Review: A Puzzle

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}

class C {
    static void main(String[] args) {
        B aB = new B();
        h(aB);
    }

    static void h(A x) { x.g(); }
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1. What is printed?
2. If we made g static?
3. If we made f static?
4. If we overrode g in B?
5. If f not defined in A?

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**Answer to Puzzle**

1. Executing `java C` prints _____, because

   A. `C.main` calls `h` and passes it `aB`, whose dynamic type is `B`.
   B. `h` calls `x.g()`. Since `g` is inherited by `B`, we execute the code for `g` in class `A`.
   C. `g` calls `this.f()`. Now `this` contains the value of `h`'s argument, whose dynamic type is `B`. Therefore, we execute the definition of `f` that is in `B`.
   D. In calls to `f`, in other words, static type is ignored in figuring out what method to call.

2. If `g` were static, we see _____; selection of `f` still depends on dynamic type of `this`. Same for overriding `g` in `B`.

3. If `f` were static, would print _____ because then selection of `f` would depend on static type of `this`, which is `A`.

4. If `f` were not defined in `A`, we'd see _____
Answer to Puzzle

1. Executing `java C` prints `__B.f__`, because
   
   A. `C.main` calls `h` and passes it `aB`, whose dynamic type is `B`.
   B. `h` calls `x.g()`. Since `g` is inherited by `B`, we execute the code for `g` in class `A`.
   C. `g` calls `this.f()`. Now `this` contains the value of `h`'s argument, whose dynamic type is `B`. Therefore, we execute the definition of `f` that is in `B`.
   D. In calls to `f`, in other words, static type is ignored in figuring out what method to call.

2. If `g` were static, we see `__B.f__`; selection of `f` still depends on dynamic type of `this`. Same for overriding `g` in `B`.

3. If `f` were static, would print `__A.f__` because then selection of `f` would depend on static type of `this`, which is `A`.

4. If `f` were not defined in `A`, we'd see `__a compile-time error__`
Example: Designing a Class

Problem: Want a class that represents histograms, like this one:

```
0.0-0.2   0.2-0.4   0.4-0.6   0.6-0.8   0.8-1.0
```

Analysis: What do we need from it? At least:

- Specify buckets and limits.
- Accumulate counts of values.
- Retrieve counts of values.
- Retrieve numbers of buckets and other initial parameters.
Specification Seen by Clients

- The clients of a module (class, program, etc.) are the programs or methods that use that module’s exported definitions.
- In Java, intention is that exported definitions are designated public.
- Clients are intended to rely on specifications, (aka APIs) not code.
- Syntactic specification: method and constructor headers—syntax needed to use.
- Semantic specification: what they do. No formal notation, so use comments.
  - Semantic specification is a contract.
  - Conditions client must satisfy (preconditions, marked “Pre:” in examples below).
  - Promised results (postconditions).
  - Design these to be all the client needs!
  - Exceptions communicate errors, specifically failure to meet pre-conditions.
Histogram Specification and Use

/** A histogram of floating-point values */
public interface Histogram {
    /** The number of buckets in THIS. */
    int size();

    /** Lower bound of bucket #K. Pre: 0<=K<size(). */
    double low(int k);

    /** # of values in bucket #K. Pre: 0<=K<size(). */
    int count(int k);

    /** Add VAL to the histogram. */
    void add(double val);
}

void fillHistogram(Histogram H, Scanner in) {
    while (in.hasNextDouble())
        H.add(in.nextDouble());
}

void printHistogram(Histogram H) {
    for (int i = 0; i < H.size(); i += 1)
        System.out.printf(">=%5.2f | %4d%n", H.low(i), H.count(i));
}

Sample output:
>= 0.00 | 10
>= 10.25 | 80
>= 20.50 | 120
>= 30.75 | 50

Last modified: Fri Sep 20 15:51:21 2019
public class FixedHistogram implements Histogram {
    private double low, high; /* From constructor*/
    private int[] count; /* Value counts */

    /** A new histogram with SIZE buckets of values >= LOW and < HIGH. */
    public FixedHistogram(int size, double low, double high) {
        if (low >= high || size <= 0) throw new IllegalArgumentException();
        this.low = low; this.high = high;
        this.count = new int[size];
    }

    public int size() { return count.length; }
    public double low(int k) { return low + k * (high-low)/count.length; }
    public int count(int k) { return count[k]; }
    public void add(double val) {
        if (val >= low && val < high)
            count[(int) ((val-low)/(high-low) * count.length)] += 1;
    }
}
Let's Make a Tiny Change

Don't require \textit{a priori} bounds:

class FlexHistogram implements Histogram {
    /** A new histogram with SIZE buckets. */
    public FlexHistogram(int size) {
        // What needs to change?
    }
    // What needs to change?
}

• How would you do this? Profoundly changes implementation.
• But \textit{clients} (like \texttt{printHistogram} and \texttt{fillHistogram}) still work with no changes.
• Illustrates the power of \textit{separation of concerns}. 
Implementing the Tiny Change

- Pointless to pre-allocate the `count` array.
- Don’t know bounds, so must save arguments to `add`.
- Then recompute `count` array “lazily” when `count(···)` called.
- Invalidate `count` array whenever histogram changes.

```java
class FlexHistogram implements Histogram {
    private ArrayList<Double> values = new ArrayList<>();
    int size;
    private int[] count;

    public FlexHistogram(int size) {
        this.size = size;
        this.count = null;
    }

    public void add(double x) { count = null; values.add(x); }

    public int count(int k) {
        if (count == null) { compute count from values here. }
        return count[k];
    }
}
```

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Advantages of Procedural Interface over Visible Fields

By using public method for count instead of making the array count visible, the “tiny change” is transparent to clients:

• If client had to write myHist.count[k], it would mean

  “The number of items currently in the \( k^{th} \) bucket of histogram myHist (which, by the way, is stored in an array called count in myHist that always holds the up-to-date count).”

• Parenthetical comment worse than useless to the client.

• If count array had been visible, after “tiny change,” every use of count in client program would have to change.

• So using a method for the public count method decreases what client has to know, and (therefore) has to change.