

Introduction to Programming

with Java, for Beginners

2D Arrays

2D Arrays

- Array can have 2, 3, or more dimensions
- When declaring a variable of such an array, use a pair of square brackets for each dimension
- For 2D arrays, the elements are indexed [row][column]
- Remember “RC” [row][column]

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1

Example 1: Table

- `int[][] table = new int[3][2];`
- `int[][] table = { {1, 2}, {3, 6}, {7, 8} };`

- For example, `table[1][1]` contains 6
- `table[2][1]` contains 8, and
- `table[1][2]` is “array out of bounds”

	0	1
0	1	2
1	3	6
2	7	8

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2

Processing 2D Arrays

- How to zero out this table on the previous slide ?

```
for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++){
    for (int j = 0; j < 2; j++){
        table[i][j] = 0;
    }
}
```

- Use a doubly-nested for-loop to process a 2D array
- In this example we know the number of rows (3) and columns (2)
- In general, it's better not to use “magic numbers” (here the 3 and 2) in the loop.
- How could this code be improved?

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3

Size of 2D Array

- `int[][] table = new int[3][2];`
- The length of this array is the number of *rows*: `table.length` is 3
- Each row contains an array
- To get the number of *columns*, pick a row and ask for its length: e.g. `table[0].length` is 2

	0	1
0	1	2
1	3	6
2	7	8

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4

Printing a 2D array

```
int[ ][ ] data = new int[3][2];

//Printing 2D array example
for (int row = 0; row < 3; row++){
    for (int col = 0; col < 2; col++){
        System.out.print(data[row][col] + '\t');
    }
    System.out.println();
}
```

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5

Generalized Printing

- This illustrates a general purpose way to print a 2D array
- It works even for “ragged” arrays, whose row lengths vary

```
public static void printArray(int[ ][ ] data){
    for (int row = 0; row < data.length; row++){
        for (int col = 0; col < data[row].length; col++){
            System.out.print(data[row][col] + "\t");
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
}
```

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6

Ragged Array

- Row lengths vary.
 - Motivation: save space
- ```
> int[] one = {1,2,3}
> int[] two = {1,2,3,4,5,6}
> int[] three = {1,2};
>
> int[][] data = {one, two, three}
> data[0].length
3
> data[1].length
6
> data[2].length
2
> data[0] = three;
> data[1] = two;
> data[2] = one;
> data[0].length
2
> data[1].length
6
> data[2].length
3
```

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7

## Error Checking with arrays

```
public static void printArray(int[][] data){
 if (data == null || data.length == 0){
 System.out.println("Array is empty");
 return;
 }
 for (int row = 0; row < data.length; row++){
 for (int col = 0; col < data[row].length; col++){
 System.out.print(data[row][col] + "\t");
 }
 System.out.println();
 }
}
```