Lecture 15:
Review of Aliasing & Mutability, Floating Point Calculations

Last time:
1. Unit testing and JUnit
2. Constructors revisited
3. equals

Today:
1. Project #4 assigned
2. Aliasing and Mutability
3. Floating Point calculations
4. Example class development: Rational Numbers

Project #4 Is Assigned

- It is due Wednesday, 10/31 at 11:00PM
- The project is closed
  - You must complete the project by yourself
  - Assistance can only be provided by teaching assistants (TAs) and instructors
  - You must not look at other students’ code
- Start now!
  - Read entire assignment from beginning to end before starting to code
  - Check out assignment now from CVS
  - Follow the instructions exactly

Taking Care of Corner Cases

- FancyWord example from Friday
  - String of “” was a corner case that we needed to test for
  - Write new test cases or new asserts in the test cases that already exist to take care of this
- What about null references as corner cases?

```java
public void testNullAndEmpty(){
    FancyWord a = new FancyWord(null);
    assertEquals(null, a.toString());
    FancyWord b = new FancyWord("");
    assertEquals("", b.toString());
}
```
What about Strings and Aliasing?

- String objects are immutable: fields cannot be changed once created
  - Immutable objects: fields (values of instance variables) cannot be changed

- In this example:
  - x is created as an alias for String x
  - y is created as an alias for Cat a
  - but the results are different.

```java
x = Jan Plane
y = Jan
Fluffy has been created!
Fluffy has been eaten!
Fluffy has 8 more lives...
a = Fluffy (8 lives.)
b = Fluffy (8 lives.)
```

Which picture represents the current status of memory?

Floating Point Calculations

What will this print?

```java
public class SimpleMath { 
  public static void main(String[] args) { 
    if (3.9 - 3.8 == 0.1) { 
      System.out.println("I am a very smart computer.");
    } else { 
      System.out.println("I can't do simple arithmetic.");
    }
  }
}
```

I can't do simple arithmetic.

Why?

Conversion of floating point to binary leads to precision errors!

What can we do?
**Floating Point Calculations (cont.)**

Two important rules:
- You can never use `==` to compare floating point values. Instead, check if two numbers are within a certain tolerance of each other.
- Never use floating point values to represent money, e.g., 3.52 to represent $3.52. Instead, use integer 352 to represent 352 pennies.