

COP 3330: Object-Oriented Programming Summer 2007

Introduction to Classes – Part 2

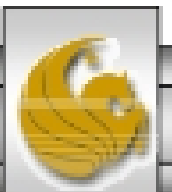
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A Closer Look At Parameter Passing in Java

- Java uses the *pass by value* method for parameter passing.
- Whenever a method is invoked, flow of control is transferred temporarily to that method.
- The actual parameters in the invocation are used to initialize the formal parameters in the method's definition.
- For each method invocation, Java sets aside memory, known as the *activation record* (for that particular invocation).
- The activation record stores, among other things, the values of the formal parameters.



A Closer Look At Parameter Passing in Java (cont.)

- Once the actual parameters have been used to initialize the formal parameters, the actual parameters and the formal parameters are independent of each other.
- If a method updates the value of a formal parameter, the changes **DOES NOT** affect the actual parameter. The change is limited to the activation record containing the value of the formal parameter.

