

Unit 3:
Android SDK and Basic Java for
Android Apps



Mobile Application Development (MAD)
CCIT4059, 2025-2026

Outline

- Android SDK
 - Activity and Its Java Class
- Basic Java for MAD
 - Typical Structure of Java Class
- Java Classes and Objects
 - Constructors / Methods

** This unit briefly introduces and summarises Java Programming Language for developing Android apps. Students should refer to other materials for details if necessary.*

Software Development Kit

Software Development Kit (SDK):

- Major mobile OSs provide SDK, associated with major supporting programming languages and development environment, for 3rd parties to develop apps running on them.

Key functions:

- Tools for building mobile apps
- Libraries, compilers, emulators, documentation
- Accessing device features
- Ensuring compatibility with the mobile OS

ANDROID SDK

Core Development Tools

- Android Studio is the official IDE provided by Google providing comprehensive and essential tools like code editing, debugging, and performance profiling.
 - It includes essential components such as libraries, a debugger, an emulator
 - It provides a graphical interface that consolidates various tools, making the development process more efficient and user-friendly

Programming Languages Supported

- The SDK supports Java and Kotlin, allowing developers to choose based on project needs and preferences.

Android SDK

Build and Automation

- Gradle automates the build process, enabling modular and efficient app packaging.

UI Frameworks and Libraries

- Android uses XML layouts and Jetpack Compose for declarative and reactive UI development.
 - *Jetpack Compose is Android's modern toolkit for building native UIs, simplifying UI development with less code and powerful tools.*
- Remark: Google regularly releases a new version of Android, a corresponding SDK is also released, ensuring that developers have access to the latest features and tools.

IOS SDK (APPLE)

For reference

Development Tools and Environment

- Xcode integrates coding, UI design, debugging, testing, and asset management in one interface for efficient app development.

Programming Languages

- Developers primarily use Swift for safe, clear, and performant code, with Objective-C still supporting legacy apps.

UI Frameworks

- UIKit and SwiftUI frameworks enable building adaptive user interfaces for multiple Apple devices with ease.

Advanced SDK Features

- Frameworks like Metal, Core ML, and ARKit support graphics, machine learning, augmented reality, and security.

HarmonyOS SDK

For reference

Distributed Multi-Device Capability

- HarmonyOS SDK enables applications to run seamlessly across mobile, wearable, smart home, and IoT devices collaboratively.

Development Languages and IDE

- Developers use Java, JavaScript, and ArkTS with DevEco Studio IDE tailored for HarmonyOS app creation.

Ability Framework and Modular Design

- Ability framework supports modular app components like UIAbility for interfaces and ServiceAbility for background tasks.

Super Device Features

- HarmonyOS enables interaction with multiple devices as one, enhancing user workflows and device integration.

Key Components of Android SDK

1. SDK Platforms

- Each Android version provides a corresponding SDK Platform that **includes the Android framework APIs and system libraries** for compiling apps.

2. Android SDK Platform-tools

- A collection of device-level tools (e.g. ADB and Fastboot), used for **debugging, flashing, and communicating** with devices.

3. Gradle and Android Gradle Plugin (AGP)

- **Tools to configure, and automate the entire build process.** Gradle (Build engine) handles all the build steps, while AGP (plugin) tells Gradle how an Android app should be compiled, packaged, and prepared for running.

4. Android SDK Build-Tools

- **Tools required to build Android app binaries (APK/AAB)**

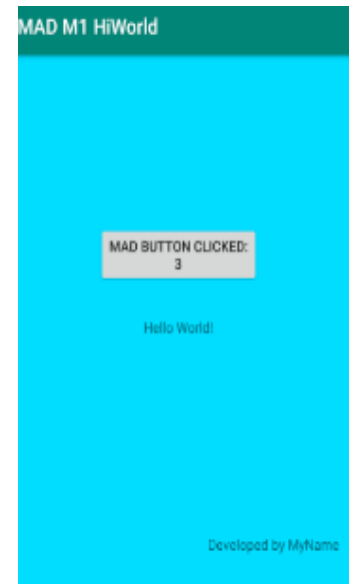
5. Android Emulator

- A virtual Android device that lets you **run and test apps without needing physical hardware.**

Android SDK

(Activity and Its Java Class)

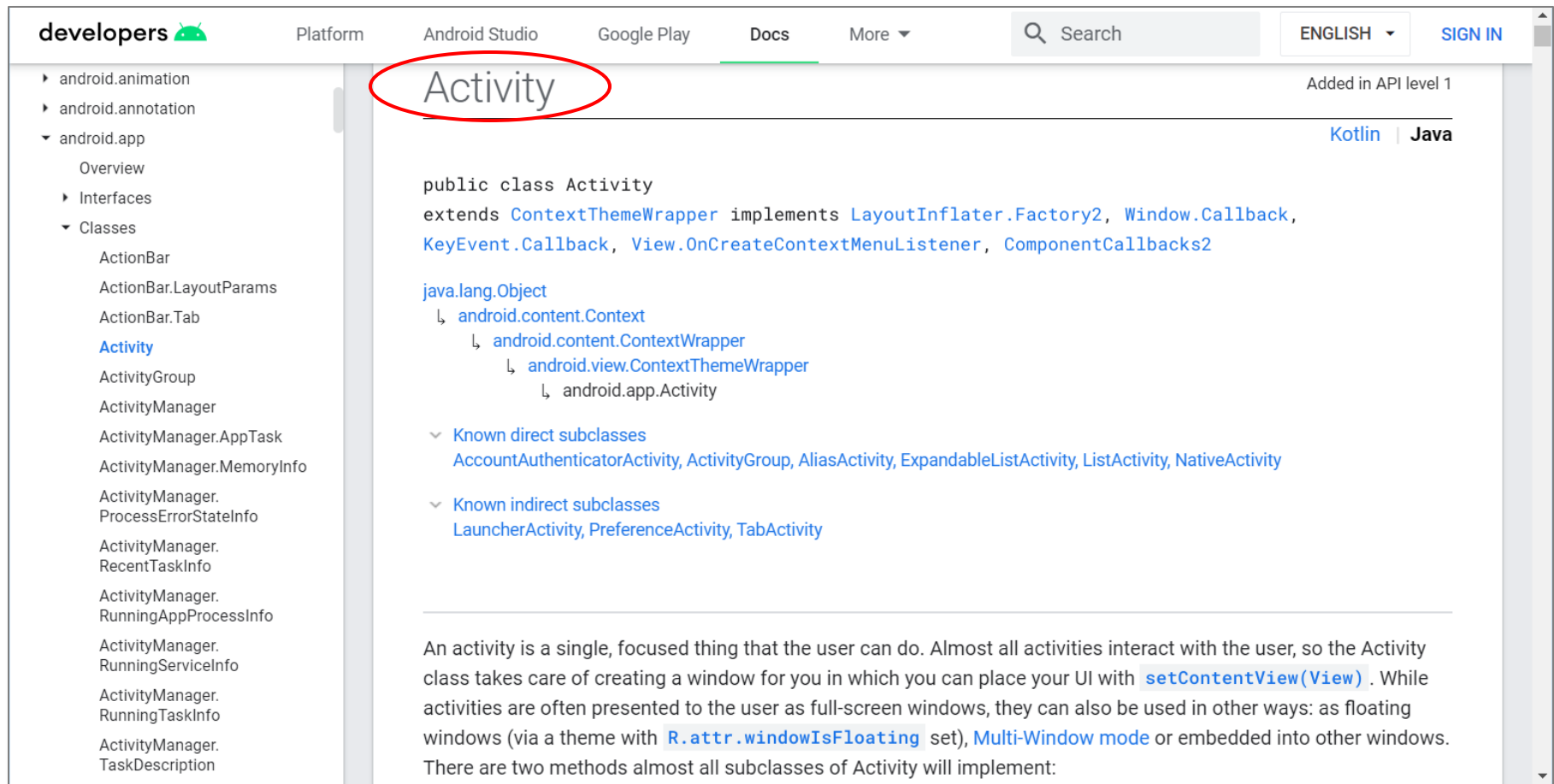
- Android apps (applications) are mostly created with component known as Activity
- An activity is a single, standalone module of application functionality that usually correlates directly to a single user interface screen and its corresponding functionality
- Activity is essentially a Java class / object
 - As such, learning Java programming language is one important way to start implementing Android apps



Android SDK

(Activity and Its Java Class)

- For details of a Java class, we need to refer to API (Application programming interface) information



The screenshot shows the Android Studio documentation interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'developers', 'Platform', 'Android Studio', 'Google Play', 'Docs', and 'More'. A search bar and language selector (English) are also present. The left sidebar displays a tree view of the Android SDK classes, with 'Activity' highlighted under 'android.app'. The main content area shows the Java class definition for 'Activity', which extends 'ContextThemeWrapper' and implements several interfaces. It also lists known direct and indirect subclasses. A descriptive paragraph at the bottom explains the role of an Activity in the Android system.

developers  Platform Android Studio Google Play Docs More ▾ 🔍 Search ENGLISH ▾ SIGN IN

android.animation
android.annotation
android.app
 Overview
 Interfaces
 Classes
 ActionBar
 ActionBar.LayoutParams
 ActionBar.Tab
 Activity
 ActivityGroup
 ActivityManager
 ActivityManager.AppTask
 ActivityManager.MemoryInfo
 ActivityManager.ProcessErrorStateInfo
 ActivityManager.RecentTaskInfo
 ActivityManager.RunningAppProcessInfo
 ActivityManager.RunningServiceInfo
 ActivityManager.RunningTaskInfo
 ActivityManager.TaskDescription

Activity Added in API level 1

[Kotlin](#) | **Java**

```
public class Activity
    extends ContextThemeWrapper implements LayoutInflater.Factory2, Window.Callback,
    KeyEvent.Callback, View.OnCreateContextMenuListener, ComponentCallbacks2

java.lang.Object
├── android.content.Context
│   ├── android.content.ContextWrapper
│   │   ├── android.view.ContextThemeWrapper
│   │   └── android.app.Activity
```

Known direct subclasses
[AccountAuthenticatorActivity](#), [ActivityGroup](#), [AliasActivity](#), [ExpandableListActivity](#), [ListActivity](#), [NativeActivity](#)

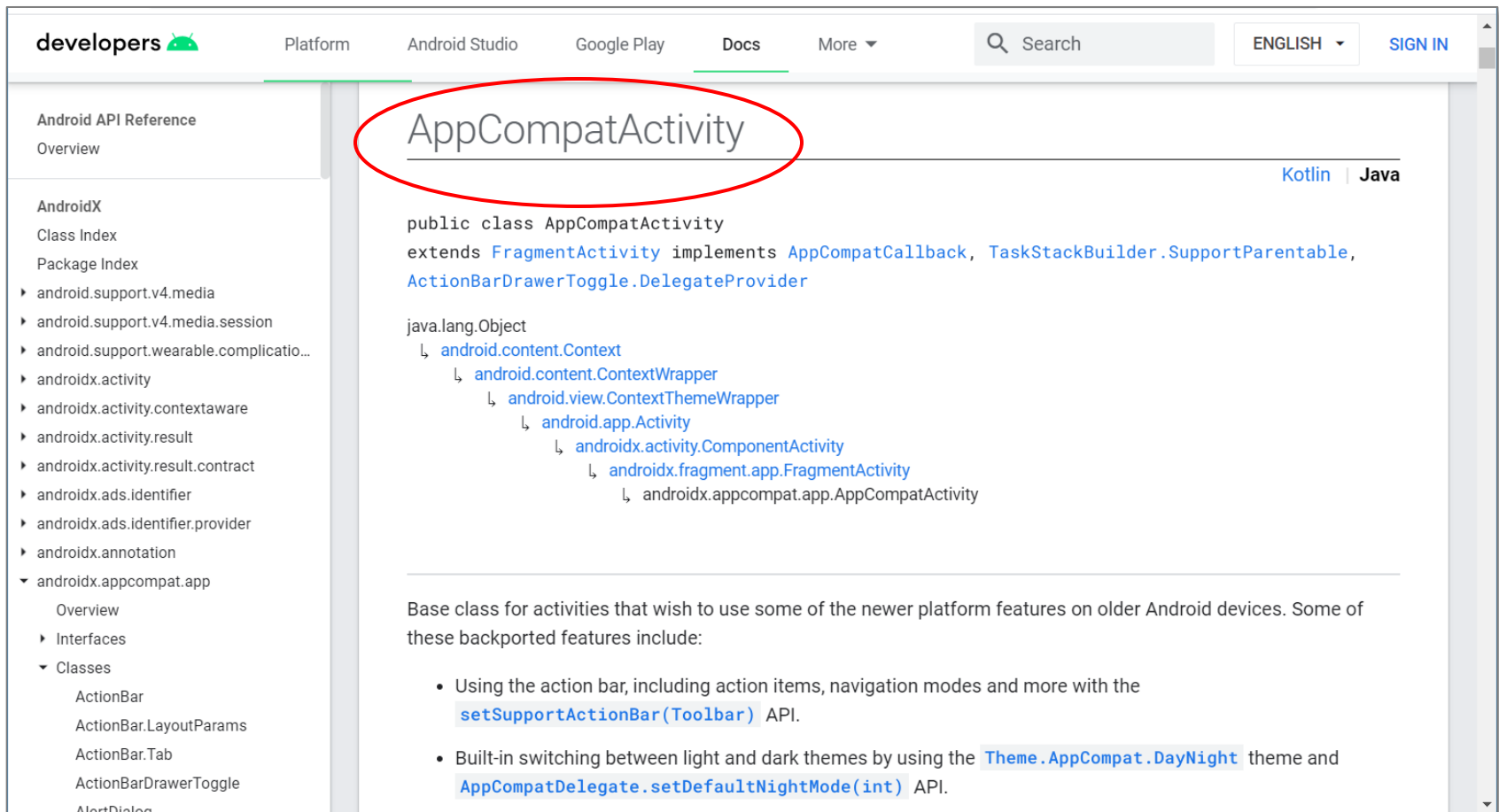
Known indirect subclasses
[LauncherActivity](#), [PreferenceActivity](#), [TabActivity](#)

An activity is a single, focused thing that the user can do. Almost all activities interact with the user, so the Activity class takes care of creating a window for you in which you can place your UI with [setContentView\(View\)](#). While activities are often presented to the user as full-screen windows, they can also be used in other ways: as floating windows (via a theme with [R.attr.windowIsFloating](#) set), [Multi-Window mode](#) or embedded into other windows. There are two methods almost all subclasses of Activity will implement:

Android SDK

(Activity and Its Java Class)

- Often Android app is built on a subclass of `Activity`, `AppCompatActivity`
- Here shows its API information



The screenshot shows the 'developers' website for the Android SDK. The 'Platform' tab is selected. On the left, the 'Android API Reference' sidebar is open, showing a tree view of the API. The 'AppCompatActivity' class is highlighted in the tree. The main content area displays the 'AppCompatActivity' class page. The title 'AppCompatActivity' is circled in red. The page shows the class signature, its inheritance hierarchy, and a description of its purpose as a base class for activities on older Android devices. The inheritance hierarchy is as follows:

```
java.lang.Object
├── android.content.Context
│   ├── android.content.ContextWrapper
│   │   ├── android.view.ContextThemeWrapper
│   │   │   ├── android.app.Activity
│   │   │   │   ├── androidx.activity.ComponentActivity
│   │   │   │   │   ├── androidx.fragment.app.FragmentActivity
│   │   │   │   │   │   └── androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
```

The class signature is:

```
public class AppCompatActivity
    extends AppCompatActivity implements AppCompatActivity,
    AppCompatActivity.DelegateProvider
```

The description states: 'Base class for activities that wish to use some of the newer platform features on older Android devices. Some of these backported features include:'

- Using the action bar, including action items, navigation modes and more with the `setSupportActionBar()` API.
- Built-in switching between light and dark themes by using the `Theme.AppCompat.DayNight` theme and `AppCompatActivity.setDefaultNightMode()` API.

Basic Java for MAD

Self-learning

- Java is a class-based programming language that supports object-oriented (OO)
- Java is originally intended to let developers "write once, run anywhere" (WORA)
 - Java compiled code (bytecode, the `.class` file) that runs on one platform does not need to be recompiled to run on another
- Java is designed with a C/C++ style syntax that many programmers would find familiar
 - As such people with C/C++ background may find learning Java easier than others

Basic Java for MAD

Self-learning

- Java is designed with similar ***syntax of C++ / C style***
- **Data types** : Java programs supports classes and their objects (OO)
 - Java also supports primitive types (e.g. `int`, `float`, `boolean`)
- **Blocks of codes `{ }`** : Java uses blocks with brace pair `{ }`, e.g. for compound statements, class body, and method body
 - Unlike Python, ***indentation in code lines will be ignored in Java***
- **Declaration** of variables (with data type) : Java variables must be first declared (with specified data type), before accessing
 - `int aNum; // variable (named aNum) declared as int type`
- **Statement end `;`** : Statements end with a semi-colon symbol (`;`), e.g.
`aNum = 123; // an assignment statement`

Basic Java

(Reserved keywords)

Self-learning

- 51-character sequences are reserved for use as keywords and cannot be used as identifiers
 - There are extra 10 “restricted keywords” newly introduced for “module declarations: `exports`, `module`, `open`, `opens`, `provides`, `requires`, `uses`, `with`, `to` and `transitive`. They may be used as identifiers anywhere else in the code.

<code>abstract</code>	<code>continue</code>	<code>for</code>	<code>new</code>	<code>switch</code>
<code>assert***</code>	<code>default</code>	<code>goto*</code>	<code>package</code>	<code>synchronized</code>
<code>boolean</code>	<code>do</code>	<code>if</code>	<code>private</code>	<code>this</code>
<code>break</code>	<code>double</code>	<code>implements</code>	<code>protected</code>	<code>throw</code>
<code>byte</code>	<code>else</code>	<code>import</code>	<code>public</code>	<code>throws</code>
<code>case</code>	<code>enum****</code>	<code>instanceof</code>	<code>return</code>	<code>transient</code>
<code>catch</code>	<code>extends</code>	<code>int</code>	<code>short</code>	<code>try</code>
<code>char</code>	<code>final</code>	<code>interface</code>	<code>static</code>	<code>void</code>
<code>class</code>	<code>finally</code>	<code>long</code>	<code>strictfp**</code>	<code>volatile</code>
<code>const*</code>	<code>float</code>	<code>native</code>	<code>super</code>	<code>while</code>
<code>_ (underscore)</code>				

* *not used;*
** *added in 1.2*
*** *added in 1.4*
**** *added in 5.0*

- `true` and `false` are not keywords, but rather boolean literals.
- `null` is not a keyword, but rather the null literal.
- `var` is not a keyword, but rather an identifier with special meaning as the type of a local variable declaration (from version 10).

Basic Java for MAD

Self-learning

- Java is also referred to a software platform
 - Java platform has two major components:
 - Java Runtime Environment (JRE) (e.g. Java Virtual Machine)
 - Purpose: For developing Java applications
 - Java Development Kit (JDK) (e.g. javac (Java compiler), Debugging tools)
 - Purpose: For running Java applications
- Three major official editions of Java Platform:
 - Java SE: Core Java platform for general-purpose apps
 - Java EE: Enterprise-grade distributed applications
 - Java ME: Feature-phone/embedded/IoT devices (devices with limited CPU, RAM, and storage) (Nokia, Sony-Ericsson, Motorola phone)
- **But Android apps built with Java are running on the specific Android platform.** (Android adopts Android Runtime (ART))

Android Runtime (ART) and Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

What is Android Runtime (ART)?

- ART is the system in Android that runs apps.
 - Every Android app is written in Java or Kotlin, but the phone cannot directly understand this code.
 - ART acts like a translator that converts the app's code into machine code the device can understand.
- Function of ART
 - Converts app code into native machine code
 - Speeds up app launching
 - Helps with background tasks

Android Runtime (ART) and Java Virtual Machine (JVM) (How ART Works in Android Apps (Workflow))

- When developers write an Android app (in Java or Kotlin):
 - The code is compiled into **.class** files
 - Then it becomes **.dex** (Dalvik Executable) files
 - During installation, ART pre-compiles the .dex into **native machine code**
 - When the user taps the app, it launches quickly because the code is **already compiled**
- ART compiles the app **before** you use it
 - It's like preparing all the ingredients before cooking—the cooking becomes fast and smooth

Android Runtime (ART) and Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

The difference between ART and JVM

Android Runtime (ART)

- Built specifically for Android devices.
- Executes DEX (Dalvik Executable) bytecode optimized for mobile devices, not Java bytecode.

Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

- A general-purpose virtual machine for running Java applications on desktops, servers, and many platforms.
- Executes Java bytecode (.class) directly and runs standard Java bytecode produced by javac.

Android Runtime (ART) and Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

Java normally uses the **Java Virtual Machine (JVM)** with a different workflow.

Android (ART): Ahead-Of-Time (AOT) Compilation

- Code is compiled **before the app runs** (during installation)
- Faster app start-up and lower memory usage
- More efficient on mobile hardware

Java (JVM): Just-In-Time (JIT) Compilation

- Code is compiled **while the program is running**
- The JVM translates bytecode *on the fly*
- Slower start-up speed and higher in memory usage
- But flexible and easy to run on many platforms

Basic Java for MAD:(Create an app with Java)

Workflow to create an Android App with Java

1. Setup

- Install Android Studio (includes JDK + SDK).
- Create a New Project → choose Empty Activity.
- Android Studio generates basic files automatically (Java class, XML layout, manifest

2. Code

- Write Java code in MainActivity.java.
- Design UI in XML layout files (e.g., activity_main.xml).
- Add buttons, text fields, and logic to respond to user actions.

3. Compile

- Compile Java into Java bytecode
- Convert bytecode into DEX format
- Package the project into an APK

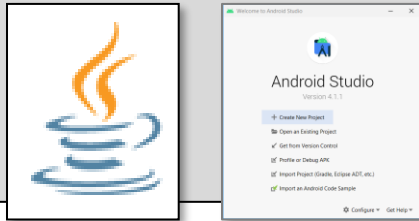
4. RUN

- Choose a device: Android Emulator (Virtual Device), or Physical Android phone (USB debugging enabled)

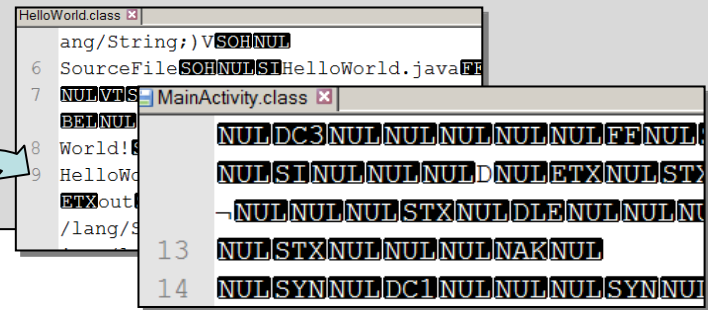
Basic Java for MAD

(Create an app with Java: - setup, code, compile, run)

1. SETUP development environment,
for specific apps on specific platform



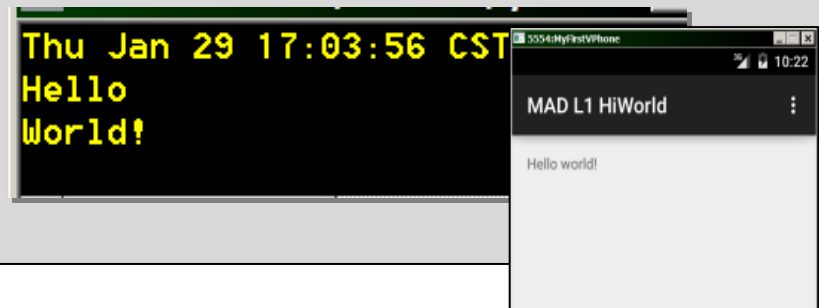
3. COMPILE (e.g. *.java),
*into a bytecode file (e.g. *.class file)*



2. CODE source code *.java file,
with APIs for apps on specific platform

```
class HiWorld extends SuperHi
{
    ... "Hi\nWorld!"); // Hi msg...
    class MoreHiWorld extends HiWorld
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

4. RUN, with INTEGRATING
e.g. other modules if needed (including other sources, e.g. XML, images, etc.)



Basic Java for MAD

- An app including modules developed with Java code essentially is composed of Java classes and their objects / instances
- Each Java class has a typical structure of:
 - `package` statement (if any), at the top
 - `import` statements (if any),
 - `class` declaration, often includes
 - Fields (Data members), similar to internal (C) variables
 - Constructors, similar to special methods
 - Methods, similar to internal (C) functions of object
 - `Comments` (if any); could be anywhere

Basic Java for MAD

("PureJava" Example: Class PureJavaActivity)

Reference
Only

```
package mad.m3purejava;    // package statement
import android.os.Bundle;  // import statement
// ... More codes here, for proper import statements here
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {    // a Java class declared/defined
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null;    // field for UI layout, like a layout XML
    Bicycle bikeA;    // a field, Bicycle
    Button aButA;    // a field, Button: UI component
    @Override // for overriding superclass's method
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) { // app starts / creates
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A");
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class

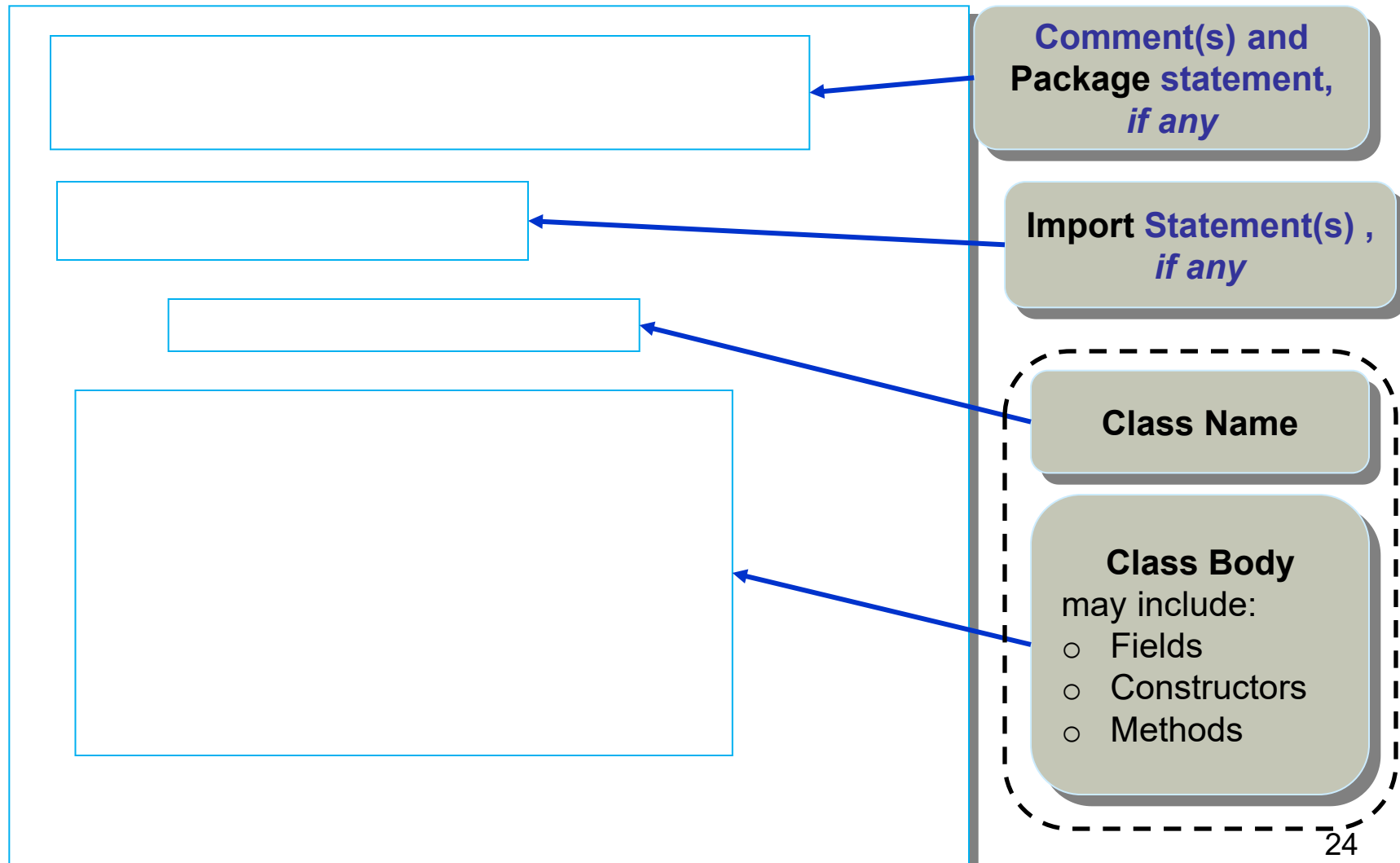
        aButA = new Button(this);    // new Button for Bike A, to be added to layout
        aButA.setBackgroundResource(R.drawable.ic_baseline_directions_bike_24);
        aButA.setTextColor(Color.parseColor("#FF0000")); // set color, say red
        aButA.setTextSize(20);
        aButA.setText(bikeA.name);    // set Text of Button, name of Bike
        // set an OnClickListener object (Lambda Expression) as button's listener to handle event
        aButA.setOnClickListener(v-> { //method called if source view (Button) is clicked
            aButA.setX(aButA.getX() + bikeA.getSpeed()); // move
            if (aButA.getX() + aButA.getWidth() > aRLayout.getWidth())
                aButA.setX(0);
        });

        aRLayout = new RelativeLayout(this);    // new (create) the layout
        aRLayout.setBackgroundColor(Color.YELLOW);    // set bg color of the layout
        aRLayout.addView(aButA);    // add the button created earlier to layout
        aButA.setX(100); // set the initial x position of button A (Bike A)
        aButA.setY(100); // set the initial y position
        setContentView(aRLayout); // set the layout to be the activity window (content view)
    }
}
```

Basic Java for MAD

(Typical Structure)

- Typical form in a Java file, defining a class



Basic Java for MAD

(Typical Structure)

- E.g. The following declares (defines) a Java class named **PureJavaActivity**, with some fields (for attributes) and a method `onCreate` (for behavior) in the class body

```
package mad.m3purejava;      // package statement
import android.os.Bundle;    // import statement
// ... More codes here, for proper import statements here
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity { // Declare a class
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null;      // field for UI layout
    Bicycle bikeA;                       // a field, Bicycle
    Button aButA;                       // a field, Button: UI component
    @Override // for overriding superclass's method
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A");
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class
        // ... And more

        aRLayout = new RelativeLayout(this); // new (create) the layout
        // ... And more
        setContentView(aRLayout); // set the layout to be activity window
    }
}
```

Basic Java for MAD

(Typical Structure)

- Corresponding to the typical form with this Java `PureJavaActivity` and its structure

```
package mad.m3purejava;    // package statement
import android.os.Bundle;  // import statement
// ... More codes here, for proper import statements here

public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null;    // field for UI layout
    Bicycle bikeA;                    // a field, Bicycle object
    Button aButA;                     // a field, Button. UI control
    @Override // for overriding superclass's method
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call super
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A");
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class
        // ... And more

        aRLayout = new RelativeLayout(this); // new (create) the layout
        // ... And more
        setContentView(aRLayout); // set the layout to be activity window
    }
}
```

Comment(s) and Package statement, if any

Import Statement(s), if any

Class Name

Class Body
may include:

- Fields
- Constructors
- Methods

Basic Java for MAD

(Basic Syntaxes with PureJavaActivity Example)

• Class <code><modifier(s)> class <class name> { <class body> }</code>	• Class <code>class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity { <class body> }</code>
• Field (Similar to variable) <code><modifier(s)> <data type> <field name></code>	• Field <code>RelativeLayout aRLayout = null; Bicycle bikeA; Button aButA;</code>
• Constructor <code><modifier(s)> <class name> (<parameter(s)>) { <constructor body> }</code>	• Constructor <i>* No Specified Constructor</i>
• Method <code><modifier(s)> <return type> <method name> (<parameter(s)>) { <method body> }</code>	• Method <code>protected void onCreate (Bundle savedInstanceState) { <method body> }</code>

Basic Java for MAD

(Package and Import Statements in Android Apps)

- Package and Naming
 - A package in Java is a bundle or library of classes and interfaces (or related types)
 - Each package has a name written in all lower case to avoid conflict with the names of classes or interfaces
 - Often companies use their reversed Internet domain name to begin their package names – e.g. `com.abc.mypackage` for a package named `mypackage` created by a programmer at the company with domain name `abc.com`.

Basic Java for MAD

(Package and Import Statements in Android Apps)

- `package` statement
 - To make your class(es) (in a source file) as a member of the package, put the package statement with package name at the top of source file
 - *This could be done with the help of IDE (e.g. Android Studio)*
 - In the `PureJavaActivity` sample code, the package statement below is the first statement (at the top of the source file), and indicates this class (`PureJavaActivity`) belongs to the package `mad.m3purejava`

```
package mad.m3purejava;
```

Basic Java for MAD

(Package and Import Statements in Android Apps)

- Using a public package class from outside its own package, there are three ways:
 - 1) Import the package member (similar to include a library in C)
 - 2) Import the member's entire package
 - 3) Refer to the member by its fully qualified name
- `import` statement is put at the beginning of the file before any type definitions, but after the package statement if any
 - *This could also be done with the help of IDE (e.g. Android Studio)*

Basic Java for MAD

(Package and Import Statements in Android Apps)

- In our `PureJavaActivity` example, 3 ways to use the `Bundle` class in `android.os` package

1) Import the package specific member:

```
import android.os.Bundle; // import one specific member
// ... Inside the class body
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) { //original, import statement required
```

2) Import the member's entire package (includes all members)

```
import android.os.*; // import entire package, including Bundle
// ... Inside the class body
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) { //original, import statement required
```

3) Refer to member by its fully qualified name (**without** `import` statement needed):

```
// ... Inside the class body
protected void onCreate(android.os.Bundle savedInstanceState) {
```

Basic Java

- Basic Java class and object-oriented features:
 - Defining and Using **classes** and their **objects**
 - Classes / Objects are associated with both attributes and behaviors (fields and methods in Java)
 - The major 3 object-oriented features are:
 - **Inheritance** relationship
 - A mechanism designed for different entities (subclasses) that share common features (from superclass)
 - **Encapsulation** (information hiding)
 - Internal components are encapsulated from outside
 - **Polymorphism** to morph into many different forms
 - E.g. Overloading and overriding methods(with same name)

Java Classes and Objects

- Classes and their Objects
 - Objects represent entities (e.g. `bike1`, `bike2`, `aCircle`) with attributes/fields (`speed`, `radius`) and behaviors/methods (`getSpeed()`, `setRadius()`)
 - Objects of same type defined using the same class
 - E.g. Objects `bike1` and `bike2` of class `Bicycle`
 - A class is a type, template or blueprint that defines what an object's attributes/properties (***fields***, or data members) and behaviors (***methods***) will be
 - An object is an *instance* of a class, and many objects/ instances can be created from a class
 - Terms “object” & “instance” are often interchangeable

Java Classes and Objects

(Example Classes and Their Objects)

2 Classes:- **Bicycle** (left) & **Circle** (right):

Class Name: **Bicycle**
field(s):
 name ____
 speed ____
Method(s):
 getSpeed()

Class Name: **Circle**
field(s):
 radius ____
Method(s):
 setRadius()

3 Objects / Instances of classes **Bicycle** & **Circle**

Bicycle Object 1 name, bike1
field(s):
 name "Bike A"
 speed 23

Bicycle Object 2 name, bike2
field(s):
 name "Bike B"
 speed 10

Bicycle Object 3 name, myBike
field(s):
 name "My Bike"
 speed 3

Circle Object 1 name, aCircle
field(s):
 radius 10

Circle Object 2 name, bCircle
field(s):
 radius 2.5

Circle Object 3 name, yourCC
field(s):
 radius 125

Java Classes and Objects

(Example Classes and Their Objects)

- Following declares a Java class **Bicycle**, with field, constructor and method

```
// ... package and import statements here, if necessary
public class Bicycle { // class Bicycle declared here

    // Field (instance variable)
    String name; // name of the bicycle object
    private int speed; // speed of the bicycle object

    // Constructor: Initializes the field
    public Bicycle(String inName) {
        name = inName;
        speed = 10; // for initial value
    }

    // Method, get/return the speed of this bicycle
    public int getSpeed( ) {
        return speed;
    }

    // Method, set/assign the speed of this bicycle
    public void setSpeed(int newSpeed) {
        speed = newSpeed;
    }
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Example Classes and Their Objects)

- Below declares a class **BicycleSpeedComp**, a main class using class **Bicycle**

```
// ... package and import statements here, if necessary
public class BicycleSpeedComp {
    // Java SE Program starts below, the main() method
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Bicycle bikeA, bikeB;
        int speedA, speedB;
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A");
        bikeA.setSpeed(23); // access object, outside its class
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeB = new Bicycle("Bike B");
        // Output or Display the information
        speedA = bikeA.getSpeed( );
        speedB = bikeB.getSpeed( );
        if (speedA > speedB)
            System.out.println("Bike A is faster than Bike B.");
    }
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Using a Class / Object)

- Although Java programs require designing and implementing Java classes, it is even more important to know how to *use, create and access objects of existing classes* (e.g. those defined in Android APIs) for starting to make simple mobile apps
- Typical steps of using a class and its object:
 - 1) **Declare** an object of a specific class
 - 2) **Create** (reserve space & initialize), often with **assign**
 - 3) **Access** (get/set attributes and call methods)

Java Classes and Objects (Using a Class / Object)

- **Declare** object of a class: Syntax

<ClassName> <ObjectName> e.g. `Button aButA`

- **Create / Instantiate** an object: Syntax, with a keyword `new`

`new <class name>(<arguments>)` e.g. `new Button()`

```
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null;            // field for UI layout
    Bicycle bikeA;            // Declare a field, object of Bicycle
    Button aButA;    // Declare a field object, Button: UI component
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A"); // Create object, & assign
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class
        // ...
    }
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Using a Class / Object)

Example: Use the `Bicycle` class as example:

1) **Declare** (tell there is an object, with name)

```
Bicycle bikeA;    // Declare an object, of Bicycle
// An object name bikeA of class(type) Bicycle
```

2) **Create** (reserve space and initialize), & assign

```
bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A"); // create with new
// Bicycle has a constructor will be called:
// public Bicycle(String inName)
```

3) **Access** (call a method in the example below)

```
bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, method calling
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Using a Class / Object)

Example: Use the `String` class as another example:

1) **Declare** (tell there is an object, with name)

```
String aStr; // declare a String
```

2) **Create** (reserve space and initialize), & assign

```
aStr = new String("A Mesg"); // create and assign;
```

3) **Access** (call a method in the example below)

```
char aCh = aStr.charAt(2);
```

```
// charAt is a method of String, which returns the character //  
according to the argument as the index (2 in this case)
```

```
// charAt acts like a C's function for object aStr;
```

```
// And thus aStr.charAt behaves like aStr's charAt function
```

```
// After execution, aCh above is assigned with 'M' ;
```

Java Classes and Objects

(String, an Important Java Class)

- A `String` object in Java is *immutable* (i.e. its content cannot be changed once constructed)
- `String` is a special and important Java class that its object string can be constructed in 2 ways:
 - 1) Using the `new` operator, e.g.

```
String aStr = new String("A new string");
```
 - 2) Directly assigning a string literal, e.g.

```
String bStr = "A literal string";
```
- One popular string operation is concatenation, the `+` operator, e.g.

```
output = "Great " + "MAD";  
// output "Great MAD"
```

```
output = "Class: " + "CL" + 3;  
// output "Class: CL3"
```

Java Classes and Objects (Using a Class / Object)

Reference
Only

- For reference, **String** API document:

The screenshot shows the Android Studio interface with the 'String' API documentation. The 'String' title is circled in red. Below it, the 'Public constructors' and 'Public methods' sections are also circled in red.

String Added in API level 1

```
public final class String
extends Object implements Serializable, Comparable<String>, CharSequence
java.lang.Object
↳ java.lang.String
```

The `String` class represents character strings. All string literals in Java programs, such as `"abc"`, are implemented as instances of this class.

Public constructors

`String()`

Initializes a newly created `String` object so that it represents an empty character sequence.

`String(String original)`

Initializes a newly created `String` object so that it represents the same sequence of characters as the argument; in other words, the newly created string is a copy of the argument string.

Public methods

`char`

`charAt(int index)`

Returns the `char` value at the specified index.

Java Classes and Objects

(Declare a Class)

- Often we have to define and declare our own class, for specific task
 - Class declaration header line: Syntax, with a keyword `class`

<Modifier(s) , optional> class <ClassName>

```
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {  
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null;      // field for UI layout  
    Bicycle bikeA;      // Declare a field, object of Bicycle  
    Button aButA;      // Declare a field object, Button: UI component  
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass  
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA  
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A"); // Create object, & assign  
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class  
        // ...  
    }  
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Fields in a Class)

- Field (declare and access)
 - Like a (C) variable associated to a specific object
 - A field can be accessed within the class, for assigning & getting values (e.g. below)

** Use dot-notation if accessing them outside the class*

```
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {  
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null; // field for UI layout  
    Bicycle bikeA; // Declare a field, object of Bicycle  
    Button aButA; // Declare a field object, of Button  
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass  
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA  
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A"); // Create object, & assign  
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object, outside its class  
        // ...  
    }  
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Constructors in a Class)

- Constructor (*Must use the class name*)
 - Like a special method, without return type
 - Mainly for initializing objects
 - Called when creating object with keyword **new**
 - Below **Bicycle** class has a one-argument constructor

```
// the Bicycle example Java class
// ... package and import statements here
public class Bicycle { // class Bicycle
    // Field (instance variable)
    String name; // name of bicycle object
    private int speed; // speed of bicycle

    // Constructor: Initializes the field
    public Bicycle(String inName) {
        name = inName;
        speed = 10; // for initial value
    }

    // Methods ...
    // ...
}
```

```
// ... package and import statements here
public class BicycleSpeedComp {
    // Java SE Program starts at main() method
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Bicycle bike1, bike2;
        int speed1, speed2;

        // Create and assign objects to bike1
        bike1 = new Bicycle("Bike A");
        bike1.setSpeed(35); // access object

        // Create and assign objects to bike2
        bike2 = new Bicycle("Bike B");

        // ...
    }
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Methods in a Class)

- Method (define and access)
 - Like a (C) function associated to a specific object
 - To call an object method (similar to call a C's function), we may use dot-notation (as below)

<object>.<methodname>(<parameter(s)>)

** Dot-notation may be omitted if accessing them inside class*

```
public class PureJavaActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    RelativeLayout aRLayout = null; // field for UI layout
    Bicycle bikeA; // Declare a field, object of Bicycle
    Button aButA; // Declare a field object, of Button
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // always call superclass
        // Create and assign value (Bicycle object) to bikeA
        bikeA = new Bicycle("Bike A"); // Create object, & assign
        bikeA.setSpeed(123); // access object method, outside class
        // ...
    }
}
```

Java Classes and Objects

(Overloading Constructors / Methods)

- **Overloading** Constructors / Methods: two or more methods / constructors have the same name inside a class, based on rules (below) to make them distinguishable:

- They have ***different numbers of parameters***, e.g.

```
MADClass(); // overloading constructors
```

```
MADClass(int abc);
```

- Their parameters are of ***different data types*** when the number of parameters is the same, e.g.

```
void setFe(float abc); // overloading methods
```

```
void setFe(String abc);
```

* This is closely related to the concept of polymorphism (Removed in Unit 3)

References

- Part of this slide set is prepared and extracted from the followings:
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