

Key point: *Common elementary programming errors often involve undeclared variables, uninitialized variables, integer overflow, unintended integer division, and round-off errors.*

### Common Error 1: Undeclared/Uninitialized Variable and Unused Variables

Example 1: undeclared variable

```
double interestRate = 0.05;  
double interest = interestRate * 45; //Variable interestRate has never been declared.  
//Recall Java is case sensitive:  
//interestRate and interestRate are different  
//identifiers
```

Example 2: unused variable

```
double interestRate = 0.05;  
double taxRate = 0.05; //Variable taxRate is never used and should be  
//discarded.  
//An IDE, like NetBeans, will notify the programmer  
//when a variable is not used.  
double interest = interestRate * 45;  
System.out.println("Interest is " + interest);
```

### Common Error 2: Integer Overflow

Example 1: Unintended positive to negative sign reversal

```
int value = 2147483647 + 1; //value will actually be -2147483648
```

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \quad F \quad 2147483647 \\ + \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ \hline 8 \quad 0 \quad 1 \end{array}$$

7 F F F F F F 1's complement  
8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2's complement

Example 2: Unintended negative to positive sign reversal

```
int value = -2147483648 - 1; //value will actually be 2147483647
```

### Common Error 3: Round-off Errors

Example 1: Inexact floating-point computation

```
System.out.println(1.0 - 0.1 - 0.1 - 0.1 - 0.1 - 0.1);  
//Displays 0.5000000000000001, not 0.5, and  
System.out.println(1.0 - 0.9);  
//Displays 0.0999999999999998, not 0.1
```

Integers are stored precisely – floating-point values are approximate.

### Common Error 4: Unintended Integer Division

Example 1: A floating-point result is desired but an integer result is computed

```
//incorrect
int number1 = 1;
int number2 = 2;
double average = (number1 + number2) / 2;      //average = 1.0

//correct
int number1 = 1;
int number2 = 2;
double average = (number1 + number2) / 2.0;      //average = 1.5
```

### Common Pitfall 1: Redundant Input Objects

Example 1: Two scanners

//Bad Code

```
Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Enter an integer: ");
int v1 = input.nextInt();
```

```
Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
```

//A new scanner is created and  
//assigned to variable input  
//making the original scanner  
//inaccessible

```
System.out.print("Enter an double value: ");
double v2 = input.nextDouble();
```

//Good Code

```
Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Enter an integer: ");
int v1 = input.nextInt();
System.out.print("Enter an double value: ");
double v2 = input.nextDouble();
```