

# Data Types in Java

- Data is the information that a program has to work with.
- Data is of different *types*. The type of a piece of data tells Java what can be done with it, and how much memory needs to be put aside for it.
- When we create a variable in Java, we need to specify:
  - the type of the value we want to put in there, and
  - the name we will use for that variable.

# Variables

- A *variable* is a name for a location in memory
- A variable must be *declared*, specifying the variable's name and the type of information that will be held in it

data type                      variable name

`int total;`

`int count, temp, result;`

Multiple variables can be created in one declaration

`int count=1, temp=0, result;`

Variables can also be given initial values

## Constants

- A constant is an identifier that is similar to a variable except that it holds one value for its entire existence
- The compiler will issue an error if you try to change a constant
- In Java, we use the `final` modifier to declare a constant

```
final int MIN_HEIGHT = 69;
```

- Constants:
  - give names to otherwise unclear literal values
  - facilitate changes to the code
  - prevent inadvertent errors

## Numeric Primitive Data

- The difference between the various numeric primitive types is their size, and therefore the values they can store:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Min Value</u>	<u>Max Value</u>
byte	8 bits	-128	127
short	16 bits	-32,768	32,767
int	32 bits	-2,147,483,648	2,147,483,647
long	64 bits	< -9 x 10 <sup>18</sup>	> 9 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
float	32 bits	+/- 3.4 x 10 <sup>38</sup> with 7 significant digits	
double	64 bits	+/- 1.7 x 10 <sup>308</sup> with 15 significant digits	

## Type *int* (*byte, short, & long*)

- An `int` is a whole number (e.g. 21). You can do arithmetic with an `int`.

- `int age = 21;`

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**age**

- addition +
- subtraction -
- multiplication \*
- division /
- modulus %

```
int age = 15;  
age + 3  
2 * age - 4  
age / 2  
age % 10
```

## Type *double* (*float*)

- The type called `double` is used to store a real number, i.e. a number with a decimal point. It is stored in a different format from an `int`.
- You can do arithmetic on a `double`.
- `double price = 3.95;`

3.95

**price**

- addition +
- subtraction -
- multiplication \*
- division /

```
price * 0.10  
price / 2  
price + price * 0.1
```

## Type *boolean*

- A `boolean` value represents a true or false condition
- A boolean can also be used to represent any two states, such as a light bulb being on or off
- The reserved words `true` and `false` are the only valid values for a boolean type

```
boolean done = false;
```

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## Type *char*

**A char is a character, i.e. a bit pattern you can produce by pressing a key (or a combination of keys) on a keyboard.**

**Examples are**

`'a'` `'A'` `'3'` `'?'` `'!'`

`'Y'`

`char response = 'Y';`

`response`

**You cannot do arithmetic on a char.**

**A String is a collection of chars.**

## Type *String*

- A `String` is a collection of characters (e.g. `"Sally"`).

– `String name = "Sally";`

**sally**

**name**

- A `String` value is always written in double quotes. You can have an empty `String`, shown as `" "`.
- A `String` has many methods including:
  - change itself to upper/lower case
  - tell you how long it is (how many characters)
  - give you the character at a specified position
  - the string concatenation operator `+`

## Operator Precedence

- Operators can be combined into complex expressions

```
result = total + count / max - offset;
```

- Operators have a well-defined precedence which determines the order in which they are evaluated
- Multiplication, division, and remainder are evaluated prior to addition, subtraction, and string concatenation
- Arithmetic operators with the same precedence are evaluated from left to right
- Parentheses can always be used to force the evaluation order

## Operator Precedence

- What is the order of evaluation in the following expressions?

a + b + c + d + e  
1 2 3 4

a + b \* c - d / e  
3 1 4 2

a / (b + c) - d % e  
2 1 4 3

a / (b \* (c + (d - e)))  
4 3 2 1

## Assignment Revisited

- The assignment operator has a lower precedence than the arithmetic operators

First the expression on the right hand side of the = operator is evaluated

answer = sum / 4 + MAX \* lowest;  
4 1 3 2

Then the result is stored in the variable on the left hand side

## Assignment Revisited

- The right and left hand sides of an assignment statement can contain the same variable

First, one is added to the original value of count

```
count = count + 1;
```



Then the result is stored back into count  
(overwriting the original value)

## Data Conversions

- Sometimes it is convenient to convert data from one type to another
- For example, we may want to treat an integer as a floating point value during a computation
- Conversions must be handled carefully to avoid losing information
- *Widening conversions* are safest because they tend to go from a small data type to a larger one (such as a `short` to an `int`)
- *Narrowing conversions* can lose information because they tend to go from a large data type to a smaller one (such as an `int` to a `short`)

## Data Conversions

- In Java, data conversions can occur in three ways:
  - assignment conversion
  - arithmetic promotion
  - casting
- *Assignment conversion* occurs when a value of one type is assigned to a variable of another
  - Only widening conversions can happen via assignment
- *Arithmetic promotion* happens automatically when operators in expressions convert their operands

## Data Conversions

- *Casting* is the most powerful, and dangerous, technique for conversion
- Both widening and narrowing conversions can be accomplished by explicitly casting a value
- To cast, the type is put in parentheses in front of the value being converted
- For example, if `total` and `count` are integers, but we want a floating point result when dividing them, we can cast `total`:

```
result = (float) total / count;
```