



Lecture 16
Some Java Stuff:
Inheritance, Generics, Exceptions

Announcements

- Lab 2 is graded, grades are on Canvas.
- A1 is taking a while. Aiming for early next week.
- A2 slip days: the code I pulled at the deadline is what will be graded unless you told me you took a slip day.

To submit your work late, you must push your changes via git (as usual) *then* send me an email stating that you have submitted the assignment late. The timestamp of the *email*, which must be sent after your final changes are pushed to git, will be used as the submission time.

Goals

- Understand inheritance in Java.
- Know how to use and implement simple **Generic** classes.
- Know how to catch and throw exceptions.
- Be ready for the midterm exam.

Inheritance in Java

- A class can **extend** another class and **inherit** all of its public and protected methods.
- If a class does not extend any other class, it extends `Object` **by default**.
- `Object` has some methods:
 - <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html>
 - `equals()`, `toString()`, `hashCode()`, ...

public class A

```
public class A {  
    // pretty exciting, eh?  
}
```

A Very Brief Intro to Generics



Photo credit: Andrew Kennedy

Before Generics

```
interface Collection {
    /** Return true iff the collection contains ob */
    boolean contains(Object ob);
    /** Add ob to the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean add(Object ob);
    /** Remove ob from the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean remove(Object ob);
    ...
}
```

Can contain anything that extends Object (any class at all!)

- But **not primitive types**: int, double, float, boolean, ...

Before Generics

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interface Collection {
    /** Return true iff the collection contains ob */
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    ...
}
```

Can contain anything that extends Object (any class at all)

- **But not primitive types:** int, double, float, boolean, ...

The Problem

```
Collection c = ...
c.add("Hello")
c.add("World");
...
for (Object ob : c) {
    String s = (String) ob;
    // do things with s
}
```

Notice: Arrays don't have this problem!

```
String[] a = ...
a[0]= ("Hello")
a[1]= ("World");
...
for (String s : a) {
    System.out.println(s);
}
```

The Solution: Generics

```
Object[] oa= ...           // array of Objects
String[] sa= ...          // array of Strings
ArrayList<Object> oA= ... // ArrayList of Objects
ArrayList<String> oA= ... // ArrayList of Strings
```

Now the Collection interface is implemented like this:

```
interface Collection<T> {
    /** Return true iff the collection contains x */
    boolean contains(T x);

    /** Add x to the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean add(T x);

    /** Remove x from the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean remove(T x);
    ...
}
```

The Solution: Generics

The Collection interface is now implemented like this:

```
interface Collection<T> {  
    /** Return true iff the collection contains x */  
    boolean contains(T x);  
  
    /** Add x to the collection; return true iff  
     * the collection is changed. */  
    boolean add(T x);  
  
    /** Remove x from the collection; return true iff  
     * the collection is changed. */  
    boolean remove(T x);  
    ...  
}
```

Key idea: I don't need to know what T is to implement these!

The Solution: Generics

Key idea: I don't need to know what T is to implement these!

```
Collection<String> c= ...  
c.add("Hello")    /* Okay */  
c.add(1979);      /* Illegal: compile error! */
```

Generally speaking,

```
Collection<String>
```

behaves like the parameterized type

```
Collection<T>
```

where all occurrences of T have been replaced by String.

The Solution: Generics

The bummer: T must extend Object - no primitive types.

Can't do:

```
Collection<int> c = ...
```

Have to use:

```
Collection<Integer>
```

Java often seamlessly converts `int` to `Integer` and back.

```
Integer x = 5; // works
```

```
int x = new Integer(5); // works
```

“Autoboxing/unboxing”

LinkedList<T>

- We often use an *inner class* to store Node objects of trees, graphs, lists, etc.
- It's defined inside the LinkedList class, and only used within the class.

The Comparable Interface

```
class Orange implements Comparable;  
class Apple implements Comparable;  
Orange o = new Orange();  
Apple a = new Apple();  
a.compareTo(o);
```

- We can compare apples to oranges!

```
interface Comparable<T> {  
    int compareTo(T o);  
}
```

The Comparable Interface

```
interface Comparable {  
    public int compareTo(Object o)  
}
```

- We can compare apples to oranges!

```
interface Comparable<T> {  
    int compareTo(T o);  
}
```


The Comparable Interface

```
interface Comparable<T> {  
    int compareTo(T o);  
}
```

```
class Orange implements Comparable<Orange>;  
class Apple implements Comparable<Apple>;  
Orange o = new Orange();  
Apple a = new Apple();  
a.compareTo(o);
```

Won't compile because Apple **doesn't** have:

```
compareTo(Orange o)
```

It only has:

```
compareTo(Apple o)
```

Fancier Generics

What if I care a little bit what T is?

```
SortableCollection<String> c= ...
```

```
c.sort();
```

← requires T to be Comparable!

Fancier Generics

What if I care a little bit what T is?

```
SortableCollection<String> c= ...
```

```
c.sort();
```

← requires T to be Comparable<T>!

```
interface SortableCollection<T extends Comparable<T>>
{
    ...
}
```

Two Slides on Exceptions: 1

- Exceptions make your code crash at **runtime**.
- You can catch them using a try/catch block:

```
try {  
    // some code that might cause an error  
} catch (TypeOfExceptionToCatch e) {  
    // respond to the error in some sensible way  
    // e points to the Exception that was thrown  
}
```

Two Slides on Exceptions: 1

- Exceptions make your code crash at **runtime**.
- You can catch them using a try/catch block:

```
try {  
    b = 10/0;  
} catch (ArithmeticException e) {  
    b = 0; // math works like this, right?  
}
```

Two Slides on Exceptions: 2

- Sometimes your code **should** crash at runtime.
 - e.g., a precondition is violated
- You can force an exception - simply create an `Exception` and throw it:

```
if (bad_thing_happened) {  
    throw new BadThingHappenedException();  
}
```

Two Slides on Exceptions: 2

- Sometimes your code **should** crash at runtime.
 - e.g., a precondition is violated
- You can force an exception - simply create an `Exception` and throw it:

```
if (index > a.size) {  
    throw new ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException();  
}
```

Two Slides on Exceptions: 2

- Sometimes your code **should** crash at runtime.
 - e.g., a precondition is violated
- You can force an exception - simply create an `Exception` and throw it:

```
// I haven't written this method yet  
throw new UnsupportedOperationException();
```