

CSE 143

Lecture 9

References and Linked Nodes

reading: 16.1; 3.3

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<http://www.cs.washington.edu/143/>

A swap method?

- Does the following swap method work? Why or why not?

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int a = 7;  
    int b = 35;  
  
    // swap a with b  
    swap(a, b);  
  
    System.out.println(a + " " + b);  
}
```

```
public static void swap(int a, int b) {  
    int temp = a;  
    a = b;  
    b = temp;  
}
```

Value semantics

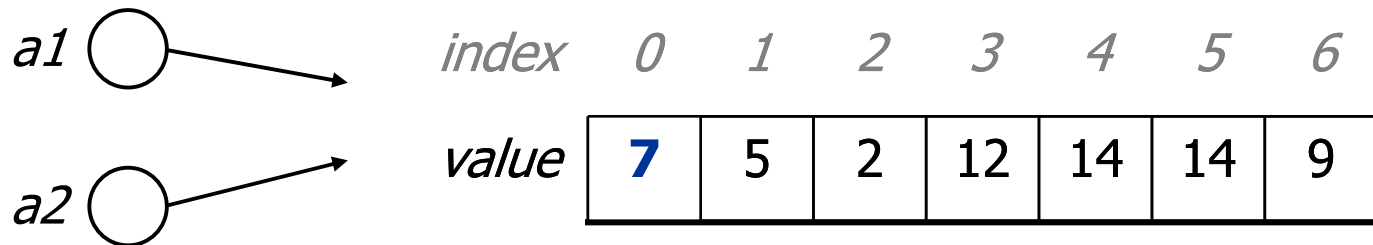
- **value semantics:** Behavior where values are copied when assigned to each other or passed as parameters.
 - When one primitive is assigned to another, its value is copied.
 - Modifying the value of one variable does not affect others.

```
int x = 5;  
int y = x;           // x = 5, y = 5  
y = 17;              // x = 5, y = 17  
x = 8;               // x = 8, y = 17
```

Reference semantics

- **reference semantics:** Behavior where variables actually store the address of an object in memory.
 - When one reference variable is assigned to another, the object is *not* copied; both variables refer to the *same object*.

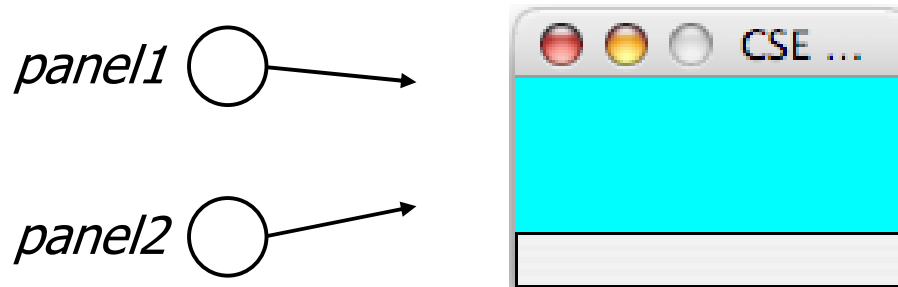
```
int[] a1 = {4, 5, 2, 12, 14, 14, 9};  
int[] a2 = a1;      // refers to same array as a1  
a2[0] = 7;  
System.out.println(a1[0]);    // 7
```



References and objects

- In Java, objects and arrays use reference semantics. Why?
 - *efficiency*. Copying large objects slows down a program.
 - *sharing*. It's useful to share an object's data among methods.

```
DrawingPanel panel1 = new DrawingPanel(80, 50);  
DrawingPanel panel2 = panel1; // same window  
panel2.setBackground(Color.CYAN);
```

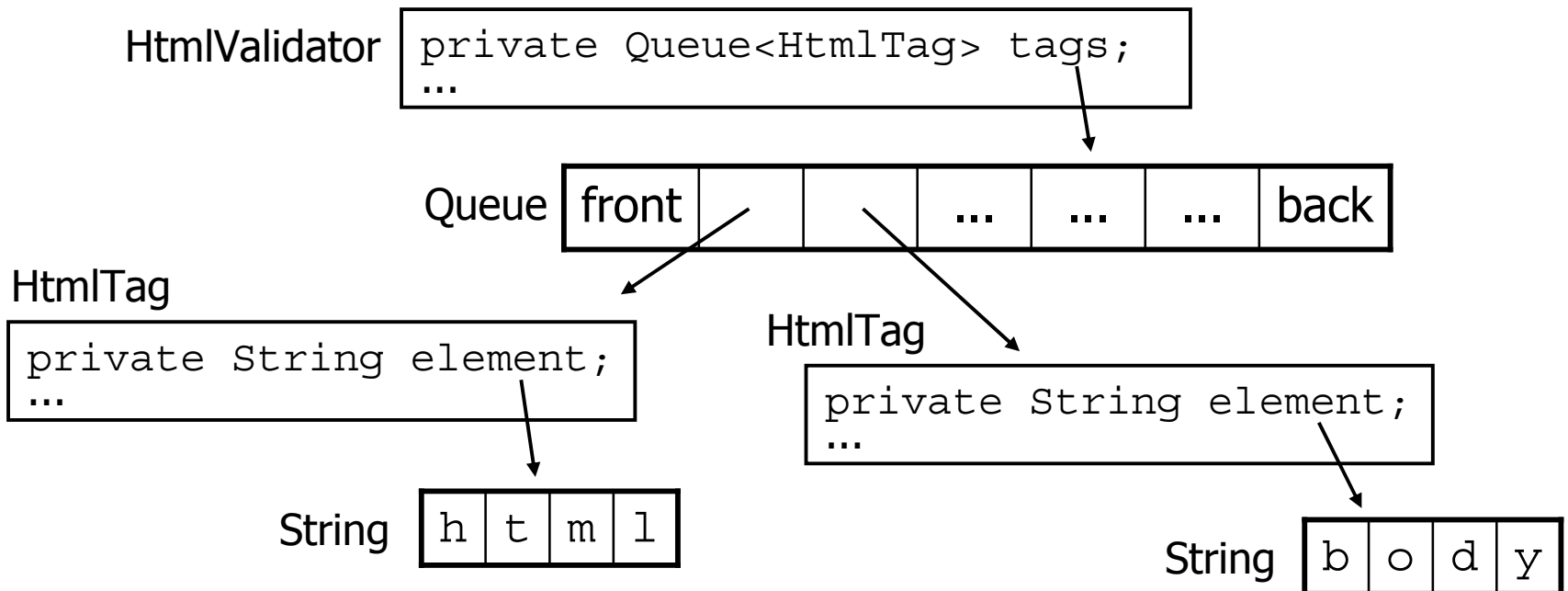


References as fields

- Objects can store references to other objects as fields.

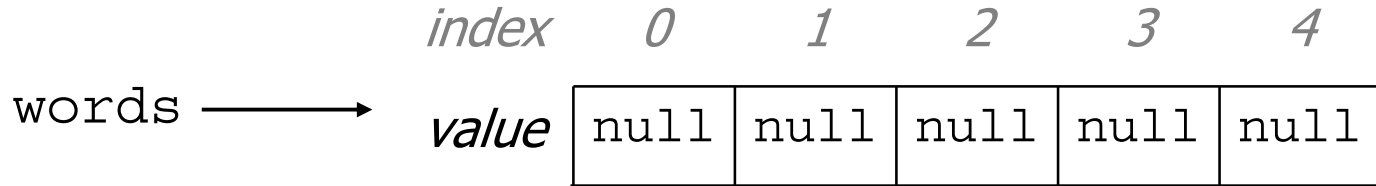
Example: Homework 3 (HTML Validator)

- `HtmlValidator` stores a reference to a `Queue`
- the `Queue` stores many references to `HtmlTag` objects
- each `HtmlTag` object stores a reference to its element `String`



Null references

- `null` : A value that does not refer to any object.
 - The elements of an array of objects are initialized to `null`.
`String[] words = new String[5];`



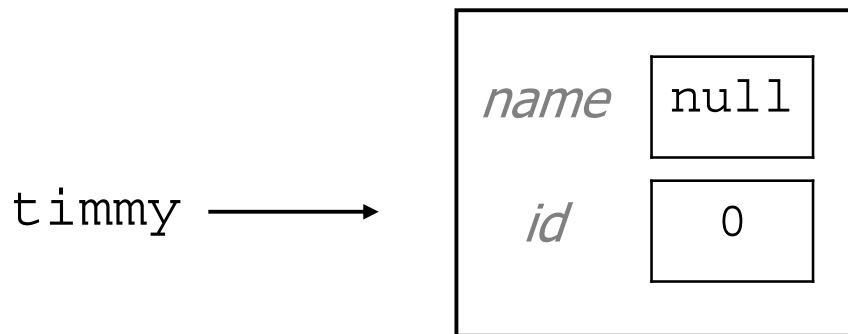
- not the same as the empty string "" or the string "null"
- Why does Java have `null` ? What is it used for?

Null references

- Unset reference fields of an object are initialized to `null`.

```
public class Student {  
    String name;  
    int id;  
}
```

```
Student timmy = new Student();
```



Things you can do w/ `null`

- store `null` in a variable or an array element

```
String s = null;  
words[2] = null;
```

- print a `null` reference

```
System.out.println(timmy.name);           // null
```

- ask whether a variable or array element is `null`

```
if (timmy.name == null) { ...             // true
```

- pass `null` as a parameter to a method

- some methods don't like `null` parameters and throw exceptions

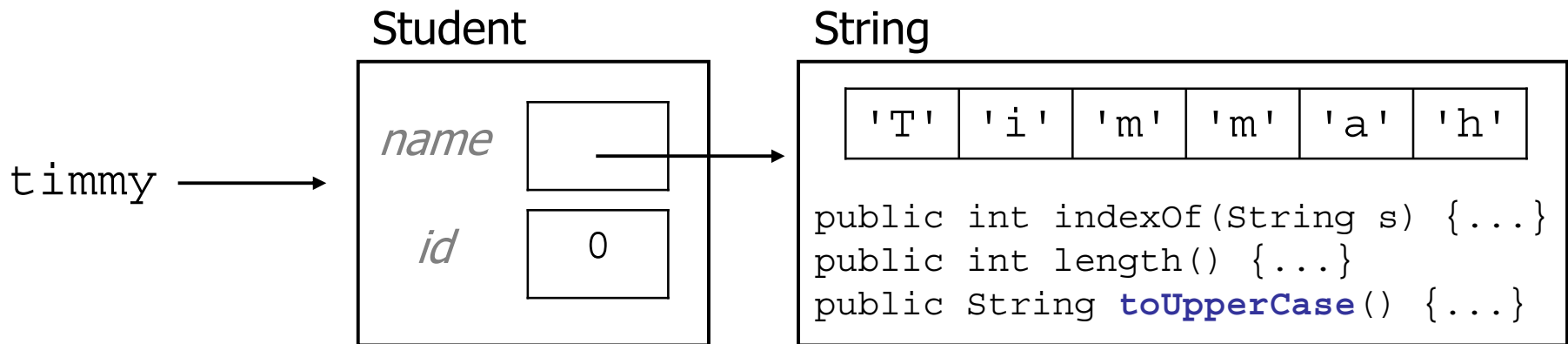
- return `null` from a method (often to indicate failure)

```
return null;
```

Dereferencing

- **dereference:** To access data or methods of an object.
 - Done with the dot notation, such as `s.length()`
 - When you use a `.` after an object variable, Java goes to the memory for that object and looks up the field/method requested.

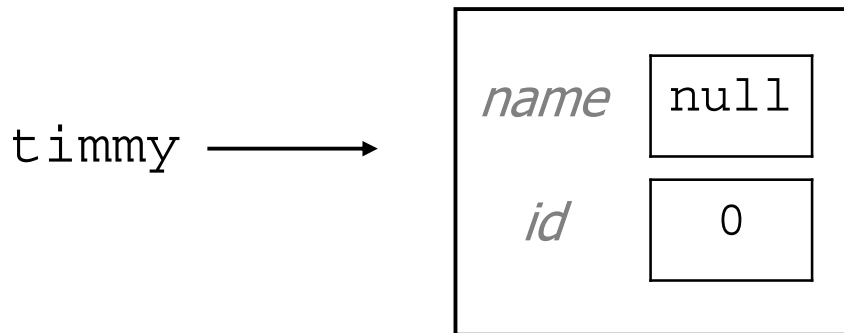
```
Student timmy = new Student();  
timmy.name = "Timmah";  
String s = timmy.name.toUpperCase();
```



Null pointer exception

- It is illegal to dereference `null` (it causes an exception).
 - `null` does not refer to any object, so it has no methods or data.

```
Student timmy = new Student();  
String s = timmy.name.toUpperCase(); // ERROR
```



Output:

```
Exception in thread "main"  
java.lang.NullPointerException  
    at Example.main(Example.java:8)
```

References to same type

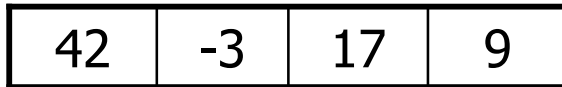
- What would happen if we had a class that declared one of its own type as a field?

```
public class Strange {  
    private String name;  
    private Strange other;  
}
```

- Will this compile?
 - If so, what is the behavior of the `other` field? What can it do?
 - If not, why not? What is the error and the reasoning behind it?

Linked data structures

- All of the collections we will use and implement in this course use one of the following two underlying data structures:
 - an **array** of all elements
 - `ArrayList`, `Stack`, `HashSet`, `HashMap`



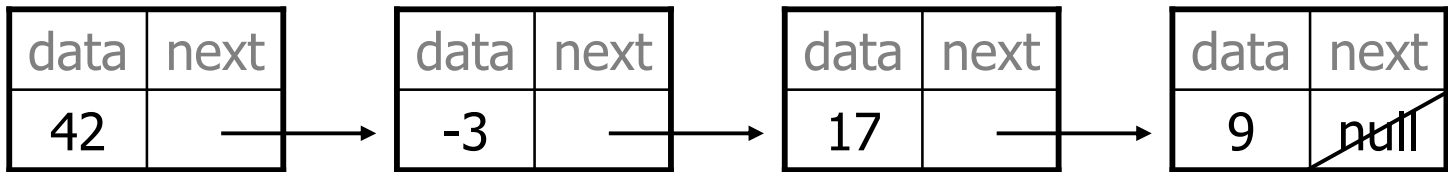
- a set of **linked objects**, each storing one element, and one or more reference(s) to other element(s)
 - `LinkedList`, `TreeSet`, `TreeMap`



A list node class

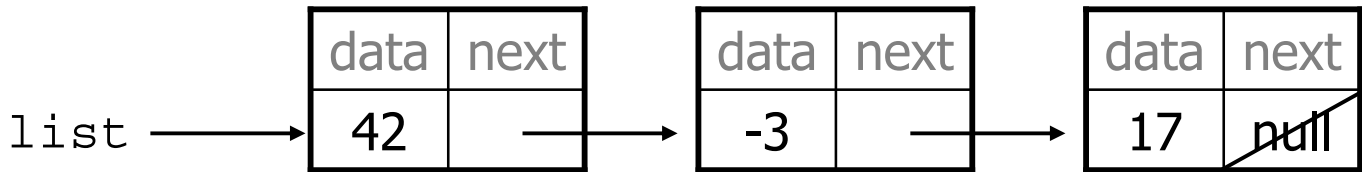
```
public class ListNode {  
    int data;  
    ListNode next;  
}
```

- Each list node object stores:
 - one piece of integer data
 - a reference to another list node
- `ListNodes` can be "linked" into chains to store a list of values:



List node client example

```
public class ConstructList1 {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        ListNode list = new ListNode();  
        list.data = 42;  
        list.next = new ListNode();  
        list.next.data = -3;  
        list.next.next = new ListNode();  
        list.next.next.data = 17;  
        list.next.next.next = null;  
        System.out.println(list.data + " " + list.next.data  
            + " " + list.next.next.data);  
        // 42 -3 17  
    }  
}
```



List node w/ constructor

```
public class ListNode {
    int data;
    ListNode next;

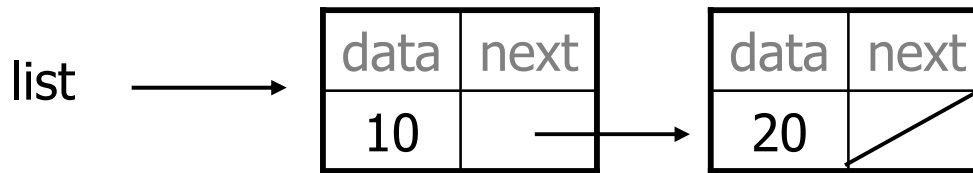
    public ListNode(int data) {
        this.data = data;
        this.next = null;
    }

    public ListNode(int data, ListNode next) {
        this.data = data;
        this.next = next;
    }
}
```

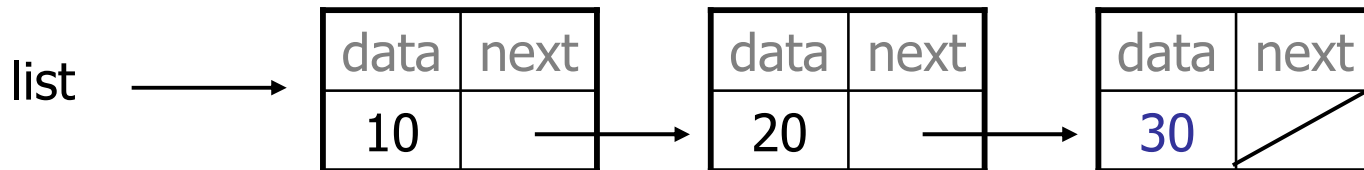
- Exercise: Modify the previous client to use these constructors.

Linked node problem 1

- What set of statements turns this picture:

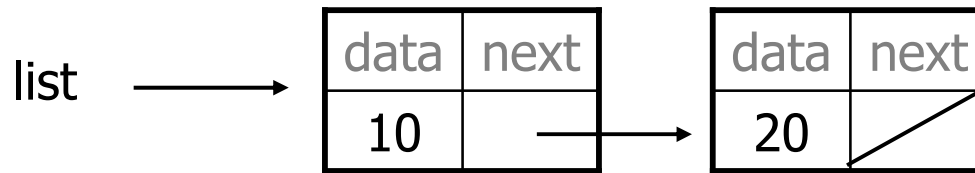


- Into this?

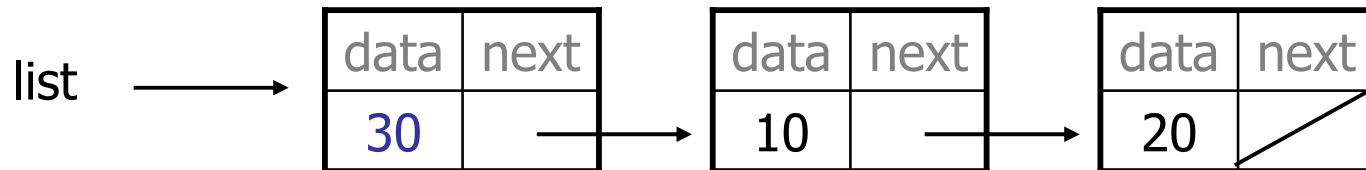


Linked node problem 2

- What set of statements turns this picture:

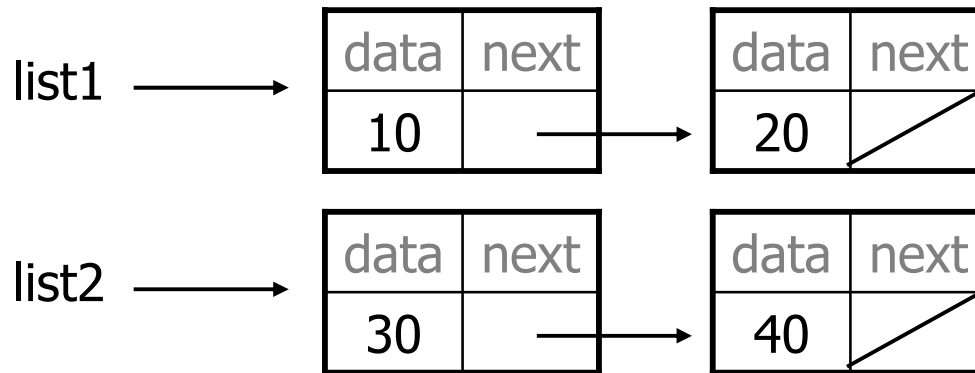


- Into this?

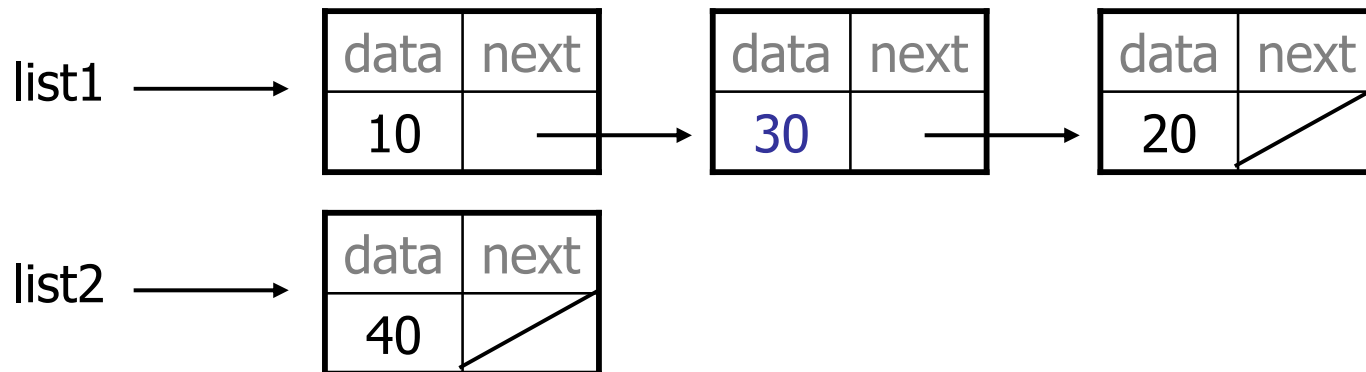


Linked node problem 3

- What set of statements turns this picture:

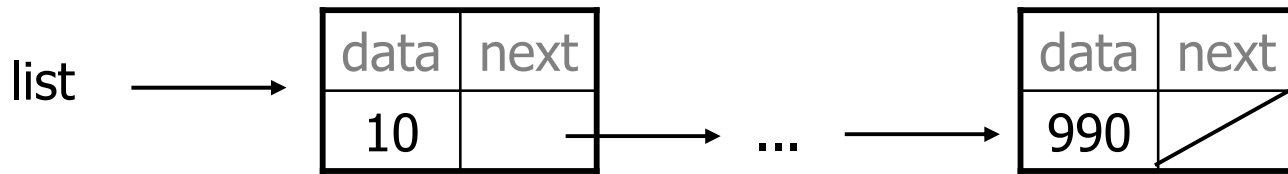


- Into this?



Linked node problem 4

- What set of statements turns this picture:



- Into this?

