Methods

CSE 114, Computer Science 1

Stony Brook University

http://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/~cse114

Opening Problem

Find multiple sums of integers:

- from 1 to 10,
- from 20 to 30,
- from 35 to 45,

...

Opening Problem

- Repeat code:

```
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 1; i <= 10; i++)
  sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 1 to 10 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 20; i <= 30; i++)
  sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 20 to 30 is " + sum);

sum = 0;
for (int i = 35; i <= 45; i++)
  sum += i;
System.out.println("Sum from 35 to 45 is " + sum);
```

Opening Problem Solution

- Use a method and invoke it multiple times!

```
public static int sum(int i1, int i2) {
  int sum = 0;
  for (int i = i1; i <= i2; i++)
    sum += i;
  return sum;
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  System.out.println("Sum from 1 to 10 is " + sum(1, 10));
  System.out.println("Sum from 20 to 30 is " + sum(20, 30));
  System.out.println("Sum from 35 to 45 is " + sum(35, 45));
}
```

Why write methods?

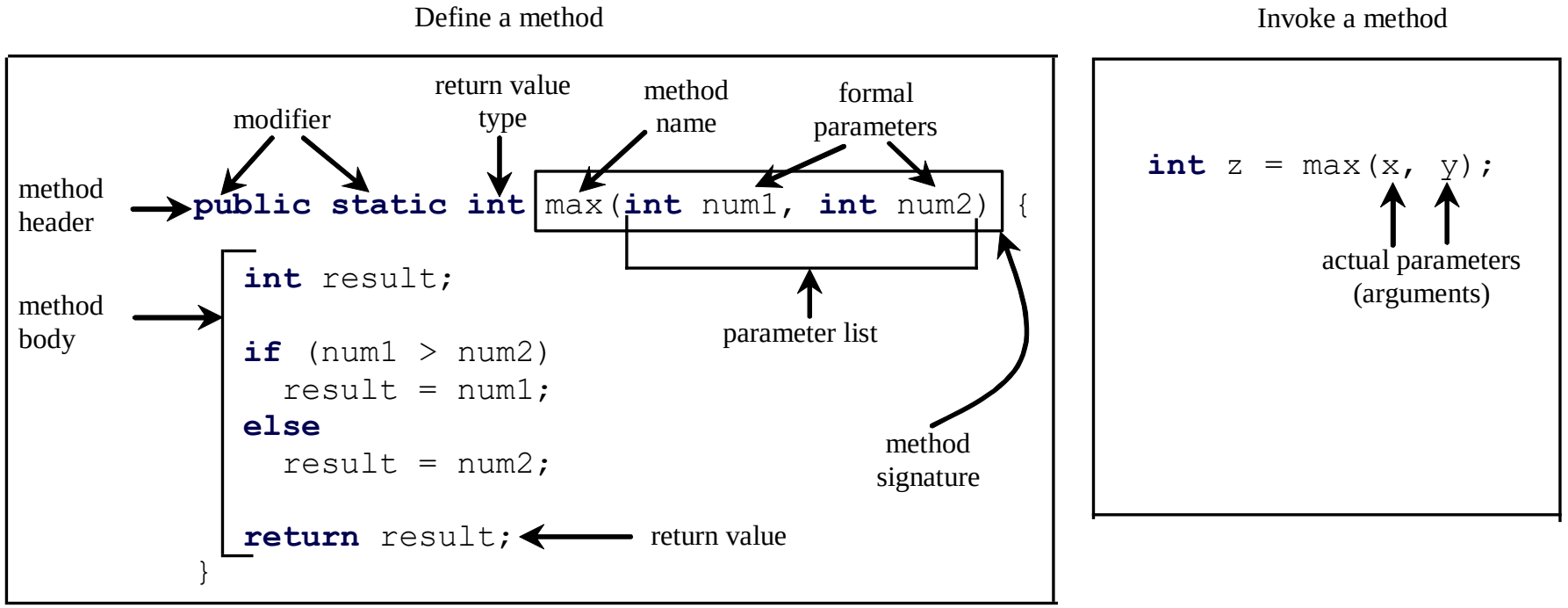
- To shorten your programs
  - avoid writing identical code twice or more
- To modularize your programs
  - fully tested methods can be trusted
- To make your programs more:
  - readable
  - reusable
  - testable
  - debuggable
  - extensible and adaptable

Rule of thumb

- If you have to perform some operation in more than in one place in your program, write a method to implement this operation and have other parts of the program use it

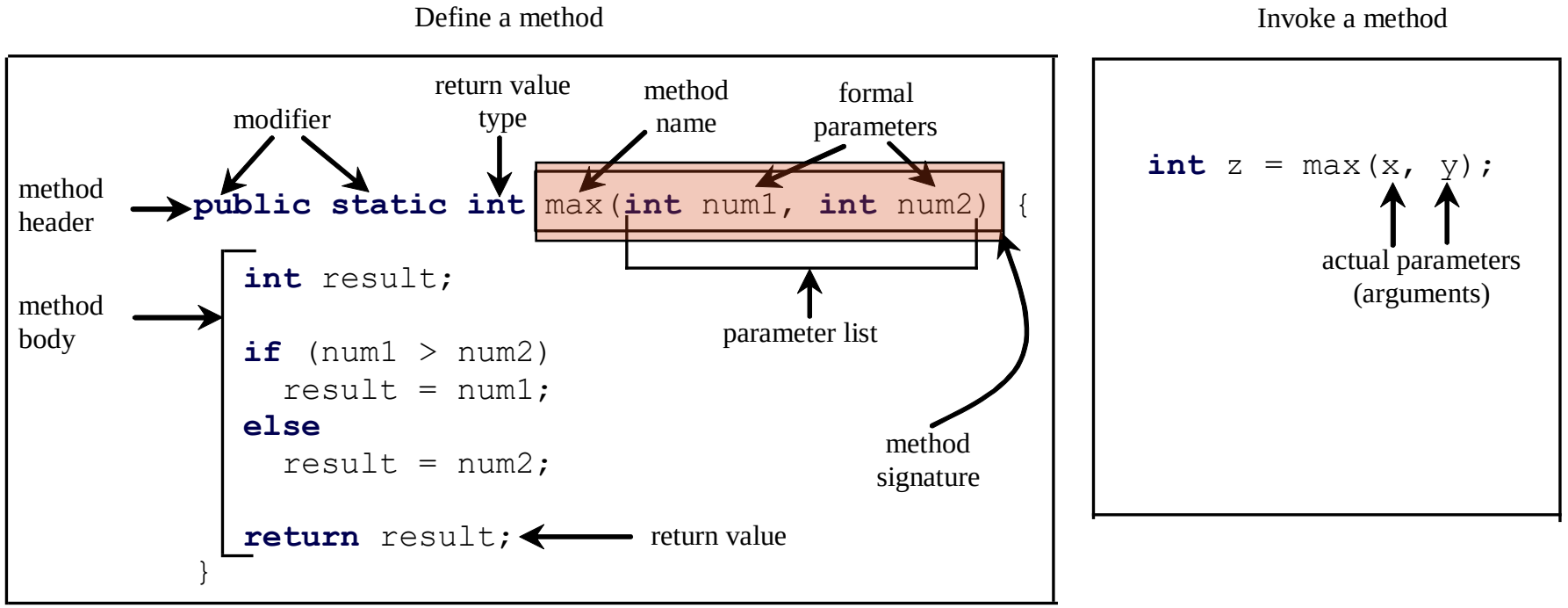
Defining Methods

- A *method* is a collection of statements that are grouped together to perform an operation.



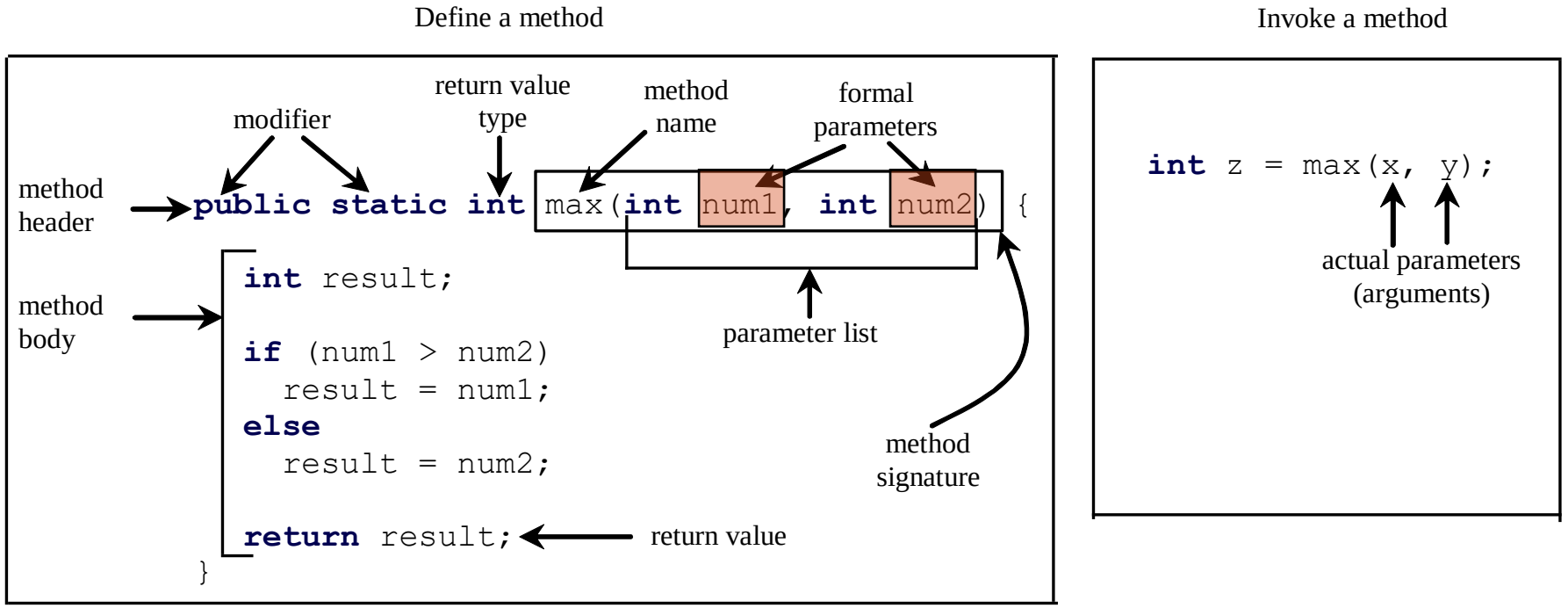
Method Signature

- *Method signature* is the combination of the method name and the parameter list.



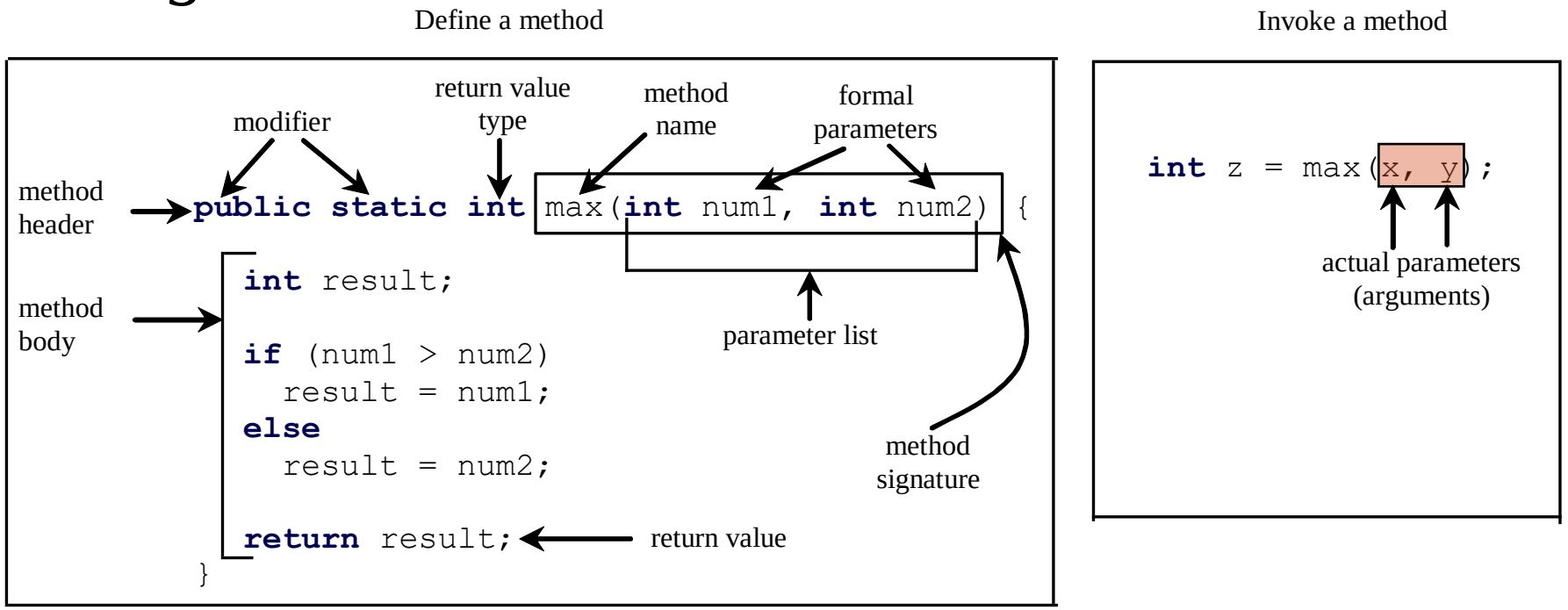
Formal Parameters

- The variables defined in the method header are known as *formal parameters*.



Actual Parameters

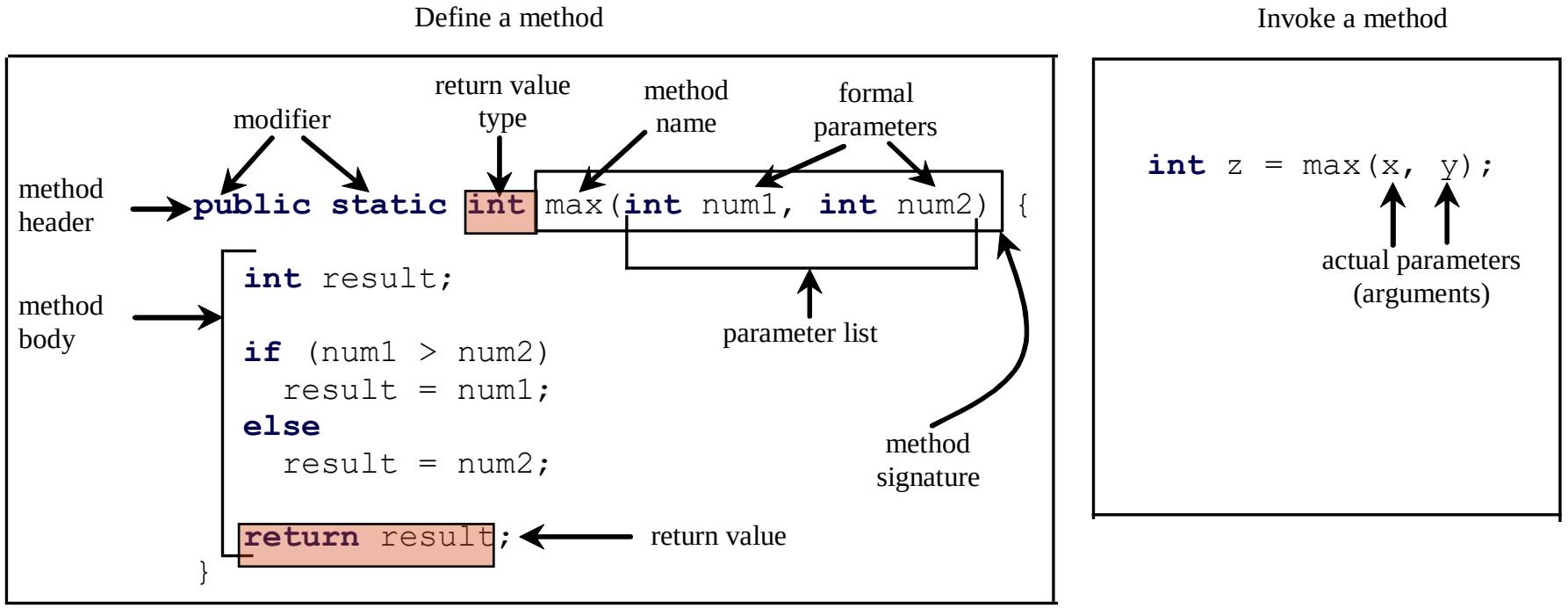
- When a method is invoked, you pass values to the formal parameter with *actual parameters* or *arguments*.



Return Value Type

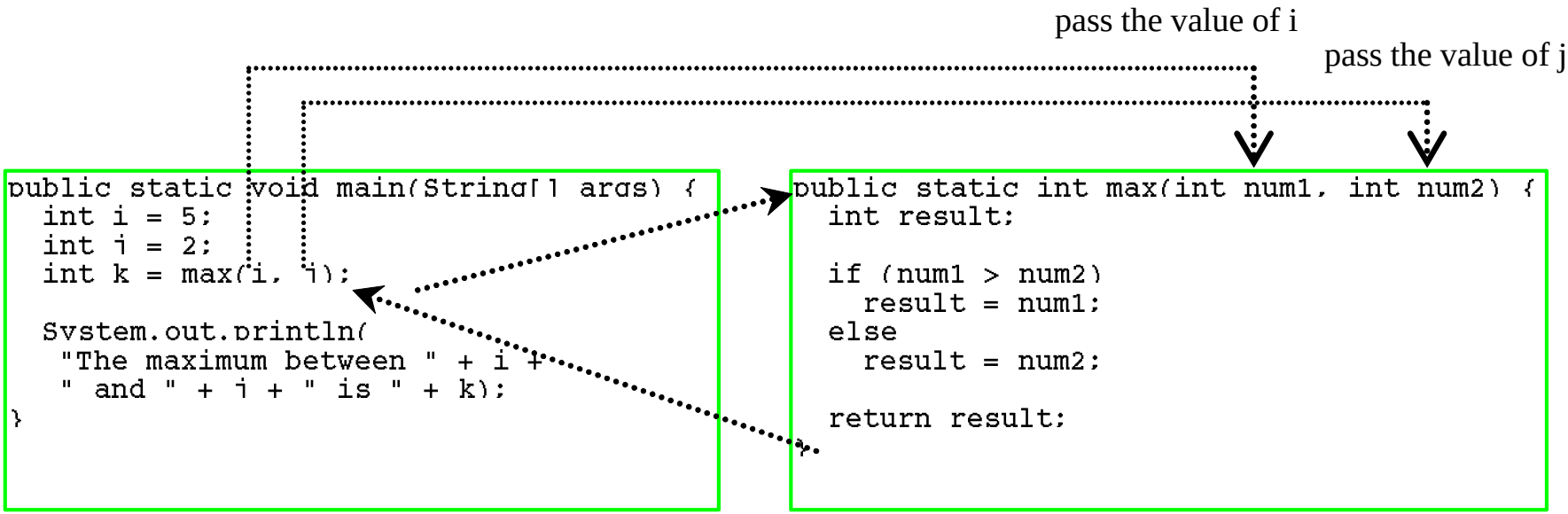
- A method may return a value.

The *returnValueType* is the data type of the value the method returns.

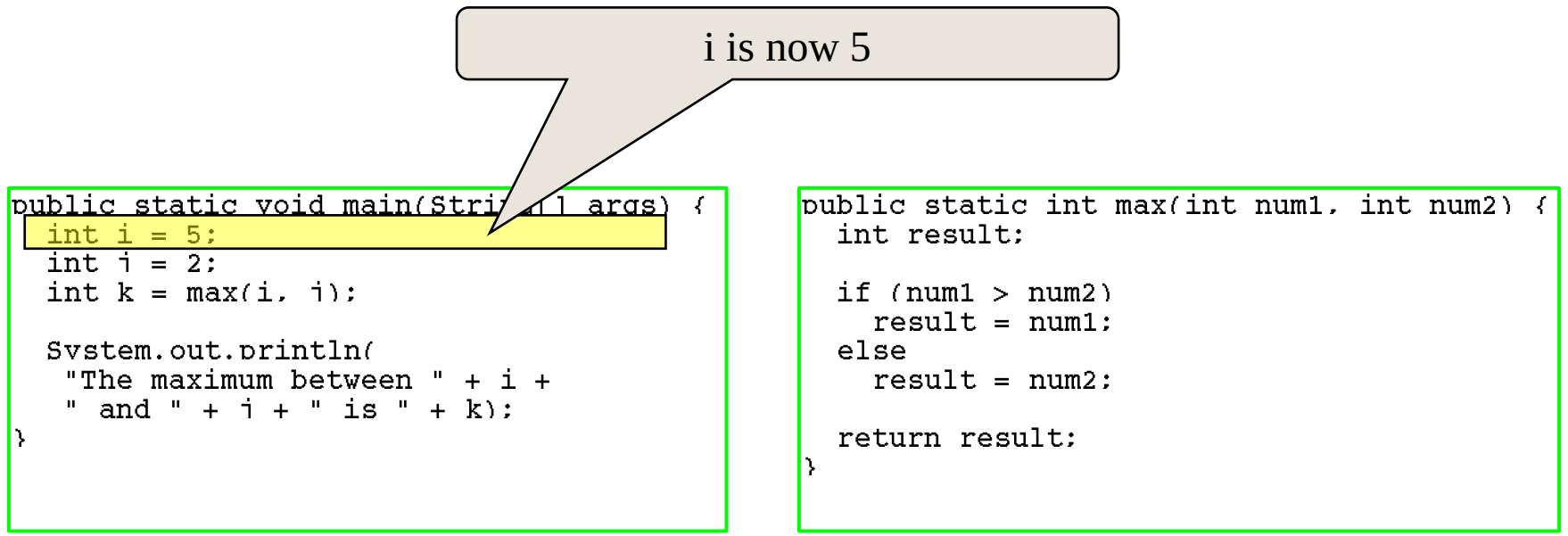


If the method does not return a value, the returnValueType is the keyword void.

Calling Methods



Trace Method Invocation



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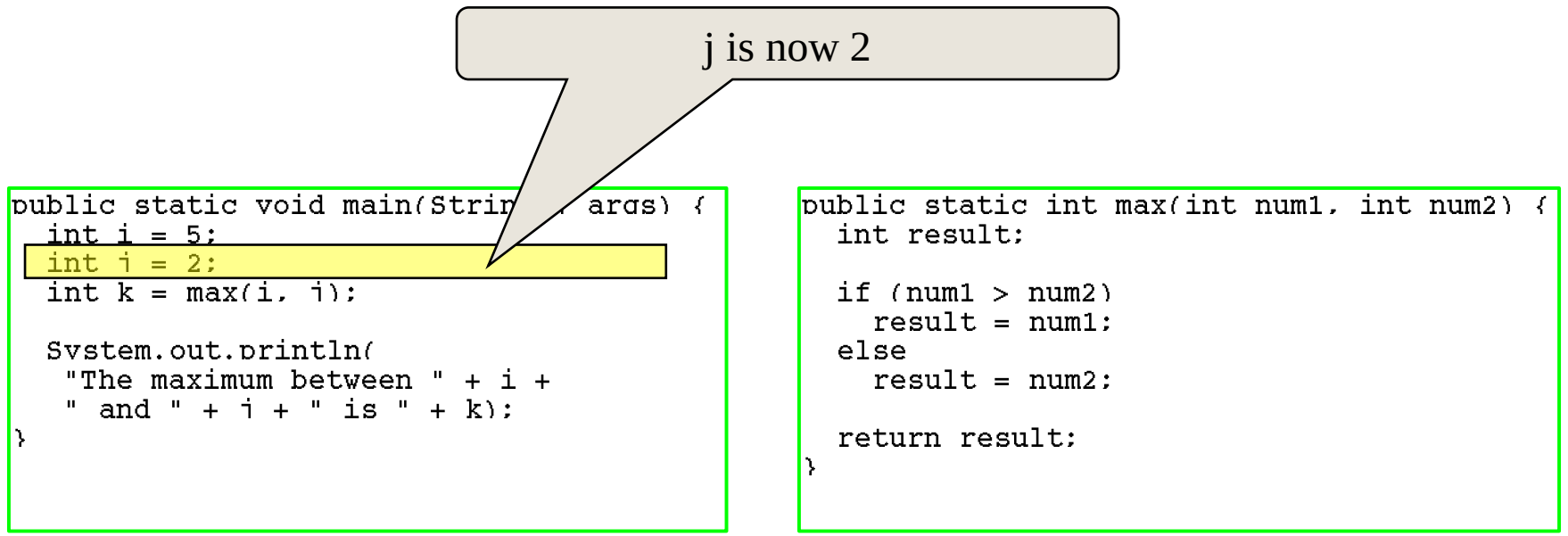
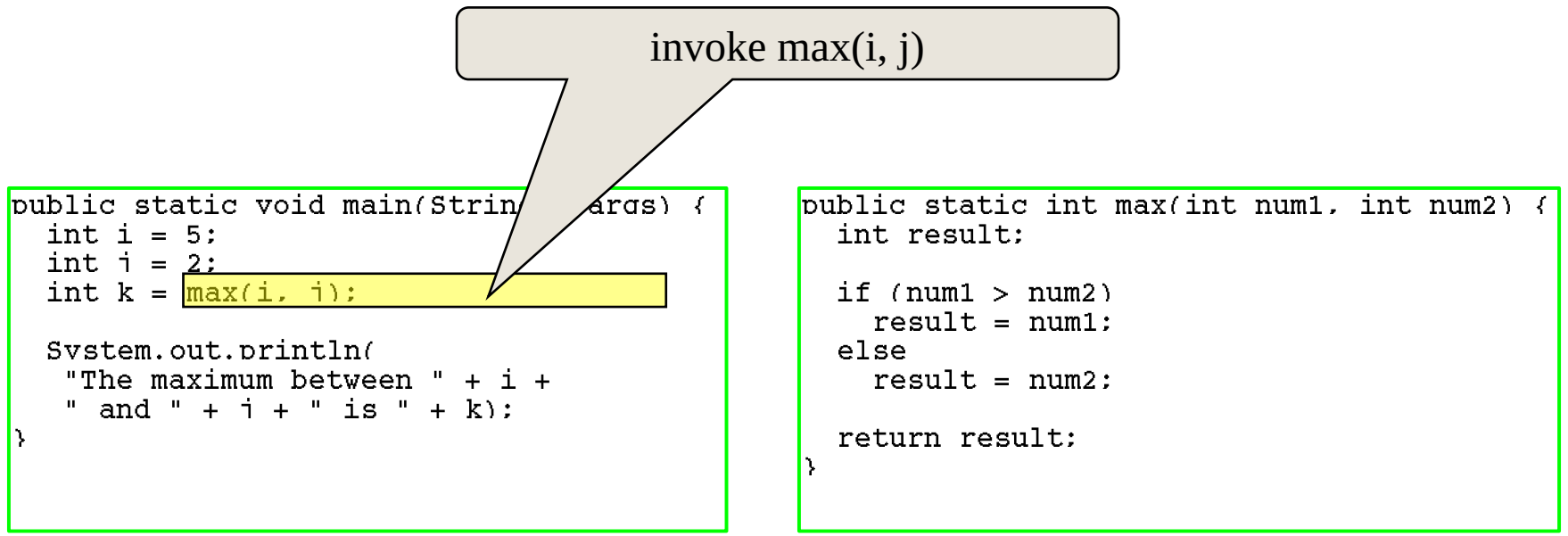


Trace Method Invocation



Trace Method Invocation

invoke max(i, j)
Pass the value of i to num1
Pass the value of j to num2

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

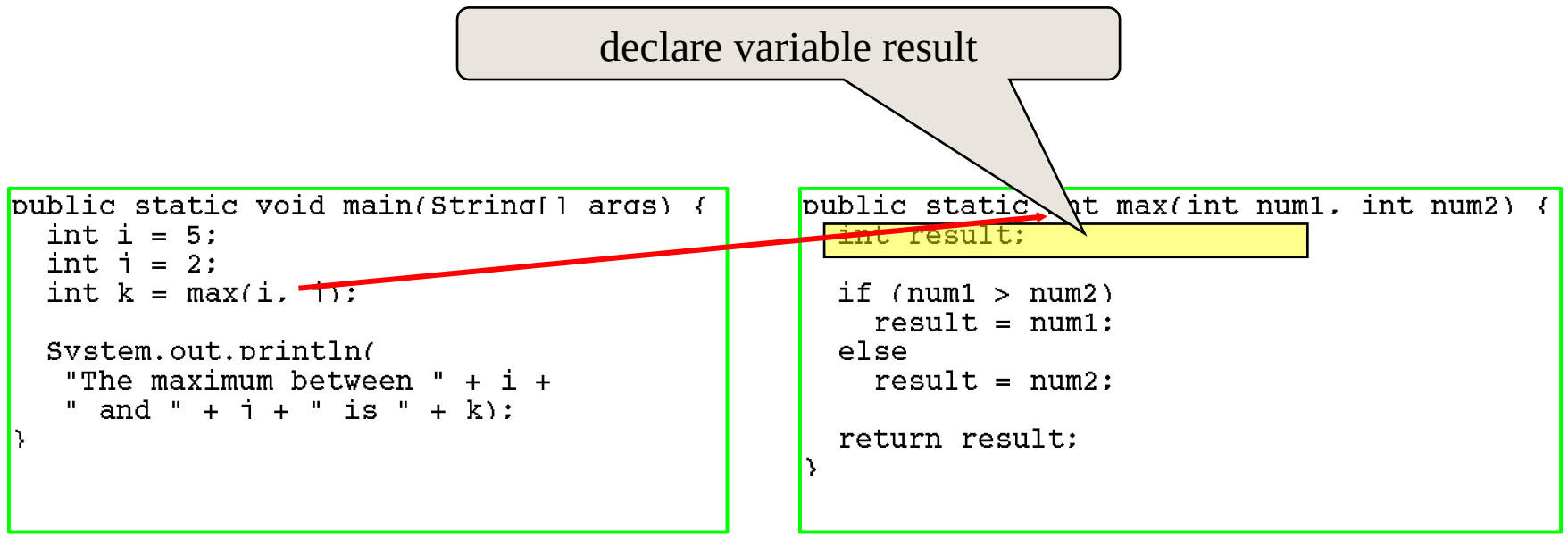
  System.out.println(
   "The maximum between " + i +
   " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

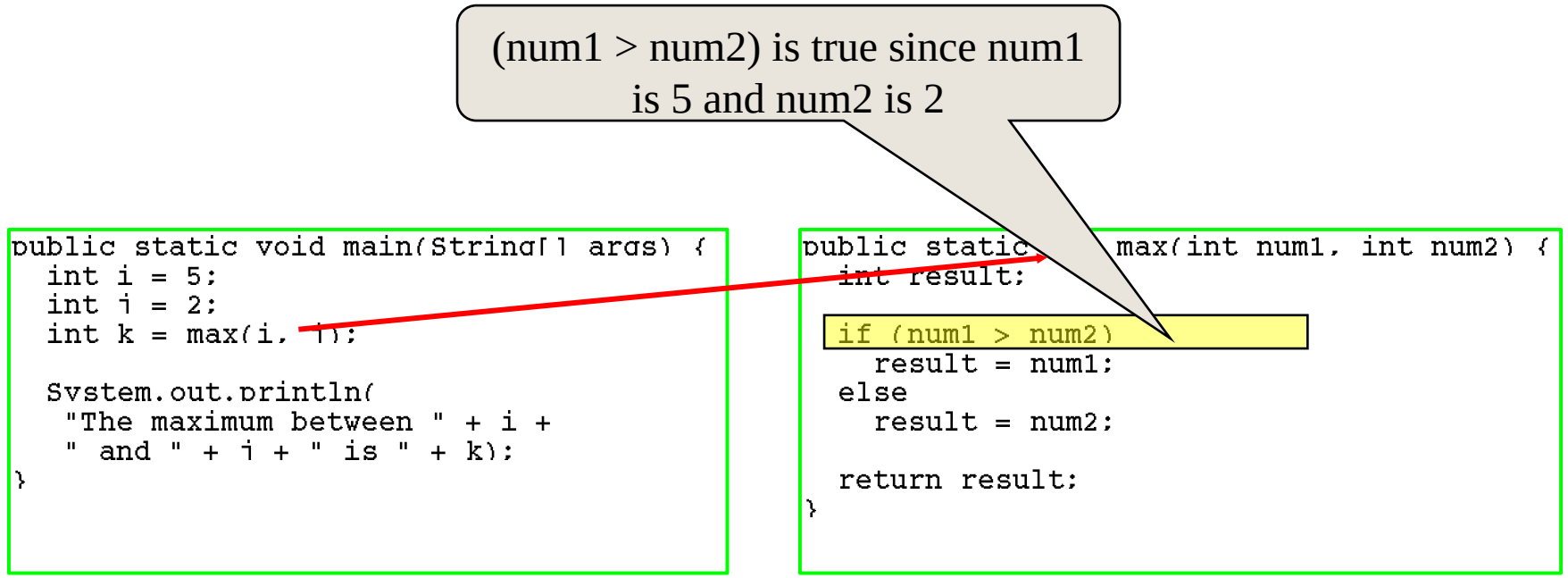
  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```

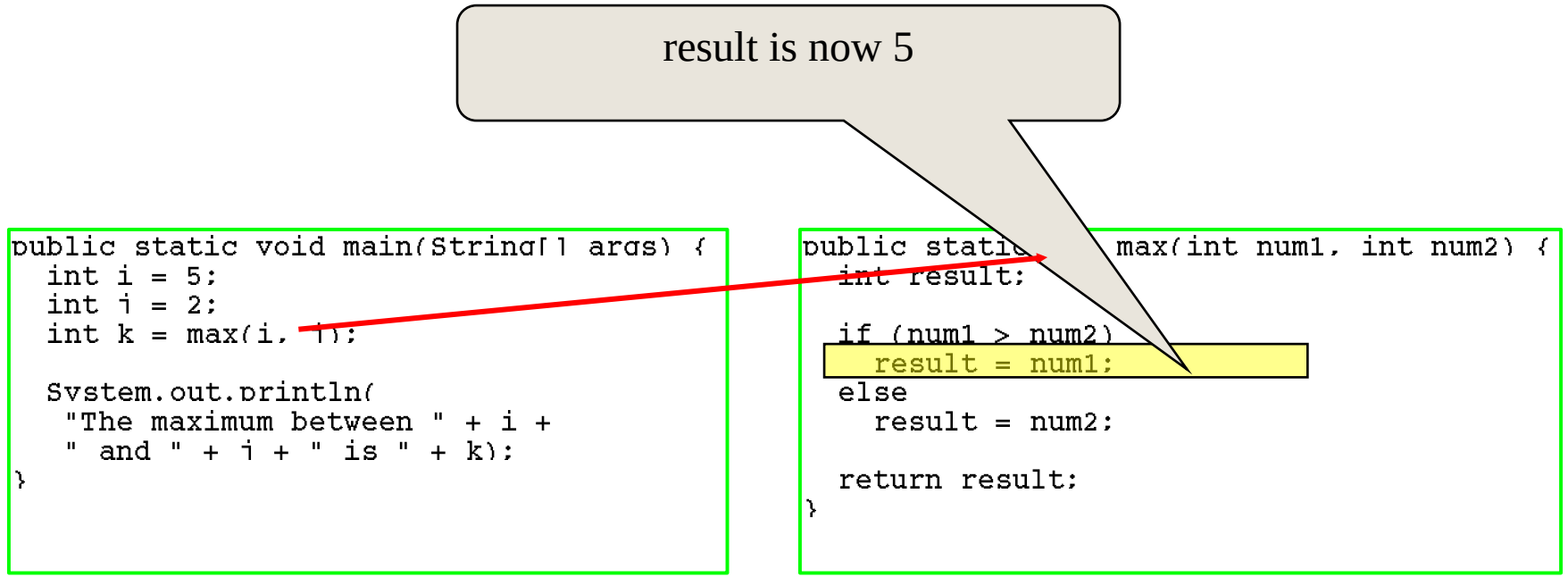
Trace Method Invocation



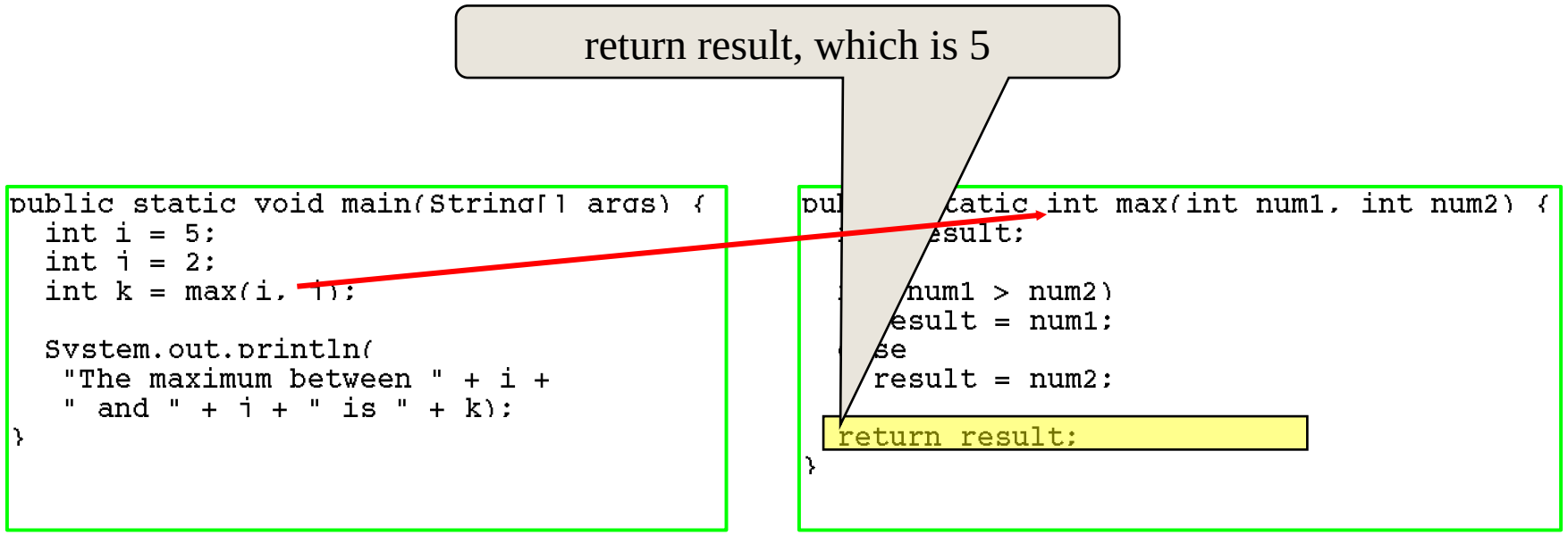
Trace Method Invocation



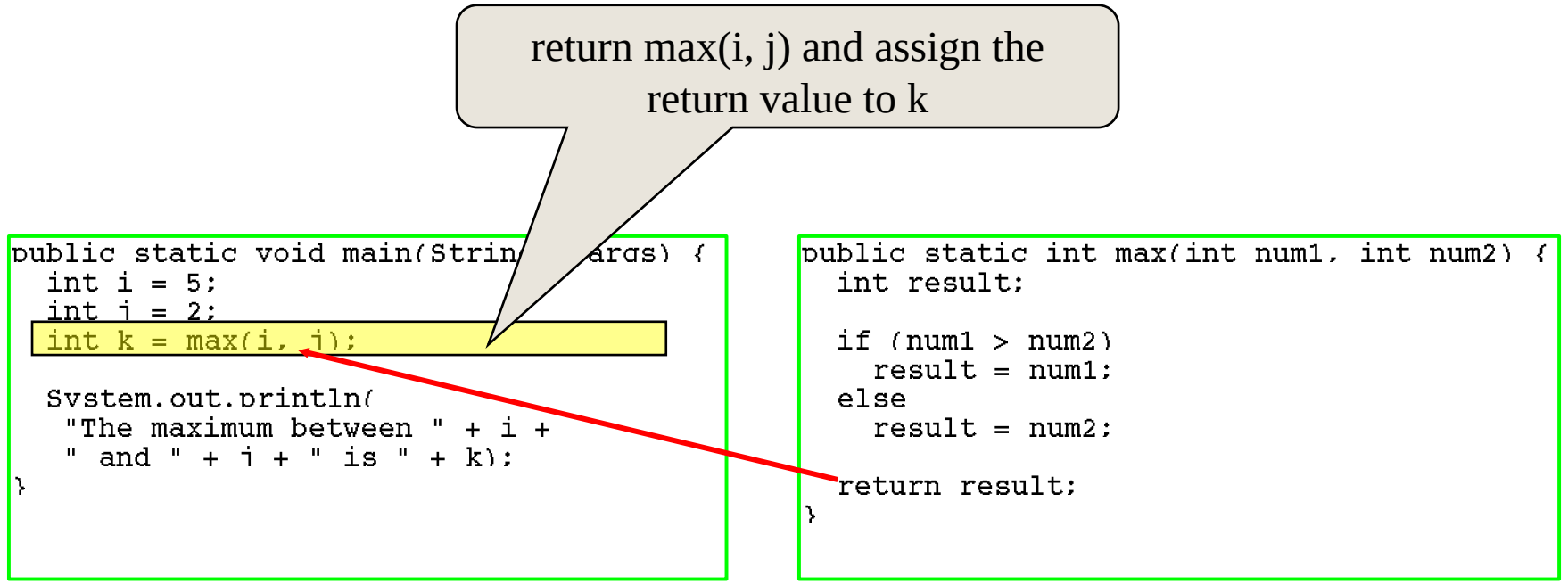
Trace Method Invocation



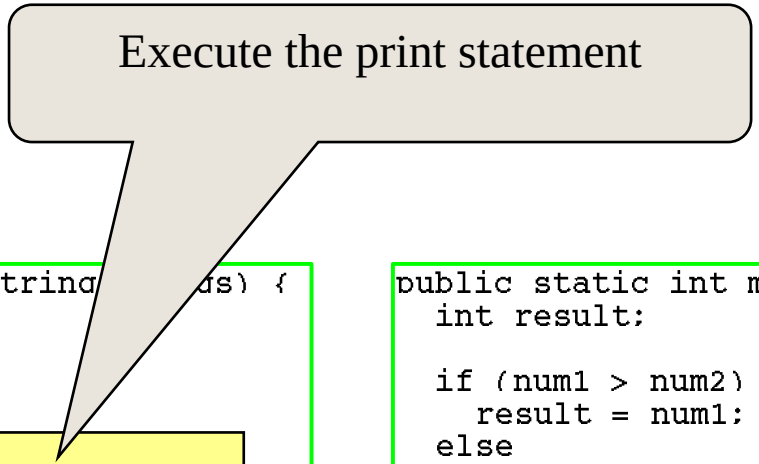
Trace Method Invocation



Trace Method Invocation



Trace Method Invocation




```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

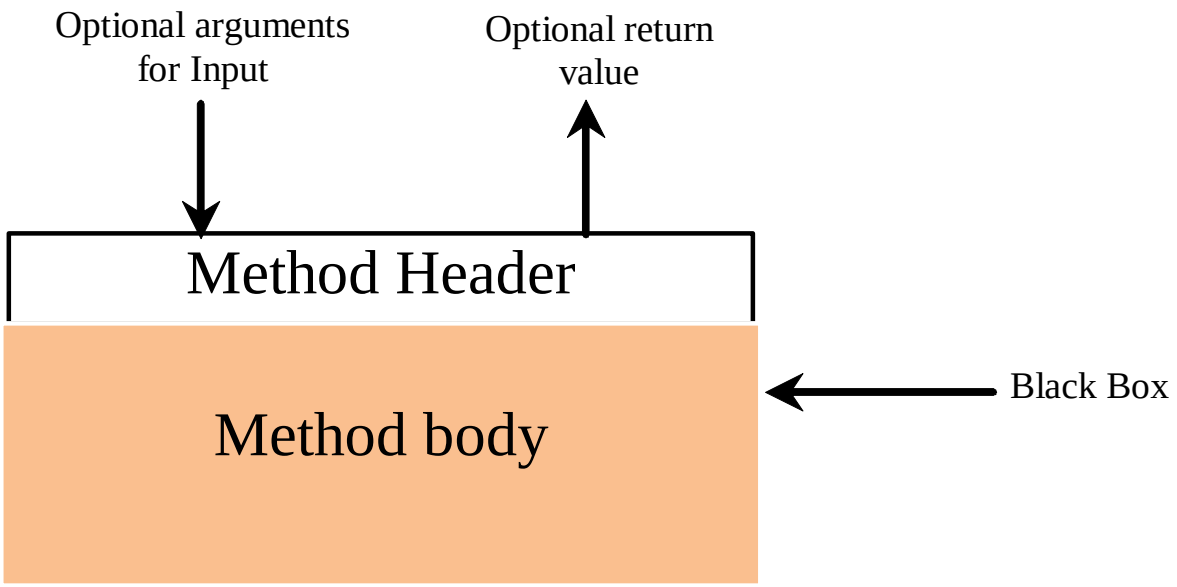
  return result;
}
```

Benefits of Methods

- Write a method once and reuse it anywhere.
- Information hiding:
  - Hide the implementation from the user.
- Reduces complexity of the program.

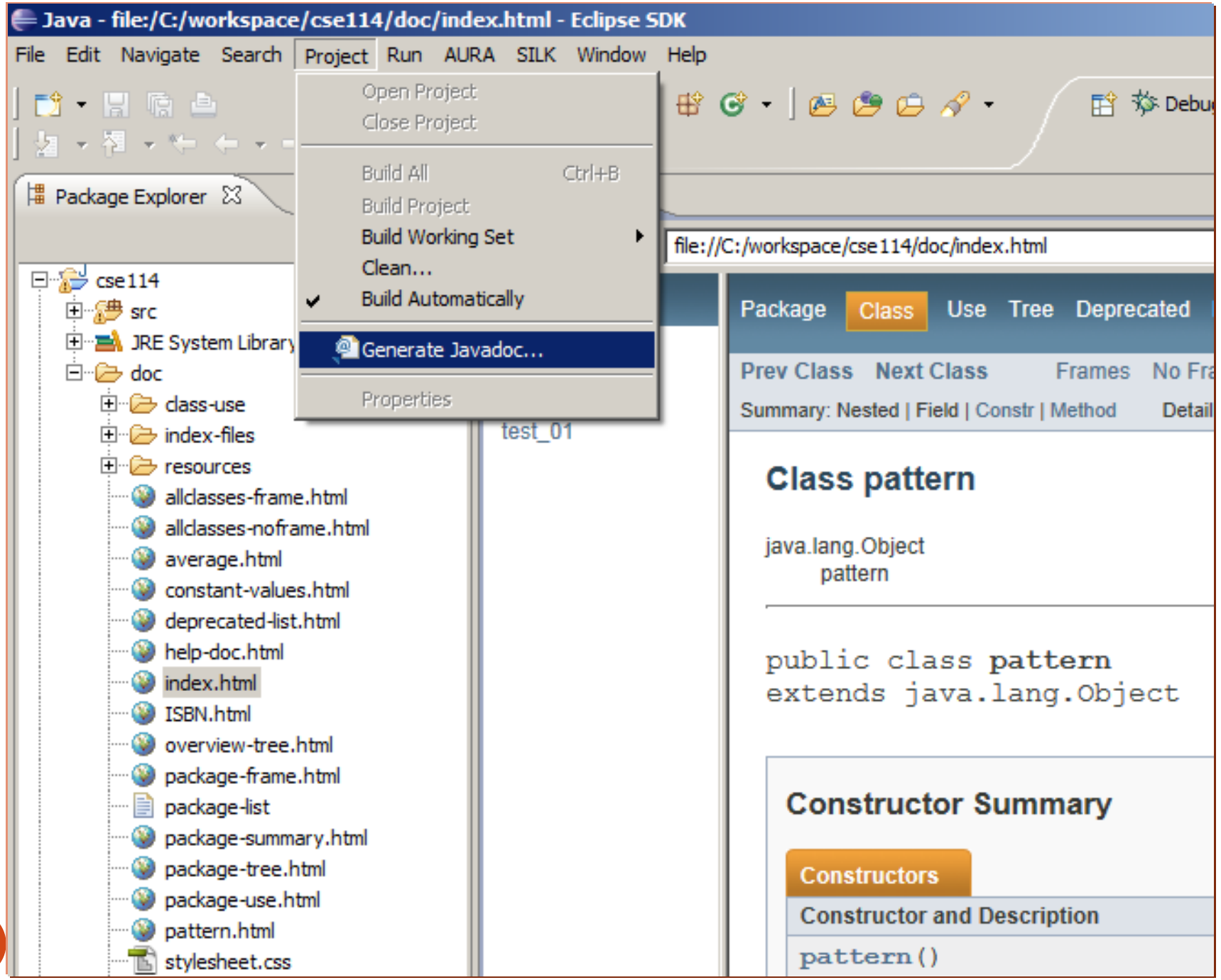
Method Abstraction

Application Programming Interface (API) = the method body is a black box that contains the detailed implementation for the method.



Javadoc

- The API for a class is documented using the Javadoc.
- Generate Javadoc for your project in Eclipse with:
  1. Project -> Generate Javadoc
  2. Check the box next to the project/package/file for which you are creating the javadoc
  3. In the "Destination" field browse to find the desired destination (for example, the doc directory of the current project).
  4. Leave everything else as it is.
  5. Click "Finish" and open "index.html"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constant-values.html
deprecated-list.html
help-doc.html
index.html
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overview-tree.html
package-frame.html
package-list
package-summary.html
package-tree.html
package-use.html
pattern.html
stylesheet.css
test_01
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Package Class Use Tree Deprecated
Prev Class Next Class Frames
Summary: Nested | Field | Constr | Method
Class pattern
java.lang.Object
pattern
public class pattern
extends java.lang.Object
Constructor Summary
Constructors
Constructor and Description
pattern()

CAUTION: all execution paths

- A return statement is required for a value-returning method.

The method shown below has a compilation error because the Java compiler thinks it possible that this method does not return any value if the condition is false in the last if statement.

```
public static int sign(int n) {
  if (n > 0)
    return 1;
  else if (n == 0)
    return 0;
  else if (n < 0)
    return -1;
}
```

(a)

Should be

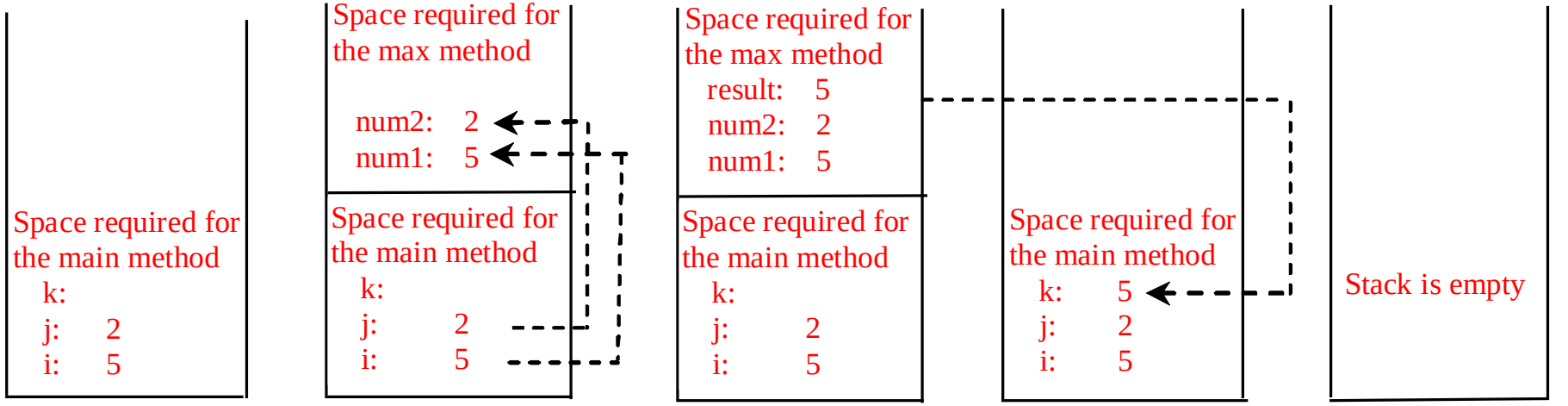
```
public static int sign(int n) {
  if (n > 0)
    return 1;
  else if (n == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return -1;
}
```

(b)

To fix this problem, delete *if (n < 0)* in (a), so that the compiler will see a return statement to be reached regardless of how the if statement is evaluated.

Call Stacks

Methods are executed using a stack data structure



(a) The main method is invoked.

(b) The max method is invoked.

(c) The max method is being executed.

(d) The max method is finished and the return value is sent to k.

(e) The main method is finished.

Trace Call Stack

i is declared and initialized

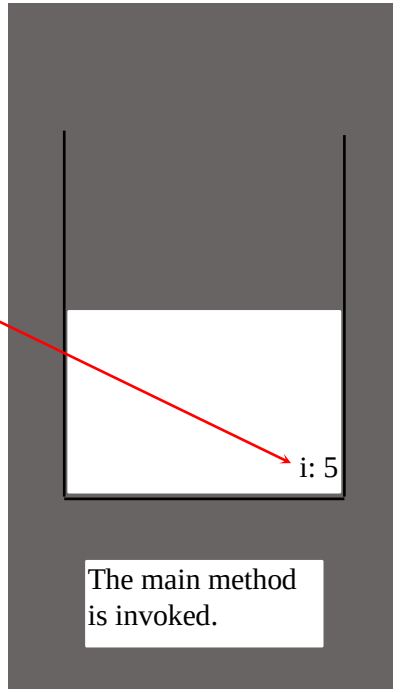
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```



Trace Call Stack

j is declared and initialized

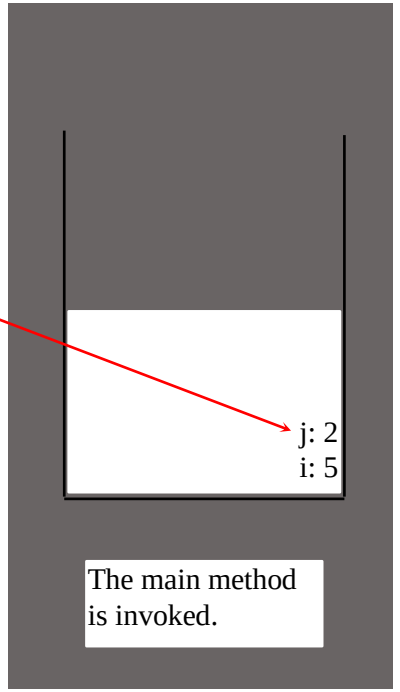
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```



Trace Call Stack

Declare k

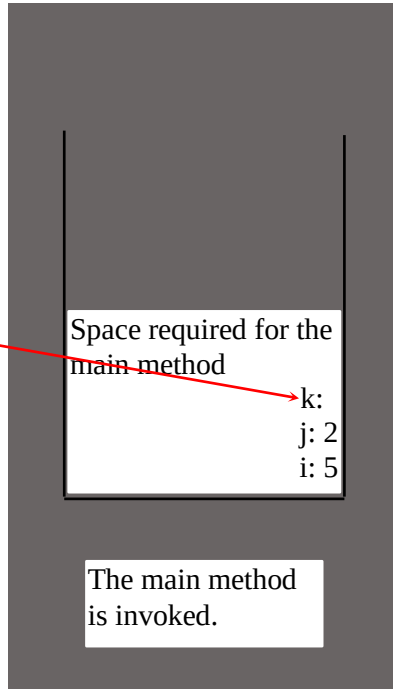
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```



Trace Call Stack

Invoke max(i, j)

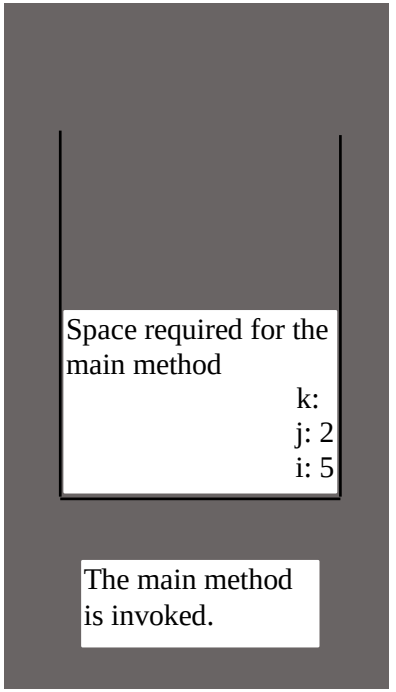
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```



Trace Call Stack

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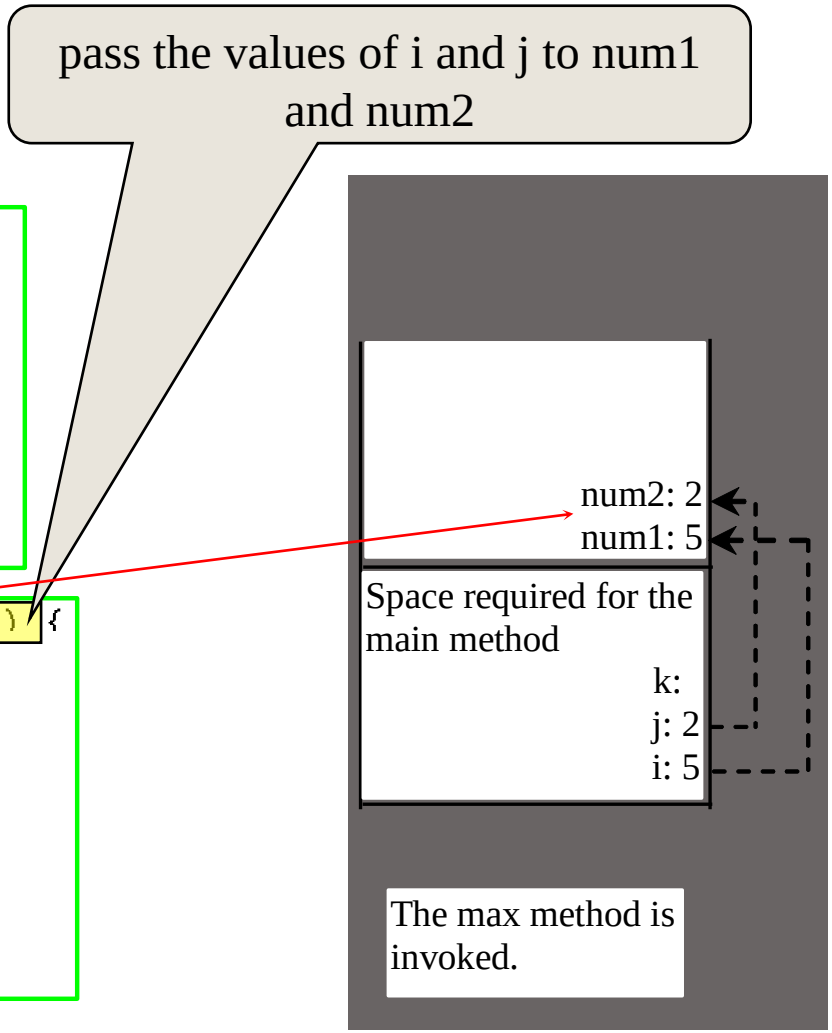

Trace Call Stack

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public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
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}
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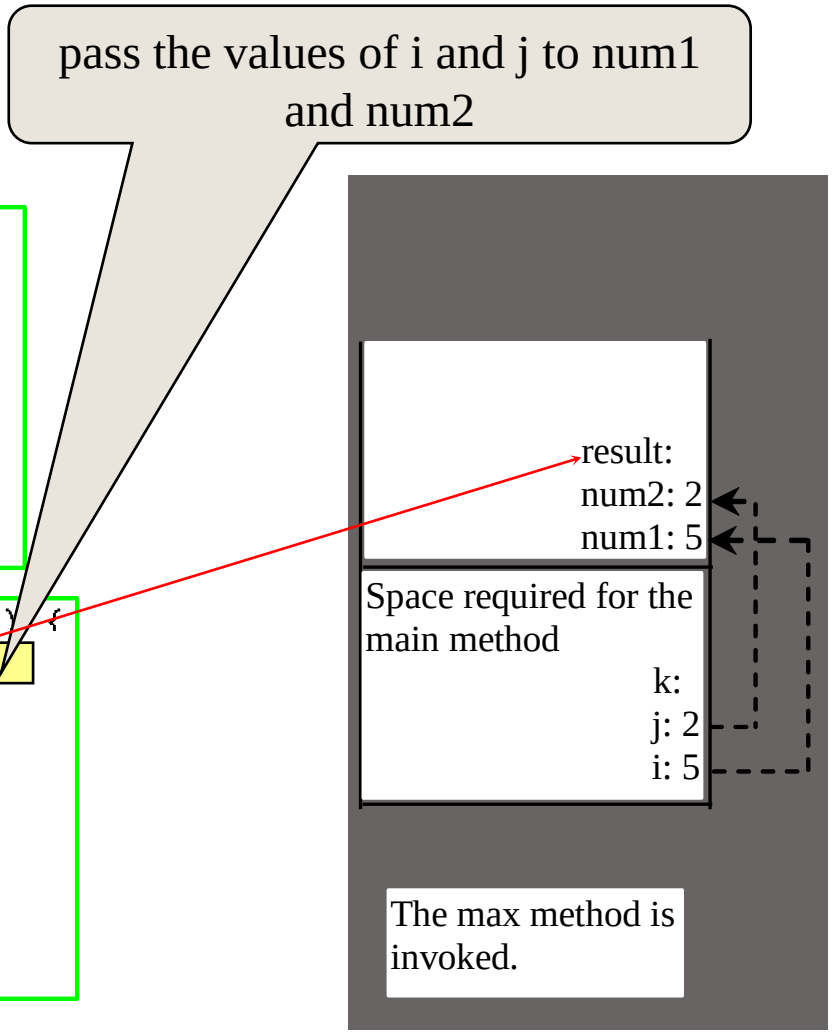


Trace Call Stack

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

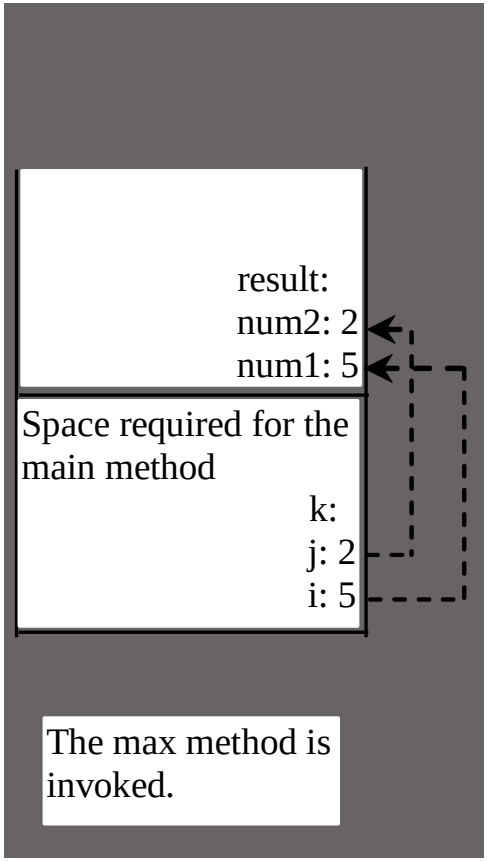
  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```

(num1 > num2) is true



Trace Call Stack

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
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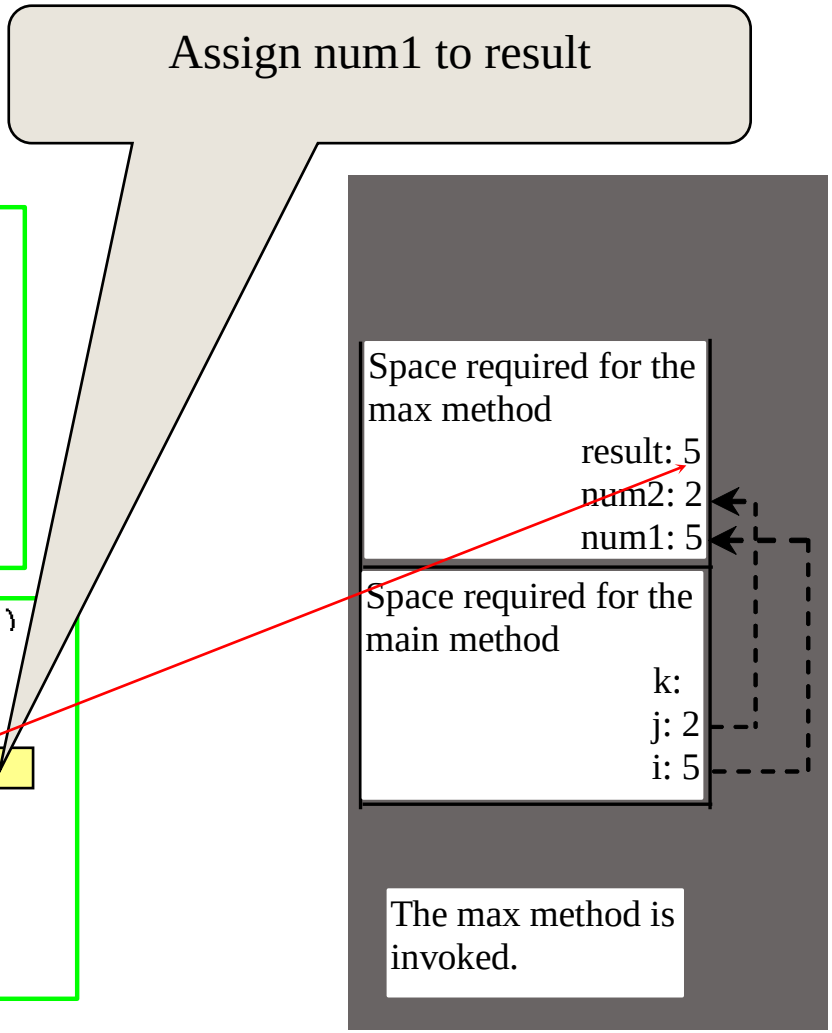
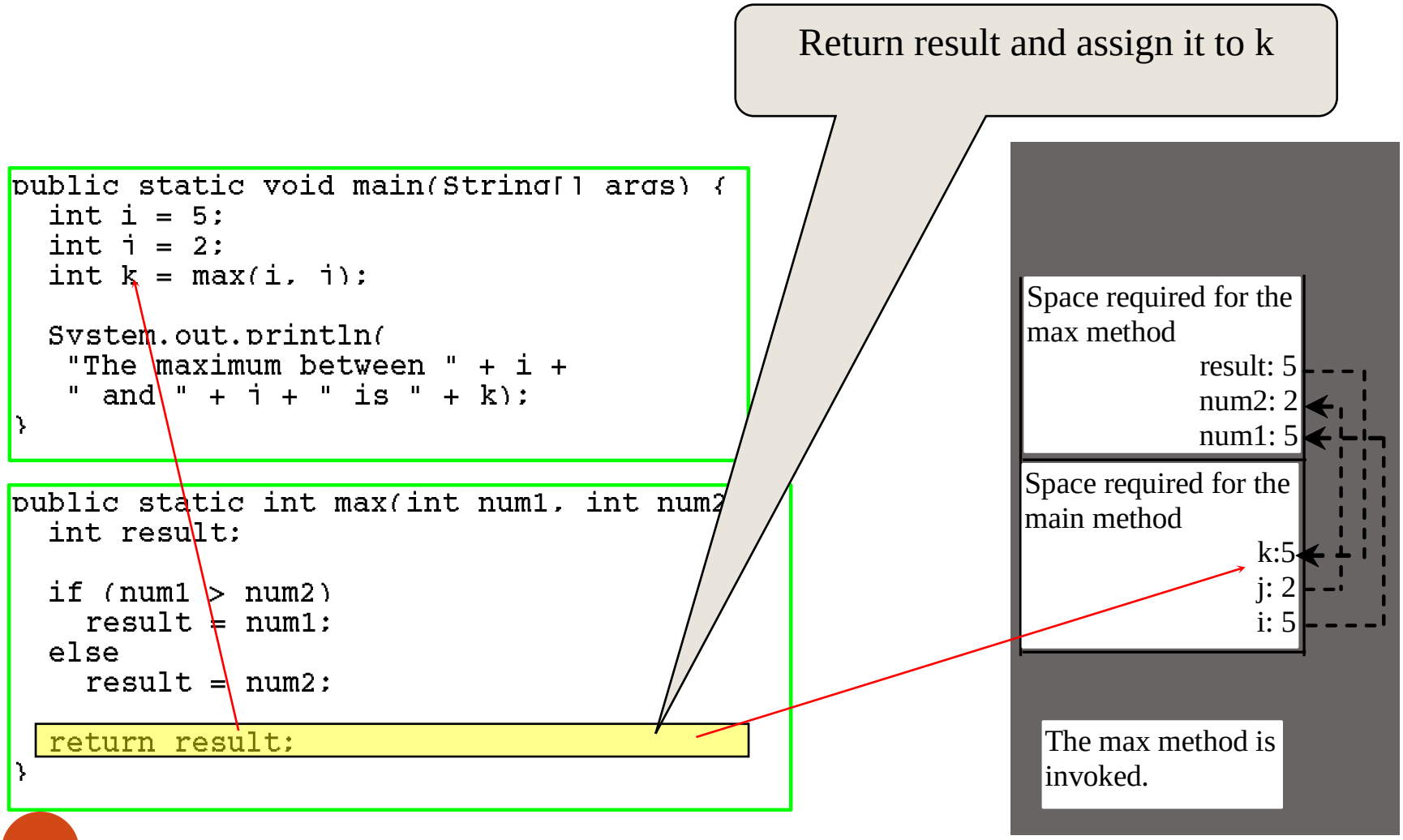
```
public static int max(int num1, int num2)
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```



Trace Call Stack



Trace Call Stack

Execute print statement

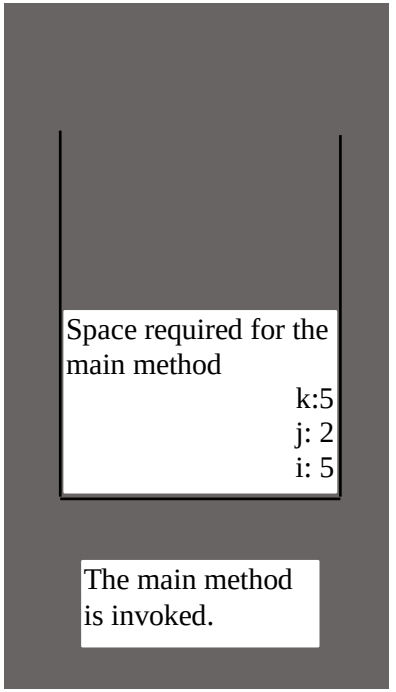
```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  int i = 5;
  int j = 2;
  int k = max(i, j);

  System.out.println(
    "The maximum between " + i +
    " and " + j + " is " + k);
}
```

```
public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

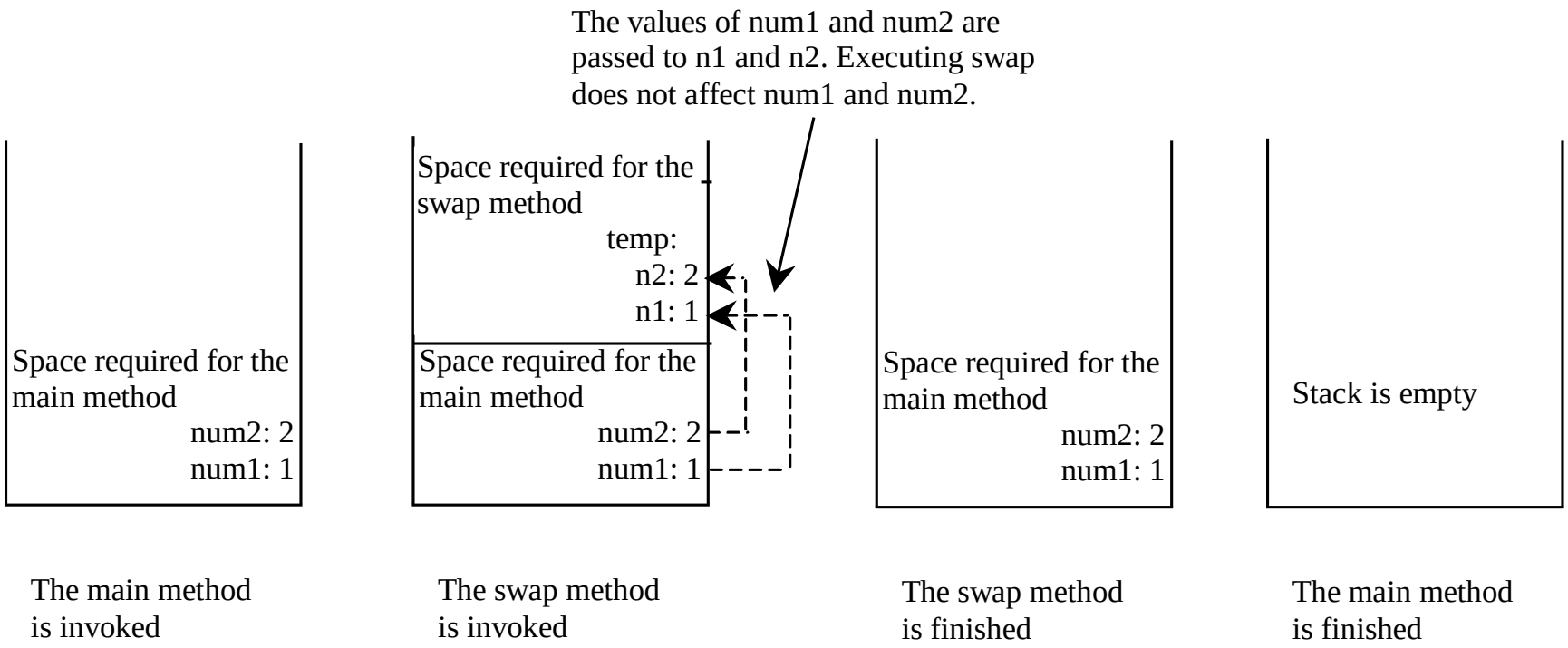
  return result;
}
```



Call-by-value

- Method formal arguments are ***copies of the original data***.
- Consequence?
  - methods cannot assign („=“) new values to primitive type formal arguments and affect the original passed variables.
- Why?
  - changing argument values changes the copy, not the original.

Call-by-value



Overloading

- *Method overloading* is the ability to create multiple methods of the same name with different implementations:

```
public class Overloading {
  public static int max(int num1, int num2) {
    if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
    return num2;
  }
  public static double max(double num1, double num2) {
    if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
    return num2;
  }
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println(max(1, 2));
    System.out.println(max(1.5, 2.3));
  }
}
```

Overloading & Ambiguous Invocation

- *Method overloading*:
  - The methods must differ either by the arity or types of their parameters (e.g., doTask() and doTask(Object o))
  - Method call matching uses a "best match" algorithm to cast the actual parameters' types to the formal parameter types
- Sometimes there may be two or more possible matches for an invocation of a method, but the compiler cannot determine the most specific match.
  - This is referred to as *ambiguous invocation*.
    - Ambiguous invocation is a compilation error.

Overloading & Ambiguous Invocation

```
public class AmbiguousOverloading {
  public static double max(int num1, double num2) {
    if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
    else
      return num2;
  }
  public static double max(double num1, int num2) {
    if (num1 > num2)
      return num1;
    else
      return num2;
  }
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    System.out.println(max(1, 2)); // compiler error here
  }
}
```

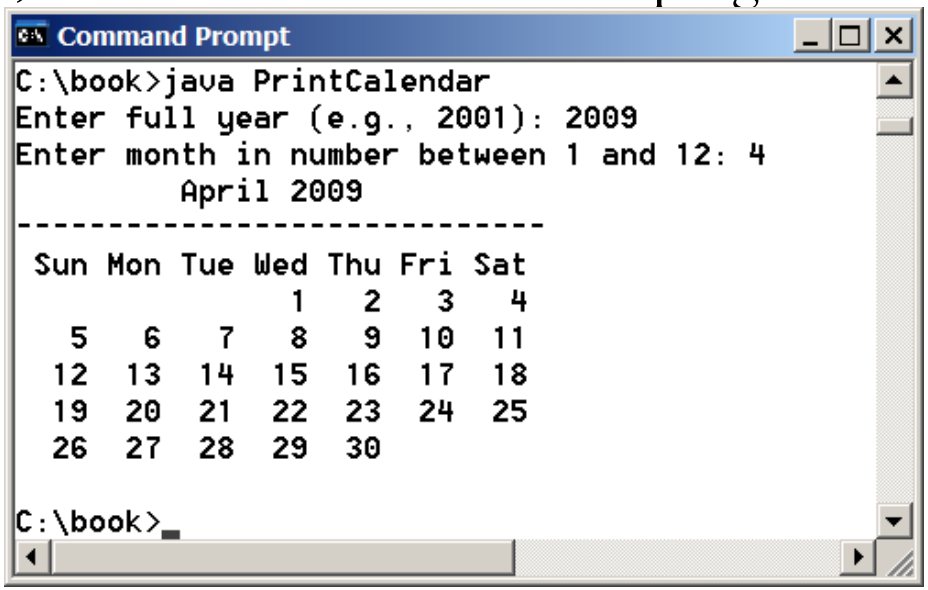
Scope of Local Variables

- A *local variable*: a variable defined inside a method.
- *Scope:* the part of the program where the variable can be referenced.
  - In Java, the scope of a local variable starts from its declaration and continues to the end of the block that contains the variable.
  - A nested block cannot redefine a local variable:

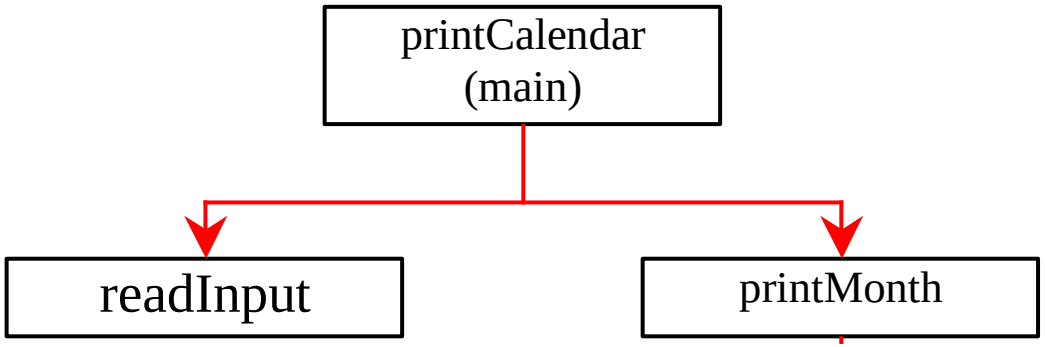
```
public static void correctMethod() {
  int x = 1;
  int y = 1;
  for (int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
    int x = 0; // Compilation error
    x += i;
  }
}
```

Stepwise Refinement

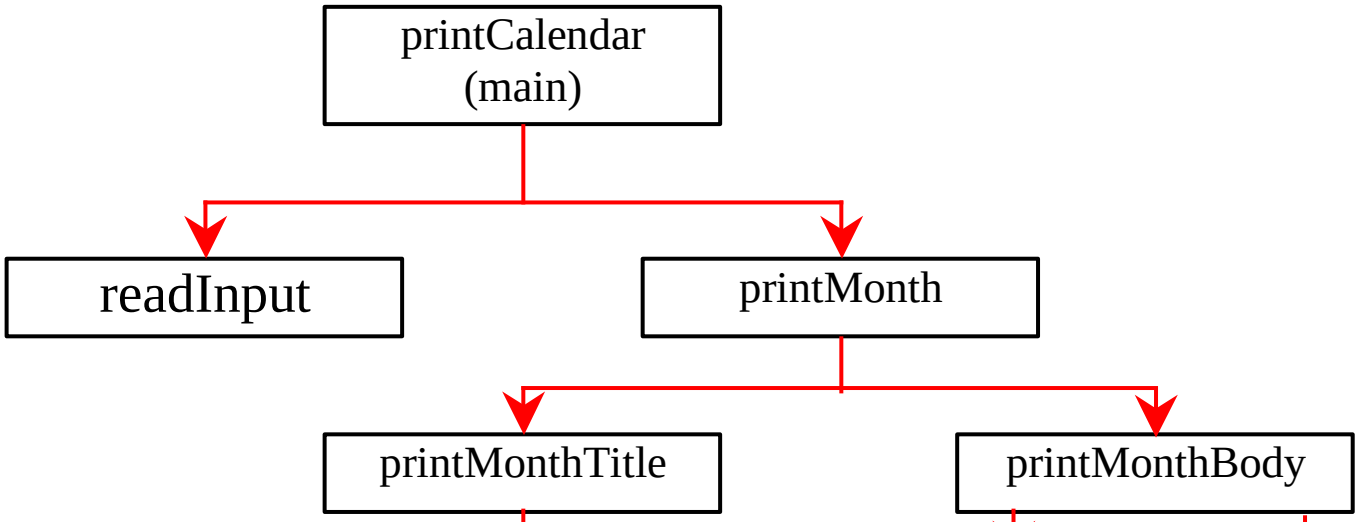
- The concept of method abstraction can be applied to the process of developing programs.
  - When writing a large program, you can use the "*divide and conquer*" strategy, also known as ***stepwise refinement***, to decompose it into subproblems
  - The subproblems can be further decomposed into smaller, more manageable problems.
- For example, consider a PrintCalendar program:



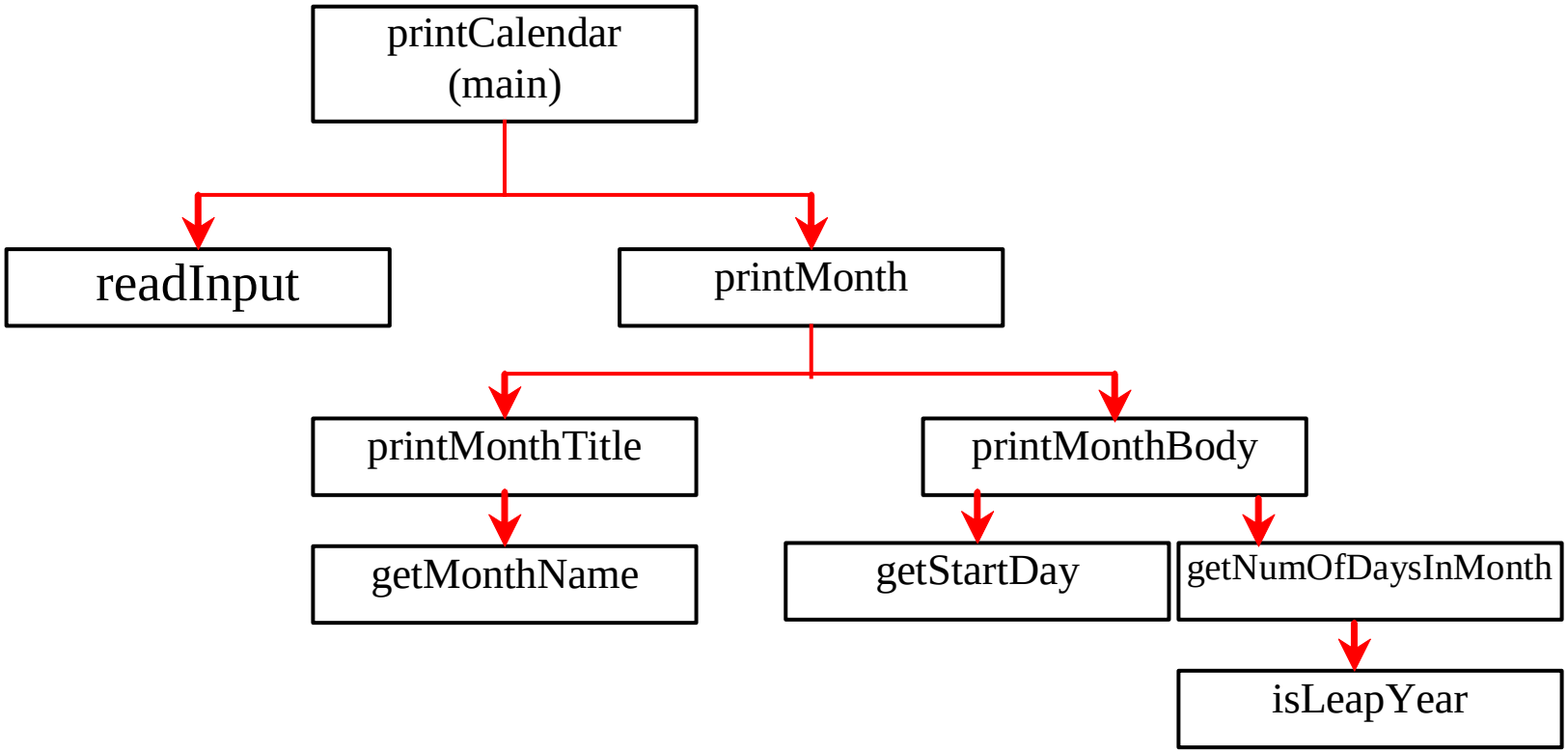
Design Diagram



Design Diagram



Design Diagram



Implementation: Top-Down

- The ***top-down*** approach is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the top to the bottom
  - Stubs can be used for the methods waiting to be implemented
    - A ***stub*** is a simple but incomplete version of a method.

```
/** A stub for getStartDay may look like this */
public static int getStartDay(int year, int month) {
        return 1; // A dummy value
}
```

  - The use of stubs enables you to test invoking the method from a caller.
- Implement the main method first and then use a stub for the printMonth method.
  - Then implement the methods one by one starting from the top

Implementation: Bottom-Up

- ***Bottom-up approach*** is to implement one method in the structure chart at a time from the bottom to the top.
  - For each method implemented, write a test program to test only that method

- Both top-down and bottom-up methods are fine.
  - Both approaches implement the methods incrementally and help to isolate programming errors and makes debugging easy.
  - Most of the time, they are used together

Benefits of Stepwise Refinement

- Simpler Program
- Reusing Methods
- Easier Developing, Debugging, and Testing
- Better Facilitating Teamwork