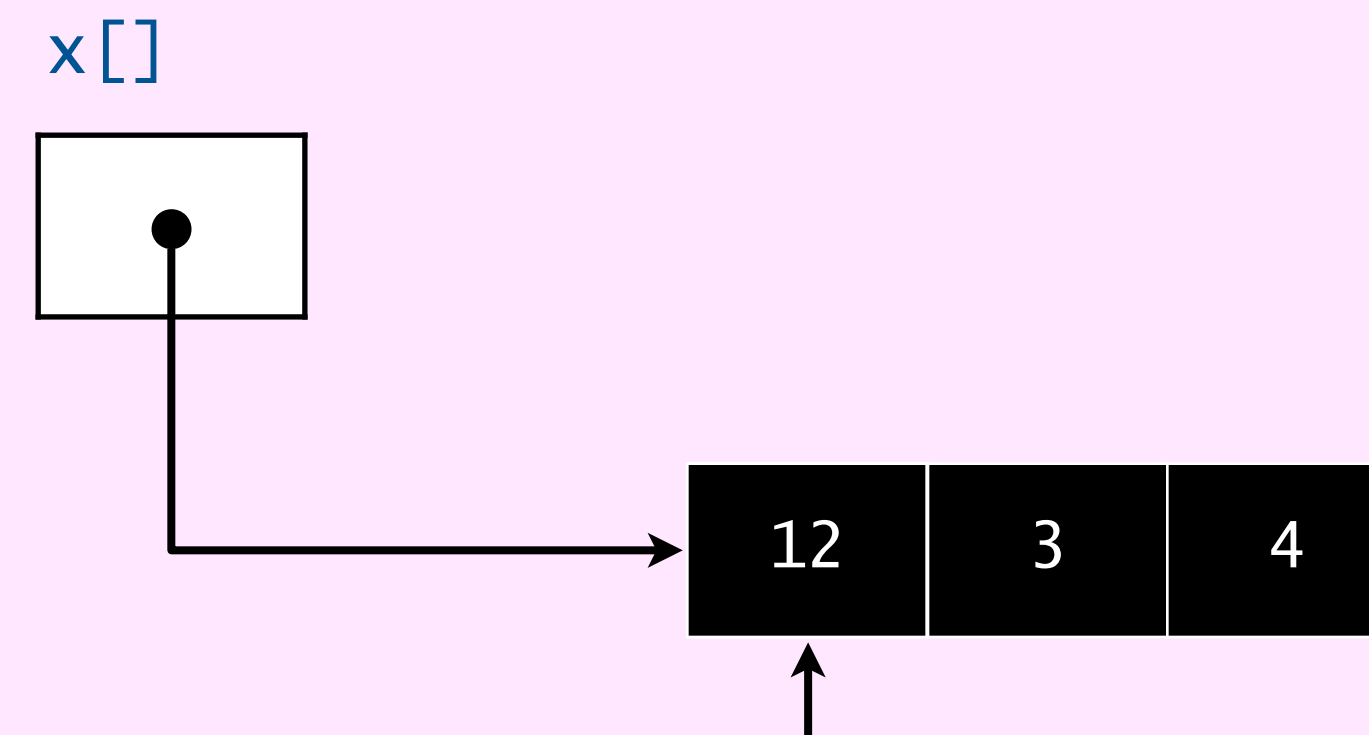
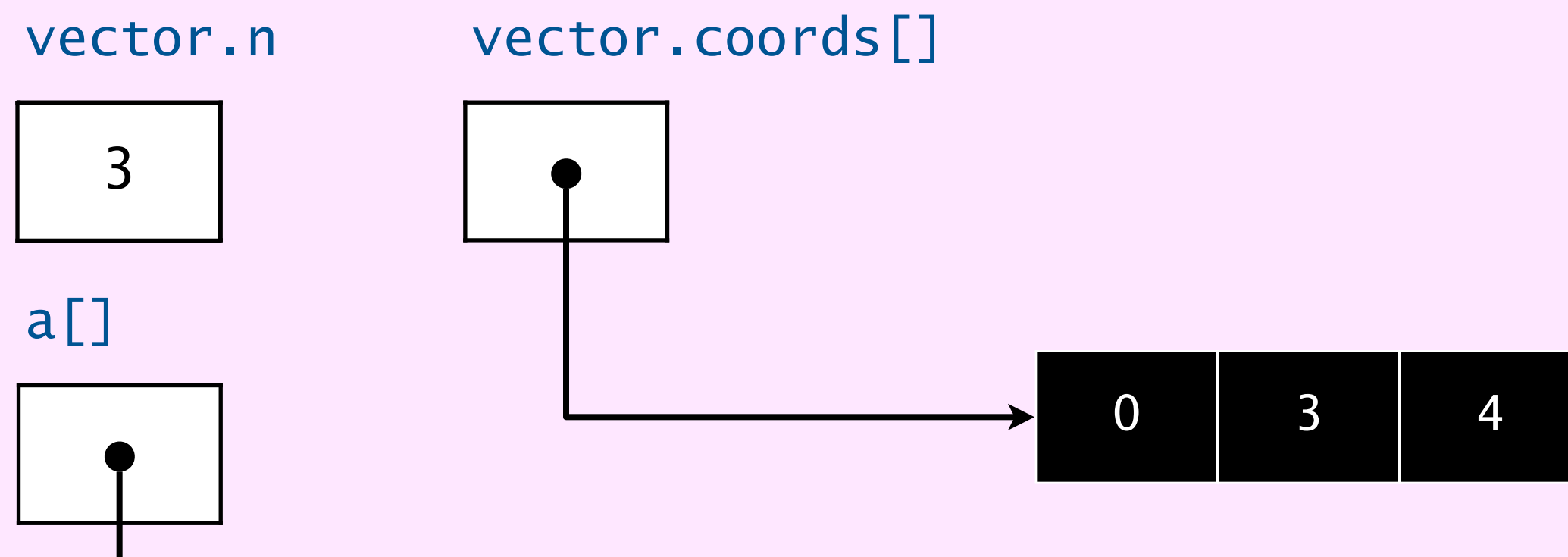




```
public class Vector {  
    private final int n;  
    private final double[] coords;  
  
    public Vector(double[] a) {  
        n = a.length;  
        coords = new double[a.length];  
        for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)  
            coords[i] = a[i];  
    }  
}
```

```
double[] x = { 0.0, 3.0, 4.0 };  
Vector vector = new Vector(x);  
x[0] = 12.0;  
StdOut.println(vector.magnitude());
```

$\sqrt{0^2 + 3^2 + 4^2} = 5$





# Vector implementation: constructor

**Constructors.** Create and initialize new objects.

```
public class Vector {  
    private final double[] coords;  
    private final int n;
```

```
    public Vector(double[] a) {  
        n = a.length;  
        coords = new double[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            coords[i] = a[i];  
        }  
    }  
    ...
```

← *“defensive copy”*

instance variables

**constructors**

instance methods

test client

**Best practice.** Defensively copy mutable objects.

# Vector implementation: instance methods

Instance methods. Define data-type operations.

```
public class Vector {  
    ...  
  
    public Vector plus(Vector that) {  
        checkSameDimension(this.n, that.n);  
        double[] result = new double[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            result[i] = this.coords[i] + that.coords[i];  
        }  
        return new Vector(result);  
    }  
}
```

*create and return a  
new vector object*

```
private static void checkSameDimension(int n1, int n2) {  
    if (n1 != n2) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("...");  
    }  
}
```

*a reusable helper method  
(can be static)*

instance variables

constructors

instance methods

test client

# Vector implementation: instance methods

Instance methods. Define data-type operations.

```
public class Vector {  
    ...  
  
    public double dot(Vector that) {  
        checkSameDimension(this.n, that.n);  
        double sum = 0.0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            sum += this.coords[i] * that.coords[i];  
        }  
        return sum;  
    }  
}
```

```
    public double magnitude() {  
        return Math.sqrt(this.dot(this));  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

*a rare time where the  
this keyword is indispensable*

instance variables

constructors

instance methods

test client

client code in main()

a.magnitude()  
↑  
*invoking object*

within magnitude(),  
this and a are aliases

this.dot(this)  
*is equivalent to*  
a.dot(a)

# Vector implementation

```
public class Vector {
```

```
    private final int n;  
    private final double[] coords;
```

```
    public Vector(double[] a) {  
        n = a.length;  
        coords = new double[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            coords[i] = a[i];  
        }  
    }
```

```
    public double dot(Vector that) {  
        double sum = 0.0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            sum += this.coords[i] * that.coords[i];  
        }  
        return sum;  
    }
```

```
    public double magnitude() {  
        return Math.sqrt(this.dot(this));  
    }
```

*instance  
variables*

*constructor*

*instance  
methods*

```
    public Vector plus(Vector that) {  
        double[] result = new double[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            result[i] = this.coords[i] + that.coords[i];  
        }  
        return new Vector(result);  
    }
```

```
    public Vector scale(double alpha) {  
        double[] result = new double[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            result[i] = alpha * this.coords[i];  
        }  
        return new Vector(result);  
    }
```

```
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        double[] x = { 3.0, 4.0 };  
        double[] y = { -2.0, 3.0 };  
        ...  
    }
```

*test client*



# Summary

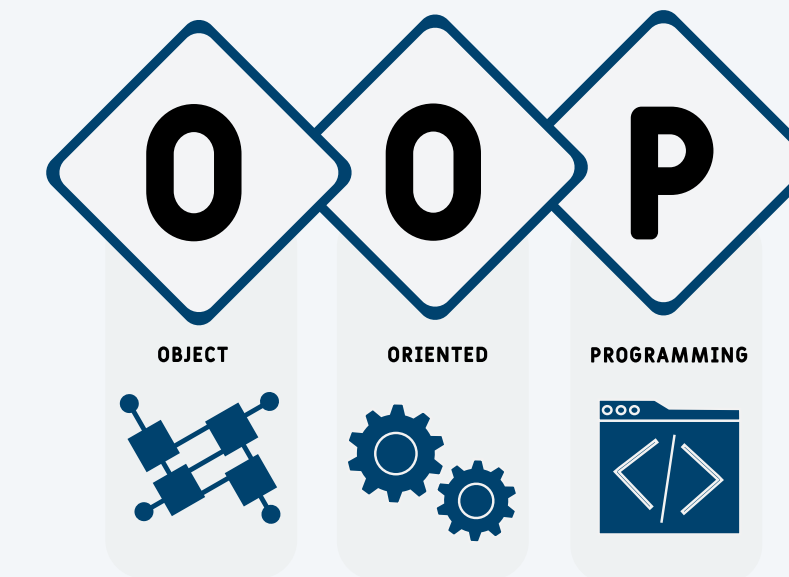
---

**Data type.** A set of values and a set of operations on those values.

**Java class.** Java's mechanism for defining a new data type.

**Object.** An instance of a data type that has

- **State:** a value from its data type.
- **Behavior:** actions defined by the data type's operations.
- **Identity:** unique identifier (e.g. memory address or object reference).



**API, client, implementation.** Separate implementation from client via API.

**Encapsulation.** Hide internal representation of implementation from clients.

**Immutability.** Data-type value cannot change.

**Fail-fast principle.** Find errors early in development.

# Credits

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