

- Chapter 7

Exception Handling



Chapter 7:

Exceptions Handling



Objectives

- *Define an exception*
- *Explain exception handling*
- *Describe the `try`, `catch`, and `finally` blocks*
- *Examine multiple catch blocks*
- *Explore nested `try` / `catch` blocks*
- *Explain the use of `throw` and `throws` keywords*
- *Create user defined exceptions*
- *Learn usage of `Assert` statement*

What is an exception?

- If an error is encountered while executing a program, an exception occurs.

example :

$$4 / 0 =$$



- When an exception occurs program terminates abruptly and control returns to operating system.
- Exception handling is performed to identify errors and trap them.

Handling exceptions – General example

- Snippet of a pseudocode follows:

.....

IF B IS ZERO GO TO ERROR

C = A/B

PRINT C

GO TO EXIT

ERROR:

DISPLAY "DIVISION BY ZERO"

EXIT:

END

Block that
handles error

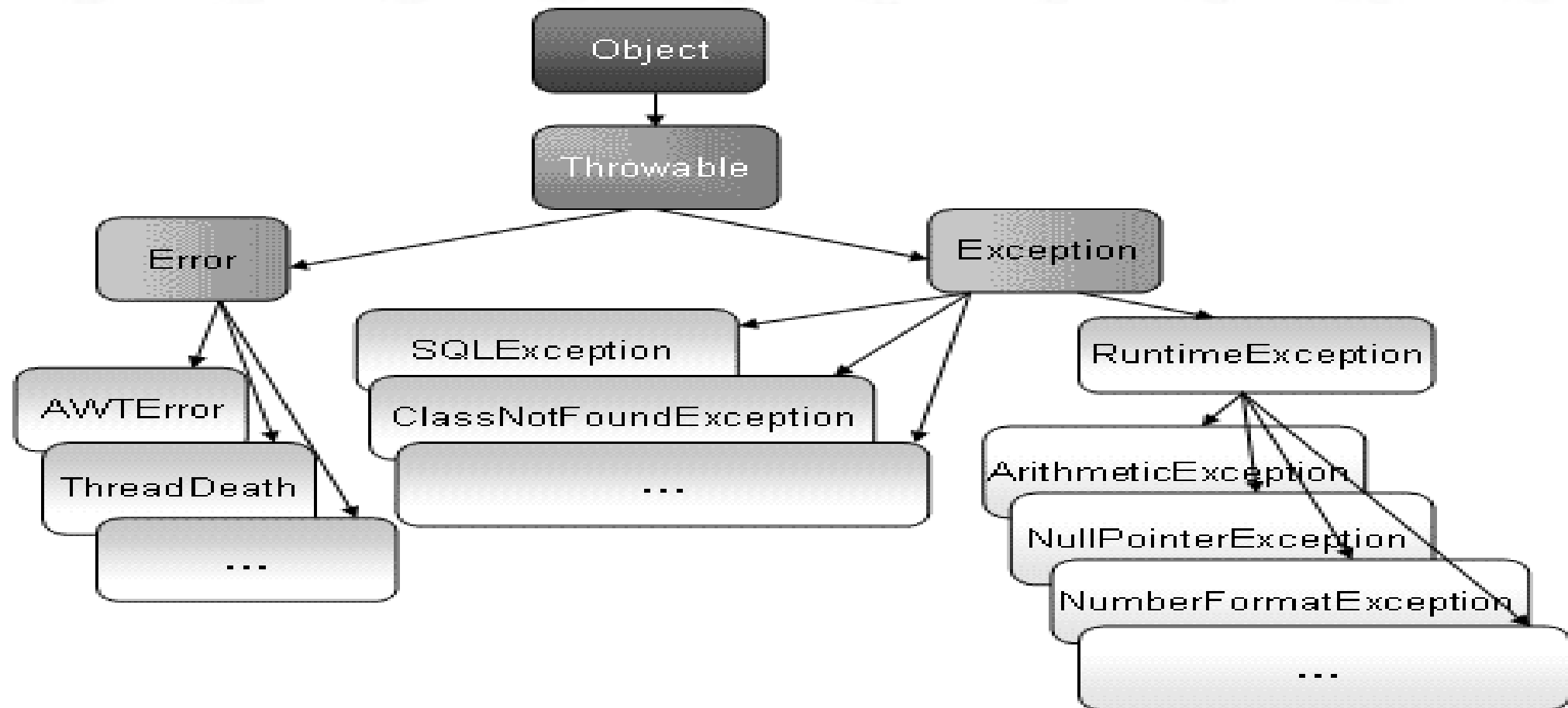
Handling exceptions in Java

- Error handling in Java is performed with the help of an exception-handling model.
- Occurrence of an error causes an exception to be thrown, which is caught in a block.
- `Error` and `Exception` classes handle errors in Java.
- When an exception occurs, an instance representing that exception is created. The instance is then passed to the method that retrieves and processes the information.
- `Error` class exceptions are internal errors
 - e.g. – reading a file from a floppy without inserting it in the floppy drive

Handling exceptions in Java Contd...

- Java exception handling is managed through five keywords: `try`, `catch`, `throw`, `throws`, and `finally`.
- Program statements, that have to be monitored for exceptions, are contained within a `try` block.
- By using `catch` keyword, the programmer can catch the exception and handle it in some rational manner.
- To manually throw an exception, we use the keyword `throw`.
- `Throws` clause is used in a method to specify that this method will throw out an exception.
- In the `finally` block, we can specify the code that is absolutely necessary to be executed before a method returns.

Hierarchy of Exception Classes



Exception handling model

- Handled by five keywords – `try`, `catch`, `throw`, `throws`, and `finally`
- Two ways to handle exceptions in Java:
 - Statements that may throw exceptions are in the `try` block and exception handling statements in the `catch` block
 - A method may be declared in such a way that in case an exception occurs, its execution is abandoned

try and catch block - Example

```
class ExceptionDemo
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        try
        {
            String s = "ExceptionDemo";
            System.out.println(s);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.out.println(e.getMessage());
        }
    }
}
```

Output

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

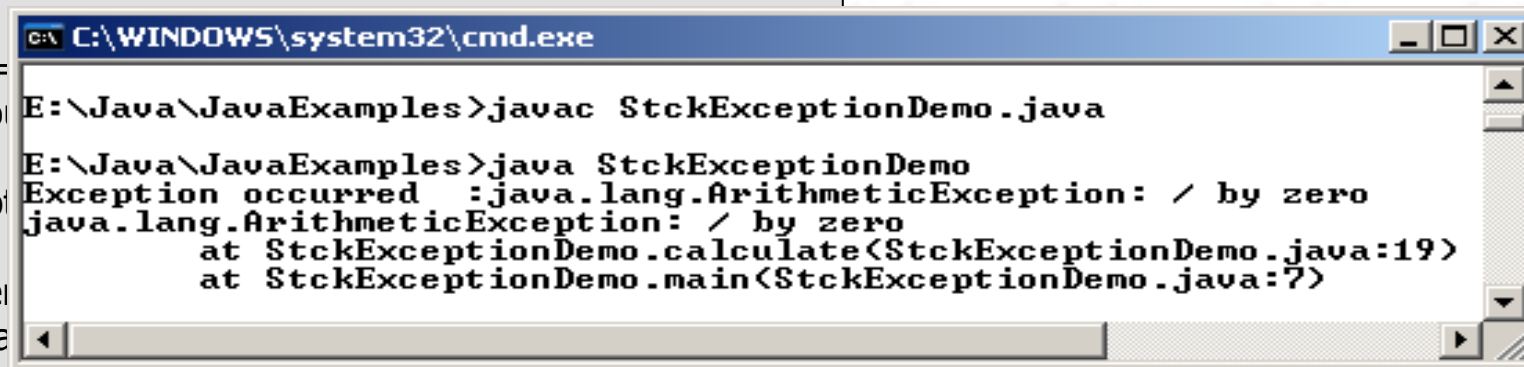
E:\Java\JavaExamples>javac ExceptionDemo.java

E:\Java\JavaExamples>java ExceptionDemo
No arguments given!

A sample program to demonstrate exceptions

```
public class StckExceptionDemo
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        try
        {
            int num =
            System.o
        }
        catch(Except
        {
            System.e
            e.printSta
        }
    }
}
```

Output



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Java\JavaExamples>javac StckExceptionDemo.java
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java StckExceptionDemo
Exception occurred :java.lang.ArithmeticException: / by zero
java.lang.ArithmeticException: / by zero
    at StckExceptionDemo.calculate(StckExceptionDemo.java:19)
    at StckExceptionDemo.main(StckExceptionDemo.java:7)
```

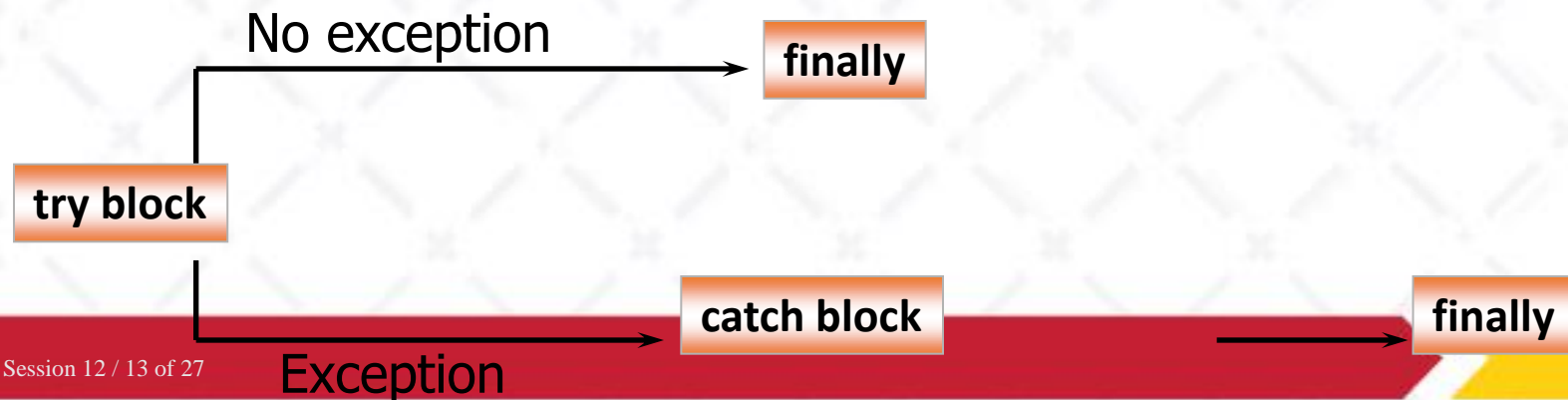
```
static int calculate( int no, int no1)
{
    int num = no / no1;
    return num;
}
}
```

Methods used in the example

- **toString()** retrieves a `String` representation of the information stored in an `Exception` object
- **printStackTrace()** is used to print out the cause of exception and also the line in the code which generated it

finally block

- Ensures that all cleanup work is taken care of when an exception occurs
- Used in conjunction with a `try` block
- Guaranteed to run whether or not an exception occurs
- An exception if thrown will run the `finally` block even if there is no matching `catch` block

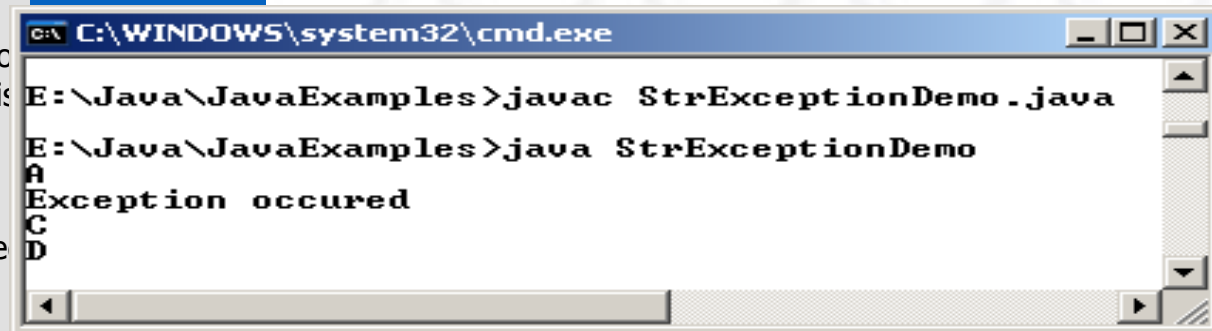


finally block - Example

```
class StrExceptionDemo
{
    static String str;
    public static void main(String s[])
    {
        try
        {
            System.out.println("A");
            StrExceptionDemo.staticLengthMethod();
            System.out.println("B"); //this code is
        }
        catch (NullPointerException ne)
        {
            System.out.println("Exception occurred");
            System.out.println("C");
        }
        finally
        {
            System.out.println("D");
        }
    }

    static void staticLengthMethod()
    {
        System.out.println(str.length());
    }
}
```

Output



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Java\JavaExamples>javac StrExceptionDemo.java
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java StrExceptionDemo
A
B
Exception occurred
C
D
```

Multiple catch blocks

- Single piece of code can generate more than one error.
- Hence, multiple catch blocks may have to be provided.
- Each `catch` statement has an order of appearance.

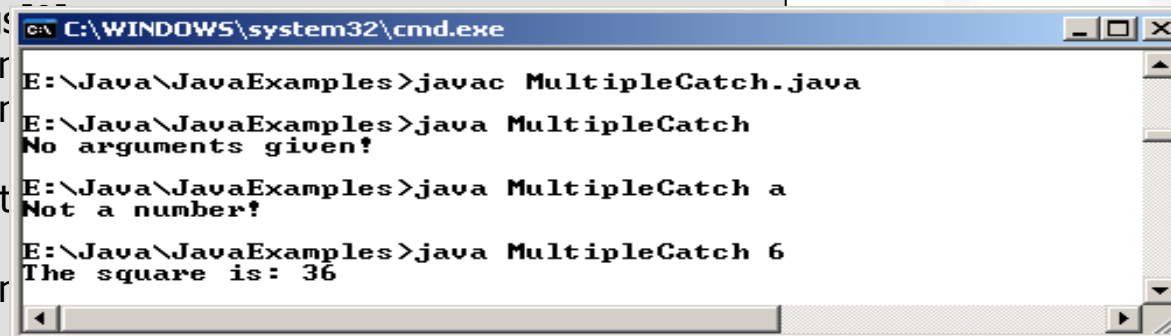
```
.....  
try{  
}  
catch(ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException e) {  
}  
catch(Exception e) {  
}  
.....
```

- `ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException` being a subclass of `Exception` class is handled first.

Example

```
class MultipleCatch
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        try
        {
            String num = args[0];
            int numValue = Integer.parseInt(num);
            System.out.println("The square is: " + numValue * numValue);
        }
        catch (ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException e)
        {
            System.out.println("Not a number!");
        }
        catch (NumberFormatException nb)
        {
            System.out.println("Not a number!");
        }
    }
}
```

Output



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Java\JavaExamples>javac MultipleCatch.java
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java MultipleCatch
No arguments given!
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java MultipleCatch a
Not a number!
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java MultipleCatch 6
The square is: 36
```

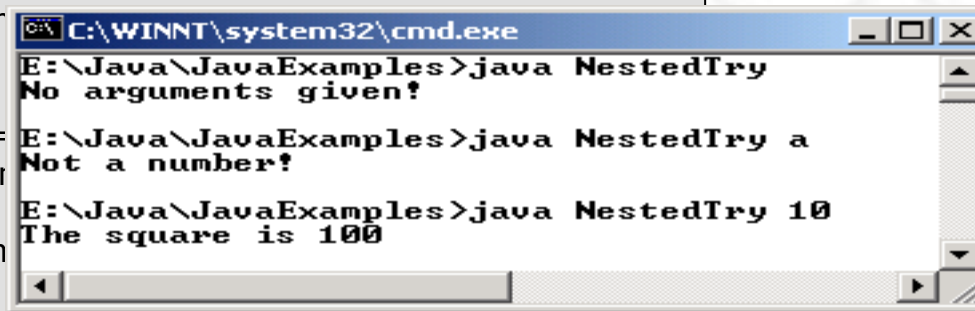
Nested try - catch blocks

- At times, a part of one block may cause an error and the entire block may cause another error.
 - In such a case, exception handlers have to be nested.
 - When nested `try` blocks are used, inner `try` block is executed first.
 - If no matching `catch` block is encountered, `catch` blocks of outer `try` blocks are inspected until all nested `try` statements are executed.

Example

```
class NestedTry
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        try
        {
            int num = args.length;
            try
            {
                int numValue = num * num;
                System.out.println("The square is " + numValue);
            }
            catch(NumberFormatException ne)
            {
                System.out.println("Not a number! ");
            }
        }
        catch(ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException ne)
        {
            System.out.println("No arguments given! ");
        }
    }
}
```

Output



```
C:\WINNT\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Java\JavaExamples>java NestedTry
No arguments given!

E:\Java\JavaExamples>java NestedTry a
Not a number!

E:\Java\JavaExamples>java NestedTry 10
The square is 100
```


Using throw & throws

- Exceptions are thrown using `throw` keyword.

```
try
{
    if(flag<0)
    {
        throw new NullPointerException();
    }
}
```

- A single method may throw more than one exception.

Using throws

```
public class Example
{
    public void exceptionExample()
    {
        try
        {
            // statements
            check();
        }
        catch(Exception e)
        {
            //statements
        }
    }
    // multiple exceptions separated by a comma
    void check() throws NullPointerException, NegativeArraySizeException
    {
        if (flag < 0)
            throw new NullPointerException();
        if(arrsize < 0)
            throw new NegativeArraySizeException();
    }
}
```

- check() method includes the throws keyword
- Such methods should be invoked within a try / catch blocks

User defined exceptions

- Built-in exceptions may not always be enough to trap all the errors.
 - Hence there is a need for user defined exception class.
 - Should be a subclass of the `Exception` class
 - The new exception type can be caught separately from other subclasses of `Throwable`.
 - User defined exception classes that are created will have all methods of `Throwable` class.

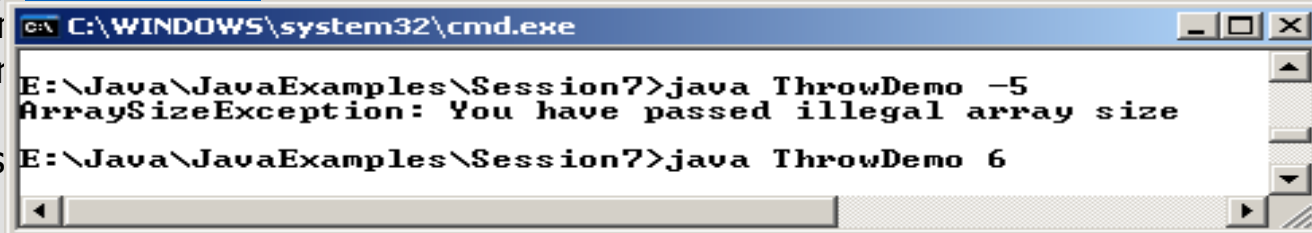
Example

```
class ArraySizeException extends NegativeArraySizeException
{
    void checkSize() throws ArraySizeException
    {
        if(size < 0)
            throw new ArraySizeException();
    }
}

class UserDefinedException extends Exception
{
    int size;
    UserDefinedException(Integer.parseInt(arg[0]));
    checkSize();
}

catch(ArraySizeException e)
{
    System.out.println(e);
}
```

Output



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Java\JavaExamples\Session7>java ThrowDemo -5
ArraySizeException: You have passed illegal array size
E:\Java\JavaExamples\Session7>java ThrowDemo 6
```

Summary

- Whenever an error is encountered while executing a program, an `Exception` occurs.
- An `Exception` occurs at run time in a code sequence.
- Every exception that is thrown must be caught, or the application terminates abruptly.
- Exception handling allows combining error processing in one place.
- Java uses the `try` and `catch` block to handle exceptions.

Summary Contd...

- The statements in the `try` block throw exceptions and the `catch` block handles them.
- Multiple `catch` blocks can be used together to process various exception types separately.
- The `throws` keyword is used to list the exception that a method can throw.
- The `throw` keyword is used to indicate that exception has occurred.
- The statements in the `finally` block are executed irrespective of whether an exception occurs or not.

Programming with assertions

- Assertions enables the programmer to test assumptions about the program.
- Ways of writing assertion statements are:
 - `assert expression;`
 - `assert expression1:expression2;`
- The expression in the first form will have a `boolean` value and evaluate whether the expression is true and if it is false it will throw an `AssertionError`.
- The expression1 in the second form will be a boolean expression and expression2 can have any value, except that it cannot invoke a `void` method.
- If expression1 evaluates to false it will throw an `AssertionError`. The value in expression2 will be passed to `AssertionError` constructor and the value will be used to display the error message.

Programming with assertions Contd...

- Situations for assertion statements
 - Internal invariants: assertion can be used wherever it asserts an invariant
 - Control Flow Invariants: an assertion can be placed at any location where control cannot be reached
 - Preconditions, post conditions and class invariants
- Command for compiling files that uses assertion statements is:
 - `javac -source 1.4 filename`