**Persisting Collections**

Working with data structures, formally known as java Collection, is inevitable for any Java developer. In this chapter, we will learn about Hibernate’s support for persisting and retrieving collections. We will look in detail at how we can persist the standard Java collections using the Hibernate framework.

Java collections are the most common data structures in Java, with various algorithm features.

We will, at some point, encounter persistent objects with collection as their values. Persisting simple values from Hibernate’s view is different from persisting collection elements such as *java.util.List* or *java.util.Map* structures. We need to follow certain mapping procedures and processes to let Hibernate know our intentions.

The familiar Java Collections- Such as List, Set, Array and Map— are all supported by Hibernate. In fact, it goes one step further and creates a couple of other collections, such as *bag* and *idbag.* Let’s look at them one by one.