Lecture Set #9: Arrays Intro

This lecture set:
- Intro to arrays
- Copying arrays and making arrays bigger
- Array lengths and out-of-bounds indexing
- Passing arrays and array elements to a function
- Privacy Leaks
- Different levels of copy

Data Structures and Arrays

- **Data structures**: mechanisms for storing data in a structured way
- We have seen simple data structures implemented as classes:
  - Rational.java
  - Rational number data stored as numerator / denominator pair
- Arrays are a very useful data structure provided by Java and other programming languages
  - Array: sequence of variables of the same type
  - Homogeneous data structure
  - Size (quantity) fixed when space is allocated
  - Ordered
  - Individual elements of sequence can be referenced/updated/etc.
  - Arrays are objects (hence allocated on heap) with a reference on the stack
  - Like other objects, “instance variables” of array = cells in array are assigned default values (0 / null / etc.) when array created

Array Indexing

- Java provides a special syntax for uniformly accessing cells in an array
  - Declaration of a:
    ```java
    int[] a;
    ```
  - Allocation of space for array named a:
    ```java
    a = new int[5]; // or combined: int[] a = new int[5];
    ```
    - This creates five int variables “named” a[0], a[1], a[2], a[3], a[4]
  - To modify contents of cell #2 to 6 and cell #1 to 74:
    ```java
    a[2] = 6;
a[1] = 74;
    ```
  - To use the contents of cell #2 and cell #1:
    ```java
    System.out.println("Value = " + (a[1]-a[2]));
    ```
  - This access mechanism to the individual elements is called array indexing
    - In Java / C / C++, array cells are indexed beginning at 0 and going up to n-1 (where n is number of cells)
    - Beware: start at 0! and end at one less than the size!
Square Brackets: [ ] and length

- Three uses in Java:
  - Array variable declaration: `int[] a`
  - Array object creation: `new int[10]`
  - Array indexing: `a[0]`
- array also has `a.length` holds the amount of space currently allocated for that array

Alternate Declaration Syntax

- To maintain consistency with C / C++, following declaration of array variables also possible
  ```java
  int grade[];
  ```
- Compare to Java standard:
  ```java
  int[] grade;
  ```
- Java standard generally preferred
  - "type[]" emphasizes array status
- Alternative syntax sometimes handy:
  ```java
  int grade[], size, gpa[];
  ```
  - Declares two arrays of base type `int`: `grade`, `gpa`
  - Declares a single `int` variable: `size`

Summary of Arrays

- Arrays are:
  - Sequences of cells holding values of the same type ("base type")
  - Objects (hence created using new)
- To define an array variable: `int[] a; // an array with base type int`
- To create an array object:
  ```java
  a = new int[10];
  ```
  - Creates an array of 10 cells on the heap
  - The base type is `int`
- To access individual array cells: use indexing
  ```java
  a[0], a[1], ... a[9]
  ```
  - Cells are just like variables:
    - They may be read: `x = a[3];`
    - They may be written: `a[2] = 7;`
A Common Programming Idiom

- To process all elements in array ...
- Do the following:
  ```java
  for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++) {
    // process the one element at a[i]...
  }
  ```
- Use fresh loop counter to avoid overwriting another variable of same name elsewhere
- Remember:
  - Use 0 as one end of the array, not 1;
  - Use i < a.length as the other end, not i <= a.length

Copying Arrays

- Does the following copy a into b?
  ```java
  int[] a = new int[5];
  int[] b = a;
  ```
  No: a, b are aliases
- How to make a copy?
  ```java
  int[] a = new int[5];
  int[] b = new int[a.length];
  for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++) {
    b[i] = a[i];
  }
  ```

Making Arrays Bigger

- Suppose we want to make an array bigger by adding an element.
- Does the following work?
  ```java
  int[] a = new int[5];
  a.length++;
  ```
  No!
  - We get the following:
    ```java
    Exception in thread "main" java.lang.Error:
    Unresolved compilation problem:
    The final field array.length cannot be assigned
    at Sample.main(Sample.java:15)
    ```
    - a.length is immutable
    - No assignment to it is allowed
To Make an Array Bigger...

- Create a new larger array object
- Copy old array contents into new object
- Assign address of new object to variable

```java
int[] a = new int[5];
{
    int[] temp = new int[a.length + 1];
    for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)
    {
        temp[i] = a[i];
    }
    a = temp;
}
```

- New variable temp created to hold copy
- New block created to ensure temp does not interfere with another variable of the same name
- Previous contents of a become garbage

Arrays As Arguments

- Arrays = objects
- Array variables = references
- Array cells = variables of the base type (references or primitives depending on what that base type is)
- Both can be used as arguments to methods
  - Array cells: passed just like the variables of that base type
  - Array arguments: passed just like objects
    - Reference to array is passed in
    - If the method expects an array of doubles, an array of doubles of any size can be passed
    - Promotion does not apply. You cannot pass an int array when an array of doubles is expected

Array Initializers

- Arrays may be initialized at declaration time!

```java
int[] a = {5,0,1,2};
```

- Java:
  - counts elements (here, 4);
  - creates correct size of array
  - copies elements into array
  - returns reference to array

See Array Example 3
Arrays of Objects

- Class types can also be base types of arrays
  - e.g. String[] acc = new String[3];
  - Array cells store references to objects
- Array initializers can also be used
  String[] acc = ("UMD", "UNC", "Duke");

Arrays of Objects (continued)

- More complicated example than strings: Cat objects
- Expressions can also appear in initializers
  Cat[] kennel = {
    new Cat("Joe"),
    new Cat("Jill"),
    new Cat("Fluffy")
  };

Privacy Leaks

- Consider following code
  public class MutableThing {
    
  }
  public class Foo {
    private MutableThing q = new MutableThing();
    public MutableThing getQ() {
      return q;
    }
  }

- After this executes, what happens?
- This phenomenon is called a privacy leak.
  - A private instance variable can be modified outside the class
  - Behavior is due to aliasing
Fixing Privacy Leaks

- Return copies of objects referenced by instance variables.
- To fix `getQ` method in `Foo`:
  ```java
  MutableThing getQ(){
    return new MutableThing(q);
  }
  ```
- This returns a copy of `q`.
- Changes made to this copy will not affect original.

Reference Copying

```java
Person[] d = {
    new Person(2.1, 7, ...),
    new Person(3.3, 2, ...)
};
Person[] e = d;
```

Shallow Copying

```java
Person[] d = {
    new Person(2.1, 7, ...),
    new Person(3.3, 2, ...)
};
Person[] e = new Person[d.length];
for (int i=0; i < d.length, i++){
    e[i] = d[i];
}
```
Deep Copying

Person[] d = {
    new Person(2.1, 7, …),
    new Person(3.3, 2, …)
};

Person[] e = new Person[d.length];
for (int i = 0; i < d.length; i++) {
    e[i] = new Person(d[i]);
}

Three Ways of Copying

CDCollector contains an array of CD’s;
ReCDCollector contains an array of rewriteable CD’s;

- Reference copy
  public ReCD[] getCDsReferenceCopy() {
    return myFavorites;
  }

- Shallow copy
  public ReCD[] getCDsShallowCopy() {
    ReCD[] copy = new ReCD[myFavorites.length];
    for (int i = 0; i < copy.length; i++)
      copy[i] = myFavorites[i];
    return copy;
  }

- Deep copy
  public ReCD[] getCDsDeepCopy() {
    ReCD[] copy = new ReCD[myFavorites.length];
    for (int i = 0; i < copy.length; i++)
      copy[i] = new ReCD(myFavorites[i]);
    return copy;
  }

When To Use What Kind of Copying?

- Reference copying is usually a bad idea (not always but realize what you are doing)
- Deep copying provides maximal protection against aliasing (but takes a lot of time and space if it was not necessary)
- Storage space and time used
  - Reference: least
  - Shallow: middle
  - Deep: most
- If the class is mutable, aliasing is something to be avoided and you must have true copies to prevent privacy leaks and modifications outside.
- If you know the class is immutable, aliasing doesn’t hurt but neither does making true copies (except wasted space and time).
- If storage is an issue, aliasing problems may be worth copying with but must be well documented.