

# Methods

Introduction to Programming and  
Computational Problem Solving:  
Accelerated Pace

CSE 11

Lecture 6

# Announcements

- Assignment 2 is due today, 11:59 PM
  - Upgrade beginning Oct 18, 12:01 AM
- Assignment 3 will be released today
  - Due Oct 22, 11:59 PM

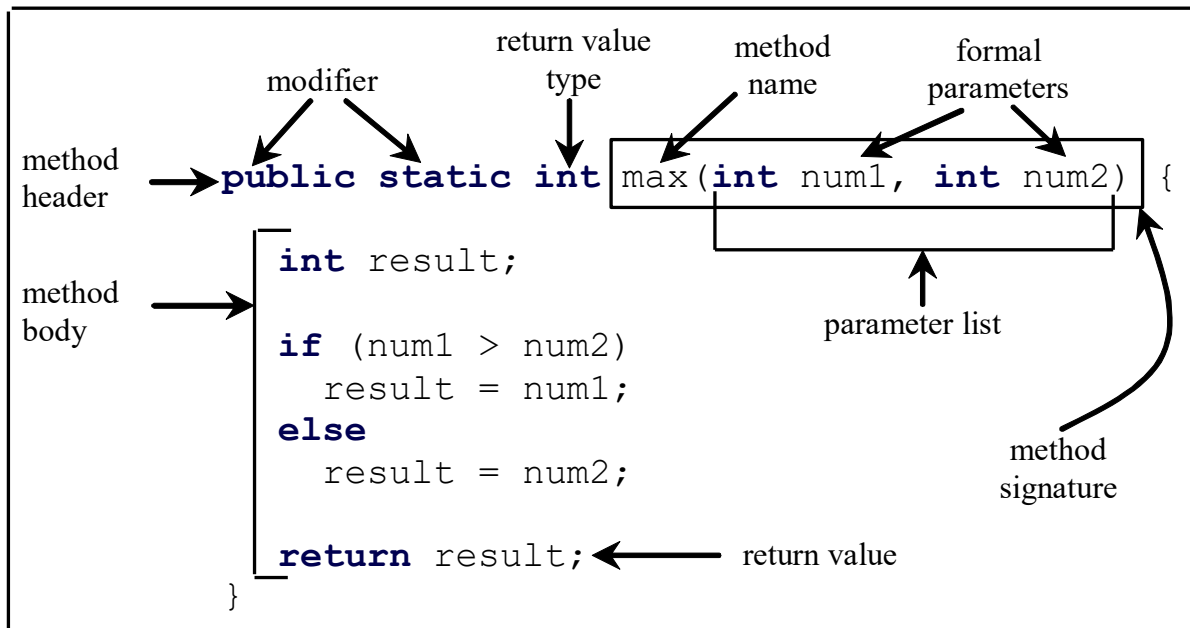
# Variable and method names

- Naming convention: Use lowercase. If the name consists of several words, concatenate all in one, use lowercase for the first word, and capitalize the first letter of each subsequent word in the name
  - For example, the variables `radius` and `area`, and the method `computeArea`.

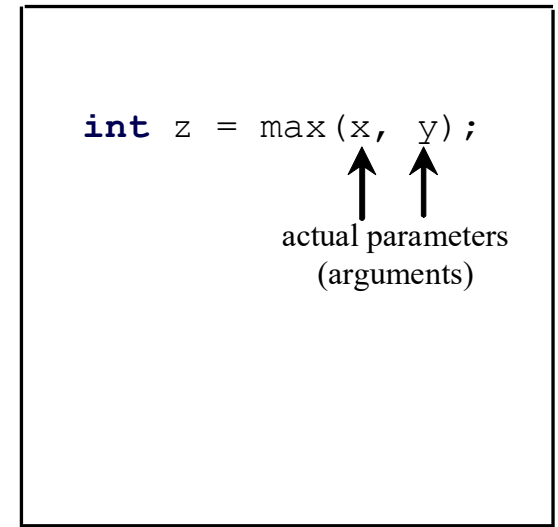
# Defining methods

- A method is a collection of statements that are grouped together to perform an operation

Define a method



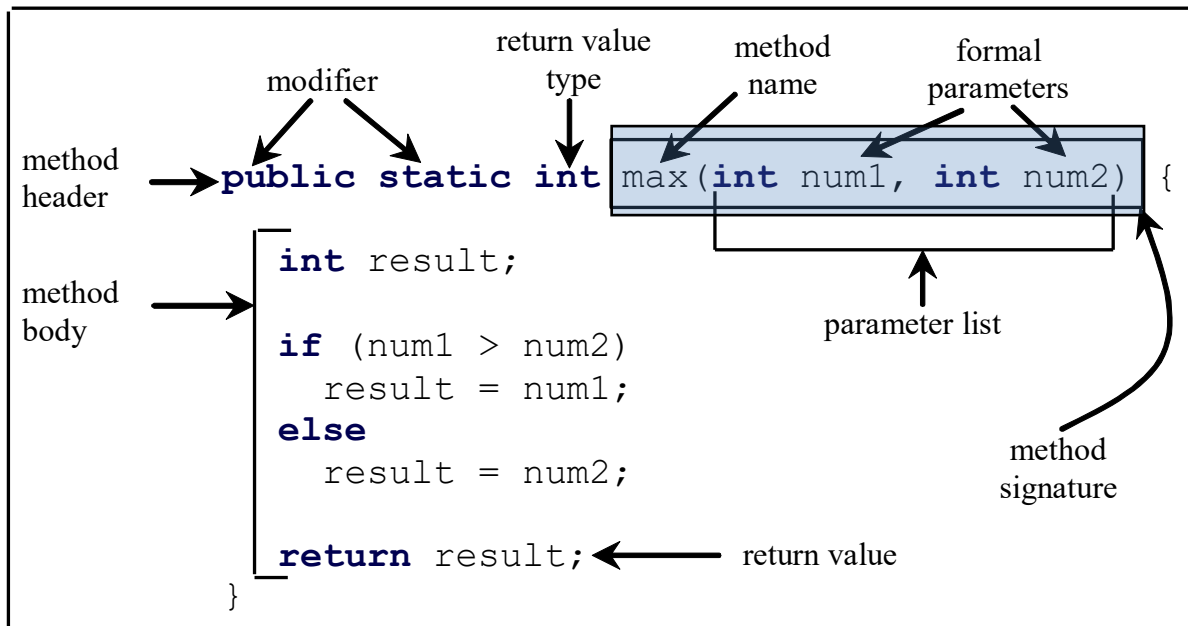
Invoke a method



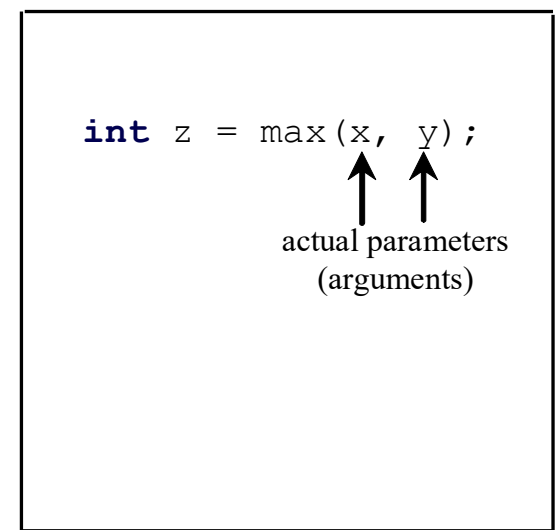
# Method signature

- The *method signature* is the combination of the method name and the parameter list

Define a method



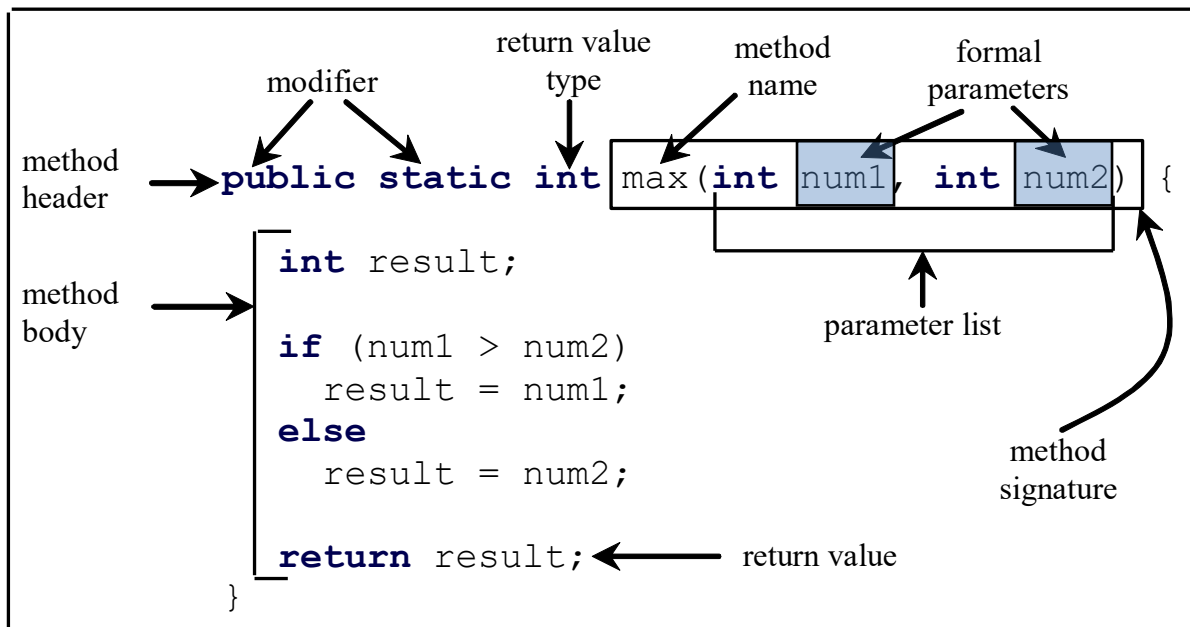
Invoke a method



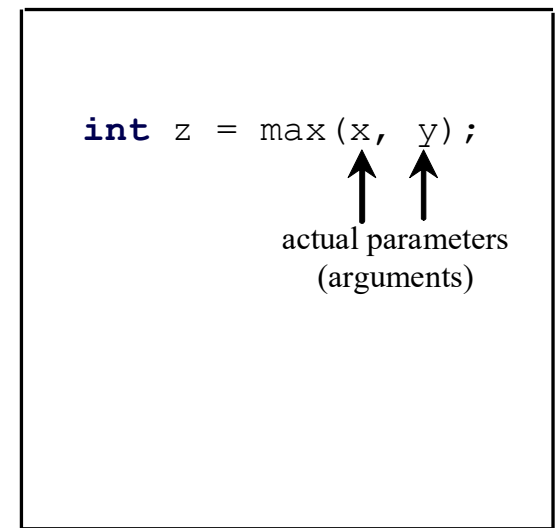
# Formal parameters

- The variables defined in the method header are known as *formal parameters*

Define a method



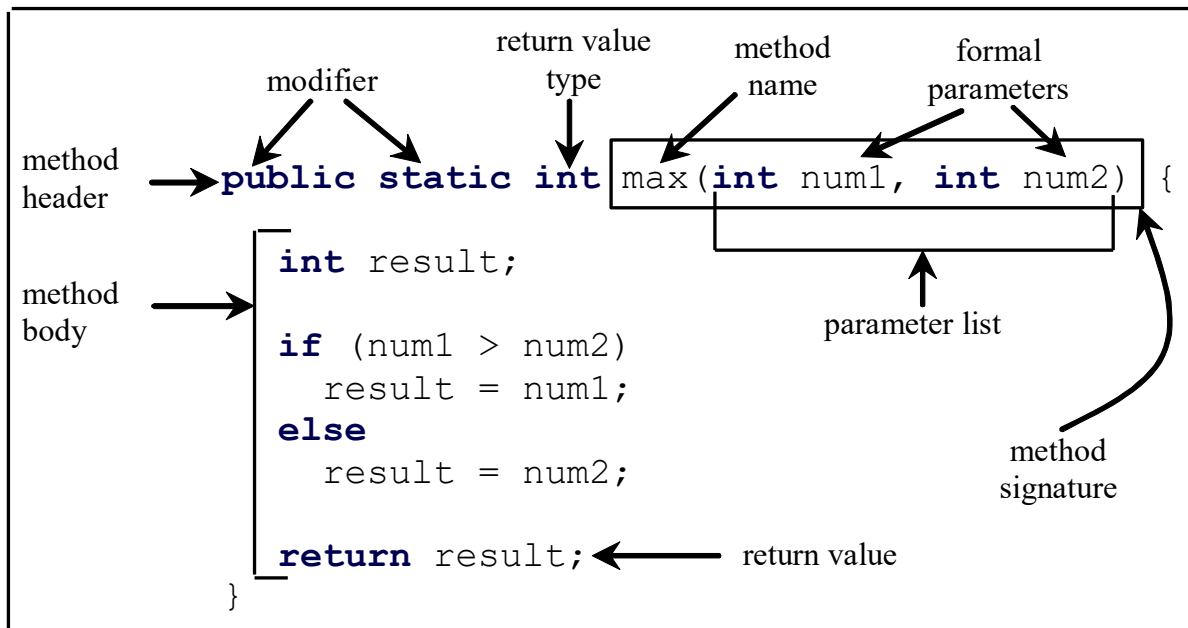
Invoke a method



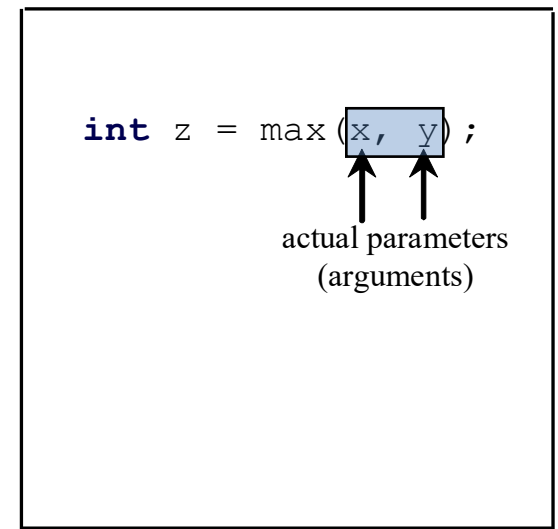
# Actual parameters

- When a method is invoked, you pass a value to the parameter
  - This value is referred to as *actual parameter* or *argument*

Define a method



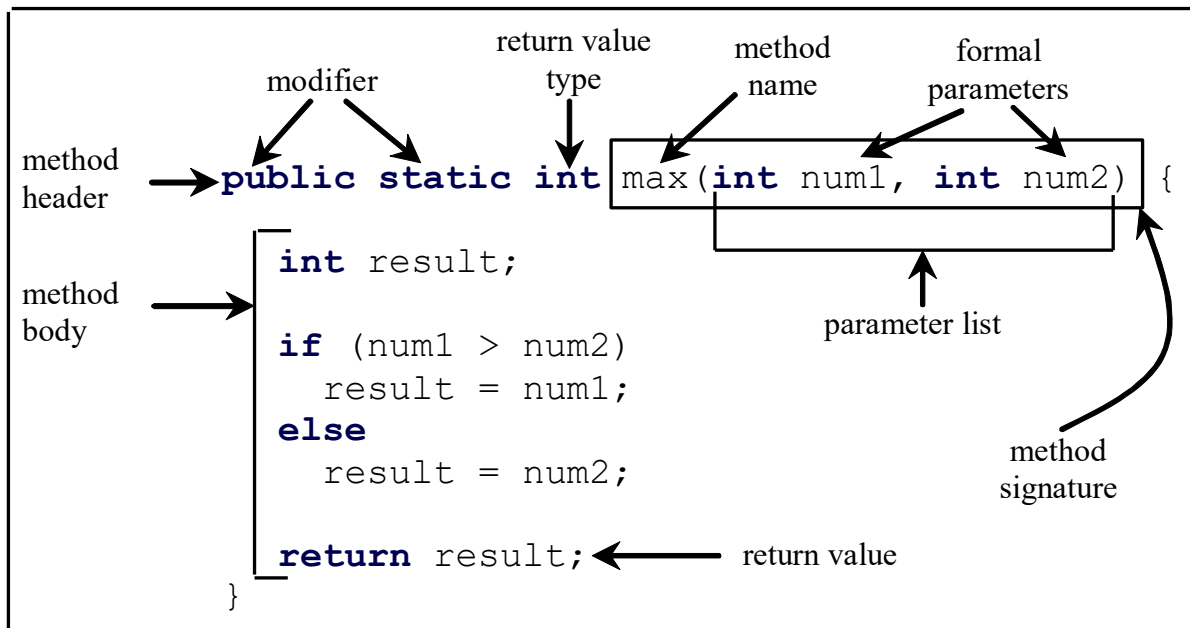
Invoke a method



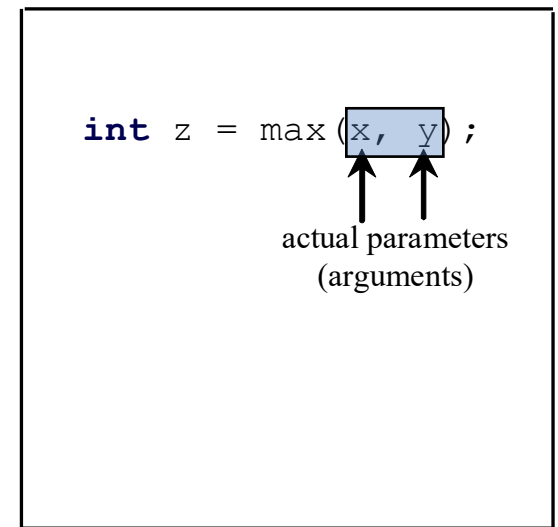
# Pass by value

- Java uses **pass by value** to pass arguments to a method
- For example, modifying num1 does not modify x

Define a method



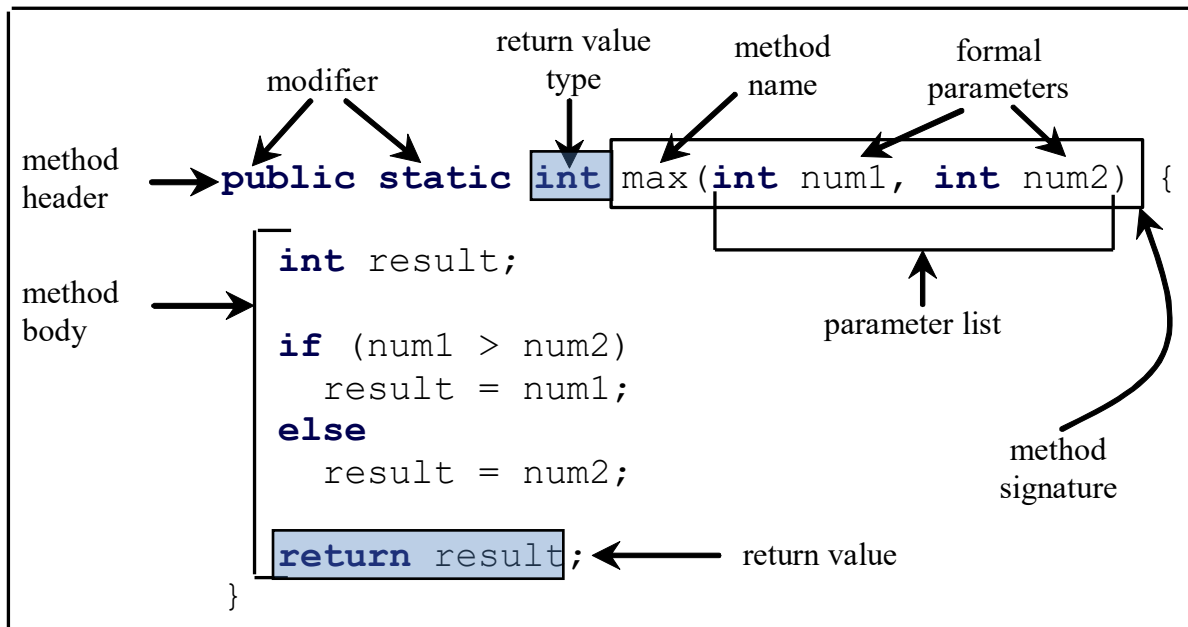
Invoke a method



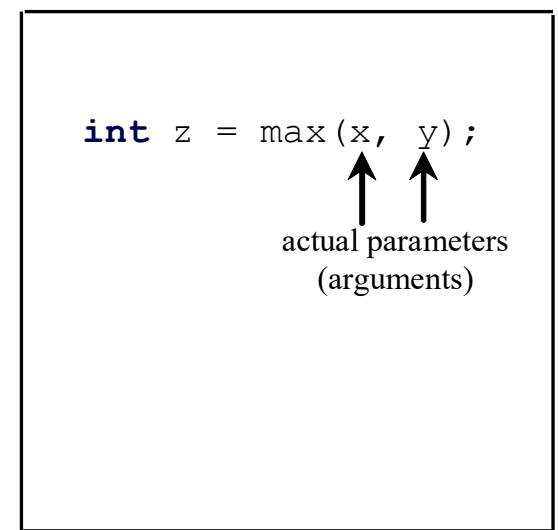
# Return value type

- A method may return a value
- The *return value type* is the data type of the value the method returns
  - If the method does not return a value, the *return value type* is the keyword `void`

Define a method



Invoke a method



# return statement

- A return statement is required for a value-returning method

```
public static int sign(int n) {  
    if (n > 0)  
        return 1;  
    else if (n == 0)  
        return 0;  
    else if (n < 0)  
        return -1;  
}
```

(a)

Should be

```
public static int sign(int n) {  
    if (n > 0)  
        return 1;  
    else if (n == 0)  
        return 0;  
    else  
        return -1;  
}
```

(b)

Delete `if (n < 0)` in (a), so the compiler will see a return statement is reached regardless of how the `if` statement is evaluated

# Reuse methods from other classes

- One of the benefits of methods is for reuse
  - Call (i.e., invoke) a static method using `ClassName.methodName`
- Calling a method executes the code in the method

# Instance methods vs static methods

- Instance methods can only be invoked from a specific instance of a class
  - The syntax to invoke an instance method is  
`referenceVariable.methodName(arguments)`
  - For example, the simple `String` methods  
`String message = "Welcome to Java";`  
`int messageLength = message.length(); // Not String.length(message)`
- Static methods can be invoked without using an object (i.e., they are not tied to a specific instance)
  - All static methods are non-instance methods
  - The syntax to invoke a static method is  
`ClassName.methodName(arguments)`
  - For example, all the methods defined in the `Math` class are static methods  
`double x = -1.2345;`  
`double absx = Math.abs(x); // Not x.abs()`

# Reuse methods from other classes

- For example, the max method is member of the class TestMax
- The max method can be invoked from any class besides TestMax
- If you create a new class TestMax, you can invoke the max method using TestMax.max

```
public class TestMax {  
    public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
        int result;  
  
        if (num1 > num2)  
            result = num1;  
        else  
            result = num2;  
  
        return result;  
    }  
}
```

# Trace code

i is declared and initialized

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```

i: 5

The main method  
is invoked.

# Trace code

j is declared and initialized

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;

    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;

    return result;
}
```

j: 2  
i: 5

The main method  
is invoked.

# Trace code

Declare k

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i + "  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```

Space required for the  
main method

k:  
j: 2  
i: 5

The main method  
is invoked.

# Trace code

Invoke max(i, j)

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    int i = 5;
    int j = 2;
    int k = max(i, j);

    System.out.println(
        "The maximum between " + i +
        " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    int result;

    if (num1 > num2)
        result = num1;
    else
        result = num2;

    return result;
}
```

Space required for the  
main method

k:  
j: 2  
i: 5

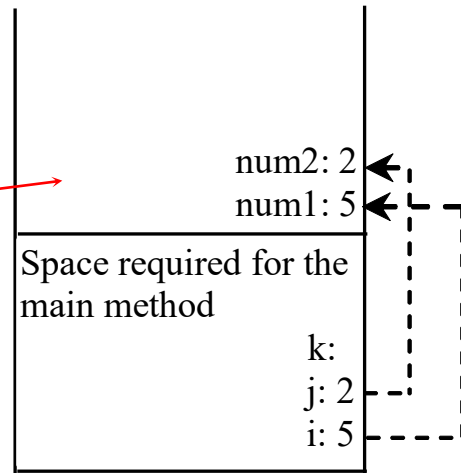
The main method  
is invoked.

# Trace code

pass the values of i and j to num1 and num2

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```



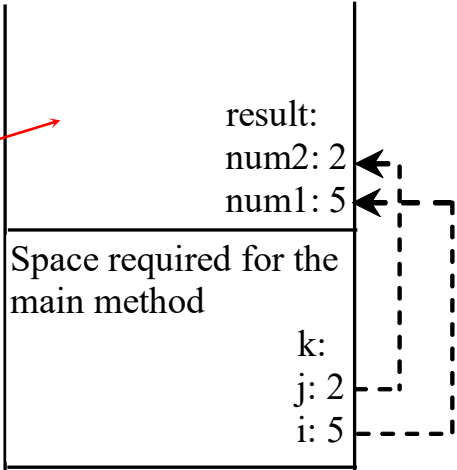
The max method is invoked.

# Trace code

Declare result

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```



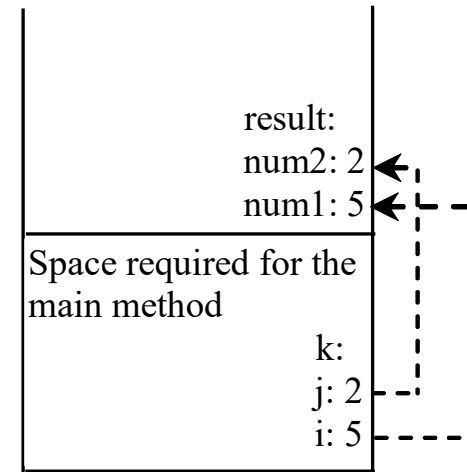
The max method is invoked.

# Trace code

(num1 > num2) is true

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```



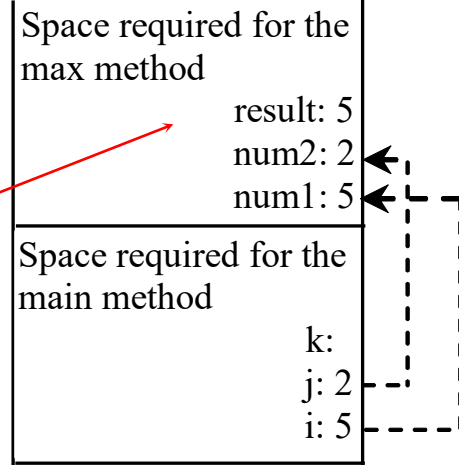
The max method is invoked.

# Trace code

Assign num1 to result

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2)  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```



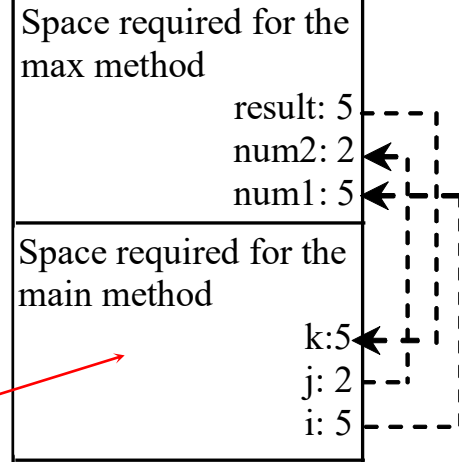
The max method is invoked.

# Trace code

Return result and assign it to k

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int i = 5;  
    int j = 2;  
    int k = max(i, j);  
  
    System.out.println(  
        "The maximum between " + i +  
        " and " + j + " is " + k);  
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2)  
    int result;  
  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        result = num1;  
    else  
        result = num2;  
  
    return result;  
}
```



The max method is invoked.

# Modularizing code

- Methods can be used to reduce redundant coding and enable code reuse
- Methods can also be used to modularize code and improve the quality of the program

# Overloading methods

- Overloading methods enable you to define the methods with the same name **as long as their parameter lists are different**
- For example, overloading the max method

```
public static double max(double num1, double num2) {  
    if (num1 > num2)  
        return num1;  
    else  
        return num2;  
}
```

# Ambiguous invocation

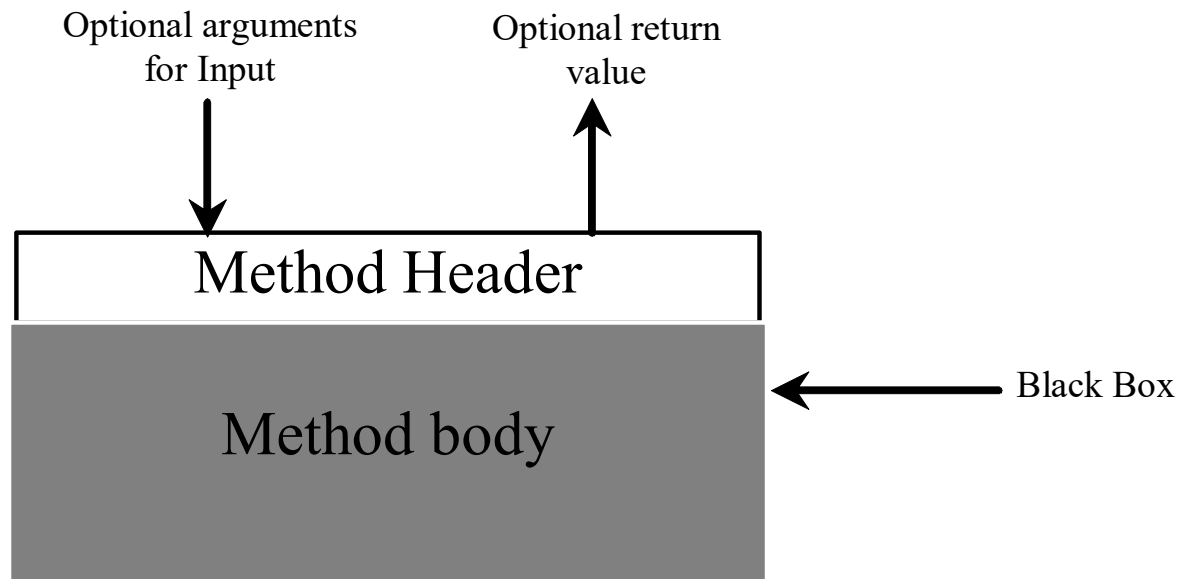
- The Java compiler determines which method to use based on the method signature
- Sometimes there may be two or more possible matches for an invocation of a method, but the compiler cannot determine the most specific match
- This is referred to as *ambiguous invocation*
- Ambiguous invocation is a compile error

# Scope of local variables

- A local variable is a variable defined inside a method
- Scope is the part of the program where the variable can be referenced
- The scope of a local variable **starts from its declaration** and **continues to the end of the block** that contains the variable
- A local variable must be declared before it can be used
- You can declare a local variable with the same name multiple times in different *non-nesting* blocks in a method, but you cannot declare a local variable twice in nested blocks

# Method abstraction

- You can think of the method body as a black box that contains the detailed implementation for the method (i.e., encapsulation)



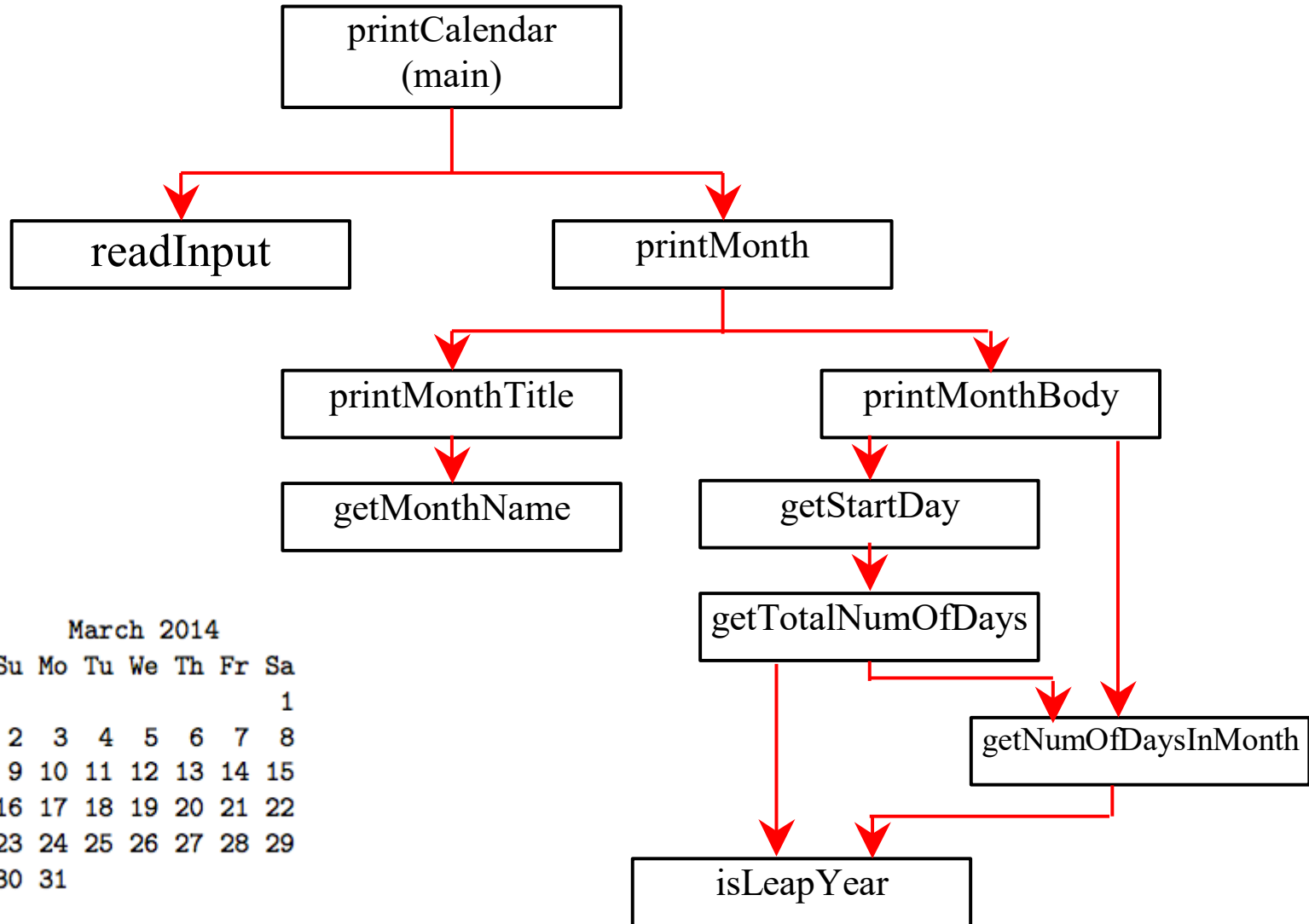
# Benefits of methods

- Write a method once and reuse it anywhere
- Information hiding
  - Hide the implementation from the user
- Reduce complexity

# Stepwise refinement

- The concept of method abstraction can be applied to the process of developing programs
- When writing a large program, you can use the “divide and conquer” strategy, also known as *stepwise refinement*, to decompose it into subproblems
- The subproblems can be further decomposed into smaller, more manageable problems

# Example design diagram



# Bottom-up implementation

- Bottom-up approach is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the bottom to the top
- For each method implemented, write a test program to test it

# Top-down implementation

- Top-down approach is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the top to the bottom
- Stubs can be used for the methods waiting to be implemented
  - A *stub* is a simple but incomplete version of a method
  - The use of stubs enables you to test invoking the method from a caller
- In the example, implement the `main` method first and then use a stub for the `printMonth` method
  - For example, let `printMonth` display the year and the month in the stub

# Implementation

- Both top-down and bottom-up methods are fine
- Both approaches implement the methods incrementally and help to isolate programming errors and makes debugging easy
- Sometimes, they can be used together

# Stepwise refinement

- Simpler program
- Reusing methods
- Easier developing, debugging, and testing
- Better facilitating teamwork

# Next Lecture

- Loops and recursion